

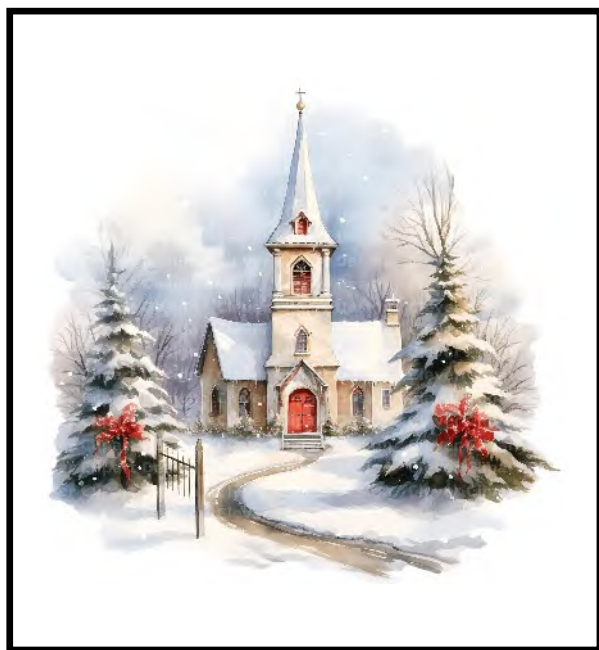
December 2025/January 2026 £1

The Benefice of Berrow

covering the Parishes of Berrow with Pendock,
Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton

The Benefice of Longdon

covering the Parishes of Longdon, Bushley,
Castlemorton and Queenhill with Holdfast



Parish Magazine

**THE BENEFICES OF BERROW AND LONGDON
MINISTRY TEAM**

Rector Interregnum. There is no current full time stipendiary priest for these benefices. For general enquiries or to begin the process of arranging a baptism, wedding or funeral, please contact either the Benefice Administrator, Mrs Chris Glyde, or Rev Anthea Elston, contact details below

Associate Priest	The Rev Anthea Elston The Plough, Eight Oaks, Castlemorton WR13 6BU (Day Off – Friday)	01684 833278 revanth@eightoaks.com
-------------------------	---	--

Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr David Allen ALM Mr J Cox ALM Dr M Harper LLM Mrs T Mullins ALM	01531 650495 07966 130910 01684 830133 trishmullins@btinternet.com
-------------------------------	--	---

Benefice Administrator	Mrs Chris Glyde The Parish Office, Berrow WR13 6JN Wed 9.30am-Noon email: admin@berrowlongdon.org.uk	01684 833866
-------------------------------	--	--------------

Pastoral Visitor	POST VACANT
-------------------------	--------------------

Benefice Choir	Mrs Mel Roberts	01684 833866
-----------------------	-----------------	--------------

BERROW WITH PENDOCK

Churchwarden	Mrs E. Rambridge	01531 650230
P.C.C. Secretary	Mr M Knott	01531 650837
Treasurer	Mr A Rambridge	01531 650230

BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH

Churchwardens		
Birtsmorton	POST VACANT	
Hollybush	POST VACANT	
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mrs S Williams	01531 650431

BUSHLEY

Churchwarden	Mr Mark Taylor	MarkRTaylor1976@gmail.com
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mr S Evans	01684 296380

CASTLEMORTON

Churchwardens	Mr M Lister	01684 631503
	Mrs S Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Leake	01684 310409
Treasurer	Mr F Harris	01684 573032

ELDERSFIELD

Churchwardens	Mr A Holt	01452 780429
	Miss J Peters	01452 840211
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Powell-Chandler	01531 635794
Treasurer	Mr D Braund	01684 830099
Tower Captain	Miss J Peters	01452 840211

LONGDON

Churchwarden	POST VACANT	
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs T Mullins	trishmullins@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Rev'd G Moore	07961 505871

QUEENHILL WITH HOLDFAST

Churchwarden	Mr J Corbet-Milward	07796 983567
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs N Inchbald	07785 280165
Treasurer	Mr L Kelly	07821 750855

BERROW VILLAGE HALL

Bookings	Caroline Samsonoff	07709 487883
----------	--------------------	--------------

MAGAZINE EDITORS & MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENTS

Brian and Leta Woodcock, "The Larches", 2 Poolhay Close, Link End Road, Corse Lawn GL19 4NY

New Advertisers: Please write or email G4CIB@OUTLOOK.COM to the Magazine Editors

Copy Deadline: Please submit copy to the Editors by 10th of the month preceding publication

DISCLAIMER

The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in this magazine are solely those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon. Any content provided by our contributors is their opinion, and they are responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and validity of their statements. The Benefices of Berrow and Longdon are not liable for any content that may be considered offensive, inappropriate, or inaccurate.

The advertisements for products and services in this magazine are provided by third parties. We make no representations or warranties about the suitability of such products or services referenced in these advertisements for any purpose. Our inclusion of such products and services does not constitute their recommendation or endorsement.

Please mention this magazine when contacting advertisers
--

This magazine is printed by Biz Stationery, Unit 3 Westgate Retail Park, Gloucester GL1 2TF

Email Store: sales@bizstationery.co.uk

Email Print shop: print@bizstationery.co.uk

Tel: 01452 412099

Dear Friends

I received an email recently inviting me to “Go where the magic is” at Christmas and promising to provide everything that I needed for the Festive Season. Except that, according to this email, the “everything” I needed for Christmas did not include any mention at all of a period of waiting and preparation, or the birth of a Messiah.

Advent is the season of *waiting*. For me and my family, it has always been an exciting time - planning the Christmas food, Christmas concerts and carol singing, and just how early can we put up those outdoor lights this year? But this period of waiting is much, much more than that. We are reminded that Jesus Christ came into the world as someone who had been long *awaited*, as the servant who would *wait* on others and, in Advent, we too are now called to *wait*. This is a time of preparation for both the celebration of Jesus's birth and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

In his letters, St Paul spoke about waiting. His two letters to the Thessalonians encouraged them to look forward with eager anticipation to the day when Jesus returns and to watch (and wait) expectantly for this to happen.

In medieval times, as part of the Advent preparations, monks were ordered to fast during December, and it was a month of penitence. I don't think that would have gone down too well in my household!

But, even if we no longer fast throughout December we can, and should, prepare ourselves. In all the hustle and bustle, we should seek some time away from the busyness of the Christmas season; look beyond those shiny baubles. Take a break. Find some silence. Pray. Find space in the chaos for personal reflection, preparing our hearts fully for all that is wonderful and joyful in the Christmas message. And the miracle of Jesus's birth is by far the most astonishing message of them all. A baby - fully human and fully divine - coming into the world to be “God with us” and assuring each and every one of us of the reality of God's love.

And just for the record, Bruce Willis is wrong ‘Die Hard’ is very definitely a Christmas film. Just ask my children. And the best Christmas film ever – the one that we watch every Christmas the millisecond everyone is together? It's ‘The Muppet Christmas Carol’. “A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us every one”.

May God's amazing grace and love surround you this Christmas and New Year and may the true meaning of Christmas be with you today and always.

With love
Trish Mullins
Authorised Lay Minister

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6);

News from the Improper Vicar

First, the bad news, you're stuck with me for a little while longer at least, as a second round of advertising the vacancy for the priest of both benefices again generated no applications at all. This is very disappointing, but the Diocese will readvertise in the New Year, and we'll keep hoping and praying for a worthy successor to Rev Julie to emerge.

On the subject of prayer, Castlemorton parish are starting up a regular gathering for prayer at 6.30pm every Sunday evening EXCEPT for the second Sunday of every month when they have their Kaleidoscope service. They will meet primarily for prayer, to sing a couple of worship songs and hear a 2 minute reflection on a bible passage. As we need all the prayer we can get at the moment, I very much wish them well with this new initiative.

And the theme for all the Kaleidoscope services in 2026 will be taking and reflecting upon the lines of The Lord's Prayer, something we're all so familiar with, but would equally all probably benefit from re-examining.

Finally, Doug Braund, in amongst all his other contributions to benefice life, is attempting to revive Church@theSchool, a monthly informal service held at 10.30am at Eldersfield School. However, he can't do this alone, so needs a couple of willing volunteers to help share the workload. If you're thinking this could be you, please get in touch with Doug via his email - dougbraund@fishersplace.net.

Inevitably, like all organizations who depend upon volunteers, we are in constant need of folk willing to offer help, practical, technical, musical, administrative or spiritual, so if you have skills to offer, I'm sure we'll have somewhere to utilize them – do please be in touch with myself or your local churchwarden – details in the front of this magazine.

However, in this season of peace on earth and goodwill to all men – and women, I'd also be interested to hear what you'd like us to offer to our communities that maybe we aren't doing at the moment – whether that's a Blue Christmas service, a pet service, a permanent foodbank collection point, more for children and young people, or more opportunities for older folk to gather in what can be isolated rural communities. This will help us plan how best to use our limited resources to meet the needs of the community.

With grateful thanks and Christmas blessings to you all.

Rev Anthea Elston

Christmas in the Benefices!

**You are most warmly invited to attend any
of our December services in both benefices**

Sun 7 th	4pm	Eldersfield Church	Carols, Candles & Cakes
Sun 14 th	5pm	Hollybush Church	Hollybush Christmas.
Mon 15 th	7pm	Longdon Church	Carol Service
Tues 16 th	7pm	Bushley Church	Carol Service
Weds 17 th	7pm	Castlemorton Church	Nine Lessons & Carols
Thurs 18 th	7pm	Queenhill Church	Carol Service
Sun 21 st	6.30pm	Berrow Church	Nine Lessons & Carols
Tues 23 rd	4pm	Castlemorton Church	Crib Service
Weds 24 th	5pm	Eldersfield Church	Crib & Christingle
Weds 24 th	11.30pm	Hollybush Church	Midnight Mass
Thurs 25 th	10.30am	Queenhill Church	Holy Communion
Thurs 25 th	10.30am	Berrow Church	Family Service
Sun 28 th	10.30am	Longdon Church	Holy Communion

**Please come along to celebrate the great good news of the
Saviour's birth with us, whilst enjoying a mince pie or two
Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**

Rev Anthea Elston

The Church of the Redeemer



This line drawing is I think by Wendy Driver (though please tell me if you don't think so) and is on the Centenary leaflet that was produced in 1989 and shows a slightly different aspect of the church and the grounds. The long flowerbed that was created and tended with such care by Ruth Pritchard has become a feature of the Church. However, I feel the time has come to invigorate it and I've spoken to Roy Pritchard about this plan. Ruth was always so positive and appreciative of others volunteering and I am certain we should do this in memory of her.

So, might you help with '**Project Invigorate**' –

Maybe with some ideas for design
or when you are dividing your plants, maybe you could set
aside a portion
if you put in an order for some bulbs, maybe you could add a
few for the project
And possibly most importantly, might you consider helping with
the care of the newly planted area?

I thought it might make a good New Year resolution!

This little church is very rare, with only 1 other similar in the country. It looks like it might have been transported from North America or Scandinavia. And only recently have we come to understand that the plan was for it to be transported on to another site to achieve mission there. No-one will look after it except us. So, let's do it!! Very much hope to hear from you and thank you in anticipation of your support

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden
andrewrambridge215@btinternet.com

Benefice – a little meander

Writing about other aspects of church administration, I said I would come back the 'Benefice' and am slightly regretting the commitment because as ever it all seems a bit more complicated than I realised.

It is one of the rather terrifying aspects of the Church of England that each Diocese has a website with information not entirely consistent with the others. It does mean I suppose you can search around till you find one you like – and so, on the Diocese of Ely website

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/structure/benefices-and-parishes/>

I found this -

'Historically the benefice is the living itself - an ecclesiastical office held by a priest (the incumbent) for which a stipend (salary of sorts) is paid.

Today, a benefice will comprise one or more parishes that are served by a priest.'

This helped me out of the distinction I found in one definition that the parishes were units of administration and the benefices units of ministry.

Certainly, you will often hear that we pride ourselves on being good 'benefice people' and the form that takes is attending each other's churches, supporting each other's fund-raising events and meeting together to share and resolve issues of concern we hold in common.

Spell-check (oh and of course predictive text) is one of those 'modern issues' that have both good and less good aspects. I have discovered that if you mangle 'the' whilst typing – which I know really one shouldn't – a spell check option is 'thy' which I would have thought is rather archaic. Maybe my computer knows I am a churchwarden! What I particularly enjoy is if you make a hash of typing 'benefice', then regularly I am offered as an alternative – Benfica! So, I can smile and be reminded of my beloved Portugal.

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden

Tewkesbury Choral Society

**Charpentier
Te Deum**



**Handel
Royal Fireworks Music**

**Haydn
Harmoniemesse**

Tewkesbury Choral Society
with Regency Sinfonia and five soloists

Directed by John Holloway

Tewkesbury Abbey
Saturday 6 December 2025 at 7.30

Tickets £20 (carers & children free; students £10)

- from members of the Society
- from The Abbey Shop (01684 856148)
- from Alison's Bookshop (01684 274600)
- on-line: www.ticketsource.co.uk/t-c-s
- at the door on the evening



Registered Charity 260811

The First Peal on the Augmented Ring at Berrow.

On 1st October this year I had the privilege and pleasure of ringing in the first peal on the newly augmented ring of bells at St Faith's church, Berrow. In what follows I will add some context to this.

Bells have been present in churches in the British Isles since at least the 8th century. Before the Reformation larger churches would have had a set of bells but these would not necessarily have been tuned in a major scale. The bells would have been either stationary and struck by a hammer or swung whilst attached to an axle being struck by a clapper the shaft of which would be pivoted inside the crown of the bell.

A lot of larger bells in larger churches were removed and melted own at the Reformation. Even before this ringing of bells was not confined to times associated with church services but also for secular reasons such as sounding curfew, at times of fairs, celebrating weddings and probably just for pleasure. This secular connection probably helped ringing to continue through the turbulent 16th and 17th centuries.

At about this time ringers started to ring what we call “changes”. That is the bells would be rung in a particular order and then in a slightly different order (by swapping two adjacent bells in the order) and after a number of such changes end up back at the starting order. By tradition the start and finish was an order called “rounds” – that is each bell ringing in sequence from the highest pitched to the lowest (the “treble” to the “tenor”). To achieve this, it was necessary for the ringers to be able to control the time interval between each time their bell struck. That required technological advances in the bell's mechanism. Bells are rigidly attached to a horizontal axle (called a “headstock”) which has a small horizontal shaft (the “gudgeon”) at each end which rotates in a bearing fixed to the frame that supports the bell. In early days a rope was attached to a lever fixed to the headstock and by pulling on the rope the bell would be swung and would strike. Control was improved by replacing the lever with a quadrant shaped wheel, the rope fitting in a channel round the outer curve of the quadrant.

Gradually this evolved so that the quadrant became a three-quarter circle and finally a full-circle wheel with the rope being effectively fixed at a point on the rim by passing through a “garter hole” in the sole of the channel round the circumference of the wheel. This allowed the ringer to control the bell as it first rotated full circle one way and also as it rotated back the other way. These two rotations are called “handstroke” (when the ringer grasps and pulls the woollen “sally”) and “back stroke”.

By the late 16th or early 17th century the fashion developed for more than one pair of bells to swop during a change and for this alteration to be made at each stroke. **The ringers would learn the pattern of the position of their own bell as the changes proceeded; this pattern being called a “method”.**

Nowadays there are thousands of different methods and we rang 7 of them during the peal. Here are the names: London Surprise Minor, Lightfoot Surprise Minor, Annable's London Surprise Minor, Beverley Surprise Minor, Norwich Surprise Minor, Bourne Surprise Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor. The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung in 1909. "Surprise" methods have a particular feature in common relating to the path that the treble bells follow. "Minor" indicates that all 6 bells ring the method.

In those days ringers were largely independent of the church which sometimes led to poor relations between them and the church authorities. In 1647 Cromwell's parliament passed an Act which included a prohibition on “ringing of bells for pleasure” on the Sabbath (repealed in 1660). The popularity of change ringing greatly increased with the publication of the first printed book on the subject in 1668; **Tintinologia** by Richard Duckworth. As part of the Oxford Movement in the mid-19th century Rev H T Ellacombe and Canon W Wigram set up “Belfry Reform”, to bring ringers more closely into the life of the church and “improve their conduct”. A more ordered and organised approach led to the formation of ringing societies, with members and officers, based on county or diocesan areas. **The Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association was set up in 1882** – it currently has over 400 members.

Peals consist of a minimum of 5000 changes rung continuously and normally take between two and a half and three and a half hours, depending mainly on the weight and number of bells. The first peal was rung in 1715 at St Peter Mancroft church, Norwich. Since then, about 300,000 peals have been rung. The rate of ringing peals reached a maximum around the turn of the century but is now in significant decline.

The five original bells at Berrow were cast in 1910 by the firm of Gillett & Johnston at Croydon. William Gillett set up the firm to manufacture clocks in 1837; he was joined by Charles Bland as a partner in 1854. Arthur A Johnston bought himself into partnership in 1877 and then the firm started to cast bells under the name of Gillett & Bland. Bland died in 1884 and the firm became Gillett and Johnston in 1887. On Arthur's death in 1916 his son, Cyril, took over the business having joined in 1902. Cyril was very interested in bell-tuning and greatly expanded the bellfounding side of the business. Under his management the firm cast over 3,000 bells, and some were exported. They cast the heaviest bell ever cast in the UK in 1928; the bass bell of the 74-bell carillon at Riverside Church, New York, weighing 20 tons is the heaviest tuned bell in the world. They also cast the 48-bell carillon at Bournville in 1934 and the ringing peal of 12 bells at St Philip's Cathedral Birmingham. Cyril died in 1950 and **the firm cast their last bell in 1955.** The business name continues, the successor company mainly servicing and repairing clocks but not casting bells.

Ringers have a high regard for the tuning of G&J bells and some recently cast rings have deliberately used the same profiles as original G&J rings to produce excellent rings (e.g. Hawkesbury and Stoke St Milborough) though the bells were cast in Italy. I have rung peals on both rings and can confirm that they are excellent.

The new treble at Berrow was cast by John Taylor & Co. at Loughborough and is an excellent match to the existing ring. My personal, perhaps somewhat biased view, is that they are possibly the best-toned of the 57 rings of 6 bells in Worcestershire.

Richard Clements

What does it mean to be a Christian?

We are bombarded with conflicting statements on what it involves to be a Christian. How do we reconcile these conflicting, but often dogmatically-held, views?

Now we have an opportunity to make up our own minds by going to the source of the Christian faith. Christianity is based on who Jesus was (and is), what he did in the 35 or so years he spent on earth, and what he taught.



This is described in four written accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – the Gospels.

In 2026, we will have an opportunity to explore these questions by looking at one of these accounts – the Gospel of Matthew. Each month, we will read a passage (usually one chapter), and explore what it's saying to us about living as a Christian.

You will be joining a friendly and welcoming group who share an interest in exploring what the Bible has to say to us. We feel free to share our thoughts with each other, in the knowledge that what we say will not go outside the group.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, and will be starting our series on Matthew's Gospel on Tuesday 13th January. We meet at Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock GL19 3PR. We start at 11 am, but we gather for coffee (or tea) and biscuits from 10.30, and we finish at midday.

Anyone can join. We have members from the Berrow and Longdon groups of churches and from elsewhere. Do come along and try it out. If it's not for you, we will understand, and no harm has been done! If you want to know more, contact me on 01684 830 099 or dougbraund@fishersplace.net.

Doug Braund



Open the Book is an organisation that works to make the Bible better known by the children in our primary schools. They have produced a number of short playlets for local volunteers to present each week as their school assembly.

There are currently four of us in this area who do this on Wednesday mornings at Pendock and Eldersfield Lawn Schools –

with a welcome coffee break at my house between the two! Both of these are Church of England Schools, but the Open the Book organisation is interdenominational.

Depending on the length of each half term, we normally have four or five sessions - missing out the first and last weeks.

There's a three-year syllabus, covering both the Old and New Testaments. This means that most children will have seen each story twice in their time at the school. We involve the children as much as possible both as individual actors and as a whole group. We dress up in costumes and have a wide variety of props (ranging from horses and a chariot to Noah's ark and a rainbow).

In times when Christian education is very much on the decline, we feel that this work is really vital. We are always in need of extra helpers – especially to cover for absences (planned or unplanned). But we also need your prayer support.

If you want to know more, contact me on 01684 830 099 or dougbraund@fishersplace.net.

Doug Braund



BIRTSMORTON
CASTLEMORTON
HOLLYBUSH
LOCAL HISTORY.
www.bcharchive.org.uk

CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY!

Wednesday, December 3rd

2.30 - 4.30pm

at Castlemorton Parish Hall

LAUNCH of BCH JOURNAL 5!

Copies will be on sale

Exhibition of Archives

Introductory talks at 2.45pm

ALL WELCOME!

Free Entry - Donations welcome



CaCoffany!

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 6 December

St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton, WR13 6BQ

**10:00 – 10:45 Sing your favourite carols
with guest musicians**

10:45 – 12:00 Coffee, cake, stalls and chat

***Join us at any time
for festive Christmas Cheer!***

**Why not come along
in the New Year?**

10.00-11.30am

Dates to be announced soon

**Email requests of favourite hymns to:
simusgrave33@gmail.com**



Carols, Candles & Cake

(+Mulled Wine!)

December 7th, 4 p.m.

Eldersfield Church

This informal Carol Service is a chance to say **thank you** to everyone who has supported our church over the past year – at Quiz Nights, Concerts and events, not forgetting those who have cleaned, arranged flowers, cut grass, tended graves, helped organise events or joined us for services.

We hope that you can come and sing Carols by candlelight in an ancient tradition at Eldersfield dating back nearly 1000 years.

Enjoy pre-Christmas refreshments in a magical setting and get your Christmas off to a great start!



Do join us!



**FROM
THE
REGISTERS**



Funerals

St Gregory's, Castlemorton

29th October Diana Spencer

Baptisms

St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul, Birtsmorton

8th November Polly Louisa Wall

QUEENHILL WI REPORT November 2025

Our November meeting was a busy one. Not only did we have the usual business meeting but also the Annual Meeting, where reports on the year's events and the financial situation were read out and the elections of President and Committee for 2026 were conducted. And that was not all...

After that, we welcomed Neil Faram as our speaker. His presentation fell into two parts: first was An Airman's Story 1943, a highly appropriate theme when Remembrance Day was this week, and then the Railway Bridges of Upton. In both he used photographs, maps, and drawings and drew on our own memories and knowledge. He certainly gave us so much more than we expected with an excellent and varied talk.

The Airman's Story followed the experiences of his friend, a pilot of a Halifax aircraft, and its crew of seven during the war. The plane was hit by flak, the crew bailed out, but the pilot continued to fly it, crash landing in a clearing near Antwerp. He injured his leg, went on the run and then became a prisoner of war. Like so many who served, he only told of his experiences towards the end of his life - and to Neil. No wonder then, that the talk was so personal and touching.

Following that, we were taken on a 'before and after' journey through maps and photographs of the old railway line and its bridges and the evidence still there today. He used his own drawings (yes, he is an excellent draughtsman/artist too!) to help us locate the railway lines and station. We were determined that, as there was a lot more that he could have told us, we would have to ask him to come back. We had a thoroughly satisfying afternoon.

Our special Christmas meeting is on Thursday 11th December in WI Hall (WR8 0QZ) at 2pm. John Butterworth will talk on Six of the Best Christmases. Non members are welcome to join us to celebrate on this occasion. It will be great!

QUEENHILL & DISTRICT WI

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES & TEA

Thursday 11th December at 2pm
Queenhill WI Hall, WR8 0QZ



“SIX OF THE BEST CHRISTMASES”

John Butterworth will reminisce about some
memorable yuletide festivities

Queenhill WI Committee will provide a delicious
afternoon tea + a book sale + cakes + produce +
a fun Raffle + Xmas Word Search to enjoy
Other WI groups and our local neighbourhood
friends are cordially invited to join us - £5

Please notify your attendance to: Mrs Mary Wright – 01684 593378





Sunday 28th December at 3:00pm
How To Train Your Dragon
(2025)

(PG-2025-125mins)

This is a live-action remake of the animated original, following Hiccup, a young Viking who befriends a dragon named Toothless. Challenging his village's tradition, Hiccup discovers that dragons are not the enemy they've been taught to fear.

Free entry for this Christmas Show.

Thursday 15th January at 7:30pm
White Bird

(12A-2023-121mins)

A story about a Jewish girl named Sara who is hidden by a classmate and his family during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II. It is framed as the grandmother (Helen Mirren) telling her story to her grandson, revealing the courage and kindness she experienced during the war.

Tickets £5 on the door

For advance booking call Beth 01531 631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or email mortonmajestic@gmail.com.

Licensed Bar / Refreshments / Ice creams

The Morton Majestic is at Castlemorton Parish
Hall WR13 6BE

www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk

Berrow & Pendock Village Hall

WR13 6JN

Christmas Quiz

Thursday 11th December 2025,
6.45 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start
Finish 9.30 p.m.

£12.00 per person to include a welcome drink &
a cheese platter



Teams of up to 6.

Christmas hamper for the winning team.

Raffle.

Bring your own drinks.

Pre purchase of tickets is essential – please email
BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com

Raising money for our Heat our Hall project





PENDOCK SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Fun for all the family!

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

6.00 - 7.30PM
ENTRY BY DONATION

Join us for an evening
of festive fun and
community spirit as
we come together to
raise vital funds to
support the children
at our school!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Raffle
- Tombolas
- Grotto
- Crafts
- Festive games
- Refreshments

CASH AND CARD ACCEPTED

Hosted by Friends of Pendock School

COFFEE MORNING
AT
QUEENHILL CHURCH

ON
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
AT
10AM -12 NOON

COFFEE
CRAFTS, CAKE & PRODUCE, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA

Donations of
- raffle prizes to Nickie Inchbald
- tombola prizes to John Corbet-Milward
- cakes/produce bring on the day please

" Holly bush

Christmas "

5pm.



14th., December, '25.

Seasonal, Stories, Poems, Carols

All very Welcome!

also

Midnight Mass.

11.30pm. 24th. December,

Eldersfield Church



December 24th 5 p.m.

Christingle & Crib by candlelight

We hope that you will join us on Christmas Eve for the annual service of celebration and preparation for Christmas Day. It is always a magical & exciting preparation for the children (and adults) awaiting the Big Day!

We will sing Carols and step-by-step add figures to build up the crib scene in the stable. After an update on how our community has changed children's lives by so generously supporting the work of The Children's Society, the light of hope and celebration will fill the church as the Christingles are lit; a memorable moment as we sing a Carol in the flickering candlelight. We hope you can join us.

**A collection will be taken for the work of The
Children's Society**



Thursday 16th October 2025 - Room on the Broom

Join us in fancy dress for a magical morning!

Wednesday 5th November 2025 - Bonfire Night

Wellies on and up to Forest School to use the campfire!

Thursday 11th December - Christmas

Come and join us for the merriest of mornings!

Friday 9th January 2026 - Pole to Pole

Ready for an adventure to the North and South Poles?

All sessions 9:00 - 11:00am

Families welcome to drop and go, or stay and play!

Get in touch to book a place...



01531 650298



office@pendockpri.worcs.sch.uk



www.pendockprimary.co.uk



Terrific News!

The tromboncinos have been a highlight of the Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festivals. The gloriously shaped type of squash has many other names, each evocative of their appearance: zucchetta rampicante, climbing zucchini or climbing crookneck, and serpentine squash. Originally they came from Liguria, a coastal region of northwest Italy known for its coastline, rolling hills and mild climate. How splendid to think they are also being grown in Upper Pendock!

It is very fitting to inaugurate a new Recipe column for the Parish Magazine with a recipe for Tromboncino!

Our recipe writers are ~
Rosey in Upper Pendock, Lucy in India and Amy in London

Tromboncino (or Courgette), with tomato and potato summer bake

You'll want to use the ripest, most delicious ingredients and season them well. Wait for it to cool down to warm not hot to enjoy the flavours.

600g (1lb 5oz) courgettes OR tromboncino, cut into 5mm (¼in) slices

600g (1lb 5oz) small, waxy new potatoes (such as Charlotte), peeled and cut 5mm (¼in) slices

500g (1lb 2oz) ripe tomatoes, cut into 5mm (¼in) slices

1 red onion or 2 shallot

thinly sliced 6 cloves of garlic

thinly sliced small bunch of dill, stalks and leaves separated, both roughly chopped

150ml good olive oil (plus some of the oil from the anchovies)

1 tsp chilli flakes, or more to taste

6 anchovy fillets chopped up fine

salt and freshly ground black pepper

You can use a mandolin or a magi mix with the slicer setting – the thinner slices also work well but careful with the tomatoes – they are better by hand.

Recipe continued

Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan/375°F/Gas Mark 5.

Put the sliced courgette or tromboncino into a large mixing bowl, add salt, pepper, garlic, chilli flakes, dill and chopped anchovy then add half of the olive oil. Using your hands (or salad spoons) mix it all well but gently. In a large oven proof dish layer the base with the mixture. Then add a layer of the tomatoes and sprinkle with more salt and pepper. Then top with another layer of the potato mix followed by the tomato and end with a top layer of the potato. The number of layers will depend on the size of the dish. Add a sprinkle of olive oil as you layer.

Add 150ml (5fl oz) of water and top with more olive oil. Cover with foil and bake in the oven for 45 minutes, then remove the foil and increase the heat to 210°C/190°C fan/415°F/Gas Mark 6–7. Cook until all the vegetables are completely tender and the uppermost vegetables are beginning to colour and crisp in places. Remove from the oven and leave to settle for at least 15 minutes before eating.

Optional: It's delicious with Nigel Slater's Plaice with Parmesan breadcrumbs: recipe for that is below. You can pop the fish in while the bake is cooling and then serve plated alongside each other.

- 4 plaice fillets (dried well)
- salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup coarse fresh bread crumbs
- 4 Tbs. unsalted butter, melted
- 2 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil

Preheat the oven to 220°C / 200°C Fan. In a large baking dish, season the fish fillets with salt and pepper. In a bowl mix the Parmesan with bread crumbs, melted butter and olive oil, and sprinkle over the fillets. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the fish is cooked and the topping is golden. Let stand for a few minutes before serving.

And enjoy! With good wishes from Rosey

Also here is a very belated but most sincere 'thank you' to
our recipe writer for many a year

As we come to the end of the year it may be interesting to look back on some of the articles I have written.

I have questioned the meaning of charity. I now note that in September 2025 our Government brought to this country some children from Gaza for hospital treatmentⁱ. That, you might think is the epitome of charity, the sort of selfless action of which this country should be proud. And perhaps it is. But remember also that there are 7.4 million Britons on the NHS waiting list and that they will have to wait, and suffer, and perhaps die, a little longer because of this act of charity about which they were not consulted. Indeed, in 2024 delays forced half a million Britons to go abroad for treatmentⁱⁱ. You might also think that there could be a political dimension. There are in the world more than 1 bn children under 10 and some millions of these will need urgent hospital treatment. Why choose children from Gaza? Could that choice be linked to the UK government's opposition to Israel?

Black Lives Matter was a movement which swept the western world some years ago and had an impact vastly beyond its importance. Its mission as expressed today, '*We envision a future fully divested from police, prisons, and all punishment paradigms,*'ⁱⁱⁱ captures perfectly the vacuity of its thinking. It's a pity not more publicity was given to this at the time.

Mentions of slavery appears to have declined significantly since I wrote about it but the CofE remains racked by guilt because of the actions of its forebears some centuries ago; the Church Commissioners still considers itself bound by its decision to give £100m to Black-led (remember the capital letter!) businesses and communities affected by slavery. In October 2025, Marsha de Cordova, MP, who represents the Church Commissioners in Parliament, confirmed that the project marches forward, with a new charity, the *Fund for Healing, Repair and Justice*, now being set up. Do please give generously!

Less dramatic perhaps, and certainly more restrained, is the response to date of Worcester Cathedral to the Climate Emergency which it declared in September 2021. In the intervening four years its response to this existential threat has been to develop a strategy which will, it proclaims, lead it to be '*a prophetic voice for environmental campaigning and awareness*'^{iv} – no jokes, please, about hot air - and examining whether it can dismiss Barclays as its bankers on '*ethical considerations*'^v. Nevertheless, despite this slow start it hopes to spend £1m before 2030 on achieving Net Zero^{vi}. Its total income for 2024 was £2.5m. And before you ask – I have no idea where the money is to come from.

ⁱ For reasons of space references are not given here but are available on request

In the larger community work to achieve Net Zero continues apace. Our government has been reluctant to authorise North Sea oil developments with the foreseeable consequence that oil and gas jobs are being lost, at a rate of 1,000 a month and forecast to continue^{vii}. Another consequence is that we are producing less of the energy we use ourselves (down from 74% in 2020 to 57% in 2024^{viii}) and are therefore becoming more reliant on foreigners, giving jobs to them and not to our people, and paying them profits and not ourselves, and losing tax; the overall value of this loss is placed at £165 bn^{ix}. Some think that this is a price worth paying, but it is becoming apparent that some do not.

We have been busy building wind turbines in windy places but – alas! - have not connected them to the grid. This means that we cannot use the electricity that some of them produce. That failure has a cost. In the first nine months of 2025 we paid compensation to wind farm owners amounting to £1 bn^x. That figure is expected to rise to an annual figure of £3.5 bn by 2030^{xi}. And when I say ‘*we pay them*’ I mean of course ‘*you pay them*’.

Our green energy policy is responsible at least in part for this country having the highest electricity costs in the OECD. Unsurprisingly, this has led to our losing much of our energy-intensive industries. Chemicals production is down 40% since 2021^{xii} and cement production (remember the 1.5m new homes?) is back to the 1950 level^{xiii}. Steel making is flirting with extinction. The Ineos refinery at Grangemouth has closed, as also has the UK's largest fibreglass factory, in Wigan. In 2024, the British car industry produced the fewest cars since 1954^{xiv}. We can for the moment buy these products from China and other countries, but that will be difficult if we run out of money.

And all this is to help reduce our emission of 1% of the world's CO₂.

I have criticised the ‘ethical’ stance of the CofE. Ethical considerations continue to weigh heavily with the Church Commissioners and it confirms in its 2024 report^{xv} that it does nothing to assist in developing arms for the defence of Britain. In this it is following the trend of British investors: the Financial Times reports that UK fund managers have cut holdings in leading defence stocks by about 9% since early 2022^{xvi}. This ‘ethical’ approach has been condemned by two government ministers, Andrew Griffith and James Cartledge, who talk of a ‘*parallel universe*’ in which we support Ukraine but shun the arms industry^{xvii}. There will always be wars and we may be approaching the next one. ‘Ethics’ could mean that we lose it.

In summary, I think of the peace of Westphalia. Axel Oxenstierna encouraged his inexperienced son, about to enter the negotiations, with the words, ‘*An nescis, mi fili, quantilla prudentia mundus regatur?*’ ‘*Do you not know, my son, with how very little wisdom the world is governed?*’

Eldersfield Lawn CofE Primary School

2025

OPEN MORNING



**Please join us on
11th December
09:15–10:45am**

**Outstanding in
Personal Development &
Behaviour (Ofsted)**

Extensive rural grounds with high
academic results in KS2 SATS

- Tours by pupils
- See the children at work
- Refreshments available

To book call or email:

01452 780 309

admin@eldersfieldlawn.worcs.sch.uk





Eldersfield Lawn C.E. Primary School

We were delighted to have received the Church and School Partnership Award which was recently presented to us from representatives of Worcester Diocese. Thank you to everyone who worked together to make this wonderful achievement possible including members from Eldersfield church, the Open the Book Team and our local community.



Over 60 people came along to Eldersfield Lawn School on Friday 7th November for the Quiz Night. An evening of questions, brainwork and fish & chips took place and a good time was had by all. After 9 rounds we had a clear winning team who took away a case of drinks. The total raised was an amazing £460! It was so good to see friends and neighbours from our local communities supporting the event and ensuring that the evening was so much fun.

Thank you to the organising group (Cathy, Frieda, Liane and Wendy) for their time & hard work and to everyone for coming along and raising funds to support our beautiful church in Eldersfield.

thank you

Advent

Christ a-coming
Known Advent-ure now, but
How back then could men
Have seen God 's Son sent
In Flesh and blood
Both Mary's son and God?

Great God in love
Calls bless-ed Mary to contrary
State of virgin birth
To fate of fingers pointed
Sin a-hinted, Herod-hunted
And yet
Wise men worship babe, winging far
To follow star, these
Sanctified seers see salvation,
Angels sing their proclamation
Simple Shepherds run
Stunned to see Creation's
Acme, salvation story's curtain's
Swept aside for simple eyes

Yet God may speak to any
Ears that hearken, then and now,
Unfold to any eye
That see
That He *is* Love come down
At Christmastide

Advent Musings

Mankind lost; made like God to walk with God; but
Disobeyed and strayed to independent trespass ways
So into curséd desert days.....he was not made for this.

But in tumultuous sweep of heavenly power
Which made grown angels weep and shout and sing
for greatest joy, God comes down, virgin born
Jesus Christ, heaven's joy, God as baby Boy.

Born for what? - to live, to die, for you, for me,
Restoring us, if we agree, to everything we're made to be -
No more trespass ways, and no more curséd desert days
"Find My joy and walk My ways", says He.
"Be one with Me from now and into all eternity."

Wow. Just do it.

Hartpury Village Hall presents "A Pocket Opera"

Hartpury Village Hall, Gloucester, GL19 3BJ
Friday 27th February 2026 7.30pm.
Doors and Bar open 7.00pm

*A concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music presented as a play,
with costumes, props and a storyline which roughly follows the story of Bizet's
opera Carmen but told from her point of view. An unusual, highly entertaining
evening of fantasy, comedy, drama and tremendous music.*

Tickets £14 from Sue Knox susanknox@btinternet.com or 07817 232276

A BIG THANK-YOU
FROM THE EDITORS

The Editors would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the production of the Parish Magazine over the past year, especially the Ministry Team and Parish contributors, magazine distributors, our advertisers and of course **YOU**, the reader!

The subscription for the coming year remains at £10.

Please complete the **Renewal Form** below and hand it to your Magazine distributor with your subscription. Although we can still accept **cheques** (payable to **Berrow Pendock & Eldersfield**), the preferred options are **cash** or **bank transfer (BACS)**, details on the form below.

Many thanks to **all** who renew promptly, also those who include a little extra – your support is very much appreciated.

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY
NEW YEAR
TO YOU ALL**

PARISH MAGAZINE – SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

Name

Address

I / We wish to renew my /our Parish Magazine subscription for 2026 and would like it to receive it as follows:

(Delete as appropriate)

A printed copy to be delivered to the address above

or

An electronic copy to the following email address

Bank details for BACS (please use your surname as reference)

Business account name: Berrow Pendock & Eldersfield

Account number: 00006926

Sort code: 30-59-30

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

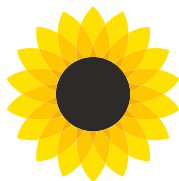
Although both benefices are in interregnum (ie without a full-time paid priest) at the moment, we are still able to be there for our communities to help with the milestone moments of life.

Our Churches are wonderful sacred spaces in which to celebrate a marriage or the birth and baptism of a child. We can provide all the help, guidance and expertise you need to plan out a service which works for you and your family. Our church buildings also provide the time and space to grieve – and to remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one who is no longer with us.

Your first point of contact to organize a wedding or baptism would be Rev Anthea Elston, contact details at the front of this magazine. For funerals, you will be working with your preferred funeral director who will get in touch with Rev Anthea to agree a suitable date and time.

Our medieval and more modern buildings are, first and foremost, places of worship, but they are also community spaces, where we would love to be able to help you to celebrate your times of joy and provide comfort and support in times of sadness. Please do be in touch with Rev Anthea or with your local church warden if we can help in any way.

Rev Anthea Elston



JACKSON FAMILY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Ethical Funeral Directors

Jackson Family Funeral Directors are leading the way in disrupting the practices of traditional funeral directors. We are changing the understanding of how funeral directors can be pillars of the community by delivering a service that is second-to-none, honest and ethical.

Amie is our Operations Director and Malvern Funeral Director.
Rachele is our Colwall and Ledbury Funeral Director.



Amie Cook



Rachele Watson



Wells Road, Malvern

01684 563983

www.jacksonfamilyfunerals.com



Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown.

8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25	TBA	N/A
	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
15th February Sunday next before Lent	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Exodus 24:12-end 2 Peter 1:16-end	TBA	TBA
18th February Ash Wednesday	Pendock Cross Church	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday with optional ashing	Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10	Ruth Coates	N/A
22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Fiona Collins	N/A
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Romans 5:12-19 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Elisabeth Rambridge	Cathy Powell-Chandler
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Romans 5:12-19 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19	TBA	TBA

Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm
Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow and Longdon Benefices website
<https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources>

Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown.

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
4th January Epiphany	Queenhill Church Hollybush Church	10.30am 5 pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Isaiah 60:1-9 John 2:1-11	TBA Shirley Williams	TBA Liz Lean
11th January Baptism of Christ	Bushley Church Birtsmorton Church Castlemorton Church	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 TBA	TBA Elisabeth Rambridge TBA	----- Cathy Powell-Chandler TBA
18th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Castlemorton Church Pendock Cross Church	10.30am 10.30am	Family Communion All Age Worship	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 TBA	TBA TBA	TBA TBA
25th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Eldersfield Church Berrow Church Longdon Church	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Janet Peters Ruth Coates TBA	N/A Ann Ward TBA
1st February Presentation of Christ at the Temple - Candlemas	Queenhill Church Hollybush Church	10.30am 5 pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-end Haggai 2:1-9 John 2:18-22	TBA Liz Lean	TBA Celia Greatwood

Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm

Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow and Longdon Benefices website

<https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources>

23 rd December	Castlemorton Church	4pm	Crib Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
24 th December Christmas Eve	Eldersfield Church Hollybush Church	5pm 11.30pm	Crib and Christingle Midnight Mass	TBA Isaiah 52. 7 – 10 Hebrews 1. 1 – 4	TBA Shirley Williams	TBA Liz Lean
25 th December Christmas Day	Queenhill Church Berrow Church	10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family Service	Isaiah 9. 2 – 7 Titus 2. 11 – 14 Isaiah 65. 17 – 25 Luke 2. 1 – 20	TBA Elisabeth Rambridge	TBA Ann Ward
28 th December 1 st Sunday of Christmas	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 63. 7 – 9 Hebrews 2. 10 – End	TBA	TBA

Please Note: Compline will be held on Zoom Every Friday at 7.00 pm

Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow and Longdon Benefices website

<https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources>

Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

Would readers and intercessors themselves please arrange an appropriate replacement if they are unable to be present on the dates shown.

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 11. 1 – 10 Romans 15. 4 -- 13	TBA	TBA
	Eldersfield Church	4pm	Carols, Candles and Cakes	TBA	TBA	TBA
14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Isaiah 35. 1 – 10 James 5. 7 -- 10	TBA	-----
	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 35. 1 – 10 James 5. 7 -- 10	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Hollybush Church	5pm	Hollybush Christmas	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
15th December	Longdon Church	7pm	Carol Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
16th December	Bushley Church	7pm	Carol Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
17th December	Castlemorton Church	7pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	TBA	TBA	TBA
18th December	Queenhill Church	7pm	Carol Service	TBA	TBA	TBA
21st December 4th Sunday of Advent	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Isaiah 7. 10 – 16 Romans 1. 1 -- 7	TBA	TBA
	Berrow Church	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	TBA	TBA	TBA