

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

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Our wedding couples often choose from 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 as the Bible reading for their service. As a member of the team of vergers who help at the weddings at Birtsmorton Church, I have learnt from the talks given by Rev Anthea and Rev Julie that this is known as the Love Chapter.

⁴'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸'Love never fails.'

Sometimes an awe of the situation means the reader may rush a little and silently I encourage them to go slowly, to savour the freshness of words written so long ago and to achieve the wonderful cadence. Sometimes there is applause – maybe more for the reader than the writer, but I have trained myself to think – why not? Maybe if we applauded more what we heard we would live better by it.

I note that David Allen and Doug Braund in the excellent reflections they give at Evensong set a kind of context and felt I had better try to do so also. St Paul founded a church in Corinth around the year AD50 and then moved on to Ephesus. From there he heard reports that things weren't going well at Corinth so he sent this letter. But I felt in some way my efforts at research were not that satisfactory and I started to think a little of what my lecturers used to talk about with reference to the Reformation that faith moved from being a matter of the heart to a matter of the head and the intellect. What I did find interesting was some thought that the Love Chapter was originally a hymn or psalm, and that accounts for the sublime rhythm.

St Valentine might have been a good focus for this letter. I have discovered the hard way in my research on St Faith that the story of lives of the early saints is rarely cheery. St Valentine is of course the patron saint of lovers, and I expect there will be some of our wedding couples who got engaged on February 14. He is also the patron saint of bee-keepers. I smiled a little when I read the Roman Catholic Church

removed St Valentine from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 because of the lack of reliable information. It's said he was imprisoned in the 3rd century for his faith, but healed his jailer's daughter from blindness and signed a letter to her with 'from your Valentine'. Is it the case the rest is history – or maybe as ever, a happy mix of folklore? From the 14th century the day became a lovers' festival and the tradition of sending cards dated from the 18th century.

Our son Charles was actually due on February 14 but I wasn't sure if it was a good date for a birthday; so I managed to hang on a bit longer. A great joy for us has been becoming grandparents. Charles brings little Daisy to us frequently at the weekend – via the Farmers Arms so she is a regular there too – and I enjoy more than anything watching him with her. And what do I see? – patience, kindness and I have been reminded of how love provides such a secure foundation. In the winter I miss the regular updates on Gardeners' World from Monty Don about mulching your garden and laying – literally here – a good foundation.

This year the gospel that is to be read is St Matthew, and there we hear – well what is it? - admonition, encouragement. It's certainly clear: 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.'

I wonder if on the last weekend of January, you did the Big Bird Watch? Here's a great statistic: in 2025 there were 1,211,260 sightings of the House Sparrow. It's in Matthew we see an exquisite description of worth when Jesus says – 'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.'

What else is there for us in the Love Chapter? 'Resilience' is perhaps the more modern buzzword, that is really perseverance. Look again at those lines – 'Love always trusts, always hopes', and so let us cleave to that as we wait with patience for a new incumbent.

With love, Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden

Lent Course and Services

It feels like we've only just got past Christmas, and yet here I am writing about Lent! Shrove Tuesday is on Tuesday 17th February, and a day later, on Ash Wednesday 18th February, we will have an evening service at 7.30pm of Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday with optional ashing at the little church at Pendock Cross. This is, for me, always a very moving and gentle way to begin our Lenten observances – whether you decide to give things up or take things up.

Throughout Lent we are fortunate to have Michael Harper and Jeremy Cox to lead a series of Lenten reflections for us, which, this year, will be a part of their new service, Start The Week, which happens every Sunday – except the second Sunday of each month – at Castlemorton Church at 6.30pm. It's a short, reflective, prayerful service, so perfect as a new Lenten observance. And Michael will be preaching at both our Ash Wednesday and Easter Day services – pleasingly bookending the season for us in his own thought provoking and thoughtful way.

Please do come along if you can.

Rev Anthea Elston

From the Magazine Archive - February 1981

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

The following contributions were made from Berrow and Pendock to children's charities.

Carol Service Pendock Parish Church	£13.69
Carol Service Pendock Cross Church	£22.60
Carol Service Berrow Parish Church	£38.80
TOTAL	£ 95.09 75.09

Thank you for your donations in this matter on behalf of those who will benefit.

CAROL SINGERS' THANKYOU

Anna Morse and Katie Illesley would like to thank all those who gave so generously when they called on you carol singing just before Christmas. A total of £11.00 was raised which has now been donated and taken to Eastnor Children's Home by the above.

St Gregory's, Castlemorton

Start The Week

A new venture for the New Year

As 2026 begins, why not set aside time for reflection and peace?

Start the Week is a new short weekly gathering with a bible passage, song and prayer for our church, our community and ourselves.



Join us at 6.30pm, beginning on Sunday 4 January
in the church

We would love to see you!

Kaleidoscope

at St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
6.30pm on the Second Sunday of each month



*A lay-led, relaxed and informal service featuring
a variety of worship music, bible readings, prayer and a short address*



Throughout 2026 we shall examine in
greater depth a phrase of
The Lord's Prayer each month.

11 Jan	Our Father
8 Feb	Who art in Heaven
8 Mar	Hallowed be thy name
12 Apr	Thy kingdom come
10 May	Thy will be done
14 Jun	On Earth as it is in heaven
1 Jul	Give us this day our daily bread
9 Aug	Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
13 Sep	Lead us not into temptation
11 Oct	But deliver us from evil
13 Dec	For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, AMEN

To give you an idea of the hymns and songs we use, the music which supported January's theme was

Introduction	<i>Pater Noster</i> (before the service)
Hymn	<i>How Deep the Father's Love for Us</i>
Reflection	<i>And He Shall Give his Angels Charge Over Thee</i> from Mendessohn's <i>Elijah</i>
Hymn	<i>Father, I place into Your Hands the things I cannot do</i>
Reflection	<i>Our Father</i> – Don Moen
Hymn	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>
Closing Music	<i>A Clare Benediction</i> – John Rutter

Do come along and join us.

Sherry and non-alcoholic alternatives are served after all Kaleidoscope services.

All are very welcome!

CaCoffany!

**St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ**

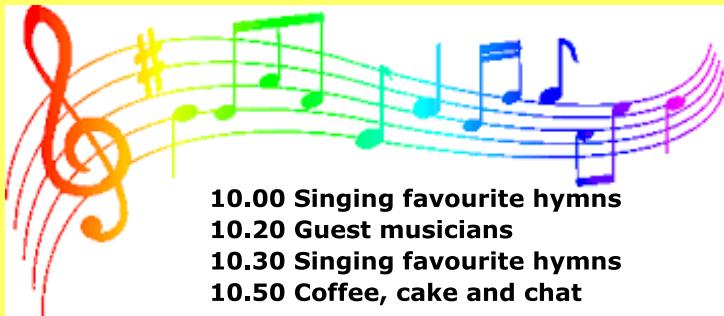
Saturdays 10.00-11.30am

2026 Dates

**7 February, 7 March, 11 April, 9 May, 6 June, 4 July
5 September, 3 October, 7 November,
5 December (Christmas Special)**

A monthly coffee morning
with the chance to sing uplifting hymns and listen to guest musicians

No singing experience needed – just come and sing
or simply enjoy the coffee and delicious cakes!



**10.00 Singing favourite hymns
10.20 Guest musicians
10.30 Singing favourite hymns
10.50 Coffee, cake and chat**

**Email Sarah with your requests for the programme
sjmusgrave33@gmail.com**

**No admission charge
Proceeds from Bring and Buy stall support maintenance of our lovely church
Donations appreciated**



All Welcome!





Fun Quiz Night

Eldersfield Lawn School
Friday 27th February 2026

We hope that you can join us for our next Quiz Night in the school hall. At half time we will be serving a Fish and Chip Supper and a vegetarian alternative (included) and there are prizes for the winning team. Tickets £12.50 pp.

On arrival, we will fit you into a team, or you can bring a group of up to 8 people yourselves.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start, food at 8pm and finish around 9.15pm; you are welcome to bring your own drinks. (Let us know in advance of any allergies.)

We hope that you can come and look forward to hearing from you.

Tickets available from: Liane Barton:07376 236504 wendyburr455@gmail.com
Frieda Griffiths (07879 465853), Andy Holt 01452 780429, Cathy Powell-Chandler 01531 635794.

Proceeds to our beautiful church in Eldersfield.

Christmas Eve 2025 Record breaking!

At our Christingle and Crib service we welcomed 215 people into the church for the candlelit service – possibly the largest congregation ever? It was wonderful to hear so many voices singing the Christmas Carols (and see so many children enjoying the sweets from the Christingles!) Over £800 was raised for The Children's society – a massive thank you.



Carols, Candles & Cake (& mulled wine!)

It seems a long time ago that we were singing Carols in Eldersfield Church. On that mild but very windy night around fifty people gathered in the light of over a hundred flickering candles to sing out the traditional Carols and to get their Christmas off to a great start. We managed to sing a total of nine Carols and hear a selection of poems in an hour before enjoying homemade cake, biscuits and mulled wine. The service celebrated the work of the small army of people who give time to look after Eldersfield Church throughout the year and say a big thank you for looking after the place. You all do a wonderful job. This year the decorations were augmented by a display of wreaths designed and displayed in church by local people to celebrate memories of loved ones at Christmas. The wreath making was organised by Rosalind Cookson, for which many thanks. Perhaps this could become a regular addition in future years? Now we are in February, we hope that your New Year has started well.

The Children's Society

No child should feel alone

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Once again, the generosity of people living in and around this area has been amazing. So many people have attended or arranged events over the Christmas period raising funds to help the UK's most needy children.

Tracey Boyd gave the proceeds of a wonderful play that she wrote and directed.

Children at Pendock and Eldersfield Lawn schools held Christingle collections with over 160 joining in. The Collection at the Nine lessons and Carols service at Berrow Church was donated.

Sarah Rowe gave the proceeds of her two successful concerts in Castle Morton.

The generous collection from the Christingle and Crib service at a packed Eldersfield Church.

Neil Gardner invited all on Christmas Eve to sing Carols in a wonderfully crowded Farmer's Arms and donated the collection.

Housebox Box collections are still in progress but with Direct Debits are likely to exceed last year's total.

Last year many thousands of children were helped and rescued from lives of pain and misery by The Children's Society. When you hear news reports of young people being used and abused, of grooming gangs and County Lines groups you can be sure that The Society is there, working on prevention or picking up the pieces of damaged young lives. That is the vital work that all who were part of the fundraising events (above) were supporting – and tens of thousands children had their lives changed. Our fundraising totalled nearly £4,000: a fantastic amount. Thank you.



Eldersfield Cricket Club

Sad to have to report that Eldersfield Cricket Club will not be playing League Cricket this season. The Club is hoping to play Sunday Friendlies instead. So if you are interested in playing Village Cricket please contact James Bullock on 07544-694637. YOUR VILLAGE TEAM NEEDS YOU!!!!



Thursday 5th February at 7:30pm
The Seeds of Vandana Shiva

(PG-2021-82mins)

The Seeds of Vandana Shiva tells the remarkable life story of Gandhian eco-activist Dr. Vandana Shiva, how she stood up to the corporate Goliaths of industrial agriculture, rose to prominence in the food justice movement, and inspired an international crusade for change. This feature length documentary is shown in co-operation with Castlemorton Environmental Group.

Thursday 19th February at 7:30pm
The Marching Band

(15-2024-103mins-French with subtitles)

Acclaimed conductor Thibaut has leukaemia and needs a bone marrow donor. Learning he was adopted, he discovers he has an older brother, a musician and a factory worker, leading a very different life. Despite their very different upbringings, the brothers forge a bond around their shared love of music; and through their collaboration, they explore identity, family ties, and the power of music to bridge social divides.

This film is a fine example of French cinema's brilliance in making top class comedy/drama films.

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

CONCERT IN AID OF TIRLEY CHURCH

**Singer - Songwriter CHRIS BANNISTER to perform the
MUSIC OF JOHN DENVER and OTHER ARTISTS**

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

AT CORSE VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM FOR 8PM START

TICKETS £15

From 01452 780136 / 01452 780271

Chris has delighted audiences across America, the UK and Europe. He has earnt acclaim as one of the finest interpreters of Denver's music.

Further details to follow in March Magazine.

54th SPRING SHOW

organised by:

STAUNTON & DISTRICT W.I.



MARCH 14th 2026 at 1.00 pm

CORSE & STAUNTON VILLAGE HALL

CRAFT ~ CAKE ~ PLANT & BOOK STALLS

TOMBOLA ~ RAFFLE ~ TEAS~TABLE TOP SALE~

BBQ~CLASSIC CARS~LUCKY DIP

DEMONSTRATION ~ CHILDRENS CLASSES

Admission £1

Children Free

Staunton & District W.I.

54th Spring Show

and

Table Top Sale

Saturday 14th March 2026

£8 per table

Scout Hut, behind Village Hall

1pm – 4pm

(Set up from 11am)

To book a table contact:

Rose Holland

Tel: 07970 146878

Email: rose.v.holland@btinternet.com

From the Magazine Archive - February 1981

24th December, 1980.

C. of E. Children's Society,
St. Mary's
Eastnor.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the gifts from St. John the Baptist, Eldersfield - incidentally our church is dedicated to that saint too! We are very grateful to you all for remembering us, and continuing to give us such practical support. We are all looking forward to a very happy day tomorrow.

Hope you have a very happy Christmas too.

Yours sincerely,
Joyce Tandy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. & MRS. P. CANAVAN of Corse Lawn on the birth of their first grandchild; a son to Brian and Kathleen - Andrew James, born on January 10th.

CORSE LAWN GARAGE AND SHOP - We are sorry that Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill are leaving on 1st February, but glad that Mr. & Mrs. Beard have bought the property to continue in the same business.

**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

PARISH MAGAZINE – SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

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Address

I / We wish to renew my /our £10 Parish Magazine subscription for 2026 and would like to receive it as follows:

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or

An electronic copy to the following email address

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Business account name: Berrow Pendock & Eldersfield

Account number: 00006926

Sort code: 30-59-30

Queenhill WI Report January 2026

The Women's Institute aims to encourage women to come together to learn, share skills, and to improve lives in local, national and global communities. It values fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice- so important in today's world.

At our latest meeting, Queenhill WI voted on five proposed Resolutions for this year's campaigning focus.

On the day of our meeting, (when Storm Goretti was due!), we enjoyed our usual fun activities, warm, friendly conversations and delicious refreshments. A good start to the New Year!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday February 12th 2.30pm when our speaker will be John Butterworth. We look forward to welcoming him for a second time. At the end of last year, he gave a fascinating and stimulating talk about the charity projects he has been involved in, and the contacts he has made with people across the globe. Next month he will talk on "Off the Beaten Track" and we expect it will be just as interesting.

We send you all our very best wishes for 2026 and invite you to join our friendly branch. We meet at WI Hall, WR8 0QZ.

TIRLEY CHURCH
SPRING TABLE TOP SALE
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 10AM - 2PM
TO BE HELD AT TIRLEY VILLAGE HALL
£10 PER TABLE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE
PROCEEDS FOR TIRLEY CHURCH FUNDS

TO BOOK A TABLE AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT 01452 780136 AND 01452 780271

Rushing Fish Pie

Yes! You read the title correctly! This is the family name for a recipe which is officially called Russian Fish Pie.

It's sent in by Lucy who with her sister Amy re-named the pie as her mother Rosey was always busy!

The filling is taken from Delia Smith's Flaky Fish Pie.

Ingredients

We prefer undyed smoked haddock mixed with plain white haddock.

12 oz (350 g) any white fish, such as haddock, cod or whiting.
salt and freshly milled black pepper
about 12-15 fl oz (330-425 ml) milk
1 oz (25 g) butter
2 level tablespoons plain flour
1 level tablespoon capers, drained and chopped
4 small gherkins, drained and chopped
2 level tablespoons chopped parsley
2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 egg whisked for egg wash

Pastry:

2 ready rolled puff pastry sheets (the all butter ones if possible as less ingredients and more delicious!)

Of course ~

people can make their own pastry - rough puff would be best if making themselves rather than bought

Method

To make the filling, place the fish in a medium-sized saucepan with just enough milk to cover, bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for about 5-10 minutes. Now strain off the milk into a measuring jug, and when the fish is cool enough to handle, flake it into large pieces (discarding all the bones and skin), place in a bowl and set aside.

Next, melt the butter in the same saucepan and stir in the flour. Cook for about 2 minutes over a medium heat, then gradually add 10 fl oz (300 ml) of the milk the fish was cooked in, stirring all the time.

Bring the sauce to the boil, simmer gently for 6 minutes, then take the pan off the heat and add the flaked fish, chopped capers, gherkins, parsley and eggs. Season with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Cover and leave until the mixture is quite cold.

Turn the oven on to 220 C (or 200 C fan / gas mark 7). Place a large sturdy baking tray in the middle of the oven that can take the full pastry sheet when laid out.

Pastry: remove from package and on baking paper lay 1 sheet of the pastry out. Remove the fish mixture from the fridge and put this in the centre of the pastry leaving about 1 inch edge. brush the egg wash around the edge and lay the 2nd sheet of pastry on the top and press down the edges. Make 2-3 slashes in the top. Place in the oven on the hot tray and cook for 30 mins until golden. Serve with peas!

And finally ~

The pie is lovely served hot, but it's also delicious the next day served cold.

And enjoy! With good wishes from Lucy,

and sent from India!

The Story of a Great Read!

A conversation between **Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden, and Brian and Leta Woodcock, Editors of the Parish Magazine ~**

Elisabeth: Brian and Leta, at the last meeting of the Berrow Benefice PCCs, sincere thanks were expressed for all you do in the production of the Parish Magazine. As with so many areas of Benefice life, it is not always understood quite what is needed to keep 'the show on the road'. I thought that a 'conversation' with you could raise that awareness.

Amongst the church archives, I've found a copy of 'The Parish Magazine' dated April 1973; there's an article by Andrew's mother Mary on 'Riding for the Disabled', his father John writes about Slimbridge, and there's a curious 'Odds and ends' article by 'Aries' – I wonder who that might be?!

Can you tell me something of the history of the magazine and when did your involvement begin?

Brian & Leta: We moved to Corse Lawn in May 1983 and very soon Rev Norman Davis got in touch asking if anyone did any typing, and Leta replied that she did. He then asked - could she type the Parish Magazine? At that time the Rev Davis did all the running off of the magazine on a **Gestetner Machine**. All Leta had to do was type the information provided by Norman and he would do the rest. Leta typed all the information on to wax stencils on her portable Olivetti Lettera 22 typewriter (which she still has)!! We understand that originally the Magazine was edited by Wendy and Bill Driver and probably later typed up by Grace Snape (a neighbour of ours) We took over from them.

Elisabeth: Describe some of the most significant changes over the years.

Brian & Leta: After Norman Davis left the parish we carried on doing the magazine thinking it would be an easy job!! We did not have a Gestetner copier, so George Burndred let us use his machine at his company in Cheltenham. **We used to carry out this printing after doing a full day's work at our respective work places. It was on A4 sheets printed on one side and fed through again for the second side.** We took the artworks for the adverts to Keith Gooch, a stationery supplier in Gorsley. He would then cut the advert page stencils. These cost £5.00

each so to keep costs down the whole years advert pages were run off in one go. These were put in our built-in wardrobe and then each batch selected for the appropriate month. The pages then would be banded up, put in boxes and delivered to the distributors who then collated and stapled them together. We had to ensure that we were not too late in getting all this to them so giving them time to get the mags out at the end of the month.

The distributors were the Peters family in Eldersfield and Elsie Keef in Pendock. When we acquired the parishes of Birtsmorton and Hollybush we delivered their mags to Rosemarie Bolton and later Roger Gillard as well. Brian had an Amstrad Computer and we typed the stencils by using the computer and a dot-matrix printer with the ribbon removed. We then acquired two Gestetner machines, one was in our kitchen and the other in our garage. One of us would print the one page and then one of us would go into the garage to do the other side. We then acquired a Roneo machine which worked on the same principle as the Gestetner but had a scanning facility enabling us to print articles containing text and illustrations. We had this machine in our upstairs room at our bookshop and would do the printing in the evenings after work. With help from Rosemarie Bolton and her daughter Alison, we made contact with Bob Greenwood. He was happy to print the magazine for us – **at this time the format changed to A5 (folded A4)**. When Bob sadly died, his wife, Tricia, continued to print the magazine until the printer was beyond economic repair. (We still keep in regular contact with Tricia). A neighbour, a retired printer, recommended **Biz Stationery** located in Gloucester; and now Brian uses Desk Top Publishing and sends off the master copy electronically. The current distributors are yourself (Elisabeth), Janet and Sandra Peters, Sarah Gardner and Shirley Williams.

Elisabeth: People say if they want a local tradesman – ‘I’ll look in the parish magazine.’ **Advertisements are important to the financial viability of the magazine, aren’t they?** Please explain how they work.

Brian & Leta: Any company or person wishing to advertise are given the appropriate rates and most supply their own art work but if not we can do the necessary. **Approximately one third of our income is**

generated from the adverts. Another technology up-date is that parishioners can pay their subscriptions by BACS payment.

Elisabeth: You are always very tolerant to me as I scramble to meet deadlines. I shall have no excuse this time! It must be very difficult not knowing what will arrive by the 10th of each month. **Do you have a routine, or is it an enjoyable challenge to pull it altogether?**

Brian & Leta: Virtually all material is sent to us via e-mail. We try and keep the days following the 10th of the month clear in our diaries in order to prepare the magazine for the printers. The challenge is that the printed version has to have the total number of pages as a multiple of four. An electronic version of the magazine is done and we send out approximately 60 copies via e-mail and of course any late items can be added to this and there is no constraint on page numbers - another benefit is that this version is in colour. To fill spaces we have an extensive amount of archive material from old magazines. **We still very much enjoy doing all that is necessary and currently print 380 copies.**

Elisabeth: You've told me recently **that articles from the magazine are read aloud.** Can you tell me how that came about?

Brian & Leta: A friend of ours told us his wife was a Trustee of the local charity called **The Cotswold Listener**, which records local news items and distributes the programmes to its visually-impaired listeners via an audio memory stick reader. The husband of a friend of ours sadly went blind, and he found this so useful as he was able to keep up with all the news. We passed a copy of our magazine to the Trustee and she asked if it was possible to use some of the articles. She now receives the magazine by email. We understand from regular feedback that the latest edition is always keenly anticipated.

Elisabeth: I thoroughly enjoy the wide-ranging chats we have when we drop off the magazines for delivery. **Tell me, how your professional lives were spent.** I visit the Malvern Flea and Collectables Fair and see you there. **How did you get into the book business?**

Brian & Leta: With regard to our professional lives – **Brian graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1968** and joined Smiths Industries

(Aviation Division) based in Bishops Cleeve. After spending 10 years in a variety of roles including flight trials and component approval he worked for the UK subsidiary of an American electronics company, and latterly a UK semi-conductor manufacturer. **Leta attended secretarial college in Stafford in 1969 to 1971**, and worked in the planning department for Staffordshire County Council. She moved to Gorsley near Newent and worked for an architect in Ross-on-Wye; from 1973 she worked for Housing Developers Bovis Homes working in various secretarial roles for 42 years!!!

Brian took early retirement in 2003: **we have always loved books and opened Courtyard Books as a retirement project based at Bishops Cleeve from 2003 until 2018.** We had a unit in the shopping mall in Ledbury until March 2023 when retirement beckoned. We still enjoy doing the Malvern Flea and Collectors Fair and local table top sales.

Elisabeth: I know how much you enjoy on the one hand visits to the beautiful island of Lundy and on the other to exhibitions in London. You have always been bellringers. **Do these enthusiasms help with the production of the magazine?**

Brian & Leta: In some ways it does - holidays and visits to London gives us a nice break to re-charge the batteries. If we are visiting different places we do like to pick up a copy of their church magazine in order to see how others do it and also to help us with any new ideas.

Elisabeth: You are both incredibly modest and self-effacing about the contribution you make, **can you explain the value you see in volunteering.**

Brian & Leta: We like to do our bit for the parishes, finding it very beneficial and enjoyable in keeping in touch with everything and everyone in the community. We still keep in touch with Elsie Keef who has moved some distance away. Looking back we wonder how we had time to do the magazine whilst fully employed. However we think there were more days in the week and more hours in the day back then!!

Elisabeth: So, finally on behalf of PCC members and indeed I am sure the entire readership, **I would like to thank you most sincerely for the very important role you play in our community.**

You may have seen in the news that on 2 September 2025 the US Navy sank a small boat off the coast of Venezuela, killing eleven people. The facts as known at the time of writing (end December 2025) are very simple. The US Navy identified a small boat and attacked it with missiles; these killed nine of the eleven people on board and split the boat in two. The two survivors climbed onto part of the upturned wreckage and, 41 minutes later, the Navy launched a second missile strike which killed them.

The US government claims that the boat was engaged in smuggling drugs intended for the USA and that the people on board were 'narco-terrorists'; it has offered no evidence. It further claims these people were on a list of people against whom the application of lethal force had been authorised and that a lethal strike on this or any other similar boat was legitimate, as was the second strike on the two survivors.

Let's consider the matter. James Bond had a licence to kill, but that was the only one issued. In real life, having your name on a list does not of itself give someone the right to kill you.

If this was a war then the rules of war apply, from the Hague Convention of 1907 onwards, and including the USA's own military law; all of these prohibit killing shipwrecked sailors. Case law exists. Heinz-Wilhem Eck was a U-boat commander and in 1943 he sank the ss Peleus and then proceeded to machine gun those survivors who had escaped into lifeboats. In 1945, he was tried, found guilty of war crimes, and executed.

However, if the US is to engage in a war the authority of Congress is required and that authority has not been given. The alternative therefore is that this was a law enforcement operation, where the law unambiguously requires that only the minimum force necessary be used. Catching drug smugglers has to date been done by the US Coastguard and in 2024 they made 213 arrests, all without loss of life. Killing suspected drug smugglers – without even a warning – is called murder. If you have any doubts, just apply the sniff test. Can you imagine a policeman shooting dead someone on the streets of Birmingham, Alabama or UK, on the mere suspicion that they were smuggling drugs? What is the difference between a street and a sea?

So what will happen? After the conviction of Lieut William Calley for the My Lai massacre in 1968 the White House received tens of thousands of letters – with 99% being in support of Calley. That might explain why his punishment for this crime, the premeditated murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians, was three years of house arrest. Public support appears to mitigate any crime. The

President and about a third of Americans approve of these recent strikes and the possibility exists that nothing will happen or, if anyone does face a court-martial or criminal trial, that he will receive a presidential pardon.

That teaches us an important lesson. Laws are useless if they cannot be enforced and an appropriate punishment or remedy applied.

This was a lesson brought home with force to the inhabitants of Melos, a small island in the Aegean, in 416 BC, when the Peloponnesian War was at its height. Athens, short of cash, sent a delegation to Melos demanding that the Melians pay tribute. The Melians replied that they were an independent state, wished to remain neutral, and that right was on their side. The Athenian response was brutal and immediate. They killed all the Melian men and enslaved the women – and took the treasure. Thucydides concluded that 'the strong do what they wish; the weak suffer what they must'.

That lesson has resonated throughout history. The Monroe Doctrine, declared in 1823, warned the Europeans to keep out of American affairs and asserted that the US had the right to intervene in any state in the Americas; this it has done in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, Panama and others, and may yet do in Venezuela. Elsewhere, Russia has attacked the Ukraine and appears unlikely to give up any of the territory it has acquired. China is in the process of creating military outposts on various atolls in the South China sea, thereby turning it into its own lake.

Article 2(3) of the Charter of the United Nations states that all international disputes should be resolved by negotiation, but we should recognise that this is for nations which are weak and is ignored by nations which are strong. The truth of this is unassailable. It is valid to ask the question 'Was the Norman Invasion of England lawful?' but the answer is entirely irrelevant; it might gain a few marks in an exam but it will not bring a cheque for war reparations from the town council of Rouen to Westminster.

So what is the value of having a law?

Laws are useful only if they are accepted by those whom they serve. You abide by the speed limit because you know that the state will stop you from driving if you do not. There was a law against murder in occupied France but the French Resistance did not accept it and killed German soldiers - 'murdered' if you happened to be a German. At international level we accept the International Criminal Court and we agree to be bound by its rules; the USA, Russia and China do not and are not so bound.

If no one does anything about the eleven Venezuelans killed – murdered – by the Americans then it will only serve as confirmation that Thucydides' observation remains as valid today as it was when he made it.

Eldersfield Lawn C.E. Primary School

As part of our school's extended activities, we have an Equestrian team who compete through the National Schools Equestrian Association events (NSEA).

A huge congratulations to Annabelle, Alexa, Maddison FS and Martha D who all qualified for Hickstead!

Individual Results:

70cm - Martha D 1st

60cm - Martha D 3rd

50cm - Alexa 5th

40cm - Annabelle 2nd,

Alexa 3rd, Maddison

7th



well done!



Team win 🏆 40cm
Moores Farm NSEA 03.01.2026

What a wonderful achievement!



Eldersfield Lawn School Choir

In early December our school choir enjoyed visiting Tewkesbury Fields Care Home to sing Christmas songs and carols to the residents.

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

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.

29th March	Bushley Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11	TBA	TBA
Palm Sunday	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	The Passion Narrative	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	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>

From the Magazine Archive - February 1981

PICTURES IN THE FIRE

For many people, of course, the relatively unimportant things seem to matter enormously. There was the wife who said to her husband "It was just a year ago that you forgot our anniversary was the next day."

I am reminded of two further remarks. The first is very penetrating - "Every minute you spend being angry is 60 seconds in which you could have had a good time." The second - a remark made by a husband to his wife during the chaotic period when their house was being built. He observed, with true philosophy, "Just think, one day we shall look back on all this and not remember it."

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
1 st March	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 12:1-4 Romans 4:1-5,13-17	TBA	TBA
2 nd Sunday of Lent	Hollybush Church Castlemorton Church	5 pm 6.30pm	Evensong Start the Week	Numbers 21:4-9 Luke 14:27-33	Shirley Williams TBA	Liz Lean TBA
8 th March	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	-----
3 rd Sunday of Lent	Birtsmorton Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11	Elisabeth Rambridge TBA	Cathy Powell-Chandler TBA
15 th March Mothering Sunday	Castlemorton Church Pendock Cross Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion All Age Worship Start the Week	1 Samuel 1:20 – end Colossians 3:12-17	TBA	TBA
22 nd March	Eldersfield Church Berrow Church	8.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
5 th Sunday of Lent	Longdon Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Start the Week	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11	Janet Peters Ruth Coates TBA	N/A Ann Ward TBA TBA

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

22 nd February	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19	Fiona Collins	N/A
1 st Sunday of Lent	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Elisabeth Rambridge	Cathy Powell-Chandler	
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA

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

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From the Magazine Archive - February 1981

Here is a splendid story I came across recently. It concerns a woman who went to visit her sister's farm. She took a picture book of animals as a present for her three year old nephew. Looking through it, he correctly identified a lion, a tiger, a horse, and so on, but very surprisingly he did not seem to recognise the cow. "Surely you know what that is" said his aunt. With some hesitation he ventured "Is it a Hereford Cross Charollais?"

Tailpiece

Why should "Industrial Action" mean industrial inactivity?

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
1 st February Presentation of Christ at the Temple - Candlemas	Queenhill Church Hollybush Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 5 pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong Start the Week	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-end Haggai 2:1-9 John 2:18-22 TBA	TBA Liz Lean TBA	TBA Celia Greatwood TBA
8 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Bushley Church Birtsmorton Church Castlemorton Church	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25 Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25 TBA	TBA Mel Roberts TBA	N/A Doug Braund TBA
15 th February Sunday next before Lent	Eldersfield Church Castlemorton Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Worship Family Communion Start the Week	TBA Exodus 24:12-end 2 Peter 1:16-end TBA	TBA TBA TBA	TBA TBA TBA
18 th 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



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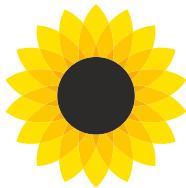
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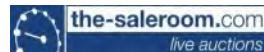
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