

March 2026

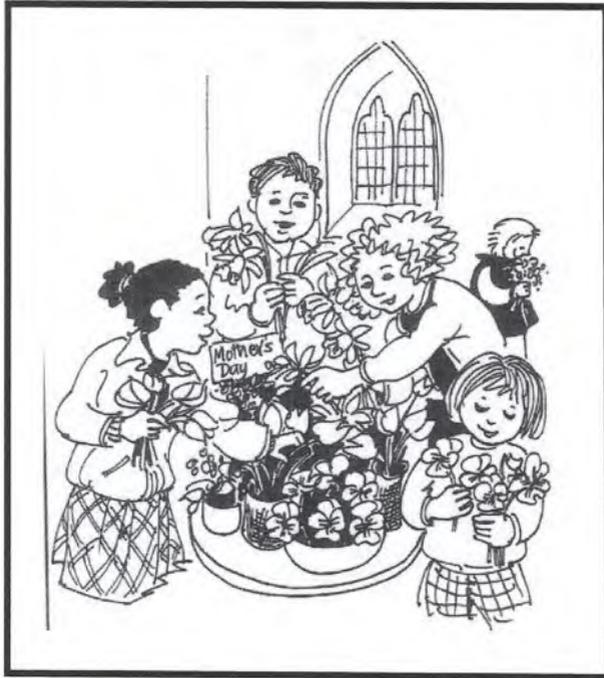
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## **The Benefice of Berrow**

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    <a href="mailto:revanth@eightoaks.com">revanth@eightoaks.com</a>
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Benefice Administrator	Mrs Chris Glyde The Parish Office, Berrow WR13 6JN Wed 9.30am-Noon email: <a href="mailto:admin@berrowlongdon.org.uk">admin@berrowlongdon.org.uk</a>	01684 833866
Pastoral Visitor	POST VACANT	
Benefice Choir	Mrs Mel Roberts	01684 833866
<b>BERROW WITH PENDOCK</b>		
Churchwarden	Mrs E. Rambridge	01531 650230
P.C.C. Secretary	Mr M Knott	01531 650837
Treasurer	Mr A Rambridge	01531 650230
<b>BIRTSMORTON AND HOLLYBUSH</b>		
Churchwardens	Birtsmorton Hollybush	POST VACANT POST VACANT
P.C.C. Secretary		POST VACANT
Treasurer	Mrs S Williams	01531 650431
<b>BUSHLEY</b>		
Churchwarden	Mr Mark Taylor	MarkRTaylor1976@gmail.com
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mr S Evans	01684 296380
<b>CASTLEMORTON</b>		
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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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#### MAGAZINE EDITORS & MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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## **Springtime greetings to one and all,**

I sincerely hope that by the time you are reading this the rain will have abated and we will be enjoying, if not sunny, at least dry weather again! It is hard to hang onto those signs of spring – the snowdrops and daffodils showing through in our churchyards – when every day seems to be wet and grey.

And it's hard to remain upbeat and optimistic about getting a new incumbent for our two benefices when a third advertisement has, once again, produced no applicants. However, the visit of Bishop Hugh to St Faith's, Berrow and afterwards to the Farmers Arms, Birtsmorton, provided a real injection of hope and optimism to all who met him. Our new Bishop of Worcester is clearly a man of deep faith and spirituality, but also someone who loves spending time with people, all people, learning about the price of wheat, the difficulties being faced by country pubs – all of human life was there. And I felt very proud of the congregation, gathered from across both benefices, in the warm welcome which they extended to him.

When you read this, we will be in the middle of Lent, that season of trial and temptation, reminding us of the 40 days and 40 nights which Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. The interregnum continues to be a time of trial and testing for all of us involved in keeping the church community and services going. However, in the same way in which the thought of Easter and the resurrection – that amazing good-news the gospels tell – keeps us going through Lent, so the thought that at the right time, the right person will emerge to lead us forward as two benefices,

learning all the time how we can work together more effectively to let God's message of love be heard by all, is what is keeping us going through this lengthy period without a full time paid priest to lead and guide us.

I personally continue to be hugely grateful for all the help and support given so unstintingly by churchwardens, visiting priests, our lay worship leaders and all those who volunteer to help out at services, preparing our churches for worship and keeping our churchyards looking neat and tidy – and the unceasing rain doesn't help them either!

Thank you, thank you one and all. Let's remember Noah and the ark, that after all the rain, there was a rainbow, a dove and an olive branch – God's promise to keep faith with humanity for the rest of time. In times which feel dark and bleak, let's hang onto that rainbow of hope, and continue to work together, learn together and be kind and gentle to each other and our neighbours, so that the love of God is shown throughout our communities.

**With every blessing to you all.**

**Rev Anthea Elston**

### **Eldersfield Church Bells**

On **Saturday 7th March** a team of Bellringers will attempt to ring a Peal at Eldersfield Church. Ringing will commence at 10am and last approximately 3 hours.

On **Saturday 28th March** a visiting band of Bellringers will be ringing at Eldersfield between 3.10pm and 3.55pm.



Dear friends

It has been 3 weeks since my installation service at the Cathedral, and I have been blown away by the warmth and generosity of the welcome that you have all shown me. From rural church communities and meals in the local pub; to worship in the oldest church building in Worcester, where children told us how to live 'in heaven on earth'; to visits to primary and secondary schools, where I was asked questions as diverse as 'What is your favourite Tesco's meal deal?' and 'What is the place of religion in politics?'. I've had a morning spent with clergy and LLMs on our response to the climate crisis; a lunch with our wonderful retired clergy; an evening with ordinands training for ministry; and important conversations about how we build a diocese that puts children and young people at the centre of everything.

All of this (and that's just a few of the highlights!) has given me so many opportunities to listen and learn, and to start to get to know this wonderful diocese.

And there's still so much for me still to discover; so many people to meet, churches to join for worship and hopes and worries for me to hear. If you'd like to see what I'm discovering as I get out and about, I'm putting out a brief video every week or so, and you can find it on Facebook or Instagram.

In all of this, the thing that has struck me most, is the deep faithfulness of the church across the Diocese. In all the joys, and in the midst of challenges too – and I'm hearing about them as well – there are people serving their schools, churches, workplaces and communities with astonishing generosity and commitment.

It has been such a privilege to start getting to know you all. I look forward to meeting many more people, churches and communities in the months to come – and do please invite me along.

Please keep praying for me, as I continue to pray for you.

God bless

Hugh

**In this year's Lent message, Bishop Hugh encourages us to consider using the 40 days to commit to a specific discipline which will help us to live life more fully with God and for God**

Sportswomen and sportsmen, the kind of people who play at Sixways, the home of Worcester Warriors Rugby Club, put in hours and hours of practice, repeating the same drills over and over again. The same drop kick or forehand; the same penalty flick or free kick – practising and practising. And of course that takes discipline.

And they do **all** that disciplined training so that, when they go out on match day in front of the crowds, they haven't got to think about what to do – they just do it instinctively. **All** that discipline in training means the kick, or the swing or the flick, become part of who they are.

And the same is true of musicians, and of actors, and of anyone who has to practise a skill in order to get to the point where instinct takes over – where responding to the situation doesn't take deliberate thought – it just happens.

Being a Christian is a bit like that. We have disciplines too – not out on a training pitch, but in prayer, and in reading the bible and in worship and in service. And in case the word 'discipline' sounds a bit heavy, remember it's the same word as 'disciple' which just means 'learner', 'student' or perhaps best of all - 'apprentice'.

And the point of those disciplines is to help us learn how to live faithfully when we're out and about getting on with life. Like the sportsmen and women who practise here, we pray and read the bible and worship, so that when we're getting on with life – at work, with our families, in the community, we haven't got to think about what to do – we just get on with working for justice, acting compassionately, introducing people to Jesus and his love.

Lent is just about to start. The gift of 40 days when we are invited to attend to our spiritual disciplines; to notice where we're on track, and where we're not. Lent gives us the opportunity to be honest with ourselves and with God, about where we need to go back to the training ground, back to the basics of what it is to follow Jesus – to be a disciple, and to commit to doing something about it.

So, maybe you need to get back to praying each day, or to start for the first time, or to pray with your children. Maybe your bible hasn't been opened for a while, or regular worship has slipped. Whatever it is, Lent is offered to you as a gift. 40 days to practise the presence of God, so that you can live the whole of life more closely with him.

And you haven't even got to do it in the rain!

So, let me encourage you to consider – what one thing could you do this Lent - what one discipline could you commit to - that will help you live life more fully with God and for God?

God bless, and I hope you have a wonderful Lent.

## **Easter Services**

Our services for Easter are as follows;

**15th March – Mothering Sunday**, services at 10.30am at Pendock Cross with the All Age Worship team and at Castlemorton, as service of Family Communion, led by Doug Chaplin.

**29th March – Palm Sunday**, 2 10.30am services, one at Birtsmorton Church where the donkeys will be joining us to process up the church path once more, and one at Bushley Church – where a Shetland pony may be visiting! Palm crosses will be available.

**3rd April – Good Friday** – a short meditative service at the beautiful Queenhill Church at 2pm

### **5th April – Easter Day**

**6.30am Sunrise Service at All Saints, Hollybush.** We would normally hold this at the Old Church at Pendock, but sadly the condition of the track up to the church prevents us doing this this year. We hope to be able to hold a service there later in the year.

**10.30am Holy Communion on Easter Day will be held at Castlemorton and Eldersfield churches.**

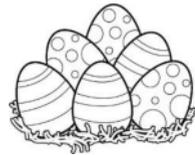
You are most warmly invited to join us at any or all of these services to celebrate this most special and significant time in the Church's year.

**Rev Anthea Elston**



Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Eldersfield Church



**The Easter Day Holy Communion service is at  
10.30am in Eldersfield Church.**

.....

After the service do come along from 11.45am – 1 pm  
when there will be ...

Easter Egg Hunt around the churchyard.

Easter Egg competition prizes. Easter montage.

Family Easter craft activities. Refreshments.

Optional walk around the lanes.

***And lots of chocolate!!***



## Presentments

### Part 1

Have you seen that 'Call my Bluff' is back on television? Andrew and I have been enjoying the episodes so much. I've found it fascinating how the formula for quiz shows was set but that the modern versions are so different with the 'edginess' and informality that reflects very accurately the societal shift. Oh dear, though, this'll define me – isn't it wonderful to see the courtesy, the gentle banter and everyone so well turned out? I have a little quirky link with one of the team captains, Frank Muir.

The role of Rector at St Andrews is an interesting one – the Rector was a lay figure who represented the student's interests at the university senate. Possibly the most well-known from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was JM Barrie, the Scottish author of Peter Pan. By the 1970s when I was a student there, there had started a tradition of inviting personalities. John Cleese of Monty Python fame was the first of the comic celebrities, followed by Alan Coren, I think then editor of Punch, and in my generation another similar was sought. This'll date me too, as my parents lived abroad, they wanted me to have a phone in my flat – then a rarity – and so friends, who were starting the campaign for a new Rector, phoned – Frank Muir to ask him to be a candidate. He was duly elected and incredibly proud of his role, having left school at 14. Today, rather like quiz shows the whole business of choosing a rector has become more political.

But I have digressed –

Doesn't 'presentments' sound an excellent choice for a 'Call my Bluff' word? Let's have a go: is it/ are they – ?

A feeling of foreboding or unease

A list of diplomatic gifts for a leaving ambassador or dignitary

Responses from the churchwarden to the Bishop's questions regarding the state of the parish church, (archaic, possibly mainly post-English Civil war)

Yes, well, no prizes for guessing, it is the last one. I first came across Presentments during the investigation into the identity of the headless effigy at St Faith's.

Dr Pat(ricia) Hughes sent me photos of presentments in the local Archives at Worcester in about 2016. Over the last 10 years the quality of mobile phone photos has improved immeasurably. So the images were quite grainy but once you got your eye in, they were relatively easy to read and I have to say I was astounded in the first place by the quality of the writing and the whole look of the document. But – and this is the word I know I shall come back to over and over again – it was the intimacy of the information described that I found overwhelming. Here were churchwardens writing some three centuries ago about St Faith's. I felt too, very strongly, that I don't think I shall leave such wonderful traces as these documents.

And what questions were being asked: very basic ones, was there linen, silver? A bier? Were things being done properly? Tantalisingly too, there were instances when the answer was – (in archaic language!) we don't know/ possibly 'not applicable'. I haven't explained, the presentments are answers, but the questions aren't there also.

I'd noticed another reference to presentments in the research done by Chris Pickford on the bells of St Faith's. There he quoted this from a response to the state of the bells –

'We present our third bell to be crack'd and ufelefs.'

This is on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1749, from the two churchwardens, John Shaw (and my maiden name was Shaw, no relation though!) and John Beale.

I still can't quite look at the archaic 'f' for a 's' without thinking of that hilarious and mischievous episode of the Vicar of Dibley when for the filming of the Songs of Praise episode, Alice Tinkler embarked on a reading from an old bible with the 'f' in a most unfortunate place!

I have been visiting the Worcester Hive recently and have now seen these presentments 'in the flesh' and they are simply wonderful. And where I thought there were about 7, there is a whole tranche from 1702 forward to the mid-1700s. So I hope to tell you more about those and indeed the Hive itself which is the most marvellous research facility, really on our doorstep.

**Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden**

## Fishcakes

This is very much based on Felicity Cloake's recipe in The Guardian newspaper for 'Perfect Fishcakes' with full liberty to edit.

If you haven't discovered Felicity's Perfect recipes, we highly recommend you do!

[https://www.theguardian.com/food/series/how-to-cook-the-perfect---](https://www.theguardian.com/food/series/how-to-cook-the-perfect-)

Serve the fishcakes ~

with a big salad that's got a fresh dressing such as lemon and Dijon mustard or  
with steamed vegetables.

### Ingredients

400g floury potatoes eg Maris Piper  
250g fish which can either be a firm white fish (mix of cod/smoked haddock) OR go for tinned fish such as tuna or salmon  
1 tbsp chopped chives  
6-8 baby gherkins (Cornichons) chopped  
3 fat anchovy fillets in oil, drained and finely chopped  
(if not used then add a good pinch of salt)  
1 egg, beaten  
40g flour, for coating  
50g fresh breadcrumbs  
a generous knob of butter  
1 tbsp of oil

You can also boil some eggs and put those chopped into the mix but that can make it a bit more crumbly.

## Method

Peel the potatoes and cut into evenly sized chunks. Put into a large pan and cover with cold water. Add a generous pinch of salt and bring to the boil, then turn down heat slightly and simmer until tender but not mushy. Drain and put back into the hot pan for a minute to dry off, then roughly crush them with a fork so they're a mixture of mash and larger lumps.

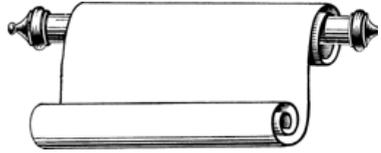
Put the fish into a large mixing bowl, flaked. Stir in the chives, capers and anchovies. Season lightly, and mix together gently, adding a little of the beaten egg to bring the mixture together into patties – it shouldn't be too sloppy. Use your hands to form into four large cakes or six smaller ones.

Put the remaining egg in a shallow bowl and tip the flour and breadcrumbs on to separate saucers. Dip each fishcake in turn into the flour, the egg, and finally the breadcrumbs till thoroughly coated. Put into the fridge for at least half an hour to firm up.

Heat a frying pan with the butter and oil until the butter begins to foam. Add the fishcakes, in batches in necessary, cook for 5 minutes on a medium-high heat until golden and well crusted, then turn them carefully over and repeat on the other side.

***And enjoy! With good wishes from Amy,  
and sent from London!***

FROM  
THE  
REGISTERS



### Weddings

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

24 <sup>th</sup> November	Steven Price & Jessica Haines
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Jake Moore & Hannah Tyler

### Baptisms

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

24 <sup>th</sup> November	Lily Kay Price
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Frankie Oliver Mayhew

### Funerals

#### St Gregory's, Castlemorton

12 <sup>th</sup> January	John Shuker
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#### St Mary's, Longdon

16 <sup>th</sup> January	Michael Young
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Berrow & Pendock Village Hall

WR13 6JN

# Spring Quiz

Thursday 30th April 2026,  
6.45 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start  
Finish approximately 9.30 p.m.

**£12.00 per person including supper.**  
**Pre-ordered Fish or Sausage & Chips will be served midway through.** (Veggie burger available)

Teams of up to 6.  
Prize for the winning team.  
Raffle.

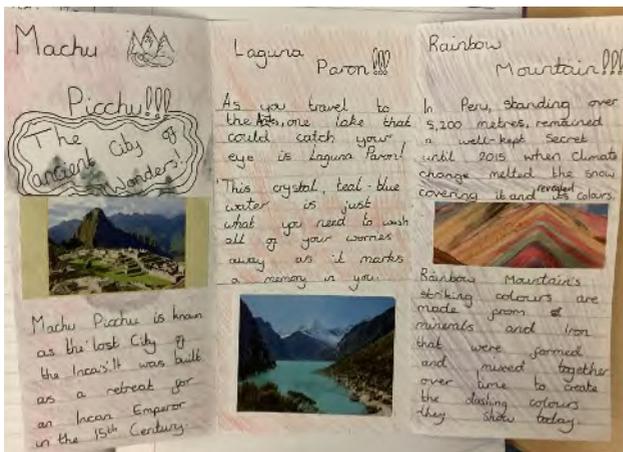
Bring your own drinks.

Pre purchase of tickets is essential – please email  
[BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com](mailto:BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com)  
or message Caroline 07709 487883

# ELDERSFIELD LAWN C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Mental Health and Well-being Week

To recognise the importance of supporting children with their mental health and well-being, all the children participated in a range of creative activities through the theme 'This is my place'. Our house teams which are, the Blackbirds, Robins, Kingfishers and Woodpeckers worked on painting, model making, mindfulness colouring, designing fruit kebabs and making their own kindness potions!



## Cross-curricular writing through Geography

Well done to Poppy W for producing a wonderful brochure linked to the current Year 5/6 Geography topic on the Astonishing Andes! It makes us all want to visit Machu Picchu!

**Dinomania** - Our Reception and Key Stage 1 class recently took part in an exciting dinosaur workshop which supported creative writing brilliantly!

**School Place Vacancies** - If you are looking for a school place, we currently have some vacancies in various year groups. Please contact the school office to arrange a tour and receive a warm welcome!

# CaCoffany!

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

**Saturdays 10.00-11.30am**

## **2026 Dates**

**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!**



# 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*

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,  
Who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive our trespasses  
As we forgive those who  
trespass against us  
And lead us not in to temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the Kingdom  
The Power and the Glory  
Forever and ever  
Amen

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

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

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

**All are very welcome - do come along and join us!**  
**Sherry and non-alcoholic alternatives are served after all Kaleidoscope services.**

Looking through the TV listings recently to see how I could profitably spend my evening I was surprised to see how many programmes there were about customs officers arresting smugglers at airports, policemen chasing cars on motorways, and bailiffs recovering property.

At first glance this seems a motley selection and yet I believe they are all linked by a secret, and one which is not very pleasant.

As we watch these programmes we are at liberty to identify with the protagonists - baddy or goody - as we wish, and we can swap between them at will. How would you spend the oodles of cash you might make from just one flight? Wouldn't it be fun to drive at 120 mph on a motorway with no one able to catch you? And of course you wouldn't make the mistake of leaving the car, the subject of the repossession order, on your drive!

However, we know that what we are seeing is illegal. That is not us; we are righteous people, not the sort of people to do that. When the criminals on the screen get arrested or caught we are pleased and we enjoy the sight. How terrible they are! How richly they deserve their punishment!

The same sort of emotions are generated in us by TV in other areas. Think of the shows in which people are placed on a desert island and invited to survive for a week with a mirror and a pen knife (and, perhaps more demandingly, their fellow contestants). These people are placed in positions of stress and we gape at them through the lens of the camera. We are safe and secure; they are exposed and vulnerable – and what terrific TV it all makes! They suffer, and we open another bag of crisps.

The matter goes further. We look down some thousands of feet from a drone camera on the survivors of a US missile strike who are clinging to the wreckage of their upturned boat. These are dangerous criminals – we are told - trying to commit an act of terror against us. Wouldn't it be reasonable to give them a taste of their own medicine and blow them up? Don't they deserve it?

War is the ultimate challenge for man (and I probably do mean 'men'). It is one of the few times when he can lawfully engage in the one act which defines his indisputable supremacy over his opponent – the act of killing that opponent. That challenge is mimicked in peace time but is sublimated to winning a football match or a game of chess.

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of space references are not given here but are available on request

The feed from the drone allows us to act and react without the engagement of real presence. These are not people 'hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases' as we; they are mere cyphers. Prick them we might, but we shall not see them bleed. The view we have on our TV screens would have been little different from that from a seat in the circle in the Colosseum as gladiators were being killed in the arena below.

That height of the drone enables us to 'look down' on the victim, not only physically but also morally. If the drone feed was from sea level, looking up at the victims, if the spectator in the Colosseum was standing in the arena next to the gladiator, if we could see the unstaunchable bleeding from the severed femoral or carotid artery, if we were sprayed with the pulsing blood, hear the screams of pain, would our appreciation of matters not be very different? My bet is that it would. We would realise that the pain and suffering was real.

That brings us to the last strand of this sad story: we retain within us the instinct of the wolf pack. When we see a victim we attack, and when we see weakness that weakness gives us the false courage to continue our attack until the victim is utterly humiliated and vanquished.

That might explain how frequently captured soldiers are tortured: by the Russians routinely, by Americans occasionally ('black bases') and less frequently - thank goodness! - by the British (Iraq - look up 'Baha Mousa'). Most of the time this is for no conceivable military purpose; it serves merely to satisfy the desire of the torturer to be seen as a member of the pack.

Our (ex) Prince Andrew may perhaps be a good example. There is no doubt that he has on occasions acted unwisely, but that is not illegal: in the eyes of the law he is a man innocent of all crime. Despite this, he is treated as though he were the worst of the worst: a person for whom no indignity, no humiliation, no punishment is too great. He has lost his home; he has been stripped of his military rank; and he has been deprived of his honours. There was even a suggestion<sup>1</sup> that his Falklands Medal – where he risked his life by flying a helicopter to act as a decoy for missiles aimed at his ship – should be taken from him. The justification for this is that he cannot prove that he has not done the worst that our imaginations can dream up. It is as though we have to compensate for the fear of our own potential weakness by an exaggerated condemnation of that possibility in others. Caesar's brother should certainly be above suspicion but equally he should not be crucified on the basis of a mere suspicion.

By all this irrational, immoderate and illogical behaviour we prove that we have not shaken off the trait of the animals from whom we are descended. The sooner we do, the better.

## QUEENHILL WI REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

Our meeting this month welcomed John Butterworth as our speaker again. This time his subject was "Off the Beaten Track - overland to Nepal", a journey he made with a group of seven others in 1977. He described this as a "life changing journey for the group" and as he spoke it was easy to see why.

Before 1951, Nepal was a 'closed' country. When it opened up, a medical group set up a leprosy hospital in Pokhara, Nepal and it was to this place that they travelled, beginning in Plymouth on August 23rd 1977. Their route took them through Europe to Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and India, and they took with them a defibrillator and an assortment of supplies for use on the way.

We heard of the experiences, trials, surprises, and impressions they had on the 52 day journey and saw some of their photographs and maps displayed on screen.

Like last time, we were left knowing that there were plenty more stories we would like to hear and topics that he can talk about. No doubt we will!

The business meeting followed and we were happy to welcome several new members and hear about the weekly craft activity session that will be scheduled on Tuesday afternoons following the morning Art group meeting.

As usual we enjoyed a delicious tea, a raffle and a good chat. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch. Our President's telephone number is 01684 593378. There are flyers about us and our activities available - you might have seen these at various places around Upton.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th March at 2.30 in the WI Hall (WR8 0QZ) when Maggie Davies will be speaking about Arts and Crafts.

### 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!!!!**



The Morton Majestic Cinema Club is delighted to host the Borderlines Film Festival in Castlemorton, for the second time, featuring three exceptional films: *Bugonia*, *The Choral* and *Souleymane's Story*. Borderlines provides an opportunity to experience world-class cinema in a friendly, local environment.

Friday 6th March at 7:30pm

### **Bugonia**

(15-2025-119mins)

This is a darkly comic production from Yorgos Lanthimos (*Poor Things*). When a paranoid beekeeper (Jesse Plemons) becomes convinced a ruthless CEO (Emma Stone) is an alien threat to planet Earth, a bizarre kidnapping plot unfolds. Absurd, violent, and wickedly funny, the film probes paranoia, truth, and the terrifying ease with which reason collapses — all building to a daring final act.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm

### **The Choral**

(12A-2025-113mins)

It is 1916 and war is raging on the Western Front. The Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire, has lost most of its men to the army. Their ambitious committee decides on a recruitment drive. They must also engage a new chorus master, and their best bet seems to be Dr Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) - driven, uncompromising and recently returned from a career in Germany.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm

### **Souleymane's Story**

(15-2024-93mins-French with subtitles)

Every second of Souleymane's new life in France is precious. Having fled Guinea, his asylum interview looms. He powers through the streets of after dark Paris as an unlicensed delivery rider, sleeps in hostels and prepares for his make or break appointment. Pressure builds as his date with destiny approaches. Boris Lojkine's portrait of a modern migrant propels us into the precarious world of an otherwise invisible man.

An award-winning French production in which the dynamic storytelling is matched by a star making performance from charismatic newcomer About Sangare.

Tickets £5.50 on the door

Tickets and information at [www.borderlinesfilmfestival](http://www.borderlinesfilmfestival)

For advance booking call Beth 01531 631503 or Malcolm 01684 833297 or email [mortonmajestic@gmail.com](mailto:mortonmajestic@gmail.com).

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[www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk](http://www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk)

# **54<sup>th</sup> SPRING SHOW**

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**MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 1.00 pm**

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**Admission £1**

**Children Free**

**Staunton & District W.I.**

**54<sup>th</sup> Spring Show**

**and**

**Table Top Sale**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**£8 per table**

**Scout Hut, behind Village Hall**

**1pm – 4pm**

**(Set up from 11am)**

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**Tel: 07970 146878**

**Email: [rose.v.holland@btinternet.com](mailto:rose.v.holland@btinternet.com)**

**Corse & Staunton Village Hall**

**Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 12 Noon**

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**Contributions can be left at the**

**Village Hall from 9.00am**

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**Further details to follow in March Magazine.**

**Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale  
to be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
at Hartpury Village Hall.**

**The Show will run from 10am till 3pm  
with tea, coffee and cake etc. available  
throughout the day.**

**Admission £3.00 single and £5 per couple  
More details if required from 01453 762812.**

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**From the Archive - April 1981**

CHURCHWARDENS DUTIES

From "Guide & Director to Churchwardens" 1826:-

Churchwardens are not to suffer any FAIRS or MARKETS, ETC. to be kept in the Churchyard.

They may also justify the removal of TUMULTUOUS PERSONS from the Churchyard to prevent them from disturbing the congregation DURING A FUNERAL SERVICE.

If any person shall DRAW ANY WEAPON IN ANY CHURCH OR CHURCHYARD, to the intent to strike another, he shall on conviction at the Assizes or sessions, be adjudged to have one of his ears cut off; and if he have no ears, to be burned in the cheek with a hot iron having the letter F (denoting fraymaker and fighter), and besides, to be excommunicated.

If any person shall take up a dead body from any Churchyard, and with it STEAL THE SHROUD or other apparel, it is a felony. Persons dying are to be buried in woollen, on pain of forfeiting 5s. The Churchwardens ought to present persons guilty of PROFANE SWEARING; and until reformation, such offenders should not be admitted to the Holy Communion.

Persons convicted of DRUNKENNESS are to forfeit 5s. for the first offence, to be levied by distress or sale, and for want of distress to sit six hours in the stocks.

Penalties for abuses committed in the weight and FALSE PACKING OF BUTTER AND CHEESE, are to be received and accounted for by the Churchwarden. Butchers, killing or SELLING MEAT ON A SUNDAY are liable to forfeit 6s. 8d., one-third to the informer, and two-thirds to the poor to be levied by the Churchwarden. All persons having no reasonable excuse are to ATTEND DIVINE WORSHIP in some Church or Chapel upon every Sunday and Holy Day, under the forfeiture of 1s. for every offence, to be levied by the Churchwardens for the use of the poor. Persons absent from their own Parish Church are to prove where they went to Church.

## **The 3,500 New Homes Glynchbrook Proposal**

Many of you will have seen the signs around the area objecting to the above proposal. This is a planning proposal by the Forest of Dean District Council (FODDC) for a huge new settlement on the edge of Pendock just off Pendock Road towards Redmarley.

Pendock Parish Council held a well-attended public meeting about this in September 2025 as part of the first round of consultation when there was huge concern expressed and unanimous objection from those who attended.

The nature of the objections were many and included being in the wrong location to serve the Forest of Dean needs, huge adverse impact on the local road network, a worsening of the current local flooding, detrimental impact on the local landscape particularly the adjacent Lowbands Conservation Area and Malvern Hills National Landscape and an unsustainable location in such a rural setting.

Despite a huge number of objections, FODDC still intend to proceed with it and are currently consulting again on it until March 18<sup>th</sup> as part of its Local Plan Review.

If you wish to object, you should email the Council via [localplans@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:localplans@fdean.gov.uk) Further details on the whole Local Plan can be found at

<https://fdean.objective.co.uk/kse/>

Also the United Against Glynchbrook Group on Facebook is an excellent growing local group doing very good work on this.

Pendock Parish Council has on its website and noticeboard its proposed grounds of objection for anyone to use if they so wish [www.pendockparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pendockparishcouncil.org.uk)

Finally, for anyone who wants to respond but does not have access to social media or online services, please contact Ian Davies on 07949 098658 who can help.

**Don't miss the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 consultation response deadline**

## **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**

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## 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.

<b>26<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 2:42 - end 1 Peter 2:19-end	Fiona Collins	N/A
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 2:42 - end 1 Peter 2:19-end	Elisabeth Rambridge	Ann Ward
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 2:42 - end 1 Peter 2:19 - end	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>

## 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
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	Queenhill Church	2pm	Meditation for Good Friday	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	Hollybush Church	6.30am	Sunrise Service	Exodus 14:10-end and 15:20-21 Romans 6:3-11	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	1 0.30am	Holy Communion	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43	TBA	TBA
	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43	Rosalind Cookson	Brian Woodcock
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Acts 2:14, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9	TBA	---
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Family Service with Baptism	John 20:19 - end	Grenville Simons	Liz Lean
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Act 2:14, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23	TBA	TBA
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA

## Services in the Benefices of Berrrow and Longdon

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

<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Bushley Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11	TBA	TBA
	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 Berrrow and Longdon Benefices website  
<https://berrrowlongdon.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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 12:1-4 Romans 4:1-5,13-17	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church Castlemorton Church	5 pm	Evensong	Numbers 21:4-9 Luke 14:27-33	Shirley Williams	Liz Lean
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Bushley Church	6.30pm	Start the Week BCP Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Birtsmorton Church Castlemorton Church	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 TBA	TBA Elisabeth Rambridge TBA	----- Cathy Powell-Chandler TBA
<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Mothing Sunday</b>	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	1 Samuel 1:20 – end Colossians 3:12-17	TBA	TBA
	Pendock Cross Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11	Janet Peters	N/A
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11	Ruth Coates	Ann Ward
	Longdon Church Castlemorton Church	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Start the Week	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 TBA	TBA TBA	TBA TBA



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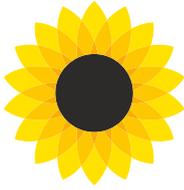
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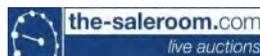
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Watering ☀ Pressure Washing  
*and other general garden maintenance - please call:*

# 07375 118399