

April 2026

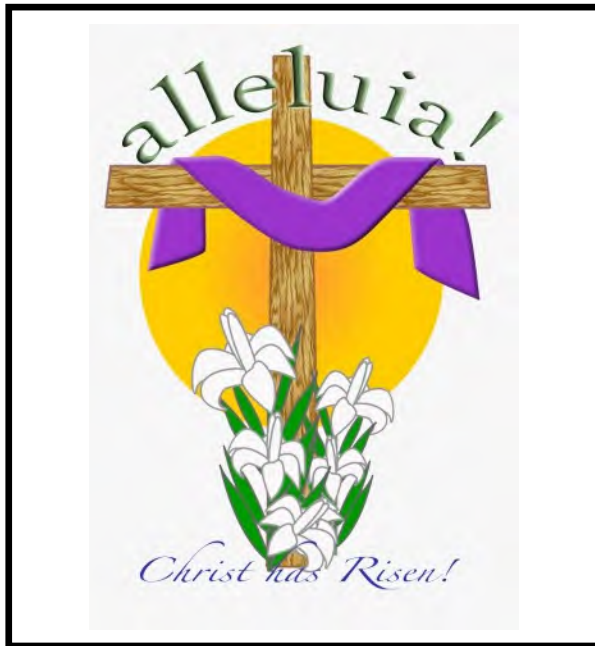
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**The Benefice of Berrow**

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

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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr A Rambridge</b>	<b>01531 650230</b>
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<b>Churchwardens</b>		
<b>Birtsmorton</b>	<b>POST VACANT</b>	
<b>Hollybush</b>	<b>POST VACANT</b>	
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	Miss J Peters	01452 840211
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**Copy Deadline: Please submit copy to the Editors by 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication**

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

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## **Easter!**

As I write, we're still very much in Lent, that season in the Christian calendar where we take stock of where we are and where we're going in this pilgrimage of life, of discovery. Discovery of our nature as humans, with great capacity for both good and bad; and also discovery of deeper things; the things of God.

But Easter is coming! People often see Christmas as the foremost festival in the Christian calendar, perhaps because of the presents? - but actually our Christian faith revolves around Easter. St Paul said without the resurrection, Christian faith would be futile.

And the evidence for the truth of the resurrection is compelling. If Jesus wasn't resurrected, why didn't the Jewish leaders just scotch the rumour by producing His body? And why did the disciples risk death by proclaiming Jesus as risen Lord and Saviour? And indeed, most of them did die as martyrs. Would they die for a lie? Would I? No point.

The resurrection affirms Jesus as what He said He was: the Son of God. And it encourages us to "throw in our lot" with Him, letting Him be Lord, guiding and directing us, and uniting ourselves with Him. Being His disciples.

May Your Easter celebrations be joy-filled, your eggs remind you afresh of new life in Christ, and may His love surround you - for you are His beloved; we all are, as we respond in faith to Him.

### **EASTER**

Easter:  
a rising  
Christ life  
slips through shroud  
blasts past guards so fast  
they slumber on  
not seeing full-of-Spirit being  
rising  
stone rolling...  
waiting...  
meeting meekest Mary  
surprising shocked disciples  
then touching untold human hearts  
reaching into parched places  
filling empty spaces  
creating burnings  
yearnings  
myriad new starts  
and me for one  
without you I'm lost  
I'm a disciple  
count me in  
without you  
I'm lost  
but I'm found.  
I'm found by Christ  
the bounding  
hounding  
loving  
Lion

**Michael Harper, Licensed Lay Minister**

## **Leading the way in sustainability**

A letter for April's editions of parish magazines from the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick:

I'm very proud to be part of the Diocese of Worcester. We may not be the biggest diocese, or the richest either, but time and again we punch above our weight, with churches and schools growing as Kingdom People, and seeing parishes and serving communities transformed through the love of God.

In February I was at the Church of England's General Synod in London. Hundreds of delegates, elected from every diocese, who come together twice or three times a year to have discussions and make decisions on behalf of the whole church. Sarah Mullally was presiding for the first time as Archbishop of Canterbury, bringing a calm and determined presence to proceedings, keeping us focussed on being a Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

I had the privilege of introducing a motion from our own diocese. It was a grassroots motion that had begun around a kitchen table in Harpley village, where a group of friends wondered how they could celebrate God's creation through flowers and greenery that were local and seasonal, and arranged without using harmful floral foam. So began the movement for Sustainable Church Flowers, that is now national and ecumenical in scope.

Their proposal was passed by their rural PCC and was then discussed and passed at Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery Synod. It was wholeheartedly endorsed by Worcester Diocesan Synod and eventually found itself on the floor of General Synod in London. Some people thought it too trivial even to discuss, but the wonderful Diocesan video soon won people round and after a vigorous debate the motion was passed with flying colours.

You can read more about it [on the diocesan website](#), where we also have pages with information about [becoming an Eco Church](#). Help is on hand if you don't know where to start, as we look to enjoy God's creation in church, without damaging creation in the process. HRH the King said we need to "be a part of creation, not apart from creation". And through the movement for Sustainable Church Flowers, the Diocese of Worcester is leading the way.

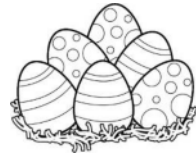
May God bless you in all you do.

*Bishop Martin*



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!!***



## **Easter Services**

Our services for Easter are as follows;

**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**

## Sustainable Church Flowers

On February 12th 2026, the General Synod of the Church of England backed a Diocesan Synod Motion from the Diocese of Worcester encouraging churches and cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

Bishop Martin Gorick introduced the motion on behalf of the Diocese of Worcester and said: This motion comes from a village PCC wondering how they could make a difference, however small, in caring for God's creation. The Sustainable Church Flowers (SCF) movement began around a kitchen table in the wild west of Worcestershire but is now a fast growing national and ecumenical movement for positive change, with florists, growers and above all wonderful church flower arrangers spreading the word and giving practical help and advice.

Be part of it!

**'This motion rejoices in flowers and foliage in church, and encourages us to source them locally and seasonally wherever possible: remember Jesus on that hillside, rejoice in what's around you. Think simple, natural, beautiful.'**

Arranged flowers and flower-arranging are at the heart of our experience of Church. The incredibly creative arrangers at Hollybush Church take a window each and so you have a glorious variety in style but each expressing a faithfulness to the place; I think the impression that is given accounts for the many warm messages you see in the Hollybush Visitors book. Each year I look forward to the exquisite miniature gardens that tell so evocatively the Easter story where a sprig of rosemary or lavender transforms into a tree on a barren hillside at Calvary. At Eldersfield I have seen some spectacular displays and always hope for the mesh that covers the pulpit with daffodils on Easter day when the flower-less days of Lent end.

For a number of years, I was so fortunate to have a parishioner who faithfully brought a set of gorgeous arrangements to St Faith's for each service; the arranger used to come and pick foliage from our garden at Netherley. This was created by Andrew's parents some 60 years ago, mainly designed by his mother, and watching what the arranger picked

for foliage I started to learn more about the process of arranging. Then I was blessed again as a parishioner opened to me her garden with huge generosity and so I could come and pick armfuls of blooms and learn from her so much about flowers.

I can't quite remember when I first heard about the Sustainable Church Flowers movement. I think it might have been at the Three Counties Show. In recent years, a group or contributor is invited to decorate the iconic R H S letters near the main showground. A couple of years ago this was done by their local members and it was spectacular – a cascade going through the whole spectrum of the rainbow. The year after they did a huge display in the centre of the Floral Marquee showing such creativity and zest.

There are 2 main issues which these enthusiasts want us to think about: the use of floral foam or oasis and also to consider the impact of importing flowers from abroad. In some ways the issues are similar to Fast Fashion with concerns about the use of water, workers' wages, travel miles and plastic/cellophane wrapping. The argument against floral foam is probably more straightforward in that it is pretty dreadful stuff that simply does not biodegrade at all.

With my interest in antiques, it's also been fascinating to see all those vases that we probably cleared out cheerfully from relatives' house reappear. Charles has told me Constance Spry models can be valuable and desirable, and I smiled looked at a recent copy of 'Homes and Antiques' when just vases were displayed!

Of all the things I've had to learn to do over these past years, I must say flower-arranging has given me great pleasure, and I understand better the matter of conditioning and preparing which makes all the difference.

Flowers don't get to church on their own, I've always thought the main joy they bring is that someone has come by to place them. But I do urge you to look at this website <https://suschurchflowers.com/>,  
**And Enjoy!**

**Elisabeth Rambridge - Churchwarden**

## Presentments

### Part 2

The first presentment I saw was long: I've been back to look at the photo – there are 7 sections, with varying responses, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> had the most questions 8 and 15 respectively, the others either 3 or 4. Sadly I can't find a date though feel it was about the 1690s. The signature of one of the churchwardens is very clear ~ Edmund Wadley. So still a local name.

The first section asks questions about the church, the second the churchyard, the third about the minister, the fourth about church attendance, and so on. Possibly at another time I can detail this further.

Now you may be feeling this is all just an esoteric exercise, but I wanted to share with you what I found when I came more recently to the cache from a slightly later date.

I've written, pretty often I feel about one of the big challenges about caring for St Faith's which is that the long perimeter wall is listed because St Faith's is a listed Grade 2\* building. We realised this properly when in Rev Mike Rogers' time he contacted the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) to ask whether the wall could be replaced by a hedge, still with an expense to plant and keep tidy but not in the same league as a wall. I won't quite say the men from the DAC come in grey suits – oh dear, I might have just then, but certainly the academic restrictions imposed can put real strain on a church community possibly with few active members just trying, as volunteers to keep the 'show on the road'.

I always remember the slight terror of seeing 'sic' usually bracketed in a piece of academic work, and I hope you might my explaining it just means thus, and so in a way it's 'sic' to what I'm going to type out now, remembering that spelling was not uniform really until dictionaries started to be compiled more widely, from the mid 1700s.

To give a bit of a feel, and really this font is very close to the original – have a look at this ~

*Berrow*

*Deccanat de Powick*

*The P'Sentmt of James Davies & Francis Carelefs  
Churchwardens for the parish of the Berrow in the year 1702*

*Our Church is indifferently well repaired, the Church-  
yard fenced with Railes (sic). We have the Books & other Utensils  
requisite for the performance of every part of Divine Service.*

*The Said Divine Service is duly & regularly performed  
according to the usage of the Church of England.*

*We know of no crime or disorder in our Parishioner that  
may need a publick Censure.*

Isn't this just fascinating? A beautifully presented short document that gives an amazing insight into our community 3 centuries ago. Do you note the reference to – the Berrow. There is certainly one headstone that uses that. And 'indifferently' – what does that mean? I'd love to know.

And then what do we have but very clearly a reference to 'railes'. Someone, and sadly I can't remember who, once said to me they thought the stones for the wall might have comes from a pound, all part of the enclosures movement. With quite a lot on, I haven't quite gone back to the DAC to challenge them. I am not particularly a cynical person, though I must confess 'Animal Farm' is my favourite book, and I have some sense it will be a sort of 'Pigs may not sleep in beds – with sheets' scenario so that that there will be some caveat that protects the wall. But is shows to me so clearly how this is not an idle meander but an important way of understanding our heritage.

I feel I may have shot my bolt a bit on this topic so perhaps I should hold back the questions – and indeed till I have researched them further. But what you see in that last response is the reminder that the churchwarden then was an officer of the law. But don't worry!

I am simply -

Elisabeth Rambridge, Church warden



# The Children's Society

Each year I set myself a walking challenge to raise funds for The Children's Society (TCS) and generous people donate to a justgiving site to help children who are in difficulty – and to help me complete the task! **I'm aiming for w.b. 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

Last year I walked from the Severn Bridge to Gloucester, some 20+ miles (and lost 2 toenails!) ... so for some inexplicable reason this year I plan to walk up to three times as far, around **40 – 60 miles** along St. Kenelm's Way from the village at Kenelm in the Clent Hills, near Dudley to the town of Winchcombe.

St. Kenelm's story on facing page



The walk will be in three stages which I hope to complete in three days walking from St. Kenelm's Church to St. Kenelm's well which is just above Winchcombe. The fundraising group of TCS in Winchcombe is well-known for raising the staggering sum of over £100,000 in the past 20 years, something of which they are rightly proud. It seems appropriate to end my walk there.

If you can donate to my justgiving site below that would be great and will make a real difference to children's lives in the UK, living through abuse and pain.

**[www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-holt-5](http://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-holt-5)**

(Sorry it's so long and needs rewriting in the search bar)

(Scroll down to the end of the justgiving page and enter £0.00 to avoid giving a 5% donation to the justgiving website.)

I can take cash/cheques if you prefer. Anything you can give will help so many young people to keep happy & safe and escape from a life of fear.

Thank you. Andrew Holt. [awholt36@gmail.com](mailto:awholt36@gmail.com)

## The Legend of St Kenelm    Who?

Kenelm was the son of Mercian king Kenwulph, who was the founder of Winchcombe Abbey and who died in 819 AD. Kenwulph also had 2 daughters, Quendryda and Burgenhilda, both older than Kenelm. When Kenelm became King, Quendryda was jealous of her younger brother and thought that if he was dead she could rule in his stead as queen. She had him killed by her lover, Askobert, who took the young king up into the Clent Hills, and beheaded him when he was only 7 years old. Quendryda banned all mention of his name.

However, Heaven took a hand; the news of Kenelm's murder was brought to the Pope by a heavenly dove, and he ordered the Archbishop of Canterbury to investigate. The Archbishop sent monks from Winchcombe to find the body. As the monks travelled through the Clent hills near Romsley, they saw a white light shining above a thicket. They dug and found the young king's body.

The monks carried the body for 60 miles to Winchcombe Abbey, past the modern villages of Himbleton, Fladbury, Dumbleton and Toddington. The group carrying Kenelm's body were within sight of Winchcombe when they had to stop, exhausted by their efforts. As they struck their staffs upon the earth, a spring burst forth. Drinking of the water, they felt so refreshed that they were able to complete their journey. A wellhouse now stands over the place where the well-spring still runs.

When Queen Quendryda was told that Kenelm's body had arrived, she cried in anguish, though shortly after she and her lover were put to death and their bodies cast into a ditch. St Kenelm was buried solemnly at Winchcombe and miracles were reported at his tomb. As a result, Winchcombe gained great popularity as a destination for pilgrims, and the story of Kenelm is mentioned in 'The Nun's Tale' in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Pilgrims now walk along from the Clent hills along St. Kenelm's Way to the well-house and to visit the saint's shrine at Winchcombe.

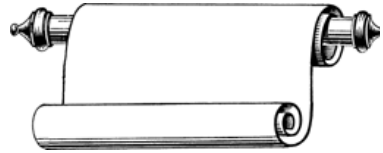
**Legend says that St. Kenelm was buried alongside his father the king in Winchcombe Abbey: two Saxon coffins have since been found in the ruins.**



**If anyone would like to join me for a mile or two they would be very welcome – more details next month**



**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

**St John the Baptist, Eldersfield**

1<sup>st</sup> March Fredrick Newham

**Funerals**

**St Gregory's, Castlemorton**

12<sup>th</sup> January John Shuker

**St Mary's, Longdon**

16<sup>th</sup> January Michael Young

**Memorial Service**

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

28<sup>th</sup> February Nigel Dawes

## Ginger Snaps!

Here's a great little recipe to be a treat if you've been doing a sweet fast through Lent.

### Ingredients

4 oz or 8oz sugar  
4oz or 8 oz syrup  
4oz or 8 oz butter

Soften these but don't let them get too hot or runny

Add

8oz or 1 lb plain flour  
1 tsp or 2 tsp ground Ginger  
1 tsp or 2 tsp Bicarbonate soda

### Method

Combine and roll into small balls, the size of a walnut

Bake at 160<sup>0</sup> depending on your oven – they should be golden brown.

They are very good dunkers!

***So enjoy! With good wishes from Rosey,***

*In Upper Pendock!*

And did you know?

Apart from the obvious definition – to dunk,

ie to dip one of Rosey's delicious Ginger Snaps into a hot drink,

to dunk also means to score in basketball by jumping and forcing or propelling the ball downward through the rim of the basket with one or two hands.

# CaCoffany!

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

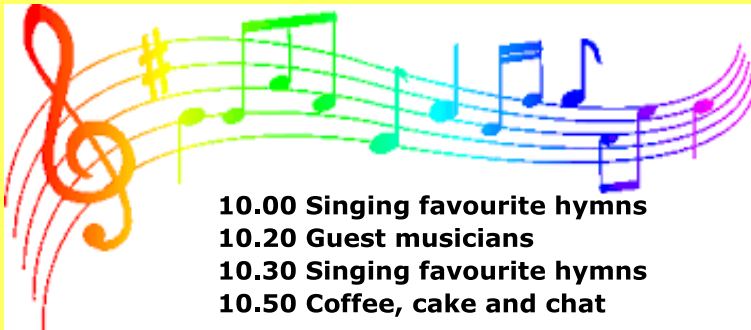
**Saturdays 10.00-11.30am**

## **2026 Dates**

**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.

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.**



Easter Colouring Page

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

## From the Archives - April 1988

Background: For the past six months or so, the Benefice comprising Berrow, Pendock and Eldersfield has been in Interregnum, and the Rev John Parkinson has just arrived to take up the role of Parish Priest. Godfrey Baseley, creator of the long-running BBC radio serial "The Archers" lived on Corse Lawn at the time and during the Interregnum he supplied material for the Parish Magazine, including "Garden Notes" and monthly "Sayings and Saints Days" which are reproduced below

### VEGETABLE GARDEN NOTES AND REMINDERS

SOW OUTDOORS: Beetroots, Cabbages, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Onions for pickling and salads, Turnips.

UNDER CLOCHES: Dwarf and Runner Beans, Lettuce, Radishes, Spinach.

UNDER GLASS: Tomatoes for planting outdoors.

PLANT Cauliflowers, Onions (raised under glass) Onion Sets and Potatoes, both early and maincrop.

Get busy with the hoe as soon as the rows of seedlings appear to be firmly established. The seedlings can do without the competition of the weeds at this early stage.

### IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

To provide plants to flower next year, seeds of many of the hardy herbaceous perennials, such as Delphiniums, Lupins etc., may be sown in prepared beds in the open.

Sow such annuals as Clarkia, Godetia, Lavatera, Mignonette etc., where they are to bloom; sow the seeds moderately thinly, (mixed with some coarse sand is a good idea)

Give timely support to Herbaceous plants.

Plant out Sweet Peas raised in pots from seeds sown last autumn.

SHRUBS: This is the time to prune the early flowering shrubs to keep them in good shape.

### APRIL SAYINGS AND SAINTS DAYS

April wet, good wheat.

April showers bring forth May flowers.

April and May, key to the whole year.

April weather, rain and shower together.

An April flood carries away both the frog and her brood.

When April blows his horn, 'tis good for hay and corn.

A cold April brings both bread and wine.

After a cold April, the barns will fill.

On the third of April come the cuckoo and the nightingale.

### 1st April - All Fools Day

The first of April, some do say,  
Is set apart for All Fool's Day,  
But why the people call it so,  
Nor I, nor they themselves do know.  
(Poor Robins Almanack for 1760)

Twelve o'clock is past &  
gone,  
And you're a fool for  
making me one.

If it thunders on All Fools' Day  
It brings good crops of corn and hay.

# Grass Keep & Mowing Grass Tenders Open

## GRASS KEEP

The Trustees of Eldersfield Allotments invite tenders for the purchase of the grass keep on the Park Field, Corse Lawn from 1st May 2026 to 31 October 2026. The field, extending to an area of about two acres, may be mown and/or grazed. The successful bidder will be responsible for ensuring that the fencing is adequate for their needs.

Offers in writing (sealed bids) should reach the undersigned **not later than 5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Please include an email address.

Mrs Tracy Owen, East Leigh, Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire, GL19 4LY

## MOWING GRASS

The Trustees of Eldersfield Allotments invite tenders for the purchase of the mowing grass on the Allotment Field, Corse Lawn, to be used only for the production of hay or silage, from 1st May 2026 to 31st October 2026. The field extends in total to approximately 2.2 acres, but an area may be reserved as an allotment garden and for this reason grazing by livestock will not be permitted.

Offers in writing (sealed bids) should reach the undersigned **not later than 5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Please include an email address.

Mrs Tracy Owen, East Leigh, Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire, GL19 4LY

## **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.**

In these days of national self-flagellation I thought that a reminder of what is good about Britain would be useful. Our accomplishments are significant and are often overlooked; that should not be. And I end with a question.

Few people realise that going back a thousand years or more Northumbria was a major centre of European civilisation: home to the Venerable Bede; and to Lindisfarne, Jarrow, Whitby, all major centres of Christian learning. More recently we have produced (rather more than) our fair share of philosophers; the names of Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, and of Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill and Bertrand Russell will spring to mind. Thinkers such as these help us to understand who we are while Newton (gravity), Rutherford (the atom) and Crick (DNA) have helped us understand the world we live in.

And we have transformed that world by what we have invented: railways, television, the jet engine. The World Wide Web was created by Tim Berners-Lee, an alumnus of The Queen's College, Oxford; a generation before him another member of that college, Howard Florey, was awarded a Nobel prize for developing penicillin into a therapeutic compound. Their work has touched the lives of probably everyone on the planet.

And of Nobel prizes: the UK has produced 137 Nobel laureates. This compares with 109 for Germany and 75 for France. We are beaten only by the United States which, with its significantly larger population, has 426. This is an extraordinary achievement for the inhabitants of a small island on the fringes of Europe.

Turning to the arts, we must mention Gainsborough and Reynolds and in writing Milton and Dickens. Our pre-eminent playwright is Shakespeare who is quotable in most circumstances. You might say that he bestrides the world of literature like a Colossus.

We led the world with our Industrial Revolution and created wealth beyond imagination. That wealth helped fund a powerful navy which saved us when a World War broke out in September 1939. From May 1940 to June 1941 Britain was the only country to fight the Nazi tyrant (apart from Greece) and was the only unconquered country to fight from the first day of that war to the last, and we did so on a matter of principle: the defence of Poland. The USA and Russia joined the war but only after themselves being attacked.

We once had an Empire and ruled a quarter of the world's population; our influence was felt everywhere. That empire is now gone but do not for a moment imagine that its legacy is lost. India developed under British rule

from hundreds of warring statelets into one country and is now the world's most populous democracy. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States are quite clearly British in their origins and remain related in their thought and culture. It is not, it seems to me, by chance that between these countries there exists sufficient trust for them to have produced the Five Eyes partnership, the most extensive intelligence-sharing alliance in the world.

Language. English is the official language of all members of the Commonwealth (except for Mozambique - joined 1995 - where it is Portuguese). In addition it has become the global *lingua franca*. It is the language in which Monsieur Macron and Herr Scholz, Messrs Zelensky and Trudeau, communicate. Easy and effective communication avoids misunderstanding and, from that, conflict. And anyone with a knowledge of English can read more than three quarters of all published scientific papers.

Our common law system of justice, and many of our laws, are now replicated in many parts of the world. The results are vividly apparent. Take Liam Ramos. In January 2026, the five year old Liam was coming home from school in the United States when he was arrested, together with his father, by ICE agents. Father and son then applied to the court for a writ of habeas corpus; this was granted and they were freed. Habeas corpus first made its appearance in the Magna Carta, signed at Runnymede in 1215, and it is to this cardinal principle of English law that these two members of the Ramos family, five thousand miles away and eight centuries later, owe their liberty. We did that.

Our greatest contribution to human rights has perhaps been the suppression of the slave trade, accomplished largely by the might of the Royal Navy.

Now deprived of a powerful navy we again seek to lead but as an upholder of international law. We believe it our duty, at the suggestion of the International Court of Justice, to pass sovereignty of our strategic military base on Diego Garcia to Mauritius, even though this threatens our defence capability.

We seek to be world leaders in the adoption of clean energy. We hesitate to develop the oilfields on our doorstep and have refused to tap the vast abundance of cheap gas under our feet. We are closing down our old polluting steel works, dirty oil refineries, our aluminium and cement works, preferring instead to import these products from abroad. We are turning our farmland over to solar panels and our hills to wind turbines, confident that these will assure us of energy when the sun is shining and the wind blowing. The economic cost is high, but it marks us still as a country of principle.

The world will undoubtedly watch carefully and learn from what we are now doing, but whether they will view us with awe, as once they did, or incredulity and derision, remains to be seen.

**Castlemorton Environmental Group**



# **New Knowledge in Growing Organic Veg.**



CEG invite you to a talk by Joshua Davenport who runs Little Marcle Organic Produce together with his dad.

Joshua will talk about the nature of the problems of growing Veg. and how agroecology is a huge source of hope and how we can all participate on any scale.

**Castlemorton Parish Hall**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:30pm**

Entry £2:50 cash, with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.

**Castlemorton Environmental Group**  
**The Whys and Wherefores of**  
**Bumblebee Care**



CEG invites you to a talk by **Claire Piper**.

Claire spent her working life as a music teacher but always had a deep interest in the natural world. Once she was semi-retired she studied for both a Natural Sciences degree (Open University) and a Masters in Ecology (Edinburgh University), in order to understand environmental issues better. To put her learning to practical use, she joined the Bumblebee Conservation Trust as a volunteer and gives talks on their behalf. She is a keen nature-friendly gardener and an allotmenteer.

The talk will cover:

different kinds of wild bee; why diversity in our bees is important; the decline of bumblebees; why we need to understand the lifecycle of bumblebees; how we can help them.

**Castlemorton Parish Hall**  
**Thursday 30th April at 7:30pm**

Entry £2:50 cash, with tea or coffee and biscuits provided.



Thursday 16th April at 7:30pm

## Hamnet

(12A-2025-125mins)

Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal star in this acclaimed film which dramatizes the family life of William Shakespeare and his wife Anne Hathaway as they cope with the death of their 11 year old son Hamnet.

Tickets £5 on the door

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)

### 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!!!!

## QUEENHILL WI REPORT MARCH 2026

Initially, the March meeting of Queenhill WI brought us up to date with branch business, the activities available to us and news of our members.

The speaker on this occasion was Maggie Davies whose subject was the Arts and Crafts Movement, particularly in the Cotswold area.

Her Fine Arts background was evident from her observations and comments about the many photographic and video examples of work she showed us from that period. We heard about the history of the movement and the notable people who promoted the development of beautiful designs and handmade items using local, natural materials. These, and the working conditions of the craftsmen, were in contrast to the increasing mass production and poor social conditions of the time. Perhaps we are now seeing a similar desire to move away from throw-away consumerism?



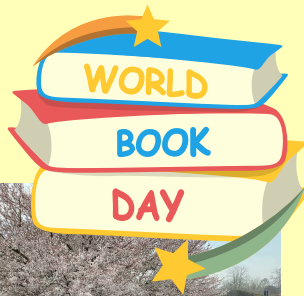
We found it all very interesting and were determined to explore the subject further -and visit the places where Arts and Crafts examples can be found whenever we could.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday April 9th at 2.30 at WI Hall (WR8 0QZ) when Marguerite Collins will talk about Royalist Highwaymen. If you think you might like to join us, please do. You will be made very welcome.

## News from Eldersfield Lawn CE Primary School

### World Book Day

World Book Day was enjoyed by all! The children were welcomed into school by our very own Gangster Granny rapping 'The Gruffalo'.



A variety of books were read throughout the day and the pupils enjoyed the book swap. In the afternoon the staff set up reading areas with specific books and the pupils got to choose which one they wanted to listen to.

To complete the event each class prepared a poem which they performed to the whole school in groups.

A memorable day was had by all. Thank you to Mrs Kelsey and Mrs George for organising the activities.





# Young Voices 2026



Children from Class 4 and a couple from the school choir attended the Young Voices 2026 event at the BP Pulse Live in Birmingham. The children had a busy day arriving at the venue at lunchtime and spent the afternoon practising for the evening performance.



Parents and carers enjoyed a joyous evening filled with wonderful signing and the children had lots of fun.



This was a super experience and we were lucky to be part of it. A very big thank you to Mrs Carolan, Mrs George and Mrs Wellon for all of the preparation and taking the children. Fantastic dance moves too!



## **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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## From the Archives - April 1988

Further "Sayings and Saints Days" supplied by Godfrey Baseley

23rd April - St. George's Day, and William Shakespeare's Birthday.  
St. George is the patron saint of England, Portugal and Aragon. He was martyred in Lydda in Palestine in about 303, shortly after the accession of Emperor Constantine.

24th April - St. Mark

In Acts and Epistles, St. Mark the evangelist is sometimes called John, by his Jewish name, and sometimes Mark, by his Greco-Roman name. He was the cousin of St. Barnabas and a native of Jerusalem. It is believed that St. Mark composed his Gospel from the information he had from St. Peter.

PALM SUNDAY - This is the Sunday before Easter. It is sometimes called Fig Sunday due to an essentially Midland custom of eating figs and fig puddings on this day.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - This is the Thursday in Passion Week, sometimes called Shrove Thursday or Holy Thursday, when the religious ceremony of washing the feet of others, especially inferiors, in commemoration of Christ's washing of his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, takes place. Edward 11 appears to have been the first English King to observe Maundy Thursday, when he washed the feet of fifty poor men in 1362. Maundy Thursday was in many parishes, Eldersfield included, the day chosen to give alms to the poor or deserving widows. The money came from established village or church charities, and was usually distributed from the church porch after a special service. In other cases, as it was in Eldersfield, the money had to be collected from the tomb of the benefactor to remind those receiving the gift of the donor.

GOOD FRIDAY - On this day in the past, only essential work was carried out, like feeding the livestock on the farms. After attending a service at the church, most countrymen would spend the rest of the day sowing and planting in their gardens. Good Friday was the acknowledged day for planting potatoes, because the Devil was supposed to have no power over the soil that day.

EASTER EVE - In the past on Easter Eve, boys and men used to tour the surrounding villages and perform plays in order to obtain gifts - money, eggs etc.,. The ceremony was known as 'pace-egging.'

EASTER SUNDAY - Easter Day may be any Sunday of the five weeks which commence with 22nd March and end with the 25th. After the short break for Mothering Sunday, Easter was the first of the official holidays for the men and women in service at the big houses or on the farms. The previous six weeks' fasting was eased on Easter Sunday and a wide range of meats, flavoured with many herbs could be eaten. Tansy cakes and puddings used to be popular fare on this day, the bitterness of the tansy being made more palatable by the use of ingredients such as cream, eggs, sugar and lemon peel.

EASTER MONDAY - Pace-egg rolling day - In many country parishes, Soul-Cakes were specially made on Easter Monday to be given to the poor, who had to come and sing a song before being given a cake.

HOCKTIDE: The second Monday and Tuesday after Easter Sunday used to be the days when men and women went 'Hocking' i.e. collecting money for the church, parish or local charities. The men collected on Monday, and the women on Tuesday. It is of interest to note that Churchwardens accounts show that women were usually more successful in collecting money than the men.

## Services in the Benefices of Berraw and Longdon

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

<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27 to end 2 Corinthians 13:11 to end	Janet Peters	N/A
	Bushley Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27 to end 2 Corinthians 13:11 to 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 Berraw and Longdon Benefices website  
<https://berrawlongdon.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
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 7:55 - end 1 Peter 2:2-10	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church Castlemorton Church	5pm	Evensong	Zechariah 4:1-10 Revelation 21:1-14	Liz Lean	Celia Greatwood
	Bushley Church	6.30pm	Start the Week BCP Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
10 <sup>th</sup> May 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Birtsmorton Church	8.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-end	TBA	*****
	Queenhill – on a farm!	10.30am	Rogation	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-end	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Castlemorton Church	4pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Family Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
17 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Pendock Cross Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14 and 5:6-11	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Holy Communion	TBA	TBA	TBA
24 <sup>th</sup> May Pentecost	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3 - 13	Ruth Coates	Cathy Powell- Chandler
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3 - 13	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	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.

<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**

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## Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

Would readers and intercessors 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



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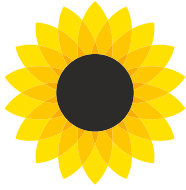
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Rachele  
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