

September 2026

£1

The Benefice of Berrow

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

The Benefice of Longdon

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



Parish Magazine

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

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

Associate Priest	The Rev Anthea Elston The Plough, Eight Oaks, Castlemorton WR13 6BU (Day Off – Friday)	01684 833278 revanth@eightoaks.com
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Churchwarden & P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs E Rambridge	01531 650230
Treasurer	Mr A Rambridge	01531 650230
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Hollybush	POST VACANT	
P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
Treasurer	Mrs S Williams	01531 650431
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P.C.C. Secretary	POST VACANT	
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Churchwarden	Mr J Corbet-Milward	07796 983567
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Treasurer	Mr L Kelly	07821 750855

BERROW VILLAGE HALL

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Greetings!

A happy September to you all – and it does feel in some ways as if we should be saying Happy New Year, as our schools return this month to start a new academic year and the seasons change. We move away from the white-hot heat of our tropical summer and into the – hopefully – more temperate autumnal months.

September and October in the church year are normally the times when we celebrate the safe gathering in of the harvest – though I think most farmers had to harvest early this year due to the drought conditions prevalent in our area. Proof yet again for how tough it is to try to make a living from agriculture these days – and we do reflect upon this in our services of harvest thanksgiving – being thankful for all those who work so hard on the land to provide us with food for the table. And it's also a time when we take up collections of dried goods and toiletries to donate to our local food banks. The cost of living crisis shows no signs of abating, and it is good to reach out a helping hand to those who are struggling to be able to pay their bills and provide for their families – there but for the grace of God.....

The hunt for a new incumbent for our two benefices continues. We did manage to attract an applicant for the post, but sadly they withdrew that application before we got the chance to interview them. Having advertised the post four times now without success, we clearly need to sit down with Archdeacon and Area Dean to have a radical re-think as to what our next move should be to recruit a new priest to serve our amazing parishes and communities.

Meanwhile, our churchwardens, retired priests and lay worship leaders continue to do a wonderful job in keeping everything

running smoothly. Although there are always opportunities for others to volunteer their help in keeping our beautiful buildings and churchyards up and running and in good condition – we're very grateful to all those who already offer their help, do contact your local churchwarden if you'd like to get involved. Thanks to all of them, both Sunday services and our occasional offices of weddings, baptisms and funerals continue to happen, as we wait and pray for the right person to emerge to provide the vision, leadership and pastoral care which our parishes and communities so richly deserve.

But for now, we soldier on regardless, being thankful for all the skills and talents available to us in both benefices, and for the help we receive from outside the parishes too. Interregnums can be great times to release, recognize and nurture hitherto untapped talent – and that has definitely happened this past year, which has been an absolute joy.

We go into September in good heart and in good shape, buoyed up by the prayers and support of many, and looking forward with faith, hope and love to the future which God has in store for us.

With every blessing to you all

Rev Anthea

The General Synod of the Church of England.

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure 1969, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly.

This definition is, as it were, from the horse's mouth.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod>

And what does it do? The General Synod

- considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England

- formulates new forms of worship

- debates matters of national and international importance

- and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

The 478 voting members of General Synod are arranged into three Houses; the most important decisions at Synod require a two-thirds majority to vote for it in each of the three houses.

- the House of Bishops

- the House of Clergy

- the House of Laity.

So, in order - The House of Bishops consists of:

- 42 diocesan bishops

- 9 elected suffragan bishops, four from the Northern Province and five from the Southern Province

- 2 ex-officio members (Bishop of Dover & Bishop to the Armed Forces). Our bishop, Hugh Nelson, then in his role as the latter will have already 'sat' in Synod meetings.

Ah! More definitions: I've discovered there are 73 suffragan bishops: about half seem to be in specific areas, others assist bishops – mmn, I feel I need to look at this more closely at another time. For us, Martin Gorick is a suffragan, and has returned to his role as Bishop of Dudley after taking on being Acting Bishop of Worcester when Bishop John left and till Bishop Hugh arrived.

As to provinces - a province is a(n?) 'unit' of ecclesiastical government, the Northern one consists of 14 dioceses which cover the northern third of England, and the Isle of Man. The province's bishop is the Archbishop of York who is Stephen Cottrell, and he is the 98th to hold that position which was first created in 735AD.

The Southern Province covers 30 dioceses in southern and central England, led by Dame Sarah Mullally who is the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, and - as we all celebrated – the first female to hold this high office.

The House of Clergy has at least 206 members, which includes all ordained members of the General Synod (except the Bishops).

There are:

- 186 elected members of clergy

- 5 elected deans

- 3 elected from Armed Forces Synod

- 4 elected from the universities and TEIs; 2 elected from the religious communities; & 1 ex-officio member (Chaplain General to the Prison Service)

- 5 co-opted members

Don't worry, I had to look it up, TEI stands for Theological Education Institutions. Amongst more of the small print, I noticed this – that the Dean of the Arches may be an ex-officio member. Ooh, so what's that, or maybe whom? Well, the Dean of the Arches is the most senior ecclesiastical judge in England, currently Morag Ellis KC.

My goodness it is all quite a business ~

The House of Laity has at least 207 members and consists of lay members from every diocese of the Church of England.

Nearly all lay members of Synod are elected by deanery synods:

- 195 members elected by deanery synods

- 3 elected from Armed Forces Synod

- 2 elected from the religious communities

- 2 ex-officio members (First Church Estates Commissioner, Second Church Estates Commissioner)

Maybe this is a good place just to confirm something else - The word 'synod' comes from the Greek meaning 'assembly or meeting' and it's applied to a council of Christian leaders, which is usually convened to decide on matters of doctrine, and the administration and application of these. I'll wager if you have heard of a historic synod, it'll be the Synod of Whitby, taken to be in 664AD. There's lots of interesting information about this on the English Heritage website. It's always taken the fixing of the date of Easter was decided at Whitby Abbey according to Roman tradition rather than the native Celtic one. It's rather splendid to think we know about this, which affects us still, from the great mediaeval historian the Venerable Bede. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey/history-and-stories/easter-and-the-synod-of-whitby/>

And what of today? Here are some key topics that have been debated, amended and approved by General Synod in the past five years:

- changes to the Church's safeguarding structure
- agreement of key milestones for how the Church can reach Net Zero Carbon
- regulations enabling improvements to clergy pensions benefits
- update to how clergy discipline and complaints are handled
- setting parochial fees
- backing a diocesan motion to encourage sustainable church flowers
- establishing a day of prayer for the global persecuted church
- introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith, enabling clergy to offer blessings for same-sex couples within regular services
- modernising how Church funds are ethically invested and enhancing accountability in financial stewardship.

Maybe looking at this, one can see why the discussion regarding sustainable church flowers perhaps did sit a little uneasily amongst agendas – or..?

The quinquennium of this Synod ended on 14 July and the elections for the next will take place in the early autumn; and I'll keep you informed.

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative

St Faith's Berrow

A place for people to pray

A place for swifts to nest

A place for each and every day

A place for rest

Please support

A GIFT DAY

on

Sunday, September 27

**from 2 – 4pm at
the church**

THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to all those who came to Longdon church or signed the card to celebrate my 20 years in ordained ministry. I did think something was going on, because you can't live with someone for over 50 years and not realise that she was up to something.

It was in Worcester Cathedral on 2nd July 2006 that I was ordained deacon, by Bishop Peter Selby, in a very warm ceremony in another heat wave. It was a similar heat when we met in Longdon Church, on 28th June, for coffee and cake after the service. It was very kind of you to give me gifts. The rose 'Malvern Hills' is now planted to grow up an arch in our garden. Most of my ordained ministry has been spent in Upton Benefice, but originally, I was a reader in Longdon Benefice. I was also churchwarden at Bushley when we lived in Tewkesbury. Returning to Berrow and Longdon, is like coming back home.

Geoffrey Moore



St Mary's Church Longdon

are looking for a **Treasurer**

If you are interested in bookkeeping, and would like further information then please contact

Rev Geoffrey Moore 07961505871

Full help will be given for a smooth hand over

The Salisbury Organist Visits Pendock Old Church

This is the start of the story - an email from Tracy Genever, the Local Community Officer (West) for the Churches Conservation Trust.

I have some exciting news. Ben Maton, also known as The Salisbury Organist, travels around the country playing organs and posting the videos on You Tube. He seems a lovely young man and has been to a few CCT churches. And he chose to visit Pendock Old Church on Tuesday 30th June! The organ doesn't have to sound amazing, he just likes to hear them. This isn't a performance with an audience, it's just him.

And here is the link to the video he has posted on You Tube! It takes a bit of a while before he gets to Pendock, but he plays the organ beautifully.

<https://youtu.be/-v-jTEhqpJs?si=aEN4j6aD0rNjFCaj>

You'll see the references to the damage done, which I discovered when I'd gone to prepare the church for an interment of ashes.

We now have a group of super volunteers at Pendock Old Church, one of whom is also helping with the care of Thistledown.

We understand from Tracey that after Ben posts a video there is increased interest in that church.

Elisabeth Rambridge

**Coffee, Cake and a Chat
on
Saturday 5th September
at
All Saints, Hollybush
11am – 1pm
All Welcome**

QUEENHILL & DISTRICT WI

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 PM AT THE HUNTERS INN

BUCKBURY, GL20 6AR

ON THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

£6 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS – UP TO 6 IN A TEAM
OR COME ALONG AND JOIN A TABLE

- Because tables fill up quickly, booking is strongly advised via THE HUNTERS INN Events page or by calling them on 01684 833388

QUIZ NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF QUEENHILL WI
COMMUNITY HALL

!! BIG RAFFLE PRIZES !!

WI Contact : Sarah McDermott 07840 536952

QUEENHILL WI REPORT JULY 2026

Who can forget the heatwave? As we sweltered at the July meeting, members of Queenhill WI were taken back in time to the Regency /Georgian period as we listened (and watched) how women were dressed. Angela Rendell and Kate Peake spoke about Regency Fashion in the time of Jane Austin: The Age of Undress 1790-1820.

Angela had researched fashion in the whole Georgian period and, using visual images and interesting background stories, could explain how and why those fashions changed. Like Angela, many of us were taught how to sew at school - but few (if any) of us had the same wonderful skills, creating paper patterns for both underwear to outerwear, and then hand making the garments. Such superb needlework - we were awestruck! Kate was a brilliant model, demonstrating how each piece was put on. She looked elegant and cool while the rest of us didn't.

QUEENHILL WI REPORT August 2026

The WI Programme said the talk would be about Goats of the Gorge. Goats? What could that be about? Farming? Wildlife? What Gorge? There was a good turnout by members (and several visitors) to discover the answers on yet another hot day.

The talk was really fascinating and described how the family business (Nick King and his sons Rickie and Danny) began making skincare products. From the initial purchase of two Anglo Nubian goats, within six months there were 26. Surplus milk was used to manufacture goats milk soap. Since then, the range has been extended to include many other dermatologically tested products for sensitive and healthy skin.

Based in Somerset, the company has had many good reviews. There was no promotion or sales talk here! Members were so impressed by the sample they tried, that many grasped the opportunity to buy some at the end of the talk.

The meeting ended with excellent refreshments, the usual raffle and conversation. It was very enjoyable afternoon, when the heat of the day was mitigated by the welcome use of fans, open windows and cool drinks.

September's meeting, on Thursday September 10th at 2.30pm will be the Produce Show. Come and see the competition entries for yourself.



3rd Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival

Saturday 17th October 2026

12 p.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Berrow and Pendock Village Hall, WR13 6JN

Stalls, teas, coffees, cakes and homemade soup in the village hall.

Grow your own pumpkins and squash and enter our competitions

Growing Competitions– *Must be grown by entrant.*

All Ages

- Heaviest Pumpkin or Squash
- Most Interesting Patterned Pumpkin or Squash
- 'My Best' Pumpkin or Squash
- Unique/Strange Shaped Pumpkin or Squash
- Longest Pumpkin or Squash Stem (dead or alive)
- Best in Show – *Judges Favourite from all winners*

Craft Competitions– *Pumpkins may be home grown or bought.*

Judged in three categories - Ages 0-10; Ages 11-16; Ages Over 16

- Carved Pumpkin Head (Please ensure carving is done with adult supervision)
- A Papier Mache Pumpkin
- A Flower Arrangement using Pumpkins, Squash or their Plants
- A Squash Insect

Photos - 'Colours of Autumn' . 'Pumpkin & a Pet' . 'Pumpkin or Squash Flowers'

All Ages

- A Poster for the Berrow & Pendock Pumpkin Festival 2027
- A knitted, crocheted or Sewn Pumpkin
- A Bug Hotel
- Autumn Themed Cross Stitch

For information or details on competition classes please contact us at:

BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com

Or message us on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/BerrowAndPendockVillageHall

3rd Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival

Let's start with the origin of the word Pumpkin.

There are 2 suggestions. It's an English word from the 17th century, derived from a similar one – 'pompion' – that means any kind of edible gourd. There's another theory that it comes from the word 'pôhpukun' that means 'grow forth round' and was introduced to the English Pilgrims who settled in Massachusetts.

An A to Z of the varieties you will see.

Autumn Gold is popular: it's an early-maturing, high-yielding, and reliable variety, ready to harvest in 70-90 days. The 7-10lb bright golden-orange fruits are perfect for carving (jack-o'-lanterns) & cooking.

Blue Prince is a high-yielding with a striking blue-grey, flattened skin and sweet, deep orange, non-stringy flesh. These 7–9lbs pumpkins are popular for both autumn decoration and eating.

Delicata squash is smaller than other winter squash, around 12 inches in length and popular because of its delicate, edible rind.

Red kuri squash is called 'Japanese squash', and is widely adapted for climates that provide a growing season of 100 days or more.

Spaghetti squash is known as vegetable spaghetti. When cooked the flesh can be prepared so it looks like spaghetti.

Tromboncino (or Zucchetta) is an Italian heirloom squash known for its firm texture, mild flavour, and dense neck. It's an incredible shape!

Zombie pumpkins are a type of knobbly, warty ornamental squash bred primarily for decoration, so their flesh is often very fibrous, watery, and slightly bland. They are best roasted or puréed in soups, curries, or pies where you can add plenty of seasonings and flavours.

*Elisabeth Rambridge,
Village Hall Committee member, Churchwarden*

The Grand Auction at Eldersfield Court

Auctioneer: Charles Rambridge – Amounts raised on the day.

Thank you to all who donated lots, sent bids or came to the auction. A great evening was had by all and an amazing £2850 was raised.

1	Christmas pudding (Great Ormond Street recipe)	£30	Cathy P/C
2	Bulk bag of wood + 2 bags kindling	£80	William Bennett
3	Physical fitness session voucher. Get fit with Dee	£35	Dee Davies, Corse Lawn
4	Half a lamb	£160	Rosalind Gott
5	Meal for Two, any day of the week	£70	Hunters Inn
6	Neck and shoulders massage	£35	Val Parsons
7	Pamper hamper	£50	
8	£20 meat voucher	£35	Wallers Butchers, Ledbury
9	Large Lemon drizzle cake	£35	Dawn Holt
10	2 x one hour guitar lessons, advanced or beginners	£90	Nick Burr
11	Indulgent chocolate cake	£40	Tracey Boyd
12	Luxury summer picnic hamper	£45	
13	Original painting by local artist.	£60	Dan Burlingham
14	Christmas table arrangement or wreath	£60	Mary Mitchell
15	Windrush Valley, selection of goat's cheeses.	£60	John Goodman
16	Bottle of Premier Cru red Burgundy fine wine	£50	Andy Holt
17	Iced Christmas Cake	£45	Dawn Holt
18	Gin hamper with extras	£80	
19	Electric Breadmaker	£35	Andy & J Hibbert
20	A cubic metre of wood	£110	3 Counties Firewood
21	Champagne Afternoon Tea for Two	£100	Corse Lawn House
22	½ day rotavator with tank of petrol	£30	Andy Holt
23	Pudding for a dinner party	£10	Audrey Ridley
24	Fine, signed print <u>Cecil Aldin</u> 'Hunting Scene'	£60	John & Sheila Mitchell
25	Luxury hamper	£50	Rowan & Helen Thomas
26	£50 voucher for Butcher's Arms	£110	Jo-Anne Block
27	Dinner for 6 people at your address	£420	'Best of Taste' Bill Sparey
28	Meal/drinks up to £40 at Farmers Arms, Birts.	£70	Neil Gardner
29	Meal for two with wine	£100	The Duke of York, Rye Cross
30	Case of wine	£125	Matthew Collins

Proceeds to our beautiful church at Eldersfield.

CaCoffany!

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

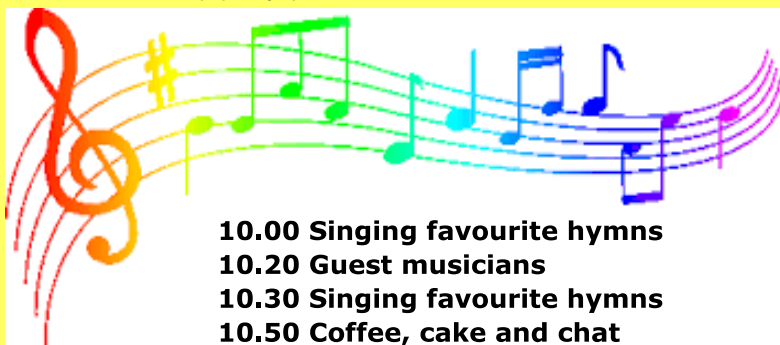
Saturdays 10.00-11.30am

2026 Remaining Dates

**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

We are continuing to examine in greater depth a phrase of The Lord's Prayer each month.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 12 Jul | Give us this day our daily bread |
| 9 Aug | Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us |
| 13 Sept | 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 May's theme was

Introduction	<i>Pater Noster</i> (before the service)
Hymn	Trust And Obey
Reflection	<i>Your Will Be Done</i> – CityAlight Music
Hymn	Take My Life And Let It Be
Reflection	<i>Prayer of St Teresa</i> – Margaret Rizza
Hymn	Be Thou My Vision – Wellspring setting
Closing Music	<i>A Gaelic Blessing</i> – John Rutter

Do come along and join us.

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

All are very welcome!

Picnic Pie

Here is a recipe for my mother's picnic pie she always made when we were off on a picnic normally to the beach! It's very simple!

Ingredients

- 2 sheets of ready rolled butter puff pastry
- 1 pack of back bacon (rind removed)
- 3 spring onions sliced
- 6 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- black pepper
- dash of Lea & Perkins
- 1 whisked egg for glazing pastry

Method

1. set oven at 180*c
2. grease 8" or 9" tin pie dish
3. fry bacon to lightly colour and add the sliced onions so they gently wilt - put in fridge on kitchen paper to cool.
4. lay ready rolled pastry in dish and cut off any really long over hanging pastry - leave some over-hang as it will shrink back
5. prick bottom lightly and paint with some of glaze for glazing top
6. put in fridge to rest about 30 minutes
7. when bacon has cooled put in bottom of pie dish - crack 4 eggs on to bacon equally and then whisk the other 2 eggs and pour in around the whole egg.
8. sprinkle with parsley, pepper and dash of Lea & Perkins
9. lay the remaining ready rolled pastry over the egg & bacon
10. trim and crimp the edge and brush the remains egg wash over the top
11. put in oven for 30 minutes
12. don't let it brown up too much.

This is also lovely with a salad ~ or even baked beans!

With good wishes from

Rosey, and also Lucy and Amy

Bishop's Art Competition winners announced

Five children have been chosen as the winners of Bishop' Hugh's art competition.



Evie Parkes, Isabelle Stringer, Layla Smith, Harry Andrews and Autumn Faulkner were all invited to afternoon tea in Bishop Hugh's office to meet with the bishop and to see where their artwork will be hung.

Over 20 schools entered the competition to create some new artwork for Bishop Hugh's office on the themes of faith, hope and love. The winners ranged from Reception to Year 8 and came from The Littletons CofE First School near Evesham, St John's CofE Middle School in Bromsgrove and Church of the Ascension CofE Primary School in Wall Heath.

Evie and Izzy were the Key Stage 1 winners. Together they created a picture of Jesus ascending into heaven, using a collage of torn up pieces of paper to make the background and drawing pictures of people looking on and the clouds. There were two winners from Key Stage 2 because the standard was so high. Harry created a picture of hope based around Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. Bishop Hugh particularly liked the use of graffiti as part of the picture. Layla painted a tree with many different types of birds among the branches as a reminder that even though we are all different, we all have an equal place in the tree and should be treated the same. The Key Stage 3 winner was Autumn who painted a picture of Daniel in the lions' den to represent faith. Autumn said: "I thought for a while about which bible story to choose, but I think this is one of the best stories in the bible which demonstrates faith. Daniel prayed and had belief and then was saved from the lions."

Corse and Staunton Village Hall

Jumble Sale

to be held on

Saturday 12th September

at 12 noon

Refreshments available

Corse Lawn Cricket Club

Corse Lawn Cricket Club is always looking for more players – any age, any ability!
All enquiries - contact Bill Spry on 07836 333457

6 th September	Quedgeley	Home	1.00pm
13 th September	Corse and Staunton	Home	1.00pm
20 th September	Malvern Looseners	Home	1.00pm

Candles for Ukraine

Over the last few weeks Libby Allen has put in a request for certain empty food tins to be collected and left in Hollybush Church porch. These are to be used by refugee families in Malvern to make trench candles for troops in Ukraine.

Well over 100 tins have been received, and their requirement has now been reached.
So **No More Tins** please.

Libby would like to thank, very much, all those who took part in this unusual exercise.

Tirley Table Top Sale

Saturday 14th November

10am - 2pm

at Tirley Village Hall

Proceeds for Tirley Church

Contact 01452 780136 or 01452 780271

for further details.

Let's start with a list and I shall ask you to form the connection: Green Shield Stamps; hula-hoops; Rubik's Cubes; Pokémon cards.

Not too difficult. They are all things that were at one time the subject of crazes or fads. Everyone wanted them, for no very apparent reason, and then forgot all about them.

Let's try something else: Princess Diana's funeral; the late Queen's jubilee; clapping the NHS.

This one is perhaps a little more difficult but all these events brought millions of people to the streets, to express some emotion. But why? Why was it necessary for people to grieve or rejoice in public? And in great numbers?

I think that the common factor which links all the above is that we need to feel part of a society. Your grief/rejoicing/interests are mine. We share a common bond. We are one. We stand together, united.

Festivals and fads are not the only stimulus to this public expression of commonality; external threats do the same job. Go back to the 12th and 13th centuries and the threatened denial of access to Jerusalem posed by the Moslems was seen as an attack on Christianity and prompted the Crusades. You might say, using the vocabulary of 1938, that we were entering 'a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing'. Nevertheless thousands of our countrymen believed that they had to defend their faith and were sufficiently motivated by a sense of religious or civic duty that they departed for foreign shores.

Defence of public safety is a potent rallying cry for action. In the 16th century Catholics (or Protestants, depending on the year) were seen as a danger to the state. In the 17th century denouncing witches became popular, with the last person being executed as late as 1727, one unfortunate Janet Horne. Witchcraft was replaced by homosexuality and the last executions for this offence took place in London in 1835. Today we cannot see any danger to society which these people would, or even could, have posed and it is difficult to think of any change which has happened in the last few centuries. Executing them in the name of society was justified in that it appeared to promote social cohesion.

(Before we snigger, however, we might recall that after a series of tragic infant deaths at the Countess of Chester Hospital Lucy Letby was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment – despite the fact that no

¹ For reasons of space references are not given here but are available on request

one had seen her do anything criminal. We called that justice. Her undoing was a combination of distorted statistics, an incurious prosecution counsel, an over-confident defending counsel, and a credulous jury.)

But to our task. In the early years of the Second World War identifying fifth columnists became a national obsession even though there were few if any to be found. This mass fear of something, indeed of anything, continued into the 1950s when the Americans developed a fear and a deep distrust of communism. Under Joe McCarthy anyone suspected of being 'un-American' could find himself unemployed, or worse. This was extended to the adoption of the domino theory: it was deemed that a war in Vietnam was worth fighting in order to stop people becoming communists. Quite why that was so bad is unclear; the trading relationship between communist China, the G7 economy which has grown fastest over the last 50 years, and the United States is today one of the most significant economic relationships in the world.

More recently we have waged a war against drugs. Initially, under Prohibition, the target was the most harmful of these, alcohol – today it causes 180,000 deaths annually in the USA - but alcohol proved so popular that the war had to be discontinued. A substitute, cannabis, was identified and new employment was found for the forces of Good, even though no deaths due to cannabis poisoning have ever been recorded. This war may have been pointless, given that cannabis is now more widely available, and at a lower price, than ever before.

And what of today? Which windmills are we tilting at today, with all the convictions of a certainty that in all probability will disappear tomorrow?

With considerable public support we are spending a large fortune to achieve net zero in the hope that a reduction in our 0.8% of the world's man-produced carbon emissions will combat climate change. Meanwhile, in June 2026 hospitals across the NHS declared critical incidents because of the heatⁱ and surgeons have cancelled operationsⁱⁱ. This was eminently foreseeable. One might think that had a proportion of the £3 bn to be paid in the coming year to wind farms *not* to generate electricityⁱⁱⁱ been directed instead towards installing air conditioning (or better ventilation or whatever) in these hospitals they might have been able to continue operating normally. We appear to prefer the grand gesture which is incapable of quantification to the practical with its direct and visible consequences for individuals.

That, I suppose, describes in a nub this malady. We must all unite under a common banner - little does it matter which. We shall be saving our neighbour. Or we shall be saving our country. Or (and even better still) we shall be saving the entire human race.

Result: We are virtuous. We are important. And how we enjoy it!



Thursday 17th September at 7:30pm

The Christophers

(15-2025-125mins)

Ian McKellen plays Julian Sklar a well-known painter based in London, aged and eccentric. He completed two successful series of paintings called "The Christophers" in the 1990's and started work on a third but has not worked for years. His unscrupulous children hire Lori Butler (**Michaela Coel**) a young artist who hasn't exhibited in years to pose as his assistant and finish "The Christophers" which the children plan to sell for a fortune after his death. Directed by Steven Soderbergh

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1st Staunton & Corse Scout Group

The 1st Staunton & Corse Scout Group is a thriving local Scout Group that currently has around 75 young people in three sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

We also have 14 adult volunteers running these sections: 6 with the Scouts, 5 with Cubs and 3 with Beavers.

Due to ill health our current Beaver leader is having to step down and we are wanting to recruit a new Beaver Leader for the start of the Autumn term in September.

Beavers are our youngest section and is for boys and girls from the ages of 6 until 8 when they move up to Cubs. Beavers meet on a Monday at 5pm and finishes at 6:15pm. No previous scouting experience is necessary as full training will be provided.

You will have to pass a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service) and complete mandatory training: Safety, Safeguarding and First Response.

Age is not an issue. We can take male and female adult volunteers from the age of 18 to..... as long as you are able to stay!

We also run an annual 5 night summer camp which you would be invited to participate in!

If you are interested and want to know more then please email me (Tim Brown) at :

stauntonandcorse@forestofdeanscouts.org

Eldersfield and Corse Lawn Primary School



In July Years 5 and 6 visited London. They visited the British Museum and then attended a performance of "Matilda" at the Cambridge theatre.

The photograph (left) shows some of the written accounts of their trip.

A wonderful and enjoyable experience which is arranged annually for the children.

Sarah Hindle

Headteacher

From the Magazine Archive - September 1988

SENIOR CITIZENS OUTING - WEDNESDAY, 6th JULY

45 People enjoyed an Evening Coach Tour in good, clear weather conditions, travelling through Hartpury, Maisemore and Over, joining the A40 West to Ross-on-Wye onto the Hereford Road roundabout and then East along the M50 to join the A38 northwards turning off to Upton-on-Severn and thence to Welland where an excellent evening meal had been arranged at The Pheasant.

THE ELDERSFIELD AND CORSE LAWN BELLRINGERS and Friends recently visited the North West Herefordshire "black and white" villages, on their Annual Ringing Outing. The morning's ringing commenced at St. Mary's Church, Dilwyn followed by Weobley and Eardisley. Following lunch at Kington, the Parish Church of St. Mary's was visited. The band then moved onto Lyonshall, where some rectification work to the clock hammer release mechanism was undertaken before ringing could commence. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit to the detached 14th Century Belltower of Pembridge, where some spirited ringing was achieved. To round off the outing, the band visited Eardisland, with its beautiful ring of eight bells - a fitting conclusion to an absorbing days-ringing. During tea, a vote of thanks to the organisers Arthur and Janet Peters was heartily endorsed by all.



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Move it or Lose it classes are held every Tuesday at Castlemorton Village Hall at 2pm. The first lesson is free so that you can give it a try.

Move it or Lose it is a UK wide organisation based in Birmingham. Move it or Lose it believes that staying active should be fun, friendly and accessible to all.

The fitness classes are designed specifically to help the over 60s to stay young by improving strength, flexibility, aerobic capacity, balance and overall health as we age, helping us all to live life to its fullest!

The classes are led by specifically qualified and trained Instructors. Developed in conjunction with the Centre for Healthy Ageing Research at the University of Birmingham the exercises can be done either standing or seated without the need for floor work! Experts on our Advisory board include the founder and CEO Julie Robinson, Professor Janet Lord CBE and Professor Sir Muir Gray CBE. Our classes are often recommended by NHS professionals.

Jane has been involved in the fitness industry for several years. After taking early retirement from her business in Hanley Swan she loves being able to devote her time to teaching six classes per week in the area.

Regular movement is not just good for your body, it also boosts mental well-being, so improve your fitness, confidence and make new friends. Come along and join us – no need to book - it's fun and friendly and the first lesson is free!

Contact – Jane Creese 07879671080

Email – jane.creese@moveitorloseit.co.uk

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

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

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

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

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

Rev Anthea Elston

Services in the Benefices of Berrow and Longdon

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

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
4th October 18th Sunday after Trinity	Queenthill Church	11.30am	Harvest Communion	Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4-14	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church	5pm	Evensong	Proverbs 2:1-11 1 John 2:1-17	Shirley Williams	Liz Lean
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
11th October 19th Sunday after Trinity	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9	TBA	----
	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9	Mel Roberts	Cathy Powell-Chandler
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
18th October 20th Sunday after Trinity	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Isaiah 45:1-7 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	TBA	TBA
	Eldersfield Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
25th October Last Sunday after Trinity	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Janet Peters	Doug Braund
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Ruth Coates	
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA

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.

31 st October All Souls	Hollybush Church	3pm	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for All Souls Day	TBA	TBA	TBA
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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
6th September 14th Sunday after Trinity	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Romans 13:8-end	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church	5pm	Evensong	Ezekiel 12:21-13:16 Acts 19:1-20	Grenville Simons	Celia Greatwood
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
13th September 15th Sunday after Trinity	Bushley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12	TBA	-----
	Birtsmorton Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12	Mel Roberts	Doug Braund
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
20th September 16th Sunday after Trinity	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Family Communion	Jonah 3:10 – end of 4 Philippians 1:21 - end	TBA	TBA
	Pendock Cross Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Bushley Church	7pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	TBA	TBA	TBA
27th September 17th Sunday after Trinity	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end Philippians 2:1-13	Fiona Collins	
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end Philippians 2:1-13	Elisabeth Rambridge	Ann Ward
	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end Philippians 2:1-13	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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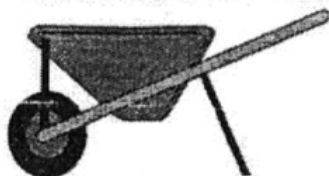
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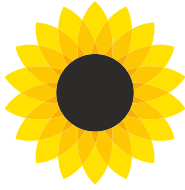
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From the Archive - September 1988 - weather reports for the months of June and July

MET REPORT FOR JUNE

Total Rainfall for Month - 25.5mm (25mm-1")

WETTEST day on 8th : 12.5mm

BAROGRAPH

Highest Pressure on 24th: 30.40

Lowest Pressure on 3rd: 29.60

MET REPORT FOR JULY

Total Rainfall for Month - 101.5mm (Highest Reading since
Recordings started Nine years ago)

WETTEST day on 3rd : 15.4mm

BAROGRAPH

Highest Pressure on 15th: 30.25

Lowest Pressure on 13th: 29.50