

October 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

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Benefice Choir	Mrs Mel Roberts BERROW WITH PENDOCK	01531 650698 melroberts5554@gmail.com
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	
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P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs C Leake	01684 310409
Treasurer	Mr F Harris	01684 573032

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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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Greetings!

October is one of those in-between sort of months I always think, both in terms of the year itself and the church year. We begin the month still firmly autumnal – the magnificent Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival takes place on Saturday 17th October this year, and there's something very autumnal about a pumpkin – pumpkin pie, butternut squash soup – all those warming comfort foods....And we are still very much in harvest mode in our churches with Harvest services happening at Queenhill, Castlemorton and Longdon this month.

However, just as at the end of the month we tip towards winter, with the clocks going back on 25th October, the nights drawing in and we start to hunker down for the season that is to come, so at the end of the month the church year starts to move from harvest to remembrance. Our All Souls service happens up at All Saints, Hollybush right at the end of the month, and it's a very special, quiet, simple, meditative service, where we have an opportunity to remember and give thanks for all those we love and see no more, to light a candle, to bring happy memories to mind and then to share some tea and sympathy afterwards. We try to invite all those who have had funerals for their loved ones with a church involvement during the year just gone by, but our service is definitely not restricted to the recently bereaved. I'm sure we're all aware that grief doesn't go away, the wound may scab over, but the scar of loss will always remain, even though as our late Queen said, grief is the price we pay for love.

And then of course we will move onto Remembrance Sunday with a variety of 10.45am services available across both benefices but more on those in the November issue of the

magazine. It is interesting, however, to think a moment about the value of silence and the role which it plays in remembrance and in our daily lives. Silence is becoming a bit of an endangered species – and of course, true silence rarely exists, but to come into stillness, to sit and listen to the birds, the wind in the trees, the ambient sounds which surround us every day – how many of us do take the time to stop and become aware – even for a couple of minutes each day?

Yet to be in silence can be hugely restorative – but also very challenging. Often, we try to keep our thoughts at bay through busyness, through distracting noise, through the apps on our phones, social media in particular. Silence forces us to confront those thoughts, those feelings, which sometimes we would rather avoid. I say all this as someone who has just had a few days away, in a cabin by a lake, with no internet access, no TV and very limited mobile phone coverage – and it was bliss! But I didn't always feel that way about silence. Part of clergy training is to go on silent retreat, and I can still remember how terrified I was before the first one – but I have grown to love it and to crave it more and more.

So, if you find yourself in need of a little silence, our church walls – especially in our medieval churches – are reassuringly thick and there is a special quality to the silence in a church, warm and welcoming, somewhere to sit and allow the silence to enfold you like a blanket, to comfort and to heal. Try it this month, just for a few moments – in a world where silence is rare, our church buildings are little oases of calm and quiet.

Wishing you all every blessing

Rev Anthea Elston

Deanery Synod Meeting

15th October 2026

from 7pm

St Andrew's Church

Churchdown Road, Malvern, WR14 3JX

Our Diocesan Vision



An open meeting with Bishop Hugh Nelson
Bishop of Worcester

*Meeting open to all from our church congregations - not just
Deanery Synod Representatives - please come and be involved.*

OPEN TO ALL

Meet Bishop Hugh Nelson

You are warmly invited!

When:

15th October 2026 – from 7pm to 9pm

Where:

St Andrew's Church,
Churchdown Road, Malvern, WR14 3JX

Why:

To hear Bishop Hugh's vision for our Diocese

Further details on how to reserve a seat will be circulated in due course but please hold this date.

This meeting will form the autumn meeting of the Malvern and Upton Deanery Synod.

So, this is a chance for you to have more of an insight to the working of the organisation of the Church.

The Deanery Representatives are the following:

Felicity Cox, Castlemorton
Andy Holt, Eldersfield
Trish Mullins, Longdon
Elisabeth Rambridge, Berrow & Pendock

The hustings for the election of 3 members of the House of Laity to represent our Diocese will have taken place on 9 September

Elisabeth Rambridge
Churchwarden



St. John the Baptist, Eldersfield

Update on repairs at Eldersfield Church

Following our successful fundraising events in the parish (quiz nights, auction & donations) we have begun some well-overdue repairs to the church and churchyard, mostly due to damp and water ingress.

The total rebuilding and restoration of the Grade 11 listed Davis Tomb has been completed and it now stands proudly adjacent to the path near the entrance to the building, looking as beautiful as it did in 1750. Tiles on the roof have been inspected and any that have slipped have been replaced. The gutters and hoppers have all been cleaned with several wrought iron downpipes replaced. The water tank has been moved away from the building and the drainage inspection covers lifted to ensure the water is draining away from the building. The grass has been cut and all looking tidy and clean inside and our thanks to all who have supported our fundraising over the years ... however:

a thousand year old building always has the last word, as a small amount of plaster inside on the South wall fell onto the pews. We asked our builder, Oliver Williams to investigate to see if there was a danger of any more loose plaster that was likely to fall which will need removing ... we now have three sections of wall about ten feet square which will need dealing with!

We'll keep fundraising.

Fun Quiz Night

Eldersfield Lawn School

Friday 13th November 2026

If you can solve these two questions you should certainly come to our next Quiz .

revirdtaes (dingbat)

Which supermarket chain introduced the fashion label, George? (answer below)

We hope that you can join us for our next Quiz Night in the school hall, It will be good fun, lots of brain teasing and delicious fish and chips or veg option, (burger or pasty) at half time. (included), and there will be prizes for the winning team. Tickets £13.

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



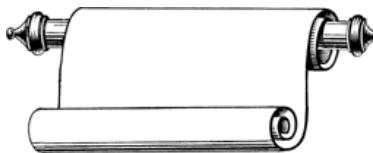
Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start, food at 8pm and finish around 9.15pm; you are welcome to bring your own drinks. (Let us know in advance of any allergies.)

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

Proceeds to our beautiful church in Eldersfield

Answer: Back seat driver
Asda

**FROM
THE
REGISTERS**



Weddings

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

12 th June	Lewis Noon & Alannah Burgess
22 nd June	Tomas Smith & Alice Jones
29 th June	Matthew Aldridge & Molly Burke
4 th July	Seth Lewis & Charlotte Rushforth
22 nd July	George Tilley & Alice Wotton
29 th July	Duncan Stephenson & Irina Stan
31 st July	Matt Smith & Izzy Dennis
8 th August	Jonathan Trotter & Tabitha Wheatley
14 th August	Joel Dyke & Hayley Mason
15 th August	Arthur Williams & Emily Ward
21 st August	Ollie Anthony & Lucy Stickland
22 nd August	Angus Bethune & Ellie Harris
2 nd September	Taylor Wicks & Nicola Lane
4 th September	Harry Lewis & Kyli Jackson (wedding blessing)
5 th September	Jack Tharme & Laura Saich
10 th September	Joshua Lane & Rianne Ashley
11 th September	James Breakspear & Dani Richler-Potts

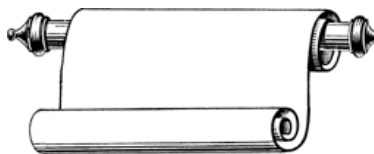
St Gregory's, Castlemorton

8 th August	Richard Matthey & Susan Wilks
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St Faith's, Berrow

15 th August	Michael Bridges & Hattie Edwards
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**FROM
THE
REGISTERS**



Church of St Nicholas, Queenhill with Holdfast

24th August Kevin Moore & Amy Hardman

Baptisms

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

16th August Arthur Wise
30th August Daphne Harris

St John the Baptist, Eldersfield

5th September Hugo Gammond

Funerals

St Gregory's, Castlemorton

24th August Dorothy Bartlett

St Faith's, Berrow

15th July Martin Whittaker – memorial service

All Saints, Hollybush

1st September Margaret Plant
15th September Mary Whitelam



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*

Pumpkin Scones with Cheese

Ingredients

- 150g pumpkin flesh (cut into small pieces)
- 225g self-rising flour (for extra dusting)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt, same of mustard powder, ground cumin
- 55g chilled butter (cubed)
- 100g cheddar cheese (finely grated)
- 60ml warm almond, or any type, milk (for brushing)

Method

1. Place baking sheet in oven & heat to 220°C (200°C fan).
2. Put the pumpkin pieces into a medium saucepan & just cover with water; bring to the boil & simmer for 10 minutes until just tender. Drain & mash well with a fork & set aside to cool.
3. Sift the flour, salt, baking powder, mustard powder & cumin in a large bowl. Add the butter & rub it in with your fingertips until the texture is of fine breadcrumbs.
4. Add two-thirds of the grated cheese to the mixture
5. Add warm milk and pumpkin puree to the bowl and using a dinner knife, mix everything quickly. Then form into a smooth ball and place on a lightly floured surface.
6. Using the heel of your hand, gently press out the mixture to about 2.5cm thick & using the cutter, cut out 4 scones. The offcuts should make 2 more scones.
7. Brush the top of the scones with some milk and sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Take out hot baking sheet & place scones on it, well spaced out. Bake for about 12-15 minutes until golden & cooked through.

Remove from the oven and enjoy while they are hot!

*With good wishes for the success of the
3rd Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival from*

Rosey (a tromboncino grower!)

Give thanks
to the Lord
for He is Good.
Psalm 118:1

START



FINISH

CaCoffany!

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

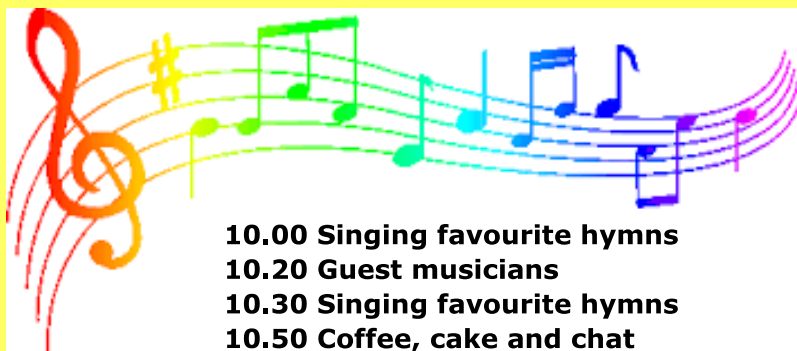
Saturdays 10.00-11.30am

2026 Remaining Dates

**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.

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.

Franciscan Pilgrimage & Songs of Praise

On the last weekend of August, we touched closely our mediaeval roots. 2026 marks 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi, and to honour his example a pilgrimage beginning in Northumberland wove its way across the country till it reached our diocese. A group of parishioners from the Longdon and Berrow benefices, led by the Churchwarden of Bushley, Mark Taylor, warmly welcomed the pilgrims in Bushley Church.

In the CV I wrote for becoming the Social Media lead for our Deanery I confessed to a love of 'ancient and modern' and that was apposite for the gentle meeting. Sister Judi, clad in the distinctive brown Franciscan habit (and thick bright red walking socks) led us in prayer, read from a mobile phone. Most appropriately there was a hound with the walkers and Sister Judi remarked on how moving it was to have the dog slumbering by her feet as she prayed. I noted that on small wooden talismans the pilgrims wore, there was a scallop shell, most distinctively a sign of the great Camino to Santiago, but a mark always of pilgrimage. Sister Judi carried a simple banner – sewn with 'Peace' - and carried with the love and humility that marked St Francis' life.

At this time when much is written about faith and the church and indeed its decline, I think about how there is some way it was ever thus. As a historian, the question of success and failure marks out how we assess everything. The great monastic orders all in their turn experienced rise and fall and decline, and the foundation of the friars was in itself a response to the needs of the world.

When you sit at your computer, instead of checking out some unneeded gadgetry, remind yourself of the details of St Francis' life that I'm sure you heard at school. The young wealthy man who had all sorts of adventures and enjoyed the high life, eventually turned to a life of service to the sick and poor.

Soon he had a group of followers who he led to Rome and received approval from Pope Innocent III for the Orders of Friars Minor. And also soon after the Second Order of St Francis was founded for women –

usually known as the Poor Clares. Interestingly too, there was a Third (mainly secular) Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance whose members did not withdraw from the world, but carried out their lives according to Franciscan principles.

It is the charming stories of St Francis's great love of creation that remain in our childhood memories of being told which about how he preached to the birds, and indeed negotiated with a wolf that terrorised the village of Gubbio until Francis parleyed with the creature and in settlement that the villagers feed the wolf it kept away from the their flocks. Invariably St Francis is portrayed with birds feeding from his hand.

In 1223, at Greccio in Italy, and inspired by his visits to the Holy Land a few years before, he created the first 'live' Nativity scene. He went blind towards the end of his relatively short life – he died aged 44, in 1226. Strangely (or maybe not), I've found the day of his death recorded as both 3rd and 4th of October – I think his feast day is usually celebrated on the latter. (A little aside – that's about 1000 years after the death of St Faith, her feast day is celebrated on October 6th, the year of her death is given variously as 287, 290, or c 300).

Francis was canonised shortly after his death – in 1228. The distinctive brown habit is drawn at the waist with 3 knots that represent poverty, chastity and obedience. He's one of the Patron Saints of Italy, and in 1979, Pope John Paul II declared him the patron saint of ecology and animals.

On Sunday afternoon, in 'Songs of Praise', a beautifully crafted service which was held at the Old Pendock Church, Rev Anthea Elston led us through the creation story:

as recorded in the Book of Genesis Chapter 1, verses 1 to 31:
from ~

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
to ~

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.

Rev Anthea chose hymns that illustrated or were inspired by each part of the story, and gave the most fascinating insights into how they were written, and indeed some adaptations as our times have changed. Always, when I open my hymn book, I have a good look at who has written the hymn – and reflect. In the selection was ‘All creatures of our God and King’, which is based on the ‘Canticle of the Sun’, that was written by St Francis around 1225; and later adapted by Rev William Henry Draper to the hymn we know around 1910.

The singing was terrific, as we were so ably led by the organist Ian Fox who has very kindly worked on the restoration of the organ after criminal damage. It was an opportunity to highlight the work of the Churches Conservation Trust and thank in person Tracy Genever (the Community Officer, West) for allowing us to hold the service. In particular the most sincere thanks were expressed to Shân Armitt, Jeremy Phillips and Sally and Charles Rush for their generous and dogged commitment to volunteering that has made such a wonderful difference to both the interior of the church and churchyard. A bit of judicious emailing the night before brought in a really super number for the congregation from both benefices.

It was a chance for me to speak a bit about the power of place – all the history and witness we have on our doorstep. I came across the expression – ‘thin spaces’ – from reading the Church Buildings Review of 2015, led by the then Bishop John Inge. This probably has its origins in Celtic Christianity when the great saints were so closely linked to their environment; Bishop John expanded the definition thus - ‘sacred church buildings are ‘thin’ spaces where the boundary between this world and the divine, or past and present, becomes narrow and where prayer has accumulated a vibrant symbolic power’.

And a final request – in the top ‘light’ of the west window is a glorious representation, I think of a planet and maybe a comet, I’ve tried & tried to get a photo of it but can’t work out how to zoom in as it’s so high up. The Old Church remains open if any keen photographer can capture that image I would be thrilled to hear from them –

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden
andrewrambridge215@btinternet.com

Suffragan Bishop

In the Church of England, the term ‘suffragan’ applies to a bishop who is assigned responsibilities to support a diocesan bishop. ‘Support’ is the key word, and via Collins dictionary, I liked the definition that it came from the Latin for ‘assist’ - *suffragium* – or the Mediaeval Latin, 14th century – *suffragāneus*. If you ever want to tease a Classicist, ask them about Mediaeval Latin, they will invariably mutter something about it not being their bag! Interestingly I felt there should be some overlap with ‘suffrage’ – the right to vote – but couldn’t quite track it.

So, back to history. After the Reformation, the Suffragan Bishops Act of 1534 allowed for the creation of new sees to allow for assistant bishops; the sees were limited to 26. The first bishops consecrated under the Act were Thomas Manning, Bishop of Ipswich, and John Salisbury, Bishop of Thetford, on 19 March 1536. The last suffragan Tudor bishop was John Sterne, Bishop of Colchester.

In 1888, there was a significant change with the Suffragans Nomination Act which allowed the creation of more sees; and the appointment of suffragan bishops became much more common after that. I suppose it must all be to do with the changing economy in the industrial era and the redistribution of populations.

Apparently, it was an experimental scheme in 1970 in London that led to area bishops. Actually, I started to get a bit muddled here – London since 1979 has had: Two Cities, Edmonton, Kensington, Stepney and Willesden. Maybe it’s better to come close to home – Dudley was created in 1973. Looking at the list of holders, I smiled a little when I saw 2 holders I knew slightly – David Walker and Graham Usher – were ‘translated’ to respectively Manchester and Norwich. Church language is great: and ah ha, back to the dictionary – ‘carry across’, that’s the official – yes, you guessed - translation! Only the small dioceses of Portsmouth and Sodor and Man do not have a suffragan bishops. And a final word, maybe also for another time, there are a few suffragans who are known as ‘flying bishops’ – of Beverley, Ebbsfleet and Oswestry.

Elisabeth Rambridge, Churchwarden

Let's take what I hope is an entirely hypothetical example. You suffer from a terrible disease which strikes one person in a thousand and there is a test which correctly identifies every single incidence of the disease. You take the test and the result comes back positive. What are the chances that you have it? And, by the way, this test also throws up 5% false positives.

Is the answer (a) 95% or (b) something else? **Pause NOW and consider.**

It's easy - look at it this way. When the results of 1,000 tests come back, 1 will be the true positive - but there will also be the false positives: i.e. 5% of 1,000, or 50, which gives a total of 51 positive results. The chance of your 'positive' result being the true positive is therefore 1 in 51, or a bit less than 2%. The unfailing ability of this test to identify the disease now looks far less impressive!

The government has recently withdrawn the right of men to demand a PSA test; this is a test which can be helpful in diagnosing prostate cancer. Famous figures like Jeremy Clarkson and David Cameron have objected – they say that lives have been saved by the test and the test should be available on demand. Who's right: Clarkson & co or the government?

I can't answer that question, but I can suggest some of the considerations which must be taken into account.

As in the example above the PSA test also gives false positives and you will realise that many men will be falsely identified as having the disease and be subjected to further, and needless, testing with the possibility that harm will be done. The tests also give false negatives and some men will be assured that they are negative and will be happy, except that they are not negative and should be worried. And of course there is the question of whether the money could save more lives if it were spent another way. I know the answers to none of these questions.

Consider another statistical trap. Two drugs. They both cure a nasty condition which you happen to have. Unfortunately they can both be fatal, with drug B being 50% more likely to kill you than Drug A. Which do you opt for? Drug A, obviously.

Now let me tell you that the chance of being killed by Drug A is 1 in 10 million and by Drug B 1 in 15 million – in other words the risk of death from either drug is minimal – and that Drug A costs a fortune while Drug B costs tuppence. Which now? My suspicion is that you would opt for Drug B. This

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

shows the difference between absolute risk (1 in 10 or 15 million) and relative risk (50%) and how when we make choices factors well outside the scope of statistics come into play. Moderna has recently issued a new flu vaccineⁱ for use in the US and trumpets that it is 27% more effective than the older version but it is less ebullient about the fact that it reduces the chance of you catching flu from 2.8% to 2.0% and causes significantly more adverse side effectsⁱⁱ. Is a reduction in absolute risk of 0.8% but with a significant increase in adverse side effects worth it? You decide! (Oh, and it costs a lot, lot moreⁱⁱⁱ.)

All this merely shows that you have to understand the context in which numbers are quoted. Art is required as well as science.

An interesting footnote to the prostate debate is that research has shown that black men are two to three times more likely to develop prostate cancer than white men. I think we can all agree that people who are members of a higher risk group should be given special treatment – in this case perhaps with targeted testing. What then would you think if you applied that same principle to crime prevention: if people with ginger hair were shown by the statistics to be responsible for more phone thefts, or burglaries, or sexual offences, than other people, should the police show greater interest in people with ginger hair than with other hair colours?

And a specific example. James Watson, who helped discover DNA in 1952 and was awarded a Nobel prize, was ostracised in 2014 for suggesting that there could be differences in intelligence between black and white people^{iv}. Is there some reason why research into the incidence of cancers among people of different colour is permitted but research into the distribution of intelligence among people of different colour is condemned?

Is it not this same, but unarticulated, lack of open mindedness which leads some people to campaign against the employment of Palantir, an American software company, which has overseen a 68% reduction in sepsis in Florida hospitals^v, solely because it has dealings with Israel? If it could repeat that success in the UK some thousands of lives would be saved annually. The voices of the campaigners are loud and strident whereas the people who would benefit remain mute, because they do not yet know who they are.

What we need is a readiness to hear both sides of the argument and an ability to weigh each appropriately. Statistics provide us with truths, some uncomfortable, but it is up to us to decide what our values are.

We must then with fortitude apply those values and act accordingly.

If we dare.

QUEENHILL WI REPORT September 2026

Every two years Queenhill WI branch has a Craft and Produce Show to display and celebrate the results of members' efforts.

After the hot and dry Summer, there were fewer entries for vegetables, fruit and flowers but what there were still looked impressive.

As always, the cookery section was popular. The judges sampled each entry and said how difficult it was to identify winners. They, like us, were very surprised how different the outcomes were -even when the same recipes and instructions were followed! The craft and photography sections had a wide and interesting variety of items too.

After the judging, the usual meeting took place where members could have a good look at the exhibits and applaud the contributors. Cups were presented to the winners of each section, and our appreciation was shown for the work of the judges and all those who helped to make this event a successful and enjoyable one.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 8th at 2.30 when Jill Salmons will talk on The Art of the Silk Road. If you would like to join us at Queenhill WI Hall (WR8 0QZ), you will be warmly welcomed.



Prisons' Sunday on 11 October marks the start of Prisons' Week, which invites us to remember people who are often out of sight and easily forgotten.

Prisons' Sunday on 11 October marks the start of Prisons' Week, which invites us to remember people who are often out of sight and easily forgotten. For more than forty years, churches across the country have used this week to pray for all those affected by the criminal justice system: prisoners, their families, victims of crime, prison staff, chaplains, volunteers and all who work to bring hope and restoration. On Prisons' Sunday this year, the Revd Jonathan Aitken will be visiting Worcester to speak both in the Cathedral morning service (10.30am) and also at St Helen's Church in Fish Street at 2pm. Jonathan's journey from a high-profile political career to time spent in prison for perjury, to his ordination and current role as a priest and part time prison chaplain at HMP Pentonville is a remarkably transformative one. His afternoon talk will be on the subject 'From Prisoner to Prison Chaplain to Prison Reformer'. A painting by a prisoner depicting his journey to faith. The event has been organised by the diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group which seeks to promote awareness of criminal justice issues. When we hear the word "prison", it can be easy to think only of those serving sentences. Yet the impact of imprisonment reaches much further. Families can be separated, relationships strained and futures left uncertain. Victims continue to live with the consequences of crime, while prison officers, chaplains and support workers carry significant responsibilities each day. Prisons' Week encourages us to hold all these people in our prayers and reminds us that prayer should move us towards action. Whether through volunteering, supporting families, writing letters, offering practical help or simply challenging stigma, we can all play a part in building communities of hope and restoration.

Tirley Christmas Table Top Sale

Saturday 14th November

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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.

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
1st November All Saints Day	Queenhill Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revelation 7:9-end 1 John 3:1-3	TBA	TBA
	Hollybush Church	5pm	Patronal Evensong	Isaiah 65:17 - end Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2	Grenville Simons	Celia Greatwood
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
8th November Remembrance Sunday	Bustley Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	TBA	---
	Eldersfield Church	10.45 am	Remembrance Day Service	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	Rosalind Cookson	N/A
	Castlemorton Church	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	TBA	TBA
	Queenhill Church	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	TBA	TBA
15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Harvest Festival	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Pendock Cross Church	10.30am	All Age Worship	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
22nd November Christ the King	Eldersfield Church	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-end	Fiona Collins	Ann Ward
	Berrow Church	10.30am	Family Service with Holy Baptism	Ephesians 1:15-end	Elisabeth Rambridge	

Details of how to join Zoom services are published on the Berrow and Longdon Benefices website
<https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources>

	Longdon Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-end	TBA	TBA
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	TBA	TBA	TBA
29th November 1st Sunday of Advent	Bushley Church	10.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	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
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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.

Date	Venue	Time	Service	Reading	Reader	Intercessor
4th October 18th Sunday after Trinity	Queenhill 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 Powel-Chandler
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	TBA	TBA	TBA
18th October 20th Sunday after Trinity	Castlemorton Church	10.30am	Harvest Festival	TBA	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	Harvest Communion	Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	TBA	
	Castlemorton Church	6.30pm	Start the Week	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.

31 st October All Souls	Hollybush Church	3pm	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for All Souls Day	TBA	TBA	TBA
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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

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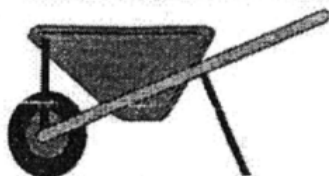
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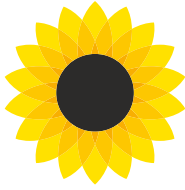
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