



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
April 2024*



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington
www.archbenefice.org.uk

ARCH Benefice: parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench and Harvington

Rector: The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley
01386 870527, rector@archbenefice.org.uk

Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
07977 072105. chris@archbenefice.org.uk

Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Friday;
day off: Saturday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space
Urgent pastoral matters – any time

Readings

7 th April	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20:19-31
14 th April	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
21 st April	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
28 th April	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
5 th May	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
<i>Thursday 9th May Ascension Day</i>	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
12 th May	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
19 th May	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-37; Romans 8:22-27;
Pentecost Sunday	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
26 th May	Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Trinity Sunday	

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www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

Didn't you used to be dead?

I've been reading a book called *Cuddy* by Benjamin Myers. It's a novel but includes factual information and quotes from other authors about the life of St Cuthbert. I used to live in the north-east so it's close to my heart. Cuthbert's body is now in Durham Cathedral, which was built as his final resting place. There's much in the novel about cathedral building in pre-Health and Safety times. Well dodgy!

The pilgrims who took the body from Lindisfarne (fleeing Vikings) are portrayed as people with a question – where should such a saint as Cuthbert reside?

And the book raises more questions:

- ◆ Do we need places of pilgrimage? Why?
- ◆ Does a mission make you a Christian?
- ◆ How are visions and words from God to be interpreted?

These are more discussion-starters than answerable questions...

The Hebrew Scriptures contain a story of a man called Job who suffered greatly. For thirty seven chapters he questions God about his pain, whilst listening to the dodgy advice of human comforters. Eventually he shuts up and listens. God asks some questions back which Job can't answer. He ends up saying, 'I have talked about things that are far beyond my understanding.' Job learnt through questioning. Not through getting answers.

As a Christian Minister I have heard many questions about church, about God, about life. I have some myself and I feel the church I attend is a reasonably safe place to raise them. All churches should have signs over the door (even if only imaginary) saying 'Questioners always welcome.'

You will read this around Easter when questions about Jesus are many. St Cuthbert is still dead. Jesus? Not so much.

Steve Tilley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 8th April

Rector's Corner

Daily prayers: via Zoom – contact me for details
8.30am and 6pm (e-mail rector@archbenefice.org.uk)
This replaces Tuesday prayers and Benefice prayers

Home Communion: I will contact the house-bound, and am open to requests.
(contact me on 01386 870527) Please feel free to ask even if you are only temporarily out of commission

Men's Night Tuesday 30th April at the The Lenches Club, Church Lench
8.30pm
Come and enjoy a pint. £12 in the kitty will cover drinks and get us a savoury snack. Reserve your place:
rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527

Pastoral calls and contacts

If you know of anyone who could do with a call or help for any reason please let me know.

Please do not think I am too busy to make a visit or a phone call *if the need arises*. **And don't assume that I have heard** – I would much rather hear three times that someone is in need of support than not at all. And if you want to get in touch please do – **it's good to hear from you and I enjoy a chat.**

Richard Thorniley

From the Registers

Harvington

8 th March	Interment of ashes	Robert Parry
16 th March	Interment of ashes	Betty Seager

Notices



The Silly Sheep!



Messy Church

Sunday 14th April

3.30 – 5.30pm

Harvington Village Hall

*Craft, Story, Music and
a two-course meal*

*All free and all
welcome!*

Harvington Youth Project

Harvington Youth Project offers fun, friendship and debate for 7-year olds to senior teens. Now in its 30th year, *it meets at Harvington Baptist Chapel on:*

- ◆ Monday nights between 7-8.30pm for 13+ age group
- ◆ Tuesday nights between 6.30-8pm for 10-13 age group
- ◆ Thursday nights between 6.30-7.45pm for 7-10 age group

during term time. The cost is £1 entry and we have a very popular tuck shop. We welcome children from across the Benefice and numbers are growing. Adult helpers are welcome too.

For more information, please contact Peter Ashplant, Harvington Youth Project Chair, at *****@*****.

Notices

BACS payment information for Church accounts

Many of us use BACS as a means to pay for goods and services. Our four churches are also able to accept payments this way so, in response to a request, here are the BACS payment details of your parish church:

St Peter's Abbots Morton	<i>PCC Abbots Morton</i> 30-98-26 (Lloyds, Alcester) 01143779
All Saints' Church Lench	<i>PCC of Church Lench</i> 30-93-11 (Lloyds, Evesham) 00263952
St James' Harvington	<i>PCC of St James Harvington</i> 08-92-99 (Cooperative Bank, Skelmersdale) 65282481
St Peter's Rous Lench	<i>PCC of St Peter's Rous Lench</i> 30-93-11 (Lloyds, Evesham) 00265068



CHRISTIAN AID IN THE LENCHES Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th May



As fewer people are prepared to knock on doors, it has been decided to take a slightly different approach this year.

Christian Aid envelopes will come out with the May edition of the *Arch Messenger*. There will be a box in the three parish churches: Church Lench, Rous Lench and Abbots Morton, and readers will be asked to leave their envelopes in one of the boxes during Christian Aid Week. The boxes will be emptied each day.

Of course you can still give online: information how to do so will be on the envelope. If you have any questions, please contact David Chambers (*****).

Called to be fools

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement – he had an influential role in the court because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians, we are also called to be fools: Paul described himself as a *'fool for Christ'* (1 Corinthians 4:10). How is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter to the Corinthians Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message: 'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' (1 Corinthians 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong' (1 Corinthians 1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry: 'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power' (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool'
(William Shakespeare).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Miscellaneous musings...

I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart.

Cosmetics: a way of keeping people from reading between the lines.

Everyone else my age is an adult whereas I am merely in disguise.

Leviticus and Numbers: what's the big idea?

The books of Leviticus and Numbers are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert; their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness* as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feasts and **Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus who, as Easter reminds us, totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life, 'Be holy, because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16, cf Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7).**

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their identity as God's people and the call to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (*Numbers 14:1-45*), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace'
(*Numbers 6:24-26*).

Canon Paul Hardingham

From the parish magazine...

We shall be meeting on Wednesday when the subject will be *Heaven – how do we get there?* Transport by bus available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

The church's AGM will be held on 22nd April.

Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.

Don't be afraid of clouds

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky, and can seem intimidating.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, **circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us.** You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes when you board a plane the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate – it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to *see* through clouds but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you, whether suffering, discouragement or fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything we encounter in this life.

And look up. Look towards heaven, think beyond those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing here are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us there.

The Bible assures us, 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you' (Psalm 84:11-12).

More musings...

I don't have a problem with caffeine. I do have a problem without it.

Sign seen in a store: Unattended children will be given espresso and a puppy.

The meaning of colours

Between February and May this year the coloured frontal of the altar will have **been changed many times, as will the colour of the priest's vestments. Each colour (and there can be as many as six in a church's store) has a different meaning.** They reflect the significance of that day or the season.

In February and March, purple was used as a symbol of penitence as we were in **Lent and trying to prepare ourselves for Christ's final act of love for each of us.**

Holy Week, the time of Christ's final journey, was denoted by the colour red.

Red, the colour of blood, is used for feasts of martyrs as well as those for the Holy Spirit – **when it more likely represents his flames of 'fire' which rested on those in the Upper Room.**

On Maundy Thursday, we switched to white for any Communion service, as this celebrates the remembrance of the first Communion with His apostles which He commanded us to continue. On Good Friday, we were back to red again.

Then on Easter Sunday, the day of the greatest Christian celebration, we entered **to an altar bedecked in gold or the 'whitest' with the most elaborate decoration** the church possesses.

'Plain' white will be used for the Easter season, signifying purity and Christ's triumph over death, until Ascension Day on 9th May. This, being a special and more significant day in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, goes to gold again: then immediately back to white for the next ten days.

On the day of Pentecost itself, Whit Sunday, 19th May, the colour will be? Yes, you got it: red for flames of fire. Pentecost was, and remains, a Jewish festival. At the time of Jesus, it was a joyful celebration of the first fruits of the harvest, which was why all the apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem, as was expected of all Jewish men.

As the apostles gathered following Jesus' Ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon them. This is what Christians celebrate at Pentecost, and therefore the colour is red. The following day the colour changes to green, and remains green until **the Feast of All Saints' at the end of October, which will be white.**

Next time you're in church, take a look at the altar and see what colour it is wearing.

Rev'd Jo White

Why a church should always resist change...

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least, whose elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to his nephew Darren, a recently-ordained low-church curate...

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am not surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent light bulbs to energy-saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly **adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy I** was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, your suggestion that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said **the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus** – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and **the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church** – not explaining why, if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly, **mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.**

Your suggestion did serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Abbots Morton
St Peter's Church

(www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church)

FOOTPATH AND HEDGEROWS

A very big 'thank you' to Pippa Heenan, Guy Ledger and Martyn Walton for their improvements to the footpath at the top of the church steps. It is now a much smoother tarmac surface approaching the new gates.

The gaps in the hedge around the northern boundary of the churchyard have been filled. The PCC bought a total of 75 hawthorn whips which have been planted by John Hulse and his wife Janet. We are so grateful to both of them.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Flower Festival weekend will be on Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th June.
Please make a note in your diary.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU

St Peter's urgently needs people to join the PCC. If you would like to be involved in looking after our Church, please come onto the Parochial Church Council. We meet once every two months to plan and carry out developments to the church and churchyard, organise fundraising activities and contribute to the forms of service used. Please contact Revd Richard Thorniley (870527) for more details.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings: the next will be held on Thursday 23rd May at 8pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person then please raise issues with the Clerk, Kerry Williamson, at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

There is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact the Clerk for more information.

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

(www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall)

Tai Chi

The Tai Chi classes in the village hall on Wednesday mornings have been so successful that they are now a permanent fixture, with spring term classes beginning on Wednesday 17th April. These are led by Andrew Lowe from Inkberrow and run from 10am to 11am. If you are interested in joining, please contact Andrew on *****.

Tuesday 2nd April, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning
Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and to meet people from the neighbourhood (and beyond). Catch-up over tea, coffee and biscuits (and often cake!) There is no entry fee and the refreshments are free of charge. An average of **18 people now come along. You don't have to be there for the whole two hours... you can drop in and drop out whenever you wish. Come out for a while and join this relaxed get-together.**

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8th February. In her report, Chair Lynne Pemberton reported that bookings are holding up well, with a wide variety of events including Buddhist discussion groups, family parties, wedding receptions, funeral wakes, Church of England fundraisers and discussion groups, Tai Chi and yoga classes, and HQ for cycle races.

Lynne repeated her appeal for new members to join the Management Committee. If you would like to be part of running this wonderful community space, please call Lynne on *****.

Easyfundraising

We have 26 EasyFundraisers who have now brought a total of £1,255 to the **village hall accounts since we started the scheme in 2015. We'd love to recruit a 27th or a 28th supporter.** If you shop online and would like to help raise funds for the village hall, please sign up today at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall.

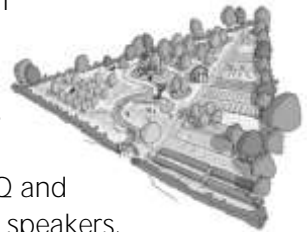
Rous Lench **St Peter's Church**

COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ALLOTMENTS

Grand Opening

Saturday 4th May, 2pm - 5pm

Join us for a fun-packed afternoon as we celebrate the opening of this fantastic garden which has been brought to life over the last two years by the residents of Rous Lench and Radford, creating a brilliant new destination to relax, grow and play. There will be a BBQ and bar, live music, face painting, kids treasure hunt, guest speakers, home and garden wares for sale and our grand opening presided over by our VIP guest, RHS judge John Cunningham.



Save the date! We look forward to seeing you there!

VILLAGE HALL

Monday 13th May, 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting

Come and find out what's been going on this year and what is planned for the future at the hall. All welcome. Light refreshments served.

PIG ROAST 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 29th June, 5pm onwards

This fun, traditional village event is 40 years old this year! Come and celebrate this momentous occasion on the village green from 5pm onwards. All the usual attractions will be there including children's entertainment, live music, cakes galore and lots of tombola and raffle prizes, not forgetting the all-important delicious pork rolls, hot dogs and vegetarian samosas plus a fully-stocked bar.

Please watch out for information about pig roast planning meetings and come along to see how you can help. We need lots of volunteers to make this event a success. ***Put the date in your diary, you don't want to miss this!***

Rous Lench/Church Lench

ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

We currently have a vacancy on the council and would love to hear from community minded people who want to give something back to their local area. It is a voluntary position with an induction and training. Meetings are every other month and are a couple of hours long on a Monday evening. In the interim, about an hour per week is needed to keep up to date with council matters. Are you interested? Would you like more information? Please contact the Clerk, Kerry Williamson at rouslenchpc@gmail.com, who will be happy to help.



The Lenches Amphitheatre



We are delighted to announce our 2024 open air theatre season:

- ◆ 16th June: *Dr. Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting
(performed by Illyria)
- ◆ 7th July: *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
(performed by Boxtree Productions)
- ◆ 18th August: *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
(performed by Illyria)
- ◆ 8th September: *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare
(performed by Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company)

For more information, ticket prices and bookings please visit www.lenchestheatre.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Church Lench First School News

New Christian value

Our Christian value this term is *Hope*. Christians see the hope in God's promise 'that love and goodness have, and will ultimately, overcome all evil'. This hope is manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will be looking at many Bible stories that show hope in many forms including Noah's Ark, Simeon, Jonah and the Whale and of course the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Experience Easter!

We organised a fabulous day in school to learn about the Easter story. As part of the day, we invited members of our community to come and deliver stories and information about the six aspects:

1. Future hopes - Palm Sunday
2. Servant King - Washing of Disciples' feet
3. Remember me - Last Supper
4. Alone - Garden of Gethsemane
5. Hope - The Cross
6. New life - Resurrection



We would like to thank all our volunteers who gave up their time to come and be a part of *Experience Easter!* It was a truly spiritual and memorable day.

Trips and visits

In February, as part of their learning about 'who is Jewish and how do they live?' many of our class 2 pupils visited Singers Hill Synagogue in Birmingham. Their guide Jeremy showed them round the magnificent building and they learned so much from him and had a really lovely time.

Later that month, class 3 pupils attended the local schools' dance festival at the Henrician Arts Centre in Evesham. Over the past few weeks, they worked very hard to practise their class dance to *The Time Warp*. On the day, the children performed on stage brilliantly in front of a large audience! Well done to all our class 3 pupils who were an absolute credit to the school!

Mrs S Price, Headteacher



Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

FLOWER ROTA

13 th April	Nadine Woakes
27 th April	Joy & Jacky
11 th May	Jane Tinson

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Friday 28th - Sunday 30th June

We trust all flower arrangers and scarecrow builders are feeling inspired by this year's theme of HOLIDAYS and are already thinking about their exhibits! Be it sunhats and beach balls, snorkels or snowboards, camping or climbing, we hope you will have fun designing and assembling your amazing creations.

In addition to the floral arrangements and scarecrow trail, we hope to have many village gardens open to the public together with plant sales, craft stalls and refreshments in the Village Hall. The weekend will begin on Friday evening with musical entertainment – more details next month.

If you would like to know more, or be involved in any way, please contact Lyndall (*****) or Nadine (*****) or one of the following:

- ◆ Open gardens: Chris Cross (*****@*****) or Lara Hailwood Sparkes (*****@*****)
- ◆ Scarecrows: Lyndall Bagnall (*****)
- ◆ Plant sales: Mike Knight (*****@*****)
- ◆ Craft stalls: Nadine Woakes (*****, *****@*****)

LENCHES WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 15th April, at 2pm in The Lenches Club, when Ian Pickering (of *Vale Magazine* fame) will be speaking on *Weather and Beyond*. It should be a fun afternoon!

Visitors are always given a warm welcome – just come along on the day or contact Jean Houlton, Lenches WI Secretary, on ***** for further details.

South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

*****, clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Meetings of the Parish Council

Information can be found on the notice board in Atch Lench, the Parish Council website and the Lenches Community Facebook page. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Meetings are held every two months: January, March, May, July, September and November.

Home and property security

The Community Safety Team from Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils are offering any parishes and community groups an event on *Home and Property Security* for around two hours during an evening (or potentially a Saturday morning).

Though Malvern Hills and Wychavon are both low crime districts, there are simple steps everyone can take to further reduce the chances of theft and burglary occurring. These events are free for anyone to attend and we will be able to discuss any home and property security concerns and offer advice. The Community Safety Officers can provide examples of effective home and property security and offer property security marking for small items, and security marking for bicycles.

If your group is interested and there is a local suitable venue, please let us know and we can liaise on a venue, date and time. We can also be available for any parish or community events you may be planning for this year, such as fetes or shows etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Elliott Nixon, Community Safety Officer, by e-mailing communitysafety@malvernhillsgov.uk.



Church Lench

VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 20th April: *Confetti*

Will Jackson presents this one-man comedy as he invites you to join uptight and unlucky-in-love **Felix in the week leading up to his best friend's wedding.**

From surprise hen night to wedding reception, this star-crossed 'mate of honour' is determined everything will be perfect... as long as there aren't any distractions! Shining the spotlight on the often side-lined best friend, we follow Felix on his own whirlwind adventure in pursuit of a happy ending.

This 'confidently executed, comic tale of love, lust and canapés' (Edinburgh Fringe Review) guarantees a great night out for all.

Tickets cost £12.50 and are available from all Church Lench Village Hall Committee members.

Saturday 11th May, 9-10.30am: *Big Brunch*

Tickets cost £10 per adult, £5 for children 12 and under. *Save the date!*

Hiring the hall

Interested in hiring the hall? For booking enquiries, please contact Bev Gillis at clvillagehallbookings@gmail.com and see our pages on www.thelenches.org.uk.



THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

All new members are made very welcome

*New course for 9-13-year-olds on Mondays at 5pm
for beginners or young players who have not had coaching*

Adult and junior coaching courses available as usual
1 hour coaching for only £6 per child, £7 adults, £8 non-members

Membership is not necessary to take part in coaching courses

Adults: contact *****@*****;

Juniors: contact *****@*****

For membership see www.thelenches.org.uk/lenches-tennis



Harvington First School News

Fundraising at Harvington First School

At Harvington we believe it's really important to help those less fortunate than ourselves so as charity ministers we have chosen a number of charities to support this year. Here are some of the things we have been getting up to:



October: **At our school's first event we raised money for the British Heart Foundation.** We dressed in red and some of us designed our own heart badges and we raised a total of £157.24!

November: Our second fundraising event was to raise money for Children in Need. Our clothing choice was to either wear something spotty or you could even create your own spotty top! In total we raised a massive £365.88!



December: **This next event wasn't to raise money but to think about others by doing a kind deed, tidying our rooms, helping cook a meal, giving some toys to a charity or telling someone why we think they're great.**



January: In January we did a *Pet-tastic* quiz. Mr Arthur came into school with his guide dog puppy Becca and did an amazing assembly. The quiz part was where we got a **photo of staff's pets and a clue and you had to guess**

which pet belonged to who! We raised £80 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

February: In February we raised money for a young girl in Tanzania so she could go to school. Her name is Agnita and we support her school as well. It is called Bishop Chitemo Primary School. We raised £165.52 for Agnita and her school!



March: Our next fundraising event is Red Nose Day and we hope to raise lots of money! So watch this space!! *(Editor: this was written before Red Nose Day on 15th March)*

Abbigail and Lara
Charity Minsters (Year 5)

Harvington St James' Church

FAITH TODAY

Friday 12th April, 10am at Breslau, Leys Rd

The topic for April is the *Jesus the Rebel* and the discussion will be led by Clive Allen. This sounds a very unusual subject because we think of Jesus Christ as someone who came to this world showing love and mercy, but he obviously he had another side to him. Please join us for this in-depth conversation and learn more about the fascinating Jesus!

Coffee, tea and biscuits are always served with love. If you have any questions, please contact Sophie (***** , *****@*****).

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 10th April, 3pm in St James' Church

Spring is here and our CAMEO teas have returned to St James' Church! Come and join us for tea and cakes and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. For more information, please get in touch with Sophie (***** , *****@*****). We look forward to seeing you!

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 13th April, 9.30am-12noon

As I'm writing this, the snowdrops are putting on a beautiful show in the church gardens but winter still seems to be with us. However, it should be spring by the time we meet on Saturday 13th April and, with the help of Joy and Julian, there will be a list of jobs for our loyal team to tackle.

Please spare a little of your day to come and help the gardening team. I cannot promise good weather, but I can promise good company and a break around 11am for tea, coffee and more chat.

Clive Allen

See overleaf for more news from Harvington

Harvington

FILM NIGHT

Friday 19th April, 7.15pm: *A Haunting in Venice* (cert 12)

The third and likely final Kenneth Branagh Poirot adaptation is based on (but heavily modified from) the Agatha Christie novel *Hallowe'en Party*, a later book in the series. In post-World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to once again uncover the killer.

Doors open 7.15 pm; screen illumination 7.45pm

Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £2.50 and see the film for free!

Provide your own glasses, drinks and nibbles, and please take away all rubbish

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)

The Community Support Group are a small team of volunteers who are available to support residents needing a hand at any time. All our volunteers are DBS checked. So if you or anyone you know needs help, we are often able to assist with:

- ◆ transport for appointments or shopping
- ◆ small DIY jobs or gardening
- ◆ dealing with admin eg form-filling
- ◆ a friendly visit or chat, or sit-in while a carer takes a short break

There may be bigger concerns where we may be able to give advice or point you in the right direction. So, if you need help please contact the co-ordinators, Wendy and Konrad Monks, on ***** (leave a message if we don't answer and we will get back to you).



Financial emergency? Extra help needed? Live in Harvington?

St James' Church manages an emergency fund on behalf of the community. If you need a little financial assistance, please call *** and we will offer what support we can.**

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Key to Church Services

BCP Book of Common Prayer
Service

*All other communion services use
the Common Worship liturgy*

ARCH Benefice May 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
5 th May		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
Thursday 9 th May Ascension Day				11am Holy Communion
12 th May	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	10am Rogation with Harvington Baptist Church
19 th May Pentecost Sunday		11am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Holy Communion
Wednesday 22 nd May				11am Holy Communion
26 th May Trinity Sunday	11am Rogation		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion

ARCH Benefice April 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
7 th April		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
Wednesday 10 th April				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
14 th April	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service followed by APCM	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington Village Hall
21 st April		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
Wednesday 24 th April				11am Holy Communion
28 th April	11am Morning Service		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion