



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
March 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

3rd March Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:7-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;
John 2:13-22

10th March 1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 127:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17;
Mothering Sunday John 19:25b-27

17th March Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10;
John 12:20-33

24th March *Liturgy of the Palms:* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
Palm Sunday *Liturgy of the Passion:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

28th March Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17,31b-35

31st March Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8
Easter Sunday

7th April Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20:19-31

14th April Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

21st April Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

28th April Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website
www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

Light in the darkness

I had a strange and disconcerting experience in church the other day. At our Christingle service, we found that we had more people than candles so I gave mine away. As the electric lights dimmed, the Christingles candles were lit and everywhere had little points of light in the darkness; everywhere except my corner which stayed dark. Lights all over the church but my light was missing.

There is difficult news every day at the moment, whether it is wars in Ukraine or the Middle East, or acts of violence nearer home. Sometimes it feels overwhelming. And yet, amongst the horror and hatred of the war in Israel/Gaza, I have heard stories which show there can still be hope amid the despair; light in the darkness.

Some Israelis have, for many years, been driving Palestinians needing specialist hospital treatment into Israel from Gaza and the West Bank – this has continued in the West Bank even after 7th October. And a group of schools called Hand in Hand, founded in 1997, integrates education for Palestinian and Israeli children. They learn and play together; they are taught in Hebrew and Arabic; they learn **to understand each other's culture, beliefs and experience. Even in these dark times, the schools are a safe place where deep discussions can take place across an almost unbridgeable divide. They provide light in the darkness.**

Today in Pershore Abbey, a group of first school children led us in worship with a discussion about prayer and led us in singing the old song, *This Little Light of Mine*. It reminded me of the darkness surrounding me when my Christingle candle was missing. For things to change for the better, we all need to act in whatever way we can to help. And it works! Last Christmas in Harvington, many of us were moved in various ways to help a young homeless man. As a result, he was discovered to be a missing person and reunited with his family.

In the darkest of circumstances, the light of one or two individuals can shine brightly.

Gill Thorniley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 11th March

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 **No meeting in March because it's Lent**
8.30pm Tuesday 30th April at the The Lenches Club, Church Lench
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
We are varying the day as Thursdays clash with the Harvington Singers rehearsals



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024



On Friday 1st March over 3 million people will be praying and worshipping together using an order of service prepared by the Christian women of Palestine on the theme *I beg you, bear with one another in love*. We will be joining them at **St James' Church** at 5.30pm.

We meet as Christians of all denominations to join in prayer and worship. Everyone is welcome to attend – men, women and children – so come and join an event that will involve 170 countries, beginning with meetings at sunrise in Tonga and finishing at sunset in the eastern Pacific islands.

A TRULY GLOBAL EVENT

Notices



Sunday 10th March: Mothering Sunday

Special services, including distributing posies to the ladies attending the service, will take place on Mothering Sunday.

We will have special 'Thanksgiving Services' (another word for 'Eucharist') which all the family can take part in. Church Lench has a lovely tradition of sharing a specially baked Simnel Cake – the parish is blessed with a couple of outstanding cake makers, so treats await.

See the back page to check the service time at your local church



Palm Sunday Services

On Sunday 24th March at 10am we look forward to a Palm Sunday procession with a donkey at Church Lench starting from the Pool Car Park. This will be followed by a service in the church.

In the evening at 6.30pm in Harvington Church, we have a solemn **service of reading the Passion according to Mark's gospel**. There will be a number of voices reading the various parts of the story.

Everyone is most welcome at both services



A Morning Easter Holiday Club

On Saturday 30th March an Easter Holiday Club will take place at *****, Harvington between 10am and 12 noon. There will be a range of Easter-related activities: building an Easter Garden that you can take away, games, story and a special hunt to help us prepare for the BIG DAY – EASTER!!

A small charge of £5 will be made to cover materials

Book your place through holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk or phone 870527. *Space is limited so PLEASE book early*

Notices

NORTH AVON GROUP LENT COURSE 2024

Circle of Life

During Lent we will explore the topic of death and life, starting with the practical issues which face us all in regard to death then moving on to the Spiritual and promise of new life as seen in Scripture and the season of Spring.

Wednesday 21st February, 7pm: *Preparing for a good death*

Presentation and discussion led by Revd Richard Thorniley and a local funeral director.

Venue: Abbots Morton Village Hall

Wednesday 28th February, 7pm: *Assisted dying*

Presentation and discussion led by Michael Harper, retired Palliative Care **Consultant from St Richard's Hospice.**

Venue: Inkberrow PEC

Tuesday 5th March, 7pm: *Creative reflection*

An opportunity to express ideas of resurrection and hope through music and art. The session will be led by Corinne Frost who is a member of Epiphany, a Christian group who use music and art to engage with God.

Venue: Abbots Morton Village Hall

Wednesday 13th March, 7pm: *Death – what does the Bible tell us?*

Guest speaker: The Right Reverend John Inge, the Bishop of Worcester.

Venue: Inkberrow PEC

Wednesday 20th March, 6pm: *Experience in Creation*

Led by Patrick Swan, trustee of Quiet Gardens.

Venue: Rous Lench Churchyard (winner 2023 Best Kept Churchyard competition)

Gather for refreshments at 7pm (6pm on 20th March).

*The talk will begin by 7.30pm and head home
by 9pm at the latest.*

Looking for the Resurrection

A couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. *'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!'* The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: *'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!'* What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say, *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'* In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them, *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him'* (Mark 16:6-7).

Like the women, we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* if we had been there that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Had Jesus been raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and not just find an empty tomb but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness, and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection at work in our lives and the people around us.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Musings...

Fight truth decay, study the Bible daily. *Anon*

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns. *Anon*

God only asks you to do your best. *Robert H Benson*

The best news the world ever had came from a graveyard. *Anon*

To raise a smile...

Destination?

Lenora, 95 years old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried. 'Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!'

Noah had problems too

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you.
For 40 days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park.

Missing socks

What does it mean when all the socks in your laundry match, with none left over? You're now losing them in pairs!

With Crufts in mind:

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?

- Border collie: Just one. Not only that, but I'll replace any wiring that's not up to spec.
- Golden retriever: The sun is shining. The day is young. And you're inside worrying about a stupid, burned-out light bulb?
- Dachshund: I can't reach the stupid lamp!
- Toy poodle: I'll just blow in the border collie's ear, and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.
- Rottweiler: Go ahead! Make me!
- Shi-tzu: Puh-leeze, dah-ling. What are servants for?
- Malamute: Let the border collie do it. You can feed me while he's busy.
- Hound dog: ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
- Greyhound: It isn't moving. Who cares?
- Old English: Light bulb? Light bulb? That thing I just ate was a light
sheep dog bulb?
- Pointer: I see it, there it is, right there...
- Mastiff: Mastiffs are NOT afraid of the dark.
- Labrador: Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb!
Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Can I?

Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie but few of us own a donkey! Yet in Biblical times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from ploughing and helping to grind corn to carrying people and transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem **on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story**, that same one who transported Mary was probably there – where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Biblical times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might but the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the King of Peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled **Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.**

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn – to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

Lester Amann

Wake up call

A mother was complaining to her neighbour just how hard it was to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble with her son. 'I just open the door and let the cat into the room,' she explained. The mother was puzzled, and asked how that might help. 'Easy. The dog sleeps on my son's bed.'

Exodus: what's the big idea?

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means 'departure', reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first (chapters 1-19 and 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 and 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:1-17*).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3, God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' to Moses (*Exodus 3:14*). This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title '*the LORD*'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character: His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (*1 Corinthians 5:7*).

God's promises of help remain true for us today. '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' (*Exodus 14:13*).

As Eugene Peterson said, 'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'

Canon Paul Hardingham

More musings...

I'm taking care of my procrastination issues. Just you wait and see.

I hate it when I see an old person, and then realize we went to school together.

My boss calls me 'The Computer.' Nothing to do with intelligence; I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection, *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home'* (John 19:26-27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also created a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their mother church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us'* (Romans 5:5).

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. *'Yes,'* she replied. *'But not the same ones.'*

Canon Paul Hardingham

If you could change one thing about your mum...

She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that. I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it, not me.

She'd be more relaxed about me not doing my homework.

Why pews SHOULD be uncomfortable...

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,

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome, but I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are *meant* to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp then sainthood clearly beckons.

Our pews were built 500 years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter and could accommodate themselves on the pews perfectly adequately. The fact that a 21st-century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near the ears at least helps to keep minds focused – apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible, although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing **'let us pray' from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria's Accession.**

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated and the door firmly shut, any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn **off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation's religious zeal would soar.**

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Rous Lench

St Peter's Church

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Friday 8th March, 7pm: Jeremy Johnson in concert
You are invited to an evening of great music, delicious food and good company on Friday 8th March at Church Lench Village Hall (*please note change of venue*). Doors open at 7pm. Bar available.

Tickets include a two-course supper and are just £15 each.

Please contact Fran on ***** or *****@*****
to book your seats. Check Jeremy out on YouTube. Don't miss it!

DEFIBRILLATOR



Rous Lench Parish Council secured funding from London Hearts for a defibrillator for Radford. This has been fitted at The Wheelbarrow Castle and is up and running on *The Circuit*. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to London Hearts for the funding and The Wheelbarrow Castle for allowing this life-saving equipment to be sited here so it is available 24/7 in an emergency.

London Hearts have provided a video containing a professionally-recorded full demonstration training session, including FAQs, which is definitely worth watching: www.vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5.

There is also a defibrillator available at Rous Lench Village Hall.

VILLAGE HALL

The hall is currently undergoing extensive works due to the discovery of dry rot. The committee is dealing with this but the hall may be unavailable whilst repairs take place. The committee apologises for any inconvenience caused and hopes that the hall is soon up and running as normal again.

There will be no more pub nights until the autumn. Thank you to everyone who hosted a pub night and to those who supported them.

Rous Lench

ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings: the next will be held on Monday 18th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person, please raise issues with the Clerk at rouslenchpc@gmail.com.


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 (details above), who will be happy to help.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – THANK YOU

Rous Lench and Inkberrow RBL would like to thank everyone who donated to the branch Poppy Appeal in 2023 by way of collection boxes, coffee mornings and events. We raised £8,412.41 towards the national appeal.

THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

GOOD NEWS!!!



A new LTA Youth Start coaching course for 4-7 year olds starts in April. The LTA will send each child a tennis racquet, balls and LTA T-shirt. All this and 6 coaching sessions for £29.99

For more information, see www.clubspark.lta.org.uk or e-mail valetenniscoaching@gmail.com

Other adult and junior coaching courses available as usual

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

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

Membership: contact *****@*****

Membership is not necessary to take part in coaching courses



Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

FLOWER ROTA

30th March

Easter – combined effort

13th April

Nadine Woakes

27th April

Joy & Jacky

LENT LUNCHESES

There will be three more lunches this month on Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th March in the Lenches Club between 12 noon and 2pm. A variety of delicious homemade soups followed by cheese and biscuits will be available for just £7. Hot and cold drinks will be on sale from the bar and there will be a raffle which will be drawn at the final lunch on Wednesday 20th March.

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June

The theme for this year's festival will be HOLIDAYS which we are sure will inspire all scarecrow builders and church flower arrangers! There will be a Craft Fayre, plant sales and refreshments in the Village Hall, and we are also hoping for many gardens to be open in Church Lench and Atch Lench.

If you would like to find out more about these events, or be involved in any way, please contact Lyndall Bagnall (*****) or Nadine Woakes (*****). Alternatively, the following people will provide you with further information:

- ◆ Flower arrangers: Di Badger (*****)
- ◆ Open gardens: Chris Cross (*****@*****) or
Lara Hailwood Sparkes (*****@*****)
- ◆ Scarecrows: Lyndall Bagnall (*****)
- ◆ Craft stalls: Nadine Woakes (*****, *****@*****)



South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

*****, clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Meetings of the Parish Council

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

Free energy home improvements now available to residents in Worcestershire

The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs) is designed to tackle colder homes that do not have mains gas central heating. Homeowners and tenants in Worcestershire could benefit from a variety of measures to help reduce energy bills including internal and external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels, draught proofing and many more.

To qualify, households must:

- ◆ not use mains gas to heat their home,
- ◆ have a gross annual income of less than £31,000,
- ◆ have a current home Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G

Funding is also available for landlords in the charity and private rented sector.

Those who qualify for the scheme will undergo a free technical survey to determine the most suitable energy efficiency measures. All projects must be completed by March 2025.

For more information, including full eligibility, and to register your interest visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home-upgrade-grant-scheme-hug2 or contact your local energy charity *Act on Energy* on their free advice line 0800 988 2881.



Church Lench

LENCHES WI

On Monday 18th March, at 2pm in The Lenches Club, Terry Green from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust will be giving our members a talk on *Hedgehogs*. If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. For further information, please contact Jean Houlton (***)

COMMUNITY EVENT WITH HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March, from 12noon
at the Lenches Sports and Recreation Club

As part of the progress we are making with the Neighbourhood Plan, we are holding a community event at the Club. We would love you to come and see a display of some wonderful old photographs that show the amazing history we have, and share with you our vision for the future of the Lenches.

Come and chat with us about what we have been doing, see the photos and have a drink with your friends! We look forward to seeing you!

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 gay best friend, we follow Felix on his own whirlwind adventure in pursuit of a happy ending.

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

Save the date

Our next *Big Brunch* will be held on Saturday 11th May.

Hiring the hall

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

Harvington St James' Church

A HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated, supported and came along to our Christmas Fair. Lots of fun was had by all who came, and the event raised over £2,000 for St James's Church and the organisations it supports. Plans are already in progress for Christmas Fair 2024 – further details later in the year.

FAITH TODAY

Friday 8th March, 10am at *****, Leys Rd

The topic for our March meeting is the *Lord's Prayer*. We all know the prayer by heart but this is a chance to look at it in depth and learn a little more. Why not join us around the cosy fire to talk about this unique prayer?

(Although this topic was originally scheduled for February, it has been moved to our March meeting.)

For more information, please get in touch with Sophie on ***** or e-mail *****@*****.



Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June

Flower Festival all weekend

Saturday: *Family Fun Summer Fete*

Sunday: *Songs of Praise*

August Bank Holiday Weekend

24th, 25th & 26th August

Hat Festival with Flowers

Further details of both events to follow

*Any queries, please contact Katie Horton – *****@******

ST JAMES' CHURCH HARVINGTON

Harvington

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 13th March, 3pm at ***** , Leys Rd

Even though the weather should be getting warmer, our March CAMEO tea will **still be held at Sophie's house**. Please join us for a cosy afternoon with tea, cake and a friendly chat.

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 9th March, 9.30am-12noon

As another season begins, it seems no time at all since my last message when we were resting for winter. At our first meeting of 2024 we will be looking at what the winter has left us – no doubt Joy and Julian will have already checked and will have a long list of jobs for our loyal team! We will also circulate a full list of team dates for your diaries.

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

FILM NIGHT

Friday 22nd March, 7.15pm: *The Miracle Club (cert 12)*

Ballygar, Dublin, 1968: close friends Lily (Maggie Smith), Eileen (Kathy Bates) and **Dolly (Agnes O'Casey) win the trip of a lifetime** – a pilgrimage to Lourdes. With each woman desperately in need of a personal miracle, the trip seems like an answer to all their prayers. But when they are joined by Chrissie (Laura Linney), returning to Dublin after decades in America, deep wounds from the past are re-opened and bitter truths exposed. As they confront one another and embrace their shared past, the group face revelations that will change them forever.

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

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)



The Community Support group comprises a small team of volunteers (all DBS-checked) who are available to support residents who need a hand. We can assist with transport, small DIY jobs or occasional shopping, friendly visiting or sitting with someone while a carer has a break, dealing with admin and form-filling, etc. For bigger concerns, we may be able to provide advice about who to contact. If you think we can be of service, please contact us on ***** (*leave a message if we don't answer and we will get back to you*).

Wendy and Konrad Monks (Coordinators)

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.



They could either have a procession of crosses or a donkey. But not both...



The vicar was already regretting ordering the new stained glass window from IKEA

Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

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

FOOTPATH

Work has begun on improving the quality of the footpath at the top of the church steps. Pippa Heenan has been laying some cold tarmac where the old surface has been uneven and crumbling. It's work in progress and when completed will provide a better walking surface.

HEDGEROWS

New blackthorn whips have been planted to extend the hedge on the northern side of the churchyard. Consideration is also being given to whether the row of Leylandii trees at the eastern edge should be given some tree surgery.

FLOWER FUND

After a generous collection at the Carols on the Green, there is a healthy sum available in the Flower Fund to send flowers or a plant to anyone who has been treated as a hospital in-patient. If you know of anyone in the parish who has been hospitalised, please contact Roma Jones on *****.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU

St Peter's urgently needs people in the parish to join the PCC. If you would like to get involved in looking after St Peter's Church, please come onto the Parochial Church Council (PCC). 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. The current members of are the Rector, Revd Richard Thorniley; Lynne Pemberton (churchwarden, ***); Colin Pemberton, (PCC secretary, *****); Roma Jones and Lynda Payne. Please contact any of them if you would like to join.**

See overleaf for more news from Abbots Morton

Abbots Morton

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings: the next will be held on Thursday 14th March 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.

VILLAGE HALL

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

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are now being held in the village hall on Wednesday mornings, 10-11am throughout March, led by Andrew Lowe from Inkberrow. If there is a good attendance the classes could become a permanent fixture at the hall. If you are interested in attending, please contact Andrew on *****.

Tuesday 5th March, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning
Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and a catch-up over tea, coffee and biscuits. There is no entry fee and the refreshments are free of charge too although, if you wish, you can make a donation towards the cost of electricity **into our terracotta 'Power Pot'**.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Village Hall Committee was held on 8th February. More details in the next issue.

Easyfundraising

Our Easyfundraisers have brought in £17.91 in the past month, bringing the **total raised to £1,255. Our thanks to all 26 supporters and we'd love to recruit more.** If you shop online and would like to help raise funds for the village hall, please sign up today by visiting www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall.

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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 April 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
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

ARCH Benefice March 2024

(Key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
3 rd March		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Taizé
Wednesday 6 th March				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th March Mothering Sunday	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service		11am Mothering Sunday Communion	9.30am Mothering Sunday Communion
17 th March		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 th March				11am Holy Communion
24 th March Palm Sunday			10am Benefice Family Service with Procession	6.30pm Benefice Communion and Reading the Passion
Thursday 28 th March Maundy Thursday			7.30pm Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Friday 29 th March Good Friday			6.30pm Good Friday Meditation	11am Good Friday Meditation
31 st March Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion