



# The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You  
November 2023*



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington  
[www.archbenefice.org.uk](http://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  
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Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Friday;  
day off: Saturday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space  
*Urgent pastoral matters – any time*

## Readings

5<sup>th</sup> November  
**All Saints' Day** Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

12<sup>th</sup> November  
Remembrance Sunday Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

19<sup>th</sup> November Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;  
Matthew 25:14-30

26<sup>th</sup> November  
Christ the King Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-23;  
Matthew 25:31-46

3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Advent Sunday Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

10<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

17<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Magnificat; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

24<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-16

Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-16

31<sup>st</sup> December Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website  
[www.archbenefice.org.uk](http://www.archbenefice.org.uk)  
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

## Thought for the month

### *Let us remember and lament*

**As we stand in silence at our war memorials, let's remember the true cost of war, revealed to us through our TV screens. The war in Ukraine and the current 'war' in Israel reveal the effects on civilians as we see the damage inflicted by bombs and missiles, destroying homes and communities; the displaced people forced to leave their homes with barely more than they can carry in a suitcase and find security with strangers.**

**As we remember those who died in war, let's include those who never wore a uniform, those who will have life-long injuries both physical and emotional. Let us remember the true cost of war and its consequences.**

Let us also remember what brought about the war – why did it start?

**And let's also remember that wars end** – and so remember how they stopped, and then remember what happened next. Did the war provide the answer or did it just lead to the next conflict?

**And if it did lead to the another war, we need to ask 'Why?'**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm I invite you to join me for a *Service of Lament at St James', Harvington, where we will have a time to share* in sorrow the reality of the pain of war; to pray and receive comfort through being heard as we speak out our concerns. The psalm puts it like this:

*'Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am weak;  
Lord, heal me, for my bones are racked.  
My soul also shakes with terror;  
how long O Lord, how long? (Psalm 6:2-3)*

So let us remember and lament.

*Richard Thorniley*

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November*

## Rector's Corner

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

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

**Men's Night 8.30pm** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at The Lenches Club, Church Lench  
(£12 for the kitty – includes ALL drinks)  
*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](mailto: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

### *Abbots Morton*

16<sup>th</sup> October      Funeral                      Colin Turner

### *Church Lench*

21<sup>st</sup> September      Funeral                      Hilary Davis

## Notices

### ALL SOULS SERVICE

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> **November, 7pm at St Peter's, Abbots Morton**

We will be holding a special service to commemorate *all* those who have died. Following a short sermon and reading from scripture, the names of all those whose funeral services have been held in the benefice in the last year will be read out. There will be an opportunity for everyone to light a candle in memory of a loved one and place it on the altar.

This is a service that is open to anyone to come along, and the hope and prayer is that it will help all those who feel bereaved to come to terms with loss, whenever that may have taken place.

*Richard Thorniley*



### Remembrance Services



There will be Acts of Remembrance at 11am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the village war memorials of Abbots Morton (inside the church), Church Lench and Harvington (both in the churchyard). See the back cover for the time of each service.

*Everyone is welcome*

### Caring Hands food bank: essential generosity

Demand is *OUTSTRIPPING SUPPLY* at the moment! At a recent visit we discovered that the shelves had been bare the previous week, so we need to keep up the generosity throughout the year.

The following items are always in demand:

- ◆ Toiletries
- ◆ Loo rolls (don't go mad and start a panic but perhaps donate on a regular basis by getting an extra pack when you're shopping?)
- ◆ Tins and dried goods
- ◆ Items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave

## Notices

Heating oil delivery dates for  
the ARCH buying group

Evesons Fuels: 01905 775920

Thursdays: 9<sup>th</sup> November, 14<sup>th</sup> December,  
11<sup>th</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March  
*Phone your order to Evesons by 5pm on the  
preceding Monday*

### Advent Praise Service

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 5pm in Rous Lench Village Hall

A Celtic-inspired reflective and informal service to mark the season of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. The service will open with tea and cake (please bring cake!) and will include prayer, readings and worship in similar style to those we enjoyed in previous years.



Mike Genders, Ian and Ali Craigan will be in attendance!

At the end of the service we will light candles to symbolise the bringing of new light and hope into the world.



*Richard Thorniley*

### Let us be 'Neighbour Aware' this winter

Our villages have a fantastic reputation for looking out for our vulnerable residents during hard times, and we would like this to continue during the challenges that winter presents.

Just in case you do not know your neighbour, as you or they may have recently arrived in the village, now might be a good time to introduce yourself as one never knows when you or they might need help. If your neighbour is known to be frail – an initial offer to take their bins out or return them is a great way to offer help and check on how they are, especially when it is cold and icy.

Just an idea – and I think we will feel better for it.

*Blessings to all, Richard Thorniley*

## How to deal with enemies

In the season of Remembrance, we consider those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls all of us to a radical heroism in our daily lives. *'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:43-45).*

*Love your enemies: our 'enemies'* are rarely life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or neighbour, our attitude toward them should be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love!

*Pray for your persecutors: it's only when we are ready to pray for someone whom we find difficult that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War II, wrote, 'this is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer, we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them.'*

*Become more like Jesus:* when we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus Himself. He willingly laid down His life for us, prayed for His persecutors, and He gives us the power to love our enemies as He did.

At a time when we recognise that we all need heroes, how will we respond to this call to radical heroism in our own life?

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

### Signs seen outside churches

FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised. (*car park sign*)

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

For fast relief, take two tablets. (*on a picture of the 10 Commandments*)

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!

## The two-minute silence

What do you think about during the two-minute silence on Remembrance Sunday? Perhaps you do not think about anything. I find it helpful to make an effort to think about the war dead. I used to do some research into local men who were casualties. I had some photos taken from newspapers or sent home. These memories added some personalities and characteristics to the names on the memorials.

I also think of members of my own family who lived through the wars, and the experiences they had. Most did not go off to serve away from home but lived through the blackouts, blitz, evacuation and rationing. My grandfather left a photo of some comrades and had written on the back a request to 'keep this safe'. And so we have, for over one hundred years! I also remember, with thanks, the comparatively peaceful lives we have had.

There are some things we do not want to remember, usually bad things we have done or had done to us. When we turn our memories over to God, we are asking God to be merciful and loving, for although we make mistakes we can appeal to His enduring love.

*David Pickup*

### Why go to church?

A church-goer complained to his minister, 'I've been coming to church every Sunday for 30 years, and in that time I have heard thousands of sermons but for the life of me, I can't think of a single one now. So, I think I have wasted my time.'

The minister thought for a moment and replied, 'I've been married for 30 years, and my wife and I have cooked thousands of meals. For the life of me I can't recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals. But I do know that each one nourished us and gave us strength to carry on living. If we had not had those meals, but snacked on rubbish instead, we would have been stunted and eventually starved. Without regular Christian nourishment we also will starve – **spiritually.**'



## The Beatitudes: Blessed are those who mourn

The Beatitudes, at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:1-12*), present the values of the kingdom of God. In '*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted*' (*Matthew 5:4*), Jesus appears to be saying 'Happy are the unhappy'!!

It's not wrong for Christians to be sad or grieve, as we can still experience God's blessing (*'blessed'*). Jesus promises God's comfort for our loss, mourning, pain and hurt. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is described as the 'Comforter' (*John 14:16*) ie 'the one who comes alongside us to help' (lit). He assures us of Jesus' presence to share our sadness, make us aware of His love and strengthen us in our sorrows. Jesus has been in this place Himself, when He shed tears at the tomb of His close friend Lazarus (*John 11:35*).

There is also a godly grief which the Spirit brings into our lives, as we reflect on our messy lives. Peter wept bitterly after denying that he knew Jesus (*Matthew 26:75*). He makes us aware of our spiritual poverty, including our failures and shortcomings when it comes to loving and serving God. The Holy Spirit is also alongside to assure us of God's forgiveness and cleansing as God's children (*Romans 8:16*).

The Spirit also helps us to share the Father's broken heart for our suffering world and for the communities of which we are part. Jesus Himself wept over Jerusalem because its inhabitants failed to see what was happening in their midst (*Luke 19:41*).

**We can live under God's blessing in sadness as He is able to turn our tears to joy, even though our comfort will only truly be complete in heaven. '*God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable.*'**

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

### **Musings...**

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. *GK Chesterton*

Every Christian needs a half hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy: then he needs an hour. *Francis de Sales*

## A lighter moment

### Memorial

Little Alex was staring at the large brass plaque that hung on the wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and it seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. 'All those names,' he said to the minister. 'Who are they?' 'Well, they were people who used to go to this church,' explained the minister. 'This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services.' Soberly, they stood together, staring at the plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, 'Which service, the 9 o'clock or the 11 o'clock?'

### Did Noah fish?

The teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?' 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms?'

### Light

A small boy was fascinated by the red Sanctuary lamp during a long sermon. Finally, he whispered, 'Mum, when the light changes to green, can we go?'

### Cheese

Ban sliced cheese. Make Britain grate again.



*The treasurer made the most of his moment in the limelight*



*Given the state of our heating system, your name seemed rather appropriate*

## On using glebe land for allotments...

*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 hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal into allotments – although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden of Eden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we decided to let part of our glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity to re-live his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession, preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair and a flask of coffee. He settles down for a comfortable hour while occasionally supervising the work.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches.

You will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work: just make sure you get a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

([www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church))

### HARVEST SUPPER

A massive thank you to Pippa Heenan and Guy Ledger and members of her family and to Nicki Massey for stepping in to cook the main course at our Harvest Supper this year. Big thanks, too, to Roma Jones for organising the desserts, to Sue Bunce for fabulous help in setting up and to Hilary Farbowski for selling raffle tickets. Overarching thanks to Lynne Pemberton for all the organising in the background. We raised almost £800 for St Peter's Church.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards a huge range of produce. It was taken to Caring Hands in Evesham who were SO grateful. It went to their 'new' building which is superbly equipped to help those in need.

### YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU

If you would like to get involved in looking after St Peter's Church, why not join the Parochial Church Council (PCC)? We meet once every two months to plan and organise fundraising activities and carry out developments to the church and churchyard. The current members of the PCC are Revd Richard Thorniley, Lynne Pemberton (churchwarden); Roma Jones, Lynda Payne and Colin Pemberton. Please contact Revd Richard (870527) if you would like to join.

### PARISH COUNCIL

Save the date

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 6.30pm: Big Christmas Tree Switch On!

Join us on the Green for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Peggy Clark will have the honour of switching on the lights. Hot dogs, mulled wine and other refreshments will be available for all. Donations (on the night) towards the cost of the Christmas tree will be gratefully received.

# Abbots Morton

## VILLAGE HALL

([www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall))

### Celebration coffee morning

We shared sparkling wine and birthday cakes for a double celebration at our coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> October:

- ◆ it was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our current village hall, and
- ◆ the Chairman of Wychavon District Council, Councillor Robert Raphael, dropped in on his tour of every part of his Council's district to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the council. There was a lovely re-union with retired County Councillor Clive Holt who, it turned out, had persuaded Robert to become a councillor!

The community coffee morning is now a permanent fixture in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. We regularly have around 18 people who come for a chat and a catch-up over tea, coffee and biscuits. We hope it will continue to grow as more and more people hear of its success. There is no charge for entry or refreshments.

### The trustees

Do you want to help run our village hall? We need volunteers to join our hall committee. If you would like to help manage our lovely village hall simply contact any of the trustees:

- ◆ Lynne Pemberton (Chair and PCC representative) \*\*\*\*\*
- ◆ Pat Willingale (Secretary) \*\*\*\*\*
- ◆ Sarah Dykes (Treasurer) \*\*\*\*\*
- ◆ Colin Pemberton (Bookings Officer and PRO) \*\*\*\*\*
- ◆ Martin Willingale (Parish Council representative)

### Hire the hall

Your village hall is available for you to hire for family celebrations and parties, for business gatherings, wedding receptions and much more. To book, simply call our Bookings Officer Colin on \*\*\*\*\* and he'll make it happen.



## Rous Lench **St Peter's Church**

### ST PETER'S CHURCH PROJECT – COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm

Do you want to find out more about the project to refurbish the church and improve its facilities to allow wider community use of the church building? Do you want to find out what exciting activities are planned for both the local community and those from further afield?

**If so, please come along to the presentation in St Peter's Church. Everyone will be most welcome. Refreshments will be served.**

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10am for 10.15am

Rous Lench & Inkberrow branch of the RBL will again hold their annual Act of Remembrance Service on the Village Green, Inkberrow, followed by the laying of wreaths and Silent Tribute at the Lychgate War Memorial. The Memorial is dedicated to and lists those local men who gave their lives for the sake of future generations.

We would like to invite residents of Inkberrow and surrounding villages to join us and representatives of local organisations, schools and clubs at this service.

**Refreshments afterwards in St Peter's Hall. If you would like to lay a wreath (donation of £20), please contact Chris or Gill Bonehill on \*\*\*\*\*.**

*LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE AT THE GREEN: you may wish to bring a chair*



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
ROUS LENCH AND INKBERROW BRANCH



**Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November: The Wheelbarrow Castle, Radford  
*10.30am-12 noon – everyone is welcome to join us!*

*Raffle & homemade cakes. Entrance: £2 includes light refreshment.*

## Rous Lench

### VILLAGE HALL

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm: Pub night

The nights are drawing in, which means pub nights are back in Rous Lench. Come over to your "local" for an evening of camaraderie, cider and chat with the occasional sausage roll thrown in for good measure! Children can also come along and a warm welcome is guaranteed. Further dates will be announced next month. Look out for the blackboard on the green for any changes.

If you would like to run a pub night, please contact Tracy Browne by e-mailing \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*. It's very simple and great fun!

### ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETINGS: All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Rous Lench 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 (rouslenchpc@gmail.com).

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES: We currently have two vacancies 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 (details above) who will be happy to help.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ROUS LENCH AND INKBERROW BRANCH present



### *A Night to Remember*

concert with the Arrow Valley Brass Band

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at Inkberrow Village Hall

*Tickets: £5 (includes refreshment), under-16s free. Pay on the door*

*All proceeds to the RBL Poppy Appeal*

## South Lenches Parish Council

[www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org](http://www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org)

\*\*\*\*\* , [clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org](mailto: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.

### Grant applications

The Parish Council has allocated in its budget a sum for organisations in the South Lenches area to apply for a grant to assist with any projects etc. An application form can be found on the Parish Council website – details above.

### Neighbourhood Plan

A grant has been received from Groundwork UK to assist the Parish Council in submitting the Plan to Wychavon District Council. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact [chodges@southlenchesparishcouncil.org](mailto:chodges@southlenchesparishcouncil.org).

### Report highway matters

To report issues on roads or travel routes: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue).

### Report matters to Wychavon District Council

A number of things can be reported online at [www.wychavon.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/report-it) eg fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, complaints etc. or call 01386 565000.



*The new vicar is really cool, Dad.  
Did you know that God e-mailed  
the Ten Commandments to Moses'  
tablet PC?*



## Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

### FLOWER ROTA

4 <sup>th</sup> November	Pauline Bamber
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Ann Quickenden
December	<i>Advent – no flowers</i>

### TREE OF LIGHT

On All Souls' Day, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the lights will be switched on and the names of those remembered will be displayed both inside the church and in the porch.

### COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am-12noon

Once again Celia Hall is very kindly hosting a coffee morning at her home, \*\*\*\*\* , Church Lench, in aid of this month's Christmas Fayre expenses. Come and enjoy coffee etc, a bring and buy sale and a raffle.

*Everyone is most welcome!*

### *CHRISTMAS FAYRE*

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30-4.30pm  
Church Lench Village Hall

Attractions for all the family! Many festive home-made products

A wide range of stalls selling plants, crafts, gifts etc

Seasonal refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon

Grand Christmas Raffle featuring a first prize of £100!

*For information concerning stalls, offers of help or donations,  
please contact Lyndall (\*\*\*\*\* ) or Nadine (\*\*\*\*\* )*

## Church Lench

### LENCHES WI

Our September meeting was a trip to Edward Elgar's birth place at Broad Heath, Worcester. After a very welcome cup of tea/coffee (and biscuits) on arrival, we heard a fascinating talk: more about Elgar as a person than his music.

**Elgar studied music in his father's small shop in Worcester and taught himself to play a number of instruments, including the violin. As a Roman Catholic in a protestant majority England, he struggled to establish himself, but in 1889, he married Alice who was the woman behind the man. The *Enigma Variations*, composed around the same time, helped him well on the way to being accepted as a pinnacle of British society and close friendship with royalty. Alice died in 1920; with her died much of Elgar's inspiration and will to compose.**

Even though some of us had been before, we all agreed to go back again as there was so much to see in the museum and the cottage where he was born.

Our November meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in The Lenches Club when Paula Evans will be speaking on *Singing for Health*. If you would like to join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome. Contact Jean Houlton (\*\*\*\*\*) for further information.

### Useful for crosswords?

Presbyterian – Best in prayer

Astronomer – Moon starrer

A decimal point – I'm a dot in place

The eyes – They see

The Morse code – Here come dots

Dormitory – Dirty room

Snooze alarms – Alas! No more Z's

Animosity – Is no amity

Election results – Lies; let's recount

Slot machines – Cash lost in me

The earthquakes – That queer shake

Eleven plus two – Twelve plus one

### Hereafter

A vicar was talking to one of his parishioners, 'When you get to my age, you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter.' The parishioner was impressed and asked for more details. The vicar replied, 'Well, I often find myself going into a room and thinking "whatever did I come in here after?"'

# Harvington St James' Church

## TREE OF LIGHT

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 5.30pm: Tree of Light Service  
The Tree of Light Service will be held at St James' Church on All Souls' Day, the day for Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. After the short service, the tree lights will be turned on and a Commemorative Scroll will be displayed in the prayer corner within the church.

## CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> **November, 3pm in St James' Church**  
You are warmly invited to join us for tea and cakes and a chat with our friends and neighbours. It's always good to see you!

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 11am: Christmas Carol Service  
Join us at our Carol Service, followed by Christmas Lunch (12.30pm for 1pm) at the Kings Court Hotel in Alcester. This is our traditional way to start the Christmas season and you are very welcome to join us. Please get in touch with Sophie (\*\*\*\*\*) to reserve your place at the Christmas lunch.

*NB: this is the first Wednesday of December, a week earlier than usual*

Advance warning: January, February and March  
Due to the inclement winter weather, our CAMEO Teas in January, February and March will take place at \*\*\*\*\*, Leys Rd. We will return to St James' in April when the weather is a little warmer.

## FAITH TODAY

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10am at \*\*\*\*\*, Leys Rd  
Faith Today is a friendly group who like to talk about God and the world and grapple with the meaning of life and faith. This month, Annette France will lead a discussion on *The Sermon on the Mount*. You are warmly invited to join us to debate this interesting subject. For more information, please get in touch with Sophie on \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

## Harvington First School News

As we move through the first term of the year, we are excited that, once again, our children are being supported to become leaders in their own right. The Pupil Parliament Ministers have been making plans for the coming year and our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have shared many ideas which we are starting to put into place. Our other ministers are leading in curriculum monitoring, charity, ECO and our vision and values amongst other important areas. It will be interesting to discuss their evaluations and planned next steps to make our school an even more exciting place to be.



In Collective Worship we are focusing on friendship. This is a very important Christian value and one that children can relate to through their everyday experiences. The Bible tells us that Jesus was a friend to all, regardless of who they were. Jesus taught that God is our friend and wants us to be like Him in our friendships with others. We are learning how to be a good friend and we have discussed how important it is to be someone who is loyal and can be trusted, and how friends come in all shapes and sizes: some are young, some are old, some are always there while some we see only occasionally. I think we can relate to this as adults too.

We all enjoyed our Harvest Festival. The children sang their Harvest songs and shared why we celebrate at this time of the year. We thought about those people in our country and around the world who go to bed hungry every night: 300 million children are hungry and over 400 million do not have fresh water to drink. The children thought carefully about this and decided they would appreciate their food a little more and be grateful for everything that they are served. The Charity Ministers organised a collection for Caring Hands and invited our families to donate food and toiletry items. We were overwhelmed by their generosity!

*Helen Fishbourne, Headteacher*

*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.**

# Harvington

## GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am-12 noon

Another season draws to a close and, on behalf of Joy and Julian, I wish to thank everybody who has helped to look after the garden this year. Whether you join the team or just keep a grave tidy, every little helps and is appreciated by the many people who visit this valuable asset in our village.

Our last meeting of 2023 will be to pick up all the fallen leaves and other tasks that either Joy or Julian will say need to be done before winter arrives. Please spare a little of your day to help the team – **we'd love to see you. We cannot** promise good weather, but you will certainly be in good company and a break will be arranged around 11am for tea, coffee and more chat.

*Clive Allen*

A festive poster for the Harvington Christmas Fair. The background is grey with white snowflake-like circles. At the top center is a circular wreath with a Christmas tree in the middle. On either side of the wreath are two bows. The text is centered and reads: "HARVINGTON CHRISTMAS FAIR" in large, bold, black letters. Below that, in smaller bold black letters, is "AN EVENT FOR ALL FAMILY TO ENJOY". Further down, in even smaller bold black letters, is "MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS, PLAY GAMES, BUY GOODIES & WIN PRIZES!". The date and time are "SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 10AM - 1PM". At the bottom, it says "HARVINGTON VILLAGE HALL". There are also two Christmas baubles, one on the left and one on the right, near the bottom.

*See overleaf for more news from Harvington*

# Harvington

## HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(\*\*\*\*\*)



We are here as always to help with small jobs, occasional shopping, friendly visiting, transport to appointments etc. At the moment we are aware that the road works in the village may make getting around quite difficult for some people, so if this is affecting you, do get in touch as we may be able to help with lifts. Phone us on \*\*\*\*\*.

*Wendy and Konrad Monks (Coordinators)*

## FILM NIGHT

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm: *She Said* (cert 15)

Based on the bombshell New York Times investigation, *She Said* follows the remarkable true story of how reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor went from underdogs to inspirations by shattering the acceptance and cultural silence surrounding routine sexual assault in Hollywood.

*Doors open 7:15pm, 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*



*We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning winter services*



*The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system*

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*I'm looking for a Christmas card that  
contains inclusive language, and yet  
retains the richness of 16<sup>th</sup> century  
English and is overtly Christian whilst  
being sensitive to the multi-faith  
patterns of our day ... any suggestions?*

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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 December 2023

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench (in Village Hall)	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
3 <sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday	11am Morning Service	5pm Advent Praise and Reflection	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
10 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm Carol and Gift Service	11am Morning Service	11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
17 <sup>th</sup> December		11am Carol Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Carol Service	9.30am Holy Communion 6pm Carols and Crib Service
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December				11am Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	9pm Christmas Communion	11am Morning Service	4pm Family Service	6pm Family Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day			11am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> December				10am Benefice Communion

## ARCH Benefice November 2023

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November All Souls	7pm All Souls Service			
5 <sup>th</sup> November All Saints Day		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) in Rous Lench Village Hall	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
12 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday	10.30am Remembrance Service		10.50am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service 6.30pm Service of Lament
19 <sup>th</sup> November		11am Morning Service in Rous Lench Village Hall	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November				11am Holy Communion
26 <sup>th</sup> November Christ the King	11am Holy Communion		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church in Harvington Village Hall