



# The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You  
April 2021*



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

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

## Readings

1 <sup>st</sup> April Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116:9-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Exodus 14:10-30, 15:20-21; Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35; John 10:19-30
18 <sup>th</sup> April	1 John 3:1-7; Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48
25 <sup>th</sup> April	1 John 3:16-24; Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
23 <sup>rd</sup> May Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-37; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
30 <sup>th</sup> May Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

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

costly love  
death defeated  
life is given  
empty tomb  
sacrificial love  
Jesus  
empty cross  
**HAPPY**  
**EASTER**  
hope is given  
for everyone  
for you  
sin defeated

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April*

## Rector's Corner

Midweek Holy  
Communion (BCP):

*Replaced by recorded midweek reflection*

Tuesday prayers:

Benefice prayers:

Home Communion:

*Suspended until further notice*

Daily prayers:

*8.30am and 6pm*

via Zoom – contact me for details

(e-mail [rector@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@archbenefice.org.uk))

Men's Night

*We will start holding Men's Nights again in May if restrictions allow. I will publish the date in the next issue.*

## From the Registers

*Harvington*

3<sup>rd</sup> March

Funeral

Sue Coley

## Pastoral Calls and Contacts

During the pandemic, I have made phone calls to people who I thought needed a call and to those who were brought to my notice. If you know of anyone who could do with a call or help for any reason, please let me know. I am NEVER so busy that I cannot fit in a call to someone who needs it. If you want to get in touch, please do – **it's good to hear from you and I love a chat!**

*Richard Thorniley*

## Good news for Easter

We are planning to open our churches for services  
on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday

*Hallelujah!*

*Other restrictions remain in place AND we will keep this decision under constant review. We may need to change this decision at short notice.*

The Benefice churches are open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer. We have hand sanitiser available and *must ask you to wear a mask when visiting*. Further instructions and floor markings are in the church to enable us all to remain safe.

Churches are available for weddings in an emergency with a limit of 6 in the congregation. Funerals are allowed with restricted numbers of up to 30 in the congregation if the church capacity permits. *Please check the Government and Church of England websites for current regulations which are regularly updated.*

Numbers in our churches are currently limited to:

- ◆ Abbots Morton: 20
- ◆ Rous Lench: *closed for repairs*
- ◆ Church Lench: 30
- ◆ Harvington: 30

If you would like further information please get in contact with me, Richard Thorniley, on 01386 870527 or [rector@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@archbenefice.org.uk) or check the website [www.archbenefice.org](http://www.archbenefice.org).

Collections – please keep helping local needs

*PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED*

We are continuing to look for cleaning items, toiletries and similar, rather than food, as this is what our local food bank has requested. If you can, please drop your items into church on a Sunday or Wednesday and they will be delivered to Caring Hands in Evesham.

## Notices

Heating oil delivery dates for  
the ARCH buying group

Evesons Fuels: 01905 775920

Thursdays: 8<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June,  
8<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September  
*Phone your order to Evesons by 5pm on the  
preceding Monday*

### Get creative, offer hope in your local churchyard!

#### *STILL OPEN*

#### Get creative

The artist Sir Antony Gormley, creator of the *Angel of the North* and other statues, has invited the nation to be *A Great Big Art Exhibition*.

He suggests we might put up pictures or art installations in our windows and gardens for our neighbours to enjoy.

Your local church is inviting you to put up a temporary art installation, subject to editing or moving if required, in the churchyard.

The installation will remain in place until May. Why not visit the website [www.firstsite.uk](http://www.firstsite.uk) and get some inspiration?

#### Offer hope

A tree is being set aside in your local churchyard for you to write your hope(s) for 2021 on a card and hang them up. The cards can be signed or anonymous, and will need to be weather-proofed if they are to be up for any length of time.

Our local churchyards are a community space which we can all use, apart from – ***and here's a strange ancient rule that always makes me smile*** – only the parish priest is allowed to graze his sheep there.

This could be a useful pub quiz question...

This parish priest and your local church councillors are happy for you to display your art creations and hopes for 2021. So do join in. Check your local Facebook, e-mails and websites as ideas may be supplied.

*Richard Thorniley*

## Finding hope in difficult times

I don't know about you, but for me Lockdown 3 has been particularly hard. The days have been short, the weather cold and the news very depressing as the virus spread rapidly once again. Passing that awful milestone of 100,000 Covid deaths was a sobering moment and the pressure on health and care staff, on clergy and families has been immense. As a country we have endured more deaths per head of population than any other nation so far. Every community in the Diocese has been affected, with the loss from Covid particularly acute in some communities, notably where poverty and overcrowding is worse. As we look to build back better, we must, as a nation, address issues of inequality and injustice that have been highlighted so starkly during this time. Two of our diocesan priorities as Kingdom People are to transform communities and share hope – we will all need to play our part in building a fairer and better world.



There is some hopeful news. The vaccine roll out is wonderful, and every day I hear from people delighted to have had 'the jab'. Days are lengthening, the sun is growing stronger and there are the first glimmers of hope that the cycle of crushing lockdowns will come to an end.

I'm reminded of verses from the well-known Psalm 121,

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?*

*My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not suffer your foot to stumble; he who watches over you will not sleep.*

Many people have found solace and comfort in the natural world. 'Lifting up eyes to the hills' perhaps, but maybe just treasuring a tree outside a window or the changing sky from day to day. My daughter, locked down in central London, has discovered a love of birds, putting crumbs outside her basement flat each day and watching blue tits and robins come to pick them up. Nature reminds us that whatever our current problems, we are part of something bigger: part of God's world, God's creation. Ultimately our help and hope come from the Lord, 'the maker of heaven and earth.' **And 'he who watches over you will not sleep.'**

May that same Lord of heaven and earth hold you and keep you this day and always. Amen.

*Bishop Martin of Dudley*

## 100 years of the PCC

**It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.**

The religious affairs of a parish and its secular business had been controlled by **a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'**. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters, but the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13<sup>th</sup> **century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church**. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves if necessary. In the event of disorder today, a mobile phone might be more useful with the staves being reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by the parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie the Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult **together with the Incumbent 'on matters of general concern and importance to the parish' and that includes the 'whole mission of the Church'**. Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the agenda, though we all **know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.**

**If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC – congratulations! You are one hundred years old this year!**

*The Venerable John Barton*

## Easter hope

*'So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.'* These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon on Easter Day last year. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions as they **came to anoint Jesus' body.** *'But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away'* (Mark 16:4). They were confused as they tried to make sense of Jesus' death. Their hopes were dashed and their future uncertain. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking, where is God in all this?

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control. *'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him'* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus' promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder!

**We can trust Jesus' plan for the future of our world and our lives, even though things can't return to the way they were.** *'There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God'* (Justin Welby).

*Revd Canon Paul Hardingham*

### Praise where praise due

Several years ago, a notice appeared on the vestry notice board of a church in Hampshire after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*.

The choirmaster wrote 'The Crucifixion – well done, everyone!'

Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

## It happened in April...

300 years ago: on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1721, Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister.

250 years ago: on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1771, Richard Trevithick, mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 years ago: from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 1896, the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426AD.

95 years ago: on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926, Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London.

90 years ago: on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1931, the first edition of the Highway Code was published.

80 years ago: on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1941, Bobby Moore, captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup, was born.

70 years ago: on 17<sup>th</sup> **April 1951, the Peak District National Park, Britain's first national park, was established.**

40 years ago: on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1981, the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers and damaging buildings, looting shops and setting cars alight.

20 years ago: on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2001, NASA launched its *Mars Odyssey* spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and still remains operational, the longest-surviving continually-active spacecraft orbiting another planet (though it will run out of propellant in 2025). It has successfully mapped the distribution of water below the surface and discovered a vast amount of ice below the equatorial regions.

10 years ago: on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge the same day.



## On the best way to run a church council meeting...

*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,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your church council yesterday. I began to suspect that my theme of why Eusebius's dislike of Sabellianism led to his condemnation at the Council of Antioch in 324 was a little misjudged when the only question I was asked after my lecture was if Eusebius was on Facebook.

I never realised how much technology is needed these days to discuss church matters. It seemed everyone had brought their laptop so they could refer to all **the diocesan briefing documents and reports that you mentioned. I've been in the diocese 40 years and have never heard of most of those papers. But then I find it too easy to delete the diocesan mailings, unread, with a click of my mouse.**

Our church meetings are far more traditional. Since the church floor seems to **have been carved out of permafrost, meetings circulate round members' houses.** This introduces a nice element of competition, as each host tries to outdo the **previous one in the baking of cakes. Meetings at Colonel Drinkwater's** – a more inappropriate name one cannot imagine – are the shortest since we are always promised wine once the meeting is over. It is remarkable how unanimity is **achieved on every subject within minutes, and nothing appears under 'AOB'.**

Mrs Eddington never troubles us with minutes, largely because she can rarely read the notes she takes. She just shares with us whatever she *can* decipher. Last month, she accidentally brought her shopping list instead, and so read that out. There followed a lively discussion on whether carrots from our local shop were better than those at the supermarket. When it was found out she intended to use them in a venison casserole, endless recipes were keenly debated.

We leave our church meetings well fed, up to date with village gossip and totally untroubled by any church council business, and the lack of any minutes ensures that I can make all the decisions myself, between meetings. I think you will find our system has much to be commended.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## Church Lench First School News

### Church Lench CE First School lockdown

We had another cold month of lockdown in February but spring is around the corner and the great news is we welcomed our children back to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March. We were very excited to be able to open our doors to everyone and begin face-to-face teaching and learning once again. We are so impressed with the way our school community adapted to remote learning but it is not the same as seeing the children in school. Thank you to all our families for working so hard during this immensely challenging period.

Our main focus on return has been mental health and wellbeing for our children, **staff and parents. We won't know the impact of this lockdown for a few weeks or even months**, but we are working at rebuilding our local community on strong Christian values. The staff and governors of the school are closely monitoring the welfare of all stakeholders and planning teaching and learning to be as effective as possible for all our pupils.

At the root of all learning is resilience, which as a school we have worked hard to foster and embed over the years. Many of our pupils will need to re-learn strategies to help them when faced with a challenge or difficult situation. This is at the very forefront of our recovery plan as we welcome our children back.



### New Christian value: Truthfulness

Our Christian value for this half term focuses on truthfulness. Christians believe that truth is revealed in the Bible and supremely in the person and life of **Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' teaching we are given an insight into the nature of God** and the way in which He means us to live.

*Mrs S Price, Headteacher*

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

### VILLAGE HALL

The Church Lench Village Hall committee would like to extend our great thanks and appreciation to Craig MacDonald who generously re-**gravelled the hall's** driveway at the end of February. It was something that desperately needed **doing, and we can't thank him enough!**

We have our fingers crossed that from the end of June we will be able to welcome bookings. The Committee is keen to show off our shiny resurfaced floor in the main hall, our modern new kitchen with brand new oven and freezer, and now our car park! We aim to update the details for bookings soon on the [www.thelenches.org.uk](http://www.thelenches.org.uk) website. However, if you want to make a tentative enquiry now, please contact Lisa Seabourne at \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

**If you didn't get the chance to buy one of our Lenches mugs or a pack of our note cards** at the end of last year, we still have stock left. Please contact one of the village hall committee members to make your purchase.

### LENCHES WI

([lencheswi@gmail.com](mailto:lencheswi@gmail.com), [www.facebook.com/thelencheswi](http://www.facebook.com/thelencheswi))

**The Lenches Women's Institute held their AGM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February** via Zoom (*who says the WI is old fashioned!*) and it was my privilege to be elected the next president.

May I take this opportunity to thank Gill Proops, our retiring president, for doing such a sterling job for the last three years. She will be a hard act to follow – thank you Gill from myself, the committee and members.

I know Zoom meetings are not the same as meeting face to face but we are going to persevere with Zoom for now; let us hope we will all be able to meet in person again soon. We are a lively group of ladies and welcome any new members.

*Jane Powell, President of the Lenches WI*

# Church Lench

## THE LENCHES CLUB

FINAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*followed by the*

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE LENCHES CLUB CIC

*NOTICE*

This meeting will be held by Zoom due to Covid restrictions

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm

All paid-up members and Life Members are invited  
to attend and may vote on any resolution

Details of the Zoom call will be sent to all interested parties

Please contact the secretary for joining instructions

*Please ensure you have paid your membership fee prior to requesting the link*

The Lenches Club: sort code 30-93-11, account number 00221400

Members are respectfully reminded that the current Club Rules are those  
issued 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and, in particular, of Club Rule Number 9:

*'Any alterations or amendment of these rules shall be made at the Annual  
General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and not by the Committee.  
Any proposal for the alteration of these Rules shall be submitted to the  
Secretary at least fourteen days before the date fixed for the meeting.'*

*Rhona Cresswell, Secretary  
March 2021*



## *GREAT NEWS*

THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB IS OPEN AGAIN

FUN AND EXERCISE AFTER LOCKDOWN

*Beginners and Rusty Rackets – 4 week x 1 hour courses for £30*

Mondays at 7pm or Saturdays at 12noon

Starts Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April

*Membership is not necessary when attending coaching courses*

Contact \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\* for further information

## Church Lench

SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL  
([www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org](http://www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org))

### Councillor vacancy

A vacancy remains on the Parish Council. For further information, please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors (contact details can be found on the website).

### Community Legacy Grant project

Work on The Lenches Amphitheatre project is progressing with the appointment of architects and the start of the tendering process for a main contractor. In the meantime, Jewsons (who had already provided all the bricks for the project free of charge) have supplied roof slates for the new building, again free of charge. This is a huge boost for the project team who are facing a very tight budget.

Because of delays related to Covid and the large amount of rainfall experienced in the Vale this winter, it is now expected that groundwork will begin at the end of May with project completion forecast for the end of September this year.

### Parish Council – grant applications

**South Lenches Parish Council's annual budget includes a sum of money for grants towards projects that will be of benefit to the residents of the Parish.**

Any organisation wishing to apply for funding must fill in an application form and submit it to the Clerk. The applicant must demonstrate that any funding provided by the Parish Council will be of benefit to the residents of the Parish. The Parish Council will not normally make grants to organisations outside the Parish unless there are direct benefits to the Parish or its residents. A grant application form can be found on the Parish Council website (see above).

### Miscellaneous musings...

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore him.

## Harvington First School News

### Our links with our community

We are very proud to be part of such a lovely, thoughtful, supportive community and grateful for the support shown to the school during this pandemic.

**St James' Church has reached out and helped us to help those in need; through this we have been able to support many families.** The church community has shared collective worship videos with the children, either through *Open the Book Bible stories* or 'stand alone' worship. **The children enjoyed seeing familiar faces** in the videos and this enabled us to stay connected. Only recently, those who are part of the videos shared how children have said hello during their walks.

**We have been able to revisit the Lord's Prayer to reaffirm our understanding of the words, using the actions to support us. We have thought about the 'C of E'** in our school name and how this makes the school so special for everyone.

As part of our efforts to connect with our community, our children have written postcards and posted these through the letterboxes of some local homes. We have been overwhelmed with the responses and thanks, and it has made the children very happy to know they have made a difference to the lives of others in such a small way. We are very proud to be a Church of England school and part of the communities of Harvington and the surrounding areas.

### Our school link in Tanzania

As part of our global learning initiative we aim to help the children understand about other places in the world. As part of this, we have been able to support a much-established Harvington link with a school in Morogoro, Tanzania. Last year we were able to raise money to supply desks for a whole classroom and were thrilled to receive photographs of these being set up in the school. Our children were interested to learn that the children in Morogoro were as excited as they were to see their friends back in school after the enforced partial closures due to the pandemic.

### World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day a little differently this year. Whether they were learning at home or at school, the children dressed up as their favourite book character and this year prepared a quote from a book to share with their friends. **The themes for the quotes were 're-connecting', 'friendship', 'care' and 'looking**

*continued*

## Harvington St James' Church

### PASTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Well it's been a tedious time, but it seems that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine is making a big difference, and as I write the spring sunshine is making life seem much more positive.

As always, the Pastoral Support team are ready to help where we can. Like everyone else, we are mindful of the need to take care and follow government guidelines, but there are usually ways of managing this safely so if you need shopping, help to get to an appointment, small jobs around the home or simply a friendly chat, do feel free to get in touch with us on \*\*\*\*\*.

We generally suggest a contribution of 45p per mile towards our volunteers' petrol and running costs. However, we appreciate that for some this may be a stretch, especially in the present circumstances. Thanks to some very generous donations from some villagers, we have been able to build up a small hardship fund, which we will happily use so that no-one need feel deterred from asking for help.

After a difficult year we hope everyone is able to look forward to the spring with a bit more optimism. Stay safe and smiling if you can.

*Wendy and Konrad Monks (Coordinators)*

## Harvington First School News (continued)

after ourselves and others too'. The quotes were all very thoughtfully chosen and helped us to make some sense of what we are going through. Here are two of our favourites:

*'Happiness can be found in the darkest of times if only one remembers to turn on the light.'*

*'Working hard is important but there is something that matters even more: believing in yourself.'*

*Helen Fishbourne, Headteacher*

## Harvington

### HARVINGTON EMERGENCY FUND

*If you are in need, or know of someone in need*

**St James' Church is managing an emergency fund on behalf of the community to support people who are in need. If you know of someone, a person or family, who is in need or if you are that person or family and need an emergency helping hand, please get in touch.**

Contact \*\*\*\*\* and we will offer what support we can.

*Richard Thorniley*

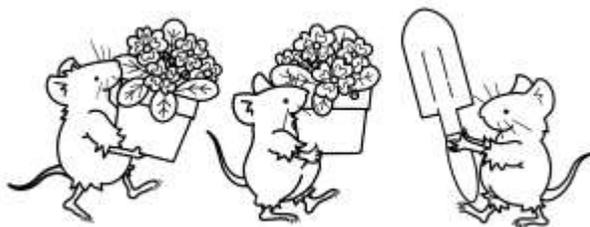
### GARDENING TEAM

Spring is here – looking out of my window, I see the sun is shining as I write this invitation.

The next meeting of the Gardening Team is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please come and join the team in the gardens where they will be working from 9.30am to 12noon with a coffee break around 11am, conforming to all Government rules that apply at that time. An extra pair of hands are welcomed by the team for any period during the morning.

If you have any questions, please ring Joy or Julian on \*\*\*\*\*.

*Clive Allen*



# Abbots Morton St Peter's Church

## CHURCH SERVICES RESUME

Revd Richard Thorniley has announced the good news that St Peter's aims to re-open for services on Easter Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April. Covid restrictions of social distancing etc will still apply.

St Peter's also welcomes everyone into the church for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays in a Covid-safe way. However, please don't enter the church if you are showing symptoms of Covid-19 or have tested positive for the virus. Once in the church, you must wear a face mask and observe the rules of social distancing and hand sanitising.

A QR code is pinned on the porch notice board to enable mobile phone users to register with the government's Test and Trace system. During services there will also be someone in the church at the start of the service taking names and contact details for the purpose of Test, Trace and Isolate.

*As things change with Covid-19 we will post information on the St Peter's page on the Parish Council's website [www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church).*

## GREAT BIG ART EXHIBITION

Applications are still welcome from anyone who would like to make an artistic 'installation' in St Peter's churchyard as part of the *Great Big Art Exhibition* being organised nationwide by sculptor Sir Anthony Gormley. Sir Anthony is urging people to display their own artwork in front windows and gardens, on doors and balconies to, as he put it, 'counter the gloom of the Covid pandemic'.

The church is offering the churchyard as a public space for artful displays. All ideas are welcome but the Parochial Church Council, as custodians, have the right to edit or move them if necessary. Please bear in mind the need to avoid the conservation area at the far end of the churchyard. All installations will remain until the May Day Bank Holiday. Have fun.



# Abbots Morton

## VESTRY REPAIRS

The PCC is waiting to hear from its church architect as to how much the repairs are likely to cost after cracks were found in walls of the church vestry.

A structural engineer has examined the vestry and reported that the problem has been caused by rainwater draining off the vestry directly onto the ground, softening the subsoil.

## VILLAGE HALL

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

The Village Hall diary is beginning to revive after the winter Lockdown 3, with a booking for a family party on 26<sup>th</sup> June and a wedding reception on the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> July. Exactly how many guests will be present will depend on the Covid restrictions in force at the time.

Another wedding reception is booked for the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> August and one for the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> October. They show great confidence in our hall and the Covid-secure arrangements we have made.

## Election goes ahead

It's been confirmed that the village hall will be used as a polling station on 6<sup>th</sup> May for the election of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. Covid-mitigation measures will be in force at the hall and Wychavon District Council are employing extra staff to ensure correct social distancing is enforced. Voters are asked to bring their own pencils or pens but there will be a poll clerk available to sterilise any pencils provided by the council. The Electoral Service Manager at Wychavon has said she is reassured by how comprehensive our Covid-mitigation measures are.

Voters will find a sanitising gel dispenser on the wall at the front entrance and there is a one-way system in operation, exiting through the fire doors onto the patio. Postal voting is being made available but please do feel confident about setting foot in the village hall again. For full details of our Covid measures, see [www.abbotsmorton.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Village-Hall-summer-Newsletter-2020.pdf](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Village-Hall-summer-Newsletter-2020.pdf).

# Abbots Morton

## VILLAGE HALL (CONTINUED)

### Forthcoming community events

The village hall committee is looking forward to when and how we can welcome everyone back to the hall for a community get-together. It will be a magical moment. If you have any thoughts on what we ought to consider doing, please let the Village Hall Secretary, Lynne Pemberton, know on \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

### EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile

As more and more people make online purchases, the village hall is benefiting from those buyers who are registered with Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. Our 23 EasyFundraisers have now raised £732.04 for the village hall. Thank you so much to them...and if you want to become our 24<sup>th</sup> EasyFundraiser simply search for *EasyFundraising* in your web browser and follow the prompts. Please put *Abbots Morton Village Hall* as your good cause.

Amazon Smile customers have also raised £30.86 for our funds. You too can support the hall by visiting the webpage [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and following the prompts. Thank you.

*For the latest updates, please visit our webpage on the Parish Council website [www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall)*

## Thoughts for Easter...

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the church. *WR Nicoll*

The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness. *William Plumer*

Christianity is the revelation of God, not the research of man. *JA Stewart*

**The miracle of Christ's resurrection: out of the grave into my heart.**  
*David J Netz*

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*

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

### ST.PETER'S FUNDRAISING

Dates for your diary

Work is progressing well on the repairs to the roof of St Peter's, but there is still a lot of work to be done to preserve the church. The PCC are aiming to raise £7,500 by the end of 2021 with a range of exciting events. More details will be provided as we go but please keep these dates free so you can join in the fun:

- ◆ Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June: afternoon teas on the green (Covid restrictions permitting)
- ◆ Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July: *Hymns & Pimms* at the church
- ◆ Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September: pig roast/village fete
- ◆ Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October: Grand Auction of Promises and chilli supper

We hope you will support these events and look forward to seeing you all soon!

### SPRING INTO ACTION

In considering Covid-compliant activities for the spring, some of us are contemplating a Sponsored Step Challenge. It would involve a crowd funding page requesting donors to support St. Peter's for collective steps taken over one week or weekend, up to a certain amount, then inviting residents to take to the great outdoors for their daily exercise and rack up those steps to represent something big. Could we manage one million steps between us for St. Peter's?

If anyone would like to be involved, or has suggestions for another activity, please contact Fran Herdman on \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

### **St Peter's is closed for repairs**

*But the good news is ...*

*we hope to be able to re-open the church at the end of April*

*Richard Thorniley*

## Rous Lench

### COVID-19 FINANCIAL APPEAL – WAYS TO DONATE

Thank you for continuing to support us – your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate to the appeal, please contact our Treasurer Lloyd Wing on \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail [stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk).

One-off donations: if you would like to donate by bank transfer, our account details are name: PCC Rous Lench, number: \*\*\*\*\*, sort code: \*\*-\*\*-\*\*.

Parish Giving scheme: to donate through the Parish Giving scheme, please call 0333 002 1271 or visit [www.parishgiving.org.uk/home](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home).

*If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid – it makes a huge difference!*

### HELP WITH CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Thanks to the help of village volunteers, the churchyard is looking ready for the arrival of spring and warmer weather. We will be continuing with the excellent work in 2021 and are planning to improve its appearance even further.

If you have a spare hour or two each month and are up for some fresh air and exercise in a lovely setting, it would be great to hear from you. Please contact Lloyd Wing on \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*. Many thanks.

### CARING HANDS

Do not forget that you can continue to leave your donations of canned and dried goods as well as cleaning materials and toiletries when you go out for your permitted daily exercise. There is a yellow box behind the buttress on the left-hand side of St. Peter's that is checked regularly, and all items are taken to Caring Hands in the Vale for distribution to those in need. Please ensure you follow government guidelines and wash/sanitise your hands when you get home after leaving items. Thank you.

### ROTARY COMMUNITY DRAW

Congratulations to Beryl Baker who won £50 in the Rotary Club Midlands Community Draw held in 2020 which St Peter's took part in. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. It's nice to have some good news!

## Rous Lench

### SHOPPING ONLINE WITH EASYFUNDRAISING

Thank you to all our supporters for raising FREE donations for St. Peter's by shopping online via *Easyfundraising* – you have already raised £41.77.

There is so much we buy online so why not do it the *Easyfundraising* way and collect free donations for St. Peter's every time? It costs you nothing extra – the retailers make a small donation each time you shop. Thousands of retailers are in the scheme. If you are not supporting us on *Easyfundraising* yet, you can sign up at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchofstpeterrouslench/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=fdrq21-f1](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchofstpeterrouslench/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=fdrq21-f1).

### ROUS LENCH VILLAGE HALL

([www.rouslench.com](http://www.rouslench.com))

Wanted: new secretary

The Village Hall is in need of a new secretary! Anyone who would be willing to volunteer for this role, please contact the committee at [info@rouslench.com](mailto:info@rouslench.com).

Hall hire for private events

Rous Lench Village Hall is available for hire for private events such as parties, anniversaries, receptions, etc. For conditions and prices, please look on our website under the hall hire section, call \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail [info@rouslench.com](mailto:info@rouslench.com).

### ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council welcomes all residents to their meetings and invites them to raise concerns or share ideas during public question time at the start of the meeting. Please see our website [e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish](http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish) for meeting dates. We are also on Facebook so please visit our page at [www.facebook.com/RousLenchPC](http://www.facebook.com/RousLenchPC) and like/follow us to keep up to date.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings – currently online during the pandemic but usually at Rous Lench Village Hall.

If you need further information or would like to attend the meeting please contact Hazel Robinson, Clerk to Rous Lench Parish Council, on \*\*\*\*\* or [rouslenchpc@gmail.com](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com).

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**PJ LAIGHT**



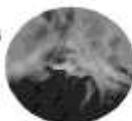
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## ARCH Benefice May 2021

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p30)				
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
9 <sup>th</sup> May	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		11am Morning Service	9.30am Family Service
16 <sup>th</sup> May	11am Rogation	10.30am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> May Pentecost Sunday	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
30 <sup>th</sup> May Trinity Sunday			10am Benefice Communion	

Everyone (of any age) will be made very welcome at all our services

## ARCH Benefice April 2021

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion		11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion
11 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
18 <sup>th</sup> April	11am Morning Service		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		11am Family Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Everyone (of any age) will be made very welcome at all our services				