

Linking Parish Churches
around Bridgnorth

CROSS+LINK



St Mary Magdalene
Bridgnorth

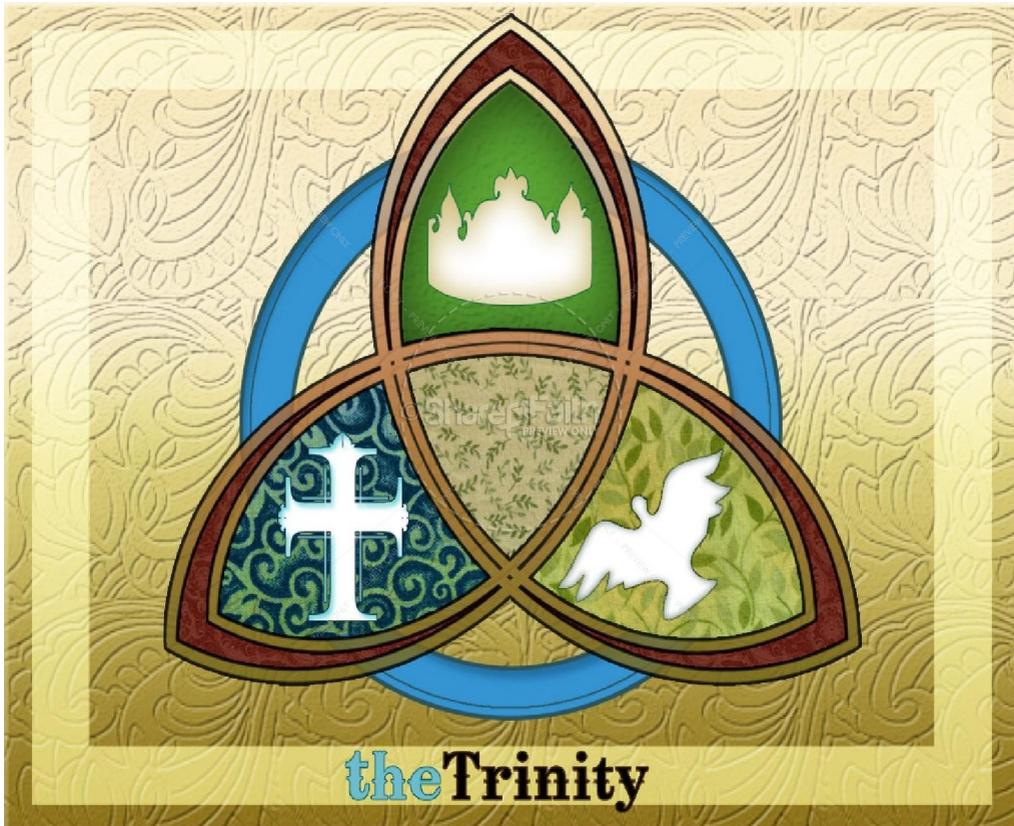
SS Peter + Paul
Tasley

St Calixtus
Astley Abbotts

St Nicholas
Oldbury

St Mary Magdalene
Quatford

St Leonards Hall
Bridgnorth



Bridgnorth
St James' Hall

Acton Round
St Mary the Virgin

Aston Eyre
Aston Eyre

Monkhopton
St Peter's

Morville
St Gregory the Great

Upton Cressett
St Michael's



News from St Nicholas, Oldbury and Eardington

We finally seem to have seen a break in the dark and damp weather that has dogged us through the winter, and life is taking a more celebratory turn as we welcome in the Spring, and the nation celebrates the coronation of King Charles - the spring of the Carolean era.

Here at Oldbury, we continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month with Marjorie Brook's oversight, though she is taking a few weeks well deserved break at the moment, and we're grateful for those who stand in for her on those dates. On the 5th Sundays, when they happen, we indulge in coffee and cake for anyone local who might want to drop in, and we welcome all comers – though the local dogs are a little confused when they and their owners drop in at the end of their morning walks; their owners rave about the baking but there's nothing for them.... Perhaps we'll have to correct that lapse for next time on 30th July.

Hugh and Roly Trevor-Jones held an open gardens with plant sales for the National Garden Scheme at Westwood on 23rd of April, and the church was invited to organise the teas for our church funds. Despite the temperamental weather, nearly £900 was raised, quite separate to the funds raised for the gardens. They are doing it all again on Wednesday 7th June for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, and the refreshments will be on again – but this time also with a Pimm's bar, live music and a "bring your own picnic" theme. It will be a great way to spend a (hopefully) beautiful early summer evening. Admission is £5, free for children.

Diana Scutt

NEWS FROM ASTLEY ABBOTTS

I can hardly believe we are half-way through the year already! But it has been a successful half year despite the interregnum.

May saw a Coronation Service, beautifully taken by Judy, a glorious Rogation service at Stanley Hall taken by Clive Parr, a successful bluebell walk and the God's Acre team tidy up. Many thanks to all who helped at any of these events. Thanks to everyone who helped with cakes and teas at Stanley Open Gardens.



Our choir went to sing at evensong at Wistanstow taken by Clive Munday. Clive is hoping to encourage another choir at his new church.

Astley Abbots is going to have a "village" photo, in memory of King Charles's Coronation please tell everyone of all ages and encourage them to come to The Boldings Farm on 11th June at 6.30pm, Country Kitchen will be open from 5.30 serving snacks and drinks, the photo will join the others taken over the years on the wall in the village hall.

We are delighted that Revd Mark Melluish the Diocesan Mission Enabler is available to lead our service of communion on **25th June at 9.00am**. Mark and his wife Lindsay moved to Herefordshire from London where he led a family of Churches. Since his arrival in September, Mark has been working with deaneries across the Diocese looking at how they can be effective in reaching their community. Mark has been able to help us with our embryonic cafe church events. He is able to stay after the service where he will chat about Mission and some of his experiences so far. Do stay for refreshments and meet Mark.

Idonea and Rosemary

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£10 Martin Blackburn 5

£10 Pam Smith 114

£10 Sherrie Ann Broadfield 116

£10 J G Hammersley 160

£10 Leslie Edwards 67

£10 Martin Blackburn 98

ST MARY'S CONNECT

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 20th June** in The function room at **The Shakespeare Pub at 12.30**

If you would like to join us please contact Helen Howell on 01746 763066 to book your place, these are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

ST MARY'S COFFEE SHOP

St Mary's Coffee Shop

Every Saturday—10.30am—12.30pm

At the back of church

CLERGY THOUGHTS FROM CLIVE

Bells on Holiday

I've visited Madeira many times but because of the pandemic it's several years since my last visit. The Anglican parish church in Funchal is the church of the Holy Trinity and we were able to attend a couple of Sunday services. The inside of the church has been transformed since we were last there thanks to the efforts of the local congregation and the many, mostly British, visitors. I can recommend it as well worth a visit and a guaranteed warm welcome, including a glass of madeira and some madeira cake, after the morning service. Easter 3 is Good Shepherd Sunday, the vicar was on leave but the Diocese of Europe had arranged for another priest from the Diocese to cover his absence.

The theme of his sermon, not surprisingly, was Jesus the Good Shepherd but what 'started bells ringing' in my head, was his criticism of the Church of England for its 'very poor' record in filling parish vacancies. More and not fewer shepherds were needed was his message. He pointed out that some parishes were being left 'in vacancy' for months and even years despite recently published clear evidence that fewer paid clergy leads to lower attendances and lower giving. Food for thought.

Just above the city of Funchal is the village of Monte with its magnificent church. A short walk along from the village square an old road brings you to the famous sledge run which transports hundreds of tourists back down into the city by road sledges every day. A further short walk along the old road takes you to the tiny hamlet of Babosas and here we had a wonderful surprise. Some may recall the violent storms which caused much destruction and the loss of life on the island in February 2010. The tiny parish church at Babosas was totally destroyed by a rock slide during the storm but has now been replaced by a beautiful new village church, opened last December, largely paid for, we were told, by local people contributing to a rebuilding fund as they were insistent they should continue to meet together as a local community for worship in their local church. Heartwarming, and well worth a visit.

It turns out, that despite the powers that be. and the ravages of nature, the Good Shepherd is alive and well.

Clive Parr

Four Churches and
Morville School



Summer Fete

at Morville Church

Saturday 8th July 2pm - 5pm

*Stalls, games, children's activities,
bees, treasure hunt, plants, raffle,
fancy dress competition*

PLUS REFRESHMENTS

Teas and home made cake



Ice Cream



FREE ENTRY AND PARKING

Note – cash only please no cards

The fete is a fund raiser for the four churches of Aston Eyre,
Acton Round, Monkhopton and Morville and Morville School

FROM THE VERY REVD SARAH BROWN

DEAN OF HEREFORD

On stripping the chameleon

I like the idea of chameleons –clever lizards things that allegedly blush camouflage green when they are tongue-lassoing bugs in a bush, or come over all dusty beige when they are skulking in a sandpit (look out toddlers!) or exude an appealing (sorry) oranginess when they are snoozing in a basket of satsumas. (I cannot help but wonder what a chameleon would make of my granny’s rose print patchwork quilt - but that is an experiment for another day when I can catch one.) My point is that they adapt to the environment in which they find themselves and survive because of it. Unless you are hoping to be rescued by mountain rescue being an orange lizard, (or even a pink skink) in the snow is a high-risk strategy. Blending in is much safer.

We do it too. Not literally but socially. Most of us adapt our behaviour, language and the image that we present to the world so that we fit in with those around us or with their perceptions of us. Sometimes it is about what we look like and what we own, sometimes it is about how we talk, sometimes it is about keeping our real opinions quiet to avoid the disapproval of others. The Church has been blending in to not upset the world for decades and is at risk of blurring into the social wallpaper as a result and look at all the “shy Conservatives” in elections over the last ten or 15 years or the lifelong Christians who don’t even tell their best friends that they love Jesus. Sometimes we join in with things we don’t enjoy in order to blend in. And mostly we know when we are doing it and remain essentially ourselves.

But what if the normally khaki chameleon is made to live its whole life in a purple box and forced against its nature to be forever aubergine? For some people the pressure to be a certain way is like that. It is true captivity, even oppression, when people live their whole lives to fulfil other people’s expectations and it can result in serious health and social problems.

If you are someone who lives as a captive chameleon in thrall to someone else or to society, history or a set of circumstances have a go at asking God for courage to be yourself. Read Psalm 139 and see how well God knows the real you and how he wants you to live your life in all the fullness he created you for. There is only one opinion that matters. His.

And for all you brilliantly well-adjusted geckos out there the real question is how we deal with the different, the difficult and the desperate. The answer, of course, is with love.

The Very Revd. Sarah Brown

ASTON EYRE
COFFEE MORNING AND CHAT
SATURDAY 17th June
10—12 noon
All welcome



New Every Morning

I have often reflected on the virgin pristineness of God's Creation on which Adam and Eve must have entered; perhaps never to be re-created in a 'mortal' dimension; but I sometimes feel that something of the sameness can be experienced, especially at dawn and at the spring time of year.

It can be a 'magical' experience to make the effort to rise early and to watch and listen to nature opening a new day: for creatures whose lives are so short compared to ours it is like our celebration of a new year.

'do not let the sun go down on your wrath'. EPHESIANS 4:26

If only we would each nightfall, use our prayers to wipe away, like a dirty slate, all anger, bitterness and failure that belongs to the past and dwell each morning for a moment on the blessedness of sins forgiven.

Roger Taylor

Tasley News

June is approaching and there is a hint of summer in the air!

The Coronation is behind us! Their Majesties Crowned in what was a Happy and Glorious Celebration. The weekend continued with celebrations throughout the Country.

Thank you to Clive for leading our Coronation Communion Service. Also to the Astley and Tasley Choir for singing "In Our Service" This was originally written and sung for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, but very appropriate for our new King. In the afternoon 54 of us enjoyed a wonderful celebratory afternoon tea party in the Village Hall. This raised £615 and will be donated to the Ukraine Appeal and to Afghan Women and Children. Thank you to everyone who supported us by supplying raffle prizes and to all who prepared and provided such a lovely spread.



On Sunday morning the sun shone beautifully as The Tasley Congregation joined Astley Abbots in the grounds of Stanley Hall to celebrate Rogation Sunday. Our thanks to Clare and Michael Thompson and to all who supplied the refreshments.

Sunday June 25th is St Peter and Paul's Patronal Service. This will be held at 6pm. There will be no morning service on that day.

We look forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning in the Village Hall on Monday 5th June 10.30 to 12md or Thursday 8th June 7pm also at the Village Hall for a ladies evening.

May 100 Club Winners

91- Diana Cooke
31-Robert Davies
7 – Mary Parr

Margaret

DAWN CHORUS

When night sky is suffused with rose, and pearled
At east horizon – extreme edge of his world,
The blackbird, to himself at first, lets spill
The hymn which overflows his heart: the thrill
Of day's return, inspires a congregation;
Rook, thrush, wren – from low or lofty station
Joining in – then chaffinch and skylark,
Mock the retiring owl and banished dark.

As the choir grows, with sung scales, flute and whistle,
The hedgehog slinks away and fox at his dismissal
Barks: only Mans' heart stirs, already vexed –
With yesterday's offence recalled the next:
Would I were near to God as those who perch –
This born-again-each-morning woodland church.

Roger Taylor

QUATFORD NEWS

The spring and wild flowers have been exceptional this year, with an abundance of the star of Bethlehem which has spread over much of the Church yard. I think this is in part thanks to the sheep who have obviously helped in no small way to scatter seeds wherever they graze. It is such a beautiful little flower. We have also sown yellow rattle in various areas which is recommended by CGA volunteers. Unfortunately we have had to postpone the afternoon tea we were going to hold for various reasons but hopefully will re schedule to a more suitable date in the near future.

Our annual concert will take a slightly different format this year when the Black eyed Susan Saxophone Group will perform for us, with additional contributions from the Choir.

The concert will take place on Saturday 15th July Quatford church 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served (soft drinks, and puddings) which proved to be very popular last year, Bring your own “bottle” is welcomed should you prefer, further details nearer the date.

The Patronal Service will follow on Sunday 16th with a Songs of Praise at 4.00pm.

The Joint council continue to work together through the vacancy and the difficult situation concerning the Rectory. Thanks to David and Graham for all their hard work , not to mention their patience!.

Rachel Edwards

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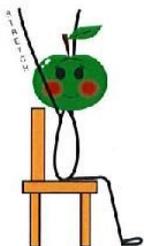
**St Leonards Church Hall, Racecourse Drive,
Bridgnorth**

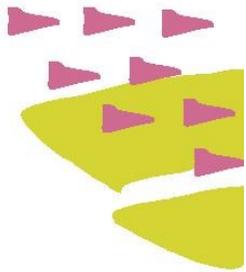
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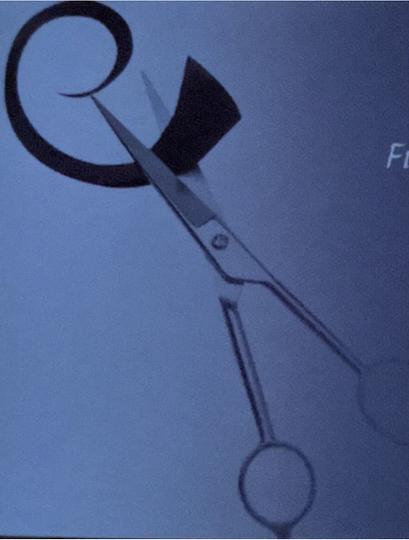
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Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

July/August

Double issue

Wednesday June 21st 2023

If you would like to contribute to the magazine, please send to Avril at the Office on bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk. If you would like to advertise please also contact Avril on the above details

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	TRINITY SUNDAY 4th June	Second after Pentecost 11th June	Second after Trinity 18th June	Third after Trinity 25th June
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS AND BAPTISM
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	9.00 Life and Soul	9.00 HC
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 FS WITH BAPTISM	10.30 HC	18.00 Patronal Evensong
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 HC	11.15 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		10.00 HC
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 HC		
Monkhoppton	10.00 MP			