





Linking Parish Churches  
around Bridgnorth

CROSS+LINK

					
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	SS Peter + Paul Tasley	St Calixtus Astley Abbots	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

## **From + Richard**

I have just read the Rule of St. Benedict, to my shame for the first time. It is a monastic rule from the 6th century that sets out the disciplines and structures for the effective running of a monastery. The rules of poverty, chastity and obedience are highly restrictive; the punishments for violations severe; the lifestyle highly demanding. Praying at set offices eight times a day (including at 2 in the morning) meant that the monk would rarely get more than few hours of unbroken sleep. Central heating was for wimps and the diet uninspiring. Although eased in later centuries, it has been the basis for the monastic tradition in Western Europe ever since. Its not the sort of discipline that works in everyday life, but that doesn't mean it has no value. It is designed to foster Christian virtues of humility, and obedience (albeit expressed through submission to the Abbot), and a growing Christlikeness.

Most of March will be the season of Lent, when we Christians have traditionally given up things that give us pleasure to focus on our spiritual journey. As our world has changed it seems increasingly anachronistic. Our culture screams at us from the lifestyle sections that the way to real fulfilment is getting what you really desire. The idea that giving something up might be good for you, other than as a grudging acknowledgement of post-Christmas weight gain, is anathema. Consumerism works by creating desire and then offering to fulfil it. But our strongest desires are not necessarily our deepest ones. Giving things up, or fasting can get us in touch with these deeper desires that only God can satisfy. There is evidence that restricting calories by intermittent fasting or turning our mobiles off is actually good for us physically and psychologically. A good lent can be like leaving the Christmas presents unopened under the tree until Christmas day. There is a joy in the opening that is enhanced by the waiting. So, as well as helping us grow closer to God, our Lenten restraint can amplify the joy of Christ risen when we get to that glorious Easter celebration. I once gave up tea and coffee for lent and had my first large cup on Easter morning. Before I knew it, I'd done three services and built a compost heap! Lent can be spiritual dynamite.

**+Richard**



# A Spring Serenade

A recital of vocal & piano music  
**Saturday 16th March 2024**  
at 12 noon



*Belaria*

With Suzanne Millington



**St Mary Magdalene Church,  
Bridgnorth**

**Piano: Catherine Lack**

**Refreshments provided**

**Retiring Collection**



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£10 Mavis Cartwright 46

£10 David Oxtoby 136

£10 Helen Howell 88

£10 Heather Walters 12

£10 Catherine Wilson 31

£10 Ann Clark 190

## **ST MARY'S CONNECT**

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 19th March** 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—10.00am—12.30pm

At the back of church

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Easter Flowers will be available in St Mary's church porch on Easter Saturday, for you to fill the pillar jars. Let's all make the church beautiful on Easter Sunday.—Thank you





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Followed by hot cross buns and coffee

**St Mary Magdalene Church**  
**East Castle Street, Bridgnorth**  
**Good Friday 29th March 2024**  
**7.00pm**

**Music Director : John Turnock**  
**Accompanist : Oliver Clarke**

## Clergy Thoughts

*Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work.*

(Exodus 20:8-10)

I suppose we all have our secrets. My guilty secret – well one of them, some I am not about to admit to – is an addiction to *Last of the Summer Wine*, as some of you will know from the many quotes I have used in sermons over the years. My son dismisses this as eccentricity, if not senility, and says it is always about someone going down a hill in a bath. Having watched every episode many times I can categorically state that that only happened once – though admittedly there were several crazy hill descents in other weird “vehicles.”

But when I began training for ministry, I found some vindication in discovering that my college principal was also a fan. In fact, he found it quite theological; he said it was all about Sabbath. I wish now I had asked him to expand his theory a little more, but it is a thought I have returned to many times over the years. Here are three redundant, later OAP, men in the final stage of life who are no longer at work – not that Compo ever was – are free from all commitments and can spend all day, every day, just wandering the beautiful Yorkshire countryside, sleeping in the heather, enjoying the odd pint and – yes – indulging in some very daft exploits. And why not? They are in fact, having done with their labours, now resting in an extended Sabbath.

Now, I am not a Sunday observance obsessive. I have been known to nip to the shop in an emergency – admittedly caused by my poor foresight; and I used to take a Sunday paper, until I realised that I never had time to read it. (I always thought that an anomaly anyway; surely purists should rather be eschewing the Monday paper which is produced on Sunday.) But we are not talking about pettifogging rules as the Pharisees were so fond of doing. Sabbath is an altogether greater concept. And as Jesus told us, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:27) It was God’s way of ensuring that humans – and not just humans but every part of his creation including working animals – had a period of rest and re-creation; a time when the demands of earning a living could be put to one side and we could simply be ourselves, take our leisure and enjoy our environment. That would allow time for both physical and spiritual revival – and it would be a holy time – the Sabbath to the Lord your God.

In our present age, when the wheels of commerce never seem to stop turning, it is increasingly important to hold on to that spirit of Sabbath and remember its true purpose. It is after all one of the Ten Commandments, so important enough to be part of what we might consider to be God's primary manifesto. God commanded it not because he wanted to give us an additional burden but so that we might actually **enjoy** our Sabbath. What Puritans over the centuries seem to have forgotten is that it is work that is forbidden on the Sabbath – not pleasure. And, yes, we should also use the Sabbath for worship – but it doesn't mean that worship too cannot be a pleasure. It is certainly part of that re-creative process. Isaiah told us to "call the Sabbath a delight." (Isaiah 58:13) May all your Sabbaths, long or short, be as delightful as God intended that they should be!

*Marjorie Brooks*

## **QUATFORD NEWS**

The "chicks in the tower" flew the nest some weeks ago allowing for their nesting material, all ten bags of it, to be removed. Much as we enjoy the sight and sounds of our rooks and jackdaws, steps are being taken to ensure the tower's sound openings are secured whilst the louvres will be fitted with galebreaker-type material to prevent the ingress of adverse weather leading, ultimately, to a cleaner and dryer environment.

Going forward, it is now confirmed that the Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion Service has been retained and will now occur on three occasions during the year. Dates for your diary are:

10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10.30 am

9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 10.30 am

8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am

This change of practice is to be evaluated at the end of the year by those concerned including the PCC and church members.

Meanwhile, Palm Sunday falls on 24<sup>th</sup> March, the fourth Sunday of the month, which we will be celebrating at the usual time of 10.30am.

Easter, is also early this year and we at Quatford are looking forward to joining our friends at Oldbury for the 10.30am service, so do join us there if you can.

Finally, another date for your diary: Quatford's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 11.30 am prompt following our regular 10.30am communion service.

**Gillian Waugh Pead**

## CHRISTIAN AID

On the first 4 Fridays in March - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Soup lunches will be served at Cartway Church between 12.00 and 2.00pm.

There is no charge but there will be baskets for donations all of which will be in aid of Christian Aid.

Also, for Christian Aid, on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 12.00 noon there is a Coffee Morning.  
Everyone is welcome at these events.

*Ruth Cole*



Music Director - John Turnock  
Accompanist - Oliver Clarke

## St Mary's Chamber Choir SOS! Sing on Saturdays

(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024** in preparation for our Good Friday Concert on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm.**

These rehearsals take place at 10.00am - 11.30am in church (St Mary's - East Castle St).

No voice test just come along and join 50 other singers both men, women and students as we begin to prepare music for Easter.

New members are always welcome.

For further details: contact John Turnock -  
email [john.turnock48@gmail.com](mailto:john.turnock48@gmail.com)

More details about the choir can be found on our website:

**[www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk)**





## **Andy Roberts R.I.P. Memorial Service**

There will be a memorial service for Rev.Preb. Andy Roberts on Saturday 13th April at 2.00pm at St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth.

## **A BIT ABOUT BETTY**

(R.I.P. Betty Martin 17.12.23)

Betty Martin was a member of the Hospital League of Friends. She used to push a tea trolley around the wards in the afternoon for patients and visitors. Each year when they had their fundraising fayre she would visit local shops asking for gifts for the raffle prizes or bottle stall. A very happy and cheerful member of the community.

When St Mary's church started the Friends Group under the leadership of Chris O'Brien some twenty five years ago she became a committee member. We had wonderful outings and A.G.M. suppers. She also cleaned brasses and helped decorate the church with fresh flowers. If any of you feel inspired by Betty and would like to follow in her footsteps please get in touch with the churchwardens.

Please pass Cross+Link on to friends and neighbours whenever you can. If we can't do anything else, we can always share the Gospel. Good News!

*Ann Clarke*

## **The Uninspired Artist**

I stand at my canvas, brushes at hand  
a symphony of colour awaiting my command  
"what is holding you back " the canvas said to me  
"Waiting for inspiration" I said, ah ! Van Gough I will be  
but wait, I thought after a while, oh dear !  
I am not one to cut off my ear,  
I could aspire to be, the great Leonardo Da Vinci  
will someone please convince me.  
Now wait, something is coming, my mind is unfurling  
Jackson Pollock, he made his mark in the world of art'  
with spilt paint, splashes and swirling  
but alas no inspiration will come,  
art in all its forms has already been done  
I stared at my canvas, my canvas then said to me  
be yourself, you are like no other can be. *Sandie Phillips*

**Snowdrops**—Some of the snowdrops that Rev. Simon Boxall gave us were planted in the church garden of rest. - Photographs kindly taken by Ann Walters.     *Ann Clarke*



## **Tasley News**

Goodness me! The deadline for the March edition of Cross+Link is upon us and here I am the night before just writing our piece for Tasley News following a gentle reminder from Bob.

February has been a quiet month with not much to report.

Our weekly services continue with thanks to Clive and Stephen.

The snowdrops in the Churchyard are especially beautiful this year. If you have a spare moment why not come and have a look.

We were pleased to hear that Lesley and David are now recovering from their recent illness and we continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

We look forward to seeing you at the next coffee morning. Monday 4th March 10.30 until 12MD.

The Hundred Club for 2024 will start in March, if anyone would like to join, please contact Bob on 764881.

### **Events**

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March** “Flicks in the Sticks” with Fish & Chips in the village hall at 7 pm.   The film is “The Miracle Club” - £10

***Margaret***

## NEWS FROM ASTLEY ABBOTTS

Welcome to spring, let's hope March goes out like a dry lamb!  
Firstly thank you to everyone who made February such a lovely month despite the weather! The Pateys entertained us with multiple pancakes with multiple toppings on Shrove Tuesday, Judy gave us chocolate hearts at church instead of ashes for Ash Wednesday/ Valentines day!

Cafe church was full, all discussing "courage" while enjoying bacon butties with coffee and croissants,,our thanks to Mark Melliush for all his help,( put May 12th in your diary for the next one! ) Michael and Clare gave us a delightful snowdrop walk through the woods at Stanley Park .

March is equally full. Mothering Sunday service march 10th will be an all age service at 9.30,mums will get a posy, and everyone coffee and cake.

On Passion Sunday March 17th we are holding a Lenten Litany at 4pm followed by refreshments .

Please come and support the workers from God's Acre to help tidy our beautiful churchyard on Thursday 21st March 10am to 4pm, the first day of spring, we could do with some strong arms.

On Easter Sunday March 31st we will hold a short half hour family service at 9am, those wishing to take Communion are welcomed at Tasley at 10.30

There will be a memorial service for Rosemary Lake on April 12th at 2pm, the family would love to see everyone who knew her.

***Idonea***

# LENTEN THOUGHTS

I thought long and hard before picking this poem for March: it is a villanelle a form which calls for strict metre and rhyme scheme and line repetitions which give it an empathic mantra-like quality, suited to meditation.

Since meditation usually features in my Easter preparation, I wrote this poem twenty years ago during a bitterly cold spring when Lent seemed never-ending.

But, end it did, with that Resurrection power of the Holy Spirit which always turns the blackest Good Friday into a glorious Easter Sunday, do the weather what it will!

But only through Christ's conquering of death is the darkness and cold condemnation of sin overcome for us. **Amen.**

## LENT-CRY

The dark insists I enter it alone  
Where sleet is lashes and east-wind the pain:  
But see the power melts ice and shifts the stone.

The cold insists this will not be undone  
Where bare trees wear hard diamonds of the rain:  
The dark insists I enter it alone.

Where woods are winter-steeped, ash grit and bone  
And flower and leaf are gone but thorns remain:  
But see the power melts ice and shifts the stone.

Than catkins' flower there is no brighter tone  
And bass pipes in the huge trunks creak and strain:  
The dark insists I enter it alone.

A mistle thrush astride the elm-top blown  
Tries his wind strangled song now and again:  
But see the power melts ice and shifts the stone.

I shrink to see the stain that is my own,  
Imploring the reprieve I cannot gain.  
The dark insists I enter it alone:  
But see the power melts ice and shifts the stone. **Roger Taylor**

## St. Nicholas, Oldbury & Eardington

There seems little to add to what was said in last month's article from Oldbury. Life has resumed its "normal" pace of quiet efficiency. We have had our two services in the month, and have welcomed members from other congregations to them, and indeed have been welcomed ourselves elsewhere when there has been no service at St. Nicholas. The PCC has met and, among other matters, has begun to consider how best to use a generous legacy recently received, and in revising our Electoral Roll, have had an intriguing discussion about who it should cover and why. . . The rules as expounded by the diocesan officer concerned have only added to the debate as well! Our 100 Club draw took place last Sunday, and winners are being informed. We could definitely do with expanding the membership of this small, fun, fund-raising venture, so if you would like to consider joining, please contact Mai Banks for more details.

As with all the parishes in the Benefice, we are also hoping for progress with the matter of finding a new Priest-in-Charge. After the two Joint Council meetings in February, at last things seem to be gathering pace. The purchase of the house identified as suitable for a new Rectory is going ahead, and by the time you read this, should have been completed. That means that the post can finally be advertised, which should happen very soon afterwards – the Benefice Profile has been agreed, so the advertisement is being drafted and will go into all the usual places for clergy appointments. The Joint Council has elected its two representatives to be part of the interviewing panel, and the dates and processes will be clarified in the coming weeks. After all this time, let's hope & pray that everything does finally come together and we can welcome a new Priest-in-Charge before too long.

In the meantime, can I mention that our "normal" 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Coffee & Cake meeting will be moved to the first Sunday of April, ie. 7<sup>th</sup>, because Easter Sunday falls on 31<sup>st</sup> March. We will therefore be holding a full Holy Communion for Easter service at 10:30a.m. as usual, and we will be welcoming members of Quatford congregation as well as those from other churches to join with us in that celebration – which is the greatest point of the Christian year.

***Liz Fisher***



*get fit  
while  
you sit*

# CHAIR-BASED **PILATES** WORKOUT

*get fit  
while  
you sit*

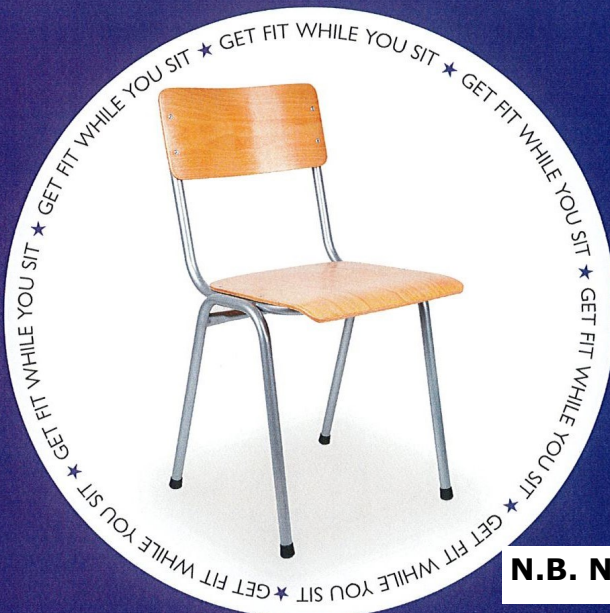
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Team Ministry**

Team Office: St Leonard’s Hall Church,  
Racecourse Drive,  
Tasley,  
Bridgnorth  
WV16 4NR  
Tel: 01746 767174  
Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges

Open to personal callers:  
Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs  
8.30am - 11.30am

**Email :**  
bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk  
**Website :**  
www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk

**Anna Chaplain/Reader**

Mrs Jane Peeler 767043

**Honorary Assistant Ministers**

**Revd. Marjorie Brooks** 01746 761942

marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com

**Revd. Clive Parr** 767023

**Revd. Simon Boxall** 07788869876

boxbruk@hotmail.com

**Revd. Preb. Dr. David Chantrey**

01746 218892

**Local Ministry Development Group**

Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271

Mrs Kay Prior 768259

Miss Sheila Royle 766577



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**Tasley Village Hall**

**Booking Secretary** Fiona Berriman... 765512

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**Booking Secretary** Charles Morris.....762029

**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**April '24**

**Wednesday 20th March 2024**

**by 1.00pm**

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

# March '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	Lent 3 3rd Mch	Lent 4/ Mothering Sunday 10th Mch	Lent 5 17th Mch	Palm Sunday 24th Mch	Easter Day 31st Mch
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ and Baptism	10.30 HC by extension
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 MP	9.30 FS	9.00 MP	9.00 Life and Soul	With Tasley at 10.30 HC
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 FS	10.30 HC	10.30 Life and Soul	10.30 HC
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC		
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	10.30 HC with baptism
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP			
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP			
Monkhopon	10.00 HC				