

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



## CLERGY THOUGHTS FROM MARJORIE

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)*

A difficult part of any minister's job is asking for money but sadly it is something that is necessary and increasingly frequent. Depending on how you look at it, the Church is blessed or cursed with a huge number of buildings. They are almost always beautiful and dearly loved, but they are mostly old and often in poor repair, needing a great deal of TLC - and that takes money - a lot of it. All our churches put a great deal of work and effort into fundraising and last month's Cross+Link showed that there were a lot exciting events going on across the benefice, so all our churches are alive and well even in this vacancy; but despite that, there is often a shortfall.

In these difficult financial times, most charities are in similar straits and appeals seem to be multiplying daily. A strategy often employed is to request donors to consider leaving a legacy to their favourite charity. Often these are medical - such as Cancer Research or Marie Curie Nurses and those who have lost a family member to a disease will be moved to leave such a legacy so that others will be spared similar pain. But the real push seems to come from animal charities. We are supposed to be a nation of animal lovers, I guess, and you can't turn on the TV without some sonorous celeb telling you that if you love animals, please consider leaving a legacy to The RSPCA/Cats' Protection/Dogs' Trust/The Donkey Sanctuary etc etc. And to add to the incentive they often offer free assistance with will writing.

The Church seems to have missed a trick here. Yes, we have finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century and started using electronic devices. But we were late to the fair on legacies and only recently seem to have woken up to their potential. Of course, everyone's priority will be to provide for their family, and no one would argue with that. But many of us delay sorting out the minutiae of our wills because it is, admittedly, a depressing task. And I confess I am a terrible feet-dragger. I have been meaning to update my own will since my husband died in 2001 and still haven't got round to it so I am talking to myself as much as you. But a very small proportion of our estate, as little as a legacy of 1%, if we all did it, would make a tremendous difference to the church - and make our treasurers very happy. **Marjorie**

# Autumn Fair

Saturday 21<sup>th</sup> October

11am - 2.30pm

At St Mary Magdalene Church  
East Castle Street, Bridgnorth

Homemade Cakes,  
Sandwiches,  
Teas & Coffee

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£10 Marie Wilkes 27  
£10 Christopher Gill 66  
£10 Anwen Arthur 165  
£10 Carolyn Cundy 176  
£10 David Deighton 4

## **ST MARY'S CONNECT**

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 17th October** 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

## ON BEING STUCK BEHIND A TRACTOR!

Hoorah!! It is harvest time again!! There you are, hurtling through the lanes in your car on some mission of huge national importance, muttering venomously at cyclists in helmets shaped like wasps' bottoms, inconsiderate enough to want a bit of your road, rounding a bend and coming up behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer. On closer inspection over the next ten minutes you conclude that it is actually a convoy of three tractors and two trailers and the glory of the aforementioned ponderous majesty begins to wear a bit thin! Hoorah. It is harvest time again. And I would wager a considerable sum that most of you do not at this point start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for his generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates!

So here is your challenge for harvest and beyond. I've learned to do it and if I can manage it anyone can. If you get stuck on your travels behind a tractor or a combine or a plough or any other mysteriously shaped implement of the sod, (by which I mean, of course, the soil!) take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should you bother? Firstly, because praising God for what he gives us should become a matter of habit in all of us and secondly because as a nation we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken totally for granted by most of us who have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food.

We cannot and must not take national food security as a given. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs. The situation in Ukraine is calamitous for the food security of millions in vulnerable nations. Global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need. Political mismanagement and the power of global enterprise in the inherently local business of food production are putting countless family farms out of business.

So when you get stuck behind that tractor take a deep breath, smile and wave at the farmer, even if he does stare back at you with blank amazement and ask for God's blessing on his family and work. Reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land as the God given source of all our well-being and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

And if the vicar rushes in late to take your service on a Sunday morning you will understand why! Happy harvest to you all. I hope to see some of you at your harvest service.

***Dean Sarah***

## **OLDBURY NEWS**

I know that Autumn is here with it's chilly mornings and evenings, but the colours of nature are putting on a great show and we are lucky to have plenty of fruit around here.

Our Harvest service this year will take place on October 15th with proceeds going as usual towards our Foodbank, where I have been helping for 10 years. Although no one would wish for there to still be a need for this service it provides food for 100+ people most weeks with love, care, advice on hand and coffee, tea and cake too. Our clients are referred to us for help by professional organisations such as schools, social services and many other organisations.

We are supported so well by our lovely local supermarkets and by kindly people who help to fill the donations trolleys, it is a joy to be a small part of this charity.

On September 16th we were delighted to welcome the families and friends of Zoe Hargrave and Ryan Forrest as they married at St Nicholas. Luckily the weather was fine and, as usual, Marjorie officiated with joy. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Oldbury village hall is having a lottery funded update at the moment, with a new kitchen on the same level as the hall and improved facilities generally, including a ramp and loo for disabled visitors. The work is taking a little longer than hoped, so please don't be shocked by the Tai Chi group using the church grounds !

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the building of the original Womens Institute Hall, so there will be celebrations planned.

At our last 5th Sunday, we held a coffee morning with proceeds from plants and books going to Christian Aid and the next date will be on 29th October, so if you fancy some cake and a warm welcome please join us from 10 am until 12ish.

*Helen Bagnall*

## News from St Calixtus, Astley Abbots

Looking out of the window I think it is safe to say that Summer has finally come to an end and we are moving into the new season of Autumn. The change of seasons always reminds me of God's faithfulness and goodness to us and God has certainly shown that to us at St Calixtus over the Summer months. We have enjoyed some special times of worship and fellowship together so thank you to all who have led or participated in our services in recent weeks.

Summer may be over, but we have plenty to look forward in the coming weeks.

Join us for the **The Romans Course**

Paul's letter to the Romans has changed hearts and lives, and whole societies. Addressing big themes such as sin, grace, salvation and mission, Andrew Ollerton, author of *The Bible Course*, will be your guide on an inspiring ten-session journey through Romans.

**Every Monday evening starting 2<sup>nd</sup> October @ 7.15pm at Oakland**

If interested, please contact Graham and Rosemary Patey: 01746 769125

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Caring for God's Acre will be visiting St Calixtus to help us with some conservation work in our church yard. If you can spare some time that day, between 10.00am & 3.00pm do come along and work with other volunteers to make our churchyard a place that is enjoyed by wildlife and our community. There will of course, be plenty of delicious cake to keep our energy levels up!

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** We have our next Café Church at Astley Abbots Village Hall from 10.00 am to 11.00am. All in our community are welcome to join us as we meet and take a fresh look at a 'life' issue from a Christian perspective. Seated around tables instead of in rows, we drink tea & coffee and eat croissants (oh, and bacon butties).

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** We celebrate Harvest with our service @ 5.00pm at St Calixtus followed by our Harvest Supper @ 6.00pm in the village hall, with live music from 'Old Bones Dance Band'. Tickets are £10, bring your own

drinks. Our collection from the service and any donations of food will be given to the Bridgnorth Food Bank.

Finally, we send our congratulations to Lucy & Matthew Cullis on the birth of their baby boy, Arthur.

**Judy**

## **Tasley News**

We start this months News with sadness. Most of you will have already heard that Thelma has sadly passed away after a very brave fight. She was a much loved member and friend of us all at Tasley. Our thoughts and Prayers are with all her family.

We hope all who took part in the annual Ride+Stride on the 9th September enjoyed the good weather on the day and raised valuable funds for the Historic Churches Trust.

Our **Harvest Festival** takes place on the 8th October at 10.30am. Followed on Monday evening by our **Harvest Supper** at 7pm.

The next coffee morning will be on the 2nd October. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Sept 100 Club Winners**

1 -59 – Val Stoker

2- 52 – Jo Walker

3- 73 – Mal Holland

### **Events**

**Sat – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Flicks in the Sticks with Fish & Chips – “The Good Liar” in the village hall at 7pm. £10

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov** –Flicks in the Sticks with Fish & Chips – “Golden Years” in the village hall at 7pm. £10

**Margaret**

## Quatford News

It's a fairly quiet time of year liturgically as we continue to plough our way through Trinity but there is a lot to look forward to over the next couple of months. In September we had Ride and Stride and had ten visitors – and by the time you read this we will have had our Harvest Service – Evensong on 24<sup>th</sup> – when we will have been joined by the choir and hopefully had a good attendance as we once again use the occasion to make a collection for Bridgnorth Food Bank.

Forthcoming events include the Quiz Night/Fish and Chip Supper at Tony's at 7pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. We have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday on 29<sup>th</sup> so no service but you will be welcome for coffee, cake and chat. Then we shall have our usual Remembrance Service on 12<sup>th</sup> November - and check in the next magazine for details of the Christmas services.

But the news most on our mind at the moment is the sad loss of Alison England on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Despite her long fight with illness, she remained upbeat and cheerful and enriched all our lives. Sadly, it proved impossible to find a viable liver for a transplant and so she lost that last battle but passed away peacefully and painlessly, supported by the prayers of all her friends. Her cremation and funeral service will have already taken place – on 27<sup>th</sup> September – by the time you read this, and I know many of you will have been there, including the choir of which she was a faithful member for so many years. RIP, Ali.

***Marjorie***

## The Story of Luke

*On 18<sup>th</sup> October we celebrate St Luke's Day. Here is a reminder of his life and work, "in his own words."*

I don't suppose people know much about me personally. I don't like to talk about myself a lot but I thought you might like to know how it came about that I spent so much of my life writing. And it is my writings rather than myself that I hope will become well known, and that they will help people to learn about Jesus and the beginnings of his church.

First, you should know that I am not a Jew, so I did not know much about their history and culture, except as an observer. I came from the Greek speaking city of Antioch. The Greeks there were the best educated, informed and cultured people in Europe - indeed in the Empire. They were great seekers after truth; and I was brought up in that tradition. I was well-educated but taught to think for myself. I wanted to help people so I trained as a doctor - Greeks made the best doctors too. Paul himself once called me his "Beloved physician."

As time went on, I began to travel a great deal, to learn more of the people and countries around me. On one trip, I met Paul and his companions. I thought at first that they were Jews and so they were by birth and upbringing. But now they called themselves "Followers of the Way." Later they would be called Christians. They were travelling around to as many important cities as they could to tell the people about a man called Jesus, who, they claimed had died to save his people. I said I was brought up to seek the truth, and when I heard this story of Jesus, I knew I had found it. I, too, became a Christian.

I decided then to give up my work for the time being - although it gave me a good living - and travel with Paul and his companions to help them spread the word about this Christ. Paul was already a well-seasoned traveller. He had visited many of the cities of Asia Minor which later became the country of Turkey and he had finally reached the coast at the port of Troas. And that was where I caught up with him. He was trying to decide where to go next and whether he should turn and retrace his footsteps. But then he had this marvellous vision in which he saw a man of Macedonia

pleading with him to cross the sea to Greece and help him and his fellow countrymen. And that was what he did. And I knew then that I must go with him.

We sailed for Macedonia almost at once and then travelled to the major city of Philippi. I decided that I would be Paul's chronicler. I got him to tell me about his earlier journeys and wrote an account of them and then I personally recorded all our new ventures. Or perhaps I should say adventures for such they were. We continued to travel together for some years; sometimes people wanted to kill us or imprison us but each time we managed to escape, with guidance from the Spirit of God, and with the help of the local Christians.

Paul had many companions over the years. He was tough and uncompromising and not always easy to get on with. And sometimes there were quarrels and splits and some colleagues left to begin their own missions. But I loved him and stayed with him throughout the rest of his life. I stuck it out to the bitter end.

Paul gained many converts and set up new churches wherever he went. But eventually he decided he must go back to Judaea where he had started. He knew it was a great risk because the Jews hated him. And as we expected, they imprisoned him and would have liked to have had him killed, just as they had done to Jesus before him. But Paul insisted on seeing the Roman Governor, and asked him to send him to Rome to be tried before the Emperor himself. He knew that it was a dangerous choice but I think he was excited at the thought of going to Rome, to the very centre of the empire and to take his message even there. Again, I went with him. We had a terrible sea-crossing and at one point were shipwrecked on the island of Malta, but at last we arrived safely in Rome.

The Emperor ignored Paul's arrival and did not bother to see him, but kept him as a prisoner for many months. At first we were quite comfortable because Paul was under house arrest and continued to receive visitors. He never tired of talking about Jesus. But then we were moved to the gaol and were in much worse circumstances. Paul continued to write many letters to his friends in the churches he had started in Asia Minor and Europe. He wrote to his beloved Timothy who was like a son to him and told him that I was with him - the only

one left. Which was true and meant that I had the great privilege of acting as his secretary and scribing many of his wonderful letters. I stayed till his death; for the emperor finally decided that the Christians were becoming too troublesome, and that Paul as the greatest troublemaker of all must be executed. I was overwhelmed with sadness; I had lost my dearest friend.

But I knew that he would want me to continue what he had begun and I still had work to do on my own account; tasks I had set myself to continue Paul's legacy. I gathered together all the records and diaries I had written down in my years on my travels with Paul and turned them into a continuous narrative of the Acts of the Apostles, those followers of Jesus who, like Paul, had built the early church. My words were copied many times and passed around the churches so others could learn and marvel at the work of the Holy Spirit in those early years.

And there was something else I needed to do. I, sadly, never knew Jesus for myself but in my years with Paul, I had met many of those people who had actually known Jesus when he was on earth. I met people like Peter and John and others who had been his disciples. And I was also privileged to meet and speak with his mother, the lady, Mary. They all told me many stories about him which I wrote down. I knew it was important work for there would come a time when everyone who had known him would be dead and only the writings of people like me would remain to tell people about Jesus, and all he did and said and the wonderful news of our salvation through his death and resurrection. So I wrote down all these stories, too; the good news, the Gospel of Christ Jesus. I hope that you, too, have read some of the stories I wrote in my book, the Gospel according to me - Luke.

***Marjorie***

# REGISTERS

## Baptisms

27.8.23 Lottie Elouise Strangwood

3.9.23 Isobel Matilda Harwood-Harbach

## Wedding

27.8.23 Anthony Davies/Deborah Jane Turner

16.9.23 Ryan Ashley Forrest/Zoe Charlotte Hargrave



## Funerals

26.8.23 Julia Michelle Davies

20.9.23 Thelma Joan Obbard

### ANCHORED

#### Children's Event

(age 5-9 years)  
with different  
activities



**Thursday 2nd November**

**11am—1pm**

**St Leonard's Hall Church and St James. Hall Church**

**Refreshments and lunch will be provided**

**Contact John Prockter 07915378003 or 01746218285  
john.prockter@googlemail.com for more information**

**(We are also looking for volunteers to make sandwich lunches on 2nd  
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while  
you sit*

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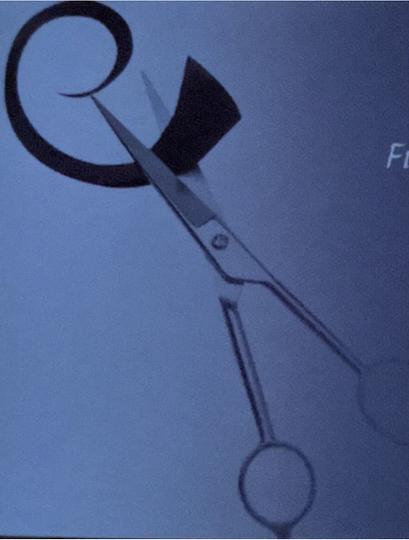
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### **Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry**

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 - 11.00am - 12.30pm  
Tues - Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am

**Email :**  
[bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Website :**  
[www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk](http://www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk)

#### **Anna Chaplain/Reader**

Mrs Jane Peeler 767043

#### **Honorary Assistant Ministers**

**Revd. Marjorie Brooks** 01746 761942

[marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com](mailto:marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com)

**Revd. Clive Parr** 767023

**Revd. Simon Boxall** 07788869876

[boxbruk@hotmail.com](mailto: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

**St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth Churchwardens**

Mr David Oxtoby...766053

Mrs Jane Parr...766984

**Secretary** Miss Catherine Wilson...761786

**Treasurer** Mrs Nicky Cooper ....762487

**Vergers** Mr Roger Taylor...767345

**Organists** Dr John Turnock...716282

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

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Mrs Dorothy Leiper... 764559

Mrs Liz Fisher ... 764059

**Treasurer** Mr Quentin Leiper...764559

**Organist** Mrs Carol Wall...764365

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Mrs Helen Holding....07813 584469

**Secretary** Mrs Juanita Gennard...768674

**Treasurer** Mr Michael Payne....07790 610441

**Organist** Mr Stephen Lomas...768648

**St Gregory the Great, Morville Churchwardens**

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Tim Morris....789271

**Secretary** Helen Smith ....01952 883599

**Treasurer** Mrs Kathy Renshaw...789271

**Aston Eyre Churchwardens**

Mr Will Winton...

Mr Dafydd Jenkins....07703 457839

**Treasurer** Mrs Shelley Caine...714362

**St Mary Magdalene, Quatford Churchwardens**

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Vacant

**Vergers** Mr Bob Curtis...766126

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Mr Terry Fellows...01902 564748

Mr Ed Pugh....01746 789685

**Treasurer** Mrs Tamsin Preece..01746 7655378

**St James' Hall Church**

**Booking Secretary** Mrs Liz Fisher...764059

elizabethfisher29@icloud.com

**St Leonards Hall Church**

**Booking Secretary** Rachel Connelly...767660

**Tasley Village Hall**

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

**Astley Abbots Village Hall**

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

**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**November**

**Wednesday 18th October 2023**

**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

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	17th Sun of Trinity 1st Oct	18th Sun of Trinity 8th Oct	19th Sun of Trinity 15th Oct	20th Sun of Trinity 22nd Oct	Last Sun after Trinity 29th Oct
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 Harvest	10.30 FS/ Baptism	10.30 HC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 BCP 1662		10.30 HC	
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 Café Church in Village Hall	9.00 MP	9.00 Life and Soul	
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 FS and Baptism		10.30 Harvest		10.30 Coffee in church
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 MP	10.30 Harvest	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 Harvest	11.15 MP	11.15 HC	
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP			
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		18.00 Harvest			
Monkhoppton	10.00 MP				