

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 The Very Revd. Sarah Brown Dean of Hereford**

We talk a lot about failure. It is something we are super sensitive about. We have all had our failures. I am no exception and struggle most days with a fear of failing family, colleagues, church and God. Fear of failure is the reverse of what the gospel teaches but we are all extremely susceptible. It causes leaders to become risk averse and instinctively protect the institution, sometimes shamefully at the expense of the vulnerable. Farmers have told me that they don't want to be the one that lets the farm go under and church people vow to battle on because 'this mustn't fail on our watch'. The pressure of the ancestors, of tradition, of the sheer hard work of those who have gone before is colossal. Believe me, I do not want to be the Dean of Hereford under whose leadership a millennia of cathedral life goes horribly wrong. When Christ's Church fails, it is particularly heartbreaking, for it implies to others the failure of God.

The shame that accompanies personal and institutional failure scars us and trains us to count the cost, play it safe, and fear the unknown. Yet we know from experience that often failure leads to change and growth. Fear of failure among those called to live by the Spirit in the discomfort of risk leads to a lack of trust in God that literally asphyxiates His ability to create fresh possibilities, the most powerful of which is resurrection.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sweated over His anticipated cup of suffering, begging the Father to take it from Him. In the end, he chose to enter into the tragedy of his crucifixion. The long-awaited Messiah ended his mission in what looked like abject failure. Yet His willingness to trust God and submit to that failure led to the unimaginable expansion of God's kingdom. Even if our model of mission today also seems doomed to failure, we are called to step into it and trust in a fruitful future because that is what God promises and what Jesus did.

The physical resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning is both concrete testimony that God accompanies His people into the very depths and a blueprint for his plan to show that His love is stronger than all our faults, fears and failures. The Resurrection shows His capacity to redeem and make new life even out of death itself.

In these difficult times let us live and die as people who believe in Resurrection not out of naïve optimism but because we have seen the Risen Christ. If God can do that then all bets on personal and institutional failure are off and as Peter Pan observed, 'to die may be an awfully big adventure'

***The Very Revd Sarah Brown  
Dean of Hereford***

## Potted Thoughts

Not long now until Easter. Hopefully Spring will be well and truly springing, blossom coming out on the trees, flowers blooming, and we'll all be full of the joys of the season - tra-la!

But what if we're not?

Maybe we're having a tough time - all we can see and feel is desert. The stuff we hear about from the Bible - is it all just 'make-believe', a whistling in the dark?

Perhaps we have doubts and fears about tomorrow - and we're not helped by those well-meaning people who tell us that if we have doubts, we are losing our faith. Is what we read in the Bible really true, or 'it ain't necessarily so'!

I cannot prove this (beyond a shadow of a doubt!), but I think Jesus Himself could have had doubts. The enemy, the devil, certainly tried to sow seeds of doubt in Jesus' mind when he said, "IF you are the Son of God.....". And when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, I truly believe that He was very frightened. Then on the cross, Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Isn't THAT a cry of doubt?

But did He lose His faith? Absolutely not! He kept going, despite His fears and doubts. He continued with His work - He did not take the easy way out - and Sunday came.

Carrying on, despite personal doubts and fears, is a sign of true faith. As a preacher I once heard said; "It's Friday,.....but Sunday's coming."

God bless,

*Simon*

PS If you can, read through the words of the hymn; "Through the night of doubt and sorrow."

**Winning tickets for  
ST MARY'S 200 CLUB**

**March draw**

**£20 Iain Sievewright 94**

**£10 Mavis Cartwright 135**

**£10 Lorna Shade 21**

**£10 David Deighton 19**

**£10 Paul Taylor 26**

**£10 Martin Blackburn 194**

**£10 Catherine Wilson 71**

**ST MARY'S CONNECT**

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 15th April** in The function room at **The Shakespeare Pub at 12.30**

If you would like to join us please contact Catherine Wilson 01746 761786 to book your place, these are limited and will be allocated on a first come first

**ST MARY MAGDALENE BRIDGNORTH COFFEE SHOP**

St Mary's Coffee Shop Every Saturday—10.00am—12.30pm



Music Director - Steve Cooper  
Accompanist - Oliver Clarke

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

(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025** in preparation for our Easter Concert

on **Saturday 19th April 2025 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.

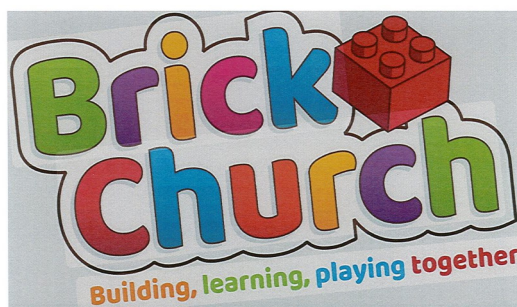
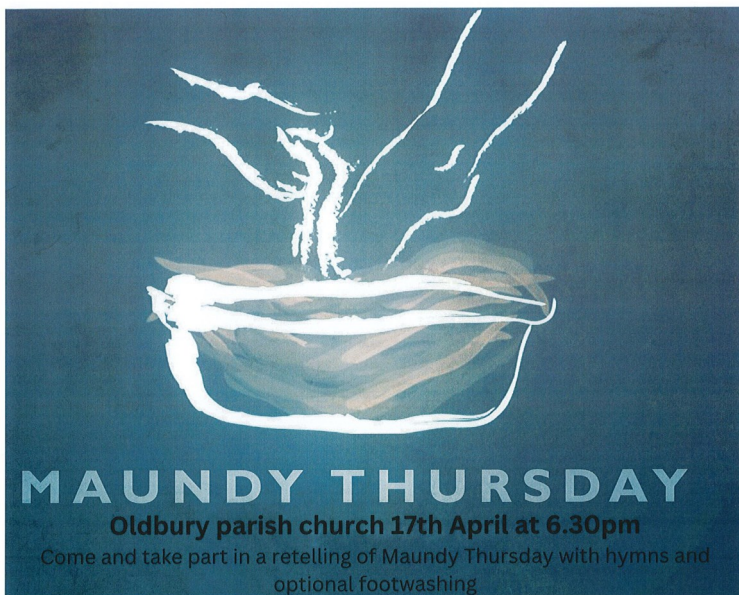
New members are always welcome.

For further details: contact Jane Downing via email  
jane.downing60@gmail.com

More details about the choir can be found on our website:  
**[www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk)**







**Thursday 24th April**

**10-1pm**

**St James's Hall Church**

Come along and enjoy an interactive session

where we'll be looking at the story of

'The disciples on the Emmaus road' We'll build our own scene of the story, play games and eat together.

Contact Rev Suzan for more details

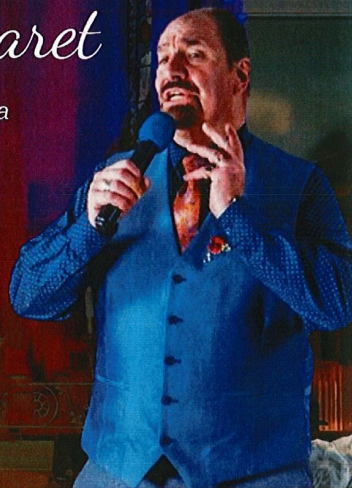
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# *The Magic Of The* **MUSICALS**

## *Candlelit Cabaret*

*2 professional singers in a  
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to the West End*



**St Mary Magdalene Church, Bridgnorth**

East Castle Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4AL

**Saturday 17th May 2025, 7.30pm**

**Tickets £15. Available at:**

**Parker Taylor (cash only)**

47 High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX

**or online from:**

**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/2sCompanyShow](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/2sCompanyShow)**

**OR call the ticket line on 07791 743463**





## St Calixtus, Astley Abbots

We continue our walk through Lent, enjoying our Bible Study, Be Still, at Rosemary & Graham's home. Many thanks to Rosemary, Graham & Judy for leading us through the study which we are very much enjoying, it is certainly thought provoking!

Thanks again are due to Graham & Rosemary for hosting our Pancake Party, which was enjoyed by many!

We have so much to be thankful for, our churchyard clean up was well attended & we made a significant difference to the space, including dismantling the storm felled tree. As we cleared back the debris we found a family grave, that of William Tipper, a merchant & ship owner who lived at Cross Lane Head. Any questions about the history please ask Juanita, if you know anything about the family & where they lived please let us know.

Thanks to all who helped with this mammoth task which continued over two days, here's a picture of our early progress.



We are very grateful to our Two Churches Choir for joining us on 23rd March, their hard work with Stephen Lomas is much appreciated.

On Sunday 27th April 2025, instead of our usual Morning Service, we are meeting at 5.30pm in Idonea's Garden, Astley Abbots house for a Garden Gathering. This informal worship is suitable for all ages & we will share a simple meal of Hot Dogs together followed by refreshments & good company afterwards.

If you have any questions about this just ask a Churchwarden or Juanita, otherwise come along, the fire pit will be alight so we will be warm!

Our shared Rogation Service with St Peter & St Paul, Tasley will be held on 4th May this year, in the private garden at Stanley Hall. We are excited that Bishop Richard, fresh home from his sabbatical, will lead us in worship, starting at 11.30am. Please bring a seat if possible. What a busy & fulfilling time we are having!

Please contact Juanita, Idonea or Helen if you have any questions concerning the above events, otherwise just come along, the more the merrier.

We at St Calixtus offer a very special thank you to Avril for all her hard work & wish her a very happy & healthy retirement, we will miss you. Welcome Keely, you have impressive footsteps to follow but we will try to help you as much as we can!

Happy Easter to you all for 20th, see you soon we hope.

God bless

*Helen*

## **Quatford News**

The snowdrops have been lovely this year and quickly replaced by the daffodils. While walking along Tasley Lane with the dogs a couple of Sundays ago, it was a typical sunny spring day, with clear far-reaching views over the countryside, wildflowers growing in the hedge rows, lambs also enjoying the sunshine half a mile from the town, it struck me how lucky we are to live in Bridgnorth.

Quatford will be joining Oldbury for the Mother's Day service this year, and for Easter Day service. We look forward to those services.

Our annual concert will take place on Saturday, 28th June at 7.00pm. For the second year running, the Bridgnorth show choir will be entertaining us. With a selection of delicious puddings, and assorted drinks for all tastes. £10 for tickets (or pay on the door).

We had a good number in the congregation for our 1662 service, led by Marjorie and enjoyed by all. The next 1662 service will be in June.

*Rachel Edwards*

# **An Easter Meditation**

## Palm Sunday

The Book of David full of psalms  
They walked the streets waving palms.

## Maundy Thursday

An upper room they came to meet  
Their Lord, who then knelt down to wash their feet.

## Good Friday

They nailed him down then hung him on a cross  
Because he said, 'I am the son of the Heavenly Boss.'

## Holy Saturday

A special day the one between  
A day of hate. What did it mean?

## Easter Sunday

He rose again to set us free  
Yes everyone, you and me.

## Each Day

And so, each day we have to choose  
How to be good but some will refuse  
I'll choose to love if I can,  
Because I am part of the Great I Am.

*Ann Clarke*



## **St. Mary's News**

First may I apologise that there wasn't any news from St. Mary's last month. It was entirely my fault - I missed the deadline .

I am starting with some good news. The sale of our 2025 Bridgnorth Calander raised approximately £1,000 for church funds .We give thanks to Liz Reid for her hard work and talents in producing the calendar .

We at St. Mary's have had a busy start to the season of Lent.

Firstly we had a traditional pancake party on Shrove Tuesday. Strictly speaking this was a team event and not just St. Mary's but given the event took place at St. Leonards church hall I thought I would be forgiven for writing about it here. The event was well attended and was a lovely social gathering, giving those of us who attended a good opportunity to eat pancakes drink tea and chat. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

On Ash Wednesday we at St. Mary's were privileged to hold one of the two Ashing Services in the team. The service was well attended and as always gave a reflective and prayerful start to Lent.

The chamber choir are continuing their rehearsals for their Holy Saturday concert and are sounding very good. If you are free on a Saturday morning I would remind you that the Saturday café is open to enjoy a coffee and a chat and listen to the choir.

The third Tuesday of each month is our lunch at the Shakespeare. To quote a fellow diner we talk about anything from politics to blancmange so if you fancy coming to discuss politics and blancmange and everything in between please come and join us.

This month saw the first concert of our 2025 season. It was given by Belaria and Friends-a very talented group- and was enjoyed by all who attended.

We were sorry this month to have to say goodbye to Jane Parr our

church warden. Jane has been a lovely, conscientious and hard working church warden who, amongst many other things, has headed up our cleaning, catering and fundraising and we have all benefited from her sound advice at P.C.C meetings. Her loss will be keenly felt. We wish her well as she now moves away and thank her for everything she has done.

Finally If you have ever wanted to clean church brass then I have a great opportunity for you. We need a volunteer for the brass cleaning rota. If you are interested please let me know, but hurry there is only one space and you don't want to miss it.

*Catherine Wilson.*

## **St Mary Magdalene Parking**



As some of you will be aware St Mary's was granted planning permission for a small area to the right of the church on the West Castle St side.

There has been some confusion over who this parking is for and I would like to take the opportunity to clear that up if I may.

When planning permission was sought and granted it was made very clear that it would be for six spaces, two of which are allocated as disabled parking and the remaining four specifically for those with limited mobility. This means its not a church car park or for use of those booking St Mary's church for music events or rehearsals. Apart from when by prior arrangement the six spaces can be booked for those who are registered with a mobility badge or who have limited mobility. I know this will be a cause of frustration and disappointment to some but if we contravene the conditions in which our planning permission was approved we risk it being revoked. For any further information please contact David Oxtoby [david.oxtoby@icloud.com](mailto:david.oxtoby@icloud.com) or Rev Suzan Williams [rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com](mailto:rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com)

# News from St Nicholas, Oldbury

There is something rather reassuring to hear on the radio that Spring has officially started. We can see signs of it all around us, but it is good to know that the winter is behind us and we can now look forward. Here in Oldbury a lot seems to be happening, so a few bullet points to bring you up to speed:

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday.** Technically a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and a day off for Marjorie, but we are very pleased that she would like to hold this special service for us when we can celebrate “mothering” in the many forms it takes.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April: Coffee & Cakes.** To allow Marjorie a small break, no service this week, but there will be amazing cakes to tempt you. Please join us for this informal occasion amongst friends. Dog walkers very welcome.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Sunday.** Holy Communion at 10:30.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April: Westwood House Garden Opening.** The gardens will be open in aid of the NGS from 2-5pm. The Oldbury Bakers will once again be organising their delicious teas and cakes in aid of St Nicholas. The tulips & bluebells should be at their best and there is plenty of parking in the front field. Entrance £6 for Adults, Children FOC.

**Electoral Roll:** Forms are now in Church or available from Diana Scutt at Wickets, Manor Farm Lane. The Electoral Roll needs to be updated every 6 years and is a formal requirement for all parishes. If you have any queries please talk to Diana or any member of the PCC.

**Quinquennial Inspection:** This is due to take place this year and is essentially a thorough survey of the church premises. We hope nothing untoward is discovered, and will keep you informed.

**Church APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting):** This will be taking place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May after the morning service. Please make a note in your diary and join us if you can. It is your chance to hear what the PCC have been up to and they would love to hear from you too.

***Carolyn (Roly) Trevor-Jones***



Photos from Oldbury



# Bridgnorth Sinfonia

## *Spring Concert*

**DVOŘÂK**

Symphony No. 6

**BORODIN**

Overture from Prince Igor  
On the steppes of Centra  
Asia

**ELGAR**

Romance for Bassoon &  
Orchestra

**DUKAS**

Villanelle for Horn &  
Orchestra

**Saturday 5th April, 7:30pm**

St. Mary's Church, East Castle Street, Bridgnorth  
Tickets £12 - online at [bridgnorthsinfonia.com](http://bridgnorthsinfonia.com)  
or on the door. Under 16s no charge







# 'Music for Easter'

**St Mary's Chamber Choir  
will be performing  
'Faure Requiem'  
& music for Holy Week**

**At**

**St Mary Magdalene Church  
East Castle Street, Bridgnorth  
Easter Saturday 19th April 2025  
7.00pm**

**Music Director : Steve Cooper**

**Accompanist : Oliver Clarke**

**Tickets £10 on the door**

**Includes programme and refreshments**

## **Tasley News**

March has been a very quiet month here at Tasley with only 2 Sunday Services. I hope you have been able to see and admire the Old Churchyard, where the snowdrops have now been replaced by a beautiful display on primroses.

### **Our Services in April will be:-**

Lent Service Wednesday 2nd April at 6.30pm.

Communion Service on Easter Sunday the 20th April at 10.15am.

(Please note the earlier time of 10.15am)

No other Sunday Services known.

### **Looking ahead to May.**

We have been invited by Astley Abbots to join them for a joint Rogation Service in the grounds of Stanley Hall on the 4th May.

Other Sunday Services yet to be announced.

Our APCM will take place in Church on Monday 12th May at 7pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Coffee Morning. These continue to be held on the 1st Monday of the month and thanks to all who join us, have raised funds for many local charities.

Before I close on behalf of all at Tasley I must say a huge thank you to Avril for all her hard work and help over the years, as she prepares for a well earned rest in her retirement.

### **100 Club Winners for March**

87 Brian Williams

5 Hugh Walker

125 Elizabeth Stenning

### **April Events**

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April-** "Flicks in the Sticks with Fish & Chips" in the village hall at 7pm -£12

*Margaret*

## 🌸 Spring Bible Quiz 🌸

Test your knowledge of the Bible and the season of spring!

1. 🌿 **What is the first book of the Bible that mentions rain?** a) Genesis b) Exodus c) Psalms d) Job
  2. 💧 **Which Old Testament book says, "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone"?** a) Proverbs b) Ecclesiastes c) Song of Solomon d) Isaiah
  3. 🐦 **What bird is often associated with new beginnings and was sent out by Noah after the flood?** a) Raven b) Dove c) Sparrow d) Eagle
  4. 🌾 **In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a parable about a farmer sowing seeds. What happens to the seeds that fall on good soil?** a) They are eaten by birds b) They wither under the sun c) They produce a bountiful harvest d) They are choked by weeds
- 🌻 **Which of these flowers is mentioned in Jesus' teaching about not worrying?** a) Lilies b) Roses c) Tulips d) Daisies

### **Bonus Question: 🌸**

What Christian holiday is celebrated in spring and commemorates Jesus' resurrection?

***See next page 18 for answers***

## Answers: to Spring Bible Quiz

1. a) Genesis (Genesis 2:5)
  2. c) Song of Solomon (Song of Solomon 2:11)
  3. b) Dove (Genesis 8:8-12)
  4. c) They produce a bountiful harvest (Matthew 13:8)
- a) Lilies (Matthew 6:28-29) **Bonus:** Easter!

### A Message from Avril

**As this is my last edition of Cross+Link I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all your support to me over the last 33 years. There have been many stand out and some very interesting times over all these years and I have made some lovely friends. Thank you for the kind words and wishes that I have already received.**

**I now leave you in the capable hands of Keely and and hope that you will show her the love support and friendship that you have shown to me. Good luck Keely.**

***With love***

***Avril***

### Avril's Retirement Afternoon Tea party

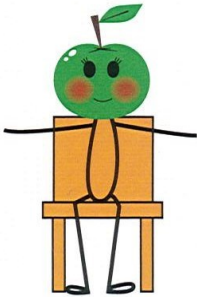
**Please join us on Palm Sunday 13th March from 2.00pm at Tasley Village Hall to give thanks to Avril for the last 33 years with the Team as our Administrator as she prepares for a well deserved retirement.**

***All welcome***

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## What are you waiting for?

If the creaking sound you hear is you,  
why not come and join us?

**Tuesdays 10.45 – 11.30am**

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

Class fee just £5.50 per session.

*No booking required,  
turn up and tone up any wobbly bits*

**Tel: Angie Appleton –  
07946 509245**

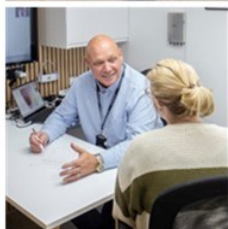
**Email: [angie@angiepilates.co.uk](mailto:angie@angiepilates.co.uk)**







Dave, Becky and Anthony Jennings



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Royal Shrewsbury Hospital  
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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, Tues, Wed and 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)

#### **Priest in charge**

Revd. Suzan Williams 01746 599529  
[rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com](mailto:rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com)

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

Mrs Jane Peeler 767043  
[annachaplainbtm@yahoo.com](mailto:annachaplainbtm@yahoo.com)

#### **Honorary Assistant Ministers**

Revd. Marjorie Brooks 01746 761942  
[marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com](mailto:marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com)

Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876  
[boxbruk@hotmail.com](mailto:boxbruk@hotmail.com)

**St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth  
Churchwardens**

Mr David Oxtoby...766053

Mrs Jane Parr...07814908917

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

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

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

**Deputy Organist**

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

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**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

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Tim Morris....789271

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

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

**Aston Eyre  
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Mr Dafydd Jenkins....07703 457839

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

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Churchwardens**

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Vacant

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

**Secretary** Miss Rachel Edwards...766146

**Treasurer** Mrs Marian Newell...765287

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

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Mr John Andrews 761708

**Secretary** Ms Lesley Edwards...761847

**Treasurer** Mrs Irene Rogers...765926

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

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**Secretary** Mrs Jayne Madeley...785571

**Treasurer** Mrs Susan Kennedy...714203

**Upton Cressett Monkthopton  
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Mr Terry Fellows...01902 564748

Mr Ed Pugh....01746 789685

**Treasurer** Mrs Tamsin Preece..01746 765538

**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 Abbotts Village Hall**

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

**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**May edition**

**Monday 14th April 2025**

**by 1.00pm**

**(N.B. EARLY DEADLINE)**

If you would like to contribute to the magazine,  
please send to Keely at the Office on  
bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk.  
If you would like to advertise please also  
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# APRIL '25

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	6th April Lent 5	13th April Palm Sunday/ Lent 6	20th April Easter Day	27th April Easter 2
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 FS AND BAPTISM
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC	Quatford to join Oldbury for HC	10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	9.00 HC	17.30 Sunset service
St Nicholas Oldbury			10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley			10.30 HC	
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		St L Hall Church to join Tasley	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.30 HC	11.15 MP
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		10.00 HC
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 HC		
Monkhopton	10.00 HC			