

Linking Parish Churches
around Bridgnorth

CROSS+LINK



St Mary Magdalene	SS Peter + Paul	St Calixtus	St Nicholas	St Mary Magdalene	St Leonards Hall
Bridgnorth	Tasley	Astley Abbotts	Oldbury	Quatford	Bridgnorth



Bridgnorth	Acton Round	Aston Eyre	Monkhopton	Morville	Upton Cressett
St James' Hall	St Mary the Virgin	Aston Eyre	St Peter's	St Gregory the Great	St Michael's



From The Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson Archdeacon of Ludlow

I seem to live in overlaps and borderlands. What do I mean? Well, our diocese is one that occupies space between Wales and England, criss-crossing the border. We exist in (largely) two counties – Shropshire and Herefordshire (not overlooking our parishes in Monmouthshire, Powys, Worcestershire, and Telford & Wrekin). I live and serve in Shropshire, a county that straddles two dioceses: Hereford in the south and Lichfield in the north. The Ludlow Archdeaconry is in the overlap, the centre of the Venn diagram.

Then there's my role as Archdeacon. My colleague, Archdeacon Derek, and I minister in the overlap. We represent parishes to those working in the Bishop's Office and the Diocesan Office and vice versa. We provide a link between multiple overlapping groups and individuals.

As Christians we all live in the overlap. We are already saved by grace, we are being saved and sustained by grace, and one day we shall be fully saved by grace when Christ returns. God's kingdom of justice and joy has already begun with Christ's first coming, his death, resurrection, and ascension, and one day it will fully begin at his return. We are citizens of the nation in which we live, and we are citizens of heaven. We live in the Now and the Not Yet, the time between.

This month marks 80 years since VE Day, Victory in Europe Day, when the evil of Nazism was defeated in Europe. My late mother would tell me stories of how she and her friends, children at the beginning of the war and teenagers at its end, celebrated with overwhelming relief. We remember with thankfulness the courage and sacrifice of all those who served at home and abroad to win the fight for freedom against Nazi tyranny.

But that wasn't the end of the war. In Burma, Singapore, and other places, the war raged on as fiercely and cruelly as ever. VJ Day, in August 1945, finally brought hostilities to an end. The troops still fighting between May and August, and their families, often felt overlooked in the celebrations of VE Day. They were existing in the overlap.

This season of the Church's year is the time in between. We are between Easter Day and Pentecost. We have celebrated the joy of the resurrection, and we await the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit in power to set the Church alight in love and witness.

I wonder how that idea of living in the overlap, grounded in the past and moving to the future, knowing that we and all our times are held in the hands of our unchanging and faithful God, could help us as we continue on our pilgrimage?

The Ven. Dr. Fiona Gibson , Archdeacon of Ludlow

Prayer And Unity

Prayer is important because it helps us to stay close to God. The more we spend time with someone the more we get to know them. The same thing happens when we spend time connecting with God in prayer. The more we talk with Him and listen to Him, the closer we will become. As the Bible says in James 4:8: 'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.'

Following Jesus' ascension there was for his disciples a period of anticipation and waiting, it was a time of dependence on God and a commitment to prayer and unity. A demonstration of their faith and their readiness to receive the Holy Spirit. In the busyness of our lives I wonder do we make enough time to pray together, waiting on the Holy Spirit and seeking God's will for our lives, our communities, and our world. Or do we impatiently run on following our own thoughts and desires?

Author and Pastor Robert Baer said 'Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.'

The biblical account of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. We read that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus' first followers, empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church. In verse 17 Peter references the words of the Prophet Joel:

"In the last days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams."

God's Spirit is poured out on all believers, irrespective of age. Pentecost is a resounding declaration that God does not ignore the young nor does he abandon individuals in their old age or forsake them when they are frail and weak.

We live in an ageist society, where individuals both old and young can be unfairly discriminated against and stereotyped. As an Anna Chaplain I see older adults particularly bearing the brunt of negative stereotyping. The words in verse 17 present a challenge to us all, a challenge to be inclusive and not dismissive. They remind us that we are all one interconnected community, where young and old can collaborate and where each member of the community has worth and can contribute in their own unique way. Each generation, each person possesses invaluable insights and gifts that, when shared, foster unity and understanding.

My prayer in this season of Pentecost is that with the help of the Holy Spirit, as we embrace the teachings of Jesus we will hopefully be led towards helping to create a church and a society where love, compassion and understanding prevail.

Jane

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

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Bishop Richard's Weekly Video Message - Transcript 03.04.2025

Please find the transcript of Bishop Richard's video discussion with Simon & Sarah Cawdell which appeared in the Hereford Diocese news.

Bishop Richard: Hello everybody and welcome to this week's video, the second week of a video from Gulu in northern Uganda. And we're coming to the end of our time here now. We've experienced the most wonderful hospitality, most wonderful inspiration from the church here and I'm delighted that Simon and Sarah Cawdell, who have been hosting us, are able to come and sit. We're sitting under a mango tree. It's a balmy 33 degrees, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. And we're going to have a little bit of a chat about their life here, what's encouraged them, what's challenging them. And I think it's really great to be able to share directly with you because of course Simon and Sarah were much loved, parish priests in our diocese and have come here and have been here for the last two years.

So Sarah, do you want to kick us off?

Sarah: Hi. It's great to see you and to be with you. Thank you. We've really enjoyed our week with Bishop Richard and Deborah, and it gives us a chance to reflect on all that we're doing here and what we're seeing, how we're seeing God at work. We've enjoyed evening Bible studies with half a dozen students, each weekday evening helping them explore or explore together Paul's letters. And the bishop is ducking out just as we're about to start on the delights of the Book of Revelation.

Bishop Richard: And what is your role, Sarah, in the college?

Sarah: I'm the principal here. This college has 53 students and about 10 members of staff. There are three of us who are full time, the director of studies, the administrator and myself and others who work in the diocese and as clergy in the surrounding parishes. But give their time to teach here up to 8 or 12 hours a week.

Bishop Richard: Okay, thank you. And it has been a huge encouragement to me to get to know a few of the students and thinking that the future of the church in Uganda is in very, very good hands in the students who are here in their depth of spirituality and their passion for the gospel.

So Simon, what are you up to?

Simon: Well, I have two roles that I am undertaking in the diocese. The first is to introduce and then oversee a course called Rooted in Jesus, which is an African developed discipleship course that in fact I've been involved in for some years previous to coming out with the Church Mission Society. We introduced the course into the diocese a year ago with a conference. In fact, it was the Largest conference that Rooted in Jesus has ever had. Such was the enthusiasm for it, and this year has seen the rollout of the course into the diocese with the feedback of some really remarkable testimonies and encouragements from the churches where it is now being undertaken. Some of these are very far away from any large city or habitation, and the levels of education that you get in the villages deep in the, in the bush as it's known here, can be, for example, key stage one equivalent. And so, having an oral-based discipleship course is something that is actually really important, and it's based on memory verses because many of the people will either not have Bibles, which is an issue, or if they had them, would struggle to read them.

So that's one thing. The second thing that I'm doing is that I'm involved in household transformation in the diocese. The part that I've had to play in that over this last year has been developing a coffee and cocoa plantation in the diocese that will be an exemplar to others, setting up a coffee cooperative in the diocese so that surrounding farmers can benefit from the training that will be on offer in due course and hopefully through a project which we're doing alongside the government, benefit from free seedlings which will make an enormous economic impact on the lives of their households as we seek to lift people out of poverty. Because here, about 72% of the population is below the World Bank defined poverty level. It's a very poor area that's been devastated over a 20-year period by civil war, and even now, 15 years after that ended, the effects of that, in terms of a broken culture and dependency, are very evident in people's lives and across generations.

Bishop Richard: Thank you. One of the things that's been a real privilege here is to see how the church is absolutely integral to the development of society, not just within the church but also in the wider culture. And that's been extraordinarily encouraging to see and to be invited to be, to be a part of.

I wanted to ask you both the following question: It is Lent. We're actually probably coming towards the end of Lent when this video is going to be recorded. I wanted to ask you a couple of questions really. One is how has being here changed you spiritually and what does it look like, Lent, in a place like this?

I mean we think about giving things up, which are usually luxuries when people are 73% are, uh, below the poverty line. What does fasting look like?

I mean, I know most of the churches here have a day every week where they fast and pray for the life of the church, but what does it look like perhaps for individuals to engage with those disciplines?

Sarah: The preaching of my colleagues has shown that the students are encouraged to be more careful and attentive in their prayer and Bible study over the Lenten period, perhaps to fast more often. We have a prayer fast on Fridays here in college, which some of the students take part in and they're encouraged to be more serious, serious about this. The emphasis that I've heard is of seeking to follow Jesus more closely, especially sharing in his sufferings, so that by some means they might hope, also to share in his resurrection.

Bishop Richard: And Simon, what about you?

Simon: Yeah, I would say similar. The exhortations that are coming from the bishop and members of the diocesan staff are very much towards, as in the UK, actually a period of self reflection, great fasting and prayer and a better engagement with Bible study and their personal devotions. It's taken very seriously.

Bishop Richard: This is a week here, you know, the water doesn't work very well, the electricity goes off quite a lot, there's lots of insects, and it's all a bit difficult if you're used to Western luxury. You've been living here for now just over two years. What's it been like?

Sarah: You learn to be thankful when you press the electric switch and the light comes on. You learn to be thankful when there's enough water in the water tank to be able to flush the toilet. We have that luxury of a flushing toilet. So we've learned to live, thankfully for what we do have, aware that we live at a much higher standard than the people we're in the midst of.

Simon: Absolutely. Thankfulness is something that comes very naturally here because there are so many things that actually, in Britain we would just take for granted. Here you just don't see. And there is another aspect to that as well, which is here in the midst of life, there is death and it's very close. This is a society where all of the time you're often hearing of people who've died of a disease that in the UK might have been preventable or indeed the other big thing here is mortality on the roads. It is quite bad, not the least because everybody rides around on motorcycles and horror of horrors, very few will actually wear helmets. So motorcycle accidents are very often extremely serious and fatal.

Bishop Richard: Thank you. Well, can I say thank you on behalf of Deborah and myself for your hospitality. It's been absolutely wonderful to be here and I think I have been so extraordinarily impressed with the depth of the spiritual passion amongst the people in the Church of Uganda. I think perhaps one thing I've learned is that in our travelling, in the morning, we pray, and in the evening, we give thanks and place everything that we are doing here in the hands of God, who loves us and watches over us.

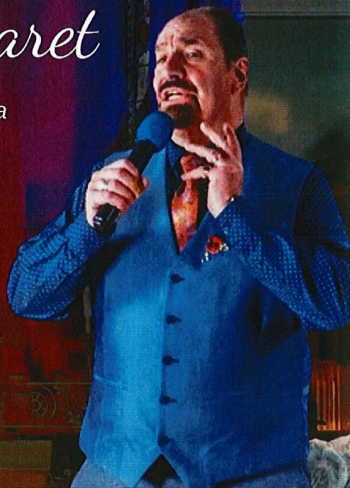
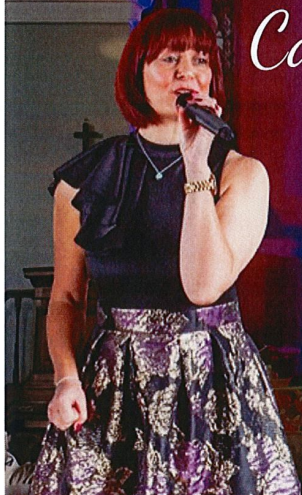
So, thank you again. Thanks for watching, friends. And I think this might be the last one actually, on my travels next week, I hope maybe in the garden again. So continue to have a good Lent and I'll see you next week.

Simon & Sarah will be in Bridgnorth again soon. Revd. Suzan Williams would like to invite you to attend an evening of further chat with them both at St Mary's, Bridgnorth on Thursday 26th June. Time to be confirmed but likely to be 6.30pm or 7pm.



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St Calixtus, Astley Abbotts

Easter has come and gone and I hope you all enjoyed it, and all our services.

Thankyou to Judy for her inspiring services and holding our church together almost single handedly since Christmas! DRB checks are finally coming through so she will be able to have a rest. Both Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday services were beautiful Judy,



We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our joint Rogation Service with Tasley which is to be held at Stanley Hall on May 4th at 11,30, bring a brolly if its wet!

Café Church returns on 11th May in the village Hall at 10am, this is a relaxed service accompanied by a delicious breakfast --come and try it--and take a fresh look.

We hope to have a bluebell walk at Stanley, please see our Facebook page for exact date as they are rushing out and may be over before May.

Idonea

Quatford News

It's April and the 13th would have been a significant date had Avril not sustained a severe injury to her knee on Mothering Sunday. As a consequence, Avril's leaving party has been deferred until she is fit and well. So, Avril, from all of us at Quatford, rest that leg and get well soon. In the meantime, may we extend a very warm welcome to Keely, our new Team Administrator and editor of Cross+Link: we do hope you will enjoy working with us all.

And so, to Thursday 8th May, when the nation will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) and the cessation of the hostilities in Europe. Churches and cathedrals will let their bells ring out at 6.30pm; it's also a time that a candle can be lit to remember our loved ones who served, in whatever capacity, during the Second World War. The Church of England website also offers prayers for those who died and served in the Second World War and for those who serve today. Included is a prayer for the peace of the world and as we live in troubled times it seems appropriate to include it here:

For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace;
That the design of your great love lighten
Upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows
And give peace to your church, peace among nations,
Peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Finally to June and two reminders:

Sunday 8th June: Holy Communion (1662) Quatford Church at 10.30am

Saturday 28th June: Quatford Summer Concert at 7pm with entertainment by the Bridgnorth Community Choir. Tickets £10 (including refreshments) from Carol, church choir members or on the dorr (cash only please). A warm welcome awaits you so do come!

Gillian Waugh Pead



St Mary Magdalene, Quatford

Summer Concert

An entertaining musical evening with the

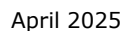
Bridgnorth Show Choir

Saturday 28th June, 2025, 7pm

Tickets £10, which includes desserts and liquid refreshments, are available from the Quatford Church Choir or pay on the door.

Proceeds to church funds and choir charities

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Rogation Sunday

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked:

For whatever a man sows, that will

He also reaped.....but he who sows to

The spirit, will of the spirit reap everlasting life. Galations 6: 7-8

So let us bow our heads and pray

(Now that them plough is put away)

That seeds and earth that covers,

Will do well as they may,

Like nurselings with their mothers.

So, bless the fields and cows and sheep;

But Lord I'm thinking 'Can I keep

My thoughts together for one hour?';

For what we sow we likewise reap—

Wheat now knee-high, the rape in flower.

So I was thinking how my seed

Of spirit may not meet my need;

Come, Living Water, make it wetter;

So I am glad with homeward eye,
Where charlock and wild poppies cry -
'Where is the perfect crop or weather'?
 'Let us stand or let us lie,
And all be gathered in together.'

Roger Taylor. June 2011.

SOUP LUNCHES

Methodist Church 12pm—2pm

Friday May 30th

Our friends at the Methodist Church have warmly
invited us to their soup lunch.

There is no charge but they would be grateful for any
donations to support them Ghanaian Community Health
Project.

Everyone welcome. Look forward to seeing you.

St. Mary's News

I am writing this on Palm Sunday so our thoughts at the moment are very much focused on Holy Week and Easter which is one of the busiest and most important times for our churches. I hope that by the time you read this we have all shared a holy and joyous Easter.

With the deadline for this months Crosslink being earlier than usual there is not quite as much to tell you as usual.

However we have already been fortunate enough to be able to host a concert given by Symphonia .Their concerts are always excellent and this one was no exception. It was good to see the church so full.

We are all grateful to Hugh Walker for his recent prompt action when our organ short circuited and a fire broke out during one of his practises. Thanks to Hugh's quick action the damage was limited and the organ up and running again for both the Chamber choirs Holy Saturday concert and for Easter Day. So, thanks Hugh for your quick thinking.

We will be having a May fayre on Saturday the 3rd of May and it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at this event.

I would also like to remind everybody about two of our regular ongoing events.

Firstly the coffee shop every Saturday Morning 10-12 . All are very welcome and it is a good opportunity for a chat over a cup of tea/ coffee and a piece of cake.

Secondly the connect lunch at 12.30 on the third Tuesday of every month at the Shakespeare . Everyone is welcome to come along . It is helpful (although not essential) if you can let me know if you are coming. My phone number is 01746 761786.

Catherine Wilson.

News from St Nicholas, Oldbury

How many times have articles here in Cross+Link started with the phrase or similar idea, “By the time you read this. . .”? I’m especially stretched now to think about May, when most of the events of this April have still to take place! The Lent services, taking place around the benefice’s churches, are coming to their conclusions, and we all owe thanks to the various hosts for making us so welcome. St. Nicholas is to host the Maundy Thursday service, and we hope to do that justice too. Then will follow all our Easter services, with all the joy of that to celebrate, as well as of families and traditions. And finally, we all hope for good weather for our Open Gardens event at Westwood House on 27th April from 2-5p.m.

Now I can talk about events in May! The first event will be our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which will be held after our normal morning service on the morning of Sunday 4th May. This sounds terribly dull, but is nevertheless important, and we will try to take the dullness out. At this meeting, we review what we’ve done over the previous year, elect new (!) officers to St. Nicholas’ Council to take decisions on our behalf for the coming year, and discuss outline plans and ideas for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate (- except technically for voting, unless you’re listed on our renewed Electoral Roll - a reason to be on the Roll, maybe?).

Following that, we will be holding services, as before, on first and third Sundays, alternating with St. Mary Magdalene, Quatford. We will, I hope, be beginning the processes of our Quinquennial Inspection during May, and hope fervently that not much serious work will be required.

The last event to give advance notice of is our next Open Gardens at Westwood House – on the evening of Wednesday, 18th June. If you’ve not come to one of these events before, please put it in your diary and come along. The gardens are delightful, the refreshments (including Pimms) are legendary, and you can even buy plants for your own gardens – all in aid of a good cause.

We hope to see you at one or other of these events.

Liz Fisher – Churchwarden (at least until the APCM)

Tasley News

I begin our news for Tasley by sending Avril our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery following her accident. Not the way to begin your retirement! Avril we are keeping you in our thoughts and Prayers. We welcome Keely in her new position as Team Administrator and wish her well. We look forward to getting to know you Keely.

Thank you Simon for leading us in a most meaningful Compline in Lent Service.

As I write this we are now looking forward to Easter Day at Tasley.

A reminder that Astley Abbots have invited us to join them on Sunday the 4th May at 11.30am for a joint Rogation Service, which will be held in the grounds of Stanley Hall and led by Bishop Richard.

No other Services are known as yet at Tasley, but we hope that it won't be too long until we see Stephen once again taking our All Age and Life and Soul/Morning Prayer Services.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next Coffee Morning on the 5th May 10.30.

100 Club Winners for April

1 – 115 Doreen England

2 - 3 Jenifer Caine

3 – 123 Pat Instone

Margaret

A big thank you from Avril

I would like to say a big thank you to all for the very generous monetary gifts, gifts, cards and visits received for my retirement. I was very overwhelmed by all of these and cannot say thank you enough. I am sorry that we couldn't meet up for the planned retirement party due to my 'accident' but with operation now imminent am looking forward to starting hopefully a full recovery and we can plan for a party once I am up and about again. I would also like to thank those who have gone above and beyond taking me for hospital appointments etc. Where would I be without such loving friends? I have enjoyed my 33 years with the Team with all the ups and downs. More ups than downs I will add and I know that you will now be in safe hands with Keely 'all the best Keely'

With love Avril xx



Thankyou for everything Avril! You have been such an important part of the team for every one of your thirty three years of work here.

We are sending our love for a speedy recovery and a happy retirement.

Spring Quiz

Spring sees gardens start to emerge from the cold winter weather with bright flowers blooming and garden insects re-appearing. How much do you actually know about these plants & insects?

1: What country uses the blooming of cherry blossoms to determine the start of spring?

2: How many eyes do bees have?

3: How fast can a bee fly?

4: What body part does a butterfly use to taste?

5: How do earthworms breathe?

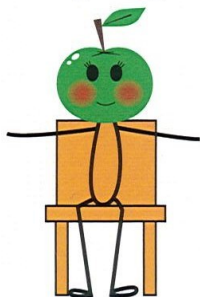


Answers: 1: Japan 2: Five 3: 20mph 4: Its feet! 5: Through their skin

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<div><div>Open to personal callers: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am</div><div>Email : bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk Website : www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk</div></div>	
<div><div>Priest in charge Revd. Suzan Williams 01746 599529 rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com</div><div>Anna Chaplain/Reader Mrs Jane Peeler 767043 annachaplainbmt@yahoo.com</div><div>Honorary Assistant Ministers Revd. Marjorie Brooks 01746 761942 marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876 boxbruk@hotmail.com</div></div>	

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Mrs Jane Parr...07814908917

Secretary Miss Catherine Wilson...761786

Treasurer Mrs Nicky Cooper762487

Vergers Mr Roger Taylor...767345

Deputy Organist

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

St Nicholas, Oldbury Churchwardens

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Treasurer Mr Quentin Leiper...764559

Organist Mrs Carol Wall...764365

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Treasurer Mr Michael Payne....07790 610441

Organist Mr Stephen Lomas...768648

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Miss Rachel Edwards...766146

Vacant

Vergers Mr Bob Curtis....766126

Secretary Miss Rachel Edwards...766146

Treasurer Mrs Marian Newell...765287

Organist Mrs Carol Wall...764365

St Peter and St Paul, Tasley Churchwardens**St Peter and St Paul, Tasley Churchwardens**

Mr Robert Turner...764881

Mr John Andrews 761708

Secretary Ms Lesley Edwards...761847

Treasurer Mrs Irene Rogers...765926

Organist Mr Stephen Lomas...768648

St Mary the Virgin, Acton Round Churchwarden

Mr Thomas Kennedy...714360

Secretary Mrs Jayne Madeley...785571

Treasurer Mrs Susan Kennedy...714203

Upton Cressett Monkhopton Churchwardens

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

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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

June edition

Wednesday 21st May 2025

by 1.00pm

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 contact Keely on the above details

MAY '25

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	4th May Easter 3	11th May Easter 4	18th May Easter 5	25th May Easter 6
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ BAPTISM/FC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	11.30 Rogation Service, Stanley Hall Gardens	9.30 FS	9.00 MP	9.00 MP
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	Tasley to join Astley Abbots at Stanley Hall Gardens	10.30 FS	10.30 HC	10.30 MP
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.30 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		10.00 HC
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP		
Monkhoppton	10.00 HC			