





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
					



**Come and See the  
cascade of poppies  
in St Mary's  
Church.**

***Thank you to Shropshire  
Fire and Rescue***

***James Gittins***

***David Beardsmore***

***Martin Whalley***

***Richard Tyrell***

***Aly Mills***

***for putting our poppy  
cascade up again***

## **Media presence and more**

The Joint Council are looking for someone to manage our presence on social media. If you have experience in preparing good, reliable information in an attractive format and putting it on appropriate social media regularly and frequently, this could be just the role for you!

We are also looking for someone to act as our Safeguarding Officer and someone else as our Health and Safety Officer.

All three roles are subject to volunteer recruitment processes. The social media and safeguarding roles are subject to full Safer Recruitment processes, including an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

If you can help with any of these roles, please contact the Joint Council's secretary, Graham Patey at [bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk) and mark it for Graham's attention.

***Graham***



# *St Mary's Chamber Choir*

*Presents*

## *Music for Advent & Christmas*

### *Saturday 2nd December 2023*

*At*

*St Mary Magdalene Church,  
Bridgnorth.*

## *7pm*

*Tickets £10 on the door*

*Includes programme, mincepies and drinks*

*Directed by John Turnock*

*Accompanist : Oliver Clarke*

## **Winning tickets for the October ST MARY'S 200 club**

£20 Sylvia Palmer 39  
£10 Martin Blackburn 50  
£10 Sally Themas  
£10 Sylvia Robbins 18  
£10 Olivia Parr 129  
£10 Mary Lineker 199  
£10 Doreen England

## **ST MARY'S CONNECT**

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 21st November** 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

## **St Nicholas Church Oldbury with Eardington**

On 1st October we were delighted to welcome Margot and Lola Marshall into the church family by way of their baptisms. Family and friends gathered for this auspicious occasion.

We will be holding one of our 5th Sunday Coffee and Cake on October 29th look for the report in the next issue The PCC have put forward an idea for a 'Breakfast Sunday'. Coffee and croissants will be on offer on Sunday 19th November, in Church, at 10.30, and will include, hopefully, a lively discussion on current issues, local and international. Bring your Sunday papers!

There is no service in church on Remembrance Sunday , 12th November, all are invited to Quatford where our roll of honour will be read.

Our harvest thanksgiving took place on 29th October. Marjorie led the service where donations for the food bank were received

Looking to the future;

Westwood House will again be holding open gardens next year; our thanks to Hugh and Roly for this opportunity to raise funds for our church. Sunday 28th April 2024 for the NGS 2-5pm and Wednesday 29th May for Shropshire Historic Churches 4-8pm.

Further information nearer the time

***Elaine Jones***



## **Can't see the wood for the trees**

Though summer fills our woods and forests with much colour with primroses, bluebells and trees in blossom and song from summer birds such as chiff-chaff, willow warbler, chaffinch and (if we are lucky enough) nightingales, beneath the full leaf cover, the sky and sunshine can be almost cut out.

In my experience, our spiritual lives can be a bit like that: crowded out with daily imperatives – must-do's, must-haves, deadlines, holidays, occupational pressures; where the gentle guidance of God and his Word are all too easily neglected: spiritual reflection (let alone meditation or retreat) becomes a luxury.

Sometimes though we can set our eyes too high, heavenwards perhaps, forgetting that God is immanent as well as transcendent; with us as well as beyond us; present around our feet as well as in the Heavenly Realm.

Sub-consciously, I think that something of this was in the back of my mind when I wrote the accompanying short poem – Dark Wood.

***Roger Taylor***

### **DARK WOOD**

However hard I sometimes try  
In this umbrageous wood to see  
Less leaf above, and more sky,  
I know in summer that's a game  
That I can only play to lose –  
But only sigh and feel no shame.  
Now come November I may choose  
After all its rain and roar,  
A firmament of changing blues –  
Leaves trodden to a golden floor.

***Roger Taylor***

## From Archdeacon Fiona

Each year, the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Festival focuses on a different aspect of honouring those who have served the Crown and country in the armed forces. This year the theme is Service, not just of those deployed on active service, but the unseen service of those who love them. We're encouraged to remember the impact that their absence, and their homecoming, can have not just on the service personnel but on their loved ones.

Those are the hidden costs of serving in the armed forces. Those at home, whether they be parents, partners, spouses, or children, carry a load of anxiety for their loved one. There's the weight of managing without them and then of re-shaping lives and routines around them when they return. If they return, of course. If not, there's the burden of grief which will be carried life-long.

If they do return, they're forever changed by what they've experienced in combat or on peacekeeping duties. They may carry physical and mental scars, and not know how to express them except among their comrades, who don't need words because they just get it, because they've seen and heard and smelled the same things. That can have an impact on loved ones too.

I often tell the story in Remembrance services of a man I knew in my home church who had been a prisoner of war in Burma during World War II. He'd seen and experienced unimaginable things but would never talk to his wife about them. He didn't want to. He didn't want those images to be spoken of in his home back in England. They weren't to invade that precious space, that haven. But that didn't mean he'd forgotten, or that those memories didn't trouble him. He and his wife learned to live with them, and with the fact that some things just remained unspoken.

Perhaps in this year's season of Remembrance, as well as remembering and giving thanks for the sacrifice of those who fought and died in service of our nation and of peace, we can also remember to pray for those still serving now, for those who love them and support them, and for healing of the seen and unseen scars of war.

God of healing and of peace, in whose service is perfect freedom, we hold before you those who serve our nation in His Majesty's Armed Forces, and those who love them.

We pray that during times of separation you would protect their relationships.

We pray that during times of reunion you would ease the transitions and be present in homecomings.

We pray for healing of bodies, minds, and spirits broken by experiences of combat, and for healing of grief for those who will never return.

Hold and guard all who serve on behalf of others, and their loved ones, we pray.  
Amen.

***AD Fiona***

## **Farewell to Bridgnorth**

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 2, tells us there is "a time to plant and a time to uproot". After 38 years in Bridgnorth, this is my time to uproot to Gloucestershire, to be nearer to my family.

I would like to thank people across the benefice for their friendship during these years and, in particular, a heartfelt thank you to my friends at St Leonard's Hall Church and St Mary's for their kindness and support since Colin's death in 2020.

My new house is only ten minutes' drive from the M5 and I would love to see anyone from Bridgnorth who might be travelling that way, perhaps on route to Devon or Cornwall. Please get in touch if you would like my new address.

My best wishes to you all for the future.

***Barbara Slade***



## News From St Calixtus, Astley Abbotts

On a very wet October morning we had a visit from Caring for God's Acre. Alex, Volunteer Co-ordinator, and his team of volunteers came and scythed the meadow area in our church yard (see photo). They were pleased to report the variety of wildflowers found in the meadow and signs of other wildlife that are making their home in our church yard. We look forward to welcoming them back again in a few months' time as they continue to help us make our church yard a place for nature to flourish, but also a place to be enjoyed by our community and visitors alike.



Our Remembrance Sunday Service will be held on **Sunday 12**

**November @10.30am at St Calixtus.** This is a joint service with our friends from St Peter and St Paul, Tasley and we very much look forward to having them join us as we meet to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

We held another Café Church service on 8 October in Astley Abbotts Village Hall. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, whilst enjoying our bacon butties and pastries. Mark Melliush was with us again to share a message from the Bible, this time on the theme of 'forgiveness'. Following Mark's message, we had some excellent conversations around our tables discussing forgiveness, sharing our thoughts and experiences with one other.

We are looking forward to our next Café Church which will be held on **10 December @ 10.00am, Astley Abbotts Village Hall.** Everyone is very welcome to come along, if you've been before it will be lovely to see you again. If you haven't yet been to a Café Church, why not come along and find out what it's all about. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are sad to learn of the deaths of two former members of our community, both of whom attended St Calixtus for many years.

Michael Coombes passed away on 26 September. Mike was a regular worshipper at St Calixtus when he lived at Colemore Green and was often seen cycling around the village and further afield, which is how

he earned the affectionate title of 'Mike the Bike'. He will also be remembered by many as the former cashier at Deca Radio and TV Ltd., Pale Meadow Works in Bridgnorth.

Kathleen Turner passed away on 28 September, having reached the incredible milestone of 105! Kathleen loved her family, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as the land and working outside. She spent much of her adult life at Boldings Farm. She remembered the introduction of the car and the tractor to the farm. Prior to that she used to walk into Bridgnorth. As a girl she used to deliver milk into Bridgnorth using a horse drawn cart carrying the milk churns. Her delivery route included the caves.

Kathleen was a real stalwart in the community, being involved with many aspects of village and church life. A Memorial Service to celebrate Kathleen's life was held at St Calixtus on 18 October.

Both Michael and Kathleen will be sadly missed by their families and friends, and we send them our condolences at this sad time.

Looking further ahead, we have an Advent Carol Service on **3 December @ 9.00am, at St Calixtus**. The Two Churches Choir will be leading our worship. This will be a lovely opportunity to begin the period of Advent and our approach to Christmas.

More information about our Christmas Services at St Calixtus will be in the December issue of Crosslink.

*Judy*

## Tasley News

Autumn is well and truly here. The trees are changing colour and the leaves are starting to fall. I suspect some of us will be kept busy raking and clearing the garden.

Our Harvest festival was well attended and it was lovely to have the Choir with us. Our thanks as always to Clive for leading our Worship. We're so lucky to have him. The store cupboard produce was once again donated to the food bank.



It was good to see everyone at our Harvest Supper and auction.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

On the Sunday 15th October we welcomed George Derbyshire and his family into The Church for his Baptism. We hope to

see them again perhaps at our next All Age Worship.

A reminder that this year we will be joining Astley Abbots for The Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November at 10.30am. There will be no Service at Tasley on that day.

We continue to keep Mary Ford in our Thoughts and Prayers and wish Roger well as he settles into his new home.

### **100 Club winners for October**

40 Ann Turner  
127 Elizabeth Stenning  
37 Gwen Harris

### **Forthcoming Events**

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

*Margaret*



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## Opening Times

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10:30am - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:30am - 5:00pm

Thursday 10:30am - 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday Closed

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## Quatford News

As I write in mid-October it is clear that Autumn is upon us with those occasional warm unseasonal days, usually associated with September. The trees, with their falling leaves are also beginning to carpet the floor whilst farmers are out sowing seed on well prepared ground.

How fortunate we are to live a county where the seasons are instantly recognisable and when, in November, we also remember the fallen of two World Wars and indeed, subsequent wars. Our Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 am where the names of the fallen will include not only those of Quatford but also those of Oldbury.

As the nights draw in December beckons and so this year our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3 pm. Do join us if you can. Our Service of Christmas Communion will also take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at the earlier time of 3pm (which will get you back home in time to hear the Carols from Kings)! So again, do join if you can.

Meanwhile, our bell tower was recently inspected by Hereford's Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) Bell's Advisor only to find a jackdaw's nest, complete with two chicks, in a very large twiggy construction beside the treble's frame! As for the three bells and their associated fittings, that's another story. *Gillian Waugh Pead.*

## ANCHORED



### Children's Event

(age 5-9 years) with different activities

Thursday 2nd November

9.30am—2.00pm

St James. Hall Church

Refreshments and lunch will be provided

Contact John Prockter 07915378003 or 01746218285  
[john.prockter@googlemail.com](mailto:john.prockter@googlemail.com) for more information



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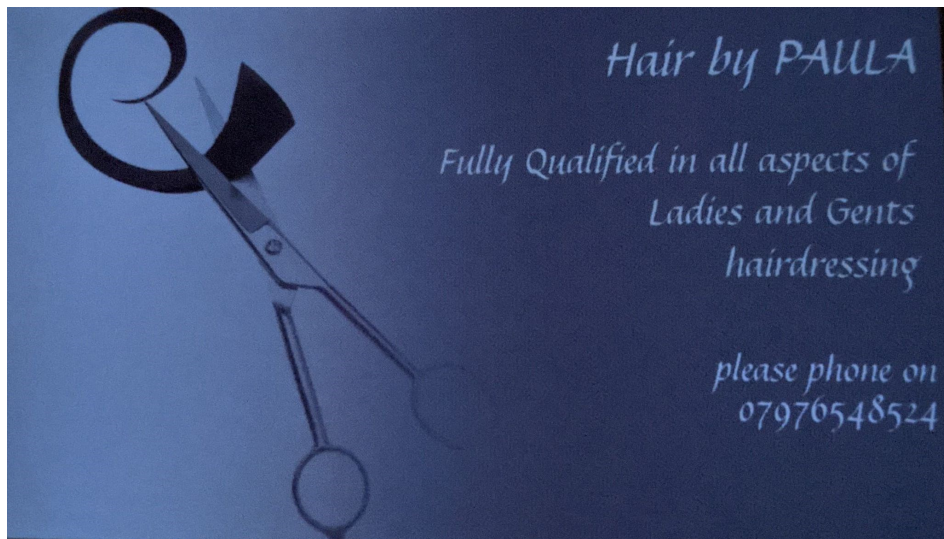


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<p><b>Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry</b></p> <p>Team Office: St Leonard's Hall Church, Racecourse Drive, Tasley, Bridgnorth WV16 4NR  Tel: 01746 767174  Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges</p>		<p>Open to personal callers:  Mon - 11.00am - 12.30pm  Tues - Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am</p> <p><b>Email :</b>  bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p><b>Website :</b>  www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk</p>
<p><b>Anna Chaplain/Reader</b>  Mrs Jane Peeler 767043</p> <p><b>Honorary Assistant Ministers</b>  <b>Revd. Marjorie Brooks</b> 01746 761942  marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com  <b>Revd. Clive Parr</b> 767023  <b>Revd. Simon Boxall</b> 07788869876  boxbruk@hotmail.com  <b>Revd. Preb. Dr. David Chantrey</b>  01746 218892</p> <p><b>Local Ministry Development Group</b>  Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271  Mrs Kay Prior 768259  Miss Sheila Royle 766577</p>		

**St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth Churchwardens**

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**Astley Abbotts Village Hall**

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

**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**December'23 /January '24**

**Wednesday 22nd November 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>	All Saints 5th Nov	Remembrance 12th Nov	2nd Sun before Advent 19th Nov	Christ the King 26th Nov
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	11.30 Remembrance	10.30 HC	10.30 FC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 Remembrance		10.30 MP
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	10.30 Remembrance with Tasley	9.00 MP	9.00 Life and Soul
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 MP	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 MP		10.30 HC	10.30 Life and Soul
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	10.45 Rem	11.15 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 HC		
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round				
Monkhoppton	10.00 HC			