

Linking Parish Churches
around Bridgnorth

CROSS+LINK



St Mary Magdalene
Bridgnorth



SS Peter + Paul
Tasley



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Astley Abbots



St Nicholas
Oldbury



St Mary Magdalene
Quatford



St Leonards Hall
Bridgnorth



Bridgnorth
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Acton Round
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Aston Eyre
Aston Eyre

Monkhopton
St Peter's

Morville
St Gregory the Great

Upton Cressett
St Michael's



From AD Derek

As I write this in early September the shops are filling up with Christmas cakes and mince pies but alongside these are Halloween goods. When I was growing up Halloween was barely mentioned and Trick or Treat was something the Americans did on Greenham Common Airbase. We had Guy Fawkes nights, with fireworks, parties and 'Penny for the Guy'. Whilst Halloween celebrations have become a feature of our culture it has become associated with spooks, ghouls and witches and things that go bump in the night! Yet it actually a Christian festival, All Hallows' Eve - this is the traditional title for what we now call Halloween.

Halloween has its heart in the Old English word 'hallowed' meaning holy or sanctified. In the Christian tradition it was a day of preparation and fasting prior to celebrating All Saints day. It certainly wasn't associated with pranks, spooks, ghouls and witches but much more about preparing our hearts and minds to remember the Saints and those Christians who had died and joined the Communion of Saints. The festival that followed was deliberately designed to counter some of the superstitions surrounding the old end to summer and the coming of winter - the old Celtic festival of Samhain. Within church history it was only later that the commemoration of the dead, All Souls followed All Saints. It has become today an opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed and to give thanks for lives well led. As Christians we can rejoice that those who die in faith are now at rest and peace with God.

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

In more recent liturgical thinking this season now marks the beginning of the Kingdom season when we reflect on what it means to be citizens of heaven. However it is the idea of setting aside a day of fasting and prayer which struck me. I think somewhere along the way we have lost the real art of fasting not least because various slimming

companies have rather stolen the idea to simply mean going without food! Fasting is not simply about going without food or giving something up, it is primarily about taking something on, it is about giving ourselves space and time to allow God to speak with us and to shape who we are. It also isn't about telling everyone that we are doing it to draw attention to our spiritual well being. Jesus was clear that fasting is something we do quietly and privately.

Fasting in biblical terms is also a call to action. It is a moment when we draw near to God but we also look out to the world in acts of love and service. Fasting in the scriptures is always for a purpose beyond ourselves and for the benefit of others. It is part of the mission of the church that we are called to serve those who we live amongst and to reach out with God's love to our world. Seen through God's eyes fasting is a call to action and mission.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, ... “

Isaiah 58:6-7

As October brings autumn on and the nights draw in let us not forget to pray, give thanks for loved ones we see no longer and remember that we are called to serve our communities.

The Venerable Derek Chedzey

Archdeacon of Hereford

Rev. Suzan Williams

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Suzan Williams' installation service will be held on 9th December at St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth at 7.00pm when Suzan will become Priest in Charge of Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry

ST MARY'S CONNECT

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 15th October 2024** 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 served basis.

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St Mary's Chamber Choir SOS! Sing on Saturdays

(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 14th September 2024** in preparation for our Advent & Christmas Concert on **Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7pm.**

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

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

New members are always welcome.

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

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

www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk



Tasley News

September is swiftly moving on and the changing colours of the trees in the Autumn sunshine are looking lovely.

The Church is looking magnificent following our redecoration and what a lovely way to reopen our doors, as we welcomed for Baptism James Robert Fuller and his family into the Church on the 1st September. We look forward to seeing them again in the near future.

We now look ahead as we prepare for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th October at 10.30am. Followed by our Harvest Supper on Monday 14th October at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Following our summer break The Astley and Tasley Choir have begun Friday night practice again, in preparation for Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas!

This year our Joint Remembrance Day Service will be held at Tasley when we will be joined by the congregation of Astley Abbots.

The Monday morning coffee mornings continue on the 1st Monday of each month at 10.30 until 12md and we look forward to seeing you there.

100 Club Winners for September

74 Brian Marshall
54 Gwen Harris
59 Val Stoker

Events for October

Mon 14th – Harvest Supper in the village hall at 7pm - £10

Sat 19th – Wine & Cheese with entertainment from the AB Ukulele Band in the village hall at 7pm - £10

Margaret Edwards

News from St Mary's

Like all the churches in the Benefice we are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of Suzane Williams and the beginning of her ministry and all the exciting times we are going to share with her.

In the meantime whilst we wait It is good to have some good news which is that we have welcomed back our Chamber Choir .It has re-formed and has started rehearsals ready for their Christmas Concert .

Having heard their first rehearsal I can tell you they are sounding good already and singing some lovely pieces which I know everyone will enjoy at their Christmas Concert .

This month saw a group of dedicated Riders and Striders from St. Mary's take part in the annual Ride and Stride. This year we were pleased to welcome Bishop Richard and David Hardham the Shropshire County Organiser of the Ride and Stride who were completing their own ride and stride on the Bishops motorbike. Their Ride and Stride began in Madeley, they came to us from Much Wenlock church ,whilst in Bridgnorth they also visited Cartway Church, they were then going on to Highley Church before making

their way back to Hereford.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and who completed their own ride and stride.

We look forward to celebrating our harvest festival and to holding our Autumn Fayre

Catherine Wilson



Bishop Richard Jackson and David Hardham organiser of Ride and Stride on the forecourt of St Mary's Bridgnorth

From right to Left -David Oxtoby Churchwarden of St Mary's, Bishop Richard Jackson, David Hardham County Organiser of Ride and Stride and John Clark Chairman from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.






St Mary Magdalene
Autumn Fair

East Castle Street, Bridgnorth

Saturday 12th October
11am - 2.30pm



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Do join us also on Sunday 13th at 10.30am
for our Harvest Service when we will
be supporting Bridgnorth Food Bank

Clergy Thoughts, October 2024

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

(Henry F. Lyte)

Around now, most of our churches will be holding some kind of Harvest Thanksgiving Service, and hopefully our local Food Bank will reap the benefit. But I wrote at some length about Harvest in last month's magazine so won't revisit that directly here. But we are coming to the tail end of Trinity, or what is termed in the Church Year, Ordinary Time, so despite the fruitfulness of the season, when I sat down to write this, it didn't seem a particularly fruitful time for delivering inspiring thoughts for Cross+Link. And I didn't feel like dwelling on the dire world news. In fact, I suppose I was feeling a little bleak, quite autumnal in fact.

And that at last triggered a train of thought. What did the Bible have to say about autumn? Unfortunately, very little. Autumn only gets one mention in the Bible and it is a pretty depressing one. Jude (1:12) compares false teachers to autumn trees without fruit. As we have noted, autumn should be the most fruitful season so seeing these fruitless trees, which should be laden with fruit, is doubly disappointing.

But looking around our congregations, it is clear that many of us are in fact in the autumn of our lives; perhaps a period filled with nostalgia as we look back on the years. It may be a time of regret for things undone – or it may be a time when we see a harvest from the seeds we have sown over our lives, a harvest which can set us up for the colder days of winter that lie ahead. Can we still be fruitful trees?

How can we make the best of this autumn of life? We may think there are few advantages. Our children have left home; our grandchildren are growing up in a fast-changing world, far different from the one we knew, and many of those changes are not for the better. We ourselves have left work with the focus that it brought, and now can note a steady decline in health and vitality; and we are losing many friends and funerals begin to take up more space in the diary.

Of course, you would not expect me to leave you on such a note of despair, and I won't. The autumn of life is also a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings – all the things we have received from him as we have journeyed through life; family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care; and the opportunities he has given us to serve and provide fruitful ministry. As we are less physically active,

perhaps we can find more time to pray and study our Bibles; and, yes, as Christians, we do look forward with hope to the eternal life still to come. During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

Our lives will have had their ups and downs, but God always evens things up. As Joel (2:25) says: "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten" Despite the physical limitations we now face, there is nothing to prevent us from maintaining, and even renewing our commitment to God.

Because, and here is the greatest blessing of all, God will never renege on his commitment to us. We cannot avoid the changes that life brings, but our faith teaches us that God is unchanging. He is always totally dependable, and his truth, ways and purpose do not change. He can never deny his own character. "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

We change, our lives pass through various shifting seasons, but the joyous heart of our Christian faith is that God is unchanging; and as his children we can rest in that knowledge and all the goodness he provides throughout our lives. The God who has been our help in ages past is still our hope in years to come. Let us dedicate those years, be they few or many, to serving and loving our unchanging, loving God.

Marjorie Brooks

PS. If you have been affected by any of these issues, as they say on TV, consider talking them through with Jane Peeler, who is our Anna Chaplain.

Oldbury and Eardington News

Harvest time again, it seems to come around so quickly doesn't it ?

Our festival service this year is at 10.30 on 6th October. The Sunday before that, 29th September we have no service, but are serving tea, coffee and cake and starting our collection of harvest goodies, giving proceeds to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

I have spent at least ten years of Monday mornings helping to sort out donations and know how much we rely on this time of year to replenish our stocks, our client weekly figure runs to just over one hundred people at the moment - a lot of food !!

Our recent PCC meeting covered many varied ideas for the future of St Nicholas and of links with charities and our local community. Oldbury Grange, our neighbour and residential care home has recently changed hands and we have been invited to visit and to explore future links with them and enjoy afternoon tea. In the past, we have always enjoyed a good relationship with staff and residents and hope that we can renew this.

We are so lucky to enjoy refreshments after each service, provided always with a smile from Ann Walter. Donations are put into a rather handsome (charity shop) piggy bank and as he was feeling a bit heavy, we emptied him recently, so a grand total of £121.06 will go towards youth projects in town.

As with other parishes, we are looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Suzan Williams and to sharing time with her, though her time will be busy settling in, we wish her well.

Helen Bagnall

Quatford News

Order of St Ethelbert

A much-loved and highly respected member of our congregation for over 40 years, Bob Curtis has been awarded the Order of St Ethelbert in recognition of his service as church warden, PCC member and trustee. This award is made to people who have given long and distinguished service to the Diocese of Hereford. St Ethelbert, Saxon saint of the Cathedral, is chosen as a focus because:-

1. he exemplified courage and perseverance
2. his life speaks of healing and light
3. he provides a link between Cathedral and diocese



You can find out more about the Order of St Ethelbert at:
www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/order-of-st-ethelbert

Recent events

Ride + Stride on 14 September

This event raises income for Historic Churches Trusts, enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. Although we didn't see many participants, it was lovely to welcome a small group from Chelmarsh who kindly signed our visitors' book. A member of our congregation, Gill, was sponsored to visit four churches by car (Tasley, Astley Abbots, Quatt and Alveley), receiving a warm welcome everywhere but resisting refreshments until she reached Quatford for her stint on the rota and succumbed to Rachel's baking.

PCC meeting on 24 September

Coming events

Quiz Night at Tony's at 7pm on 22 October with fish supper – tickets are £12, there'll be a raffle and we usually have teams of around four, which you can join on the night.

Remembrance Service at 10.30am on Sunday 10 November – 80th anniversaries in 2024 include D-Day, of course, and the ends of the Battles of Monte Cassino, Kohima, Imphal and the Scheldt, plus the end of Operation Market Garden.

Marian Newell

News from Astley Abbots

Welcome to autumn, not sure about mists and mellow, more like winter drear but there we are. I hope to welcome many of you to at least one of our varied services.

We start with Holy Communion on the 6th of October at 9am, taken by Mark Melluish from Hereford, please come and hear what he has to say, he is committed and always interesting.

Our Archdeacon Fiona is coming to cafe church on Sunday 20th at the village hall at 10am, and there will be bacon butties, croissants and coffee while we try to make sense of another thorny subject. Discussions round the tables are diverse and thought provoking.

We are having a break from tradition this year, our Harvest Festival, is being held in the morning at 11.15am on Sunday 27th October, our choir will be singing and leading everyone through some of our best loved hymns, followed by lunch at the village hall at 1pm, tickets from Juanita £12.50, byob, and leave room for the usual array of delicious crumbles. We will be supporting the food bank, please bring your donations to the church service.

A big thankyou to the "Gods Acre "team and all who came to help on September 5th the churchyard looks thoroughly spruced up.

The Ride and Stride was a great success, it was a beautiful day and we welcomed cyclists, walkers and car drivers alike, our thanks to Rosemary for manning the church and providing an array of cakes. Graham and Rosemary are hosting an autumn bible study at their house on Tuesday evenings throughout October "Delving into Acts", please contact them for more information.

So as you see there is something for everyone, come and join us!

Idonea



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Tuesday 22nd October 2024: 7pm, St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, WV16 4ALP

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt.

Tickets for lunchtime concert £10, evening concerts £12 (Free to children under 18)



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REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

1.9.24 Jacob Robert Fuller

22.9.24 Coren James Galvin

WEDDINGS

31.8.24 Nathan James Thompson and Nenagh
Kathleen Brady

FUNERALS

23.8.24 Joseph Donald Glaze

2.9.24 Joyce Louisa Brick

27.9.24 Terence Frank Atherton



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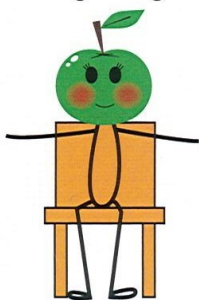

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Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry

Team Office: St Leonard's Hall Church,
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WV16 4NR
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Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges

Open to personal callers:
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Anna Chaplain/Reader

Mrs Jane Peeler 767043

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marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com

Revd. Clive Parr 767023

Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876

boxbruk@hotmail.com

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Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271

Mrs Kay Prior 768259

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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

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Tasley Village Hall

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Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

November '24

Wednesday 23rd October

by 1.00pm

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

OCT '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	6th Oct 19th Sun after Trinity	13th Oct 20th Sun after Trinity	20th Oct 21st Sun after Trinity	27th Oct Last After Trinity/Bible Sunday
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 Harvest HC	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ Baptism
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	10.00 Café Church (Village Hall)	11.15 Harvest Hall
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 MP	10.30 Harvest	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	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 HC with Aston Eyre
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		At Morville
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		18.00 Harvest Evensong		
Monkhoppton	18.00 Harvest			