





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 ARCHDEACON FIONA

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.

Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by his terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's his words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in.

I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of

anxiety or fear. Once such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to “broadcast” our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them?

AD Fiona

Finding a new Rector.....

We are making progress!

The diocese has been able to purchase a house suitable as a new Rectory in Ludlow Road. As a result, we have now advertised the post and invited applications. We should be interviewing in early May. The Joint



Council has appointed two representatives to the selection panel - please note they are not permitted to say anything about the process so please do not ask them! The candidates will be looking around the area and it is possible you may come across them. Should you do so, it is important that you also do not say anything as you may then prejudice the outcome of the process.

Some useful prayer points for all of us to adopt in the coming weeks:

1. Give thanks for the purchase of a suitable property for the new Rectory.



2. Give thanks for all those clergy and lay people who are giving so freely of their time, energy, and gifts in serving the churches and parishes during the continuing vacancy, and ask for God's continuing strengthening of them.

3. Ask for wisdom for all those involved in the selection process.

Graham

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NEWS FROM OLDBURY

Walking through the fields and lanes of Oldbury with our two dogs, Molly and Amber, I think it would be fair to say that I have never known a wetter, or indeed muddier start to the new year. I am really looking forward to April. This is the month when we can enjoy longer days, hopefully warmer drier weather, and start to plan for the year ahead.

Oldbury services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Celebrating Easter at the end of March has meant that the 7th April service will now be a Coffee & Cakes morning in church to allow Marjorie a well-deserved day off. Everyone is welcome, including all dogs and their owners.

On the 20th April Alice Leiper will be marrying Matthew Furness. We love having weddings in Oldbury, and it is always special when this involves local families. Alice is the daughter of our Church Warden, Dorothy, and our PCC Treasurer, Quentin (better known to us all as Q). We all wish them all every happiness on this special day.

This will be a busy weekend for the Leiper family as the day after their wedding we will be holding the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) in church following our normal service. Please put 10:30am on Sunday 21st April in your diaries. This is our chance to hear about the past year at St Nicholas and the plans for the future. The PCC would always love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. This is not as onerous as it might sound and is really a chance to contribute to the future of our parish church.

We are of course all very pleased that the appointment process for the new Team Rector in Bridgnorth is finally under way. At the beginning



of May prospective candidates will have the opportunity to visit all the churches Bridgnorth area and we look forward to welcoming them to St Nicholas as part of this process.

Finally, at the end of the month on Sunday 28th April our gardens at Westwood House will be opening for the NGS (National Garden Scheme) from 2-5pm. We are hoping that the tulips will have survived this dodgy start to the year and will be at their best. More importantly I would like to thank all the Oldbury bakers for once again putting on their aprons and coming



to do the teas. This is such an essential part of any garden opening and I know their reputation is now legendary. All the funds raised from the teas will be donated to the upkeep of our lovely church.

If you can't make this day we will be opening again on Wednesday 29th May from 4-8pm – an evening opening with Pimm's and Picnics, and of course more delicious offerings from the Oldbury bakers. This will be in aid of SHCT (Shropshire Historic Churches Trust). Their Open Gardens leaflet can be found at the back of the church.

Carolyn (Roly) Trevor-Jones

Quatford News

After more than two years as Treasurer of Quatford PCC, this is my first news report for Cross+Link. Although I've acted as Secretary for various groups, I haven't held the purse-strings before and it's taken this long for me to gain confidence. Nicky Cooper at St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, has just inspected our 2023 accounts and I'd only made one mistake this time, so that feels good. My thanks go to Nicky for being our inspector and helping me with my queries.

Three of us from Quatford PCC attended the safeguarding training in St James Hall Church in Lodge Lane, along with representatives from the other PCCs in the team. I know that some delegates found it difficult to see and hear the presentation but it was interesting for me, as my career was not people-facing and I hadn't needed to give much thought to the issues covered. We should receive our certificates of attendance soon.

Our Mothering Day service was well supported, with even the non-mothers among us leaving with a posy (thanks to the Saturday team of posy makers). As mentioned in the last issue, we'll be joining Oldbury for their Easter Communion service on 31 March.

Our latest PCC meeting was held on Tuesday 19 March, giving the

chance to line up events for the coming year – I'd already overheard organist Carol Wall talking to a musician about the summer concert. Our APCM will take place after the morning service on Sunday 14 April.

We've welcomed two parties of visitors recently, one from St Saviour's in Liverpool who are looking into pew heating systems and one from Bridgnorth U3A who enjoy church buildings and history. Both visits went well and we thank the groups for their kind donations.

I looked around our churchyard for seasonal photos and hope this one of the porch, with pots of daffodils and polyanthus, conveys the warm welcome that visitors will find at Quatford (even a bowl of water for our canine friends). Our thanks go to Rachel and her helpers for making everything so attractive.

Marian Newell



*"Welcome to St Mary
Magdalene, Quatford:
services at 10.30am on 2nd
and 4th Sundays, conducted
by Rev Marjorie Brooks*

Andy Roberts R.I.P. Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Rev.Preb. Andy Roberts on Saturday 13th April at 2.00pm at St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth.

Revd Andy Roberts Rector Bridgnorth. 1994 - 2009

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of our previous Rector, Andy Roberts on New Year's Eve 2023.

Ill health had meant retirement to Swanage, but we were fortunate to enjoy his and Liz's company when they visited Bridgnorth last June. Life at a



slower pace had not dimmed his enthusiasm or his sense of humour and it was heartening to recall happy memories of his tenure as Team Rector of the Bridgnorth parishes.

Andy, Liz and their teenage family moved to Bridgnorth in the Autumn of 1994 from Swanage in Dorset, where Andy had been Team Vicar in the Swanage group of parishes. He was one of 37 applicants who applied for the post of Team Rector and it was quite evident from the beginning of his ministry here in Bridgnorth that the correct person had been appointed.

As Team Rector Andy was keen to foster an inclusive 'team spirit' amongst the five team churches and to promote lay participation with the installation of a Local Ministry team. As St Mary's is a training parish for curates, there was also plenty of scope for the new Rector to inspire and train three curates in the opportunities and advantages of working in a team.

In June 2003 at the feast of St Peter the Apostle, as recognition of Andy's ministry in Bridgnorth, Bishop John Oliver installed Andy as a Prebendary and member of the College of Canons of Hereford Cathedral, taking the Prebendal stall 'de Hinton'. A team coach was organised for the occasion and Andy was presented with his Prebendal blue cassock

as a gift from all the Bridgnorth parishes. Over the years many team outings/mystery trips were organised and Andy very much enjoyed the team's annual visit to Hereford for the cathedral's Epiphany service.

Some major developments were overseen by Andy as St Mary's became an increasingly popular venue for concerts, exhibitions and as an attraction for visitors to the town. He also wanted to bring the clergy closer to the congregation for worship, so instigated a nave altar on a raised stage. An ambitious project saw the installation of a new kitchen, a disabled friendly toilet and a new choir vestry - all welcomed by congregation, performer and visitors alike.

Andy and Liz hosted many events in the Rectory and in the garden and Liz presided enthusiastically over the Mothers Union and Little Stars, which reached out to the younger generation. The Rectory was a meeting place where all were welcomed and valued, whatever their race or creed.

Another successful major fund raising project overseen by Andy was the 'Father Willis Organ Appeal'. Both he and Liz supported all events that would take place over a number of years and at the conclusion of the appeal some £145,000 had been raised. We must be grateful that Andy personally negotiated directly with the Head of Clifton College for the purchase of the Father Willis organ.

In the Autumn of 2009 through ill health Andy took early retirement. A full St Mary's church on Advent Sunday 2009 was his last service in Bridgnorth. Upon Andy's departure the bishop of Hereford, Bishop Anthony Priddis granted him Prebendary Emeritus status as an honour.

Not many parishioners know that Andy was a keen amateur magician. During his fifteen years in Bridgnorth, he certainly worked his magic, not only in holding the parishes together as a Team, but also by allowing them to retain their own individuality.

One of Andy's favourite hymns was - *Be still for the presence of the Lord* - We all hope he is now at peace in His presence.

Heather Walters and David Davies



Music at St Mary's Piano Recital

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ST MARY'S CONNECT

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 16th April** 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

ST MARY MAGDALENE BRIDGNORTH COFFEE SHOP

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

TASLEY NEWS

The end of yet another month fast approaches and we look forward to Easter. How lovely to see a little sunshine over the past few days, it makes everything look so much nicer.

Our Service for Mothering Sunday was All Age Worship and with Jo's expert help our small but select group made paper flowers to give to their Mothers.

Our thanks as always to Mal for preparing the lovely Viola plants which were handed out to the congregation.

On Passion Sunday the congregation of Tasley joined Astley Abbotts at St Calixtus Church for a Devotional Service of Music and Readings for Lent. Thank you to the Astley and Tasley Choir for their valuable contribution to the Service.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next coffee morning. These continue on the 1st Monday of the Month 10.30 – 12 midday.

Events

Sat 20th April – "Flicks in the Sticks" in the Village Hall at 7pm. The film is "One Life"

Margaret



an

BRIDGNORTH

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Direct Volunteer link: <https://bridgnorthyouthandschoolsproject.co.uk/stirgroup/#Volunteers>

Direct Video link: https://youtu.be/OLeLR_hcr2A

Well worth a visit

I would like to publicise 'Shropshire Historic Churches Trust', Open Gardens. Specifically 'The Leasowes' which is the next one to open on 5th May. It is 2/3rds of the way down the long straight from Cressage towards Shrewsbury on the left hand side.

We went there last year, quite remarkable plantings of Rhododendrons and unusual trees up a valley with water features. Whilst I was enjoying a young Californian great fir and a Chinese plain tree she found a handkerchief tree in blossom.

John Johnson (Quatford/Oldbury)

ASTLEY ABBOTTS NEWS

Lent will be over when this goes out and Easter will be here! Easter Eucharist will be at Tasley at 10.30, and our joint choir will swell the singing. While we are having at short family service here at 9am, don't forget the clocks! Our thanks to Stephen and the choir for a beautiful Lenten Litany on the 17th, and to Tasley for joining us.

Mothers Day service was full of young families, Judy gave us a lovely service as ever with delightful posies, thank you to everyone.

The 'kick off' to our Lenten activities took place on Shrove Tuesday with our popular Pancake evening. Thank you to Graham and Rosemary Patey and Juanita – lovely pancakes.

Our Bible series called the Lent Encounter has run every Tuesday during Lent and we are on this journey towards the Cross. We have been looking for Jesus in the Old Testament. We have recently joined the psalmist in Psalm 22 who exclaimed 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' which reminded us of the words of the Lord Jesus on the cross. (Matthew 27:46. The downloads we receive from the Bible Society everyday focus our minds on scripture and help us to reflect on God's plan to save his people. Our weekly sessions give us the opportunity to ask the difficult questions, discuss together and have fellowship together.

"Gods Acre" crew are coming to our church yard spring Tidy on Thursday 21st March, please come and help for an hour or so 10 til 4, lots of coffee and cake!

There will be a memorial service for Rosemary Lake on 12th April at 2pm, Rosemary and her parents almost ran St Calixtus for many years.

Idonea

" That Clock "

Shhh, he says, listen, as I quietly sit on a seat
that clock, he said, that clock is out of beat
Which one ? I ask with a sigh.
Is it the one on the landing, or the one in the hall,
the one in the loo or the two on the wall,
Is it the one on the mantle,
or the one by my bed.
None of those he said,
I am mistaken that's all.

Sandie Phillips

A decorative border of pink flowers and greenery surrounds the text. The flowers include tulips and ranunculus, with green stems and leaves interspersed.

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<div><div>Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry</div><div>Team Office: St Leonard’s Hall Church, Racecourse Drive, Tasley, Bridgnorth WV16 4NR Tel: 01746 767174 Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges</div></div>	
<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>Anna Chaplain/Reader Mrs Jane Peeler 767043</div><div>Honorary Assistant Ministers Revd. Marjorie Brooks 01746 761942 marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com Revd. Clive Parr 767023 Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876 boxbruk@hotmail.com</div><div>Local Ministry Development Group Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271 Mrs Kay Prior 768259 Miss Sheila Royle 766577</div></div>	

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Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

May '24

Wednesday 17th April 2024

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

April '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	2nd Sun of Easter 7th April	3rd Sun of Easter 14th April	4th Sun of Easter 21st April	5th Sun of Easter 28th April
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/FC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	9.00 MP	9.00 Life and Soul
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 Coffee and Chat		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 FS	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
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 HC		
Monkhopton	10.00 MP			