

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



## CLERGY THOUGHTS FROM DAVID

Wherever I have lived, there seem to have been links with well known figures from history. I expect this is everyone's experience, but I find it fascinating. As a teenager, I lived within walking distance of Down House in Kent, where Charles Darwin and his family lived. He also had strong connections with North Staffordshire, not far from Stoke where my children were born. And of course, Darwin was born and baptized in Shrewsbury. And wherever I have lived, there has been an oak tree that Charles II is said to have slept in, including at Boscobel, not far from here. Perhaps he always slept in trees!

One of the probably partly forgotten characters who had strong connections with Bridgnorth was Richard Baxter, a 17<sup>th</sup> century clergyman. He was born in one of my previous parishes, Rowton to the north of Wellington and educated at Wroxeter. He was ordained by the Bishop of Worcester in 1638, and soon after became Curate of Bridgnorth. He lived in a little house just opposite St. Leonard's Church here. He lived in turbulent times. In 1642, while



Baxter was Curate of Kidderminster, the Civil War broke out. He was a brave but compassionate man, with strongly held views. He opposed the execution of Charles I, was a chaplain in Cromwell's army, and was one of those who invited Charles II to return as king. But it was his religious views that seemed to cause him most trouble. As a Christian, he firmly believed in the salvation brought by Jesus, but his Puritan views conflicted with the views of many in the Church and wider society and he was twice imprisoned for his views.

So here was a moderate, sensitive, caring man, with strong views, which in the Carolean era and Cromwell's Commonwealth of the 17<sup>th</sup> century conflicted with current religious and political views. I wonder, in our modern day Carolean era, what views should we hold as Christians that might conflict with more widely held views and attitudes? Which ones would you, like Baxter, be willing to face persecution and perhaps imprisonment for?

**David Chantrey**

# Introduction to Church Bell Ringing

You may have heard a lot of news items about church bells being rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. You may also have noticed that the bells of St. Mary Magdalene are not ringing out as often as they once did. Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes? Well, here is your opportunity to come and find out!

An informal Introduction to Church Bell Ringing will be held at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Bridgnorth from 10am to 12pm on Saturday 19th August 2023 and from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday 20th August 2023.

Church Bell ringing is a great way to maintain your coordination and cardiovascular fitness, whilst keeping your brain active and stimulated. No prior experience is needed and you don't have to be a churchgoer to get involved. All we ask is that you are able to ring for church services as often as possible, so Sunday mornings between 9:55 and 10:30. Many other opportunities are available to participate in this hobby. Come and find out more about how we are keeping this historic English art form alive for future generations, and see if it's maybe the hobby for you. There will be no charge for this event and it's suitable for anyone relatively fit and able, aged over 11. (Please note that those aged under 18 should be accompanied by an adult or guardian.)

Last, but not least, please let me know that you intend to come along so that I can organise things. I can be contacted on 07870 381249 or by email at [stmarysbellringersbridgnorth@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbellringersbridgnorth@gmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

***Jon Hunt (Tower Captain of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth)***



## Rogation Sunday at Astley Abbots

It was a beautiful, sunny Spring morning when the congregations from Tasley and Astley Abbots met together to celebrate Rogation Sunday. Stanley Hall, home of Michael and Clare Thompson, provided the perfect setting for our outdoor service which was led by Rev Clive Parr.

Jo Walker provided some activities for the children who had a wonderful time looking at the beauty of God's creation and exploring the gardens, taking pictures using a frame shaped like a butterfly. Below you can see a photo showing some of the lovely nature textures and colours that the children found to fill the butterfly's wings.



Harriet, one of the children, said it was "great and fun and I liked the nature".

Following the service we enjoyed a time of fellowship together, accompanied of course, by tea/coffee and cake!

*Judy Mondon*

## NEWS FROM ASTLEY ABBOTTS

Hello from St Calixtus, Astley Abbots in what is turning out to be a lovely, busy Summer. We aren't sure how many of you are aware but we run an active Facebook page, you can find it by searching for 'St Calixtus, Astley Abbots' on Facebook, or by clicking this link if you are reading this article online: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064372642271> We try really hard to update the page with any information we have about services, events or items of interest or importance. Do find the page & click like or follow so that you see our posts. We meet monthly as a prayer group to pray for those in our community, just for half an hour at 9am on one Monday in the month, our next one will be on 24th July at 9am

at St Calixtus Church, should anyone like to join us. Our Summer Bible Study is about to start, on Monday 26th June at 2.45pm at Rosemary & Graham Patey's house, we are just meeting informally once a month. This time we are looking at Psalms, starting with Psalm 46. If you would like to come along give Rosemary or Graham a call on 01746 769125, they will know the July date & can answer any questions you might have. Our Cafe Church in the Village Hall continues to be very popular, attracting people who can't get to our usual services, due to them being early, or the church not having the best facilities so we are grateful for the blessing of the Village Hall.

Our next Cafe Church is on 16th July at 10am. We gather informally to share breakfast, enjoy interesting conversations and fellowship. Rev Mark Melluish is with us again & he will lead us in thinking about a passage from the bible which will be our starting point. Everyone is most welcome, all ages, all faiths or none, this leads to great discussions in our experience. We hope that the community photograph which was taken recently at The Bouldings, thank you Ed & Sue Turner, will be available to view at Cafe Church. Our 'Service Rota' is currently being drawn up for the summer months, please let Graham or one of the Churchwardens know if you would like to help with setting up church for a service, reading, welcoming people, leading our intercessions or making coffee. We enjoy working together to prepare for worship, it's one of the ways we feel we are behaving like the real family of God.

And finally.....Lucy & Matthew's wedding is planned in August, we wish them every blessing as they start this exciting part of their journey together. We hope you have a great Summer & that we see you at one of the many services & events we are planning.

***Idonea & Helen***

## FROM +RICHARD

Dear Friends,

June marked the 25th anniversary of Refugee Week (19 – 25<sup>th</sup> June). People were invited to celebrate what compassion looks like in action so, I was proud to support the launch of a fundraising campaign, set up by our Diocesan Mothers Union. They are supporting those who are seeking asylum who are currently housed at The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford. They are raising cash to offer each person the dignity of choosing basic clothing items.

Asylum Seekers are the real face of refugees in our midst – ‘the stranger.’ They flee their countries of origin often in fear, searching for something better, the freedom to live and eventually contribute through work. They find themselves in a strange place, reliant on the mercy and generosity of others – us.

I was reminded how vulnerable we are when we rely on the generosity of others during my recent visit to Nuremberg. The kindness and generosity of my hosts were gratefully received, and I am thankful for our strong links of friendship with the German diocese of Nuremberg which have stood the test of time for over 30 years. I was there, visiting the Evangelical Lutheran Churches biennial Kirchentag. Despite being post-Brexit, I was warmly welcomed, and Bishop Elizabeth and her husband made our stay easy. Even with our different languages, cultures and histories, we are genuinely brothers and sisters through our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

It is a healthy part of Christian discipleship to get out of our comfort zone. To be in Germany, a country I am not that familiar with, forced a certain dependence. My hosts gave me accommodation, fed me and provided a huge amount of inside information to help enrich my stay. There is a rich tradition of such Christian hospitality going back to the earliest times, particularly to foreigners and strangers.

In Deuteronomy 10 we read, “.the great God mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you, yourself were foreigners in Egypt.”

We have an opportunity to offer such hospitality to people who have arrived in our midst and live out the commandment in Deuteronomy 10. The writer of Deuteronomy doesn't speculate on whether the foreigners were smuggled into Israel slung under a camel. The sole criterion to help was the need.

I am very proud of our Diocesan Mothers Union who are seeking to provide support to our refugee friends. You can still give to the clothing appeal by arranging a retiring collection at a service and donating the proceeds online or if you can donate directly, please give what you can. [All the details are on the website](#). Please be generous.

**+Richard**



Music Director - John Turnock  
Accompanist - Oliver Clarke

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

(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023** in preparation for our Advent & Christmas Concert on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 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: contact via email [john.turnock48@gmail.com](mailto:john.turnock48@gmail.com)

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

[www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk)



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

£20 David Deighton 90  
£10 Catherine Wilson 71  
£10 Martin Blackburn 74  
£10 Martin Blackburn 34  
£10 David Deighton 4  
£10 Muriel and Alec Speke 40  
£10 Christopher Gill 92

## **ST MARY'S CONNECT**

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 18th July** 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.

**The date in August will be 15th August.**

## **ST MARY'S COFFEE SHOP**

St Mary's Coffee Shop

Every Saturday—10.30am—12.30pm

At the back of church

**‘LEAD US HEAVENLY FATHER LEAD US...’  
DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR BENEFICE  
SATURDAY JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

We give thanks to God for having brought us thus far as we continue along the often tortuous and challenging road towards the appointment of a new Priest-in-charge. At the last meeting in Tasley Village Hall Roger Taylor proposed a designated day of prayer be held and I said I would arrange it. As Roger says, “We must never ignore nor doubt the power of corporate prayer to show God our unity in voice and petition and as a sign that without Him we are cast forth upon a sea of chance.”

As I thought about and pondered on Roger’s words it occurred to me that over the last ten months there have been many differing opinions about what actually is the way forward with this or that proposal being aired, all it has seemed to me to little or no avail. Yet Roger’s words still ring true and whatever else our opinions may differ on surely the one thing on which we can all agree is that we want God’s perfect will to be done in our benefice. Last month as I was praying it occurred to me that in defending my own ideas and opinions when I pray I can get in God’s way and so I have decided to stop telling God what I think He should be doing in this situation and metaphorically get out of His way and surrender this whole vacancy to Him. Often I can, to quote Winnie the Pooh, “...be a bear of very little brain...”, and so humbly apologise to those who have had the same revelation and acted upon it before me.

Therefore I suggest that on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the Patronal Day of St Mary Magdalene, we as individuals agree to take some time out during that day to wait on God and seek His will as we pray. If some want to gather together to pray that’s wonderful, for others it may be that time spent alone maybe at the kitchen table, at work or on a country walk is the right thing, the important thing is that we seek out the opportunity and take time to pray God’s will be done for our new minister and our benefice.

*Every blessing Jane*

8th July 2023 2pm-5pm



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Games

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## ***News from St Nicholas, Oldbury and Eardington***

At the beginning of June I walked up through Oldbury churchyard in the sunshine. The churchyard and the green areas are looking very good. The freshly mown grass and the colourful areas of spring flowers are lovely. It is a perfect place to rest and relax for a few moments of peace.



Marjorie returned after a short break to take our services again on Trinity Sunday, and we were very pleased to welcome her back. Our regular Sunday services take place on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10.30 a.m. We are now using the new space created by the reorganisation of the pews in the north aisle of the church. It is much appreciated as a place to spend some time together over coffee after a service, or for other meetings or just for a chat. The pews can be moved as required for larger services and other events.

Regarding the recent building works, there are still one or two details and snags in the new toilet and kitchen area which are being sorted out at the moment. This includes the installation of a digital donation point towards the back of the church. Work will soon commence on the roof, to add to the repair to the valley gutter, which sprang a leak during the winter.

The sun came out and shone on the beautiful roses in Hugh and Roly Trevor-Jones wonderful garden at Westwood, where they hosted an open evening on the first Wednesday of June. A tennis display, and music played by Barrells and Bells added to the enjoyment of everyone who came to see the gardens and share the Pimms, strawberries and other refreshments. Some people brought picnics and found ideal spots to eat them, while looking out at the lovely surroundings and the views beyond. Lots of visitors came, and they had a very happy evening. Funds were raised for St Nicholas Church

and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) and the total received was £1587.50 which gave £793.75 to each cause.

The church and SHCT are very grateful to Hugh and Roly for organising the lovely evening. There are also so many other people to thank for their contribution to preparing for the event, for making it run smoothly on the evening, and for trying to ensure that everyone was comfortable and had a good time.

### ***Coming up in July and beyond -***

At the beginning of July we are looking forward to another visit from the children at Castlefields School. Their focus on this visit will be to look at how the church is a special and holy place for Christian people. It is always a pleasure to receive a visit from the children whose curiosity and enthusiasm brings new life into our historic building.

On Sunday July 30th there will be coffee and cakes in St Nicholas and also a plant and books stall, and a collection for the charity Christian Aid. Everyone is welcome.

The PCC are planning to fund a computer for the students at the College in Northern Uganda where the former team vicar Rev. Sarah Cawdell is currently working with the Church Mission Society.

Our Harvest Service will take place in the autumn, the date and details will be announced later on. Donations of tinned and dried goods will be welcomed for the harvest service and will be passed on to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

***Ann Walter***



## QUATFORD NEWS

We are fortunate to have 3 weddings over the next couple of months. One in July and two in August. The one couple have a ready made family of 3 children and one set of grandparents, who have been attending morning service for some time, it is encouraging to have young people with us and the children are delightful. We pray for and wish all three couples a long and happy life.

In between the weddings we have our annual concert , Saturday 15th July at 7.30pm, with the Black Eyed Susans saxophone band, along with a short programme from the choir. There will be a delicious selection of sweets,( which proved to be popular last year) with a choice of soft drinks (you are welcome to bring your own wine etc if you prefer. Tickets are available from Foxall's in the High Street or from choir members, or on the door. Tickets are £12 . The concert will start at 7.30pm, with an interval and eats, then the choir will have their turn.

Our Patronal service follows on Sunday 16th July at 4.00pm. We have chosen to have a Songs of Praise this year, all are welcome to join us.

July will see a 5th Sunday in the month, so we hope to hold a coffee, cake and chat on the 30th July 10.00 - 12.00. Again all are welcome Meetings and discussions continue over the vacancy, so some progress should be made over the next few weeks.

We wish you all a happy and pleasant summer and hope you are able to enjoy the sunny weather.

*Rachel Edwards*

## Tasley News

Can you believe that we're half way through the year and the longest day has now past! I hope you have all enjoyed this beautiful summer sunshine and coped with the high temperatures.

June has been a rather quiet month at Tasley. When this edition comes to press we will have celebrated our Saints day with our Songs of Praise Patronal Service.

On Sunday 11th June we welcomed Etta Grace and her family to witness her Baptism during our All Age Worship. It was lovely that the children were able to take part in the Pre Service activities, the theme was Love, during which they made a “love heart” which was given to the family. They also made a paper chain of hearts which is now proudly hanging in Church. We look forward to welcoming the family back into Church soon.

### **Dates for your diaries.**

On the 2nd of July at 2.30pm there will be a **Puddings Afternoon** hosted by Jean and John Jenkins at Tasley Cottage.( Second cottage after the Church) Admission £10.

Our coffee mornings continue on the 1st Monday of the month 10.30 to 12md.

See you there.

### **100 Club Winners for June**

1 – 79 Gareth Holland

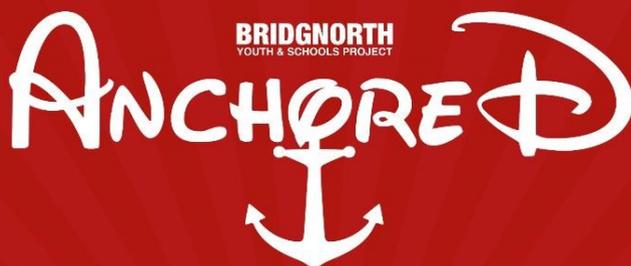
2 – 121 Oliver Andrews

3 – 77 John Andrews

***Margaret Edwards***

BRIDGNORTH  
YOUTH & SCHOOLS PROJECT

# ANCHORED



## **Anchored Children's Event Vision Service**

**Sunday 16th July**

**6:30 - 8pm**

**St James Hall Church**

Our hope is that our Christian friends from across Bridgnorth and surrounding villages will join us in bringing this year's Anchored Children's Event to the town. The Anchored event will happen in St Leonards Hall Church and St James' Hall Church during half term.

We will be thrilled to have you join us for a vision service on Sunday 16th July, when we will talk about the Anchored Children's Event. We plan to welcome young people between 11am - 1pm on Thursday 2nd November, and we will need people with a variety of skills.

During the service we will spend some time in worship, praying for young people and there will be space to take questions about how the Anchored event will unfold.

Every blessing

John Prockter & Jane Peeler



## When will they get here?

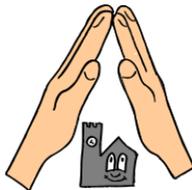
The big question so many of us are asking, of course, is when a new incumbent might be in place. The optimist might think we could be advertising the post in October; the pessimist might be more inclined to consider March. And it will be some time after that before they arrive .....

We have now had the discussion around the future of the Rectory and this is now in the hands of the Church Commissioners with an uncertain timescale. Once the Commissioners have decided and the diocese has been able to determine the issue of where the incumbent will live, then we can advertise the post. Following that we can interview and appoint. The selected candidate will hand in their notice (often three months) and then they arrive. Won't it be good when they can move into their new home here and are finally active with us!



As we all know, prayer is the most important ingredient in the whole process. We should be praying as individuals and each church should be praying whenever we meet. (We hope you are using the prayer in each week's Notice Sheet.) In addition to all this, we are planning a Day of Prayer on Saturday 22 July - We hope you can join us that day.

*Graham*



**Ride and Stride**  
**for**  
**Shropshire**  
**Churches**



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Every year in early September, the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust organises a sponsored '*Ride and Stride*'. This is a great way of spending an enjoyable day exploring Shropshire as well as making money for our own churches and for the Trust. Half the money raised goes to our local church and the remainder to the Trust which helps Shropshire's churches by providing grants for maintenance and repairs.

Participants visit as many (*or as few*) churches as they wish, usually cycling or walking between them, but horse riders and those arriving by car or mobility scooter are also very welcome. You can choose to be sponsored for each church or chapel visited or just for taking part. Many take part with friends or as a family and you can choose whether to visit locally or explore further afield. If you can't Ride & Stride, why not fill your car with friends and drive between churches?

Most churches provide simple refreshments and at many you'll also receive a welcome from locals and maybe learn something about the church and its fascinating history.

To find out more about getting involved or sponsoring someone, contact Sheila Royle or Blake Bromley for St Mary's, Bridgnorth or your local church co-ordinator.

Further information and lists of participating churches are on the website: [www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk).

# REGISTERS

## Baptisms

23.4.23 Olivia Weston

11.6.23 Etta Grace Carter-Rix

25.6.23 Thomas John Kenneth Capewell

## Weddings

23.6.23 Jack Aubrey Grenville Gordon-Colebrooke/Aimee Withinshaw

## Funerals

21.4.23 Gloria June Cowell

21.4.23 Adam James Bunning

25.4.23 Olive Edith Chisman

27.4.23 Lilian Wilson

16.5.23 Christine Susan Richards

19.5.23 David Pearson

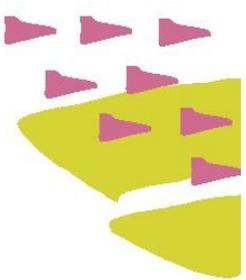
23.5.23 Terence William James Lock

25.5.23 Frank Hereford Smith

28.5.23 Beryl Pay

28.6.23 Linda Margaret Morris





**Sarah Isaacs**  
**BA.hons Cert.Ed**

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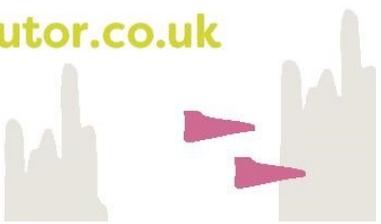
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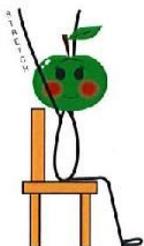
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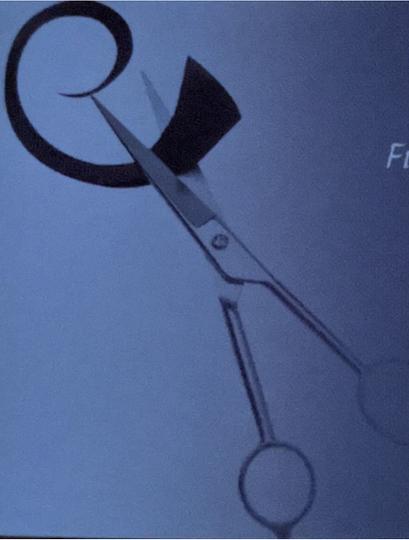
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### **Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry**

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 - 11.00am - 12.30pm  
Tues - Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am

**Email :**  
bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk  
**Website :**  
www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk

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

Mrs Jane Peeler 767043

#### **Honorary Assistant Ministers**

**Revd. Marjorie Brooks** 01746 761942

marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com

**Revd. Clive Parr** 767023

**Revd. Simon Boxall** 07788869876

boxbruk@hotmail.com

**Revd. Preb. Dr. David Chantrey**

01746 218892

#### **Local Ministry Development Group**

Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271

Mrs Kay Prior 768259

Miss Sheila Royle 766577

**St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth Churchwardens**

Mr David Oxtoby...766053

Mrs Jane Parr...766984

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

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

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

**Organists** Dr John Turnock...716282

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

**St Nicholas, Oldbury Churchwardens**

Mrs Dorothy Leiper... 764559

Mrs Liz Fisher ... 764059

**Treasurer** Mr Quentin Leiper...764559

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

**St Calixtus, Astley Abbots Churchwardens**

Mrs Idonea Pickering...763065

Mrs Helen Holding....07813 584469

**Secretary** Mrs Juanita Gennard...768674

**Treasurer** Mr Michael Payne....07790 610441

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

**St Gregory the Great, Morville Churchwardens**

Janet Brick....714344

Tim Morris....789271

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

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

**Aston Eyre Churchwardens**

Mr Will Winton...

Mr Dafydd Jenkins....07703 457839

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

**St Mary Magdalene, Quatford Churchwardens**

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**

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 Churchwardens**

Mrs Bridget Chappuis...714035

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 7655378

**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 Abbots Village Hall**

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

**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**September**

**Wednesday August 22nd 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>	4th Sun of Trinity 2nd July	5th Sun of Trinity 9th July	6th Sun of Trinity 16th July	7th Sun of Trinity 23rd July	8th Sun of Trinity 30th July
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 FS AND BAPTISM	NO SERVICE AT ST MARY'S
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 BCP 1662		10.30 HC	
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	10.00 Café Church	9.00 Life and Soul	9.00 MP
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC		10.30 Café Church
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC by ext.	10.30 FS	10.30 HC by ext	10.30 MP/Life and Soul	10.30 HC
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC		
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 HC	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		10.00 MP	
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 HC			
Monkhoppton	10.00 MP				

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	Transfiguration 6th August	10th Sun of Trinity 13th Aug	11th Sun of Trinity 20th Aug	12th Sun of Trinity 27th Aug
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	No service at St Mary's	10.30 HC	10.30 FS AND BAPTISM
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 BCP 1662		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	No service at Astley Abbots	9.30 FS	9.00 HC	9.00 Life and Soul
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 FS	10.30 HC	No service at Tasley
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 HC	11.15 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		No service at Aston Eyre
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round				18.00 Evensong
Monkhopton	10.00 HC			