





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
					

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

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From + Richard

Dear Friends

May marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of what is affectionately known as 'ordinary time' in the Church calendar. The pivot happens at the feast of Pentecost on May 19th this year. Every Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection, so its hard to see what is ordinary about it. The events of the Christ's death and resurrection are the turning point of history. It is a world-shattering event that means life can never be the same again. The book of Acts tells us how the disciples' lives were turned upside down by it. In their grief at the loss of Jesus a number were considering returning to their previous occupations. Once they encountered the risen Lord, they decided to change the world instead!

However, it was not just historical events which changed things. It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christian faith has always been a supernatural one. In the struggles to fill rotas, find volunteers, maintain buildings and serve our communities we can easily forget this. If the Christian life was just a set of rules to obey, religious acts to observe and an institution to maintain, it would not have lasted very long.

Trusting in the Holy Spirit to empower and lead is less safe than seeking to control events ourselves. Periodically in the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has broken through in ways that have upended our conventional way of doing things. It happened in the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century, numerous mini revivals in the church (of which some happened in our diocese) and in the great outpouring in Azusa Street in 1906 that gave birth to Pentecostalism. This is now the third largest stream in the Church today. In many ways it is hard to see how our current institutional predicament can be served by strategic thinking alone. I am praying for another (likely messy!) outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Hereford. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the courage we need for the evangelistic challenge. Only the Holy Spirit can turn the hearts of those currently indifferent to Christian things to help see their need for the Lord. So, 'Come Holy Spirit and kindle the hearts of your people with the fire of your love'. Today, we need that more than ever.

+Richard



St Mary Magdalene Quatford
SUMMER CONCERT

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SATURDAY 29th June 2024

At 7pm

In Quatford church

Favourite desserts and liquid refreshments

Tickets £10 from Foxall's High Street Bridgnorth

Proceeds to church funds and choir charities

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Quatford News

At Quatford, Palm Sunday saw a congregation of 33, with visitors from Oldbury and elsewhere, which was very pleasing, and a most enjoyable service too, led of course by Marjorie.

Easter Sunday followed with a good contingency from Quatford when we joined with Oldbury to celebrate Easter. Again a lovely service led by Marjorie. Thank you to Oldbury for their warm welcome. Good to have the choir with us for both services.

Our APCM went off without incident, everything done and in place (we hope)!

We are again holding our annual concert in church, a little earlier this year, being Saturday 29th June, please see special advert in this month's magazine for details, you will be very welcome to join us. The annual quiz is booked for October, usual format, to be held at Tony's in Quatford to include a fish and chips supper- further details nearer the time.

Thoughts of an open weekend at the church - history based are under consideration later in the year, details will follow.

God's acre are due their spring visit in May, so we shall look forward to seeing them soon.

The date for prospective candidates for a priest in charge is fast approaching, let's hope and pray we will be fortunate in finding the right person to lead us forward into the future.

With all good wishes,

Rachel

Potted thoughts for May

At the end of last month, I took part part in a play, after having done lots of rehearsals, 'playing a part', as they say, pretending to be someone other than me. We all do this a bit in life, don't we? We're a parent, or a child, or a 'boss', or someone who works for a 'boss', a teacher, a student, and so on and so on. Life demands this of us, and that's fine. But what if we're pretending all the time, what if we never let anyone see what the 'real' me is like? I have heard people say things like, 'If others only knew what I was really like, they wouldn't like me at all'. It's a bit scary living like that, we end up worrying that we will be 'found out'!

But what if someone knows exactly what we are like, right deep down, and stubbornly insists on loving us just the same? Well, Easter reminded us that that is how much God loves us. As the hymn reminds us:- "Yet cheerful He to suffering goes, that He His foes from thence might free". I'm not totally sure that Jesus went to the cross 'cheerfully', but He went, not because we were so wonderful that we deserved it, but that His love for us was so strong that He gave His life for each one of us 'warts and all'. He knows us deep down, and still loves us. And that love is so strong that He overcame death and is alive today. What a fantastic final production!

Last month in my daily Bible readings, the reading set for 18th March was from Hebrews 11, verses 17-31. The comment from the book I use for daily readings pointed out how much like a series of vital rehearsals the lives of many people in the Old Testament were for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged to immerse ourselves in the story of God's pilgrim people, and so find ourselves drawing closer to God. "We find ourselves more fully in God's definitive story." (Rev. Rachel Mann.)

We're working towards the next step in that definitive story, Pentecost, when we can all experience again the wonderful gift of God's Holy Spirit, Who will give us the strength to be the sort of person that God already sees in us.

Simon Boxall

Astley Abbotts News

Another month has wizzed past!! As I write, the weather seems to be drying up & the gardens are starting to recover. We just need to pray that the fields dry out quickly to help the farmers & their poor lambs who have really been struggling.

At St Calixtus we enjoyed a really lovely service for Easter which was very well attended, thank you Graham, the service was enjoyed by all generations! Afterwards the Joint Churches Choir sung at Tasley so a busy day for those involved!

Thank you to Micheal & Clare Thompson for the Bluebell walk we enjoyed last month, their ongoing support for our fundraising is so very much appreciated.

The celebration of Rosemary Lake's life & internment of her ashes took place on Friday 12th April, a full church raised the rafters with song & spoke of happier times with Rosemary. We remember Rosemary's family in our thoughts and prayers.

The following day many of us, including choir members joined with the rest of the Benefice to remember Rev Andy Roberts, whose family are also in our prayers.

Looking forward, our friend Rev Mark Melliush is joining us on 5th May to share Holy Communion, please do join us, all ages are always made very welcome as you know & the Children's Corner will be open & operational!

Cafe Church is the following week, 12th May at Astley Abbotts Village Hall, Cross Lane Head at 10am, everyone most welcome for bacon butties, pastries & good coffee followed by stimulating discussion.

On four Mondays in May we are planning to meet to follow a Tearfund discussion and Bible Study called Faith Into Action. Sessions will begin on 7th May at 7.15pm at Rosemary & Graham Patey's home, please telephone either Rosemary or Graham for more details 01746 769125

Idonea is very kindly opening her garden on Sunday 26th May from 2pm - 5pm to raise funds for church. Entrance is £10 per person to

include a cuppa & a delicious slice of homemade cake so do please join us. Tickets from Idonea, Juanita or Helen whose details are at the back of this magazine.

The following week is Stanley Hall Open Garden, 2nd June, also 2pm -5pm, always a lovely event too. Many thanks to Clare & Michael Thompson for their support yet again.

I hope you enjoy both May Bank Holidays & that we might manage to see you at one venue or another during the month.

Helen

From Susan Merrick

The family of Rosemary Lake would like to thank Anna Chaplain Jane Peeler, the organist and the congregation of St Calixtus Astley Abbots, for welcoming us into their church for the memorial service and the internment of Rosemary's ashes on Friday 12th April 2024. Everyone was so kind and accommodating and the church looked beautiful in the sunshine . Thank you so much. **Susan Merrick**

Tasley News

As we approach the end of April I reflect on what was a lovely Easter Day Service when we were joined by members of Astley Abbots Congregation. Our thanks as always to Clive for leading our Worship and to the Choir for joining us to sing an Easter Anthem, This Joyful Eastertide.

Thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the Church with the floral window displays and the Alter lilies. These all continue to be in bloom!

On Sunday the 7th April we welcomed Beau Mitchell-Gould into the Church for Baptism. We hope that they will join us again in the future.

On Saturday 13th April we joined other congregations from the Parishes of Bridgnorth in a Memorial Service at St Mary's Church to Celebrate the Life of Andy Roberts. It was a lovely occasion and I think we all learned a lot about Andy and his remarkable life.

100 Club Winners

- 1 – 121 Oliver Andrews
- 2 – 16 Louise Harris
- 3 – 112 Carly Ives

Events

11th May – “Flicks in the Sticks” in the village hall at 7 pm.

The film will be Local Hero. £10

8th June - Barries Quiz night with Cheese & Wine supper in the Village hall at 7 pm £10

Margaret

Power from on High

In my case it's feet. Have you noticed how everyday things, objects, occasions or a story can remind you of something else? 9th May is Ascension Day and my mind always turns to feet. As a small boy I recall one of the carrots to encourage my attendance at Sunday School was my church stamp book. The idea was to collect a stamp for every Sunday of the year. At Christmas there was a stamp with a Nativity Scene, at Epiphany it was camels and wise men and so on through the year. But the stamp for Ascensiontide has remained in my memory. I can see it now, a group of bearded disciples in what seemed to be striped nightshirts gazing upwards with expression of awe. And at what were they gazing? Well there in the very top right hand corner was a pair of feet. It was explained to us that the feet were actually attached to Jesus but the rest of him was off the stamp heading for heaven. That led to another reminiscence of being taken to the circus and seeing a human cannonball shot from one side of the circus ring to the other.

Nevertheless, this picture language of Our Lord's last moments on earth can, I think, help us. I'm writing in the second week of April and there is a lot of news coverage about a total solar eclipse, best witnessed in North America. The moon will perfectly block the sun and the sky will go dark for four minutes. To witness this people will need to look up and the total or partial eclipse will be visible to millions of people world-wide. So, for me, Jesus being above simply means he's accessible to all people for all time, so long as we look.

Jesus said 'I came from the Father and I'm going to the Father.' Importantly, he didn't say he's leaving but merely enabling us to experience him in a different way. A reminder that God's offer of salvation is a free gift for everyone.

At the Ascension we are reminded of Jesus' promise of sharing in the divine power, he says that it must clothe us. When the first Christians

were clothed in power from on high they became devoted men and women who could, and did, turn the world upside down.

But we need to be careful, as power might mean, as Jesus again reminds us 'of gaining the whole world and losing our own souls.' As Lord Acton put it 'power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.' We can all point to individuals, governments and other organisations who have abused their power, sadly even including the CofE and other Christian denominations over the centuries. And so we have to continue to ask Jesus into our hearts, minds and lives so that his power may flow into us to possess and transform us. I find it sobering, but encouraging to remember we worship a God who will always have his way in the end either with our help or without us. We can either be instruments he can work with or obstacles he can overcome.

Clive Parr

St. Nicholas, Oldbury

This is going to be another one of those occasions when, as I write, most events for this article have not yet happened, but will have when you read this. So please forgive the element of guesswork!

Firstly, we will have held our APCM on 21st April, so Wardens and PCC members will have been elected or re-elected for the coming year. As many people outside or on the fringes of this and other churches don't really understand what PCCs are for, or who can serve on them, or what their powers & responsibilities might be, we have tried to circulate more information around Oldbury to explain some of these points, and to invite more people to come along and get involved. We need more people and more ideas, so maybe next month's writer will be able to report positively on this.

Secondly, two sad events. We have to report the deaths of two long-

standing members of Oldbury's community. The first was Eric Kirk, whose father was Rector of Oldbury for many years. Eric grew up in what is now The White House, and only left to move into High Town as an adult. Latterly he attended St. Mary's from his home in East Castle Street, and often looked after the daily opening and closing of the church. His funeral was at St. Nicholas on Friday 26th April.

The other sadness was for our long-serving and much-loved former Warden and Verger, Eunice Nicholls, who died peacefully on April 2nd, shortly after having attended her son Steven's funeral in Preston. Eunice will always be remembered for her energy, her insistence on doing things properly for everybody who came into the church, and her warmth and care for the people around it. It was her idea not to wait for all the necessary formalities that have now culminated in our installing a proper toilet in church, but to get a Portaloo set up while that all happened – she thought it was better than having wedding guests trailing down to the Village Hall for the “facilities”! She certainly licked me into shape as a Warden, with lists of duties and people's contact details, for which I was always grateful. And despite her frailty in her last years, she still wanted to be on the Readers rota, and to come to church services as often as she could. Her funeral was on Thursday 25th April. We will miss her.

Thirdly, a happy event – Dorothy & Q Leiper's daughter Alice was married to Matt, her fiance of seventeen years, on 20th April. We are all delighted with this news, and hope their day went happily in every way. We wish them every happiness, and hope to see them when they visit Oldbury in future.

Lastly, we must thank Huw & Roly Trevor-Jones once again for involving St. Nicholas again in their Open Gardens event on 28th April. As always, their beautiful gardens were an inspiration to walk round, and the plants for sale gave us all hope that we could at least imitate the work of their incredible gardener in our own small patches. I can't give you any figures for sums raised, either for the NGS or for St. Nicholas for our supplying of the refreshments, but this event has provided us with much-needed income over the years, and we are very grateful to all concerned in helping us maintain our church in its community. If you missed this event, there will be another in June, in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Fund – details will be in next month's issue.

Liz Fisher



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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>	
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Mrs Jane Parr...07814908917

Secretary Miss Catherine Wilson...761786

Treasurer Mrs Nicky Cooper762487

Vergers Mr Roger Taylor...767345

Organists Dr John Turnock...716282

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

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Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

June '24

Wednesday 22nd May 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

May '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	6th Sun of Easter 5th May	7th Sun of Easter 12th May	Pentecost 19th May	Trinity Sunday 26th May
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ Baptism
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	10.00 Café church (Village Hall)	9.00 MP	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	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 HC	11.15 MP	11.15 MP
Aston Eyre		10.00 HC		
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 HC		
Monkhopton	10.00 MP			