

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 +Richard

A Christian poet once wrote, "History repeats itself; it has to, no-one listens!" These are words we do well to remember in our current international climate, with wars in the middle east and Ukraine. As we remember the great conflicts of the 20th century and the political context that led to those wars there has been some progress, in the west at least. A lot of the warlike rhetoric and posturing; the appeal to patriotism, and the sense of our individual identities being tied up with national ones seems strange and dated. At the time, these attitudes combined with the arrogance of empire were a toxic combination that led to the horrific conflict with the loss of so many lives. However, elements of these attitudes remain. We always prefer our own tribe. There is an alienation that has opened people to the rise of the far right with its attempt to blame all our ills on immigration. A knowledge of history shows where these things can end up.

Christians are instructed to pray for our political leaders and to live in peace where we can, but one of the things that got the early Christians into trouble was their political subversion. There will always be elements of our culture and politics we want to affirm, but there will be others we want to challenge. Early Christian worship declared that Caesar wasn't Lord; Jesus was. That sort of talk could (and did) get them killed. The personal security that sustained this courage was a conviction that they were first and foremost citizens of heaven. In Jesus they had experienced the power of the other country breaking into their experience. We will remember our national tragedies and sacrifice on Remembrance Day. But every Sunday we remember a tragedy and sacrifice that turned into a glorious victory. Christ's death It points us to the ultimate powerlessness of violence to achieve real change. It subverts the doctrine that might is right. Sadly, it may take a lot of bloodshed for that to come home to Hamas, Hezbollah, the Israeli government and the Russian army.

*With best wishes*

**+Richard**

## **Rev. Suzan Williams**

**We are pleased to announce that Rev. Suzan Williams' installation service** will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 19th November 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.

## **ST MARY MAGDALENE BRIDGNORTH COFFEE SHOP**

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## NEWS FROM ST.MARY'S

This month saw us celebrating harvest at St Mary's. Firstly we had the pleasure of hosting a school harvest festival service. This was followed by our successful Autumn fayre which was well supported despite the disappointing weather. Finally we held our own Harvest festival service where all the produce taken to the service was donated to the food bank.

The Chamber choir is continuing with it's rehearsals for their Christmas Concert and are sounding very good.

An art exhibition of works by our very own Sandie Phillips has been held in church. Sandie's work is outstanding and we are lucky to have such a talented artist in our midst.

Finally this month we hosted our first Shropshire Music Trust concert which was a most enjoyable evening of delightful music which was well attended and from the amount of applause at the end of the evening enjoyed by all

In November we are hoping once again to display the fall of poppies as part of our remembrance commemorations.

**Catherine Wilson**



Conductor - Steve Cooper  
Accompanist - Oliver Clarke



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

(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024** in preparation for our Advent & Christmas Concert on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jane.downing60@gmail.com)

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

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

# Quatford News

With the official ending of Summer Time, early morning frosts and the proliferation of autumnal colours, it's a reminder that the nation will soon be reflecting upon the tragedy that is warfare.

Here at Quatford we'll be joined by our friends from Oldbury for a joint Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am. I also understand from Carol, our organist, that the choir are practicing a musical setting of Dr John McCrea's famous poem *In Flanders Fields* which doubtless will engage us all in a moment of reflection.

Meanwhile two members of our congregation, Bob and Anne, have recently been out and about in the Diocese. Bob, as many of you will know, attended Hereford Cathedral where Bishop Richard awarded him the Order of St Ethelbert: a prestigious medal with ribbon (now proudly worn), a certificate (to be framed) and a copy of the book *St Ethelbert, King and Martyr* which Bob recommends so I am now on his readers' waiting list! Anne, with her interest in Eco Church, also attended the Diocese Environment Conference at Church Stretton and found it a very interesting and motivational day. So much so that she is inspired to consider introducing a couple of things to try at Quatford but not before she has liaised with others in the Stretton Climate Care Group. What the conference also "highlighted" for Anne was the important message "that each one of us has a part to play, with God's guidance, in caring for our Planet as there is no Planet B".

## **To December and dates for your diary.**

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) volunteers will be visiting to undertake an "Autumn Tidy" in the churchyard. This charity began in South Shropshire in 1997 and succeeded in gaining charitable status in 2000, so if you want to know more about CfGA do go to: [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) The

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, Harriet Carty, also encourages us to 'enhance' our churchyards not only for wildlife but also as special outdoor places for locals and visitors alike to enjoy.

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December.** The Rev<sup>d</sup> Suzan Williams' much anticipated service of installation as Priest-in-Charge will take place at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth at 7pm.

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Carol Service will be at 3pm and followed by drinks and mince pies. Please let Rachel know if you can bring mince pies.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Christmas Communion Service will be held at 3pm.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who so generously sponsored my Ride&Stride outing as Quatford's Fabric Fund is looking a little healthier. Thank you.

*Gillian Waugh Pead.*

## **OLDBURY AND EARDINGTON NEWS**

The harvest season has now past. We at ,St Nicholas, collected fresh and tinned food stuffs for the foodbank. We had our usual 5th Sunday 'Coffee and Cake' in September , the proceeds along with our Harvest Service collection on 6th October, were also sent to the foodbank. Eardington had their Harvest thanksgiving on the same day in the village hall followed by a barbeque. Marjorie had a busy day!

Four members of the PCC went to Oldbury Grange for afternoon tea on Friday 4th October. We went to reinforce links between their community , the village and the church. Thanks to Jodie and Mandy (also the residents) for making us welcome. We will be planning more communications with them in the coming year and have put them on our Crosslink list.

St Nicholas received a generous bequest from the late Jean Driver. The PCC have debated on how to use this money. One of the options we are looking into is a donation to the Jon Hayward Memorial Trust. This was set up in 2008, Sue Hayward and her daughter are trustees. It contributes to the music education of 9 to 13 year old children. These are children with families who have financial hardship. Schools in Bridgnorth, Highley, Much Wenlock and SE Shropshire are invited to put forward a list of children who would benefit.

Looking forward, we have our Carol Service on 16th December. A welcome with mulled wine and mincepies at 5.30pm followed by the service at 6pm.

Christmas day will be celebrated with Holy Communion at 10am

***Elaine Jones***

## **Bless this House**

'Bless this house O Lord we pray,

Make it safe by night and day....' Helen Taylor 1926

As we reached the season of All-Hallows and All Souls, and pumpkin heads, plastic skeletons and cobwebs meet us at every turn, I must admit that I have never had a first-hand experience of a ghost; neither do I intentionally put myself in the way of, nor consciously avoid such experiences. I have family members, however and others whose integrity and testimony to such, I trust implicitly.

Back in the 1970's I had a life-long friend near Welshpool who tenanted a small farmhouse of early Tudor origin where we often spent out holidays. It was not uncommon, through the early centuries through which such houses passed, for babies and very small children who died, to be interred in the adjoining ground or even within the walls of such houses. In the house of which I write, one such possible site had been marked with a recess containing a tiny child-sized boot complete with little hobnails. My friend and his wife, both rather pragmatic types, when asked whether they ever experienced anything supernatural there, replied that if there were ever any ghosts there, they probably all got fed-up with one another and left!

For my own part I like to think that through Ministry and prayer, God's Holy Spirit had, over the years, set His peace upon the place, and that the later words of the hymn may be true;

'Keep the people here within,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin;  
Bless them all that they may be  
Fit at last to dwell with Thee.'

***Roger Taylor***



## A Tudor House

Old house, as you sit at your ease  
And listen to the sound of centuries,  
Let me sit too, quite and alone  
And think I sense your ancient timbers groan.  
And in some corner dark and still,  
Observe how dust, fine as from peppermill,  
Falls where wood-boring-beetles bore –  
Red powder from roof rafters to your fflow.  
Your steps worn concave with footfall  
Since your first days of daub-and wattle wall.

Speak to me please, I have an ear  
For cry of infants sickened, who died here;  
I have an eye to entertain the sight  
If grieving ones walk spectral in the night.  
Come, house, five-hundred-years old,  
From walls release some passion that you hold;  
Tears of abuse or love that loved in vain –  
Have you no power to make them live again?

I rise, unanswered, now to go,  
With nothing learned, save for one thing I know;  
That I must take my recompense  
From dumb stone and mute timbers' reticence:  
Yes, even a house and its genii,  
Of humankind must weary and so die.

***Roger Taylor***

# Tasley News

Autumn is swiftly moving on! It only seems like yesterday when I said the same thing about September!!

We celebrated our Harvest Festival on 13th October and what a lovely Service it was. Thanks to Jo and the children for their input. It was lovely as always to welcome the Astley and Tasley Choir. Thank you to Clive and Stephen for all they do in keeping our Services going.

The Harvest Gifts were again donated to the Bridgnorth Food Bank. Thank you to all who provided the beautiful floral window displays which made our lovely Church look even more lovely.



Our Harvest Supper followed on the Monday evening. This year we decided to move away from our usual Turkey and Ham salad and

served a hot pot supper. Thanks to Charlie and his team for providing the hot pot. I think everyone would agree that it was a great success. Our auction followed with John's expert auctioneering skills! and Tony's generous donation of vegetables, raising valuable funds for the Church.

Fund raising would not be possible without the kind generosity of the people of Tasley.

See you at the next Coffee Morning on the 4th November.

### **Tasley 100 Club Winners for October**

1-115 Doreen England

2- 4 Doreen England

3- 119 Lesley Edwards

### **November Events**

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – "Flicks in the Sticks" with Fish & Chips in the village hall at 7pm.

The film is "A Man Called Otto"

***Margaret Edwards***

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## God's Acre

People love to visit churches, chapels and cathedrals. Recent visitor surveys have shown that more people are visiting cathedrals this year, with an increase in visitors of 17% since 2022. They come for a variety reasons, attending services and concerts, enjoying the heritage and history and visiting exhibitions. This increase in visitors is the result of hard work and lateral thinking, focussing on making these special places appeal to those who may not be regular attendees. Actually, it's possible that even more people are visiting burial grounds, be they churchyards, chapel yards, cemeteries and of course cathedral grounds. A survey in 2018 found that more than half the visitors to churchyards were neither entering the church building or visiting a particular grave, they were there to enjoy the peace, tranquillity, bird song, flowers and history of these special outdoor places. They were also making use of facilities such as surfaced paths, benches, ramps and other accessibility features. For those of you who care for and love your local churchyard, can you help to make it even more welcoming for visitors? Is there any information on the more interesting memorials to be visited, the locally famous or infamous or perhaps particularly beautiful stone carving? Could you put up a list of the wildlife to be seen at different times of year or steer people to spend time in the presence of a veteran tree and think how long it has been growing there?

Managing a churchyard for both people and nature really creates a space that looks cared for, is accessible but still full of the peaceful and enriching sights and sounds of wildlife that people so enjoy. By the autumn, all of your grassland areas will be cut short but can you leave a small patch of tussocky grass, nettles and hogweed around the back, perhaps by a compost heap, so that insects and other invertebrates have somewhere to overwinter? This will be used by frogs, toads, newts and slowworms who will be feeding on these invertebrates as well as by small mammals and birds. Hedgehogs in particular need shelter like this as well as food such as worms, slugs and beetles.

Do you have any berry bearing shrubs or hedges? Could they be left until the late winter before pruning or trimming in order to feed and shelter birds and small mammals? If there is ivy present you may have noticed the buzz of ivy bees on the flowers in September, flowers which have now been replaced by small black berries. Birds such as thrushes, blackbirds, pigeons and blackcaps love these berries which are rich in fat so good winter tuck! Autumn is a great time to make deadwood piles from windblown twigs and branches, pile up autumn leaves to rot down and perhaps erect some bird and bat boxes.

All of this work will enhance your churchyard so that it is teeming with even more life next spring and summer, giving pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

All the best,  
Harriet Carty

## **From Ann Clarke**

I write this thinking about the article that Rev. Marjorie Brooks wrote in last month's Cross+Link. She talked about the Autumn of our lives as we prepare for Winter.

As I approach my ninetieth birthday I consider that I am in the Winter period. We can view Winter as cold, dark, drear and depressing, but often on a Winters day with ice, snow and frost on the ground when the sun shines from a blue sky the light and reflection are magical. The first of Spring flowers start to arrive with snowdrops. This is also the season of the SO, who gives us an example of how to live a good life rich in GODliness.

The words of hymn 'Lord for the years your love has kept and guided us' are an inspiration and I hope and pray that the seeds that I have been planting will in future years spring into new life and flower in abundance in the Summer to nourish those that I leave behind, and sustain them throughout Winter to grow again.

As future years diminish, we reflect more and more on yesteryears, and may regret some of the mistakes we made on our journey

through the seasons of life.

In Winter drear there is nothing to fear as we shed a tear, that in a future year. It's very clear that it's very near that it will soon be 'Till death us do part' when life gets very tough, and the heart has had enough. Then it's a God send that we have reached the end. (But not just yet!)

***Ann Clarke***

## **ASTLEY ABBOTTS NEWS**

Welcome to November, shorter days, darker evenings, but still a warm welcome to our church services, so far we have managed a service every Sunday throughout our interregnum. Now that is finally coming to an end and we will officially welcome the Reverend Suzanne on Monday the 9th December.

Our Remembrance service will be held with Tasley at St Peter and St Paul Tasley on 10th November at 10.00am, the choir will lead the singing and there will be refreshments following the service.

Any donations of packaged food items throughout November will be given to the food bank, please leave them in the boxes at the back of the church.

Our cafe church was a great success as usual, our Arch Deacon Fiona gave a very insightful talk on "the family" which lead to serious discussion on every table. Thankyou to Fiona and her husband David for coming from Craven Arms to join us, and a very big thankyou to all who organised everything, especially to Juanita and Michael who manned the kitchen!

### **Forward dates for December are:**

Café Church 8th December, christingle theme 10am village hall ,

Carols by candlelight 6pm in church, Sunday 15th, with the choir, followed by refreshments,

Crib service 4pm 24th December outside-weather permitting, I will bring a sheep, if anyone has a calf that would be even better!!

We look forward to seeing you all

***Idonea***

## **REGISTERS**

### **BAPTISMS**

27.10.24 Oakley Dylan Delamere

### **FUNERALS**

9.10.24 Ida Mary Owen

14.10.24 Carole Mavis Sidwell

25.10.24 William Norman Anslow

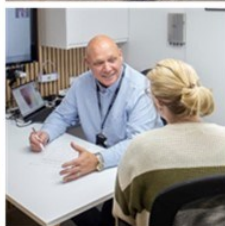
19.10.24 Brian Alan Martin







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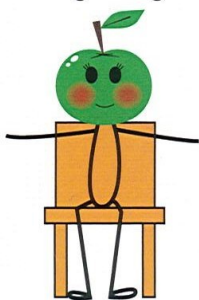


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Vacant

**Vergers** Mr Bob Curtis....766126

**Secretary** Miss Rachel Edwards...766146

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**Deadline for Cross+Link articles for**

**December 24/January 25**

**Wednesday 20th November**

**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

# NOVEMBER '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	3rd Nov 4th Before Advent	10th Nov 3rd Before Advent/ Remembr ance	17th Nov  2nd Before Advent	24th Nov Sun next before Advent/ Christ the King
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 MP	10.45 Remembrance in Castle Grounds 11.30 Remembrance – in St Mary's	10.30 MP  18.30 Commemoration of the Departed	10.30 FC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 Remembrance		10.30 MP
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 MP	To join Tasley at 10.30 for Remembrance	9.00 Life and Soul	9.00 MP
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 MP	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 Remembrance with Astley Abbotts	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	10.50 Remembrance with Aston Eyre	11.15 MP	Morville to join Aston Eyre at 11.15 for HC
Aston Eyre		Aston Eyre to join Morville at 10.50 for Remembrance		11.15 HC  Morville to join Aston Eyre
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP		
Monkhopton	18.00 MP	24		November 2024