



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
September 2020*



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington
www.archbenefice.org.uk

ARCH Benefice: parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench and Harvington

Rector: The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley
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Curate: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
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Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Thursday, Saturday;
day off: Friday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space
Urgent pastoral matters – any time

Readings

6 th September	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
13 th September	Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
20 th September	Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
27 th September	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
4 th October Harvest	Deuteronomy 28:1-4; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19
11 th October Harvest	Deuteronomy 28:1-4; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19
18 th October	Acts 16:6-12a; Psalm 147:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:5-17; Luke 10:1-9
25 th October	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website
www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

How to make God laugh

You may have heard this before, but I think it still bears repeating, '*Do you know how to make God laugh? Tell him your plans!*' Did you have any special plans for this year?

Gill and I were thinking about our ruby wedding anniversary celebrations which would have included a wider family gathering plus friends. Now with the Covid-19 lockdown, as is the case with so many other people's celebrations, ours are postponed. God and nature had other ideas.

It is difficult to plan anything with confidence at present and I expect this will be part of the 'next' normal – we can't look too far ahead as it may all change. We need to be nimble and be prepared to change, but in the meantime enjoy the moment and cherish what we can do.

I looked back to the last issue of the *ARCH Messenger* which was almost published. It was the Easter edition, back in April. Easter is the major Christian celebration, and it centres on hope and promise. The Easter event is Jesus' resurrection, but it only comes to pass after his crucifixion. A time of complete hopelessness and catastrophe, but that is not where it ended.

Easter forced the disciples to look at life in a whole new way and to obtain a fresh understanding of creation and God's plans. In due course they took a message of hope into the world.

The pandemic is forcing us to rethink how we need to live our lives and engage with neighbours. How will we show love to our neighbours? Read this issue and you will find encouraging evidence of a hopeful future that may make God smile.

Richard Thorniley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 7th September

Rector's Corner

Midweek Holy Communion (BCP): *Replaced by recorded midweek reflection*

Tuesday prayers:
Benefice prayers: *Suspended until further notice*

Home Communion:

Daily prayers:
8.30am and 6pm via Zoom – contact me for details

From the Registers

Abbots Morton

26 th February	Funeral	Val Duck
25 th March	Funeral	Philip Laight

Rous Lench

12 th May	Funeral	Peter Bentley
8 th July	Funeral	Christopher Spencer

Church Lench

2 nd March	Funeral	John Rowan
27 th May	Funeral	Valerie Sprague
27 th May	Funeral	Lyndsay Sprague

Harvington

24 th February	Funeral	Lily Loveridge
25 th February	Funeral	David Stean
3 rd March	Funeral	Brenda Reynolds
17 th March	Funeral	Florence Dyson
22 nd March	Wedding	Edwin Burfoot and Hannah James
8 th April	Funeral	Mary Taylor
14 th April	Funeral	Richard Armitage
27 th April	Funeral	Stephen Griffin

Notices

Covid-19 – churches have re-opened!

Churches are again open – hooray! But like everywhere else, they are subject to rules with everyone's safety in mind.

All the Benefice churches are open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer or services. We have hand sanitiser available and must ask you to wear a mask when visiting. Further instructions and floor markings are in each church to enable us all to remain safe.

Churches are available for baptisms, weddings and funerals with limited numbers of up to 30. In some of our churches this may be further restricted for everyone's safety – if you get in touch, we can discuss this further.

Sunday services are now being held in church. We are taking a cautious approach by initially just having one service a week across our four churches, building up to two per week later in September – please see the service rota or check the website www.archbenefice.org.uk to see when and where they are taking place.

Numbers are restricted for each service so that social distancing can be ensured:

- ◆ Harvington and Church Lench: 30
- ◆ Rous Lench and Abbots Morton: 20

If you would like further information, please get in touch with me on 870527, rector@archbenefice.org.uk, or visit www.archbenefice.org.uk.

Richard Thorniley

Musings...

We would be glad to pay as we go, if we could catch up with paying for where we have been.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

Notices

Heating oil delivery dates for
the ARCH buying group

Evesons Fuels: 01905 775920

Thursdays: 10th September, 8th October,
12th November, 10th December
*Phone your order to Evesons by 5pm on the
preceding Monday*

Pastoral Calls and Contacts

During lockdown, I have made phone calls to people who I thought needed a call and also to those who were brought to my notice.

If you know of anyone who could do with a call or help for any reason, please let me know. I am NEVER so busy that I cannot fit in a call to someone who needs it.

And if you want to get in touch then please do – **it's good to hear from you** and I love a chat!

Richard Thorniley

Men's Nights

Please check your emails about future gatherings. We may have Zoom gatherings or a limited number meeting in local pubs but the possibility of protocols changing at short notice make me reluctant to put anything in the diary at present.

Richard Thorniley

Messy Church – we will be back!

For now, visit www.messychurch.org.uk/church/lenches-and-harvington-messy-church **and follow the 'Connect with this church: Facebook' link to find out what we've been doing since February.**

Notices

Sunday services – a little different, but we are back!

During lockdown and until we could open our churches again in July, we offered recorded services via YouTube which were widely welcomed. Together with our neighbouring Benefice of Inkberrow, Cookhill, Kington and Dormston, we have set up a YouTube channel: the *North Avon Group*. Please feel free to visit it – just go to www.youtube.com and enter 'North Avon Group' in the search box. (Do note there is a company of the same name but it doesn't have a YouTube channel!)

Each week we upload a 30-minute Sunday service which includes prayers, hymns, a bible reading and a sermon, led by a variety of people and filmed in our homes or in church.

This has been so successful that we plan to keep the channel going as it provides a way to worship for those who wish to remain isolated.

In addition, I am in discussions about the possibility of doing live Zoom services which will offer an interactive experience for those who are isolated. They can also offer a social aspect, with an opportunity after the service to catch up with friends and neighbours who we may not otherwise see.

Finally, but by no means least, we are holding services in church which will include Holy Communion. They are a little different from services before lockdown. Currently singing is not allowed, so we listen to the tune being played on the organ whilst reading the hymn. It works differently as you can concentrate on the poetry of the song.

Holy Communion can take place, but only the priest receives both wine and wafer, as we cannot share a cup. Wafers are distributed to everyone after the prayer of consecration.

If you want to discover more about the theological and practical thinking behind our services, then go to the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org or our site www.archbenefice.org.uk and find out more.

Richard Thorniley

Let's clap the 'unheroes' too

We've clapped the health workers and the carers. We've applauded Captain Tom. Medals are being struck and honours will be awarded for those who have given exceptional service to the community during the pandemic. Absolutely right! There are many heroes to be honoured.

But I want to spare a clap for the 'unheroes' too. The 'unheroes' are those of us who haven't managed to do anything exceptional during the pandemic. We haven't risen to the occasion, or given conspicuous service to the community. Frankly we hated the lockdown. Perhaps we were ill or shielding, furloughed from work or working from home, and we found it depressing. We were confused by the disruption of our ordinary routines. We grumbled a lot. We never quite discovered an answer to that terrifying future question, 'And what did you do during the pandemic, Grandad?' We didn't even tidy the attic.

So why do we, the unheroes, deserve a small round of applause? Because we stuck it out. We hated every minute of it, but we kept to the rules, we stayed at home and we didn't put other people's lives at risk. We were part of an enormous global effort to contain the spread of coronavirus and prevent it from killing yet more people. To that extent, we did our bit. We too saved lives. That's what we did during the pandemic.

*Revd Peter Atkinson
Dean of Worcester*

More musings...

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.

A good way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

Psalm 23: a psalm for the pandemic

There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David's experience of God as his Shepherd when going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.

He knows me: *'The Lord is my shepherd...'* Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God know each one of us intimately.

He provides for me: *'He makes me lie down in green pastures...'* Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He guides me: *'He guides me along the right paths...'* Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.

He protects me: *'Even though I walk through the darkest valley...'* Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God's presence and protection.

He comforts me: *'your rod and your staff, they comfort me.'* As the shepherd's rod defends the flock, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

The last two verses of the psalm offer us the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we've been looking for all our lives.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but asked one of the other guests to do the same. The actor's remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart. Afterwards the actor said, *'The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the shepherd.'*

Canon Paul Hardingham



What's in your hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after **the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different** this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, **'What is in your hand?'** (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at), his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security – which God was asking him to lay down. God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can all be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

In his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, John Ortberg tells the story of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. Johnny worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a **'Thought for the Day'** into the bags. Every night his dad helped him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, *'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'* A month later, the store manager noticed that the line at Johnny's checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! **People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just** filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given you that will help and encourage others?

Canon Paul Hardingham

More musings...

No amount of falls will really undo us if we keep picking ourselves up each time. *CS Lewis*

Nothing is more powerful than hope. One little nibble will keep a person fishing all day. *H V Prochnow*

Feel the tug ... He's still there

Have you ever wondered how you can be certain about who and what God really is? One Christian put it this way:

I'm reminded of the story of the little boy who was flying a kite. The wind was brisk and large billowing clouds were blowing across the sky. The kite went up and up until it was entirely hidden by the clouds. Then a man came by and asked the little boy what he was doing, staring up at an empty sky. 'I'm flying my kite,' he replied.

'What kite?' the man asked. 'How can you be sure it is still there? You can't see a thing.'

The little boy agreed that he could see nothing, 'but every little while I feel a tug, so I know that it is still up there and is connected to me!'

When it comes to God, you don't need to take anyone else's word for it. You can find Him for yourself by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. Then you too will know, by the warm wonderful tug on your heartstrings, that though you can't see Him, He is up there, and that He lives in you. You are connected!



One grain at a time...

Do you feel overwhelmed by all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass – there are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass, and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, like the grains of sand passing through the neck of the hourglass, then we are bound to struggle. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

On a lighter note...

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on magnets. The next day in a short test, she included this question: 'My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?'

When the answers were marked, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her class had answered the question with the word 'Mother'.

Baby sitting

We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them. Under 'Previous Employment', she listed 'Baby sitting'. And under 'Reason for Leaving' she wrote, 'They came home'.

What it says on the sign

At a towing company: We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows

On a delivery room door: Push. Push. Push

On a front gate: Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive

At an opticians: If you don't see what you're looking for, you're in the right place

High-tech

Tech Support: I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.

Customer: OK.

Tech Support: Did you get a pop-up menu?

Customer: No.

Tech Support: OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?

Customer: No.

Tech Support: OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up to this point?

Customer: Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.

Starting school

Mother to young child after their first day at school, 'Well, dear, what did they teach you today?' 'Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow.'

Lost holidays

I told my suitcases that due to the pandemic, there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

On the perils of leaving the pulpit...

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least, whose elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to his nephew Darren, a recently-ordained low-church curate...



My dear Nephew Darren,

I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last August, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete *The Times* crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting as, out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave, and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Abbots Morton

St Peter's Church

COVID-19

Services

In common with all other churches we are slowly returning to holding services. Our first service was a Benefice Service on 16th August. We have set a maximum of 20 for our church to ensure social distancing can be maintained.

Private prayer

The church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer. Measures are in place for seating at a social distance and sanitising gel is provided. The church is locked on days in between, allowing 72 hours natural quarantine for any potential traces of Covid-19 to disappear.

Webpage

As things change, we will post information on the St Peter's webpage on the Parish Council's website www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church.

VILLAGE HALL

(www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall)

Open again (cautiously)

The village hall is now open for business. During the lockdown the Trustees put in place a range of measures to minimise the risk of anyone bringing the virus into the hall or transmitting the virus to anyone else:

- ◆ There is a one-way system of entry through the main door and exit through the emergency door nearest the car park.
- ◆ Sanitising gel dispensers have been mounted at the entrance and exit, and a sanitising station is provided in the lobby.
- ◆ **The men's and ladies' toilets are closed. Everyone will use the toilet adapted for people with disabilities, which contains a new baby-changing table.**
- ◆ Toilet paper is now dispensed from a continuous roll in a wall-mounted holder and all waste bins are foot-operated.

There is clear signage outside and inside about social distancing and there is a maximum limit of 30 people in the hall.

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL (CONTINUED)

Bookings resume

Our first booking was on Wednesday 29th July... the return of the JUMP Dance Academy's ballet class for youngsters, run by Helena Mitchell of Redditch. Her classes will run every Wednesday afternoon until she's caught up on the weeks of tuition that her pupils have lost.

Bookings Officer Colin Pemberton will be pleased to hear from anyone wanting to book the hall. He will describe the new Covid-19 measures in detail and explain what is required of the hirer.

Thank you

We are grateful to the Government for making available to village halls a grant of £10,000 each through their Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant, administered by Wychavon District Council. The grant has enabled us to invest in the changes we've made to the hall and given us some financial security against the loss of income the hall has suffered and that we may face for a considerable time in the future.

Your Trustees have spent £1,200 of that money wisely to make the hall as safe as possible and mention must be made of the tremendous teamwork they have shown in getting everything done. Two meetings of the Village Hall Committee were held in June and July via Zoom.

New Parish Council rep

Parish Councillor Martin Willingale has become the Parish Council representative on the village hall committee. We're delighted to welcome him as a Trustee.

EasyFundraising

In the past four months our 22 EasyFundraisers have raised £52 through their online shopping, taking the overall total to £611. Online shopping has become familiar for many people during lockdown and is an even greater opportunity to raise funds for the Village Hall.

To become an EasyFundraiser simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and follow the prompts to register Abbots Morton Village Hall as the cause you wish to support. Amazon Smile customers can now support Abbots Morton Village Hall in the Amazon shopping app on iPhones and Android phones!

Rous Lench **St Peter's Church**

ST PETER'S IS OPEN AGAIN

(e-mail: stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk)

As the world feels increasingly turbulent, we hope that you are coping with the new challenges we face. If you seek a quiet moment of solace, our doors are open again.

St. Peter's is open for private prayer and devotions every Wednesday afternoon (12noon to 6pm) and Sunday morning (9am to 12noon).

Our next Sunday Benefice service will be at 10am on Sunday 13th September, subject to any building work. Due to social distancing, a maximum of 20 people will be able to attend. Look out for information on the notice board outside **St. Peter's** and on www.archbenefice.org.uk.

COVID-19 FINANCIAL APPEAL

The PCC launched their **Covid-19 appeal for St. Peter's in June. We are so grateful for the generous support we have received. Thank you everyone!** So far, the appeal has raised nearly half of the money needed to make up our £5,000 shortfall caused by the pandemic.

Ways to donate

If you would like to donate to the appeal please contact our Treasurer, Lloyd Wing, on ***** or e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk. We are also posting details on www.archbenefice.org.uk.

One-off donations

If you would like to make a donation by bank transfer, our account details are, name: PCC Rous Lench, number: *****, sort code: *****.

Parish Giving scheme

To donate through the Parish Giving scheme, please call 0333 002 1271 (lines open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) or visit www.parishgiving.org.uk/home.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid – it makes a huge difference!

Rous Lench

HISTORIC ENGLAND GRANT APPLICATION – FINAL STAGE!

The PCC has applied for an emergency Covid-19 grant being offered by Historic England for up to £25,000. The grant is to carry out urgent roof repairs and for the conservation of fine oak carvings and panelling in the vestry.

We made it through to the final stage and the deadline for submissions was 31st August, so we have everything crossed for a positive result. If we receive the grant, we should start work on repairs by the end of October this year.

The work in the vestry is just one area that requires attention at St. Peter's. We will be looking for further grants and continuing with fund raising.

ROTARY COMMUNITY DRAW

St. Peter's is participating in a draw organised by the Rotary Club. We have traditional paper tickets for our fabric fund at £1 per ticket, or you can order tickets online. St. Peter's will retain 80p from every £1 ticket sold with the balance of 20p per ticket being returned to The Rotary Club with the ticket stub for the draw. All the 20p's cover the cost of the draw and any surplus is added to the prize fund. 60 good causes raised £16k in the 2019 draw.

The top prize is £1,000!

Tickets are available for sale until 31st October

The draw will take place on 25th November

To get your tickets either:

- ◆ call Fran Herdman on *****
- ◆ e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk
- ◆ order online at www.midlandscommunitydraw.org.uk/buy-tickets and click on Rous Lench PCC for details. You will receive an invoice via email confirming your order with instructions for payment. Your draw tickets will be posted to you, minus the ticket stub which will be retained for the draw
- ◆ go direct using this QR code:



Good luck everyone! Why not let friends know ?

Rous Lench

FUTURE FUND RAISING

One for your calendar – an Auction of Promises is being arranged for Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm. Save the date! If anyone would like to help, or suggest other fund raising activities, please contact Fran Herdman on ***** or e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk.

CHURCHYARD PROJECT

We have had a tremendous response to our churchyard project, from offers of help with mowing, weeding and bramble clearance, to donations of benches and a rose for a memorial rose garden. A local charity has donated 17 RSPB bird boxes including boxes for a tawny owl and a kestrel. Many have been installed – see if you can spot them dotted throughout the churchyard!

The PCC is organising a working party to continue developing the churchyard on Sunday 30th August, 2–5pm. In particular, we hope to prepare a wild flower area and start the rose garden. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Lloyd (*****) or e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk.

CHURCH GATES

Some of you have been concerned at the absence of the church gates. Don't worry, they have not been stolen! They need some TLC and repair...

VOLUNTEERS AND NEW PCC MEMBERS

Volunteers and new PCC members are always welcome! There are lots of ways to be involved that do not require a large time commitment, for instance:

- ◆ help clearing the vestry before building works would be greatly appreciated
- ◆ volunteers for a cleaning rota – consider it a brisk workout as part of an exercise regime!
- ◆ anyone interested in volunteering for the *Bats in Churches* survey to discover more about our resident bats?

To find out more about these and other activities, contact Zoë Durrant (*****) , stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk).

Rous Lench

FAMILY SERVICE

As you will appreciate, we can't say when our Family Services will resume. St. Peter's Church can't be used at present, neither can the Village Hall, therefore all we can say is that notification will be posted as soon as we receive specific government directives. Meanwhile, keep praying! ... and we look forward to getting together in the near future.

THANK YOU

Fliss Bentley and Jane Tinson would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy following the death of Peter in April.

CARING HANDS

For those of you who are unaware of our *Caring Hands* appeal, this is a means by which we reach out and help the homeless and needy in the Evesham area. They are always grateful for packaged and tinned goods and groceries.

A donations box is currently located outside the church behind a buttress on the left hand side wall. Donations are regularly taken down to the collection centre in Evesham. Please observe the required care in handling packages etc.

Your attention is drawn to the current regulations as to the use of our church. Please do not take your donations into the church, but leave them in the box outside. *Thank you – your generosity is much appreciated.*

ROUS LENCH VILLAGE HALL

(www.rouslench.com)

New bar

The NEW BAR project for Rous Lench Village Hall is progressing well and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the hall as soon as possible.

Hall hire for private events

Rous Lench Village Hall is available for hire for private events such as parties, anniversaries, receptions, etc. For conditions and prices, please look on our website under the hall hire section, call ***** or e-mail info@rouslench.com.

Rous Lench

ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

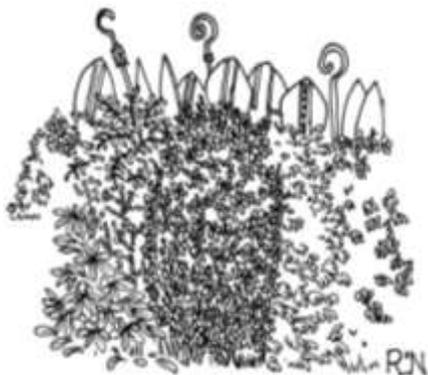
All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings which are currently held online at 7.30pm on the following dates for this year:

- ◆ 21st September
- ◆ 16th November

Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during our public question time at the start of the meeting.

In addition we have a vacancy on the council and would love to hear from community-minded people who want to make a difference and give something **back to their local area**. **You don't need any particular skills, it is a voluntary position**, you will have an induction and training is available.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact the Clerk, Hazel Robinson (*****, rouslenchpc@gmail.com), who will be happy to help. Please also e-mail the Clerk for the weblink to attend the online council meetings. If you are unable to use the internet, please ring the Clerk and she can take your issue to the Council. We look forward to hearing from you!



The bishops had formed a 'support bubble' all on their own



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home

Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

On Sunday 8th March, just before we all went into lockdown, we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the following parishioners were voted to be your PCC:

- ◆ The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley
- ◆ Churchwarden & Verger: Jane Powell
- ◆ Churchwarden: Richard Ball
- ◆ Honorary Treasurer: Peter Fraser
- ◆ Secretary: Jennifer Fletcher
- ◆ Elected members: David Chambers, Anne Logan, Margaret Hyder and Nadine Woakes

THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to the men and ladies who helped to deep clean All Saints' Church before we opened to the public. Boy, were there a lot of spiders' webs! The church looked and smelt wonderful. Thank you all for your help.

VILLAGE HALL

This month The Lenches Pre-School aims to open for the autumn term. This **means that, in line with the Government's Covid-19 guidelines**, the village hall will not be available to other hirers for the time being. We apologise for any inconvenience. However, we hope to be able to welcome you all back to our hall very soon.

The Church Lench Village Hall Committee



South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Contact the Clerk on ***** or southlenchespc@gmail.com

WANTED – Parish Councillor

Do you want to influence the way the Parish develops and changes in the future and influence decisions for the benefit of the community? If so a vacancy exists on the Parish Council. At present the Council is made up of three members from Atch Lench, two from Handgate Lane and one from Ab Lench. Anyone who is interested and lives within the Parish or up to 3 miles outside the boundary can apply. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council are looking for further members of the community to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Membership of the group gives you the opportunity to help draft the South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan which will set the planning context for the South Lenches over the next decade. If you are interested in helping us, please contact the chairman of the Steering Group, Dr Morgan Murray (slpc@ablench.com), or the Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Nicky Holland (southlenchespc@gmail.com) for more details.

Open Air Theatre Project

There has been good progress on the plans for the Open Air Theatre. Following confirmation of funding from Wychavon District Council (WDC) through their Community Legacy Grant, the LSRC project steering committee has been busy finalising the proposed design and preliminary plans have been submitted. The next step is to submit the detailed planning application to WDC. All residents will be able to access the application via the WDC planning portal.

As previously announced, the project team was able to secure a donation of several thousand bricks from Jewsons. We are very grateful for their generosity. The bricks are now stored on the playing fields.

The Lenches community will be kept informed as the project progresses, but if any residents have questions they should be directed, in the first instance, to Nicky Holland, Clerk, South Lenches Parish Council. Full contact details can be **found above or on the council's website** www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org.

Church Lench

THE LENCHES CLUB

(www.facebook.com/lenchesclub)

The Lenches Club is open!

Seating is available indoors and outdoors.

We have put social distancing in place
to keep everyone safe so please come and see us.

Please check our Facebook page for opening hours and updates.



Don't be Shy Give Tennis a Try



Now that autumn is coming, it's time to keep all that fitness you developed during the summer. Whatever your standard, you will be welcome at the *Lenches Tennis Club*. We have some of the best tennis courts in the county and plenty of opportunity to play with family or in one of our informal but well-organised groups.

Interested? Contact lenchestc@gmail.com



'Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again...'

Harvington St James' Church

GARDENING TEAM

We meet again on Saturday 19th September when the team will be working from 9.30am to 12noon. If you can spare an hour to join us, you will find a warm welcome from our friendly group and enjoy a refreshment break around 11am, when we can have a good chat. However, you must bring your own refreshments. If it is fine we will sit outside, but if it is raining we will sit under cover.

We will obey Government rules as they apply at the date of our meeting, but be assured that we will have a good time what ever is thrown at us.

*Clive Allen (***** , *****@*****)*

PASTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Well, after a very strange few months, it's good to feel that we're getting back in circulation to some extent, although nothing's going to be 'normal' for a while yet.

The activities of the Pastoral Support Network have been somewhat constricted over recent months but we are all still here and available to anyone who needs a bit of help. So, as always, we can offer assistance with practical tasks, lifts, friendly visiting etc, although obviously these still have to be negotiated within the parameters of the government guidelines. These guidelines are changing as the situation evolves, but we will do what we can to adapt to whatever the current circumstances are. So, if you need anything, do give us a call on ***** and we will organise assistance to the best of our ability. Wishing you all a safe time over the rest of the summer.

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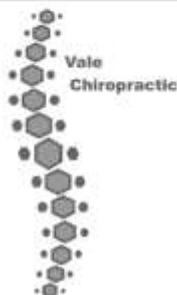
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Service

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ARCH Benefice October 2020

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p30)				
4 th October		9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving	11am Harvest Communion	
11 th October	11am Harvest Thanksgiving			9.30am Harvest Communion
18 th October Festival of St Luke			8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
25 th October	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)			9.30am Holy Communion

Everyone (of any age) will be made very welcome at all our services

ARCH Benefice September 2020

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
6 th September	10am Holy Communion			
13 th September		10am Holy Communion		
20 th September	11am Service of the Word			9.30am Service of the Word
27 th September		9.30am Service of the Word	11am Service of the Word	

Everyone (of any age) will be made very welcome at all our services