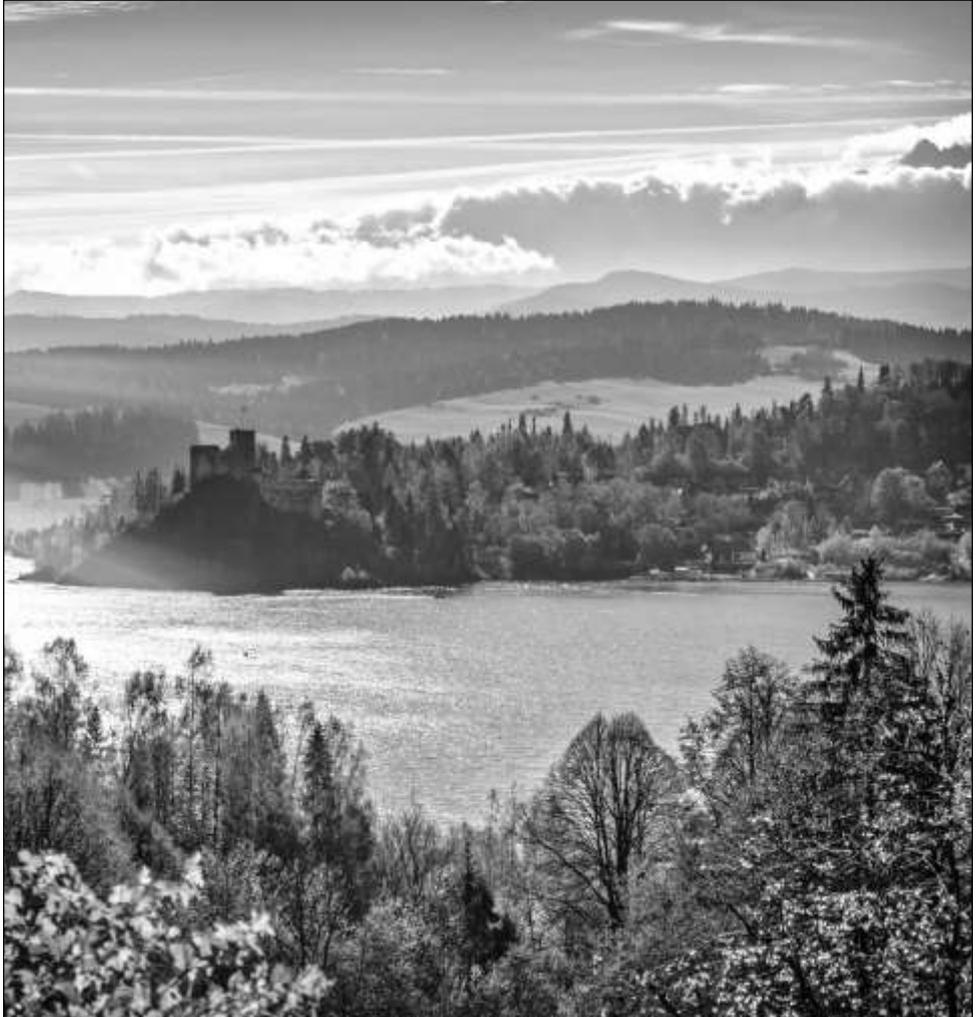




The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
October 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
01386 870527
rector@archbenefice.org.uk

Curate: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
07977 072105
chris@archbenefice.org.uk

Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Thursday, Saturday;
day off: Friday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space
Urgent pastoral matters – any time

Readings

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
1 st November All Saints Sunday	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
8 th November Remembrance Sunday	Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
15 th November	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-16; Psalm 90:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
22 nd November Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

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

Thought for the month

Church is not just the building...or even the building

A number of Open Conversations took place last month when Worcester Diocese (where all local Church of England work is overseen) led sessions looking at *'What do we mean by healthy and sustainable churches?'*

Why should you, dear reader, care about this if you don't do God or church? One question those who attended considered was *'how well do church people engage with their local communities?'* In recent months many different groups, including church goers, have supported the vulnerable with food, errands and conversation, and people have engaged with online faith offerings in a big way, whether joining Zoom meetings or watching pre-recorded services.

But if you don't do God, what is this to do with you? Last year I hosted a *Talking Jesus* course which encouraged those attending to feel more confident about sharing their faith with friends, family and neighbours. Given the surprisingly high degree of *'god literacy'* (60% of UK adults surveyed said Jesus is a person who actually lived and 26% believed that, having died, Jesus did come back to life), there is a basis for Christians to share their faith with others.

If you want to explore spirituality and believe there is more to life than what you see in front of you, there are a number of courses offered by local churches, including Alpha, Pilgrim and Faith Pictures.

At its heart, Christian Faith is about following in the path of Jesus who doesn't sugar-coat life but calls on people to love each other and keep an eye on those at the margins. Some may say that they don't need any help, thanks; perhaps affected by a negative experience of what they think church is, possibly because a fallible human in the past was not following Christ's example.

But get to know the living Jesus and, while being in the building of the church might be part of your journey of faith, there are plenty of other ways to experience Jesus' love in action in your community. Please get in touch to find out more.

Chris Sheehan

Stop date for next issue: Monday 12th October

Rector's Corner

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

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

Daily prayers: via Zoom – contact me for details
8.30am and 6pm (e-mail rector@archbenefice.org.uk)

Men's Night
Wednesday 7th October, 8pm, via Zoom.
Join us to see, sip and socialise – be refreshed and refreshing! Contact me to receive joining instructions

Services for All Souls' Day

Monday 2nd November

Tree of Light Services

5.15pm at Harvington; 6.15pm at Church Lench

The Tree of Light services will take place outdoors in the churchyard and offer a chance to remember those we have loved and lost. Prayers will be offered at both services, and there will be a time of quiet for reflection.

All Souls' Services

7pm at Abbots Morton; 7pm at Harvington

These are special services to commemorate *ALL* those who have died. Following a short sermon and reading from scripture, we will read out the names of *ALL* those whose funeral services have been held in the Benefice in the last year. There will be an opportunity for everyone coming to the service to light a candle in memory of a loved one and place it on the altar.

The hope and prayer is that the services will help all those who feel bereaved to come to terms with loss, whenever that may have taken place.

Notices

HARVEST

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

Please CHECK THE SERVICE ROTA (on the back cover) to find out when a Harvest Thanksgiving service is taking place in your local church.

This has been an exceptional year for farmers as well as the rest of us – and wonderfully there is a harvest being collected. In February, farmers might have had some doubts as they still had not managed to plant any crops – by April, all was changed.

So come and give thanks for a harvest gathered in

Harvest collections: help for local needs

The opportunity to support local causes is provided through our local churches. This year, we are looking especially for toiletries, cleaning items and similar, rather than food, as this is what our local food bank has requested. If you are able, please drop items into your church on its open days (Wednesdays and Sundays) and they will be delivered to Caring Hands in Evesham.

Richard Thorniley

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

Notices

Heating oil delivery dates for
the ARCH buying group

Evesons Fuels: 01905 775920

Thursdays: 8th October, 12th November,
10th December

*Phone your order to Evesons by 5pm on the
preceding Monday*

Covid-19 – churches have re-opened!

Churches are open again – 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 have a system and it works (see page 7 for more information) and we have increased the frequency to two morning services per week. Numbers are limited to allow social distancing to take place (*no one has been turned away!*):

- ◆ 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



Notices

Sunday services – a little different, but it works!

Our Sunday services in church are working! We have a system in place that keeps people safe and enables us to meet in person – social distancing measures are adhered to, masks are worn, good quality hand sanitiser is available, contact details are taken for track and trace and then destroyed after three weeks.

Communion is also possible, although only received as the bread which is hygienically safer. Hymns are read rather than sung, and as a result we find ourselves focusing on the words and their message more than we otherwise do. It is a surprising benefit.

Something else we have discovered is that meeting in person rather than watching via a screen reminds us that we are community-oriented beings. Instinctively we wish to gather with others and it is particularly special when you are doing something together. Attending church is a community-building experience so if you are able, do come and join us. Numbers are restricted, but from October onwards we will be offering two services in each church per month and there will be space for you.

Recorded Sunday services and midweek reflections will continue to be available via the links found on the ARCH Benefice website www.archbenefice.org.uk. There is a loyal following which we will continue to support in the long term. There are discussions in place about offering a service via Zoom in the near future. I will keep you posted.

Richard Thorniley

Remembrance Services

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

The Acts of Remembrance Services will take place outdoors at the village memorials, when wreaths will be placed at all the public memorials whether in the church or outdoors. This year our focus will be on World War II as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of its ending.

Please check the service rota for currently planned service times

Why are we tempted?

'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get...his reward' (James 1:12).

Are you facing a temptation of some sort? It is easy to think of it as a bad thing. But it can become a stepping-stone rather than a stumbling block if you think of it as an opportunity to do the right thing rather than the wrong thing. Temptation gives you the choice!

God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances into our lives in which we are tempted – so we can express the exact opposite quality! For instance, He teaches us to love by allowing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no strength of character to love people who are lovely and loving you.

God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by urging us to turn to Him for comfort and strength when all other support is gone. He grows peace in us by helping us learn to trust in Him in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid. Likewise, patience grows through having to wait...

You can't claim to be good if you've never been tempted to be bad; or to be faithful if you've never had the chance to be unfaithful. Integrity grows through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride; and endurance develops when you reject the temptation to give up.

When temptation comes into your life, see it for what it is: a chance for you to grow closer to Jesus.

Musings with Harvest in mind...

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. *Psalm 95:2*

'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart. Washington Irving

It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Don't grumble because you don't get what you want; be grateful you don't get what you deserve. Anon

18th October: Thank you, Dr Luke!

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' – my grandmother taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day on 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' – an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. **Under house arrest later in his life, Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me.'**

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the **history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real.** This man turned no one away; reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees; cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise, indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (*Luke 15:11-32*). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: **subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion.** There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation; the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour; and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

Canon David Winter

On a lighter note...

Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. **After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'**

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shalt not kill.'

The language of church-going

Bulletin: your receipt for attending the service

Hymn: a song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range

Incense: Holy Smoke!

Justice: when your children have children of their own

Pew: a medieval torture device still found in many churches

Procession: the ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats

Recessional: the ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service – led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the car park

Relics: people who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand

Ten Commandments: the most important – and oldest – Top Ten

Ushers: the only people who don't know the seating capacity of a pew

Telling the time

The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 1pm and 5pm.

Whereabouts?

The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed **irritated when I answered 'in school.'**

Home

I've just seen a local burglar kicking his own front door in, so I asked him what he was doing. He replied, 'Working from home.'

Psalm 90: a response to a crisis

'War simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice.' These words of CS Lewis were spoken during World War II, but are equally applicable today. Psalm 90 demonstrates a right response to the coronavirus crisis: *'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom'* (verse 12).

The shortness of life: we live as though life will go on forever, but in reality our time on earth is short, *'A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by'* (verse 4). By contrast God, who inhabits eternity, sees the whole of history in a single moment. How can we see our lives in the light of God who is *'from everlasting to everlasting'* (verse 2)? True wisdom is making sure that we don't waste the time we are given in this life!

The fragility of life: living to 80 years old is definitely an achievement! We know how we wear out in life until we are dust again, *'You turn people back to dust, saying, 'Return to dust, you mortals'* (verse 3). This is the result of turning from God to sin, *'You have set our iniquities before you'* (verse 8). True wisdom warns us not to trust in our own abilities or seek satisfaction in the things of this world.

The love of God: during the pandemic, many have lost loved ones, yet if we allow God's love to take hold of our lives, even death can bring us closer to God. *'Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days'* (verse 14). True wisdom is being able to ask *'May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us'* (verse 17).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Don't 'go it alone'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

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 am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes, which are kept 'just in case', but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. Even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of my predecessors, who stare down at me. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for the photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him.

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors. So, a five-foot, 18-stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten-stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Harvington St James' Church

TREE OF LIGHT

The Tree of Light will again be illuminated in the garden of St. James' Church, and there will be a short service at 5.15pm on All Souls' Day, Monday 2nd November to remember those we have lost. If you would like to have your loved ones remembered, their names will be displayed on the scroll in the church prayer corner. Please complete the form supplied with this issue of the *ARCH Messenger* and return it to Alan Hirst or Sophie Dodds by Monday 26th October.
Sophie Dodds

GARDENING TEAM

Autumn is drawing near and we meet again in the church gardens on Saturday 17th October between 9.30am and 12noon. If you can spare an hour to join us, you will find a warm welcome from our friendly group and enjoy a break around 11am, when we can have a good chat. However, you must bring your own refreshments.

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

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

CARING HANDS

The recent appeal for Caring Hands was a great success. The community from near and far came together to support this worthy cause. It was so lovely that some of the donations were even left at my front door.

Thank you so much for your kind support and generous supplies of lots of cleaning and personal hygiene products. Diane Bennett from Caring Hands has also expressed her grateful thanks and was delighted to be able to add some of those essential items to the food parcels for the needy.

Sophie Dodds

Harvington

PASTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK

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.

Wendy and Konrad Monks



They knew it was left over from the Harvest Festival, but not what it was, or where...

...I've moved with the times – I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone

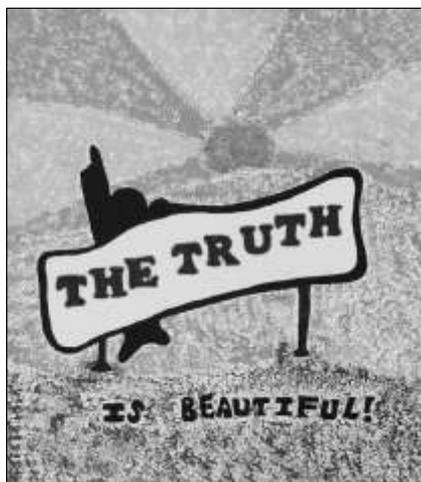


Harvington First School News

It seems such a long time since I shared our school news. Everyone at school hopes our lovely community is keeping well in these challenging times.

The school closed for all the children in March, then immediately reopened for our key worker children. We were very pleased to be able to provide support and fun for the children of those parents who were working as normal. The children had a lovely time enjoying many activities and particularly appreciated using our fabulous outside areas. In June we welcomed more year groups back on a part-time basis, whilst continuing to provide online learning plans for all. Now, in September, we have our whole school open, albeit a little differently!

Our first focus is to help the children to settle into their new classes and routines and re-establish friendships. We are helping our children understand and make sense of what is going on around them and reassuring them that they are safe. We are learning how to respect each other and to keep as safe as we can, and we are sharing some new story books that help us understand what to do if we are worried, scared or lonely – these are a fabulous way of reassuring the children. We produced videos to help settle everyone back to school and to share some familiar faces to ease any nerves but the children have amazed us with their resilience and smiles.



In Collective Worship, we are focusing on **'truthfulness' as our half term value**. The Bible teaches us that the truth is revealed in the Bible and supremely in the person and life of Jesus Christ. We learn that if we follow the teaching of Jesus, we will lead honest, good lives. The children are **revisiting the Lord's Prayer and our very own School Prayer too** – we are trying hard to remember all the actions!

*Helen Fishbourne,
Headteacher*

Abbots Morton

St Peter's Church

ST PETER'S IS OPEN

Services

We are now holding two services a month, one of which is a Holy Communion service. We have set a maximum of 20 for our church – if you wish to attend please come along, we would love to see you. Names will be taken at the door to comply with track and trace protocols.

Private prayer

The church remains open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings when we don't have a service. 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.

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.

HARVEST

It's not a normal harvest celebration this year...

- ◆ Harvest Supper: we can't hold our main fundraising event, sadly, because of Covid-19
- ◆ Harvest Thanksgiving Service: a service of thanksgiving for our farmers and their harvest will be held on Sunday 11th October at 11am with social distancing and other Covid measures in place. However, we can't accept produce in the church this year. Instead we are holding a...
- ◆ Harvest Collection: this will be held a week before the service, on Saturday 3rd October. If you would like to give dried/packet food or canned produce, please take your donations to the village hall between 10am and 4pm and place them by the entrance door of the hall. The donations will be collected and delivered to Caring Hands in Evesham to help their work with homeless people and those in need.

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

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

Bookings Return

The village hall is open for business and bookings are beginning to return. Helena Mitchell's JUMP Dance Academy ballet classes resumed first, in July, with Pavla Line's Pilates and Catherine Phillips's Hatha Yoga classes returning in September. We were delighted to host a day-long first aid course for the staff of the Bromsgrove Rock School on 6th September.

During the lockdown, the hall's 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, with a one-way system, sanitising gel dispensers and a sanitising station, and changes to the toilet facilities, There is clear signage outside and inside about social distancing and a maximum limit of 30 people in the hall.

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.

EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile

We now have 23 EasyFundraisers raising money for us through their online shopping, and they've now raised £688.59. To become an EasyFundraiser, go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and follow the prompts to register Abbots Morton Village Hall as the cause you wish to support.

AmazonSmile customers have raised £11.71 for our funds. You can support Abbots Morton Village Hall in the Amazon shopping app on iPhones and Android phones!

Rous Lench
St Peter's Church

ST. PETER'S SERVICES

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

St. Peter's continues to be open for private prayer and devotions every Sunday morning (9am to 12noon) and Wednesday afternoon (12noon to 6pm). Please remember to wear a mask and follow the Test and Trace protocol when entering the church.

Our next Sunday service will be a Harvest Thanksgiving at 9.30am on Sunday 4th October, 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.

HISTORIC GRANT APPLICATION

We will not hear the outcome of our application until after the copy deadline for this issue of the *ARCH Messenger*, but for those who would like to know, we will post details on www.archbenefice.org.uk as soon as we hear.

The grant would be a major step towards making the vestry area of the church watertight. The work is imperative as the roof and rainwater gutters have failed badly. During the recent storms we have been collecting water in wheelie bins and have discovered that nappies are ideal for absorbing the water that cannot be caught in buckets! A very handy tip from our organist – thank you, Colin.

WORKING PARTY FOR VESTRY CLEARANCE

Should we be successful with our grant application, we will be organising a working party to clear the vestry area in readiness for building works. This will involve packing away smaller items, but also moving larger, heavy stone carvings. If anyone is able to help and has suitable lifting equipment, it would be much appreciated. Date to be confirmed. Please contact Zoë Durrant on ***** or e-mail stpeterrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk.

Rous Lench

RE-ORDERING PLANS

Our architect, Victoria Poole, is working on re-ordering plans for St. Peter's. The brief is to make the vestry area a more usable, comfortable space with a toilet, basic kitchen facilities, improved access, heating and lighting. The space could also be used for pilgrims and Champing with two simple pull-down bunks for overnight stays, keypad entry at the rear of the church, and a bicycle rack.

The PCC would like your feedback on the proposals. We will let you know when plans are available and will find a suitable way to share them with you.

COVID-19 FINANCIAL APPEAL – 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!

CHURCHYARD PROJECT

Even though our church is not open for services, we can still appreciate the beautiful churchyard we have. There are now three comfortable benches where we can sit and chat or meditate in such lovely surroundings. If you are there with young children, you could challenge them to find all the new nesting boxes placed around the churchyard – boxes for a variety of birds, even a terrace dwelling for sparrows! Please do use the churchyard and appreciate the work achieved by our industrious team of gardeners. It needs to be used and loved! Thank you to all those concerned.

Ann Wild

Rous Lench

GRAND AUCTION OF PROMISES

Saturday 14th November, 7.30pm

We are holding an auction of promises in aid of St. Peter's Fabric Fund. If you have a skill, service, or good-quality unused item that you could offer as an auction lot, please let us know. Alternatively, if you would like to learn a new skill or would appreciate some help with your garden or ironing, for example, and would like to place a bid, please take a look at the catalogue of promises. The catalogue will be available electronically or in hard copy by contacting Fran Herdman on ***** or e-mail *****@*****.

The live auction will take place at Rous Lench Village Hall on Saturday 14th November starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £10 including a chilli supper, but numbers will be limited due to Covid-19 restrictions. It will be possible to join in the fun remotely as well.

ROTARY COMMUNITY DRAW

Tickets are available for sale until 31st October
The draw will take place on 25th November
The top prize is £1,000!

To get tickets in the draw:

- ◆ call Fran Herdman on ***** , or
- ◆ e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk, or
- ◆ order online at www.midlandscommunitydraw.org.uk/buy-tickets and click on Rous Lench PCC for details.
Remember to allow sufficient time for your payment to reach the organisers before 31st October
- ◆ go direct using this QR code:



Rous Lench

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.

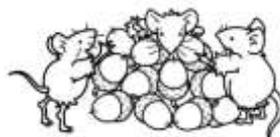
Hall hire for private events

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 & INKBERROW ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Sadly, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing and limitations on numbers, our annual branch Poppy Appeal Coffee Mornings in October and our *Night to Remember* concert in November, have been cancelled. Should individuals wish to hold fund-raising events in support of the Poppy Appeal we ask that they follow current guidelines. This year, there will be no house to house Poppy Appeal collections by our volunteers, but poppy trays and tins will be placed in local shops, pubs and schools should they wish to have them. Our branch Poppy Coordinator will be in touch with those who usually have poppy boxes. Some of the larger supermarkets will have collecting boxes, and donations can be made online at the RBL website www.britishlegion.org.uk. There are also items for sale on the Poppy Shop website www.poppypshop.org.uk.

Our Remembrance Service on the Village Green looks unlikely to happen this year. We hope to hold a small Service of Remembrance in the grounds of **St Peter's Church, Inkberrow**, on Sunday 8th November but this will be restricted to the number of people allowed to gather at that time.



Church Lench First School News

Great to be back!

It is amazing to be back once again and welcoming all our children and staff to school. It has been a very challenging few months and we cannot wait to get back to teaching our wonderful children. The school is now running quite differently to ensure we are keeping our school community as safe as possible. **All classes are keeping within their own 'bubble' with arrival, collection, lunch and break times being staggered to ensure there is no mixing between class bubbles.** We are adhering to a strict risk assessment which has been authorised by our governing body and Worcestershire County Council. We are all hopeful for a calm and smooth term and that everyone stays safe and well.

Lockdown

Our teaching staff were truly amazing during the lockdown period, continually providing children with work in all areas through the school website. Parents and children could contact them via e-mail or Tapestry, our online assessment system, and staff responded promptly at all times. In these unprecedented times, I would like to say a huge thank you to them all for adapting so quickly and creatively to ensure learning continued as much as possible.

Our Christian Value

This half term our Christian value focuses on 'thankfulness'. Christians believe God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their life. They know their response to this provision should be one of thankfulness and praise. We will be focusing on stories from the Bible including *The Man Who Came Back*, the *Two Sons* and *The Dying Girl*. We will also be thinking about how we give thanks to our family, friends, community and God.

Open Evenings for 2021 Admissions

We will be holding two open evenings this year as we cannot open to visitors during the school day:

- ◆ Tuesday 6th October, 5.30-7.30pm
- ◆ Wednesday 7th October, 4-6pm

If you know of any friends or family who would like to come and look around the school, please ask them to contact the office (870297).

Mrs Samantha Price, Headteacher

Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

TREE OF LIGHT

If you wish to subscribe to this way of commemorating relations and friends, please complete the enclosed form and return it by Sunday 18th October. On All Souls' Day, Monday 2nd November, the lights will be switched on and the names of those remembered will be displayed at the church.

10% of the proceeds from the Tree of Light will go to Caring Hands, the care outreach for the Vale of Evesham Christian Centre which seeks to relieve poverty and hardship by giving practical support to individuals and families according to their circumstances. This includes the provision of food packs, bedding items, clothing and toiletries.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service will take place at 11am on Sunday 4th October. Numbers are restricted to 30, and sadly no singing but we will have the familiar hymn tunes played while we read the words. On a brighter note, the church will be decorated with floral decorations which will be placed on window sills – and no touching for the sake of your own well-being.

The church will be open on Wednesday and Sunday as usual, so feel free to visit and admire the decorations.

We will also be taking a collection of items for Caring Hands, our local food bank. They are especially looking for toiletries and cleaning items. Demand is growing as might be expected – I heard they distributed 60 emergency bags in two hours when they were open last week (early September as I write this). So if you can, please be generous. A collection box will be placed outside the church for your convenience as a result of the restricted church opening hours.

Richard Thorniley

Church Lench

DISABLED ACCESS TO THE CHURCH

At last we have disabled access into the church! The front entrance looks rather fine with the hand rails and new slabs, and the path across the churchyard is well on its way to completion as I write – just the top dressing required. Thank **you to everyone for the kind words about the 'hole in the wall'** which makes the churchyard complete and whole (pardon the pun).

The Church Council are aware that it has taken more years than we would have liked to get these jobs done, but the advantage of time was it allowed ideas to mature. The current layout is much better than the plans we first imagined and I am certain it is a more attractive result.

Thank you for your patience, and a BIG thank you for your financial support. We will have a short Covid-friendly dedication service when the work is completed.

SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL (www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy remains on the Parish Council for someone to represent the views of all residents within the Parish and to listen to, and understand, the views and needs of different groups in the community.

The post is not onerous... the Council meet 6 times a year. Anyone who lives within the Parish or up to 3 miles outside the boundary can apply. If you are interested, or would like further information on the role, please contact the Clerk (*****, southlenchespc@gmail.com) or visit the website.

South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held its latest meeting in August via Zoom to allow members of the group who are shielding to contribute. The latest revisions to the plan were discussed and work planned to further develop the document. The Steering Group is still actively recruiting members – if you live or work in South Lenches Parish and you would like to be involved, please contact Dr Morgan Murray (slpc@ablench.com) or the Clerk, Nicky Holland, on ***** , southlenchespc@gmail.com or via the parish council website.

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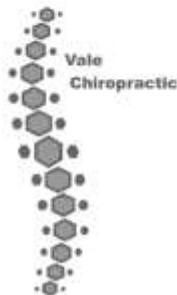
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Key to Church Services

BCP Book of Common Prayer
Service

(all other communion services use
the Common Worship liturgy)

CH Caring Hands collection

ARCH Benefice November 2020

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p30)				
1 st November All Saints Sunday		9.30am Service of the Word	11am Holy Communion	
8 th November Remembrance Sunday	10.30am Remembrance Service		10.50am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service
15 th November		10.30am Service of the Word	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
22 nd November Christ the King	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)			9.30am Holy Communion

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

ARCH Benefice October 2020

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
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				