



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
November 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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Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Thursday, Saturday;
day off: Friday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space
Urgent pastoral matters – any time

Readings

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
29 th November Advent Sunday	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
6 th December	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter: 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
13 th December	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28
20 th December	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Magnificat; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Eve	Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-14
Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14
27 th December	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

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

Thought for the month

Remembering – All Saints tide

This month we have the opportunity to remember during the season of All Saints tide, a time in the church calendar when we remember people in a variety of ways. November begins with All Saints Day, the day to acknowledge Christian heroes and heroines, followed by All Souls Day, when we remember everyone else, especially people we have loved and lost. They were not people we would describe as saints because we know them too well, but we loved them and they have left their mark on our lives. Then on 5th November we remember how close Parliament came to being blown up and how risky it can be to hold power in this country.

On 11th November we will stop for two minutes and remember all those who died in war. In recent years at our Acts of Remembrance, along with the names of our own fallen, we have read the names of the fallen from the war memorials of our linked German parishes. We have found this a telling symbol of human solidarity that reminds us of the cost of war.

Earlier this year we remembered those who work in the NHS caring for us during the pandemic. This widened to include everyone who looked after us during lockdown: key workers such as delivery drivers, shop staff, teachers, care workers and many others who put their lives on the line for us. And then, through tragedy, we were reminded of the racism that runs through many parts of the world, including our own, with the anti-racism protests and removal of statues.

Remembering the past tells us how majestic and flawed humanity is; shows us what we are capable of – the wonderful and awful – and is the way we learn.

Soon, at Christmas, we will remember God coming to live amongst us as a child, and next year we will again recall how we treated him, and his response at Easter. What will you remember from this year?

Richard Thorniley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 9th November

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 18th November, 8pm, via Zoom.
Come, see, sip and socialise – be refreshed and refreshing! It works, after a fashion...
Contact me to receive joining instructions

From the Registers

Abbots Morton

9th October Funeral Serena Francis

Harvington

7th October Funeral Andrew Bailey

15th October Funeral Chris Martin

Pastoral Calls and Contacts

During the pandemic, I have made phone calls to people who I thought needed a call and 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. If you want to get in touch, please do – **it's good to hear from you and I love a chat!**

Richard Thorniley

Notices

Tree of Light and All Souls' Services

Monday 2nd November

Tree of Light services will take place outdoors at Harvington at 5.15pm and Church Lench at 6.15pm to remember those we have loved and lost. Prayers will be offered and there will be a time of quiet for reflection.

We will hold the annual All Souls Service in church at Abbots Morton and Harvington, both at 7pm this year, in memory of loved ones.

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

Caring Hands – help for local needs

Thank you to everyone for the generous supplies for the local food bank at Harvest. Caring Hands were very appreciative of your generosity. The demand is not going away, so if you could maintain your giving, many local families will be grateful.

We are looking for toiletries, cleaning items and similar at the moment, rather than food, as this is what our local food bank has requested. If you are able, please drop your items into church when it is open (Wednesdays and Sundays) and they will be delivered to Caring Hands in Evesham.

Richard Thorniley

Notices

Heating oil delivery dates for
the ARCH buying group

Evesons Fuels: 01905 775920

Thursdays: 12th November, 10th December,
14th January, 11th February, 11th March
*Phone your order to Evesons by 5pm on the
preceding Monday*

It happened in November...

500 years ago: on 28th November 1520, the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the South Pacific and named the waters the Pacific Ocean.

100 years ago: on 11th November 1920, following World War I, Britain and France held ceremonies to dedicate national monuments known as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The British monument is at Westminster Abbey.

80 years ago: on 5th November 1940, Franklin D Roosevelt became the only US President to win a third term in office.

Also 80 years ago: on 14th November 1940, German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including its medieval cathedral.

60 years ago: on 8th November 1960, John F Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the USA.

40 years ago: on 4th November 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected as the 40th President of the USA.

Also 40 years ago: on 21st November 1980, American TV soap opera *Dallas* revealed 'who shot J.R.' after keeping viewers in suspense for eight months.

30 years ago: on 7th November 1990, Mary Robinson became the first female President of Ireland.

Also 30 years ago: on 22nd November 1990, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced her resignation. She was succeeded by John Major on 28th November.

15 years ago: on 30th November 2005, John Sentamu became Archbishop of York and the first black archbishop in the Church of England.

Poppies for remembrance



For many, the Royal British Legion's red poppy is a symbol of peace and remembrance for those who gave their lives in times of war. Over the years the annual Poppy Appeal, first held in 1921, has raised vital money to support **Britain's Armed Forces, veterans and their families in their times of need.** However, this is not the only poppy appeal which exists to promote peace and to remember wartime sacrifice.

The white poppy was first designed and distributed in 1933 by the Peace Pledge Union, the UK's oldest pacifist group. Many veterans of the First World War, and indeed of wars since, opted to wear the white poppy to stress the 'never again' message and to visually represent their commitment to peace.

Black poppies are also available each year from Black Poppy Rose, to especially remember those in the African, Black, Caribbean and Pacific Islands communities who contributed to or who died during various conflicts since the 16th century.

Animal victims of wartime, like horses and dogs, are remembered through the wearing of purple poppies. Organised by the War Horse Memorial, donations for purple poppies are given to animal charities including World Horse Welfare and Blue Cross.

Whatever colour you choose to wear, poppies remain an important symbol to remember all those affected by war.



Lord, prop us up on our leaning side!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at church, 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The famer replied, 'Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up too, on my leaning side.'

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we find ourselves leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.

When life goes wrong

Where is God when we are hurting? When we are sick or a loved one is sick, why doesn't God always answer our prayer for healing? If He has not answered us, how do we know He is even there? The words of Alister McGrath may help:

'Experience cannot be allowed to have the final word... the theology of the Cross draws our attention to the sheer unreliability of experience as a guide to the presence and activity of God. God is active and present in His world, quite independently of whether we experience Him. Experience declared that God was absent from Calvary, only to have its verdict humiliatingly overturned on the third day.'

'So, where does that leave us? As with the Cross, it may be that our personal darkest hour may be also God's finest moment for us. It may be there that He does His greatest work in and for us, albeit unseen by us at the time. Thus, instead of letting circumstances consume us, we are to be consumed with God. To that end, we should pray without ceasing, trust in His sovereignty, and find comfort in His love and hope.'

80 years on, we still need courage and endurance

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during those months 80 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that, in the end, evil did *not* prevail. **Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected 'rule of 1000 years' lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.**

Sadly, 80 years on, the world is still at war. Man's greed, arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Coronavirus, economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... **the threats are different, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same.**

It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in faith **and in repentance, to 'walk more nearly' and 'follow Him more clearly'**. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever ways lie open before us.

Revd John Crew

Miscellaneous musings...

The finest test of character is seen in the amount and the power of gratitude we have. *Milo Gates*

God isn't looking for perfect people. He is looking to perfect people.

John Hileman

Beginning well is a momentary thing; finishing well is a lifelong thing.

Ravi Zacharias

There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials. *C H Spurgeon*

Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is drawing to a close but there is at least one plant that has been in full bloom over the past month. Not spectacular to look at, ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. These are spherical clusters of greenish-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs, each containing five seeds. They are poisonous for us, but birds love them.



Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground – there's not much nutritional value in a brick! Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! As well as providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar to us, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed leaves we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy, but has anyone discovered why, although mentioned in the first line of the carol *The Holly and the Ivy*, it is absent from the rest of the verses?

Kirsty Steele

Psalm 122 and Advent

'I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem' (Psalm 122:1-2). These words from Psalm 122 inspired Hubert Parry's great Coronation Anthem *I was Glad*. As a Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. For the Jews this represented 'coming home' to worship at the Temple, the place of God's presence.

Our worship of God: as God's people today, we are also called to worship in praise and thanksgiving, 'That is where the tribes go up – to praise the name of the Lord' (Psalm 122:4). Of course, currently our coming together in church to sing our praise to God is greatly restricted. We are a scattered rather than a gathered community. However, as individuals, we can still offer God the worship of our lives using the resource of psalms like this one.

Our prayer to God: the psalm encourages the pilgrims to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may those who love you be secure' (Psalm 122:6). The peace referred to is more than simply an absence of conflict. Peace speak of wholeness of life in every aspect. This must be our prayer as we continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic and as we seek the prosperity of the wider community, *'I will seek your prosperity' (Psalm 122:9).*

This month sees the beginning of Advent, the season when we affirm the hope of Jesus' return. As we pray for peace, we know that it is fulfilled in the coming of God's kingdom in Jesus. Despite living with so much uncertainty, we have the assurance of God's future purposes for our lives, churches and the world.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Medical term...

The patient told his doctor that he was worried because he just wasn't able to do all the things his boss expected him to do. When the examination was over, he said, 'I'm prepared for the worst, doctor. Just tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.'

'Well, in plain English,' the doctor replied, 'you're just lazy.'

'Okay,' said the patient. 'Now give me the medical term so I can tell my boss.'

On the ferocity of the bridge drive...

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,

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have bridge drives. Even at two metres apart, our bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through *Onward Christian Soldiers*. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell who, as a former mill worker, is able to lip read. Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are they will be meeting again the following afternoon round another socially distanced card table for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Church Lench
All Saints' Church

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD

If you would like to add your Christmas greetings to Church Lench and Atch Lench village Christmas card, please complete and return the enclosed form (with payment) to Jane Powell by Saturday 14th November. The card will be distributed with the December issue of the *ARCH Messenger*.

*All profit will go to All Saints' Church.
More forms are available in the porch of the church.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DAVID VICTOR STOCK

Susan and family would like to thank all villagers, friends
and family for their kind words, messages, cards and
flowers after the death of David

Loved by all

HYACINTHS

Although we aren't having a Christmas Fayre this year, Gerry Ball will still be potting up hyacinths and selling them to raise funds for All Saints' Church. As ever, hyacinths will be available in blue (Delft Blue), pink (Pink Pearl), and white (L'Innocence). You can provide Gerry with your own pots to be planted at a cost of £1 per bulb, or buy hyacinths already potted up, at £1 per bulb and a small charge for the container. Gerry is happy to collect pots, or they can be left in the porch at *****.

Orders (and pots) by the weekend of 21st November please. Planted pots will be available for delivery or collection during the first two weeks of December. For more information, contact Gerry on *****.

South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

***** , southlenchespc@gmail.com

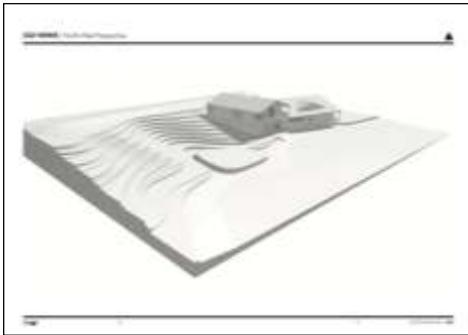
Vacancy

Are you interested in the life of your village, your parish, your local environment, recreational facilities, local transport, planning and housing issues. These are, just a few of the areas where Councillors are able to get involved to help make a difference to our community. The Parish Council is made up of seven members of the public. We have a vacancy – will YOU come and join us? If so, or if you would like more details, please contact the Parish Clerk, Nicky Holland (details above).

Community Legacy Grant

The Lenches Amphitheatre – Project Update October 2020

The design of the amphitheatre and the new facility building has now been agreed. Residents can get some idea of how it will look from the picture below. A more detailed CGI render will be available shortly.



A submission for planning permission has been made to Wychavon District Council and all residents can view the full application on the Wychavon planning portal. Once permission has been granted, ground works will start on 1st December, followed by building works at the end of January. The target date for completion is the end of May 2021.

It's worth mentioning that a number of local people have given their time and expertise entirely free of charge, enabling us to deliver the project at the lowest possible cost. They include builders, an architect, quantity surveyor, planning consultant and other professional advisers.

Church Lench

VILLAGE HALL

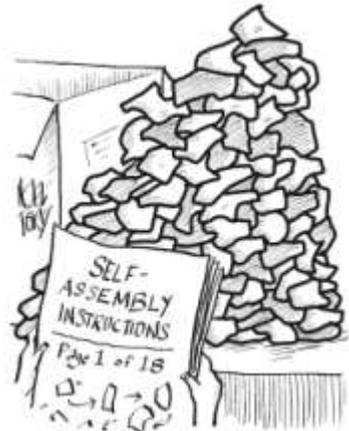
The Church Lench Pre-School is now back in session and, due to Government Covid guidelines, we are unable to open the Village Hall to other outside hirers for the time being. In the meantime, we are busy making improvements to your village hall and hope to welcome you back as soon as possible. Over the summer, the floor in the main hall was resurfaced and now looks brand new; roof repairs are being undertaken during October half term; and the kitchen will be renovated during the Christmas break. Current plans include new cupboards and countertops, plus a new oven and freezer.

In addition to hiring out the building, the hall relies on quarterly fund-raising evenings to finance the running and maintenance of the property. As these have not been possible in 2020, this month we will be selling beautiful notecards featuring local scenes and we will be taking pre-orders for The Lenches porcelain mugs. Look out for the posters around the village, or log in to The Lenches Community Facebook page and www.thelenches.org.uk for more information.

*Both items will make great Christmas presents.
Please support your village hall and buy them!*



*He'd fought in the wars, but the
guide didn't say which ones*



*The vicar was already regretting
ordering the new stained glass
window from IKEA*

Church Lench First School News

This month I thought I would explain what the children are learning...

Class 1 will be learning all about *Marvellous Me!* They will look at what is the same and different about other people and their families, which will lead onto thinking about what they like and dislike and that everyone is unique. They will also think about how they have changed since being a baby, in appearances and in the skills that they have developed. This topic has a strong link to science so the children will be looking at how wonderful their bodies are! After locating and naming parts of the body, they will learn about their skeleton and some of the internal organs and their jobs, then they will learn more about their senses and investigate how well they work! They will construct bar charts and find out information about each other to compare how they are the same and different. They will also create self-portraits in their art sessions using a variety of media.

Class 2's topic over the next three half terms is *Significant People and Events*. They have started by studying Henry VIII and how he changed England, and will then look at The Stuarts, thinking especially about the Gunpowder Plot, The Plague and The Great Fire of London. After Christmas they will move on to discovering new lands and will focus on the moon landing. The children will have the opportunity to choose a significant event that they wish to investigate. They will be learning historical and geographical skills which they will build on to understand the past and the world around them. In art and design they are studying the artist Mary Cassatt and creating their own pieces in a similar style.

Class 3's topic over the next three half terms is *Crime and Punishment*. They have started by studying the law and punishment through history from Norman times until the present day. During Black History Month in October they will look at the slave trade and study significant figures in Black History, after which they will look at dungeons and prisons from 1066 to the present day. Next term the children will focus on the Holocaust, miscarriages of justice, the making of laws and the modern legal system. Geography will focus on lands settled by people exiled from their homelands. Like Class 2, children will be learning historical and geographical skills which they will build on to understand the past and the world around them. In art and design, Class 3 are studying David Hockney and creating their own work in a similar style.

Mrs Samantha Price, Headteacher

Harvington St James' Church

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September, and an huge 'Thank You' to Rob at the Golden Cross for hosting the event. Thanks to your amazing generosity, and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we raised £1,007 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

GARDENING TEAM

Another year has gone, a year that I and many more do not want to see again. This month we will meet on Saturday 21st November, from 9.30am to 12noon, when we will be clearing fallen leaves and putting the gardens to bed for the winter. If you can spare an hour, you will find a warm welcome from our friendly group and enjoy a break around 11am when we can have a good chat (but you must bring your own refreshments). We will obey Government rules as they apply at the date of our meeting, but be assured we will have a good time.

Thank you all for your work in the gardens this year during my absence.

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

PASTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK

We had hoped that by now we would be emerging from all the disruption the virus has caused, but sadly, as I'm writing this, it doesn't seem to be the case.

Inevitably, this has affected the activities of the Pastoral Support Network, as we have to keep everyone safe. But we are still here and as far as possible we are available to anyone who needs a bit of help. So, as always, we can offer help with practical tasks, lifts and friendly visiting etc, although these have to be negotiated within the parameters of the government guidelines. These are changing as the situation evolves, but we will do what we can to adapt to the current circumstances. 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 year.

Wendy and Konrad Monks

Harvington First School News

The whole school has settled well into our new routines, classes and new ways of working. **Everyone's resilience and ability to manage change has ensured our school is still an amazing place to learn.** Our focus has been on getting us all back together, re-establishing friendships and starting our new academic year in a positive way. We enjoyed over a week of different theme days including a science day, geography day and a day exploring personal, social and health education. Our sports day focused on dance and we all spent time learning about the creation. This has been followed by broad curriculum learning as well as making sure we have covered learning lost during lockdown times.

Our focus on pupil voice has continued. This is where we encourage children to have the confidence and skills to share ideas, work as a team, take leadership in their learning and try and make a difference to others. We have elected our ECO team, who have already met and reminded us about everything we should be recycling, and our Sunshine group – these are the children who plan and evaluate some of our Collective Worship and help to ensure that the Christian distinctiveness of the school shines through everything we do. We are in the process of electing our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who lead the school and the groups of ministers responsible for charity, sport, learning and the arts, to name but a few! Our ministers are brilliant and lead positively in so many ways. Finally, we are in the process of selecting the charity we will support for the year. After researching many possibilities, the children have come up with a short list of three which will be put to the vote very soon.

In Collective Worship, we have continued to focus on *Truthfulness* as our half term value, learning how we can try to lead truthful lives by making good choices and thinking of others. Being truthful to yourself is important because you cannot live in line with your values if you are pretending to yourself that you are something else. Truthfulness allows you to be honest about yourself to yourself and to others, and to live a life which reflects that. We cannot come together for Collective Worship but the children are enjoying the weekly videos and their class Collective Worship. We will be sharing a video of our Harvest Festival thoughts on the secure section of our website and this year will be encouraging donations to Caring Hands in Evesham. We hope our harvest basket deliveries will resume next year!

Helen Fishbourne, Headteacher

Abbots Morton St Peter's Church

HARVEST COLLECTION

St Peter's PCC would like to thank everyone who gave generously to the Harvest Collection. Many, many items were given, from food to clothing to toiletries, all of which will be hugely appreciated by Caring Hands in Evesham. Based at the Vale of Evesham Christian Centre in Bewdley Street, Caring Hands runs a food bank and helps homeless people and others who need support.

ST PETER'S DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A QR code is pinned on the notice board to enable mobile phone users to register with the Government's Test and Trace system. There will still be someone in the church at the start of services taking names and contact details for the purpose of Test and Trace.

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'd love to see you!**

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

Services coming up are:

- ◆ **All Souls' Service:** there will be an All Souls' Service at St Peter's on Monday 2nd November at 7pm. It's a service of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died during the past year.
- ◆ Remembrance Day Service: this will be held on Sunday 8th November, starting at 10.30am. As always, at the moment, there will be a maximum of 20 people inside the church.

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.

Abbots Morton

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our Christmas activities will have to be a little different this year:

- ◆ Carols on the Green: due to current restrictions on singing it is unlikely there will be *Carols on the Green* this year. We're sorry to disappoint carollers but until singing (outside or inside) is permitted by Government we cannot go ahead. If that situation changes, we will let you know.
- ◆ Carol & Gift Service: there will not be a service but the church will be open on Sunday 20th December from 2pm to 4pm for people to bring gifts (unwrapped, please) for needy children.
- ◆ Christmas Service: each church in the ARCH Benefice will have a Communion service over the Christmas period. Details to follow later.

VILLAGE HALL

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

Bookings return

The village hall is open for business and bookings are returning. We now have a Hatha Yoga class on Tuesday evening, a ballet and tap class on Wednesday afternoons and a Hay Yoga class on Thursday mornings.

Test and trace

We have a QR Code at the entrance to the hall. Those who have downloaded the Test and Trace Covid-19 app can register their attendance at the hall. Each hirer also has a list of people attending with their contact details.

A range of measures are in place to minimise the risk of anyone bringing the virus into the hall or transmitting the virus to anyone else.

EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile

Our 23 EasyFundraisers have now raised £698.71 for us through their online shopping. 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

HISTORIC ENGLAND GRANT

Frustratingly, we have still not heard whether or not we have been successful with our grant application for the roof repairs. Historic England have come back to us three times for further information which we have supplied. So once again we will not hear the outcome of our application until after the copy deadline for this issue. For those who would like to know, we will post details on www.archbenefice.org.uk as soon as we hear.

CHURCHYARD MEMORIAL ROSES

The appearance of the churchyard continues to improve as a result of lots of hard work by the village community. A bench seating area is being created with adjacent rose beds for memorial rose bushes. This will provide an attractive area for both villagers and visitors to enjoy a few moments of quiet reflection.

Several villagers have already approached the PCC wishing to purchase rose bushes in memory of a loved one. If you are also interested, please contact Lloyd Wing on ***** or e-mail stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk.

St Peter's is closing for repairs

Good news – repairs should begin shortly on St Peter's.

Bad news – the church needs to be closed until further notice.

We will, of course, let you know when we are reopening.

Please pray that it all goes well.

Don't forget the Auction of Promises – PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Richard Thorniley

Rous Lench

GRAND AUCTION OF PROMISES

Thank you to everyone who has offered a lot for the auction of promises. The catalogue will be delivered to houses in Rous Lench and Radford soon. Please take a look through it and decide what you would like to bid for. We will call to collect bidding sheets on Saturday 7th November, but you will also be able to bid by e-mail and by phone on Saturday 14th November.

For anyone who does not live in Rous Lench or Radford, an electronic version of the catalogue will be available on the Lenches website, or e-mail Fran Herdman on *****@*****.

Further information regarding the bidding process will accompany the catalogue and instructions will also be online.

Saturday 14th November, 12noon

The live auction will now take place on the old cricket field, off Rous Lench village green, on Saturday 14th November starting at 12noon. Numbers will be restricted due to Covid-19 and everyone must be socially spaced in groups of six or less. Tickets will cost £5 each to include a bowl of chilli. Hot drinks will be available.

It will be possible to join in the fun remotely as well.

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!

Rous Lench

ROTARY COMMUNITY DRAW

Ticket sales closed on 31st October and the draw will take place on 25th November. Good luck!

CARING HANDS

We have been asked to let you know that the Caring Hands team in Evesham is desperately in need of cleaning materials and toiletries. If you wish to help, please leave your donations in the box which is behind the buttress on the **left-hand side of St. Peter's**. **Items are collected regularly and delivered to the centre** in Evesham. There was overwhelming support after the harvest service. Thank you very much for your generosity.

DECEMBER CAROL SINGING IN THE CHURCHYARD

The PCC is hoping to organise carol singing in St. Peter's churchyard in December, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions.

The church and churchyard will be lit with candles and the interior lights of the church will be on, so light falls through the stained-glass windows. Carol singers in household groups of no more than six can stand in socially-distanced spots around the churchyard. Amplified music will be played inside the church with the main doors open, so it can be heard outside and people can join in with carols, reading from song sheets. We would like to decorate the *outside* of the church and the churchyard with Christmas wreaths made with foliage.

If restrictions allow, we will offer mince pies (individually wrapped in foil and served using tongs by volunteers wearing masks and gloves) and, if carol singers come armed with their own mugs, some soup or mulled wine.

Failing that, rather like the NHS clapping, we might ask residents if they would like to stand outside their homes with candles and sing. Or we could, at the very least, light the church inside and out, hang wreaths, and play music on several occasions in December for people to appreciate.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Zoë Durrant on ***** or stpetersrouslench@archbenefice.org.uk.

Rous Lench

RE-ORDERING PLANS

Good progress is being made with the re-ordering plans for St. Peter's. The plans have been submitted to the Worcester Diocese Advisory Committee for comment. We hope to make the plans available for your feedback on the **ARCH Benefice website, and create a small display in St. Peter's or the village hall** for residents to view if Covid-19 restrictions and building works allow.

We will confirm how and when plans are available.

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

Sadly, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, our annual *Night to Remember* concert in November has been cancelled and this year there will be no house to house Poppy Appeal collections by our volunteers, but poppy trays and tins have been placed in local shops, pubs and schools if they wished to have them. Some of the larger supermarkets 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.poppysshop.org.uk.

We will hold a small Service of Remembrance and laying of wreaths at the Lych Gate Memorial, St Peter's Church, Inkberrow, on Sunday 8th November. Current guidelines on numbers and social distancing will be observed.

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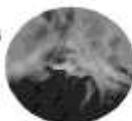
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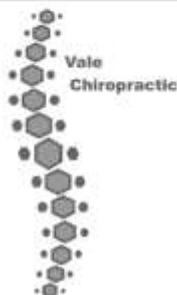
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Service

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ARCH Benefice December 2020

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p30)				
6 th December			11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
13 th December	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)			9.30am Holy Communion
20 th December	10.30am Morning Service and Gift Service		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	
24 th December Christmas Eve	9pm Christmas Communion			11.30pm Midnight Communion
25 th December Christmas Day			11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
27 th December				10am Benefice Eucharist

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

ARCH Benefice November 2020

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
1 st November All Saints Sunday			11am Holy Communion	9.30am Service of the Word
Monday 2 nd November All Souls' Day	7.00pm All Souls' Service			7.00pm All Souls' Service
8 th November Remembrance Sunday	10.30am Remembrance Service		10.50am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service
15 th November			8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
22 nd November Christ the King	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)			9.30am Holy Communion
29 th November Advent Sunday			11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Everyone (of any age) will be made very welcome at all our services				