



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
February 2024*



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

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

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

Readings

4th February Proverbs 8:1, 22-31; Psalm 104:26-37; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14

11th February 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm: 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

14th February
Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; John 8:1-11

18th February Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

25th February Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

3rd March Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:7-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

10th March
Mothering Sunday 1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 127:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17; John 19:25b-27

17th March Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

24th March
Palm Sunday *Liturgy of the Palms:* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

28th March
Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17,31b-35

31st March
Easter Sunday Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8

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www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

Something for everyone

February can feel like a dark month, too far from Christmas to be a party and **Spring not yet sprung. You could say it feels a bit like 'here we go again...'** After all, we start with Groundhog Day, a prediction of how much longer we must wait for bad weather to ease – personally I prefer the Met Office predictions! And if **it doesn't feel gloomy enough, during the dark and cold we also have Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.** In Epiphany we took the decorations down but as we step into Lent it is time to strip back the larder and give things up.

For the Romans, February was a time of purification and anointment. As Christians entering Lent, the sentiment has not changed. February has not lost its significance as a time of preparation. Looking forwards, Easter and the resurrection will bring Spring and new life, new beginnings and new chances.

So let us look on February as a time to put thing right things which are holding us back, make amends for things we have done wrong and set ourselves straight for the joy of Spring which is approaching. For some this will mean an **'out with the old' and 'in with the new' approach, others will enjoy the spring clean.** Personally, I am coming towards the end of the NHS year and rounding off targets before we face the expectations and challenges of the new year budget and new government.

However we prepare, it is worth spending a moment to mentally tidy up and audit what is important, what we can do and those things we need to let go. **During February, Children's Mental Health Week will shine a spotlight on those who are suffering, often in silence, while Valentine's Day is a chance to spend a special moment with someone we love, send a sentiment or a wish for the future. And if you want a smile, don't forget Groundhog Day is also World Ukulele Day, followed quickly by World Nutella Day, Charles Dickens Day and Chinese New Year.** February really does hold a bit of something for everyone.

Pippa Heenan

Stop date for next issue: Monday 5th February

Rector's Corner

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

Home Communion: I will contact the house-bound, and am open to requests.
(contact me on 01386 870527) Please feel free to ask even if you are only temporarily out of commission

Men's Night Wednesday 7th February at the Golden Cross, Harvington
8.30pm
Come and enjoy a pint. £12 in the kitty will cover drinks and get us a savoury snack. Reserve your place:
rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527

Pastoral calls and contacts

If you know of anyone who could do with a call or help for any reason please let me know.

Please do not think I am too busy to make a visit or a phone call *if the need arises*. **And don't assume that I have heard** – I would much rather hear three times that someone is in need of support than not at all. And if you want to get in touch please do – **it's good to hear from you and I enjoy a chat.**

Richard Thorniley

From the Registers

Harvington

12 th December	Funeral & burial	Ann Watts
16 th December	Wedding	Charles Engwell and Sophie O'Neill
5 th January	Funeral	Mavis Coley
25 th January	Funeral	Robert Parry

Notices

Spring Half Term Holiday Club

Theme: *Spring Fun*

Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th February
10am - 2.30pm each day at *****

Activities will include games, crafts, chill time and outdoor fun!

Cost: £9 per child per day or £26 for 3 days

Ages catered for: 5-12 (school age)

Please supply children with lunch (drinks provided)

We also need adult and teenage helpers

To reserve a place or offer help, please get in touch
with Revd Richard Thorniley on **01386 870527**
or **holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk**

Numbers are limited so book early!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024



On Friday 1st March over 3 million people will be praying and worshipping together using an order of service prepared by the Christian women of Palestine on the theme *I beg you, bear with one another in love*. We will be joining them at **St James' Church** (time to be confirmed – *check on Facebook and e-mail*).

We meet as Christians of all denominations to join in prayer and worship. Everyone is welcome to attend – men, women and children – so come and join an event that will involve 170 countries, beginning with meetings at sunrise in Tonga and finishing at sunset in the eastern Pacific islands.

A TRULY GLOBAL EVENT

Notices

NORTH AVON GROUP LENT COURSE 2024

Circle of Life

During Lent we will explore the topic of death and life, starting with the practical issues which face us all in regard to death then moving on to the Spiritual and promise of new life as seen in Scripture and the season of Spring.

Wednesday 21st February, 7pm: *Preparing for a good death*

Presentation and discussion led by Revd Richard Thorniley and a local funeral director.

Venue: Abbots Morton Village Hall

Wednesday 28th February, 7pm: *Assisted dying*

Presentation and discussion led by Michael Harper, retired Palliative Care **Consultant from St Richard's Hospice.**

Venue: Inkberrow PEC

Wednesday 6th March, 7pm: *Death – what does the Bible tell us?*

Details to be confirmed.

Venue: Abbots Morton Village Hall

Wednesday 13th March, 7pm: *Creative reflection*

An opportunity to express ideas of resurrection and hope through music and art. The session will be led by Corinne Frost who is a member of Epiphany, a Christian group who use music and art to engage with God.

Venue: Inkberrow PEC

Wednesday 20th March, 6pm: *Experience in Creation*

Led by Patrick Swan, trustee of Quiet Gardens.

Venue: Rous Lench Churchyard (winner 2023 Best Kept Churchyard competition)

Gather for refreshments at 7pm (6pm on 20th March).

The talk will begin by 7.30pm and head home

by 9pm at the latest.

The news about Jesus

This year, much of the Church of England lectionary will focus on Mark. Here is a short introduction to this much-loved gospel...

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, and most likely the first to be written (about 65-70AD). It is certainly the most action-packed!

The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whose name occurs often in Acts. **He was cousin to Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion, and had set off with Paul on the first great missionary tour but then disgraced himself by going home – making himself unpopular with Paul! However, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance, and in later years John Mark won the friendship of Paul.** When Paul was in prison, John Mark stood by him (*Colossians 4*).

Mark's gospel was written not when John Mark was in Jerusalem but later when he had spent some time with Peter in Rome. Peter had come to love John Mark as his own son (1 Peter 5:13), and there is a strong early tradition that John Mark set down Jesus' story as he had heard it directly from the apostle Peter.

John Mark wrote his gospel with extraordinary vividness, and he obviously knew he would have non-Jewish readers because he often explains Jewish customs.

The Gospel begins with a bang: 'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...' No beating about the bush – here is the purpose and the message right from the opening verse. Starting with Jesus' baptism by John, the action moves swiftly towards the crisis of the cross and resurrection. Within this framework, the material tends to be not in chronological order, but rather grouped by subject. The book bustles with action and details. It gives far more detail than Matthew's in the accounts of what Jesus did, but deals more briefly with Jesus' teaching.

Mark does not have much that is all his own – only four paragraphs in all! This is because both Matthew and Luke borrowed heavily from him when they came to write their gospels. And yet, we still have something unique in Mark: moving pictures of Jesus in action, convincing us by what He does that His claim to be the Son of God is true. There are fewer stories in Mark than in the other gospels, but these stories are longer and the detail in them hints of Peter's remembered eye-witness accounts.

To brighten a gloomy day...

From the Editor

A set of rules I will (try to) follow this year when editing the *ARCH Messenger*:

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction
4. Avoid cliches like the plague (they're old hat)
5. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration
6. Be more or less specific
7. One should NEVER generalise
8. Comparisons are as bad as cliches
9. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times. Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly
10. Puns are for children, not groan readers
11. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed
12. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement
13. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning, 'Windows frozen.'

Her husband texted back, 'Pour some lukewarm water over it.'

The wife replied five minutes later, 'Computer completely not working now.'

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

- ◆ If you love someone, let them nap
- ◆ Take my advice. I'm not using it
- ◆ I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?
- ◆ Cats know how we feel. They don't care, but they know
- ◆ Some people like living in the past. For one thing, the rent is a lot cheaper
- ◆ I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me

And finally...

Nothing ruins your Friday like realising it's only Wednesday.



What's so special about Jesus?

The gospels record that people were astounded by many of the things Jesus said. Even His enemies, intent on trapping Him, admitted, *'No one ever spoke the way this man does'* (John 7:46). Furthermore, *'the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law'* (Matthew 7:28-9). For in Jesus, we find something without precedent in the span of human literature. While urging humility on others and **giving the impression of the ultimately humble person, Jesus' teaching and claims are basically egocentric and completely focussed on Himself.** In ordinary life, that would get a person labelled as crazy or as a megalomaniac!

Just think of some of the astounding claims Jesus made about Himself: *'I am the Resurrection and the Life'* (John 11:25); *'I am the Bread of Life'* (John 6:35); *'I am the Light of the World'* (John 8:12); *'I am the Good Shepherd'* (John 10:7,9); *'...whoever lives and believes in Me will never die'* (John 11:26) and – most staggering of all – *'anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father'* (John 14:9).

CS Lewis comments on the inescapableness of Jesus' uniqueness, *'There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions.'* That Jesus cannot be ranked among a pantheon of religious leaders or prophets becomes clearer when one reflects further on His claim of being at both the beginning and the end of Creation and history: *'I am the First and the Last'* (Revelation 1:17) and *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'* (Matthew 28:18).

Clearly the disciples accepted this as John begins his gospel with the words *'In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God...Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...'* and Paul wrote *'in Him all things hold together'* (Colossians 1:16-17).

When we look at what Jesus goes on to say about the end of history we are even more startled, as when He said of any person who follows Him, *'I will raise him up at the last day'* (John 6:40). Remember, this was the local carpenter! And when we note that throughout the Bible final judgement is a function reserved to God alone, it is astounding to register that Jesus says of Himself, *'For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son...authority to judge because He is the Son of Man'* (John 5:26-27).

Continued overleaf

Genesis: what's the big idea?

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens, the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is supremely about relationships: the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally, man has been created in the image of God so that he can relate to God in a personal way, '*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*' (Genesis 1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

Canon Paul Hardingham

What's so special about Jesus? (continued)

Yes, between Creation and the end of history stands Jesus. This also means, and we note it with comfort, that everything in between is His too. During Lent, why not spend some time quietly thinking about these claims of Jesus?

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

Spinning

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45° in the floor.



When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole was flung off. Nowadays there's probably a regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly and, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variability, is God: the same yesterday, today and forever.

A few weeks ago Christians were thinking of God getting involved in a special way in the ever-moving and changing life of the world. One great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him balance and authority.

'Be still then and know that I am God' wrote the Psalmist. **Lent is a time for us to try and do just that – to find the still centre of God in our own individual lives. Of course, we're all very much in the world, and must live our lives in all of its busyness. But it may not do us any harm to be a little more silent – quick to listen and slow to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small voice within each one of us the chance to be heard.**

Revd Dr Gary Bowness

On how to run your diary...

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,

So, you have just attended a course on diary management. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not in the conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you didn't get any of them.

Third, adopt your own private code. This means any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing '1.30pm PLS' or '7.30pm WTD' will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean 'post lunch sleep' and 'walk the dog' will be known to you alone – but do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the Pauline Letters Seminars and my membership of the World Theology Directorate is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

Fifth, put someone else's address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions was quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

FLOWER ROTA

10th February
24th February

Maggie Stroud
Lent – no flowers

LENT LUNCHESES

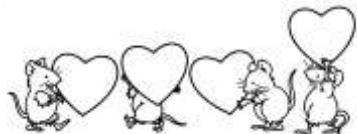
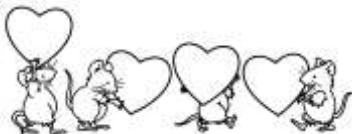
The Social Committee are pleased to confirm that there will be five Lent Lunches this year, commencing on Wednesday 21st February and finishing on Wednesday 20th March. Each week, for just £7, a selection of delicious homemade soups followed by cheese and biscuits will be available at The Lenches Club between 12 noon and 2pm. There will be a raffle and the bar will be open for liquid refreshments.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The PCC would like to thank everyone who so generously supported or helped in any way at the Christmas Fayre at the end of November. There was a really lovely festive atmosphere in the crowded Village Hall and the total raised for the church and its associated charities was over £2,124.

SAVE THE DATE!

Also from the PCC comes advance warning that Open Gardens and Scarecrows will once again feature in this year's *Flower Festival Weekend* on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June. Further information and details will appear in the next issue of the *ARCH Messenger* or may be obtained from Lyndall Bagnall (*****) or Nadine Woakes (*****).



Church Lench First School News

Happy New Year to everyone in the community! It was a very busy half term leading up to Christmas and here are some of our highlights:

Christmas week at Church Lench CE First School

Church service: The children gave a fantastic service in church and we were so proud of them! The children in class 1 acted out the nativity scene superbly, looking amazing in their costumes. Classes 2 and 3 sang and spoke so clearly, sending the message about generosity and love at Christmas time. Thank you to **'The Friends of Church Lench'** for organising the hamper raffle and providing refreshments afterwards in the school hall.

Christmas lunch: A big thank you to Debbie in the kitchen for preparing such a delicious Christmas dinner! The children all enjoyed it and wore their hand-made decorated party hats.

Bubble entertainer: He amazed us all with his bubble-making talents as he explained the science behind bubbles! A great afternoon of fun and curiosity!

Father Christmas: Father Christmas came to visit us on his sleigh! He arrived in the playground to greet the children and present them with a gift!

Academy conversion

We are now in the formal consultation process for converting to academy status. The Governors decided last year to explore the possibility of accelerating the process of conversion to an academy and joining a multi-academy trust (MAT) in order to do so on our own terms, rather than being forced to act in the future.

Over the past year, the Governors have explored several MAT models to identify those which would ensure the school continues to deliver the best outcomes for our pupils through shared resources and expertise. Last term they made the **decision to work exclusively with Bengeworth MAT due to the Trust's shared Christian vision and values, and close proximity to our school.** We will keep the community updated via the Lenches Community Facebook page.

Christian value for the half term: *perseverance*

Jesus frequently encouraged his disciples to endure patiently the difficulties and obstacles they encountered and to persevere in the face of adversity. He trusted in God even when his enemies tried to stop his work and plotted his death.

Mrs S Price, Headteacher

Church Lench

LENCHES WI

On Monday 19th February at 2pm in the Lenches Club, Lenches WI will be holding their Annual General Meeting, followed by a farewell to Jane Powell who is retiring from the WI. Jane has been a WI member for 27 years, during which time she has served on many committees in various roles and as our President for the past three years. We wish her well for the future!

VILLAGE HALL

100 Club

The winners of the December draw were:
1st Suzy Clark; 2nd Jo Edge; 3rd Ann Richardson

Hiring the hall

Interested in hiring the hall? For booking enquiries, please contact Bev Gillis at clvillagehallbookings@gmail.com and see our pages on www.thelenches.org.uk.



'Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil'



'...the good news is – I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!'

South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

*****, clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Meetings of the Parish Council

Information can be found on the Church Lench notice board in the Croft, the notice board in Atch Lench, the Lenches Community Facebook page and the Parish Council website. Meetings are held every two months: January, March, May, July, September and November. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Consultation

The results of the consultation vote with parishioners to provide further funding for the Amphitheatre Project through a Public Works Loan Board loan for £10,000 over a period of 10 years repayable through parishioners Council Tax are: 139 households responded; 78 voted NO, 58 voted YES, and there were 3 spoiled papers. The Parish Council will therefore not apply for the loan.

Grant applications

The Parish Council has allocated in its budget a sum for organisations in the South Lenches area to apply for a grant to assist with any projects etc. An application form can be found on the Parish Council website – details above.

Report highway matters

To report issues on roads or travel routes: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue.

Report matters to Wychavon District Council

A number of things can be reported online at www.wychavon.gov.uk/report-it eg fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, complaints etc. or call 01386 565000.



Harvington St James' Church

PANCAKES ARE GO!

Tuesday 13th February, 2-4pm: Pancake party

Once again we're invited to a wonderful pancake party at Sophie Dodds' home (***** , Leys Road). Just drop in on Tuesday 13th February between 2-4pm and enjoy a pancake or three with a range of amazing toppings!

Last year, Sophie's pancake party raised an extraordinary £600 for the disaster relief charity ShelterBox by sponsoring *ShelterBoots*, a Harvington resident's 425-mile walk on behalf of the charity. Sophie has decided to send all the proceeds from this year's pancake party to ShelterBox again.

ShelterBox (www.shelterbox.org) is a Cornwall-based charity which helps to save lives in parts of the world that have been devastated by conflict or climate. Our support helps to finance family tents, cooking equipment, warm clothes and bedding and much more, according to local need. Last year ShelterBox was active in 12 countries, including Pakistan (floods, 2021), Turkey and Syria (earthquake, 2022), Morocco (earthquake, 2023) and Ukraine. Thank you for supporting ShelterBox and welcome to the party!

FAITH TODAY

Friday 9th February, 10am at ***** , Leys Rd

The topic for our February meeting is the *Lord's Prayer*. We all know the prayer by heart but this is a chance to look at it in depth and learn a little more. Why not join us around the cosy fire to talk about this unique prayer?

For more information, please get in touch with Sophie on ***** or e-mail *****@*****.

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 14th February, 3pm at ***** , Leys Rd

Due to the inclement weather, we will meet at Sophie's house. Please join us for a cosy afternoon with tea, cake and a friendly chat.

Harvington First School News

Happy New Year. We hope everyone has a very happy and healthy 2024.

We were pleased to welcome all our children and their families back to school at the start of January.

We enjoyed all our Christmas events during the last week of the autumn term. The younger children acted and sang in their Nativity play and the older children **led a Carol Service in St James' Church. The whole school enjoyed a Christmas dinner**, provided by our catering team, followed by a visit from Father Christmas. The children also learned some of the traditional carols – *We Three Kings* was their favourite!

In Collective Worship, we are focusing on 'forgiveness' as our half term value.

We are learning how forgiveness is restoring and repairing relationships and have thought about how everyone makes mistakes – it is part of being human, but sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. We are also learning to understand that sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us and when this happens we need to be able to forgive. Forgiveness can **be difficult but without it a new start is impossible. When we share the Lord's Prayer and our School Prayer**, we show that forgiveness is hard by the action we use in our prayer.

Now we look forward to our new learning opportunities, especially the different places we will visit as part of our curriculum. This term we plan to visit the Almonry Museum, Bishops Wood Environmental Centre, a synagogue and the Black Country Living Museum. Our Year Five are particularly looking forward to their three-day residential trip when they will be participating in lots of indoor and outdoor activities, making their own beds and lunches and enjoying evening games and quizzes.

Helen Fishbourne, Headteacher

Financial emergency? Extra help needed? Live in Harvington?

**St James' Church manages an emergency fund on behalf of the community. If you need a little financial assistance, please call
***** and we will offer what support we can.**

Harvington

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)



The Community Support group comprises a small team of volunteers (all DBS-checked) who are available to support residents who need a hand. We can assist with transport, small DIY jobs or occasional shopping, friendly visiting or sitting with someone while a carer has a break, dealing with admin and form-filling, etc. For bigger concerns, we may be able to provide advice about who to contact. If you think we can be of service, please contact us on ***** (*leave a message if we don't answer and we will get back to you*).

Wendy and Konrad Monks (Coordinators)

PHOENIX LADIES

Harvington Phoenix Ladies enjoyed their first meeting of 2024 by giving a cheque for £430 to their charity of the year, Harvington Youth Group, followed by a rousing game of Santa (beetle) Drive. Our annual programme is now booked and was shared with members: lots of varied activities, visits and visitors! The next meeting, which is open to all (including men!), is a talk by Philip Moore from the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Heritage Railway and will be held on Wednesday 7th February. To find out more, contact Lesley on *****.

FILM NIGHT

Friday 23rd February, 7.15pm: *The Great Escaper* (cert 12)

In the summer of 2014, Bernard Jordan (Michael Caine) made global headlines. **He had staged a 'great escape' from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades at the D-Day Landings 70th anniversary. Bernie's adventure, spanning a mere 48 hours, also marked the culmination of his 60-year marriage to Rene (Glenda Jackson).**

Doors open 7.15 pm; screen illumination 7.45pm

Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £2.50 and see the film for free!

Provide your own glasses, drinks and nibbles, and please take away all rubbish

Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

(www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church)

KEVIN CLARKE MEMORIAL GATES



The new entrance gates to St Peter's churchyard were put in place just before Christmas. The oak gates were made by the **Clarke family's carpenter and are identical** to the original gates which were no longer fit for purpose. They were fixed in position by Winston Clarke, brother of the late Kevin Clarke who was our churchwarden for many years. The cost of the gates was

met by donations to the church in memory of Kevin and an appropriate plaque will be added to the gates.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts to the Carol and Gift Service. They were much appreciated by Action for Children who distributed them to needy children.

Carols on the Green around the Christmas tree was a wonderfully well-attended occasion and a bucket collection raised £97.11 for the church Flower Fund. This **pays for a floral arrangement for those in the neighbourhood who've been in hospital.** During a break in the carols, Revd Richard Thorniley blessed the new gates.

DOGS (AND THEIR OWNERS)

There has been some concern about dog faeces found on graves. The PCC is putting up signs asking dog walkers to please keep their dogs on a lead in the churchyard. **Can dog walkers please also not put the 'gifts' in the bin at the back of the church which is meant for dead flowers from graves.**

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

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

Community coffee mornings

Our first community coffee morning of 2024 will be on Tuesday 6th February at the usual time 10am-12 noon. **We are sorry that we couldn't meet in January**, but an electrical fault meant there was no heating. This has now been remedied.

We have around 18 people who come for a chat and a catch-up over coffee, tea and biscuits. Come and join a relaxed get-together – meet new people, meet old friends. There is no charge for entry or refreshments.

Thursday 8th February, 7pm: Annual General Meeting

Please come along to the AGM of the Village Hall Committee. We urgently need new members to manage, maintain and enhance our wonderful community space. Meetings are held about once every six weeks – come and be part of it!

If you would like to help to run our lovely village hall simply contact any of the trustees: Lynne Pemberton (Chair and PCC representative, *****), Pat Willingale (Secretary, *****), Sarah Dykes (Treasurer, *****), Colin Pemberton (Bookings Officer and PRO, *****) or Martin Willingale (Parish Council representative).

Quiz night?

Would you like a quiz night in the village hall? Previous quiz nights have been a success but we need someone to organise it. Please let our Chair, Lynne (*****), or any committee member know if you're up for it.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings: the next will be held on Thursday 21st March at 8pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person then please raise issues with the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

There is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk for more information.

Rous Lench **St Peter's Church**

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Friday 8th March, 7pm: Jeremy Johnson in concert

St Peter's PCC are proud to present a concert by Jeremy Johnson in Rous Lench Village Hall. Jeremy is a fantastic singer/songwriter and guitarist from Evesham with a very wide repertoire covering lots of musical genres.

We will also be serving a 2-course supper, all for the bargain price of £15 per head! Book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets available from Fran Herdman on ***** or *****@*****.

VILLAGE HALL

Friday 2nd and 16th February, 7.30pm: Pub night

The bar is fully stocked and the log burner is lit.

Doors open at 7.30pm and a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Saturday 27th **January, 7.30pm: Liz's Quiz Night**

Come and test your little grey cells in this fun quiz. Tickets £5 each to include light snacks. A prize raffle will also take place in aid of the Marie Curie charity.

For tickets please contact Fran (*****, *****@*****).

ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings: the next will be held on Monday 18th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person, please raise issues with the Clerk at rouslenchpc@gmail.com.

We currently have two vacancies on the council. It is a voluntary position with an induction and training. Meetings are every other month and are a couple of hours long on a Monday evening. In the interim, about an hour per week is needed to keep up to date with council matters. Are you interested? Would you like more information? Please contact the Clerk, Kerry Williamson (details above), who will be happy to help.

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Key to Church Services

BCP Book of Common Prayer
Service

*All other communion services use
the Common Worship liturgy*

ARCH Benefice March 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
3 rd March		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Taizé
Wednesday 6 th March				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th March Mothering Sunday	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	9.30am Mothering Sunday Communion
17 th March		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 th March				11am Holy Communion
24 th March Palm Sunday			10am Benefice Family Service with Procession	6.30pm Benefice Communion and Reading the Passion
Thursday 28 th March Maundy Thursday			7.30pm Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Friday 29 th March Good Friday			6.30pm Good Friday Meditation	11am Good Friday Meditation
31 st March Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Communion	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion

ARCH Benefice February 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench (in Village Hall)	Church Lench	Harvington
4 th February	11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 7 th February				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
1 ^{1th} February		11am Morning Service	11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 th February				11am Holy Communion and Ashing
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Communion and Ashing at Inkberrow			
18 th February	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
Wednesday 21 st February				11am Holy Communion
25 th February			11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion