



The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You
September 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

1st September Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27;
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,21-23

8th September Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

15^h September Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-8; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

22nd September Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

29th September Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20;
Mark 9:38-50

Harvest Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

6th October Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

13th October Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16;
Mark 10:17-31

20th October Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

27th October Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

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

Thought for the month

New term, new shoes

September is the start of the new academic year. I still remember the excitement of a new uniform, new shoes, a new bag and hours spent making sure I had all **the latest 'bits' for the new academic year. The feeling was the same as I went through my university years and even now at work I love the smell of the fresh autumn air and changing colours of the leaves. There is something special about a new start and new beginning.**

For some, however, September marks the culmination of Harvest and bringing **things together before the days close in... a run to Advent and preparations for Christmas.** A time to give thanks and be grateful for the things we have achieved and for what God has given us.

God gives us many opportunities to restart, turn over and start afresh. We have a new liturgical year in December, a new calendar in January and rebirth through salvation at Easter.

Personally, I try to balance the excitement of a new opportunity with thankfulness for what I already have. It is easy to overlook the commonplace and mundane which create the rhythm to our lives and enrich our new and special experiences. Each of the Christian celebrations through the year is laden with thanksgiving and opportunity.

So, for all those heading back to school, I wish you a happy and successful new year; may your learning be fulfilling and lead to greater and brighter things. And for those who are reaping and harvesting, may the successes be bountiful and enjoyed by all those around you, in whatever field you have worked.

And never forget, if you have been bought shiny new shoes for the start of the **school term it's always a good idea to wear them in a bit at home first and every so often apply a little polish to keep them shiny!!**

Pippa Heenan

Stop date for next issue: Monday 9th September

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 18th September at the Golden Cross,
8.30pm Harvington

Come and enjoy a pint. £12 for the kitty – any surplus wisely contributed to worthy causes. Reserve your place: rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527

From the Registers

Church Lench

6 th July	Wedding	Jake Sutton and Czarina-Vielle Go Reinanate
28 th July	Baptism	Wilfred Hugo McBennett-Southern

Harvington

8 th July	Funeral	Dorothy Wathen
14 th July	Baptism	Theodore Andrew James Thompson
21 st July	Confirmation	Rosalind Bennett
23 rd July	Funeral & burial	Gordon Rushton
25 th July	Interment of ashes	Pamela Walden
27 th July	Wedding	Matthew Nicklin and Charlene Manning
2 nd August	Funeral & burial	Heather Quarterman
15 th August	Memorial service	Dennis McKenzie

Bishop of Worcester to retire

The Bishop of Worcester, The Right Reverend Dr John Inge, has announced that he will retire in October.

Bishop John was enthroned as the 113th Bishop of Worcester on 1st March 2008, coming from the Diocese of Ely where he was Bishop of Huntingdon. As Bishop of Worcester, he has been the chief pastor for parishes across Worcestershire and Dudley as well as serving in the House of Lords since 2012 and as Lord High Almoner to HM The Queen and then HM The King from 2013.

Bishop John will withdraw from ministry in mid-September with a farewell service in the Cathedral at 4pm on Sunday 29th September, to which all are welcome. His retirement will formally commence on 9th October.

He said, 'Being Bishop of Worcester has been an enormous privilege. By the time I leave I shall have been here nearly 17 years, the longest I have lived anywhere in my life. I have lived through the best of times and the worst of times in my personal life during those years and am more grateful than I can say for all the love and support I have received. I am not anxious to retire – I am deeply attached to Worcestershire and Dudley and love being Bishop here! However, I shall be 70 in February and feel, under God, that now is the right time to leave.'

Following Bishop John's announcement, the process will begin to find the next Bishop of Worcester. This will be led by a small group of people from across the Diocese and from the national church, and will involve wide consultation with those in our parishes. During the vacancy, the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick will become Acting Diocesan Bishop. Further information on the process for selecting the next Bishop of Worcester will be available shortly.

Bishop John will be retiring to Wiltshire with his wife H-J Colston-Inge.

Musings...

Holy means set apart. Not like a set of cutlery, that comes out only on Sundays but more like a Swiss army knife – remove a splinter, cut a rope, open a bottle, anytime, anywhere. Whatever the boss needs. *Milton Jones*

Notices

Special 'thank you' services

The local church communities will be holding 'thank you' services in the near future to recognise all those who are involved in the church's life, whether it is caring for the building and churchyard, keeping the church open, clean and decorated with flowers, helping with holiday clubs and youth group, or financially supporting the church.

When one stops to consider, it is amazing how many people assist the church and we wish to acknowledge everyone and offer thanks. Please check the service rotas over the next few months to see when a service is taking place in your church.

The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley

Explore the Christian faith

We have four Home Groups in the Benefice studying the scriptures in a warm, friendly, welcoming environment where questions can be asked – the answers may be surprising! Many rich conversations take place, touching on how faith affects our lives, and friendships become established and flourish.

No prior knowledge of Christianity is required but an enquiring mind is useful – and preconceived ideas may need to be left at the door.

Everyone is welcome to join us

Richard Thorniley

Caring Hands food bank: PLEASE KEEP IT GOING!

The following items are always in demand: toiletries and loo rolls; cleaning materials; tinned and dried goods; items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave

Thank you for your past and on-going generosity.

And whatever you do!

In the church today we sometimes assume that discipleship is more about the *sacred* part of our life, rather than the *secular as well*. Are we aware of what God is doing in our school, workplace, with friends and family, on our street or in our leisure time? Whole life disciples spend every day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus in their lives. As the apostle Paul writes, **'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him'** (Colossians 3:17)

SO – we do ordinary things in the name or character of Jesus, ie *acting in the same way that Jesus would do if He were in our place*.

It's helpful to think in terms of frontlines, the places where we spend most of our week. *Everyone has a frontline*: young or old, working or not, sick or well. This could be our workplace, home, college, community or club. This is *where God has called us!* God is at work on our frontline to shape and use us, making it a place where we can grow as a disciple and make a difference to those around.

As churches we need to be committed to helping each other see the significance of our frontlines in God's purposes. Are we supporting one another, especially **in prayer?** **As one teacher put it, 'I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday school and they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. The rest of the week I'm a full-time teacher and the church has never prayed for me. That says it all.'**

With less than 6% of the UK population now going to church, God wants to use us as salt and light *wherever* we spend time. Christians are exactly where they need to be to serve Him, so that others might see what a disciple of Jesus looks like, as we grow as disciples ourselves.

Canon Paul Hardingham

More musings...

The secret to a clean kitchen is simple. Don't cook. Ever.

The inventor of the doorbell obviously did not own a dog.

1 & 2 Samuel: what's the big idea?

Continuing the series introducing the books of the Bible...

Originally a single work, 1 & 2 Samuel focuses on Samuel, Saul and David around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (1 Samuel 8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (1 Samuel:15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.

2 Samuel tells of David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart, *'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart'* (1 Samuel 16:7). The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith; however, *'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'* (Eugene Peterson).

Canon Paul Hardingham

More musings...

The poster read, *Where will you be on Judgment Day?* The graffiti below read, *Still waiting for the bus.*

We've got stained glass windows in our house. Stupid pigeons.

Middle age is when you know your way around, but don't feel like going.

Let's run with perseverance

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us' (Hebrews 12:1).

With the Paris Olympics still so recent and the Paralympics taking place at the beginning of September, this imagery can really speak to us. The Christian is like a highly trained athlete, and the surrounding 'stadium' is filled with champions and heroes of the past; they watch *US* and we draw inspiration from *THEM*.

Because we are in training spiritually, it is obvious that every 'sin' is to be treated in the same way as if we were a modern athlete – for whom drug-taking, indeed any form of cheating or breaking the rules, is out!

But Christ's athletes are also to be careful to shun 'everything that hinders'. The wrong running shoes? A faulty diet? In the Christian's case, if the problem area is not an actual sin, what is it? Why, it is anything that, while in itself may be legitimate, but which nevertheless is a weak point and 'hinders' progress.

The artist Rubens created a painting of Thetis – the mother of Achilles in Greek mythology – dipping her son into the supposedly protective waters of the river Styx. But, because she held him by his heel, this single part of him was untouched by the water. Achilles grew to be a mighty warrior; yet, during a fateful battle, an arrow that pierced his vulnerable heel was the means of his downfall.

The Achilles heel factor affects every single one of us. There comes a moment when those who mean business with Jesus Christ become aware that the Holy Spirit is quietly speaking within, 'You're blocking the blessing in your life at this weak spot of yours... by holding onto this object... by entertaining this objective... by persisting in this relationship... by continuing this activity. *Let it go!*'

What is this 'thing'? No one else can spell it out for us. It is between us and Christ alone. There need be no sudden crisis, no emotional surge. But the thing that 'hinders' is firmly – deliberately – to be discarded; no longer to have any part in our Christian living. And the sunshine of heaven smiles down upon us as we run on...



Sailing with the Spirit

You may have watched some of the sailing at the Olympics...

On a calm, windless day, it can be frustrating to be in a sailboat. Your sails are ready to go, but with no wind and only calm waters, you aren't going anywhere!

Some sailors try to propel their little boat forward by paddling with their hands. Others fret over the lack of wind. But some simply stay on land, and patiently wait. For it isn't until a breeze blows up, and the sails fill, that a sailboat can skim out towards the open sea.

This scene is similar to how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. The Bible describes the Spirit as wind and sometimes, like the sailors, we may have to wait for His energising power to guide and move us onwards. There are occasions when, from a spiritual standpoint, nothing seems to be happening for weeks and months on end. During these waiting times we may wonder what purpose God has for us.

But while some of the people in the sailing club might have left their boats to do other things, they were also watching for signs of the coming wind. No one was packing up and going home! They were waiting with a purpose.

In our times of stillness and waiting, we can also wait with a purpose. We can pray for the Church, our community and the world. We can pray that we will be ready for God to move us into the next course He has planned for us. And we can keep our sails ready, for the Spirit to blow afresh into our lives!

Lester Amann

Church notices that didn't quite make it...

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

Glory of God to all and peas to his people on earth.

The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will light their candle from the pastor's candle. The ushers will turn and light each worshipper in the first pew.

Shrink or stretch?

'Straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize...'
(*Philippians. 3:13-14*).

All rubber bands work on this principle: they must be stretched to be effective! Every person who has ever achieved anything for God has learned to stretch. There are no exceptions. One of the most common mistakes is thinking that success is due to some genius or some magic 'something or other' that YOU don't possess. Get rid of that thinking! Success comes only when you stretch to meet the challenge; failure comes when you shrink back from it. Stretching will make you vulnerable. When a rubber band is taut, it's much easier to break. Is that why you're afraid to stretch? Have you tried it before and been hurt? You'll always have critics, for Jesus said, '*The servant is not greater than his Lord*' (*John 15:20*).

Dr Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine, was attacked for his pioneering work in this field. He found that criticism came in three stages: first, they'll tell you 'It won't work!' Then, when you begin to succeed, they'll say 'What you're doing really isn't that important.' Finally, after they see that it's important, they'll say, 'We knew you'd do it all along.' So don't look at the way things are and ask, 'Why?' Look at the ways things could be and ask, '*Why not?*'

Through the power of God's Spirit, you can make a difference. Just make yourself available to God and let Him show you what He can do with your life.

From UCB's *The Word for Today*

More church notices that didn't quite make it...

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

Applications are now being accepted for two year-old nursery workers.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

On why you should never replace your hymn books...

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 surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church. I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably placed to obscure the altar.

In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from *Hymns Ancient and More Ancient* to the more recent version: *Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient*.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings, and **no one would consider anything that dropped 'thines' or 'wouldsts'**. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who **couldn't read music wanted more hymns sung in unison**. **When a rumour started** that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village.

Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky-backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace. Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

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

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

St Peter's urgently needs people in the parish to join the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the group responsible for the care and finance of the church. If you would like to get involved in St Peter's Church, please come onto the PCC. We meet once every two months to plan and carry out developments to the church and churchyard, and organise fundraising activities. The current members are Revd Richard Thorniley, Pippa Heenan, Lynne Pemberton (*****), Colin Pemberton (PCC secretary, *****), Roma Jones, Lynda Payne and Guy Ledger. Please contact any of them if you would like to join.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

If anyone would like to join the rota of people who create flower arrangements for the church throughout the year, please contact Roma at *****@*****.

WEBPAGE

To see photos of the lovely floral arrangements that were in the church for the Flower Festival, please visit the St Peter's webpage on the Parish Council's website www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th September 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 a meeting in person then please raise issues with the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

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

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

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

Come and join us!

Would you like to become a member of the Village Hall Committee? We need new people to help run this wonderful community space. The committee meets **in the hall once every six weeks or so. It's not onerous but it is vital that we** have enough people to run the hall, a registered charity. The current committee comprises Lynne Pemberton (Chair); Pat Willingale (Secretary); Sarah Dykes (Treasurer); Colin Pemberton (Bookings Officer) and Jacki Allum (Parish Council Representative). If you fancy joining us, please contact Lynne on *****.

Tuesday 3rd September, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning **If you haven't been to one of our community coffee mornings yet, do drop by! It's relaxed and you don't have to be there for the whole two hours –** you can come and go whenever you wish. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and to meet people from the neighbourhood. Catch-up over tea, coffee and biscuits (and cake sometimes!) There is no entry fee and the refreshments are free of charge.

Tai Chi returns

After his August break, Tai Chi instructor Andrew Lowe has resumed his classes this month. Classes are held every Wednesday morning from 10am to 11am. If you would like to join, call or text Andrew on *****.

Easyfundraising

Our 26 EasyFundraisers have now brought a total of £1,300 to the village hall accounts since we joined the scheme in 2015. If you're not signed up yet, please **join today and raise free donations every time you shop online. We'd love to** recruit our 27th supporter. If you shop online and would like to raise funds for the village hall, please sign up today – go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall.



Rous Lench

St Peter's Church

PIG ROAST 2024

A huge thank you to the organising team, to everyone who helped before, on the night and afterwards and to those who came along to support this traditional village event. A great night was had by all! The event raised the grand sum of £5,194 which will be split evenly between the church and the village hall.

AUTUMN SUPPER

Saturday 19th October, 7pm

Come along to the village hall for a delicious 2-course meal and some fun games. The bar will be open and there will be a grand prize raffle. Tickets are just £15 each and all proceeds go towards St Peter's church funds. Why not get a table of friends together or just come along and join a table? It's a great way to meet new people.

For tickets please contact Fran on ***** or *****@*****.

VILLAGE HALL

Friday 20th September, 7.30pm: Pub night

The village pub nights are back! Now the nights are drawing in, please pop in to enjoy a glass of something, some bar snacks and great chat and camaraderie. All are welcome! The pub will also be open on the following Friday nights from 7.30pm so please make a note in your diaries:

- ◆ 4th & 18th October
- ◆ 1st, 15th & 29th November
- ◆ 13th December
- ◆ 23rd December – *Home for Christmas*

If you would like to run a pub night please contact Tracy Browne on ***** or *****@***** for further details. It's really easy and fun to do with a friend.

Themed nights are encouraged.

Rous Lench

PARISH COUNCIL

New vehicle-activated sign

The Parish Council was delighted to receive a road safety grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for a new vehicle-activated sign for the villages of Rous Lench and Radford. The sign is solar-powered and has data capture functionality which allows us to monitor speeds. In the short time we have been collecting the data, we have seen a slight reduction in the average speed but there have been some dangerously high speeds recorded. The data will be sent to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Safer Roads Team, our hope being that this will result in some action against speeding drivers in our parish. You will see the sign alternating between the stretch of 40mph road at Gooms Hill and in Rous Lench village where the speed limit is 30mph. We extend our thanks to the OPCC for this road safety grant, as part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment to safer roads.

Council meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday 30th September 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 a meeting in person then please raise issues with the Clerk, Kerry Williamson, on rouslenchpc@gmail.com.

Councillor vacancies

We currently have one vacancy on the council and would love to hear from community-minded people who want to give something back to their local area. 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 who will be happy to help.



Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 6th October, 12.15pm in the Village Hall

There will be a 2-course meal priced at £12.50, a licensed bar and a raffle. Tickets must be bought in advance from any member of the PCC or Social Committee and further information may be obtained from Lyndall (*****) or Nadine (*****).

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The PCC Social Committee wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the hugely successful Flower Festival at the end of June. The weekend began in the beautifully decorated church with a musical entertainment given by *The A Cappella Fellas* and a variety of accompanying musicians. The floral arrangements, 12 open gardens, scarecrows, plant sales (generously donated by Hayloft Nurseries), craft stalls and refreshments once again proved to be wonderful attractions to the hundreds of visitors who came to the village in perfect weather. Due to the enthusiastic support of so many people over the whole weekend, we raised the magnificent sum of £4,400!!

Family Service Workshop

Saturday 14th **September, 2pm in All Saints' Church, Church Lench**

Come and enjoy a Drama Workshop for children and families where we will spend the afternoon working on a story from the *Open the Book* version of the Bible. This will be presented to parents and members of the community along with a song or two related to the story and a musical number from children who wish to play.

There will be a short break for refreshments between the rehearsal and presentation, and the afternoon will finish between 4pm and 4.30pm.

Richard Thorniley

Church Lench

FLOWER ROTA

14th September

Jane Tinson

28th September

Celia Hall

12th October

Pauline Bamber

LENCHES WI

We look forward to welcoming Andy Griffee, author of the Johnson & Wilde crime mysteries *Murders around Canals*, to our September meeting. Andy's talk is entitled *Dead In The Water* which sounds very intriguing!

If you are interested in hearing this talk you would be most welcome to join us on Monday 16th September, 2pm at the Lenches Club.



THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

We continue to welcome new members even during the darker evenings when lights are in use.

Come and join us on our resurfaced courts

*Coaching is always available for adults
5 junior sessions to suit all ages and abilities*

Junior coaching: contact *****@*****

Adult coaching: contact *****@*****

Membership information: contact *****@*****



South Lenches Parish Council

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

*****, clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: August 2024 update

Since our recent community event at the Lenches Club, your Steering Group has been working on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan document to update an important element of the plan: our Valued Landscapes and Local Green Spaces. With the support of our planning consultant, Plan-ET, the Steering Group will meet in early September to review our draft Plan and intend to submit it to the Wychavon District Council Planning team for initial screening by early October.

The timetable for our Plan follows this statutory screening; namely the Plan is updated with comments after the screening; then we publish the document to the whole community (the Regulation 14 community consultation) for 6 weeks. This is your opportunity to review all the details of the policies within the Plan and all your written comments are taken into account when the Plan is updated.

Regulation 14 community consultation is important to us all because the Plan and its contents are viewed by Wychavon Planning as materially important to all future planning applications. From this point onwards, our Neighbourhood Plan is taken into consideration when planning applications are considered. We will keep you updated as we submit our Plan to Wychavon Planning and thank you again for your continued support to deliver this Neighbourhood Plan for our community.

Carolyn Hodges



The Lenches Amphitheatre



From our 2024 open air theatre season:

- ◆ 8th September: *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare (performed by Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company)

For more information, ticket prices and bookings please visit www.lenchestheatre.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Harvington St James' Church

SAVE THE DATES

St James' Events presents...

- ◆ Sunday 20th October: Harvest Service followed by a bring and share lunch. More details in the next issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

Coming up: *A season to be jolly...*

- ◆ Thursday 7th November: Social coffee morning with a chance to be Christmassy and creative
- ◆ Saturday 16th November: Social afternoon tea with a chance to be Christmassy and creative
- ◆ Saturday 14th December, 11am-2pm: Christmas Fair including Santa's Grotto
- ◆ Sunday 22nd December, 6pm: Carols in the Churchyard

Further details coming soon

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 11th **September, 3pm at St James' Church**

You are warmly invited to join us for tea and cakes and a lovely chat with our friends and also a chance to make some new ones. We look forward to seeing you! For more information or to request a lift please contact Sophie on ***** or *****@*****.

FAITH TODAY

Friday 13th September, 10am at ***** , Leys Rd

We are starting our discussion group again after the summer break and are looking forward to a very interesting topic, *The Kingdom*, which will be led by Clive. You are warmly invited to join us for a friendly chat and a chance to exchange ideas and support. Refreshments are served.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact Sophie (***** , *****@*****).

Harvington

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 14th September, 9.30am-12noon

I hope you all enjoyed our mixed summer even though the weather wasn't always seasonal! However, the year is moving one so at our next meeting we will be clearing, tidying etc to get the gardens ready for autumn. Please spare a little of your day to help. I can only hope for good weather, but I can promise good company and a break around 11am for tea, coffee and chat.

Clive Allen

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)



The Community Support Group are a small team of volunteers who are available to support residents needing a hand at any time. All our volunteers are DBS checked. We are often able to assist with:

- ◆ transport for appointments or shopping
- ◆ small DIY jobs or gardening
- ◆ helping with admin eg form-filling
- ◆ a friendly visit or chat, or sit-in while a carer takes a short break

For bigger concerns we may be able to give advice or point you in the right direction. So, if you need help please contact Wendy and Konrad Monks on ***** (leave a message if we don't answer and we will get back to you).

See overleaf for more news from Harvington

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.

If you are in a position to top up the funds, we would be very grateful!

Richard Thorniley

Harvington

FILM NIGHT

Friday 20th September, 7.15pm: *The Fall Guy* (cert 12)

Ryan Gosling stars as Colt Seavers, a battle-scarred stuntman fresh from an almost career-ending accident. Colt is persuaded to return to his stunt career when he's told his ex, Jody (Emily Blunt), is directing a film and asked for him specifically. With hopes of winning back the love of his life, Colt returns to set only to find the movie's leading man missing and production in peril. Ensnared in an increasingly wild conspiracy, he must solve the mystery to save Jody's film and get one last shot with her. What could possibly go right?

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



'How thoughtful, wearing something all the wedding guests could shelter under in case of rain



'Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to claim this lost property

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Key to Church Services

VH Village Hall
BCP Book of Common Prayer
Service

*All other communion services use
the Common Worship liturgy*

ARCH Benefice October 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
6 th October		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Harvest Communion Service	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 9 th October				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
13 th October	11am Harvest Thanksgiving		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
20 th October		11am Harvest Thanksgiving	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Family Harvest Service with lunch
<u>Tuesday</u> 22 nd October				11am Holy Communion
27 th October	11am Holy Communion		11am Family Service	9.30am Stewardship & Holy Communion

ARCH Benefice September 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
1 st September		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 4 th September				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th September	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
15 th September		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 th September				11am Holy Communion
22 nd September	11am Morning Service		11am Thanksgiving Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
29 th September				10am Benefice Communion