



# The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You*  
*February 2025*



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington  
[www.archbenefice.org.uk](http://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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Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan  
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Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Friday;  
day off: Saturday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space  
*Urgent pastoral matters – any time*

## Readings

2<sup>nd</sup> February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 24:1-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

9<sup>th</sup> February Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

16<sup>th</sup> February Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

23<sup>rd</sup> February Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25; Psalm 65; Revelation 4; Luke 8:22-25

2<sup>nd</sup> March Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

9<sup>th</sup> March Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

16<sup>th</sup> March Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

23<sup>rd</sup> March Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

30<sup>th</sup> March

Mothering Sunday Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 34:11-20; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Luke 2:33-35

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website  
[www.archbenefice.org.uk](http://www.archbenefice.org.uk)  
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

## Thought for the month

### *What a journey – what's next?*

Gill and I are starting a new journey as I will retire after a final service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July this year. As Gill says, it's a bittersweet feeling as we prepare to say goodbye to the community, the work and life here.

We are sad to be leaving communities of which we have become so very fond: you are our home; our support network who have shown care and generosity in so many ways. Shared stories and joys which have brought smiles, laughter and wonder; the baptisms and weddings – most of which I turned up in time for! Shared sadness and tears, and the funerals – for which I always arrived on time. Sad to have to say goodbye to the huge privilege of sharing these special times. The bitterness of departure.

**We are moving to be closer to our children, to a community and area we don't know.** The last time we moved was 24 years ago and that, like now, was stepping into the unknown. Experience tells us it turned out okay even though it began with me having a heart bypass operation. We met a great community; we are hoping and praying for more of the same, but different of course. The sweetness of anticipation.

**What am I going to do next? I don't know, but I am probably going to start with a rest.** This will include a time of relaxation, a chance to sleep and perhaps a holiday which allows the mind to wander and enjoy. A hallowed time, as it says in **Genesis**, '*So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation*' (Genesis 2:3).

Talking of lasts, I end my last editorial with this prayer:

*Lord Jesus, when the way ahead is uncertain, go ahead of us and lead us always onwards deeper into the love that made us and that will bring us home. Help us to hear you day by day calling us by name. Amen*

*Richard Thorniley*

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at The Lenches Club  
8pm  
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



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

More details in the next issue  
of the *ARCH Messenger*



## From the Registers

### *Abbots Morton*

12 <sup>th</sup> December	Funeral	
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Memorial Service	Terry Brewster

### *Church Lench*

16 <sup>th</sup> December	Funeral	John Locke
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### *Harvington*

27 <sup>th</sup> January	Funeral	Sheila Osborn
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## Notices

ARCH BENEFICE WITH  
INKBERROW, COOKHILL, DORMSTON AND KINGTON

### 2025 Lent Course WALKING WITH JESUS

Each Wednesday during Lent, we will take an emotional and spiritual journey hearing and sharing modern-day realities of the road Jesus walked as we follow His experiences on His journey through Holy Week:

5<sup>th</sup> March: *A Christian approach to Criminal Justice* (Abbots Morton VH)

12<sup>th</sup> March: *Christian reality of Mental Health Suffering* (St Peter's Hall, Inkberrow)

19<sup>th</sup> March: *Contemplation for Spiritual Strength* (Abbots Morton VH)

26<sup>th</sup> March: *Christian Persecution, a real thing* (St Peter's Hall, Inkberrow)

2<sup>nd</sup> April: *Salvation and Resurrection* (St James' Church, Kington)

Please join us as we follow this journey with invited speakers and a chance to ask questions and bring your own experiences. All meetings start at 7.30pm and should finish by 9pm.

*Pippa Heenan and The Revd Ian Perry*

### Christmas Card Fund Raising for Cheltenham Cobalt Unit

**Thank you to everyone who kindly drops off their 'old' cards at St James', Harvington to help raise funds for the Cheltenham Cobalt Unit. Last year the card fund raising raised £32,000 so a BIG thank you.**

I know many of us are not sending as many Christmas cards as we used to because of the costs but please take this opportunity to support a charity and perhaps consider including the Cobalt Unit as one of them.

*Richard Thorniley*

# Climate change and Christian faith

## A crisis of stewardship

When God placed humans in the Garden of Eden, He gave us a profound **responsibility: to 'work and keep' His creation** (*Genesis 2:15*). The Hebrew words *abad* (work/serve) and *shamar* (keep/protect) speak not of domination, but of careful stewardship. We were meant to be gardeners of God's creation, nurturing and protecting it as a sacred trust.

Instead, we have too often been its destroyers.

The climate crisis represents a profound failure of this divine calling. Through our actions and inactions, we have brought God's creation to a point of crisis. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, species extinction and environmental degradation are not just ecological challenges – they are spiritual failures that reflect our broken relationship with both Creator and creation.

**The prophet Jeremiah's ancient warning finds new resonance today, 'How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished'** (*Jeremiah 12:4*).

Climate change is not merely a political issue or scientific challenge – it is a moral and spiritual crisis that reflects our collective sin. When we knowingly continue practices that harm God's creation, we sin against our Creator, whose work we destroy; our neighbours, especially the poor who suffer first and worst from climate impacts; future generations, whose inheritance we squander; and **the whole of creation, which 'groans' under our mismanagement** (*Romans 8:22*).

The climate crisis calls us to rediscover ancient truths: that we are creatures, not **creators; stewards, not owners; called to tend, not exploit.** '*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof*' (*Psalms 24:1*). We have failed to treat it accordingly.

As climate scientist Katherine Heyhoe reminds us in her book *Saving Us* (2021), **'God has given us a spirit of power, which enables us to act instead of being frozen or paralysed.'** This power demands we face our failures and acknowledge our responsibility. The crisis before us is not just environmental – it is a test of our faithfulness to God's original commission and our willingness to embrace our role as stewards rather than destroyers of His creation.

*Elliot Grainger*

## Notices

### Spring Half Term Holiday Club

**Theme: *Joy to the World***

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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!***



### Good neighbours

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 3.30 - 5.30pm  
Harvington Village Hall

Crafts, story, song and a FREE 2-course meal

*All welcome!*

## Gospel of Luke: what's the big idea?

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

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into four main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (*Luke 1:1-4:13*); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (*Luke 4:14-9:50*); His ministry (mainly teaching) on the road to Jerusalem (*Luke 9:51-24:53*) and His final week in Jerusalem (*Luke 19:28-24:53*).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the New Testament) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and sinners (including tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!) as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse reflecting this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, *'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost'* (*Luke 19:10*). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

*Revd Canon Paul Hardingham*

### Ready meals

I have my own system for labelling homemade freezer meals. I no longer bother with labels like 'chicken casserole' or 'lasagne' or 'steak and ale pie'. Instead, I use 'Whatever', 'Anything', or 'I Don't Know.' That way, when I ask my family what they want for dinner, I always have it to hand.



## Thoughts for 2025

*As this is the first issue in 2025...*

2025 is a year of Jubilee in the Roman Catholic Church, an event which takes place every 25 years. It's a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation when people are invited to come back into the right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. This acts as a challenge for all of us:

- ◆ How can we spend more time talking and listening to God through reading the Bible and prayer?
- ◆ How can we grow our love for our family and friends?
- ◆ How can we make more impact at work, by demonstrating an attractive faith to colleagues?

When Joshua led God's people to the banks of the Jordan, ready to cross over into the Promised Land, he said, *'you have never been this way before'* (Joshua 3:4). At the beginning of a New Year, when we don't know what the future holds, how can we grow in our relationship with God?

*Keep our focus on God:* The people were told to follow the Ark, symbolising God's presence, as they crossed the river. Let's keep our focus on God and His Word throughout this year and keep in step with where He is leading us.

*Consecrate ourselves:* Joshua said, *'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you'* (Joshua 3:5). God has exciting opportunities ahead for us in this coming year! Let us dedicate our lives afresh to Him, as we let go of known sin and keep our eyes open on seeing God at work in all of our lives.

Will 2025 be a good year for us? As Abraham Lincoln said, *'In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.'*

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

### **Musings...**

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

Telling someone to calm down is like baptising a cat.

## Love in action

*'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' (1 John 3:18).*

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in five different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus, *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

*It is self-giving:* are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

*It takes the initiative:* are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

*It is intentional:* are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied, *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *'I love you this much'* as they nailed Him to a cross.

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

### **More musings...**

Money may not go as far as it used to, but we have just as much trouble getting it back.

Cleaning the house with children at home is like clearing snow during a blizzard.

Animal testing is a terrible idea; they get nervous and give the wrong answers.

## On the importance of NOT keeping accurate minutes...

*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,

Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, preferably both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. This will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the meeting until the day before the next one. This means the great majority will have long forgotten what actually *did* happen two months previously, and many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. You could even give the bus route number and time of day you travelled. Someone will soon suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda.

In the same way as church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you. Democracy is all very well – provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

Abbots Morton  
**St Peter's Church**

([www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church))

THANK YOU FOR COMING...

The Carol and Gift Service was well-attended. Two representatives of Action for Children came along to take away lots of presents for children who otherwise wouldn't have had a gift at Christmas.

Carols on the Green saw a record number of people singing around the Christmas tree and the hot dogs & mulled wine were much appreciated! £105 was raised for the church's Pastoral Flower Fund which provides flowers or plants to those who been hospitalised during the year.

It was lovely to see so many people at the Christmas Communion service on Christmas Eve.

CHURCH INTERIOR

A major project to future-proof the church interior by replacing peeling plaster and repainting the walls has been put on hold for the foreseeable future. It's estimated that between £60,000 and £70,000 would need to be raised but the current members of the PCC feel they are not able to take it on at this time.

FLOWER ROTA

2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Sally Croshaw
16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Sarah Dyson Bingham
March	<i>Lent – no flowers</i>

Tina Hill has kindly taken over the running of the church flower rota. Tina has picked up the reins from Roma Jones who has left the parish to live in Alcester with her husband, Tim. If anyone would like to join the rota of people who create flower arrangements for the church throughout the year, please contact Tina on \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

# Abbots Morton

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP RUN ST PETER'S?

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

## PARISH COUNCIL

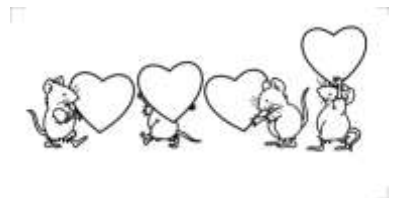
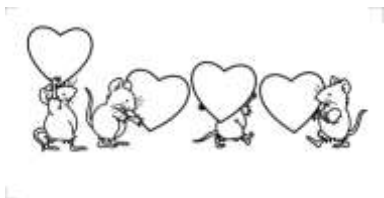
### Christmas Tree Switch-On

The Christmas Tree lights switch-on held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November was a lovely evening – it was great to have so many residents in attendance. Our special thanks go to Councillor Martyn Walton for organising the Christmas tree and refreshments. £276.56 was raised in donations, which has been put towards the cost of the event. Thank you for your generosity.

### Meetings and vacancies

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm 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 at [abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com).

There are currently two Councillor vacancies 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](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall))

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning  
The New Year kicked off with an excellent coffee morning on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Our chief baker, Hilary Farbowski, produced delicious Viennese biscuits and an Austrian strudel to reflect the Christmas holidays enjoyed by various of the 16 attendees. Thank you Hilary!

**If you haven't been to our coffee mornings yet, do drop by on the first Tuesday of every month. It's absolutely free and it's a lovely opportunity to spend a couple of hours with others in the community. Do come along. You'll get a warm welcome.**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 11am: AGM

**Please join us for our Annual General Meeting. It's the ideal time to put yourself forward for election to the Village Hall Committee, which urgently needs new members to help run the hall. 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 AGM will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the committee.**

Please make a note of the AGM in your diary and come along to have your say about what you would like the hall to do for you and tell us what you can do for the hall.

### Hire the hall

Our lovely hall is available for you to hire for your family celebration, birthday party, wedding reception, musical event, etc. **As a local, you'll get a preferential rate for the hire.** If you have something in mind, call or text our Bookings Officer, Colin, on \*\*\*\*\* **and see what's possible.**

### Easyfundraising

More than £1,380 has been donated to the village hall via EasyFundraising since we joined the scheme in 2013. Could you be our 28<sup>th</sup> supporter? Just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall) and sign up to raise funds for the village hall very time you shop online.

# Rous Lench

## **St Peter's Church**

### VILLAGE HALL

Pub nights

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April

All at 7.30pm

At a loose end on a Friday evening? Why not come along to the village hall for a drink and a chat with your friendly neighbours. Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome and maybe even a sausage/veggie roll!

The pub opens its doors at 7.30pm on the dates above so pop them in your diary but be sure to look out for the sign on the village green to confirm that the pub will be open for business!

### PARISH COUNCIL

Council meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 then please raise issues with the Clerk, Kerry Williamson, on [rouslenchpc@gmail.com](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com).

Councillor vacancy

We currently have one vacancy on the parish 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 a couple of hours long on a Monday evening every other month. 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 ([rouslenchpc@gmail.com](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com)) who will be happy to help.



## Church Lench First School News

Happy New Year!

All our staff and pupils would like to wish the community a very happy new year! The children are very excited to be back in school after the Christmas break and eager to start learning new topics. This term offers a variety of different experiences including a pirate day for Class 1, a visit from a member of the **Muslim faith and the local cluster dance festival at Prince Henry's!** Please see our school website for information on our curriculum.

New Wellness/Tranquil Area coming very soon!

We have an area at the front of our school which is currently being developed with the use of grant funding. Millie Benbow, one of our parents and the chair of The Lenches Pre School, has successfully gained this funding to develop the area for both pre-school and school for a wellness/sanctuary area. This is a very exciting project which should be completed by Easter. We look forward to sharing the transformation!

Academy status

We hope to convert to academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. We will be joining Bengeworth and are very much looking forward to being part of the trust. It has taken a while to get to this final stage but we are nearly there! The school will continue to operate as normal and the name and uniform will not change.

New Christian value: *Courage*

Our value this half term focuses on courage. Basic to the Christian faith is the claim that God is always present in every situation. This belief has led to great acts of courage that have included facing danger and opposition, overcoming fear, making a stand for what is right and encouraging others to persevere. Through prayer, people have found the strength to help them be courageous.

We will be looking at many examples of courage from the Bible including when Gabriel visits Mary, Jesus calming the storm, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lions, and Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. We will also be hearing stories about courage from members of society including Harriet Tubman, Corrie Ten Boom, Malala Yousafzai and winners of the Pride of Britain awards.

*Mrs S Price, Headteacher*



## Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

### FLOWER ROTA

1 <sup>st</sup> February	Nadine Woakes
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Clare Hames
March	<i>Lent – no flowers</i>

### LENT LUNCHES

The Social Committee are pleased to announce that there will be five Lent Lunches this year, commencing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and finishing on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Each week, for just £7, a selection of homemade soups followed by cheese and biscuits will be available at The Lenches Club between 12 noon and 1.30pm. There will be a raffle and the bar will be open for hot and cold liquid refreshments.

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The PCC would like to thank everyone who supported or helped in any way at the Christmas Fayre at the end of November. Even though visitor numbers were slightly down on the previous year, there was a lovely festive atmosphere in the Village Hall and, thanks to all your wonderful donations and generosity, the total raised for the church and its associated charities was over £2,100.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Also from the PCC Social Committee comes advance warning that Open Gardens and Scarecrows will once again feature in this year's *Flower Festival Weekend* on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Further information will appear in future issues of the *ARCH Messenger* or may be obtained in advance from Lyndall Bagnall (\*\*\*\*\*) or Nadine Woakes (\*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*).



## Church Lench

### HYACINTHS

Gerry Ball is giving up planting hyacinths for sale at the Church Lench Christmas Fayre. She took over from Judith Husband many years ago, and now wishes to find a replacement herself.

If you would like to give it a try, please contact Gerry on \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\* and she will explain what's involved.

### VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 9-10.30am: Big Brunch

Come and join us for a full English breakfast with extras! Tickets cost £10 per adult (£5 for children 12 and under) to include breakfast, bucks fizz, fresh fruit and pastries, and are available from Anne Cain, Bev and Brian Gillis, Celia Hall, Ann Hughes, Carol Jones, Pete Marston, Mike and Julie Rixon, Nikki Coote and Lisa Seabourne.

### Hiring the hall

Interested in hiring the hall? For booking enquiries, please contact Bev Gillis at [clvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:clvillagehallbookings@gmail.com) or see our pages on [www.thelenches.org.uk](http://www.thelenches.org.uk).

### SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL

[www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org](http://www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org)

\*\*\*\*\* , [clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org)

### Meetings of the Parish Council

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.



## Church Lench

### FLY TIPPING IN THE LENCHES

Residents of The Lenches will be only too well aware of the issue of fly-tipping in the lanes outside our villages. In the last couple of years this has grown from an irritating eyesore to a significant danger as these criminals progressed to tipping onto the roads rather than the verges. This is part of a national problem – in 2023 there were over a million reported incidents of fly-tipping in England and Wales. What is being done about this and what can we do locally?

Worcestershire has an e-permit scheme which allows any resident to dispose of trade or household waste free of charge at a recycling centre, as long as the vehicle is no bigger than a van or a pick up truck. Trailers are also allowed. If you are using tradesmen to dispose of waste from a house or garden project, ask them if they have a permit. Most of the fly-tipping in The Lenches is relatively small scale and could easily fit into a van.

Ultimately, it is up to residents to check that waste is properly and responsibly disposed of. Always ask where the waste is going! Fly-tippers have no excuses – trade and household waste disposal is free of charge.

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## Harvington

### BOOK, JIGSAW & GAMES SALE *with refreshments*

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**St James' Church, Harvington**

Nearly-new books, puzzles and games for adults and children  
Card and cash donations accepted

Please bring any donations of good quality  
books, games and COMPLETE jigsaws to  
church by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February



## Harvington First School News

Happy New Year to everyone! It has been lovely to see the children back in school after such a busy period leading up to Christmas even though it has been a very cold start to the term!

The children worked really hard to put on some amazing Christmas performances last term. Nursery, Reception and KS1 told the Nativity story through singing and dancing in their play *The Bethlehem Star* while KS2 held a carol service in the church where they sang beautifully and told the Nativity story from the perspective of the people involved. During the last week of the term, children from Reception to Year 5 visited Worcester Swan Theatre to watch *Aladdin*: they laughed through the whole performance! We also had Christmas parties, a very tasty Christmas dinner and a visit from Father Christmas! Everyone was certainly feeling the Christmas spirit by the time the end of term arrived.

This half term started with our theme days where children were thinking about dreams and goals in PSHE, and how we need to persevere with challenges to achieve our goals. The children looked at a range of Bible stories as part of their *Understanding Christianity* work, Year 1 even baked their own bread after learning about Jesus feeding the five thousand.

Our core value for this half term is *Forgiveness*. We will be teaching the children that everyone makes mistakes: it's part of being human. Sometimes mistakes hurt others and we need to say sorry; sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens, we need to be able to forgive. We will look at how God's love is so great that forgiveness is always possible.

We are looking forward to a number of trips later in the half term including the Year 5 residential trip to Condover Hall in Shropshire, a visit to the Black Country Museum and to a Jewish synagogue.

*Becky Enstone,  
Acting Headteacher*



# Harvington St James' Church

## CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 3pm at \*\*\*\*\*, Leys Rd  
Even though the weather may be cold and damp, CAMEO Teas is warm and welcoming! Come and join us for tea, cakes and a cosy chat. EVERYONE is welcome, regardless of whether or not you attend church.

To find out more, or to request a lift, please get in touch with Sophie (\*\*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*).

## FAITH TODAY

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 10am at \*\*\*\*\*, Leys Rd  
This month Mark Cother will be leading a discussion on *Who is Jesus?* Join us to find out more about the life of Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be served.  
Please contact Sophie (\*\*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*) if you would like more information on the Faith Today group.

## PANCAKES ARE GO!

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2-4pm at \*\*\*\*\*, Leys Rd  
Once again Sophie Dodds is inviting us to a pancake party at her house on Shrove Tuesday.

Sophie is fundraising for the disaster relief charity ShelterBox, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. ShelterBox delivers emergency shelter and other survival essentials into areas which have been devastated by climate or conflict disaster. A custom ShelterBox family tent costs around £400 – or perhaps we could raise enough for a whole shelter pack at £590? Sophie's team awaits, armed with eggs, flour and milk – and lots of scrummy fillings!

*See overleaf for more news from Harvington*

# Harvington

## HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(\*\*\*\*\*)

The Community Support Group are a small team of DBS-checked volunteers who are available to support residents needing a hand at any time. 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).

## FILM NIGHT

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 7.15pm: *All of Us Strangers* (cert 15)

One night in his near-empty tower block in London, Adam (Andrew Scott) has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbour Harry (Paul Mescal), which punctures the rhythm of his everyday life. As a relationship develops between them, Adam is preoccupied with memories of the past and finds himself drawn back to the suburban town where he grew up, and the childhood home where his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell), appear to be living, just as they were on the day they died, 30 years before.

*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!*

*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*

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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 March 2025

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10am Benefice Communion			6pm Taizé
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
9 <sup>th</sup> March		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
16 <sup>th</sup> March	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March				11am Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> March			8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion 3pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
30 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Communion	9.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service

## ARCH Benefice February 2025

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
2 <sup>nd</sup> February Presentation of Christ in the Temple		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
9 <sup>th</sup> February	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
16 <sup>th</sup> February		11am Morning Service at Rous Lench VH	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	11am Morning Service		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February				11am Holy Communion