



# The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You  
July/August 2024*



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  
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

7 <sup>th</sup> July	Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
28 <sup>h</sup> July	2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
11 <sup>th</sup> August	1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
18 <sup>th</sup> August	<i>tbc</i>
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

## Christian Aid in the Lenches

The total collected for Christian Aid in the Lenches was £300.00.  
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

*David Chambers*

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

### *Leadership*

So we now have a new government... Another few years or more of national politics and promises... And the hope that those on the margins, whether the poor, the alone, the homeless, the sick or those already affected by the climate catastrophe, will feel that a real change is being made for the people who inhabit the Kingdom of God now on earth.

The Bible, especially the New Testament, asks that the reader pay due regard to the authorities (*Romans 13:1* and *1 Peter 2:13-14*), especially important in Roman occupied lands. But what of modern times when trust in Government is low, with less than 50% feeling governments put people's interests above the party they represent? The young in particular may feel very separated from national politics, while some are making choices on products and attitudes via their social media platforms even though they did not vote in significant numbers in the General Election.

There are many examples of leadership across all generations with young people doing amazing things to raise money and awareness of causes that touch them, their family, friends and neighbourhoods. So while we may feel despairing or hopeful or just "more of the same" about the new government, we can look for and emulate true leadership amongst those with whom we live, work, study and socialise. Jesus' model of servant leadership is one we may observe and aim to emulate.

In Matthew's gospel in the Message version of the Bible Jesus says, '*You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served – and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage*' (*Matthew 20:25-28*). Amen to that.

Chris Sheehan

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August*

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> July at The Lenches Club, Church Lench  
8.30pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August at the Coach & Horses,  
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*

### 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.

## From the Registers

### *Church Lench*

25<sup>st</sup> May Interment of ashes Margaret Pitt

### *Harvington*

20<sup>th</sup> May Funeral Carol Wheeler  
11<sup>th</sup> June Funeral David Lee

## Notices

### Family Service Workshop

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> **July, 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.

*Sounds fun – so come and join us!*

*Richard Thorniley*

### *Muddy Kids: 10<sup>th</sup> great year!*

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 10am-2.30pm  
at \*\*\*\*\*

### ***'Create and Play in God's World!'***

The '*Muddy Kids*' Holiday Club is running for its 10<sup>th</sup> year with the obstacle course at Ellenden Farm plus many other games and craft activities.

***SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK NOW!***

Ages catered for: 5-10 (school age)

£9 per child per day/£26 for 3 days

We also need teenage helpers (ages 11-16)

£7 per day/£20 for 3 days

To reserve a place or to offer help please get in touch with Richard Thorniley on 01386 870527 or [holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk)

## Notices

### Harvington Youth Project: Wonderful news!



A full time Youth Group worker, Matthew Cook, has been appointed to start with us in September. Matthew will be working with young folk from across the Benefice. He has a sport-based background but comes with more – and will tell us a little more about himself in the next issue.

Harvington Youth Project is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year and offers fun, friendship and debate for 7-year-olds to senior teens. It welcomes children from across the Benefice and numbers are growing.

The Youth Project meets at Harvington Baptist Chapel on:

- ◆ Monday nights, 7-8.30pm for 13+ age group
- ◆ Tuesday nights 6.30-8pm for 10-13 age group
- ◆ Thursday nights 6.30-7.45pm for 7-10 age group

The cost is £1 entry and we have a very popular tuck shop!

Adult helpers are welcome too: please contact Peter Ashplant, Harvington Youth Project Chair, at \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

*The Youth Project will take a break during the summer holidays  
but will be back in September with Matthew*

### 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*

## Olympic Games

July sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (chapter 12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

**'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles'**

(Hebrews 12:1): As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (*Psalms 55:22*) and be assured of His forgiveness (*1 John 1:9*).

**'run with perseverance the race marked out for us'** (Hebrews 12:1): Christian life is like a marathon, not a sprint race, and calls for endurance. The course is marked out for us as we each have a unique race to run with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

**'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'** (Hebrews 12:2): The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us (the *'author'*) but is the one who can show us how to finish well (the *'perfecter'*).

We are also surrounded by a **'great cloud of witnesses'** (Hebrews 12:1). These are God's people, both past and present, who are cheering us on!

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals when, about 250 metres from the finish, his hamstring tore and he fell to the ground in pain. His father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let's not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

### Musings

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station...

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

## Doubts about the Christian faith? Take action now!

Do you have doubts about the Christian faith? July is the month for you to decide what to do about them. This month the Church remembers Doubting Thomas, and there IS action *you* can take, either way.

You know the story: Thomas was the only apostle not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection. When the rejoicing disciples later told Thomas that Jesus was alive, he flatly refused to believe them. He had seen the crucifixion. The gospel goes on to relate that a week later Jesus indeed appeared to Thomas, and invited him to put his hand into the holes in His hands and feet. Thomas was utterly overwhelmed. His response was 'My Lord and My God!' He saw, he believed.

Then Jesus said something which is relevant to us today, '*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*' (John 20:29). Jesus KNOWS it can be hard for you to believe that He is indeed alive, and Lord of all. Which is, of course, where we are today. Perhaps you really struggle with doubt. Well, there are two courses of action you can take:

1. **Don't read the Bible. Begin to forget what Christianity teaches. Don't go to church. Don't ask God, or anyone else, for help. Your 'doubts' are perfectly honest questions, but stop looking for answers. Assume that because you have questions, there are no answers.**
2. **Look for some answers. Find out what the New Testament actually says about Jesus – by reading it! Do not be confused into thinking that you 'doubt' something which you may not even really 'know.' Pray – remember that Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are 'blessed'. So, ask God that, if He is there, please would He 'bless' you by opening your eyes to spiritual realities. Go to church. Yes, the Christian faith demands that we take God at His word, with no evidence other than His Word. But though we believe in Jesus without seeing Him, we do NOT believe without considering Him. Faith is not blind credulity and unthinking naiveté. We have faith in the historic person of Jesus Christ.**

**Peter writes some real encouragement in his first epistle, '*Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe***



## Ruth: what's the big idea?

*Continuing the series introducing the books of the Old Testament...*

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons leave Judah for Moab, where her sons marry. When Naomi's husband and sons die, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (*Ruth:1*). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (*Ruth:2*).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (*Ruth:3*). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (*Ruth:4*).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose eg *'Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning'* (*Ruth 1:22*). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

*'In its artful telling of this "outsider" widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'* (Eugene Peterson).

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

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## Doubts (continued)

*in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls' (1 Peter 1:8-9).*

*Revd Dr Roger Roberts*

## Using rest to pray

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

**One of the great verses in the Bible says 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10).** It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, **bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.**

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances: illness, disability, growing older slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. **Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.**

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes **we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.**

*Tony Horsfall*

## On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar...

*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,

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated.

Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All **with the encouraging words, 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.'** As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence. Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

**Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told, 'It's the normal Service.'** It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed – just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry: most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So – enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

# Rous Lench

## St Peter's Church

### VILLAGE HALL OPEN AGAIN!

Good news! The village hall committee is pleased to announce that work has been completed on the stage floor and the hall is more or less back to normal. All the dry rot has been eradicated and the area has been redecorated and recarpeted and is ready for action. A big thank you goes to Helen Savage for organising the work so quickly and to Colin Harris and Lee Allbright for the excellent work they did in the stage area. Thanks also go to the rest of the committee for their hard work in dismantling and reassembling the bar and for tidying and cleaning the hall to get it looking back to its best. Thank you all for your patience whilst the hall has been closed and to our neighbours for their understanding whilst the work was being carried out.

**The hall is now fully open and available to hire for children's parties, weddings and local charity events.** If you wish to book the hall for a charity event please let us know as we may be able to waive the hire charge. Please contact Fran on \*\*\*\*\* if you would like to book the hall or require further details.

The ever-popular pub nights will resume in September so please come along and have a drink and a chat.

### PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings which are held in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November – the next meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. 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](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com).



## Rous Lench/Church Lench

### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

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 (rouslenchpc@gmail.com) who will be happy to help.



## The Lenches Amphitheatre



*We are delighted to announce our 2024 open air theatre season:*

- ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> July: *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (performed by Boxtree Productions)
- ◆ 18<sup>th</sup> August: *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare (performed by Illyria)
- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lenchestheatre.co.uk) or scan the QR code.



## Church Lench First School News

### Curriculum

We have had a busy start to the summer term! Our youngest children had a **'Victorian Day' where they dressed up in Victorian clothes and completed activities on the 'Three Rs'**. The girls had a go at sewing and the boys tried their hand at woodwork.

Year 2 and 3 pupils have been learning how to sew. They designed and made a little fabric pouch which they decorated with their own choice of picture. Years 4 and 5 have been learning about performance poetry; they listened to the dramatic *Night Mail* poem as well as performing a tongue twister poem about space! Recently we took our Year 4/5 pupils to the Shri Venkateswara Hindu Temple in Tividale, one of the largest functioning Hindu temples in Europe. They received a very warm welcome from one of the guides who showed them around the temple and shrines. It was an amazing experience for all pupils to further embed their knowledge of the Hindu religion.

### Christian value

Our Christian value this half term is *Justice*. Justice in the Bible is always seen in the context of love. It includes the call to take responsibility for one another, especially the poor and oppressed, and to see that no-one is excluded from the essentials of life.

### Trips and other events

We have many exciting trips planned this term including Boundless Outdoors at Bell Heath for Reception/Year 1, Redpoint Climbing Centre and Buzz for Years 2/3 and bell boating at Fladbury Paddle Club for our Year 4/5 pupils.

We also have other events including our school fete, sports day, transition days for our new starters and children moving onto middle school, Forest School, Rock Steady concert, class photographs and our Year 5 leavers service.

### Flower Festival

We will be taking part in the annual Flower Festival again this year by decorating **a scarecrow for the front of the school on the theme of 'Holidays' and making flowers for the display within the church**. Our after-school club **'All Stars'** will be decorating the scarecrow and creating different types of flowers during their after-school club sessions.

*Mrs S Price, Headteacher*

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

### FLOWER ROTA

6 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Wedding</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Maggie Stroud
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Jenny Dainty	17 <sup>th</sup> August	Nadine Woakes
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Jane Powell	31 <sup>st</sup> August	Jacky & Joy

### THANK YOU

The PCC Social Committee would like to thank everyone who so generously supported the coffee morning held in the Lenches Club in May. The £337 raised will go towards the cost of the floral arrangements in the church and the purchase of any accessories required throughout the coming year.

### BELL ROPES NEEDED!

The bell ropes in All Saints' Church were replaced in the year 2000 when the bells were re-hung. The ropes last about 25 years and are approaching the end of their life so need to be replaced. If anyone would like to contribute towards the cost of replacing them (approx £1,500) to keep our bells ringing, please contact me on \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*. Thank you!

*David Chambers*

### PARISH COUNCIL

[www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org](http://www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org)  
\*\*\*\*\* , 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 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.

## Church Lench

### LENCHES WI

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm, our WI will be hosting a *Desert Island Disc* afternoon, which should be a very interesting and amusing event! You are most welcome to join us at The Lenches Club.

Next month we will be visiting Greyfriars House and Garden in Worcester on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact Jean Houlton, Secretary, on \*\*\*\*\* or e-mail [lencheswi@gmail.com](mailto:lencheswi@gmail.com).

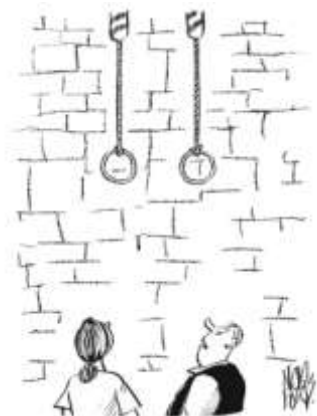


### THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

*Give us a try!  
Everyone welcome 4-94!*

We are a small friendly club offering social and match-level play. Come and join us on our resurfaced courts and enjoy the wonderful views of the Malvern Hills

Coaching is always available, including for Rusty Rackets  
For membership information, contact \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*



*'Apparently, the new member of  
the bell-ringing team is a keen  
gymnast'*



## Harvington St James' Church

### CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1.30pm at Harvington First School

The children of Year 5 will be our hosts for the July CAMEO Tea. They love to meet us so please join us in the school hall for tea and cakes and plenty of chat, and perhaps we will be lucky enough to see something from their end-of year show – the last they will perform at Harvington before moving to their new schools in September.

*Please note the earlier start time of 1.30pm*

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> **August, 3pm at St James' Church**

In August we will revert to our usual time and place: 3pm in St James Church. If you need transport, please contact Sophie on \*\*\*\*\*.

### FAITH TODAY

*Faith Today* is taking a summer break during July and August, and will resume in September. Details of the new programme will be announced in the next issue of the *ARCH Messenger*.

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



### **ST JAMES'S HAT FESTIVAL**



A creative display of Hats, decorated with flowers. From birth to death, hobbies to careers, emergency services to military, the weird and wonderful to posh fancy hats, along with many from around the world.

**Visit St James' Church over the Bank Holiday weekend  
24-26<sup>th</sup> August to see this fascinating collection.**

*For up to date information please visit Facebook at St James's Events*

# Harvington First School News

## Perseverance

During our final half term our whole school focus value is *Perseverance*. This is a good reminder to be positive and keep trying with new challenges, particularly **as we prepare for the next steps in the children's school journey. Soon we will** be holding our transition mornings where the children spend time in their new classrooms with their new class teachers in preparation for September. We will also welcome our new intake into Reception and Nursery as they come in for visits to see the early years environment and learn about our school routines. Our Year 5 children will visit their middle schools as part of their transition plan, thinking about their next steps as they prepare to leave us.

## Trips and activities

The summer term is always busy as the children enjoy a range of exciting activities. The whole of Key Stage 2 have been busy preparing for their summer show which this year is called *The Greatest Show*. We also have a number of trips including Weston-Super-Mare to find out about holidays in the past, Chedworth Roman Villa to learn about the history of the Romans in Britain and the House of Commons and Parliament to learn about decision-making in Britain.

## Grounds morning

At the beginning of the half-term we had our grounds morning when the children and parent volunteers all worked together to improve and smarten up our school grounds. Everyone worked hard spreading new bark, pruning, weeding and sweeping! We even had help from the Bishop of Worcester who came into school to visit and lent a hand moving all the bark we had to spread! During the day the children spent time learning about climate change and how everyone can work together to make changes that will help the planet.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer and we manage to see the sunshine so we can enjoy spending time outdoors!

*Becky Enstone, Acting Headteacher*



# Harvington

## GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am-12noon  
I hope you all enjoyed the Fete – **the sunshine was great for the day!** Now it's back to work on the gardens. 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
- ◆ dealing 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).



### HARVINGTON SINGERS SUMMER CONCERTS

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30 pm

**St James' Church, Harvington**

Interval refreshments

Tickets: £9 adults; £5 juniors

Book online at [www.harvingtonsingers.org.uk](http://www.harvingtonsingers.org.uk),  
e-mail [tickets@harvingtonsingers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harvingtonsingers.org.uk) or phone \*\*\*\*\*

# Harvington

## FILM NIGHT

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 7.15pm: *Bob Marley, One Love* (cert 12)

A vibrant celebration of the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity, of which one critic has said 'will make you stand up and cheer'. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music.

*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*

*There will be no film show in August. We anticipate returning in September – details will be announced nearer the time*

*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*



*...Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle brought back from her foreign holiday...*

Abbots Morton  
**St Peter's Church**

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

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church with beautiful floral arrangements on the theme of *Holidays* for the Flower Festival weekend on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you, too, to everyone who came to the Bring and Share lunch in the village hall.

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

PCC VACANCIES

St Peter's urgently needs people to join the Parochial Church Council (PCC). If you would like to get involved in your 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 events. The current members of the PCC are Revd Richard Thorniley (870527), Lynne Pemberton (\*\*\*\*\*); Colin Pemberton (\*\*\*\*\*); Roma Jones, Lynda Payne, Pippa Heenan and Guy Ledger. Please contact any of them if you would like to join.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 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](mailto: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.

*See overleaf for more news from Abbots Morton*

# Abbots Morton

## VILLAGE HALL

([www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall](http://www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall))

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 10am-12noon:  
Community coffee morning

There was a fabulous turnout of 23 at our June coffee morning – word is clearly spreading of what a lovely relaxed occasion it is on the first Tuesday of every **month! You don't have to be there for the whole two hours** – you can drop in and out whenever you wish. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and 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. Come out for a while and join this relaxed get-together.

New member of the committee

**We're pleased to welcome Jacki Allum to the village hall management committee.** Jacki is a member of the Parish Council and is taking over from Martin Willingale **as the Parish Council's representative on the committee.** May we take this opportunity to thank Martin for his dedication and invaluable work for the hall. We would welcome anyone who would like to be part of running this wonderful community space – please call Lynne on \*\*\*\*\*.

## General Election

The village hall will be in use as a Polling Station for the General Election on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. It will be open for you to vote from 7am to 10pm. **Don't** forget to bring your ID!

## Easyfundraising

We've had a great month thanks to our supporters on #easyfundraising, raising £5.57 in the last 30 days! If you're not signed up yet, please join today and raise free donations every time you shop online: visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall). **We'd love to recruit our 27<sup>th</sup> or a 28<sup>th</sup> supporter!**

Our 26 EasyFundraisers have brought a total of £1,289 to the village hall funds since we started the scheme in 2015.

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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 August 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
4 <sup>th</sup> August		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion with Harvington Baptist Church 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
11 <sup>th</sup> August	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	10am Service at Harvington Baptist Church
18 <sup>th</sup> August			10.30am Benefice Communion	
25 <sup>th</sup> August	11am Morning Service		11am Morning Service	10am Service at Harvington Baptist Church

There will be no midweek communion services in August.  
Services will resume in September

## ARCH Benefice July 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
7 <sup>th</sup> July		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup> July	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July				11am Holy Communion
21 <sup>st</sup> July		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Confirmation
28 <sup>th</sup> July	11am Morning Service			9.30am Holy Communion