



The ARCH Messenger

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



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
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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 nd March	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
9 th March	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
16 th March	Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
23 rd March	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
30 th March	
Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 34:11-20; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Luke 2:33-35
6 th April	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
13 th April	<i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40
Palm Sunday	<i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56
13 th April	
Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
20 th April	
Easter Sunday	Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18
27 th April	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

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

Thought for the month

Spring – now and not yet

This is the month of springtime, whether the meteorological Spring that started on 1st March or the Spring equinox on 20th March. But what exactly is the equinox? It's an astronomical moment when the length of day is equal to the length of night. Every year there are two equinoxes: one between March 19th and 21st, when we leave winter and enter spring in the northern hemisphere, and the second between September 21st and 24th, when we leave summer and enter autumn, again in the northern hemisphere. In concrete terms, the vernal equinox, better known as the spring equinox, coincides with the first day of spring on the Gregorian calendar. This marks the end of winter in the northern hemisphere. Conversely, in the southern hemisphere, it corresponds to the start of autumn.

There are many sayings in popular or folkloric language about Spring, such as 'if it rains in March, so it rains in June'; 'March winds and April showers, bring forth May flowers'; 'March comes in with adders' heads and goes out with peacocks' tails' and so on.

The Bible also mentions Spring and in an agrarian society it naturally focuses on the weather and growing crops. We have the example of farmers waiting for the harvest, '*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains*' (James 5:7); seasonal appreciation, '*They do not say to themselves, "Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest"*' (Jeremiah 5:24) and eager anticipation, '*They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain*' (Job 29:23).

Whatever your tradition, get sowing and get growing. Amen

Chris Sheehan

Stop date for next issue: Monday 10th March

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 communion

Men's Night Monday 3rd March at The Coach and Horses, Harvington
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

NORTH AVON GROUP

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:

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

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

19th March: *Creative Reflection* (Abbots Morton VH)

26th March: *Death – Christian Persecution, a real thing* (St Peter's Hall, Inkberrow)

2nd April: *Salvation and Resurrection* (All Saints' Church, Church Lench)

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, with refreshments from 7pm, and should finish by 9pm.

Notices



World Day of Prayer 2025

I Made You Wonderful

based on the words from Psalm 139

Friday 7th **March, 2pm, at St James', Harvington**

We would love to welcome you to this year's *World Day of Prayer*. Together we can be part of a wonderful chain of prayer which encircles the globe.

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands. Their home will be our focus in prayer.

*Everyone is welcome to join us
Refreshments will available before and after the service*



Promises



Sunday 23rd March 3.30 - 5.30pm
Harvington Village Hall

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

All welcome!



Notices

Special services on Mothering Sunday

Sunday 30th March

Special 'thanksgiving' services, in which all the family can take part, will take place on Mothering Sunday. Each service will include distributing posies to the women and carers attending the service,

Church Lench has a tradition of sharing a specially-baked Simnel Cake, a rich and beautiful fruit cake with a special marzipan covering. The cake has already been baked, ready for the service, so treats await.

Check the service rota on the back cover to find the time of the Mothering Sunday service at your local church.



Palm Sunday Services

On Sunday 13th April at 10am we look forward to having a Palm Sunday procession at Church Lench, starting from the Pool Car Park.

This will be followed by a service in the church.

In the evening we have a solemn service of reading the Passion according to Luke's gospel, starting at 6.30pm at **St Peter's, Abbots Morton**.

We will have a number of voices reading the various parts of the story.

All are very welcome at both services

Please don't forget Caring Hands!

The following items are always in demand: toiletries/loo rolls; tinned/dried goods; items that can be cooked via a kettle/single-ring hob/microwave.

Thank you for your past and on-going generosity.

Richard Thorniley

A Lent reflection

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!'* Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. **Satan's temptations** challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine son-ship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4:1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Parent's dictionary

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2am

Defence: What you'd better have around de garden if you're going to let de children play outside

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the pureed carrots

Climate change and Christian faith

A call to action and hope

Jesus's call to discipleship has always been radical, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me' (Luke 9:23).

Today, this call takes on new meaning in light of our environmental crisis.

The changes required to address climate change mirror Christ's broader teachings about discipleship. Just as Jesus called the rich young ruler to give up his possessions, we are called to examine our carbon-dependent lifestyles. Following Christ means daily decisions to walk a different path, challenging societal norms and choosing a simpler way of living.

The early church offers inspiration, having shared resources and lived simply (Acts 2:44-45). Today, we must embrace both personal and collective action; we must examine our consumption, make sustainable choices in travel, food, and energy use, and educate ourselves about environmental issues. The challenge is ultimately systemic – we must work together for meaningful change.

Jesus taught us to pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10). This prayer reminds us that protecting and restoring creation is part of building God's kingdom. While the task seems daunting, Christians have profound reasons for hope: God's faithfulness to creation, the resurrection promise that brings life from death, and our kingdom purpose in Christ's work of renewal.

'For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 16:25). Perhaps in letting go of our unsustainable ways, we can find the more abundant life Christ promised. The path ahead is challenging, but we walk it together, knowing that as we work to protect God's creation, we participate in His ongoing work of redemption.

Our response must be individual and communal: supporting climate-conscious policies in our churches, sharing resources and knowledge, advocating for systemic change, and caring for those affected by climate impacts. Though some may resist these changes, questioning their cost, we remember that Jesus's own ministry faced similar critiques when calling for radical change.

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Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. **We don't strive for these fruits, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and the fruits will develop and grow in our lives.**

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark or the light or the warmth or the cool, depending on the stage of life they have reached.

Just like the gardener, God is with us. God writes our names on His heart; He knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience, there will be warmth and light so be like a seed, trust God and **begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.**

Climate change (continued)

In this challenge lies an opportunity to rediscover a more faithful way of living – one that honours God, serves our neighbours, and protects the creation entrusted to our care.

Elliot Grainger

Gospel of John: what's the big idea?

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

'John's Gospel is like a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of this Gospel, writing in Ephesus at the end of the first century. His purpose is *'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name'* (John 20:31). Throughout he stresses the deity of Christ and presents Jesus as the Son of God.

In the prologue (John 1:1-14) Jesus is presented as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father. It also highlights how He has come as light into the world, so that those who believe in Him will not remain in darkness (cf John 12:46).

The heart of John's narrative contains seven signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and His transforming power over creation and people: turning water into wine (John 2:1-11); healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54); healing the paralytic (John 5:1-18); feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-14); walking on the water (John 6:16-21); healing of the man born blind (9:1-41) and raising Lazarus (John 11:1-44).

After these signs, the story moves into the upper room discourses followed by the story of His death and resurrection. The whole Gospel is a revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It can be well summed up in the famous verse, *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life'* (John 3:16).

Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

Parent's dictionary (continued)

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children

Two-minute warning: When the baby's face turns red and it begins to make those familiar grunting noises

Is it time you remembered 'eureka!'?

As Lent gets underway, do you suspect that your Christian commitment is not all it could be? If so, you are not alone. As one American church leader sadly put it, 'In America the church is 3,000 miles wide – and one inch deep.'

But Jesus is still calling us to be His disciples, NOT His well-wishers from a safe distance! So how does one start as a disciple? It can be helpful to remember the story of John and Andrew in the first chapter of John's Gospel.

Firstly, John and Andrew were simply getting on with daily life when their teacher, John the Baptist, introduced them to Jesus. They hadn't been out looking for Him – but when they met Him, they were deeply affected. Andrew excitedly reported, 'We have found the Messiah' (*John 1:41*). His statement is true, but the more you read of the story, the more you'll realize that it was Jesus *who found them*. He is after YOU, too! If you encounter God, it is no accident that your paths have crossed.

The English poet Francis Thompson was a derelict living under a bridge until a Christian benefactor took him into his home. One of the poems Thompson later wrote was *The Hound of Heaven*, which described God as the one who sought him down through his wayward 'labyrinthine ways'. He was, like us, running from God, who all the time was leading him to an encounter with Himself.

Secondly, there is the *eureka!* factor in Andrew and John's story. This expression, from the Greek *eurisko*, is said to have been exclaimed around the year 200BC by the Greek mathematician Archimedes when he discovered a way to determine the purity of gold. Andrew used this same expression when he told his brother he had found Jesus Christ, 'I've found Him! Eureka!' (*John 1:41*).

This Lent, you can be sure that Jesus is certainly looking for you, and if your response has ever been, 'I've found Him! Eureka!' then you, like Andrew, have become a disciple, a Christian. Maybe you began to follow Jesus a long time ago, but your obedience has been 'on hold' – you haven't been faithful in worship, in reading the Bible. You haven't even been a part of a local church.

Lent 2025 is an ideal time to re-discover the joy of *eureka!* again.

Revd Dr Roger Roberts

On the perils of parking near church...

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 cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes and, as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, thereby bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Harvington **St James' Church**

PANCAKES ARE GO!

Tuesday 4th 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 25th 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!

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 12th **March, 3pm at St James' Church**

With the arrival of spring (according to the Met Office, even though the weather may not agree), CAMEO Teas is moving back to its usual home in the church. Please join us for tea, cakes and friendly chat, and an opportunity to admire the spring bulbs in the churchyard. 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 14th March, 10am at *****, Leys Rd

At our March meeting, David Foster will lead a discussion on *The Future of the Church*. This should be a very thought-provoking subject and could lead us down many paths. Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Sophie (***** *****@*****) if you would like more information on the Faith Today group.

Harvington First School News

The children have been very busy with lots of extra-curricular activities. After the drainage work on our school grounds last year, we are very glad to have all our outdoor space back. The staff having been making the most of the space by taking lessons outdoors: finding artefacts around the grounds in history, maths hunts, making obstacle courses and lots of science learning. The children have enjoyed a number of school trips throughout the first half of the Spring term, many with a history theme. Year 2 went to the Black Country Museum to find out about life in Victorian times and experienced what it was like be in a Victorian classroom – they are not keen for us to adopt this within our school! Year 3 had a trip to Bishops Wood to learn about the Celts while Year 5 went to the Almonry in Evesham to discover more about the Battle of Evesham. In RE, Year 4 have been finding out about Judaism and visited a synagogue in Birmingham – they really enjoyed taking the learning out of the classroom and being able see first hand what they had been learning about.

In September we introduced a new behaviour reward system linked to our school values. The children can earn points for forgiveness, perseverance, trust, friendship, respect and truthfulness. Each multiple of 25 points is worth a different reward and the children love collecting them. The rewards include a postcard home, certificate, piece of stationery, drinks and biscuits and a non-uniform pass. The favourite reward seems to be drinks and biscuits!

Our focus value for first half of the Spring term has been *forgiveness*. 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 looked at how God's love is so great that forgiveness is always possible.

We are looking forward to learning about Easter during the rest of this term and preparing for our Easter service.

*Becky Enstone,
Acting Headteacher*



Harvington

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 8th March, 9.30am-12noon

Another year, another season. I hope you enjoyed the holiday and are now ready to do a little gardening as I am certain that Joy and Julian will have a list of jobs for the first meeting of the season. Please spare a little of your day to help. I can promise good company and a break will be arranged around 11am for tea, coffee and a chat

Clive Allen

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).

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 14th March, 7.15pm: *Six Minutes to Midnight* (cert 12)

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, the Augusta-Victoria College is a finishing school for daughters of the Nazi elite, located in Bexhill-on-Sea. The school is under surveillance by the British secret service and the English teacher Wheatley is a government agent. Realising his cover has been blown, he flees to town, but disappears before he can report to his handler, Colonel Smith. Another agent, Captain Thomas Miller, who is half-German and speaks the language fluently, is sent to replace him. When the girls head to the beach for a swim, they find Wheatley's body washed into the shallows.

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!

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

PHOENIX LADIES GROUP

In February the Phoenix Ladies Group heard about *Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney* by Jerry Carrington from Silvertime Legal. It was a very informative meeting and there were many questions. We also celebrated with one of our members who was 90 that day!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th March when Josh Egan-Wyre from Pershore College will talk about seasonal plants. This meeting is open to all.

Phoenix meets at Harvington Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. £5 per meeting for non-members. If you would like further information please contact Lesley on *****.



Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

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

FLOWER ROTA

March

6th & 13th April

20th & 27th April

Lent – no flowers

Lent – no flowers

Easter – combined effort

Tina Hill is now in charge of the church flower rota and the pastoral flower fund. If you would like to join the rota of people who create flower arrangements for the church throughout the year, please contact Tina on ***** or *****@*****.

PORCH GATES REPAIRED

The gates at the entrance to the church were decaying badly but have been brilliantly restored by a local carpenter, Ollie Frost from Salford Priors. They should now serve their purpose for many years to come.

PASTORAL FLOWER FUND

The church gives flowers or plants to parishioners who are recovering from hospital treatment to help their return to good health. Occasional collections gather money for what we call the Pastoral Flower Fund. It is run by Tina Hill who is always pleased to be told of someone who has been in hospital. Feel free to call or text her on *****.

COULD YOU HELP TO 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. Please contact Lynne (*****) or Colin Pemberton (PCC secretary, *****) if you would like to join.

Abbots Morton

PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next will be held on Thursday 27th 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.

Vacancies

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

VILLAGE HALL

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

Tuesday afternoons: new art class

We're pleased to announce that Charli Farquharson, an artist from Inkberrow who already runs classes in Stratford upon Avon, will soon be starting art classes in the village hall. These will be held 1-3pm on Tuesday 1st, 8th, 29th April and 6th, 13th and 20th May.

Charli says, 'This is an ongoing class, with 6-week blocks running throughout the year. The cost is £150 per 6-week block but you can sign up by 14th March for the Early Bird price of £115! Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this class will help you develop confidence and technique in your drawing and art practice. So join us for a creative and inspiring journey.'

For more information or to book your place, visit *****@***** or call Charli Farquharson on *****.

Second yoga class

Yoga sessions are now available on Thursday mornings. 9.45am-10.45am, as well as Monday mornings. Both sessions are run by Amy Hoang-Jones from Astwood Bank. If you would like join the new class, please call Amy on *****.

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL (CONTINUED)

Tuesday 4th March, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning
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 a lovely opportunity to spend a couple of hours with others in the community. Do come along. You'll get a warm welcome.

Tuesday 11th 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 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.

Trustees

The current committee comprises Lynne Pemberton (Chair); Pat Willingale (Secretary); Sarah Dykes (Treasurer); Colin Pemberton (Bookings Officer) and Jacki Allum (Parish Council Representative).

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 28th supporter? Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall and sign up to raise funds for the village hall every time you shop online.

Rous Lench
St Peter's Church

EASTER SUPPER

Saturday 5th April, 7pm: Easter supper

Celebrate Easter with a delicious home cooked two course meal and a great evening out at the village hall. Raffle, chocolate and some surprises! Tickets are just £15 each, available from Fran (***** , *****@*****).

Raffle prizes welcome.

VILLAGE HALL

Friday 7th & 21st March, 4th April, 7.30pm: Pub night

At a loose end on a Friday evening? Why not come along to the village hall for a drink and a chat by the fire. Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome!

Saturday 8th March, 10am: Working party

If you can lend a hand to do a few odd jobs in the hall please join our working party. Bring your Marigolds and/or gardening gloves and shears!

Tuesday 13th May 7.30pm: AGM

Please come along and give the hard-working village hall committee your support and suggestions and find out what is going on at your hall.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

HATS ON FOR HOPE

Fundraiser in memory of Benedict Jones 1996 - 2004

Cheese and Wine and Quiz Evening

Friday 28th March, 7pm at Rous Lench Village Hall
in aid of Brain Tumour Research

Tickets £10 per person available from Frances Jones
text ***** , e-mail *****@*****

Donations and raffle prizes welcome

Hats are optional but would be fun! Benedict loved a hat!

Rous Lench

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24th May: Treasure hunt

Children and adults are invited to take part in a fun treasure hunt around the village followed by some food and drink.

Saturday 28th June: Pig roast

The Rous Lench event of the year! Music, children's entertainment, good food and drink and stalls to enjoy. Look out for details of the planning meetings – volunteers always welcome.

Further details to follow

PARISH COUNCIL

Council meetings: All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next will be held on Monday 17th 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.

Councillor vacancy: We currently have one vacancy 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. For more information please contact the Clerk who will be happy to help.

Vehicle-activated sign (VAS): The Parish Council continues to send the data from the VAS to the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and Safer Roads Team. Whilst there has been a reduction in the average speed and fastest speeds recorded since the installation of the VAS, speeds are still above the 30mph and **40mph limits in Rous Lench Village and Radford/Goom's Hill. A new device called Tru Cam is being used by West Mercia Police; once the SNT have received training, they should be bringing the device to the Parish to record speeds and issue Notices of Intended Prosecution to drivers who are breaking the law.**

Rous Lench

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Rous Lench and Inkberrow Branch

New day for meetings

Please note our meeting day has changed to the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March, 11am, at the Wheelbarrow Castle, Radford. *All welcome!*

Poppy Coordinator required

The branch has a vacancy for the role of Poppy Coordinator. You would be responsible for ordering poppy stocks and merchandise, coordinating a team of collectors, receiving the Poppy collections, banking the money raised and completing Poppy paperwork. The RBL Poppy Appeal takes place from October to November, but fundraising also takes place during other months. Poppy Organisers don't need a military connection; they just need to be organised and enjoy interacting with others.

The applicant must be over 18 years and have their own transport. Training will be provided.

You will be working with the branch and focusing most of your efforts on the appeal between October and November, with some branch event fundraising and admin work from July onwards. For more information, please contact the Chairman at *****@***** or message via our Facebook page.

Church Lench



The Lenches Cricket Club is looking for women and girls age 13+ to join their ladies' team for the end of the indoor season and the summer 2025 season

Interested? Contact Sally on *****@*****

Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

LENT LUNCHES

Wednesday 12th, 19th and 26th March, 12noon-1.30pm
Three Lent Lunches will take place this month. A selection of homemade soups followed by cheese and biscuits will be available for just £7 at The Lenches Club. There will be a raffle and the bar will be open for hot/cold liquid refreshments.

FLOWER ROTA

March

Lent – no flowers

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June: Flower Festival
Arrangements for this year's *Flower Festival Weekend* are well underway and we can confirm that attractions will include Open Gardens, a Scarecrow Trail, Craft Fayre and floral displays in the church.

Further information will appear in next month's ARCH Messenger but if you are interested in opening your garden please contact Lara for more details (*****@*****). For all other information, please contact Lyndall (*****@*****) or Nadine (*****@*****).

VILLAGE HALL

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Big Breakfast in February. Once again, it was a sell-out!

Monday 17th March, 7.30pm: AGM
Come and join us at our Annual General Meeting and find out more about your hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Hiring the hall

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

Church Lench First School News

Take a look at our learning at Church Lench!

Class 1: So far this term Class 1 have enjoyed learning about sailors who travelled the world and the pirates who tried to steal from them. They learnt about famous pirates like Blackbeard and how pirates would attack unwitting victims. They very much enjoyed their English text about a naughty pirate who **didn't listen to the warnings of his crew and who a sticky end!!** During PE sessions the children have loved learning to play hockey and practising their dribbling skills as well as playing fun team games.

Class 2: Class 2 have been very busy learning about Italy and where it is located in Europe, and used atlases to locate mountains, rivers and seas. They learnt about different map symbols and created their own maps. In Science Class 2 have been finding out about different kinds of forces and how magnets exert a force to attract and repel each other. During design technology lessons, the **children planned and made 'moving monsters' using simple levers and linkages.** They are also loving their class book *Oliver and the Seawigs* by Phillip Reeve.

Class 3: Class 3 have been learning about different maps, including ordinance survey maps, and finding landmarks in the local area using 4-and 6-figure grid references. They enjoyed reading *Sherlock Holmes: The Red-Headed League* by Arthur Conan Doyle and creating interesting conversations about a mystery hat, focusing on speech marks and creative vocabulary. The children are very excited to be learning about the human body, in particular the digestive system and teeth. They will be conducting some interesting experiments including how sugar affects enamel and the importance of healthy eating and drinking

Christian value *Courage*: We have listened to many stories from the Old and New Testament focusing on courage and have learnt about courageous women in history who risked their own lives to save others. Corrie Ten Boom showed tremendous courage in protecting Jewish people from being captured by Nazis during WW2. Her family enabled Jewish people to hide in a wall in their home but risked their own lives at the same time. On 27th January, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and thought and prayed for all the courageous families who died during the holocaust.

Mrs S Price, Headteacher

Church Lench

SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL

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 10th March at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.

Waste Prevention Volunteer: Garden Organic is a national charity partnering with Worcestershire County Council to champion waste reduction, composting and recycling across the whole County. We have been asked to consider having a Waste Prevention Volunteer to support and promote waste prevention.

We believe that many of us are keen gardeners and share a collective passion for our environment; we do already have a high degree of knowledge about how waste prevention can help manage climate change. Recycling our paper, cardboard and plastics as well as composting for our garden and food waste is a regular activity for many.

If you would like to become a Waste Prevention Volunteer for our Parish, please contact *****@*****.



THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB



We continue to welcome new members at all levels
New coaching will be available after Easter for adults and juniors. Courses to suit all ages and abilities

For more information, please contact

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

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

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

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money-raising wheezes,
I see'*

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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 April 2025

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p30)				
Wednesday 2 nd April				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
6 th April		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
13 th April Palm Sunday	6.30pm Benefice Communion and Reading the Passion		10am Benefice Family Service with Procession	
Maundy Thursday 17 th April			7.30pm Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Good Friday 18 th April			6.30pm Good Friday Meditation	11am Good Friday Meditation
20 th April Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion
27 th April	11am Morning Service		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington VH

ARCH Benefice March 2025

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
2 nd March	10am Benefice Communion			6pm Taizé
Ash Wednesday 5 th March				11am Holy Communion and Ashing (BCP)
9 th March		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th March	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 19 th March				11am Holy Communion
23 rd March			8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
30 th March Mothering Sunday	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Morning Service	11am Mothering Sunday Communion	9.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service