



The ARCH Messenger

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



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington
www.archbenefice.org.uk

ARCH Benefice: parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench and Harvington

Rector: The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley
01386 870527, rector@archbenefice.org.uk

Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
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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

5 th May	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
Thursday 9 th May <i>Ascension Day</i>	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
12 th May	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
19 th May Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-37; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
26 th May Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
2 nd June	Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
9 th June	Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
16 th June	Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34
23 rd June	<i>tbc</i>
30 th June Lenches Flower Festival	Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 125; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Matthew 16:13-19

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website
www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

Thought for the month of May

In May, Spring is full of colour, scents and sounds as the season is bursting with fullness of life. Some of our five senses may be impaired and we cannot experience it all fully, yet even a baby, with help (and parental perseverance!), senses night and day. We need to find time for appreciating all that we find around us, whether through activity or rest.

It's customary to consider January for New Year Resolutions but May also brings an opportunity, with the burgeoning life around us, to reflect anew on what this means for the actual season of our life. As nights shorten and we open the curtains to greet the day, so we can open our minds to thinking what would help us find renewed strength, purpose, peace and contentment, whatever our situation. We all experience times of particular uncertainty, illness or grieving. Sometimes the news which greets the day overwhelms us, coming from a world of extreme suffering, confusion and complexity. We may feel like retreating **within ourselves and, metaphorically, closing the 'curtains of our minds' to it all.**

Psalm 139 verse 3 says, 'You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest.' Julian of Norwich wrote that the best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God, knowing that that goodness can reach right down to our lowest depths of need.

This new season can be a wonderful opportunity to be prompted to pray; for renewed awareness through all our senses, including the emotional and spiritual parts of us. This can bring an increased sensitivity, so in turn, we can offer others our time with kindness and encouragement so they too may find renewed strength, purpose, peace and contentment, in the midst of their situation.

In May, may our senses be heightened to the world around us and to the living, **loving goodness of God's presence within us. By day or by night, in any situation, may we find ourselves trusting in Him, as our God and Lord of all.**

Gerry Foster

Stop date for next issue: Monday 6th May

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 22nd May at the Coach & Horses. Harvington
8.30pm Come and enjoy a pint. £12 in the kitty will cover drinks and get us a savoury snack. Reserve your place:
rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527

Caring Hands food bank: PLEASE KEEP IT GOING!

The following items are always in demand:

- ◆ Toiletries
- ◆ Loo rolls (don't go mad and start a panic but perhaps donate on a regular basis by getting an extra pack when you're shopping?)
- ◆ 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

Harvington

28 th March	Receives Maundy Money from the Queen at Worcester Cathedral	Sophie Dodds
30 th March	Confirmation at Worcester Cathedral	Mark Cother

Notices



CHRISTIAN AID IN THE LENCHES

Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th May



As I'm sure you read in the April edition of the *ARCH Messenger*, because we have fewer people prepared to knock on front doors there will be a collecting box in the parish churches of Abbots Morton, Church Lench and Rous Lench and there will also be a box in the Lenches Club. If you live in Atch Lench, Jenny Dyer is quite happy for you to drop your envelope through her door at 'The Hollins'. Of course, it is always possible to donate on line and details will be on the envelope which will be delivered with this issue of the *ARCH Messenger*. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

If you have any questions, please contact David Chambers (*****).

BACS payment information for Church accounts

Many of us use BACS as a means to pay for goods and services. Our four churches are also able to accept payments this way so, in response to a request, here are the BACS payment details of your parish church:

St Peter's Abbots Morton	<i>PCC Abbots Morton</i> 30-98-26 ***** (Lloyds, Alcester)
All Saints' Church Lench	<i>PCC of Church Lench</i> 30-93-11 ***** (Lloyds, Evesham)
St James' Harvington	<i>PCC of St James Harvington</i> 08-92-99 ***** (Cooperative Bank, Skelmersdale)
St Peter's Rous Lench	<i>PCC of St Peter's Rous Lench</i> 30-93-11 ***** (Lloyds, Evesham)

The truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven' (Luke 24:51). The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18-19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world' (Teresa of Avila).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Light relief...

A Sunday School teacher asked why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a babysitter?'

There are only two things a child will share willingly – a communicable disease and his mother's age.

Keep smiling - it makes people wonder what you've been up to.

Deuteronomy and Joshua: what's the big idea?

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and His call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Hebrew for 'hear'), expresses this response to God, '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts*' (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy: total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected (Deuteronomy 6:13-16). It is also widely quoted in the New Testament, for instance in the description of Jesus' temptations.

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says to Joshua, '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua (*'the Lord saves'*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Hebrews 4:1-11).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Never too old

'Well, well,' said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. 'I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old.'

'Not at all,' replied one of the boys politely. 'In fact, we need you. Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back.'

Why your television is like the Trinity

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle).

This is known as 'RGB'. These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum.

These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions and your screen can offer you 16 million colours.

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, reflecting back merely a small part of the light falling on it to give the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they come from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour. Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue. Take away any one member of the Trinity and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours and you call out the TV repair engineer! So:

- ◆ It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father, otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.
- ◆ It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy with no promise of salvation or eternal life.
- ◆ It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense but is a sort of theological test-card to make sure we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

Revd Michael Harding

On the perils of building a kitchen in 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,

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. Recently, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial **sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are** running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle: should we get new crockery, what colour carpet tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota?

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought **to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven.**

I am sure by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Harvington St James' Church

FAITH TODAY

Friday 10th May, 10am at *****, Leys Rd

The Bible refers to four gardens: Eden, Gethsemane, Golgotha and Paradise. For our May meeting we will be reflecting on the significance of these gardens and what we can learn together. The session will be led by Gerry Foster.

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

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 8th May, 2pm at Hillers

Join us for an afternoon tea outing to Hillers, meeting there at 2pm. If you need a lift please contact Sophie (details above). We look forward to seeing you!

ST JAMES' CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 8th June 11am-5pm & Sunday 9th June 11.30am-5pm

The Church will be adorned with magnificent displays
on the theme of 'The Four Seasons'

PLUS

Saturday 8th June: Flower Festival Treasure Hunt

Sunday 9th June

11.30am: **Charlie Wild will perform some 'seasonal' music
on violin and viola d'amore.**

5.30pm: *Songs of Praise Service* featuring the Harvington Singers.
Strawberries & cream served on arrival

*Write your favourite hymn on a slip of paper and drop it in the box at the
back of church. Nominations open Sunday 5th May - Sunday 2nd June*

Harvington First School News

It is with great sadness we report that our much-loved headteacher, Helen Fishbourne, has sadly passed away. As you may know, she had been poorly for the last few months but this came as a great shock to us.

Helen was a vital part of our school community. The school was so important **to her and she loved making a difference to the lives of the children.** Helen's aim was to ensure the children had the best experience possible. She worked hard to ensure they had a range of opportunities and we all had a school that we are proud to be part of. She had been a member of the Harvington staff for over thirty years and was not only a colleague but a friend to many. She will be missed by us all.

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to all of Helen's family and friends.

Becky Enstone (Acting Headteacher)

Chris Davies (Chair of Governors)



Bible stories for school children

The Bible Society's *Open the Book* programme offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible through the academic year. Volunteers from local churches present a three-year rolling programme of chronological stories during assemblies using drama, props and costumes.

Open the Book is now in more than 3,000 schools in England and Wales, meaning 800,000 children are regularly hearing Bible stories and more than 17,000 volunteer storytellers are going into schools. A survey found that nearly all schools questioned believed it had a positive impact on the life of the school.

Open the Book is running in both our local first schools – if you would like to know more, please contact Revd Richard Thorniley.

Harvington

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 11th May, 9.30am-12noon

I hope there will be some spring sunshine by the time we meet in May. Please spare a little of your day to come and help the gardening team. I cannot promise good weather, but I can promise good company and a break around 11am for tea, coffee and a chat.

Clive Allen

MAUNDY MONEY

On Maundy Thursday, Sophie Dodds, along with 149 other men and women from around the country, received the Royal Maundy money. This comprised a specially minted £5 and 50p coin plus 30 smaller Maundy coins. The recipients all received this honour for services to the community and the church.

Sophie, as many will know, has been a tireless worker for the church including being project manager of the £150,000+ refurbishment, organising numerous fetes and fayres, heading up CAMEO teas for nearly 20 years and running a very successful German class from her home for a **similar time...and we are still** in the foothills of all her contributions. The Maundy money was a well-deserved recognition of her selfless service to Harvington and beyond. Thank you Sophie for all you have done and continue to do.

Richard Thorniley

FILM NIGHT

Friday 17th May, 7.15pm: *One Life (cert 12A)*

Anthony Hopkins and Johnny Flynn star in this drama telling the true story of **British humanitarian Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton who helped to rescue 669**, predominantly Jewish, children from the Nazis. Fifty years later, Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children left behind – until a BBC television show provides unexpected healing.

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

Harvington

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)

We 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
- ◆ 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).

SHELTERBOX – EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED

Thank you for organising a pancake party on behalf of ShelterBox and raising the incredible sum of £420. Your decision to support us means we can continue to help vulnerable people feel more in control of their futures...

ShelterBox is responding in Gaza; this is a humanitarian crisis and ordinary people will continue to suffer with homes, lives and livelihoods lost... We continue to support other disasters and conflicts around the world including Ukraine, Syria, Cameroon, Pakistan and Burkina Faso. Thanks to your donation and support, we can make a life-changing difference to people and communities around the world who have suffered so much.

HARVINGTON PHOENIX

Harvington Phoenix recently had a very interesting talk and presentation by Dave Foster about his walk to raise money for ShelterBox – a very worthy cause. It was absolutely fascinating and his photos of the scenery were amazing.

In May, our speaker is Denis from Pragnells in Stratford who will be telling us all about *Diamonds (a girl's best friend?)* **If you would like to join us please contact Lesley on ***** or come to the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm. All welcome.**

Harvington



ST JAMES'S CHURCH
PRESENTS.....

HARVINGTON SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE.
11am - 3pm
St James's Churchyard, Church Street

FUN & GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & DRINK
follow us on facebook at 'St James's Events' for up to date information

The poster features a banner with triangular flags at the top, a smiling sun in the top right corner, and a grassy field at the bottom.



HARVINGTON OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th June, 2-5pm

Tickets £5
Teas and tickets available at the Village Hall

Please mark your calendars, invite your friends and enjoy an afternoon wandering the village garden delights and be inspired

*If anyone is interested in opening their garden,
please contact Jenny at *****@******

The poster is decorated with two stylized dandelion-like seed heads on the left and right sides.

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.

Abbots Morton
St Peter's Church

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

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday 29th June and Sunday 30th June

The Flower Festival weekend will see the parish church beautifully decorated with floral displays on the theme of *Holidays*. If you would like to put a flower arrangement in the church please contact Roma Jones on *****.

PCC VACANCIES

New members are urgently needed on the St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC). We meet once every two months to plan and carry out maintenance of and developments to the church and churchyard, organise fundraising events and contribute to the kinds of services we hold. If you would like join the PCC and become involved in looking after the church please contact any of the current PCC members: Rector Revd Richard Thorniley (*****), Pippa Heenan, Lynne Pemberton(churchwarden); Colin Pemberton (PCC Secretary, *****), Roma Jones and Lynda Payne.

VILLAGE HALL

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

Tai Chi

After a successful launch in February and March, classes are continuing during May led by Andrew Lowe. The classes of gentle exercise run on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 11am. If you wish to join, please contact Andrew on *****.

Tuesday 7th May, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning
These lovely get-togethers are held on the first Tuesday of each month. If you haven't been before and would like to come along, just drop in any time between 10am and 12 noon. **It's free. Enjoy a chat and a catch-up** with others over a coffee, biscuits and (often) some cake.

Abbots Morton/Rous Lench

Abbots Morton Parish Council

The *Annual Parish Meeting* will be held on Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. This is not a Parish Council Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the Parish Council and other local organisations to let parishioners know what they have been doing over the past year. It is also an opportunity for you to have your say on anything that you feel is important to the people of the parish. Local organisations will be invited to attend, and all parishioners are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.

The Parish Council meeting will follow this at 8pm.

Rous Lench Parish Council

Rous Lench Parish Councillors would like to thank all those who joined the litter pick on 17th March. Over twenty bags of litter were collected by the groups of hard-working volunteers in different areas of the parish. Thank you to residents who have litter picked independently as well – it all makes such a difference to the parish.

The *Annual Parish Meeting* will be held on Monday 20th May at 7pm in Rous Lench Village Hall. This is not a Parish Council Meeting, but allows the Parish Council and other local organisations to let parishioners know what they have been doing over the past year. It is also an opportunity for you to have your say on anything that you feel is important to the people of the parish. Local organisations will be invited to attend, and all parishioners are welcome to come to the meeting. We hope to see you there.

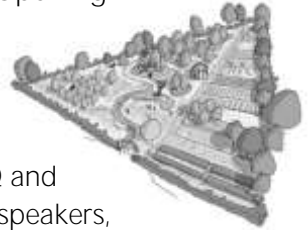
The next meeting of the Parish Council will follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend then you can raise issues with the Clerk at rouslenchpc@gmail.com.

Rous Lench **St Peter's Church**

COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ALLOTMENTS

Saturday 4th May, 2pm - 5pm: Grand Opening

Join us for a fun-packed afternoon as we celebrate the opening of this fantastic garden which has been brought to life over the last two years by the residents of Rous Lench and Radford, creating a brilliant new destination to relax, grow and play. There will be a BBQ and bar, live music, face painting, kids treasure hunt, guest speakers, home and garden wares for sale and our grand opening presided over by our VIP guest, RHS judge John Cunningham.



We're looking forward to seeing you there!

VILLAGE HALL

Friday 10th **May, 7.30pm: Liz's Quiz is back!**

Test your little grey cells against your questionmistress Liz in a light-hearted fun evening. No black chair involved! All welcome – bring a team of 4 or come along and join a team on the night.

The bar will be open and savoury snacks will be served (included in the ticket price). There will also be a raffle in aid of Marie Curie. Tickets cost just £5 each and are available from Fran (***** , *****@*****).

Monday 13th May, 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting

Come and find out what's been going on this year and what is planned for the future at the hall. All welcome. Light refreshments served.

GARDENER REQUIRED

Could anyone spare an hour or so occasionally to maintain the small garden at the front of the village hall?. It just requires watering, tidying and weeding when necessary. If you can help, please contact Fran Herdman on *****. The village hall committee would be very grateful.

Rous Lench/Church Lench

PIG ROAST 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 29th June, 5pm onwards

This fun, traditional village event is 40 years old this year! Come and celebrate this momentous occasion on the village green from 5pm onwards. All the usual attractions will be there including children's entertainment, live music, cakes galore and lots of tombola and raffle prizes, not forgetting the all-important delicious pork rolls, hot dogs and vegetarian samosas plus a fully-stocked bar.

Please watch out for information about pig roast planning meetings and come along to see how you can help. We need lots of volunteers to make this event a success. **Put the date in your diary, you don't want to miss this!**



The Lenches Amphitheatre



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

- ◆ 16th June: *Dr. Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting
(performed by Illyria)
- ◆ 7th July: *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
(performed by Boxtree Productions)
- ◆ 18th August: *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
(performed by Illyria)
- ◆ 8th September: *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare
(performed by Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company)

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



Church Lench

All Saints' Church

FLOWER ROTA

11th May

Jane Tinson

25th May

Celia Hall

8th June

Ann Quickenden

FLOWER FESTIVAL COFFEE MORNING

On Tuesday 14th May between 10am and 12 noon a coffee morning will be held at the Lenches Club to raise funds for the church floral arrangements during the forthcoming Flower Festival. Attractions will include a raffle, cake sales and a bring and buy stall.

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Friday 28th June

7.30pm: Concert in All Saints' Church.
Tickets will be sold in advance

Saturday 29th June

11am-5pm: **Flower arrangements in All Saints' Church**
Open gardens and scarecrow trail
Craft Fayre, plant sales and refreshments in the Village Hall

Sunday 30th June

11am Flower Festival Holy Communion in All Saints' Church
11am-5pm: Open gardens and scarecrow trail
Craft Fayre, plant sales and refreshments in the Village Hall

*For further information about the concert, opening your garden,
displaying a scarecrow or helping in any way over the weekend,
please contact Lyndall (*****) or Nadine (*****)*

Church Lench

LENT LUNCHESES – THANK YOU

The PCC Social Committee would like to thank everyone who helped at the recent Lent Lunches or just came along to consume the delicious soups. All five lunches were extremely well attended, raising the wonderful sum of £1,272.

LENCHES WI

On Monday 20th May a Safety Officer from the Hereford & Worcestershire Fire Brigade will be giving a talk covering all aspects of fire safety in the home. Following the talk they will take any referrals from individuals who would like a free Home Fire Safety Visit.

Visitors are always welcome – just come along to the Lenches Club at 2pm on the day or contact Jean Houlton, Lenches WI Secretary, on ***** for details.

SOUTH LENCHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan community event at the Club last month was a terrific success! Thank you so much to everyone who came to support us, see the wonderful historic photos – thank you David Chambers! – and talk to us about the Neighbourhood Plan work during the weekend.

We spoke to approximately 65 people across both days and we were delighted with the level of enthusiastic community engagement we received! The results of the Vision and Objectives survey will be ready later this month and we will let you know the outcome. In the meantime, our work continues to gather evidence to support the Policies which underpin delivery of the Vision and Objectives.

Our next step, once the survey results are finalised, is to submit the draft Neighbourhood Plan document to Wychavon District Council for initial screening and consultation. With their feedback, we aim to be ready to publish the Plan formally towards the end of the year. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress. Thank you again for all your continued support!

See overleaf for more news from Church Lench

Church Lench

VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 11th May, 9-10.30am: *Big Brunch*

Guests will be served a welcome Bucks Fizz followed by pastries, fresh fruit salad, a full English breakfast (fried egg, sausage, bacon, mushroom, baked beans, and grilled tomato), toast, coffee and tea.

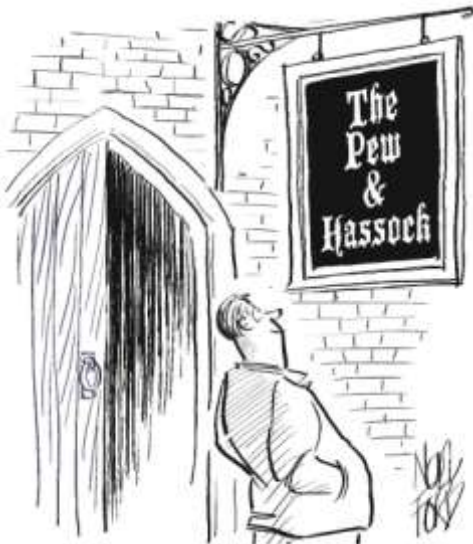
Tickets cost £10 per adult, £5 for children 12 and under, and are available from all committee members: Ann Cain, Nikki Cootes, Bev and Brian Gillis, Celia Hall, Ann Hughes, Carol Jones, Paula Lloyd, Pete Marston, Mike and Julie Rixon, and Lisa Seabourne.

100 Club

The results of our most recent 100 Club draw are:
1st Simon Tonks; 2nd Christine Bacon; 3rd Peter Shaw

Hiring the hall

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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 June 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
2 nd June		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Wednesday 12 th June				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th June	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion 5.30pm Songs of Praise
16 th June		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
23 rd June	10am Benefice Communion		3.30pm Messy Church at Church Lench VH	
Wednesday 26 th June				11am Holy Communion
30 th June Lenches Flower Festival	11am Flower Festival Morning Service	6.30pm Flower Festival Songs of Praise	11am Flower Festival Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion

ARCH Benefice May 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
5 th May		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday 9 th May Ascension Day				11am Holy Communion
12 th May	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	10am Rogation with Harvington Baptist Church
19 th May Pentecost Sunday		11am Holy Communion	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Holy Communion
Wednesday 22 nd May				11am Holy Communion
26 th May Trinity Sunday	11am Rogation		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion