



# The ARCH Messenger

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



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington  
[www.archbenefice.org.uk](http://www.archbenefice.org.uk)

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

Rector: The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley  
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

6<sup>th</sup> April Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

13<sup>th</sup> April *Liturgy of the Palms:* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Palm Sunday *Liturgy of the Passion:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56

13<sup>th</sup> April  
Maundy  
Thursday Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

20<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Sunday Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

27<sup>th</sup> April Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

4<sup>th</sup> May Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

11<sup>th</sup> May Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

18<sup>th</sup> May Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

25<sup>th</sup> May Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

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

### *Providence*

Providence is defined as the protective care of God or God as a protective spiritual power. It can also be considered the timely preparation for future eventualities. So why is it that when something awful happens we question providence? Did we do something wrong? Is it our fault? Is this the divine action of God? **At such times we ask the question 'why is life so unfair?'**

Colin Pemberton was a force of nature who found God as an adult and developed an inner spirituality to which many of us can only aspire. Peacefully, **he fell asleep in front of the television and unexpectedly didn't wake up.** For many of us his sudden passing is a source of shock and deep sorrow. His family, and especially his wife Lynne, feel a huge hole in their lives. For some it has given a shock of reality at the frailty and finality of our time on earth.

I knew Colin well. If he could talk to us now, what would he say? If he was facing the camera one last time, telling us the news, what would he say about his sad passing?

I think Colin would look at providence and say that he had enjoyed a good life filled with love and adventure, shared with the woman he loved and adored and who loved and adored him in return. A family man whose children made him feel whole and a God who loved him no matter what.

I hope and pray now that Colin, like all those who have gone before him, is **feeling the joy of God's providence, the spiritual protective power that shines over us.** Although sometimes life does feel desperately unfair and unkind, we must never forget that in providence we are given the opportunity to prepare for our future eventualities. *Amen*

*Pippa Heenan*

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April*

## Rector's Corner

Daily prayers: via Zoom – contact me for details  
*8.30am and 6pm* (e-mail [rector@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto: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 Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at The Golden Cross, 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](mailto:rector@archbenefice.org.uk) or 01386 870527*

### **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.

Please check out their website [www.chands.org.uk](http://www.chands.org.uk) for more information.

Thank you for your past and on-going generosity.

*Richard Thorniley*

## From the Registers

### *Abbots Morton*

28<sup>th</sup> March          Funeral          Colin Pemberton

### *Harvington*

18<sup>th</sup> March          Funeral & burial          Matthew Valender

## Notices



### Palm Sunday Services



On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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*



### Easter Holiday Club

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am-12.30pm,  
**at St James', Harvington**



Come and join us for a range of Easter-related activities including building an Easter Garden that you can take away, games, story and a special hunt to help us prepare for the BIG DAY – EASTER!!

#### **Adults and junior helpers needed to build the church's Easter Garden**

A small charge of £5 will be made to cover materials for the take-away Easter Gardens for the children

Space is limited so please book ahead by e-mailing [holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk) or phone 01386 870527

### VE Day: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> **May, 11am at St James', Harvington**

Join us for a special VE Day anniversary service, followed by simple refreshments which could include wartime recipes or styles of biscuits from 1945. Let me know what you might be able to provide!

*Richard Thorniley*

## Acts: what's the big idea?

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

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (*Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1*), circa AD 63 during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:1-3*).

Luke's aim is to:

- ◆ Present a history: Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels. Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.
- ◆ Give a defence: We read speeches to Jews (eg *Acts 4:8-12*) and Gentiles (eg *Acts 25:8-11*) showing us how the early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.
- ◆ Provide a guide: We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.
- ◆ Depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution: The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).* Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

*Revd Canon Paul Hardingham*



## Easter: a new world is ushered in

*'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple... and said "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"'* (John 20:1-2).

No one was ready for Christ's resurrection. On the Friday, two sympathetic Jewish council members, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, had taken the body of Jesus down from the cross, burying Him in a new tomb before the guards had moved into place. Thirty-six hours later, the tomb was empty and the guards were scattered – to be paid off with hush money by the chief priests (Matthew 28:12).

The account rings with authenticity. Here is no ingenious attempt at a carefully-contrived scenario, with Pontius Pilate or Caiaphas the High Priest falling back in confusion before a resurrected Christ and a crowd of impressive witnesses. The whole account has feet running everywhere – *yet ushering in a new world that would never be the same again*. At this stage it is a complete jumble.

1. The right actions but the wrong deductions: Mary Magdalene witnesses the empty tomb then runs, rousing Peter and John, having concluded that **her Lord's body had been taken away**. She returns to the tomb and only then meets the risen Lord for herself.
2. The quick feet but the slow minds: As for Peter and John, they breathlessly reach the tomb and are gazing at the grave clothes. How long did they wait? John eventually perceives what has happened – and believes (John 20:8). In his account he admits his slowness to take in the truth of the resurrection (John 20:9).
3. The new era but the familiar routine: John 20:10 gives us an interesting statement, *'Then the disciples went back to their homes.'* **There was Jerusalem outside – just the same. Before long they'd go out fishing again** (John 21:3). Life looked unchanged – for the present.

Yet, from now on, Christ's gift of Resurrection to eternal life would captivate hearts, loyalties and energies for ever.

## The ultimate offer to humanity

This Easter the media will rightly remind us of the carnage in Ukraine and the **Middle East. For as we celebrate this great Festival, commemorating Christ's** victory over evil, we are confronted with death, barbarity and terror in the world. Unless we choose to live in fantasyland, we have to relate the two.

First, Jesus Christ did not escape death. Nor did He promise His followers a trouble-free world. Actually, they can expect an above-average share of suffering.

**Secondly, we believe that Christ's death was no accident, no mistake. It was** typical of the evil deeds that human beings mete out to each other. Innocent suffering did not begin in Jerusalem and will not end there. But the crucifixion **was a calculated risk: God's costly and unexpected intervention in human affairs. The Christian claim that God's Son was put to death is deeply offensive to** religious groups who cannot believe that the remote and all-powerful God, to whom human beings should submit, has Himself submitted to our brutality. Yet it is in this way that God enlists in His creation without violating it.

**Thirdly, Christ's way of sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation is God's ultimate** offer to the human race.

The first reaction of the people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was fear. Incredulity, too, but fear. And no wonder: they were seeing the King of Kings.

**In the last book of the Bible, the Risen Christ is described like this, 'I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across His chest. His head and His hair were white as white wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters... When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead' (Revelation 1:13-17).**

That is the proper first response of reverence and respect to a vision of God. **Only then can we hear the words spoken by this terrifying figure, 'Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, and see I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and the world of the dead' (Revelation 1:17-18).**

*continued on page 9*



## Chocolate: food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is *Theobroma*, which means 'food of the gods'? Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1kg of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60% or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be, most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy – unfortunately followed by a slump and the desire for another sugar-fix.

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## The ultimate offer to humanity (continued)

**God's rule over the world** – the world at its worst and the world at its best – was reasserted at the first Easter. This is no domestic, ecclesiastical event. It is **God's glorious yet solemn challenge to His rebellious creation: the grip of evil and death is terminally weakened. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!**

*The Venerable John Barton*

## A lighter moment

### Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: 'Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family. And now you want to give it to this man Jesus?'

Joseph: 'Well it's just for the weekend.'

Not quite what they intended to say

A minister was complaining about the noise of traffic in the town. He told the Town Council, 'Sometimes when we have something on in church, all hell is let loose.'

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even though he dies, yet shall he live.'

From a parish newsletter: 'Prayers for peace this month have been cancelled because of the new vicar coming to St Christopher's.'

Spotted in a safari park: 'Elephants, please stay in your car.'

### Scam

An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, 'I've got all your passwords.' The vicar replied, 'Excellent! Just wait while I grab a pen. What are they?'

### Miscellaneous observations on life

In the 1960's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

If walking is good for your health, our postmen will be immortal.

At the rate things are changing, anyone nostalgic for the 'good old days' is yearning for last week.

The fastest land mammal is a toddler who's been asked what's in their mouth.

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning-impaired.

### And finally...

Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

## On why you should never encourage your congregation...

*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,

There are times when I indulge you too much. Why I ever let you run your course *Taking Responsibility for your Church* among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational and has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles and even hymn books. That is unheard of in this church: we always ignore people and leave them to find hymn books – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time these have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours. I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle. Would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## Church Lench



### THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB Day Time Tennis is back

Starts Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Mixed ability 5-week course ❖ Experienced coach ❖ Only £35

Contact \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*



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 \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*

## THE LENCHES BOULES CLUB

*Do you fancy joining our friendly inclusive Boules Club?*

The Lenches Boules Club play in Church Lench and are currently looking for people to join the 2025 league. No experience needed, we play couples and singles competitions during the spring and summer months

Membership is £10 per person and allows you to play in both leagues

If you are interested in playing please e-mail \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*



## 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: \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*



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

### FLOWER ROTA

5<sup>th</sup> April

*Lent – no flowers*

19<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter – combined effort*

### FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Saturday-28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-5pm

### **Harry Potter, Matilda, the Gruffalo etc, etc...**

The list of inspirations for all scarecrow builders is endless as the theme for this year's scarecrows is *Childrens' Books!*

Once again, in addition to the Scarecrow Trail, visitors can wander around the Open Gardens, take refreshments in the Village Hall whilst visiting the Craft Fayre, then visit All Saints' Church to view the beautiful floral arrangements which this year are centred around the theme of *Retirement*.

If you are interested in opening your garden, please contact Lara for more details (\*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*) and further information about the weekend can be obtained from Lyndall (\*\*\*\*\*) or Nadine (\*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*).

### FLOWER FESTIVAL COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-12 noon

We are holding a coffee morning at The Lenches Club to raise funds for the church floral arrangements to be displayed during the Flower Festival. Attractions will include a raffle and bring and buy stall.

Great news! PICKLEBALL is coming...  
to The Lenches Tennis Club

*Taster session on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10am*

Watch this space and social media for further information

## Church Lench First School News

Busy Spring term! Our Year 4 and 5 pupils took part in a dance festival with seven other local schools where they performed *Don't Blame it on the Boogie* in front of a large audience, choreographed by Ms Munro. The children were amazing and danced very confidently on stage to the music! We were so proud of the pupils and very thankful for our amazing staff who accompanied them.

Not to be outdone, Class 1 held a fabulous pirate day linked to their learning. The children had the opportunity to dress up as famous pirates, design and make their own pirate boats and learn about floating and sinking. During the afternoon they also learnt to sing some sea shanties!

Tesco tokens: We are delighted to announce that following the *Tesco Stronger Starts* vote in our local Tesco stores, our project came second and has been chosen by Tesco customers to receive a grant award of £1,000! This is fantastic news and we will be spending it on two outdoor wooden huts for our grounds, so the children have somewhere quiet to sit with their friends to talk, read and chill. We are very excited to have been chosen and thank the community for all their support!

*World Book Day:* What a great day we had! There were so many famous faces in our school including Willy Wonka, Snow White, the Enormous Crocodile, Miss Trunchball, Harry Potter, Cat in the Hat, Dorothy, White Rabbit, Mary Poppins, Alice in Wonderland, the Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat, Jessie and Woody, the Worst Witch, Sherlock Holmes, Billionaire Boy, Wimpy Kid, Jolly Postman, Miss Honey, Cruella De Ville, the Big Bad Pig, Burglar Bill, a range of superheroes, some lovely animals and many beautiful princesses!

We had a visit from a local author, Jane Taylor, who explained how she became a writer. The children asked many interesting questions and classes 2 and 3 took part in a writing workshop which focused on creating a character for a story.

Senior games afternoon: Our head girl and head boy would like to host a games afternoon for our senior members of the community on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Flyers will be distributed around the local area very soon with information about the event. If you would like any further details prior to the flyers, please contact the school office.

*Mrs S Price, Headteacher*

## Church Lench

### VILLAGE HALL

Hiring the hall

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

### SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Meetings: Information can be found on the notice boards in Atch Lench and Church 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 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.



## Harvington

### *A QUINGO Night*

Bingo ❖ Quiz ❖ Raffle

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> **May, 7.30pm (eyes down 8pm) at St James' Church**

Tickets £1.50 per person (includes tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle ticket and quiz sheet) can be purchased in advance or on the night.

*Cash and Prize Bingo ❖ Bingo books £3 or £5 purchased on the night  
Bring your own drinks and snacks*

For tickets or further information please contact Katie Horton (\*\*\*\*\* , [eventssjch@outlook.com](mailto:eventssjch@outlook.com), Facebook message: **St James's Events**)

## Harvington First School News

This half term our focus value is *trust*. Trust is a really important value: it must be earned. If we do not trust someone, it is very hard to build a good friendship with them. We will be talking to the children in Collective Worship about people they know who are trustworthy; practical ways in which we can show others that we are trustworthy and why it is important to be able to trust others when working together as a team.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March a group of Year 4 and 5 children joined the *World Day of Prayer at St James' Church*. They were excited to take part in the service and enjoyed how the church had been prepared with lots of colour as the service this year was from the Cook Islands on the theme *I made you wonderful*. The children performed the song *From the Rising of the Sun* and the congregation joined in with the last two verses. The song was so popular that the children sang it all the way as they walked back to school.

In March we had a fantastic day celebrating World Book day. The children were asked to dress as one of their favourite book characters – there were some amazing costumes! We spent the day doing lots of tasks linked to books including creating dream jars when learning about Roald Dahl and using puppets to act out the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

This term we are learning about a range of different religions including Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Year 3 visited the beautiful Hindu temple in Oldbury and Year 5 went to the Islamic exhibition centre in Birmingham. It is really interesting for the children to learn about different faiths and be able to compare the similarities and differences to their knowledge of Christianity.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break.

Becky Enstone,  
Acting Headteacher

*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.



# Harvington St James' Church

## CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> **April, 3pm at St James' Church**

The sun is shining, the churchyard is looking lovely and it's great to meet again in Church for afternoon tea and cake, a friendly chat and a chance to admire the beautiful spring flowers. It is always lovely to see EVERYONE, whether you attend church or not!

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

## FAITH TODAY

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 10am at \*\*\*\*\* , Leys Rd

This month we are discussing the *Easter Theme*, led by Gerry Foster. Easter is always a very special time of year: new beginnings, new growth and new hope for us all. **Gerry's talk will be interspersed with Spring poetry to bring us closer** to understanding the mystery of our good Lord. Refreshments will be served.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-3pm: Harvington Summer Fete  
at St James' Church

*Further details in next month's issue*

## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Sophie and her team for a wonderful Pancake Party at her home on Shrove Tuesday, and to everyone who came to enjoy the pancakes! You raised an amazing £405 which is enough to purchase a ShelterBox family tent to help families in areas such as Gaza or Sudan ([www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)).

# Harvington

## GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30am-12noon

I am sure Joy and Julian will have a list of jobs for this, our second 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).

## FILM NIGHT

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.15pm: *Small Things Like These* (cert 12)

It is the tale, simply told, of an ordinary middle-aged man, Bill Furlong (Cillian Murphy), who in December 1985, in a small Irish town, slowly grasps the enormity of the local convent's heartless treatment of unmarried mothers and their babies – one instance of what will soon be exposed as the scandal of the Magdalene laundries.

*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.*

Abbots Morton  
**St Peter's Church**

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

COLIN PEMBERTON  
1951 - 2025

**Member of St Peter's PCC and Abbots Morton Village Hall committee,**  
and long-time ARCH Messenger correspondent for Abbots Morton

He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, associates  
and the wider community

FLOWER ROTA

6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> April

*Lent – no flowers*

20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter – combined effort*

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 \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.

PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings

Meetings: All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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, please raise issues with the Clerk at [abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com).

Vacancies

Vacancies: There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk for more details.

# Abbots Morton

## COULD YOU HELP TO RUN ST PETER'S?

St Peter's urgently needs people 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 Revd Richard Thorniley (870527) if you would like to join.

## VILLAGE HALL

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

*By now, many of you will have heard of the tragic and unexpected passing of Colin Pemberton. He worked tirelessly for Abbots Morton, and always had the best interests of the village and the community at heart. His input and dedication will be sorely missed.*

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning  
**If you haven't been to one of our coffee mornings yet, do drop by. It's absolutely free and a lovely opportunity to spend a couple of hours with others in the community. Please join us – you'll get a warm welcome.**

Tuesday afternoons, 1-3pm: new art class  
**Don't forget: Charli Farquharson's art classes start this month. They run in 6-week blocks and cost £150 per block. For more details or to book your place, visit \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\* or call Charli Farquharson on \*\*\*\*\*.**

Thursday mornings, 9.45-10.45am: Second yoga class  
Yoga sessions are now available on Thursday mornings 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 \*\*\*\*\*.

## Easyfundraising

We are very pleased to welcome our 28<sup>th</sup> supporter – thank you for joining us. The village hall has benefited by more than £1,390 thanks to our supporters. Could you join the scheme and raise funds for your hall at no cost to yourself? Just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall) and sign up to help the village hall every time you shop online.

# Rous Lench

## St Peter's Church

### EASTER SUPPER

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm: Pub night

The last pub night of the season! Please come along and enjoy a drink and some nibbles and a good chat. Everyone is welcome! Doors open 7.30pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm: AGM

Please come and find out what is happening at the hall and give us your suggestions – maybe even join the committee!

Refreshments will be served after the meeting

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Treasure hunt

Fun for all ages, explore your village and find the hidden treasure! Food and drink will be served. This event will take place late afternoon/early evening – everyone welcome. Further details to follow.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Pig Roast

**Don't forget to put the date of the Pig Roast date in your diary** – the Rous Lench event of the year! All the usual fun for everyone at this traditional annual event in aid of St Peter's Church and the Village Hall.

*See overleaf for more news from Rous Lench*



# Rous Lench

## PARISH COUNCIL

Council meetings: All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 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, 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.



*There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee before the service*

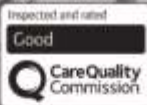
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### *Key to Church Services*

VH Village Hall  
BCP Book of Common Prayer  
Service

*All other communion services use  
the Common Worship liturgy*

## ARCH Benefice May 2025

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
4 <sup>th</sup> May		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
11 <sup>th</sup> May	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Morning Service
18 <sup>th</sup> May		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.00am Rogation with Harvington Baptist Church
25 <sup>th</sup> May	11am Rogation		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day				11am Holy Communion

## ARCH Benefice April 2025

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
6 <sup>th</sup> April		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
13 <sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday	6.30pm Benefice Communion and Reading the Passion		10am Benefice Family Service with Procession	
Maundy Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April			7.30pm Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April			6.30pm Good Friday Meditation	11am Good Friday Meditation
20 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> April	11am Morning Service		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3.30pm Messy Church at Harvington VH