



# The ARCH Messenger

*To show our love for God and You  
December 2024/January 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  
07977 072105, chris@archbenefice.org.uk

Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Friday;  
day off: Saturday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space  
*Urgent pastoral matters – any time*

## Readings

1<sup>st</sup> December  
Advent Sunday Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

8<sup>th</sup> December Malachi 3:1-4; Benedictus; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

15<sup>th</sup> December Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

22<sup>nd</sup> December Micah 5:2-5a; Magnificat; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14; John 1:1-16

Christmas Day Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20

29<sup>th</sup> December 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148:7-14; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

5<sup>th</sup> January  
Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:10-15; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

12<sup>th</sup> January  
Baptism of Christ Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

19<sup>th</sup> January Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

26<sup>th</sup> January Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

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

### *With love from God to you... X*

When we sign a card we often put an 'X' at the bottom to represent love or a kiss. When we think of God's love, those of Christian faith understand the cross portrayed at a different angle, as '+', representing the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus.

At Christmastime, we are anticipating the love of God, wrapped in the gift of a baby born as Jesus Christ, the Son of God, into hugely dangerous circumstances. Jesus' adulthood launched him into a time of learning, teaching and living out faith in his Father God, a call on his life which would lead him into continuing dangerous circumstances and ultimately to his crucifixion.

That word 'crucifixion' has an 'X' in it. In our times 'X' can mean 'wrong'. The Easter story may seem confusing or unbelievable or wrong, but in God's plan it was 'right'. God's love for you, which is unwrapped as the baby born at Christmas, lasts through his rising at Eastertime and forever. Faith in Jesus comes as we allow the Holy Spirit to grow in us the belief and trust that God's love is here for us and for everyone to grasp and cherish, as a thankful child does a gift at Christmas. This hymn by Percy Dearmer captures the idea:

*God is love: his the care, tending each, everywhere. God is love, all is there! Jesus came to show him, that mankind might know him!*

*None can see God above; we can share life and love; thus may we Godward move, seek him in creation, holding every nation.*

*Jesus lived on the earth, life and hope brought to birth and affirmed human worth, for he came to save us by the truth he gave us.*

*To our Lord, praise we sing, light and life, friend and king, coming down love to bring, pattern for our duty, showing God in beauty.*

The chorus goes '*Sing aloud, loud, loud!*' When we sing aloud the age-old carols, may we remember that God longs for his love to be unwrapped in our hearts and our lives this Christmas and always... 'X'.

Gerry Foster

*Stop date for next issue: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January*

## 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** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at The Golden Cross, Harvington  
8pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at The Coach and Horses, Harvington

*Come and enjoy a pint. £12 for the kitty – any surplus wisely contributed to worthy causes. Reserve your place: rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527*



## From the Registers

### *Rous Lench*

25<sup>th</sup> November      Funeral                      Brian Herdman

### *Church Lench*

6<sup>th</sup> November      Funeral                      Peter Pugh

23<sup>rd</sup> November      Interment of ashes      Beryl Berry

### *Harvington*

26<sup>th</sup> October      Interment of ashes      Diana Huggins

31<sup>st</sup> October      Funeral & burial      Keith Smith

## Notices

### Advent Praise Service

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5pm in Rous Lench Village Hall

A Celtic-inspired reflective and informal service to mark the season of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. The service will open with tea and cake (please bring cake!) and will include prayer, readings and worship in similar style to those we enjoyed in previous years. Mike Genders, Ian and Ali Craigan will lead our worship.



At the end of the service we will light candles to symbolise the bringing of new light and hope into the world.

*Richard Thorniley*

### Let us be 'Neighbour Aware' this winter

Our villages have a fantastic reputation for looking out for our vulnerable residents and we would like this to continue during the challenges of winter. If you do not know your neighbour, as you or they may be new to the village, this might be a good time to introduce yourself – you never know when one of you might need help. If your neighbour is known to be frail, an initial offer to take their bins out or return them is a great way to offer help and check on how they are, especially when it is cold and icy. Just an idea – and I think we will feel better for it.

*Blessings to all,  
Richard Thorniley*

### Please don't forget Caring Hands over Christmas!

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*

## Climate care

*Although this article describes events that happened in Harvington, the thoughts apply everywhere...*

Our hearts go out to the people of Valencia, who lost over 200 relatives and friends in the recent unprecedented storm. Less widely reported was equally-intense rain in Japan in the same week, and back in September a wall of rain fell from the Caribbean to North Carolina – a **'once in 1,000 year' event**. **The planet's increased temperature means that storms have more energy, carry more rain. With the Paris Agreement 'limit' of 1.5°C having been breached in early November we can expect rainfall to become more intense and last longer.**

Those of us who were living in Harvington in 2007 will remember the unprecedented rain which inundated houses in Leys Road, nearly flooded the school and **destroyed the village hall's floor and heating. I well remember a manhole cover dancing 3ft in the air on top of a fountain of mixed floodwater and sewage in Stratford Road!**

Communities adapt. The village hall was repaired by volunteers, Severn Trent installed larger sewers and holding tanks under Leys Road and Stratford Road, and Wychavon DC and others installed the barrier mound and attenuation ponds at the foot of the field descending from Atch Lench. This has become the volunteer-maintained Community Orchard.

I suspect that 2007 event was a new phenomenon – an **'atmospheric river'**. Atmospheric scientists have used satellite imagery to trace around eight such events deluging Europe between 1979 and 2011. These collect water over a **hot Caribbean, carry it in a stream lasting many hours and dump this 'river'** when high ground is encountered – **such as The Lenches! These 'rivers' can have as much flow as the Amazon and are not forecast by Met Office models.**

What can we do? Some Leys Road residents are – wisely – adding further flood defences. We can all think about how our properties will handle more intense **rain than we've ever met before. Water butts are not enough. Try to keep it in your own property, out of buildings, over soil into which it can later seep away.**

Any questions or suggestions for future topics? E-mail [climate@haynes.dev](mailto:climate@haynes.dev).

*Chris Haynes*

## Notices

### Spring Half Term Holiday Club

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

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10am - 2.30pm each day at \*\*\*\*\***

Activities will include games, crafts, chill time and outdoor fun!

**Cost: £9 per child per day or £26 for 3 days**

**Ages catered for: 5-12 (school age)**

Please supply children with lunch (drinks provided)

**We also need adult and teenage helpers**

To reserve a place or offer help, please get in touch  
with Revd Richard Thorniley on **01386 870527**  
or **holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk**

***Numbers are limited so book early!***

### **Church donations made easier for those who don't carry cash**

We now have a facility whereby you can make a donation using your phone camera and a QR code. Each church in the Benefice has a card on display which enables you to make a donation to the church via the *Parish Giving Scheme* and even offer Gift Aid if you wish and are able. All the funds go to the church account without any transaction fees being charged (unlike donations made via card machines).

It's quick and simple – even I managed to make it work!

*Richard Thorniley*



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

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

Mark is the second of the synoptic gospels, along with Matthew and Luke. Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD64-7).

Mark unveils Jesus' public ministry with the words *'The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (Mark 1:1). The gospel provides a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, concentrating on what Jesus did rather than what He said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word *'immediately'* which is characteristic of his gospel.

For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, *'Who do people say I am?'* (Mark 8:27), to which Peter replies, *'You are the Christ'*. This is evident in Jesus' role as teacher, the call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies the last third of the gospel.

A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is, *'Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'* (Mark 10:44-45). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus gave His life on the cross, that we might know and share his love.

Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus: the One who reveals the truth of God to us, that we might live in reality, not ignorance!

*Revd Canon Paul Hardingham*

### Nativity

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas and admired the beautiful nativity set in the hallway. The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was. 'Oh yes,' she said immediately, 'Of course I do. It's breakable.'



## Christmas geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come, saying, *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So they left him at home.

That evening, as the winds grew stronger and the snow turned to a blizzard, he heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese who had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the open doors, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn. *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised, *'If only I were a goose and became one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again the amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means "God with us"'* (Matthew 1:23).

Canon Paul Hardingham

## Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said, 'Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy.'

Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. 'Easy,' he replied,, 'they are all nocturnal.'

## On why Carol Services are so dangerous...

*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,

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. Take care – the dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge **the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause.**

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, it has to be the Cubs this time. **But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday.** If someone represents the choir, then over a four-year period, all four voice parts must be called on – **and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing.** Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order **than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.**

If you do not specify where they should read from, a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place.

**You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.**

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## The challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year but it's not without its challenges. After one family had put up 250,000 Christmas lights, they didn't dare boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

*The challenge of over-indulging:* We all remember the episode of the *Vicar of Dibley* where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person putting on six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. **'Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you'** (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

*The challenge of overspending:* In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: **'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.'** Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night. **'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins'** (Matthew 1:21).

*The challenge is over too quickly:* Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. **'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). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? **'Yet what I can, I give Him – give my heart'**.

Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

### Hmmm...

How much did Father Christmas pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

# Rous Lench

## **St Peter's Church**

### CHRISTMAS IN ROUS LENCH

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight  
Join us at our Carol Service in St Peter's Church

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm: Carols on the Green  
Wrap up warm and limber up those vocal chords!

*We'd love to see you there!*

### VILLAGE HALL

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm: Pub night  
The fire is lit and the bar is open – come and enjoy a drink and a chat

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December; Home for Christmas  
What better way to start your Christmas festivities than a friendly gathering around a blazing fire?! We look forward to seeing you!

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Council meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person then please raise issues with the Clerk, Kerry Williamson, on [rouslenchpc@gmail.com](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com).

#### Councillor vacancy

We currently have one vacancy on the parish council and would love to hear from community-minded people who want to give something back to their local area. It is a voluntary position with an induction and training. Meetings are a couple of hours long on a Monday evening every other month. In the interim, about an hour per week is needed to keep up to date with council matters. Are you interested? Would you like more information? Please contact the Clerk ([rouslenchpc@gmail.com](mailto:rouslenchpc@gmail.com)) who will be happy to help.

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

### FLOWER ROTA

24<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas – combined effort*

4<sup>th</sup> January

Jane Powell

18<sup>th</sup> January

Celia Hall

### HARVEST LUNCH

A huge THANK YOU from the PCC to everyone who supported the lunch in October and made it such an enjoyable and successful occasion. We raised almost £1,000 for the church and its associated charities. Our sincere thanks go to all those who attended or assisted in any way.

### VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm: Christmas Quiz Night  
Mulled wine, an array of Christmassy desserts and a cash prize  
for the winning team! Tickets cost £5 and are available  
from Village Hall committee members

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025: Big Breakfast

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).

### **The Wardens and PCC of All Saints' Church**

wish everyone

*A Very Happy Christmas  
and a Healthy New Year*

Unfortunately we were unable to produce a village  
Christmas card this year. We hope to reinstate it next year

## Church Lench First School News

**Harvest Service:** The children performed a fantastic harvest service in church. The singing, speaking and dancing were amazing and it was lovely to see so many families attend. We were so grateful for all the food and hygiene items we received for Caring Hands. We invited residents and staff from Willow Bank Dementia Care Home to join us and staff reported how happy the residents were and how much they enjoyed the singing! We will be taking some children to visit Willow Bank to learn about dementia and meet some of the residents.

**Cross country:** In October our Year 5 pupils competed in the cross-country trials with other local schools. The course was a daunting 1,700 metres but they all completed it in good spirits!

**Christian value:** Our Christian value this half term focuses on *compassion*. Christians believe their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. We will be hearing a variety of Biblical stories including Jesus healing the lepers, the story of Saul in Damascus, Naomi and Ruth and some Old Testament stories.

**Remembrance:** We held a very spiritual and reflective school assembly. Soldiers and families who lost their lives and loved ones in wars were remembered through our prayers. Each class studied the importance of remembrance and produced some fantastic work including poetry, art and prayers.

**Children in Need:** Pudsey visited us one lunchtime to meet the children and was very impressed with the super behaviour and table manners! He was invited to sing some songs and even tried his hand at playing the guitar!

**Bring and buy sale:** On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a bring and buy sale to raise money to host a community event in the spring term. If you have any good quality toys, books, games, stationery, bags, purses etc that could be donated for the sale, please leave them in the big craft pot outside. It is a great time to have a sort out before Christmas!

**Christmas:** Christmas is around the corner and we will soon be preparing for our church service. We have lots of fun events planned for the children including a visit from Father Christmas and watching the seasonal pantomime!

*Happy Christmas and New Year from everyone at Church Lench First School*

*Mrs S Price, Headteacher*

## Church Lench



### CAROLS IN THE CLUB

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon to 1pm  
Come and join us in the Club to sing carols and  
enjoy hot mince pies. Everyone welcome  
*Hope to see you there!*



### SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

### Meetings of the Parish Council

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.

### THE LENCHES COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2025

A beautiful collection of pictures taken by locals around The Lenches

*On sale now £10 each (cash only)*

Calendars can be purchased from The Lenches Club or  
by contacting Ann Hughes at [lenchescalendar@gmail.com](mailto:lenchescalendar@gmail.com)

*All proceeds to support The Lenches Club*



## Harvington St James' Church

### CAMEO CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December: CAMEO Christmas

Our CAMEO Christmas begins with the *CAMEO Carol Service* at 11am in St James' Church. This will be followed by our *CAMEO Christmas Lunch* at the Kings Court Hotel, Alcester, at 12.30pm for 1pm.

Please contact Sophie on \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\* as soon as possible if you wish to join us for the lunch.

### CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm at Breslau, Leys Rd

We move to our winter quarters at Sophie's home during the colder weather but the welcome will be just as warm. Join us for tea, cakes and a cosy chat.

CAMEO Teas is open to EVERYONE, regardless of whether or not you attend church. Come along for an afternoon of fun and laughter, tea, coffee and cake and a very warm welcome. We'd love to see you!

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



## Harvington Baptist Church

Join us at our December services!

Our family-friendly Sunday services start at 10am and during December will feature carols and seasonal refreshments

*Everyone is very welcome to come along*

Christmas Day

We will be holding a short service at 10am on Christmas Day

*We would love to see you there!*



# Harvington

ST JAMES' CHURCH PRESENTS

## *THE CHRISTMAS FAIR*

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 11am-2pm  
Harvington Village Hall

*Stalls, games, Christmas cafe, tombola*

Back by popular demand: Father Christmas – visit him in his Grotto

*Grand Raffle: Brand new PlayStation 5 with 2 games  
plus many other great prizes. Tickets £2 each available NOW at*

*St James' Church services or message **St James's Events** on  
Facebook or e-mail [eventssjch@outlook.com](mailto:eventssjch@outlook.com) to purchase*

## *CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD*

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6pm

**St James' Churchyard**

Carols with hot chocolate and mince pies

HARVINGTON SINGERS INVITE YOU TO

## *Sing a Glad Noel*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm

**St James' Church, Harvington**

£9 adults, £5 juniors

Interval refreshments



*Book online at [www.harvingtonsingers.org.uk](http://www.harvingtonsingers.org.uk)*

*E-mail [tickets@harvingtonsingers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harvingtonsingers.org.uk)*

*Phone \*\*\*\*\**

# Harvington

## FAITH TODAY

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

Faith Today is taking a break in December but we look forward to resuming our monthly meetings in January when Sophie will lead a discussion on *Angels: God's Messengers*. There are so many angels in the world and it will be very interesting to find out where they are. Refreshments will be served.

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

## 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.



Abbots Morton  
**St Peter's Church**

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

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm: Carol and Gift Service  
A representative of *Action for Children* will speak about their work.  
Please bring gifts (unwrapped) to donate to children in need

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm: Carols on the Green  
Traditional carol singing around the Christmas tree on the  
village green. Hot dogs and mulled wine available

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 9pm: Christmas Communion  
Come and celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper in the village hall in October was a great success with 51 people enjoying cottage pie/shepherds pie and fruit crumble, plus a great quiz by Pippa Heenan and a raffle. Altogether it raised £966 for the church funds.

FLOWER ROTA

**We're delighted to announce that Tina Hill will step into Roma's shoes and run the church flower rota.** Roma has looked after the rota for many years but is leaving the parish to live in Alcester. Many, many thanks to Roma for her years of service on the PCC, particularly her pioneering eco-work, re-wilding four corners of the churchyard as Conservation Areas and introducing sustainable methods of flower arranging.

If anyone would like to join the rota of people who create flower arrangements for the church throughout the year, please contact Tina on \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*. Tina will also run the Flower Fund which pays for flowers sent to parishioners who've spent time in hospital.

# Abbots Morton

## CHURCH GATES

The project has been completed with wooden side fencing erected and privet saplings planted alongside the new gates. Our huge thanks to the Clarke family and particularly to Winston Clarke for the superb gates, a memorial to the late Kevin Clarke who was our churchwarden for 16 years and who contributed so much to the community. He will always be remembered.

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

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

## PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 8pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend a meeting in person then please raise issues with the Clerk at [abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com).

### Councillor vacancies

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



# Abbots Morton

## VILLAGE HALL

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

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January, 10am-12noon:  
Community coffee morning

Last month's coffee morning featured a **Bonfire Cake**, made by Hilary Farbowski, that was enjoyed by everyone including our new Neighbourhood Police Officer, Fabian Gayle. Based in Droitwich, Fabian hopes to join us each month and invite people to '*Have a Cuppa with a Copper*'.

If you haven't been to our coffee mornings yet, do drop by. It's a relaxed warm space and you can come and go whenever you wish. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and meet people from the neighbourhood. There is no entry fee and the refreshments are free of charge.

Come and join us!

Would you like to become a member of the Village Hall Committee? We need new people to help run this wonderful community space. 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 current committee comprises Lynne Pemberton (Chair); Pat Willingale (Secretary); Sarah Dykes (Treasurer); Jacki Allum (Parish Council Representative) and Colin Pemberton (Bookings Officer). If you fancy joining us, please contact Lynne on \*\*\*\*\*.

## Easyfundraising

More than £1,300 has been donated to the village hall via EasyFundraising since we joined the scheme in 2013. Could you be our 28<sup>th</sup> supporter? Just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall) and sign up to raise funds for the village hall very time you shop online.



*See overleaf for details of a local book by a local author*

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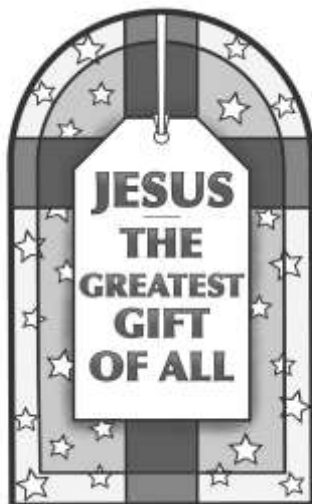


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### *Key to Church Services*

VH Village Hall  
BCP Book of Common Prayer Service

*All other communion services use  
the Common Worship liturgy*

## ARCH Benefice January 2025

(key on p25)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
5 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
12 <sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
19 <sup>th</sup> January		11am Morning Service at Rous Lench VH	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	4pm Christingle Service
26 <sup>th</sup> January	11am Morning Service		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion 3pm Messy Church at Harvington VH 6pm Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January				11am Holy Communion

## ARCH Benefice December 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p25)				
1 <sup>st</sup> December Advent Sunday		5pm Advent Praise/Reflection at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
8 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm Carol & Gift Service		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> December		6.30pm Carol Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December				11am Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup> December			6pm Carol Service	9.30am Holy Communion 6pm Carols in the Churchyard
Christmas Eve	9pm Christmas Communion		4pm Carol & Crib Service	6pm Carol & Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day			11am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> December				10am Benefice Communion



## ARCH Benefice Christmas Services 2024

	<u>Abbots Morton</u>	<u>Rous Lench</u>
8 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm Carol and Gift Service	
15 <sup>th</sup> December		6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve	9pm Christmas Communion	
	<u>Church Lench</u>	<u>Harvington</u>
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6pm Carol Service	6pm Carols in the Churchyard
Christmas Eve	4pm Carol and Crib Service	6pm Carol and Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	11am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion