

To show our love for God and You September 2025



Farewell and Thank You to the Thornileys

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

ARCH Benefice: Parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench

and Harvington

Rector: Interregnum

Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan

Readings

7th Jeremiah 18.1 - 11, Psalm 139 1-5, 12-18, Philemonn 1-21, Luke

September 14.25-33

14th September

Numbers 21.4-9, Psalm 22.23-28, Philippians 2.6-11, John 3.13-17

21st

September Jeremiah 8.18 - 9.1, Spalm 79.1-9, 1 Timothy 2.1-7, Luke 16.1-13

28th Jeremiah 32.1-3a 6-15, Psalm 91.1-6, 14-end, 1 Timothy 6.6-19,

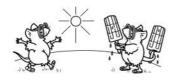
September Luke 16.19-end

Editorial:

PLEASE NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS

Business advertising: ********

& flyer distribution





Thought for the month

Pray!

Prayer is a Christian imperative as Jesus taught his disciples in the words of the Lord's prayer. How is your prayer life is a good question to ask a fellow Christian and just like our individual ideas about what God "looks like" there will be a range of different responses. There are of course many resources that can be used to help our prayers of all the different types that exist. The 24-7 prayer movement has many initiatives and examples of prayer (see https://www.24-7prayer.com/) and the founders are also behind the daily prayer app Lectio 365.

The Church of England has many resources both as books, magazines and online. Common Worship Daily Prayer offers four sets of daily prayers, some available spoken or recited so you can just listen.

The ARCH Benefice has held Morning Prayer meetings continuously. Originally meeting one morning a week in person, a small group (Community of Faith) meets online six times per week at 8.30 am following the Common Worship online using the Zoom platform. This small gathering of people from the Benefice and Evesham welcomes new people and has walked alongside those suffering illness and bereavement as well as celebrating the joys of life. It's a simple format and takes around 20 minutes. We pray for a different Parish each day and on Saturdays use the Northumbrian Community words and music.

The excellent Diocesan Prayer diary available as hard copy in our churches (though very few are actually taken, sadly) and online is also used to guide prayers for communities and organisations around the diocese and across the Anglican Communion.

Come and join us (see page 4) or start a prayer group. It's at the heart of our faith!

Rev'd Chris Sheehan, Pioneer Deacon

Stop date for next issue: Monday 8th September

Interregnum

Daily prayers: via Zoom – contact Revd Chris Sheehan for details

8.30am (e-mail *******)

Pastoral calls and contacts

During the interregnum period, please can any urgent pastoral requests or contact be made through Rev'd Chris Sheehan, or by contacting a member of your local church community.

From the Registers

Abbots Morton

24th July Funeral & Burial Richard William Cresswell

Church Lench

22nd July Funeral at the Crematorium Violet Brookes

Harvington

3rd July Internment of Ashes Margaret Ann Jelfs

21st July Funeral at the Crematorium Richard Humphrey

Crematorium Internment of

16th August Ashes Dennis and Sheila McKenzie

17th August Baptism Henry James Rutherford

26th August Funeral & Burial Gwenda Grinnell

Any additional services in August will be included in the next edition

Fond Farewell to Fr Richard and Gill

On 6th July, St James's was packed-out for Fr Richard's final service in the Benefice after 24 years. Followed by a bring and share lunch, this was a fantastic opportunity for all parishioners to thank the Thornileys for their wonderful service to the villages.

Gill and Richard were presented with a wonderful painting of all of the churches in the village by local artist, Pauline Bamber, reproduced below (with apologies for the quality of the photograph). Church Lench parishioners presented a bench for their new home in Seaford and the generosity of all the Benefice led to a cheque which Richard and Gill are going to spend ticking off a bucket list item: a well-deserved cruise!



Fond Farewell to Fr Richard and Gill









Benefice News

This message was read out at all churches in the Benefice on Sunday 29 June:

Congratulations to **Glenn Reading** on his appointment as **Rector of the Benefice of Church Lench w/ Rous Lench & Abbots Morton & Harvington**(ARCH Benefice).

Glenn is currently Team Vicar in the Benefice of Christ the King, Redditch. He is married to Helen and they have five children: Phoebe, Toby, Edward, Henry and Thomas.

Please remember Glenn and Helen and their family in your prayers at they prepare to move. We look forward to his licensing and an opportunity to welcome Glenn to the Benefice on the 23rd November.

Further information to follow in the next edition.



A Big Thank You to...

We would like to record our thanks for the huge amount of hard work of Cathy Davies, editor of this magazine for the last 16 and a half years.

With a slight gap for Covid, Cathy has produced over 160 editions, developing the format and ensuring that the magazine contains a variety of content for all its readers.

A presentation was made to Cathy at Richard and Gill's Leaving Lunch; she continues to be involved in the Parish and we are sincerely grateful for her stewardship and care.

The temporary editor would also like to thank everyone for their forbearance of errors and omissions as he learns the ropes!





And a new Bishop!

Our diocese celebrates the wonderful news that Hugh Nelson will become the 114th Bishop of Worcester. His Majesty the King has approved Bishop Hugh's appointment, marking an exciting new chapter for our faith communities.

Bishop Hugh currently serves as Bishop of St Germans in Truro and as Bishop to the Armed Forces. Before ordination in 2008, he spent thirteen years with L'Arche London, a community where people with and without learning disabilities share life together. He then served as curate in East Kent before eight years as parish priest in Goudhurst with Kilndown.



His approach to ministry emphasises faithfulness in our changing world, combined with curiosity about God's activity amongst us. He encourages bold responses through both traditional and innovative methods, always seeking the unity for which Jesus prayed.

Bishop Hugh married Lizzie, who directs Search for Common Ground UK, an organisation working for peace and conflict transformation. They have four children in their teens and twenties. The bishop enjoys gardening and watching cricket, rugby, and football, he's delighted to be living opposite New Road Cricket Ground.

We extend wholehearted support to Bishop Hugh as he begins ministry amongst us. We offer our prayers and partnership in the year ahead. Together, we shall continue building God's kingdom in our communities, supporting one another in faith and welcoming all who seek Christ's love.

May God richly bless Bishop Hugh's ministry and guide us all as faithful disciples serving together.





Notices





On the Move

Sunday 28th September Harvington Village Hall, 3.30 - 5.30pm Crafts, story, song and a FREE 2-course meal. All welcome!

Caring Hands foodbank – please keep it going

Please remember Caring Hands when doing your weekly shop and purchase an extra item or two for the foodbank: toilet rolls, toiletries, tinned and dried goods are always welcome.

Items can be left in the donation boxes in our parish churches.

Musings...

Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything. – James Kok

Nicene Creed 3: The Incarnate Jesus

For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

This month, we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the ministry of Jesus on earth.

'For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven': Jesus came down to earth to save us all. Salvation involves healing and rescuing us from the wrong things in our lives, which result in death itself. The Creed demonstrates the importance of having a proper understanding of Christ that safeguards the gospel of salvation. 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' (Luke 19:10).

'by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man':

Although the word 'incarnate' doesn't appear in the New Testament, it expresses the meaning of Jesus' birth. Heresies of the time included Adoptionism (i.e. Jesus became God's Son only at His baptism) and Docetism (i.e. Jesus appeared to be human, as a fully divine being). The incarnation affirms that the divine son, was conceived in Mary's womb by the power of the Spirit and born in time as a human being: 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.' (Luke 1:35). If Jesus was not conceived both fully divine and human, the Christian understanding of salvation is lost.

'For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried':

In the Creed we move straight from Jesus' birth to His death, which is the climax of His ministry. Jesus dying for our sins on the cross lies at the heart of God's plan of salvation. The mention of Pontius Pilate roots our faith in history and reminds us of the important part people played in God's plan. 'He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.' (1 Peter 2:24).

What is the place of the incarnation in your understanding of the Christian Faith?

Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

On the Annual War of Pumpkin Growing

The latest in our missives from the Rector of St James-the-Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin-growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation. I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12 month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle, Eustace

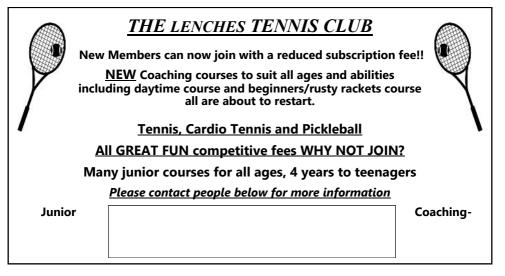
Church Lench All Saints' Church

HARVEST LUNCH

This year's Harvest Lunch will take place on **Sunday 5th October at 12.15pm in the Village Hall.** There will be a 2-course meal priced at £15.00 per person, a licensed bar and a raffle. Tickets must be bought in advance from any member of the PCC or from Lyndall Bagnall (*****), Celia Hall (*****) or Nadine Woakes (*******).

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The PCC Social Committee would like to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who contributed in any way to the extremely successful **Flower Festival** at the end of June. The weekend began on Friday evening with an enjoyable musical entertainment performed by **Richard Churchley** in the beautifully decorated church. Those floral arrangements, 16 open gardens, scarecrows, plant and local produce sales, craft stalls and refreshments once again proved to be wonderful attractions to the many visitors who came to the village. The whole event was generously supported by Johnsons Property Consultants and thanks to the enthusiastic contribution from so many people over the whole weekend we raised the magnificent sum of **£4,050!!**



The Lenches

Lenches Ladies: Friendship, Fun, and Community Spirit

Looking to connect with others in the Lenches? The **Lenches Ladies** might be just what you're looking for!

We're a friendly and informal group of women from the Lenches who, for those that are available, meet **once a month** to enjoy a wide variety of activities – and each month is different. From meals out and craft sessions to inspiring guest speakers, there's always something to look forward to! Best of all, each meeting is organised by two different members, which keeps things fresh, fun and full of surprises.

With an annual membership fee of just £15, joining is an affordable way to stay social, explore new interests, and to get to know others in the community. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, Lenches Ladies offers a warm welcome.

For more information contact: Helen Savage ***** or Lisa Gilbert *****

Tower Bells

Do you enjoy listening to the bells at Church Lench? We have a keen band of dedicated ringers but need to increase our numbers.. If you would like to learn this skill, I'm prepared to teach anyone who would like ago. Equally, if you've rung before but haven't been attached to a tower for a while, please get in touch. We meet on **Monday evenings**.

Please contact David Chambers: *****

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ROUS LENCH AND INKBERROW BRANCH POPPY APPEAL COFFEE MORNINGS 2025

Saturday, 04th October, The Bulls Head, Inkberrow *
Saturday, 18th October Lenches Club, Church Lench *
Saturday, 15th November, Th Boot Inn, Flyford Flavell
1030 am -12 noon

Raffle , Rollover Raffle, Homemade Cakes and more. * and Tombola

Entrance £2 includes light refreshment

All Welcome. Proceeds to RBL Poppy Appeal

Harvington St James's Church

SAVE THE DATES

5th Harvest Service - 11am, followed by bring and share lunch.
OCT St James's Church, Harvington

6th Craft, Cards, Coffee & Chat - 10.30 am -12.30pm
NOV St James's Church, Harvington

15th Craft, Cards, Coffee & Chat - 2-4pm NOV St James's Church, Harvington

13th Christmas Fair with Santa's Grotto, Games, Cafe & more
DEC 11am - 2pm - Village Hall, Harvington

any items you wish to donate for the Tombola stall, will be gratefully received, there will be a box in the church, by the children's corner from 1st October.

Please look out for more details about each event in further copies of the Arch Messenger and on our events Facebook page St James's Events

Financial emergency? Extra help needed? Live in Harvington?

St James' Church manages an emergency fund on behalf of the community. If you need a little financial assistance, please call ******** and we will offer what support we can.

If you are in a position to top up the funds, we would be very grateful!





Harvington

CAMEO TEAS 10th September 3.00pm at St. James's Church

Now that the holiday season has ebbed away, why not join us for a fun afternoon with tea and cakes and a chat with friends.

The gathering is for all in the village. "The more the merrier!"

Looking forward to seeing you then.
For further information please contact **Sophie** *****

Faith Today 19th September 10am Breslau

We have started our discussion group again for the autumn season and the subjects we have chosen for the next few months are wide-reaching and relevant for today's society and time as we always look the past and try to link into the present.

Annette France is leading us and is going to bring "Psalms" into the now!!! Refreshments are served and we hope you can join us.

A discussion group can flourish with input from outsiders! For further information contact **Sophie** *****

St James's Church Gardening Team

Lovely sunshine we're having: just the weather for gardening!

Hopefully it remains the same for the next meeting of the Church Gardening team on:

Saturday 14th September between 9.30am and Noon

Please spare a little of your day to help Joy and Julian. We can promise good company and a break will be arranged around 11am for Tea, Coffee and a Chat.

Clive Allen

Harvington

Harvington Community Support Group (******

The Community Support Group is a small team of DBS checked volunteers who are able to help Harvington residents who might need a hand. We are often able to assist with, for instance, transport for appointments, occasional shopping, small DIY jobs, helping with admin such as form-filling etc, or just a friendly visit or to 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 any help, please contact the co-ordinators, Wendy and Konrad Monks, on ********. (Leave a message if we don't answer and we **will** get back to you

Harvington Film Night in the Village Hall

Friday 12th September 2025

"The Penguin Lessons" (cert 12)

Starring Oscar nominee **Steve Coogan**, and basted on a true story, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo (Military Wives, TIFF '19) follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

Doors open 7:15 p.m. - screen illumination 7:45. Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £3.00 and see the film for free! Provide your own glasses, drinks and nibbles, and please take away all rubbish.

Details are also on the Village Hall notice board, "Harvington Films" via Facebook, and emailing list.

Harvington Youth Project

Hi everyone!

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who was involved in our recent summer holiday club, it would not have been possible without the help of all our incredible volunteers. You made it such an amazing three days for all those who attended.

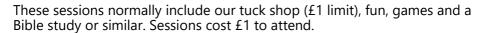
As we approach the new term I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of what life looks like at HYP.

Starting on the 8th September we will be restarting our weekly Youth Groups! These take place at Harvington Baptist Chapel and cater for ages 7+.

Mondays 13+ 7-8:30pm

Tuesdays 10-13 6:30-8pm

Thursdays 7-10 6:30-7:45pm



If you would like any more information please get in touch with me using the information below.

Thank you for all of your support!

Matthew Cook Children and Youth Worker





ALL HS FULL SS

Abbots Morton St Peter's Church (www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church)

FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Flower Festival 'Bring and Share' Lunch.** A great time was had by all. Thank you also to everyone who helped with the amazing flower arrangements. The church looked stunning with great inspiration of what to do when you are retired. Not only did the church and churchyard look wonderful, the smell was something quite magical. So again a big thank you to Tina Hill and team.

On the Rota for August 31st September & 7th is Roma September 14th & 21st Jacki September 28th Rosie/Tina October 5th & 12th Combined effort – more information to follow.

HARVEST SUPPER

The **HARVEST SUPPER** will be in Abbots Morton Village Hall on Friday the 10th October. This year we will have having a traditional **PORK ROAST CARVERY** (Pork carved by Winston). Tickets will be **£15** for Carvery and Pudding. Bring your own drinks. 6.30pm for 7pm start. Raffle and good cheer on offer.

To book a place please contact **Pippa** on ******

BRING AND SHARE LIBRARY

Following a request from the Parochial Parish Council St Peters Abbot Morton is proud to announce the opening of a **BRING and SHARE Library**. If you would like to buy rather than borrow any of the books there will be a donation slot onto of the cupboard, all proceeds to church funds. There is a glass fronted book case at the back of the church, and the beautiful prayer corner has moved to the left of the font. Please bring your old books to share and borrow new ones to enjoy. The church is **open every day** to enjoy the quiet space and moment of reflection. All are welcome.

Abbots Morton

Follow us on Facebook for up to date information. If you would like to be added to The Friends of AMVH whatsapp group, please drop us an email with your details.

Abbots Morton 'Bimble' Worcestershire Car Drive Out

Saturday 4th October, 1.30pm. To meet at The Old Bull, Inkberrow and follow a planned route, returning to Abbots Morton Village Hall for 4.30pm where tea & coffee will be served, followed by a talk and a small exhibition. Hot food will be served at 6.30pm. BYOB. All car types are welcome. £12.50 pp. Please contact Tina Hill at ******* for tickets.

Community Coffee Morning, first Tuesday of every month

Tuesday 2nd September, 10am to 12 noon.

If you haven't been to one of our coffee mornings yet, please drop by anytime between 10am and 12 noon. 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. Donations to the Power Pot are gratefully received.

Tai Chi Wednesdays 10am - 11am

Tai Chi is run by Andrew Lowe as 7 week sessions. If you would like to take part contact Andrew on ****** or via his website taichiworcestershire.com

Yoga Sessions Monday and Thursday mornings, 9.45-10.45am

Amy Hoang-Jones from Astwood Bank now runs two yoga classes in the Village Hall on Monday and Thursday mornings. If you would like to join please call Amy on ******.

Pilates with Allyson Giel on the following Wednesdays 3rd September, 10th September, 24th September, 8th October, 15th October and 22nd October.

Art classes with Charli Farquharson meet on Tuesdays from 1pm–3pm, and the Autumn Term runs for 6 weeks with a break: September: 9th, 16th, 23rd Break: 30th Sept, October: 7th, 14th, 21st Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to refine your skills, this class offers a friendly, structured space to develop confidence in your drawing and art practice. Guidance for all levels, Tea, coffee, and biscuits every week!

Abbots Morton

Easyfundraising

We have 28 supporters to date. The Village Hall has benefitted from the scheme by almost £1,400 thanks to our supporters. By joining you can help to raise funds for your Hall every time you shop online at NO cost to yourself. Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall and sign up to help the Village Hall every time you shop online.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th September at 8pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Further details and agendas can be found at www.abbotsmorton.info.

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 at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

There are currently two vacancies on Abbots Morton Parish Council. These two posts will be filled by the co-option process through the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com for more information.



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."

Rous Lench St Peter's Church

ST PETER'S

Come and join us at Rous Lench Village Hall on Saturday 11th October for a **supper to celebrate harvest time**. There will be a delicious home-cooked two course meal plus some entertainment and a prize raffle. Tickets cost just **£15** each. Please contact Fran ***** for tickets. The bar will be open from 7pm. All proceeds in aid of St Peter's church funds.

VILLAGE HALL

They're back! The nights are starting to get longer which means that the **pub nights** are back at the hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a drink and a chat (and even some nibbles sometimes) and share your stories of the summer.

The first pub night will be on **Friday 26th September** and then every **alternate Friday** until Christmas. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Date for your diary Curry and Quiz night – Saturday 11th November.

Liz Knight will be testing our knowledge with one of her fun quizzes and a warming curry will be served. More details to follow soon

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PIG ROAST!

The evening was warm, the food was delicious and the beer was cool! On the 28th June Rous Lench village green was buzzing with lots of people having great fun. Some had come from as far afield as Inkberrow! The entertainment was fabulous for both young and old. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this traditional event such a success and also to everyone who came along and supported it. The pig roast raised £6115 which will be split evenly between St Peter's PCC and Rous Lench and Radford Village Hall and will help keep both organisations going.

Rous Lench Parish Council

ROUS LENCH PARISH COUNCIL

The next meetings of the Parish Council are:

- 23 September 2025 at 7pm
- 25 November 2025 at 7pm
- 20 January 2026 at 7pm
- 24 March 2026 at 7pm

All meetings are held at Rous Lench Village Hall and the public are welcome to attend.

Clerk to the Parish Council: rouslenchpc@gmail.com





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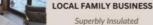


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Key to Church Services

Village Hall VH

BCP Book of Common Prayer Service

All other communion services use the Common Worship liturgy

ARCH Benefice October 2025

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
5th October		8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11:00am Holy Communion (CW)	11:00am Morning Worship
12th October	11:00am Harvest Festival		11:00am Lay-led Service	9:30am Holy Communion (CW)
19th October		11:00am Benefice Communion (CW)	8:30aam Holy Communion (BCP)	9:30am Family Service
26th October	11:00am Morning Service		11:00am Family Communion	9:30am Holy Communion (CW) 3:30pm Messy Church

	ARCH	ARCH Benefice September 2025	tember 2025	
(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
7th September	12pm Baptism	8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion (CW)	9:30am Morning Worship
14th September	11am Holy Communion (Extension)		11am Lay-led Service	9.30am Holy Communion (CW) 6pm Taize
21st September		11am Benefice Communion (CW)	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service
28th September	11am Morning Service		11am Family Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (CW) 3.30 pm Messy Church