



The ARCH Messenger

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



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

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

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

Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
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

3 rd November All Saints Day	Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24:1-6; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
10 th November Remembrance Sunday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-end; Hebrews 9:24-end; Mark 1:14-20
17 th November	Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8
24 th November Christ the King	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
1 st December Advent Sunday	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
8 th December	Malachi 3:1-4; Benedictus; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
15 th December	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
22 nd 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 ^h December	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148:7-14; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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

Thought for the month

Remember, remember

My wife, aiming in my general direction, often uses the expression 'Don't you remember?' I forget.

Part of education is remembering. We don't tell our children, nursing their burned fingers, that when they were born we told them not to go near the fire and they should have remembered. We remind them before they burn. Every time. Because they forget.

November is Remembrance season, starting with the dead on All Saints' and All Souls' Days, followed by gunpowder, treason and plot and then the various acts of remembrance around war memorials. Why? Have we forgotten?

I once went to a fantastic (and very boozy) celebration of Trafalgar Day as the guest of the Chaplain at HMS Raleigh whom I was visiting. A few years later the 200th anniversary was celebrated. When, I wondered, do you stop celebrating? It's 220 next year. Isn't that enough remembering?

In my Christian tradition the regular celebration of Holy Communion (some call it the Eucharist or Mass) is a reminder of the death of Jesus. Bread is broken, wine is poured and both are shared in remembrance of him. Even though most Christians haven't forgotten.

You see remembering is one thing, remembrance is another. It's recall with gratitude. Thank you saints. Thank you martyrs. Thank you democracy. Thank you war-dead. Thank you Jesus.

We go through our seasons, traditions, events and festivals marking the passage of time and giving thanks for the big events that gave us that time.

I occasionally remind my wife that 'you teach' does not necessarily mean 'I learn'. This sort of behaviour is not a good thing for our relationship but sometimes I don't remember not to do it. I think this is where I came in.

Steve Tilley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 11th November

Rector's Corner

Daily prayers: via Zoom – contact me for details
8.30am and 6pm (e-mail rector@archbenefice.org.uk)
This replaces Tuesday prayers and Benefice prayers

Home Communion: I will contact the house-bound, and am open to requests.
(contact me on 01386 870527) Please feel free to ask even if you are only temporarily out of communion

Men's Night Tuesday 26th November at The Coach and Horses,
8pm 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

Caring Hands food bank: PLEASE KEEP IT GOING!

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.

From the Registers

Rous Lench

8 th September	Baptism	Finlay David Browne
8 th September	Baptism	Noah Harry Browne

Church Lench

25 th August	Baptism	Kirsten Protherough Bamford
25 th August	Baptism	Oscar David Bamford

Notices

ALL SOULS SERVICE & TREE OF LIGHT

Saturday 2nd **November, 6.30pm at St James', Harvington**

We will be holding a special service to commemorate *all* those who have died. Following a short sermon and reading from scripture, the names of all those whose funeral services have been held in the benefice in the last year will be read out. There will be an opportunity for everyone to light a candle in memory of a loved one and place it on the altar.

This is a service that is open to anyone to come along, and the hope and prayer is that it will help all those who feel bereaved to come to terms with loss, whenever that may have taken place.

Richard Thorniley



Remembrance Services

There will be Acts of Remembrance at 11am on Sunday 10th November at the village war memorials of Abbots Morton (inside the church), Church Lench and Harvington (both in the churchyard). Everyone is welcome



A servant girl's time to shine: unexpected advice

Sunday 17th November
3.30 - 5.30pm

Harvington Village Hall

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

All welcome!



Notices

Harvington Youth Project



Hello everyone! I am Matt and I am delighted to say that I **am the new Youth and Children's Worker for the Harvington Youth Project**. I am going to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about me.

I have been in Church Ministry since 2017 and have worked for multiple denominations and organisations. During the last three years I have been in Norfolk as the Sports Minister for The Fountain of Life Church in Ashill whilst studying for a Degree in Theology specialising in Sports Ministry at Ridley Hall Theological College in Cambridge. I enjoy sport, especially football and badminton, and I love card and board games – which is possibly why I enjoy my job so much because there are plenty of opportunities for both sport and games in my line of work! I am very excited about the opportunity I have here with the project and look forward to seeing what we can do for the young people in the ARCH Benefice and the surrounding area.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible in the coming months as I settle into my new job and the area, but if you have any questions or enquiries please get in touch with me at harvingtonyouth@gmail.com.

*Blessings,
Matt Cook*

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

War and peace

John Lennon wrote, *'Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace.'*

But on Remembrance Sunday, we should reflect on war past and present, and consider the real way to peace.

The way of war: *'What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill' (James 4:1-2).* James reminds us that war has its basis in our own hearts, with the selfish desires that exploit, bully and kill others to get our own way. Sadly, when nations allow these inner selfish attitudes to determine their policy the result is war. Only God can establish true peace.

The way of peace: 2,700 years before John Lennon, Isaiah also imagined a **future of peace without any war**, *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore' (Isaiah 2:4).*

Only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring true peace to our lives and world. Jesus did not experience the horror of battle, but He did die an horrific death at **the hand of the Romans. He gave His life sacrificially, as He took God's anger** at our sin on Himself and went on to conquer death in His resurrection. He did this out of love for us, and calls us to love others in the same way, *'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' (John 15:13).*

How can we demonstrate such love ourselves? We can be confident in God's plan to bring an end to all wars when Jesus returns.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Children's kitchen terms

Boil: The point a parent reaches upon hearing the automatic 'Yuck' before a food is even tasted.

Evaporate: Magic trick performed by children when it's time to clear the table or wash the dishes.

Dessert: The reason for eating a meal.

Gospel of Matthew: what's the big idea?

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

This month we turn to the New Testament and look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed the author used oral tradition, written fragments and eye-witness accounts as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke).

Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. **He connects Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures.** In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author. This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms 'kingdom of heaven' and 'Father in heaven', reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the Son of David.

The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This five-fold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples to share this good news and His promise to be with them, *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age'* (Matthew 28:18-20).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Bible stories that didn't quite work

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule which says to do one to others before they do one to you.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

Grief – **don't bottle it up**

'I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. How the mighty have fallen!' (2 Samuel 1:26).

A lament is a passionate expression of grief, a heartfelt cry of sadness. Here David, who composed some of the most memorable and uplifting songs of praise, allows himself the opportunity to pour out his heart to God because of his deep sorrow.

Christians are sometimes confused about how to express grief. Some contemporary teaching has emphasised the power of praise, and of praising God in all circumstances, so they feel guilty about the pain inside them and do **not know how to release it**. Whilst Paul does say we are not to grieve *'like the rest of mankind'* (1Thessalonians 4:13), he means we should not grieve in the hysterical way that characterises those who have no hope in God. He does not mean that we should not grieve at all or that we should suppress our true feelings. That would be cruel, unnatural and unhealthy. Grief is best acknowledged and expressed, and in a way that is consistent with our belief in heaven.

David's own heart feels most keenly the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan. Those who have known the loss of a 'soul mate' will understand the depth of his feeling and the pain in his heart. His lament enables him to get in touch with his grief, to express it, and so begin the slow process of healing and recovery.

If you are grieving today, may I encourage you to pour out your heart to God? You could pray aloud, or write your prayer down. You may find a song that helps, or a piece of music. You might talk with a trusted friend. You may just want a **good cry**. Whatever you do, remember that it's OK to grieve.

Rev'd Tony Horsfall

More Bible stories that didn't quite work

St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus' head.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 disciples.

One of the disciples was St Matthew who was also a taximan.

On the peril of choosing new kneelers...

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,

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking and, like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks; when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who leaves Mattins looking like a Yeti. Others have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, started sounding like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement but it lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So, we have decided to have a completely new set, and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the project? There is enough here to occupy our Church Council for the next millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St Michael **slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such** tasteful scenes while dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like a pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism... Then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Church Lench **All Saints' Church**

AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 12th November, 10am-12noon

This year's Autumn Coffee Morning, in aid of the Christmas Fayre expenses, will take place in the Lenches Club. Come and enjoy coffee etc in the lounge where there will also be a Bring and Buy sale and a raffle.

Everyone is most welcome to come along!

LENCHES WI

On Monday 18th November at 2pm in the Lenches Club we look forward to welcoming Sue Jordan who will be talking about *Military Wives* and bringing some CDs of the *Military Wives Choir*. Come along and enjoy hearing about this wonderful choir and enjoy tea/coffee and cake too. Contact Jean Houlton, Secretary, on ***** or e-mail lencheswi@gmail.com for further details.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 30th November, 2-4pm
Church Lench Village Hall

- ☞ Attractions for all the family ☞
- ☞ Many festive home-made products and games ☞
- ☞ Wide range of stalls selling plants, crafts, gifts, toys, bric-a-brac ☞
- ☞ Grand Christmas Raffle featuring a first prize of £100! ☞
- ☞ Seasonal refreshments available throughout the afternoon ☞

*For further information concerning stalls, offers of help or donations, please contact Lyndall (*****) or Nadine (*****, *****@*****)*

Church Lench First School News

Christian value: Our new Christian value this half term focuses on compassion. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. Our Year 2 and 3 pupils have written some thoughtful prayers thanking God for our world.

Dear God, Thank you for all your love in our hearts. Don't forget everyone loves you. I hope you protect us and never forget how you made me and the world. I love how you care about us and don't remember the very bad things that have happened in life. Amen (Albert)

Dear God, Thank you for people who help me in everyday life, they are very important to me. Thank you for the help you give me when I don't always make the right choices but you help me make better ones. I am thank ful for my friends and family. Amen (Izzy)

Dear God, Thank you for my teachers and school and my lunch and my lovely friends. Thank you for my lovely world because without it I wouldn't survive. Amen (Elliot)

Head Boy and Head Girl 2024-5: We have a new head boy and girl this year who have been elected by the children. They have started an action plan and will be hosting a bring and buy sale before Christmas to help run a community event in the spring term. **Any good quality children's books, games, dolls, toys etc would be hugely appreciated!**

Open morning: Our recent open morning was very well attended. We are always happy to show new families around so please contact the school office if you would like to come and have a look around.

Tesco tokens: We have been successful in working with Tesco for some extra funding for 'outdoor wellbeing'. **We now have a token container at Tesco in Evesham, Tesco Express Evesham and Tesco Express Pershore** which we hope you can support. Please spread the word amongst family and friends!

School choir: We are looking at setting up a school choir and would love someone with a musical background to help run and organise this club. If you know of anyone who might be interested, we would love to hear from them!

Mrs S Price, Headteacher

Church Lench

FLOWER ROTA

9 th November	Jenny Dainty
23 rd November	Jane Powell
December	<i>Advent – no flowers</i>

VILLAGE HALL

The Church Lench Village Hall committee are pleased to announce that solar panels have now been installed on the hall roof. Thanks to a generous grant from the Wychavon Trust, the committee were able to purchase the panels which were installed in September.

Saturday 7th December: Christmas Quiz Night
Tickets are now available from village hall committee members

Save the date: on Saturday 8th February 2025, we invite you to come along for one of our amazing Big Breakfasts

100 Club draw

The winners in our September draw were:
1st Jeremy Oates, 2nd Richard Barton, 3rd Charles Dyer

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

SOUTH LENCHES PARISH COUNCIL

www.southlenchesparishcouncil.org

***** , clerk@southlenchesparishcouncil.org

Meetings of the Parish Council

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th November at 7pm in Church Lench Village Hall.

Church Lench



CAROLS IN THE CLUB

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



Harvington



ST JAMES' CHURCH PRESENTS *A SEASON TO BE JOLLY*

Thursday 7th November, 10am-12noon &
Saturday 16th November, 2-4pm
St James' Church, Harvington



Pop in for coffee, tea, squash, cake; catch up with friends & neighbours
Purchase beautiful locally-handmade Christmas cards
Create a decoration to take home
*Be part of the Harvington Big Christmas Craft – creating German
Froebel Stars to decorate the Church Christmas tree*

❄️❄️ FREE ENTRY ❄️❄️ EVERYONE WELCOME ❄️❄️

*Donations for refreshments and craft supplies gratefully received
Proceeds from the Christmas cards will go to Harvington Youth Project*

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 13th **November, 3pm at St James' Church**

CAMEO Teas is open to EVERYONE, regardless of whether or not you attend St James' Church. Come along for an afternoon of fun and laughter, tea, coffee and cake and a very warm welcome. It's also a good chance to catch up with the latest news! We'd love to see you!

Wednesday 11th December: CAMEO Christmas

Our CAMEO Christmas will start 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 as soon as possible if you wish to join us for the lunch.

To reserve your place for the Christmas lunch, for more information or to request a lift, contact Sophie (***** , *****@*****).

FAITH TODAY

Friday 8th November, 10am at ***** , Leys Rd

This month Liz Griffith will be leading us through the subject *God is Love*. We are looking forward to hearing and experiencing how much God loves us. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Sophie (***** , *****@*****)

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 9th November, 9.30am-12noon

Another season comes to an end so this month our loyal team will be leaving the gardens snug and cosy for winter before hanging up their tools for a well-earned rest. Please spare a little of your day to help. I can promise good company and a break around 11am for tea, coffee and chat.

On behalf of Joy and Julian, I thank you for your efforts during 2024 and have a Merry Christmas!

Clive Allen

Harvington First School News

Last half term the children were very fortunate to experience a range of trips and learning experiences. Year 1 visited Bishops Wood to learn about the changing seasons; Year 2 visited Leicester Space Centre to enhance their topic about space; Year 3 visited Oxford Museum to find out about the Ancient Egyptians and, as part of their Europe topic, Year 4 made their own pizzas at Pizza Express! The children worked extremely hard including at home as we saw some amazing homework projects ranging from rockets and space scenes to models of European landmarks such as Tower Bridge.

This half term we are focusing on the core value of *friendship*. Friendship is a very important Christian value and one that children can relate to through their everyday experiences. It can be very difficult to navigate friendships and something we work very hard on within school. The Bible tells us that Jesus was a friend to all, regardless of who they were. He taught that God is our friend and wants us to be like Him in our friendships with others. Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus. Later in the half term, the children will be learning about the story of Christmas and the impact it has on our lives today.

Our KS2 children are busy this half term running their own businesses to raise money for Children in Need. They will work together in teams to ensure their orders are created and sent out to their customers as well as keeping to a budget to make a profit. This is a great opportunity for the children to think about others and to learn a lot about finances and working to a deadline.

Soon we will begin preparing for the Christmas celebrations where Early Years and KS1 will put on a Nativity play and KS2 will hold their carol concert in the church. This year the whole school will also visit the pantomime in Worcester to see *Aladdin*. We look forward to another busy half term with lots more exciting learning opportunities.

Becky Enstone, Acting Headteacher



Harvington

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH?

Wednesday 20th **November, 7.30pm at St James' Church**

You are invited to join us for a conversation on the future of our church

Following the strategy conversation on our mission in 2022, we are holding a workshop to discuss the fabric of our ancient home and how we can make it practical and sustainable for the future.

Our five-yearly (quinquennial) inspection takes place this year, reporting on the condition of the building and what needs to be done to maintain it. Using this information the PCC can devise a five-year plan to maintain, improve and protect this 1,200-year-old place of worship for at least the next decade or two.

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).

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR: *GRAND RAFFLE*

Star Prize: Brand New PlayStation 5 with 2 games!

*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 to purchase*

Harvington

FILM NIGHT

Friday 15th November, 7.15pm: *In the Electric Mist* (cert 15)
In New Iberia, Louisiana, detective Dave Robicheaux (Tommy Lee Jones) is on the hunt for a serial killer who preys on young women. Driving home from another gruesome crime scene, Dave meets glamorous Hollywood star Elrod Sykes (Peter Sarsgaard). Sykes is in town shooting his new movie, with backing from local crime kingpin Baby Feet Balboni (John Goodman). He tells Dave he saw a body lying in a swamp – the decomposed corpse of a black man in chains. The discovery brings memories hurtling out of Dave's past. He senses the two cases are linked. But as Dave gets closer to the murderer, the murderer gets closer to Dave and his family...

Doors open 7.15 pm; screen illumination 7.45pm

Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £2.50 and see the film for free!

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

ST JAMES' CHURCH PRESENTS

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 14th December, 11am-2pm
Harvington Village Hall

Stalls, games, Christmas cafe, tombola

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

Grand Raffle: see page 17 for more details

CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Sunday 22nd December, 6pm

St James' Churchyard

Carols with hot chocolate and mince pies

Abbots Morton
St Peter's Church

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 10th November, 10.30am

Our Remembrance Service will include an Act of Remembrance with a wreath laying at the memorial plaque in the church, followed by two minutes silence. Everyone is welcome to join us.

DIARY DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

Please add the following dates to your diary:

- ◆ Sunday 8th December, 4pm: *Carol and Gift Service*
A representative of *Action for Children* will speak about their work
- ◆ Friday 20th December, 6pm: *Carols on the Green*
Come and enjoy some festive singing in a joyful atmosphere. There will be a bucket collection for the church Flower Fund which provides flowers for those in the community who've spent time in hospital. Hot dogs and mulled wine available
- ◆ Tuesday 24th December, 9pm: *Christmas Communion*
Come and celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

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.

Abbots Morton

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

If anyone would like to join the rota of people who create flower arrangements for the church throughout the year, please contact Roma at *****@*****.

PARISH COUNCIL

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. The next will be held on Thursday 28th November at 8pm in Abbots Morton 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.

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.

Parish Paths Warden vacancy

Abbots Morton has a vacancy for a Parish Paths Warden. This is a voluntary role supporting the Public Rights of Way Team at Worcestershire County Council by helping with statutory duties, proactive inspections and other improvements to the network. More information including a person specification, role description and application form can be found on the Worcestershire County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/countryside-and-leisure/public-rights-way/public-rights-way-volunteering. If you are interested, please complete an application form. Once the Public Rights of Way Team has received a completed application form, a local meeting is arranged to chat through the role with the candidate. **Following a successful application there is a mandatory one day 'Essentials' training course to attend before starting the role.**

If you would like to discuss the role further you can also contact the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.



Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

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

Saturday 30th November, 10am-2pm: Christmas Fayre

The village hall is staging a Christmas Fayre for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be a range of seasonal products available, refreshments **will be on sale and there'll be a raffle** – all to raise funds for the village hall. **Entry will be free. Tell your friends and family about it and we'll see you there!**

Tuesday 5th November, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning

If you haven't been to one of our community coffee mornings yet, do drop by! It's relaxed and you don't have to be there for the whole two hours – you can come and go whenever you wish. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat. Catch-up over tea, coffee and biscuits (and cake sometimes!) 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

Thank you to Peter H for becoming our 27th EasyFundraiser! The village hall has received more than £1,300 since we joined the EasyFundraising scheme – a great result for very little effort from our supporters.

We'd love to recruit our 28th supporter! If you're not signed up yet, please join today and raise free donations for the village hall every time you shop online – go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall. Thank you!

See overleaf for news from Rous Lench

Rous Lench St Peter's Church

VILLAGE HALL

Friday 1st, 15th & 29th November, 7.30pm: Pub night

As the nights draw in why not come along and enjoy a drink and a chat at your very own local! Everyone is welcome. NB the dates may be subject to change – watch out for the board on the village green!



You are invited to join us for a *(Pre-)St Andrew's Day Pub Night* on Friday 29th November. Come and enjoy an evening with a Scottish theme!

PARISH COUNCIL

Council meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend our meetings. The next will be held on Monday 18th November at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend in person then please raise issues with the Clerk, Kerry Williamson, on rouslenchpc@gmail.com.

Councillor vacancy

We currently have one vacancy 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 every other month and are a couple of hours long on a Monday evening. 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, Kerry Williamson (rouslenchpc@gmail.com) who will be happy to help.



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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 December 2024

	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
(key on p26)				
1 st December Advent Sunday		5pm Advent Praise/Reflection at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service
Wednesday 4 th December				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th December	4pm Carol & Gift Service		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
15 th December		6.30pm Carol Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 th December				11am Holy Communion
22 nd 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 th December				10am Benefice Communion

ARCH Benefice November 2024

(key on p26)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
Saturday 2 nd November All Souls Day			5.30pm Tree of Light Service	6.30pm All Souls and Tree of Light Service
3 rd November All Saints Day		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Rous Lench VH	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Service 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
<u>Tuesday</u> 5 th November				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th November Remembrance Sunday	10.30am Remembrance Service		10.50am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service
17 th November		11am Morning Service at Rous Lench VH	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service 3pm Messy Church at Harvington VH
<u>Tuesday</u> 19 th November				11am Holy Communion
24 th November Christ the King	11am Holy Communion		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion