

ARCH MESSENGER

September 2026



Festival of Creation in Christ

— *From the Editor*

And just like that, the summer draws to a close.

This edition is a continuation of the Arch Messenger's season of change. There are a few new additions this month, not least a new Events calendar on the back page – if you have events taking place in our villages, then do let us know. For those looking for service times, these have moved inside the back cover.

We also have a guest entry from the Heart of England Forest, who have started their work on the new Harvington Wood; again, if you know of other charitable organisations who would like to add informative articles to our magazine, do please put them in touch.

Also, do let your friends and neighbours know about us; share us; pass us on. Conversations over the summer have made it clear that not everyone is as an avid reader as yourself! We may be a church magazine, but we are here for the whole community.

Thank you for reading.
The Editor

Our Congratulations

On the marriage of **George Hibbert and Stephanie Wood** on the 4th July and **Ben Tomes and Leanne Kinnersley** on the 15th August, both at Church Lench.

On the baptism of **Elizabeth and Eden Blyth-Sweetingham** at Norton.

In Memoriam

Miriam Stephans whose funeral took place at Norton on the 29th July
John Langley whose funeral took place at Harvington on the 11th July
Keith Hemming, whose memorial service took place at Harvington on the 31st July.

*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord,
And Let Light Perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace, and rise in glory. Amen.*

— *Thought for the month*

As you may know, I was away for much of the early summer – walking 700 miles from one end of England to the other, raising around £25,000 for the disaster-relief charity ShelterBox.

That meant walking 12–15 miles nearly every day for eight weeks, from Land's End in Cornwall to the Scottish border on the Northumberland coast.

Three weeks in, on the last Saturday in May, we reached Worcester, having survived the first summer heatwave. I looked back in amazement: I had walked there from Land's End, almost 300 miles away. But then it sank in: still five weeks and over 400 challenging miles ahead, before I'd reached my goal.

I walked with St Paul's words in mind: 'Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal'. Not immediately for 'the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus', as for St Paul – though that's always the big picture – but rather to reach the most northerly point in England, and complete my walk.

I realised that I had a chance of making it by actually not thinking too much about 'what lies ahead', but by concentrating on the path beneath my feet: one foot in front of the other. Just enough to get me through for that day's walk. Then the same tomorrow.

September is a month when we leave summer behind – with mixed feelings, no doubt! – and 'what lies ahead' starts to loom: back to work, a new school year, the autumn routine. Just walk it a day at a time – and try to keep blister-free!

Rev'd. David Foster

The humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after learning. *Thomas a Kempis*

Pastoral

Daily Prayer
08.30am

via Zoom - contact either Fr Glenn or
Revd. Chris Sheehan for details
glenn.reading@gmail.com
chris@archbenefice.org.uk

Pastoral Calls

Please contact Fr. Glenn in the first instance
07964 282278
*If you would like to meet with Fr. Glenn, please email to
arrange a suitable time
glenn.reading@gmail.com*

Caring Hands
Foodbank

Please remember Caring Hands when doing your weekly
shop and purchase an extra item or two for the foodbank:
toilet rolls and toiletries, tinned and dried goods are
always welcome. Items can be left in the donation boxes
in our parish churches.

This Edition at a Glance

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Enjoy a Good Walk?

If you enjoy a good walk, the ARCH Messenger is in need of distributors to support our network across the villages. If you might be able to help please get in touch with the editor: tom@archbenefice.org.uk

A New Festival for the Church's Year

At the General Synod, (the Church of England's Parliament) meeting in York in July, final approval was given to a new addition to the Church of England's calendar: the **Festival of Creation in Christ**. The Church will keep it each year **on the first Sunday in September**, opening the wider Season of Creation that runs through to St Francis's day on 4th October.

The festival draws on an established idea. Since 1989, when the Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I (Archbishop of Constantinople in the Eastern Orthodox Church) proposed a day of prayer for the natural world, Christians across many traditions have marked 1 September as a time to thank God for creation and to pray for its protection.

The name chosen by Synod adds something to that inheritance. Calling it the Festival of Creation in Christ places creation within the story of Christ himself, in the same way that Christmas or Easter each hold up one facet of who he is. Scripture describes Christ as the one through whom all things came into being, so the festival treats creation not as a separate subject alongside our faith but as one more place to encounter Him. The naming also carries forward the Church's teaching that God's work in Christ reaches beyond human salvation to the renewal of the whole created order, a theme set out at length in a companion document, *Hope for All Creation* – available free online.

This new teaching document from the House of Bishops gives the fuller theological grounding for the festival. It traces how the Bible speaks of creation as sustained moment by God, disrupted by human sin, and reconciled through Christ's cross and resurrection, with the whole created order awaiting the same renewal that Christians already glimpse in him. Read alongside the new festival, the document asks every parish to treat care for the earth as part of ordinary Christian discipleship, rooted in this hope for creation's redemption rather than a general concern for the environment borrowed from elsewhere.

For us in this Benefice, this gives our own harvest season a clear theological anchor in creation. A moment to mark the festival, or readings woven into worship on that Sunday, giving us a chance to join a celebration now shared across the whole Church of England and, indeed, much of the worldwide Church. Further details of how each of our parishes will mark creation and harvest this year are found further within.

The Heart of England Forest

From tees to trees: Harvington Wood.

The former 47-hectare golf course at Manor Farm, Anchor Lane, was purchased by the Heart of England Forest late in 2025 and is being transformed into a rich landscape of woodland, wetlands, and wildflower meadows as part of the growing Heart of England Forest. The restoration, which began in August, will see the creation of a mosaic of woodland, wetland, and grassland habitats, which will also offer new footpath routes for you to explore. Completion is set for April 2027.

The charity's vision is to grow the Forest to 12,000 hectares by planting 12 million trees on land that will be protected for generations. As it grows, the Forest will provide a richer home for wildlife and a special place for people to explore, relax, and reconnect with nature. Together, we're helping to build a stronger, more resilient landscape, where both people and wildlife can flourish.

The creation of Harvington Wood is part of a wider collaboration with the Environment Agency which is enabling us to deliver ambitious habitat restoration that benefits, nature, climate resilience, and local communities. Over time, it will store carbon and provide natural flood management.

Early plant species surveys have identified great burnet, a key indicator of floodplain meadows, bird's-foot trefoil and field madder along with greater dodder, a rare parasitic plant. These discoveries have helped guide how we restore and protect each area. The lower lying areas that flood quickly will be planted with wet woodland like willow, poplar and alder. Former golf bunkers, ditches, and drains are being reshaped into scrapes and swales to hold water, support wetland wildlife, and slow the flow back to the river after heavy rain.

Existing trees, fairway woodland, and hedgerows are being retained where they are healthy and useful and there will be 35,000 new trees planted and 340 metres of new hedgerows established.

cont.

We have been made to feel very welcome in Harvington, from our initial consultation in the village hall in January, to the more recent community drop in held on site in July, to share our 50-year vision for the land. We look forward to keeping you updated on this project and the ways you can support us.

This project marks a significant step in turning a managed golf course into a thriving natural landscape that will benefit the local community and wildlife for generations to come.

Visit heartofenglandforest.org for more information about our work, events, and volunteering opportunities. If you would like to receive updates on Harvington Wood and how to be involved, please register your details at heartofenglandforest.org/harvington

**Toby Fisher, Community and Heritage Lead
The Heart of England Forest**

150 years of the Mothers' Union

9 August was Mary Sumner Day when across the world, members of the Mothers' Union celebrate their founder, Mary Sumner.

This year was even more important as the Mother's Union is marking its 150th anniversary with local, national and global events, giving thanks for the vision that started in Mary's living room and has grown into a world-wide organisation with over four million members.

We are being asked to join with the Mothers' Union as they give thanks for the work of the organisation, reaching out to families in need through their work in prisons and hospitals, with the disadvantaged and the abused. The MU's social justice campaigns raise awareness of important issues such as domestic abuse and modern slavery.

There will be a special service marking 150 years of the Mothers' Union in Worcester Cathedral on Tuesday 24 November at 2 pm. All churches are invited to bring their Mothers' Union banners, even if there is no longer a branch meeting at their church. Please look out for more information and do consider going along to support this service.

St Michael and All Angels

29th September

Michaelmas in English use has never confined it to the archangel alone. The Book of Common Prayer keeps the day as Saint Michael and All Angels, gathering the whole angelic host around the prince who guards Israel in Daniel and who leads the heavenly war against the dragon in Revelation, a scene the medieval painters loved and Epstein returned to at Coventry.

Because the feast came when the harvest was in, the working year turned on it. Michaelmas served as one of the four quarter days, so rents fell due, leases began and labourers took new places at the hiring fairs, and the tenant who brought his landlord a fattened goose knew what the bird was for. The universities and the law courts still open their year in Michaelmas term on the strength of that older reckoning.

Devotion shaped the approach to the day as well as its aftermath. Some kept a St Michael's Lent, the forty days from the Assumption on 15 August, which St Francis observed and which English piety took up as a fast preparing for the feast.

Country custom then closed the season by leaving the blackberries after this date to the devil; who by varying tradition landed in a bramble when cast down from heaven, spitting or urinating on them as a curse – as to which, we can leave that to your personal superstitions.



Elections taking place this month... for the Church's General Synod

Every five years the Church of England elects its General Synod, and this autumn brings the next turn. Synod is the Church's national assembly. It is unique amongst churches in that it still makes law within England, approves liturgy and sets the direction of national church spending. Its decisions reach into every parish, shaping how many priests we have, how they are trained and paid, and how our churches are governed.

Synod sits in three houses: Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Bishops are there by office. Clergy in each diocese elect their own representatives. Lay members (normal church goers) are elected by the lay members of deanery synods, our local church councils. As such, the deanery synod forms the electorate for the House of Laity. That fact matters more than most people realise. **If your church does not have a deanery rep appointed, you don't get a vote. Make sure you are represented.**

The coming Synod faces real questions. How should the Church Commissioners' endowment (currently £11.7bn) be distributed, and how much of it should reach frontline ministry? How large should a benefice grow before the care of souls is stretched too thin? What protection should parishes enjoy when reorganisation is proposed? Alongside ongoing debates on ministry and liturgy the next session will form the church for the decades ahead. Members elected this autumn will vote on all of this and more.

You can still have your voice heard in several ways. Ask your deanery synod representation how they might vote, and what is important for you. If you have strong views, write to those standing in our diocese with the questions that matter – although this can be a rather opaque election, and hard to find out all the information, visit the diocesan website cofe-worcester.org.uk for the latest.

Once the election is completed this magazine will be sure to update you on who the 6 Worcester Diocese members of General Synod are.

In the meantime, we pray for all those who serve our church at the national and diocesan institutions, and for all those putting themselves forward for election.

From 'St James the Least of All'

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James the Least of All. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...as imagined by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness.

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for sending me the photograph of you having your face painted at your parish's 'Fun Day' – although I can't help feeling that to label an event 'fun' is the most effective way of draining it of all amusement whatsoever. Why on earth can't parishes continue with the traditional title of 'Crowning of the Rose Queen and Fete', equally traditionally grimly enjoyed to the accompaniment of thunder and torrential rain.

However, the one thing that caused me the greatest concern in your photo was the fact that you were wearing sandals. Sandals are only to be worn by Franciscan monks (without socks) and holidaymakers on Blackpool promenade (regrettably, generally with socks). I know that you will argue that Jesus wore sandals. This was mainly because reliable pairs of brogues had yet to be invented, but also because He lived in a hot, dry country. We live in a cold, wet one.

The only appropriate colour for footwear for a parish priest is black, and the only appropriate material is leather – although I will concede that can create difficulties. Wet leather shoes and polished marble church floors are a potentially lethal combination.

I well remember as a curate when old Canon Griffith entered the Sanctuary, having just got drenched coming from the Rectory. His feet moved across the marble floor some miles per hour faster than the rest of his body. Had he landed face down, the congregation may have assumed he was reverently prostrating himself before the altar. But lying in a supine position, staring in a dazed state at the rafters, only conveyed inappropriate indolence, when he should be at work.

No doubt this is all of little interest to you. I suspect your present church will be fully carpeted – it seems to go with your sort of theology.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Exploring young adult journeys to faith

Young adults are coming to faith in a range of different ways, some very different from previous generations, according to a new report.

New research commissioned by the Church of England uncovers how growing spiritual curiosity among young adults has led to a range of unexpected routes by which they are discovering Christian faith and finding community in Church of England churches. Conducted by Theos think tank and published in August, the research explores how Generation Z is engaging with Christianity in new ways amongst a changing cultural context.

'Understanding Young Adult Journeys to Faith in the Church of England' draws on in-depth interviews with 30 young adults aged 18 to 30 who began attending Church of England churches for the first time within the five years following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report identifies several recurring themes in their paths to interaction with faith and the Church of England. Social media often served as an initial point of contact, introducing young adults to Christian ideas through podcasts, testimonies, debates, influencers and online content. For many, this led to deeper exploration through reading the Bible, engaging with theology and asking wider questions about meaning, purpose and truth, often before attending church for the first time.

Personal relationships were consistently found to play a significant role, with encouragement, invitations or stories from teachers, chaplains, friends, partners, clergy and church members often helping young people move from curiosity to attending church.

Community and a sense of belonging also emerged as a common experience of church, with many participants citing this as one of the reasons they continued attending and became more involved. Young people interviewed as part of the research were drawn to a wide range of Anglican traditions, including cathedrals, Anglo-Catholic, traditional prayer-book, as well as contemporary informal settings.

Across traditions, they reported being engaged by the “authenticity” and “seriousness” of worship, and valuing “confidence, consistency and depth” in the churches they had chosen to attend.

Children and Young People



Harvington Youth Project

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Summer Youth Camp at the start of the holidays, it was once again great fun for all involved.

As we start a new term our weekly groups will continue at Harvington Baptist Chapel. All groups have an entry cost of £1 and have a tuck shop.

Monday **Ignite** (13+), 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday **Explorers**, (age 10-13), 6.30pm - 8pm

Thursday **Adventurers**, (age 7-10) 6.30pm - 7.45pm

And we always welcome new volunteer support!



— *Church Lench*

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 4th October, 12.15pm in the Village Hall

This year there will be a 2-course meal priced at £15.00 per person together with a licensed bar and raffle. Tickets must be bought in advance from any member of the PCC or from Lyndall Bagnall (xxxxxx), Celia Hall (xxxxxx), or Nadine Woakes (xxxxxxxxx@hotmail.com).

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The PCC Social Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the enormously successful Flower Festival at the end of the June. The weekend began on the Friday evening in the pleasantly cool and beautifully decorated All Saints' church. Musical entertainment was performed by Vale Connection and the very talented pianist Rory Woodward. "A Walk Through History" proved to be a popular theme with both the flower arrangers and the scarecrow makers. Together with 11 Open Gardens, plant sales (generously donated by Hayloft Nurseries), craft stalls and refreshments the attractions once again brought in hundreds of visitors who braved the heatwave to visit the village. The event was generously supported by Johnsons Property Consultants and thanks to the enthusiastic support of so many people over the whole weekend we raised almost £4,000!

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Fayre: Saturday November 28th

THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

The Club has formed an exciting new partnership with Encompass Coaching to offer enhanced coaching opportunities at our courts in Church Lench. Encompass run the coaching at Pershore Tennis Centre and at two other local clubs and will be laying on coaching for the Lenches from September. You don't need to be a member to take part. For more info contact info@encompasscoaching.co.uk

THE LENCHES LADIES

The Lenches Ladies is a friendly and welcoming group of women. We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month, from September to July, to enjoy good company, make new friends and share plenty of laughter.

Each meeting is organised by two of the members, ensuring a varied and interesting programme throughout the year. From guest speakers and demonstrations to craft activities, outings and socials, there is always something different to enjoy.

Whether you are new to the area, looking to meet new people, or simply fancy spending a few hours in friendly company, we'd love to welcome you. The Lenches ladies is all about friendship, fun and being part of our local community.

For more information please contact

Lisa at xxxxxxxxxxxx@aol.com or Helen at xxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com.



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word
with you about your carbon footprint!

Church Lench First School

SIAMS Inspection 2026

I am delighted to share our recent 'Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools' (SIAMS) headlines with our community. I am incredibly proud of our school and the dedication and hard work that staff demonstrate every day to make it such a special and spiritually enriching place. The report is extremely positive, and I am so pleased that it recognises the high-quality provision we offer all of our pupils.

We work tirelessly to create a wonderful environment where children can learn, flourish and thrive. (Full report can be viewed on our website)

Leavers 2026

As the summer term came to an end, we bid a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 5 cohort. Our leavers' service on July 16th was a heartfelt celebration, filled with laughter, tears, speeches, songs and quizzes as we looked back on the many special memories made during their time at Church Lench First School. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Year 5 pupils and wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next exciting chapter of their journey at middle school in September.

Summer Experiences

During the summer term, our pupils enjoyed a wide range of exciting educational visits. Our Year 2 and 3 pupils challenged themselves at the Redpoint Climbing Centre, while our Reception and Year 1 children had a wonderful day exploring and learning at Top Barn Farm. Our oldest pupils also took to the river once again for an exciting bellboating adventure, developing their teamwork and resilience while having lots of fun.

Open Morning and Evening

We are delighted to be hosting our annual Open Morning and Open Evening on Thursday 8th October 2026 for families looking for a school place for the 2027–2028 academic year.

Open Morning: 9.30–10.30 a.m. Open Evening: 6.00–7.00 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit our school, meet our staff and pupils, and see what makes Church Lench First School such a special place to learn. To book your visit or find out more, please contact the school office on 01386 870297 or email office@churchlench.worcs.sch.uk.

Mrs Sam Price, Headteacher

— *Rous Lench*

PUB NIGHTS

The ever popular pub nights at Rous Lench village hall will start again in September. Why not pop in for a drink and chat with your friends and neighbours in a very informal and friendly setting. Pub nights usually start at 7.30pm. The next few dates for your diary are as follows:

September 18th – Family Night starts at 6.30pm

October 2nd, 16th and 30th for Family Halloween Night – details to be announced

Date are subject to volunteers offering to run the bar.

Please get in touch with Tracy Browne if you are able to run a pub night.

24TH OCTOBER – HARVEST SUPPER

Please join us for an evening of great food and some fun games to celebrate bringing the harvest in. A two course meal will be served (vegetarian option will be available on request) and the bar will be open. Tickets cost £15 each so why not get a group of friends together and come along to Rous Lench village hall at 7pm. Proceeds in aid of St Peter's church. Please contact Fran on 01386 xxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com.

QUIZ NIGHT

We are delighted to announce that Liz Knight is hosting another of her challenging quizzes at Rous Lench village hall on Friday 13th November so why not get a team together and come along. Tickets are £5 each. Bring your own nibbles. The bar will be open from 7.30pm. Please contact Fran for tickets (see details above).

— *Norton and Lenchwick*

FROM THE LYCHGATE

August saw the funeral of Miriam Stephens a much loved member of our community. Miriam was 96 and had been churchwarden and associated with the church for many years. Her advice and her amazing knowledge of the village were often sought by us all. She will be sadly missed.

I also baptised 2 little girls from Twyford Bank. Sisters Elizabeth and Eden had a joyous ceremony and we welcome them into our church here and the wider family of Christ.

Unfortunately our organ decided to play its own tunes this month and despite Diana's best efforts we had to resort to an electric organ. I am glad to report that hopefully it will be fixed before our last evensong.

On another 'note' blue tooth can now be played through our music centre for those occasions when cds cannot be supplied.

Third Saturday Coffee morning falls on 19th September at the church and all are welcome. However, as yet the village hall ones run by the village every other Wednesday have not resumed.

If it is not too late for this publication; we will be having a gathering at Church on 29th August for sustenance of some kind. This was planned to be a BBQ but if we have had no significant rain by then another feast will be supplied have no fear! This will start at 12 noon.

Caroline Green

The real mark of a saint is that he or she makes it easier for others to believe in God.

— Anon

— *Abbots Morton Village Hall*

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Supper Friday 16th October

Our annual Pork Roast Dinner with Apple Pie/Crumble, (BYOB) will take place in the Village Hall, 6.30pm to 7pm. If anyone would like to help, please contact Pippa on xxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxx@plg.co.uk or Tina Hill.

Halloween October 23rd. Our next themed Quiz Night will be held on October 23rd and fancy dress will of course be encouraged! It will follow a Halloween themed children's event held in the afternoon... more details to follow nearer the time but it will involve pumpkins and sweets!!

Christmas Extravaganza. December 12th. we are planning an evening of traditional seasonal entertainment, featuring local musicians and artistes. And we may be expecting an early visit from Santa. Please get in touch if you would like to perform.

EASYFUNDRAISING

We have 28 supporters raising almost £1,400 through the scheme. By joining you can help to raise funds for your Hall every time you shop online at NO cost to yourself. Sign up, to help the village hall every time you shop: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall

RECENT EVENTS – Bimble 2026, August 8th.

Our second Annual Bimble took place on August the 8th and was very well attended, with around 30 cars taking part. Some vintage and some more recent, with the oldest car taking part dating back almost 100 years! A convoy of these special vehicles drove off from The Old Bull pub in Inkberrow and followed a carefully planned route around the beautiful Worcestershire countryside. The drivers took a tea break at Chadbury farm shop before returning to Abbots Morton for more tea, supper, and a very interesting talk from Di Spears; a woman with a remarkable career as a caterer to Formula 1. She shared both amusing and poignant stories about the drivers and life behind the scenes in the paddock at some of the sport's most infamous moments. We finished the evening with a delicious meal before waving off the amazing selection of cars.

St Peter's, Abbots Morton

When we went to print last time the flower festival hadn't actually happened so here is a proper and HUGE thank to all those who helped over an amazing weekend. We made over £500 profit and more importantly had great community feel. Especial thanks go to Tina, Jenny, Sue and Martyn... but as ever it was only made possible by all the other very special volunteers behind the scenes, as well as all those who opened their gardens to the public. Beer with a bouncy castle on the village green was a great way to round off the day. The festival lunch was a great success with lovely plates of food as ever. The church both looked and smelled amazing, a real feast for all the senses.

As we look forward to the Autumn we are grateful that the harvest is safely gathered in. We are hoping that the church roof will be repaired before the winter rains return. Work is still ongoing to secure permission to remove the tall conifer trees that border the church yard to the East... watch this space.

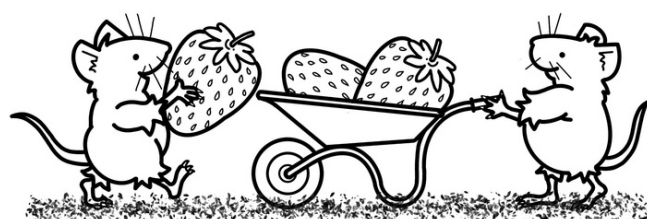
HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Supper will be at the village hall on Friday the 16th of October, (see above in the Village Hall section for details)

There will be a Harvest Service of Thanksgiving at Abbots Morton Church on the 18th of October, we look forward to as many people joining us as possible.

GARDENING NEWS

We have not received planning permission from the council to remove the conifer trees on the boundary of the churchyard facing the village. The trees are old and becoming dangerous. Martyn Walton will be putting together a group of volunteers in the autumn to help complete the project so if you are keen and willing to help please contact Martyn.



— *Harvington*

CAMEO TEAS 9th September at 3.00pm at St. James's Church

Welcome to our Afternoon Tea and Cakes and a friendly chat in our lovely St. James's Church. We hope that despite the unpleasant heat wave you will be able to join us in our relatively cool church. Looking forward to see you next Wednesday.

For information please get in touch with Sophie xxxxxxxxxxxx

PHOENIX LADIES GROUP

We had an open meeting last month with a visit from SARA – Severn Area Rescue Association. Two of their crew members gave a fascinating talk about the work that they do, and the training they need to undertake. A very worthwhile charity. We were fortunate that they were able to visit with their rescue boat which was parked outside the Village Hall for all to see.

Our next meeting on **2nd September** is a talk by Helen Plumb who will be talking about Glorious Coloured Gemstones which will be interesting. Anyone keen on finding out more about our speakers or Phoenix Ladies group please call Lesley on xxxxxxxxxxxx. We are always happy to have new members.

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Hello everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. This is just a reminder that our team of volunteers are always around to lend a helping hand to Harvington villagers. So if you are stuck for transport to an appointment, need help with admin or occasional shopping, have minor DIY tasks etc, do feel free to give us a ring. We can be contacted on xxxxxxxxxxxx and if you don't get an answer do please leave a message – we check the phone regularly and will get back to you.

Best wishes Wendy and Konrad Monks, (co-ordinators)

FAITH TODAY

Friday 18th September 10.00am Breslau

The theme for September is "Jesus and Satan meeting in a Bar." This is quite a controversial subject which will be led by Sophie, who will be focusing on the good and the bad because mankind has been fighting about the subject matter since the beginning of time and is still struggling now.

We are a friendly group who enjoy discussing genuine subjects and always welcome newcomers.

Refreshments are served.

For information please contact Sophie xxxxxxxxxxxx



HARVINGTON FESTIVAL 2026

The organisers of the Festival would like to thank everyone who attended this year's events to make 2026 another fantastic year. We had a variety of events across the week for people of all ages, and were blessed by the exceptional weather. Our Festival Dinner at Salford Hall was well attended to hear from the exceptional speaker Mark Wood on his polar expeditions. We had fantastic music and art from our local children and talented musicians, speakers, antiques expert, and for the first time a fun run, and the new History Trail to both inform and entertain us.

Thank you to all our volunteers who made the events happen, and to our Friends whose generosity ensures that as many events as possible are free to attend.

The Festival is a community not-for-profit organisation, and as such, its **Annual General Meeting will take place at the Coach and Horses on the 14th September at 7pm.** All are welcome to attend. We are looking for new volunteers to lead in some of the committee positions for the 2027 Festival. With particular thanks to Chris and Ali Rushworth who have decided to step down from their roles in the Festival; their hard work and dedication, alongside Mirren Brodie as Treasurer, have seen the Festival grow from an idea into an established annual event.

St James's Church Harvington

SAVE THE DATES



11th
OCT

11am - HARVEST SERVICE - followed by bring & share lunch
St James's Church, Harvington



31st
OCT

4pm - 6pm - LIGHT PARTY - fun activities and more
St James's Church, Harvington



5th
NOV

10.30am- 12.30pm - CRAFT WITH COMMUNITY -
craft, chat, coffee & cake
St James's Church, Harvington



14th
NOV

2-4 pm - CRAFT WITH COMMUNITY -
craft, chat, coffee & cake
St James's Church, Harvington



12th
DEC

11am-2pm - CHRISTMAS FAIR
Harvington Village Hall

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

TREE OF LIGHT

The Tree of Light Service will again be held at St James's Church in Harvington at 6.30pm on Monday 2nd November 2025, All Souls' Day, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. After the service, the tree lights will be turned on. We hope and pray that you will find comfort in this act of remembrance.

To have the name of your loved one(s) written on our Commemorative Scroll, which will be displayed in the Prayer Corner of the church, please contact Elliot Grainger, Langton House, 19 Village Street, Harvington, or email xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.com. Alternatively a form will be issued in next month's AM to drop-off by Friday 23rd October.

If you wish to make a donation to the work of the church in memory of your loved one, please make cheques payable to Harvington St James PCC, include cash with your form, or contact Elliot for BACS payments.

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Benefice September 2026 Service Times REVISED

6th September 14th Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Ezekiel 33. 7-11, Psalm 119. 33-40, Romans 13. 8-end, Matthew 18. 15-20

10.00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion	CG
10.00am	Harvington	Church @ 10	JL
11.00	Church Lench	Holy Communion	GR
11.00	Abbots Morton	Church @ 11	PH
6.30pm	Harvington	Holy Communion Trad Lang	GR

13th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Genesis 50. 15-21, Psalm 103. 1-13, Romans 14. 1-12, Matthew 18. 21-35

10.00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Church @ 10	AG
10.00am	Harvington	Holy Communion	GR
11.00am	Church Lench	Lay Led (Church @ 11)	La
10.00am	Rous Lench	Church @10	PH

20th September 16th Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Jonah 3.10-end of 4, Psalm 145. 1-8, Philippians 1. 21-end, Matthew 20. 1-16

10.00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion	GR
10.00am	Harvington	Church @ 10	PH
11.00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion BCP	PT
11.00am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion	GR

27th September 17th Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-end, Psalm 25. 1-8, Philippians 2. 1-13, Matthew 21. 23-32

10.00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Church @ 10	CS
10.00am	Harvington	Holy Communion	CG
11.00am	Church Lench	Church @ 11	JL
8.30am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion	GR
3.30pm	Harvington	Messy Church	MCT

Mid-week Eucharist: 11.00 am Wednesdays at St James The Great, Harvington

Key: CW: Common Worship Holy Communion Service, BCP: Book of Common Prayer Service

GT: Revd. Glenn Reading, Rector - **CS:** Rev. Chris Sheehan, Pioneer Deacon - **DF:** Revd. David Foster - **GF:** Revd. Gerry Foster

ST: Revd. Steve Tilley - **AG:** Revd. Andy Green - **CG:** Revd. Caroline Green - **PH:** Pippa Heenan LLM - **JL:** John Liggett ALM: Messy Church Team - **+R:** Bishop Robert

September Events Diary

Across the Lenches, Norton and Harvington

To add your events to the diary, please contact the Editor

- Tues. 1st Sept. Abbots Morton Coffee Morning, 10am **Abbots Morton** Village Hall
- Wed. 2nd Sept. **Norton and Lenchwick** Craft Group, 2pm, Norton Village Hall
Phoenix Ladies 7.45pm, **Harvington** Village Hall
- Tues. 8th Sept. **Lenches** Ladies, 7.15pm, venue TBC – see inside for contacts
- Wed. 9th Sept. CAMEO Teas, 3pm St James's Church, **Harvington**
- Fri. 18th Sept. Rous Lench Family Night starts at 6.30pm **Rous Lench** Village Hall
- Sat. 19th Sept. St Egwin's Coffee Morning, **Norton**, 10am – 12pm
- Sun. 27th Sept. Messy Church, 3.30pm **Harvington** Village Hall

Harvest Festival 2026

Dates for Harvest Festival in October

- Sun. 4th Oct. **Church Lench**, Service at 11am, Harvest Lunch 12.15pm
Norton and Lenchwick, Service at 10am, Harvest Lunch 12.30pm
- Sun. 11th Oct. **Harvington**, Service at 11am followed by Bring and Share Lunch
- Fri. 16th Oct. **Abbots Morton**, Harvest Supper at 6.30pm
- Sun. 18th Oct. **Abbots Morton**, Service at 11am
- Sat. 24th Oct. **Rous Lench**, Harvest Supper at 7pm
- Sun. 25th Oct. **Rous Lench**, Service at 10am



ARCH BENEFICE

Rev. Glenn Reading – Rector
glenn.reading@gmail.com

Rev. Chris Sheehan – Deacon
chris@archbenefice.org.uk