

St Mary Magdalene Church Quatford

worshipping God, growing in faith, serving the people of our parish and community, sharing Christ's love and truth through our living witness

About us...

The parish of Quatford is three miles from the centre of Bridgnorth on the Kidderminster road in the picturesque village of Quatford. The Church stands on a sandstone outcrop overlooking the River Severn.

Consecrated in 1086, the church is constructed of tufa and sandstone. It was the original Church of the community of Bridgnorth. It has recently been well and carefully restored. The Church and churchyard are on a steep hill. Sheep are regularly brought in from a local farm to keep the grass under control. We have car parking and an outdoor lift for those who find the steps difficult. Population approx 250.

Our priorities...

We are thankful to God for all that has gone before and for all he is doing now as we seek to join him in the building of his kingdom locally. We pray that this building will continue to be a place of hospitality and meeting - with each other and with God.

Our story...

One of the oldest settlements in the area. Listed in the Domesday Book. Quatford was settled because of the ease of fording the River Severn. Its name is most likely derived from a person's name or nickname, Quat or Cwat hence Cwats Ford. As the River Severn became deeper a bridge was built at the site instead. In the 11th Century a small castle was built on high ground overlooking the river, but was demolished a few years later. Traces of the motte still remain. Quatford's importance as a crossing of the River Severn was diminished when another bridge was built two miles upstream. A settlement was formed at the "bridge north of Quatford", now known as Bridgnorth, which became the major town in the district.



Founded as a collegiate church in 1084-86 by Roger of Shrewsbury (on the promise of love), and consecrated in 1086, the church has a rich place in the history of Bridgnorth and Quatford village as a place of worship for over 900 years. The college moved to Bridgnorth in 1101, since when Quatford has been a parish church.

In the next year we will be exploring ways of improving our building's facilities for community events, including the possibility of opening up the front of the nave for events and a kitchenette and toilet. We hope to open the church during daylight hours for an experimental period in Spring 2015.

Our patron Saint...

St Mary Magdalene is often thought of as the second-most important woman in the New Testament after Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary Magdalene traveled with Jesus as one of his followers. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and was the first to realise that Jesus was alive on the first Easter morning. Within the four Gospels she is named at least 12 times, more than most of the apostles, describing her as courageous, brave enough to stand by Jesus in his hours of suffering, death and beyond.

We bring the community together...

We arrange regular social and fundraising events through the year including our Patronal Concert and Evensong in July; the Festival of Churches and Ride and Stride in September, an Open Air Community Songs of Praise at The Danery pub next door and a quiz or skittles night with fish and chips. In September 2014 we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the rebuilding of the nave and tower with an exhibition of historical documents, with around 80 people visiting the church over the two days. There was great interest in the displays, compiled by churchwarden Bob Curtis, of old documents relating to the rebuilding of the tower and nave, ancient maps and other documents and ledgers. Several visitors found references to their ancestors, which led to further details of family history. Also on display and provided by Greg Lewin were the personal stories of men from the village killed in WWI whose names appear on the war memorial in the Church.



A Celebration Service held on the Saturday evening conducted by The Rt Rev Michael Westall, Assistant Bishop of Hereford Diocese, was uplifting and appreciated by all those who attended. The celebrations ended with A Songs of Praise in the garden of The Danery pub on Sunday afternoon attended by the Town Mayor and his wife.

In 2015 we hope to build stronger links with the new mobile home developments in the village and with the Village Hall.

We care for those around us...

We strive to build strong and warm relationships through our social contacts and friendships and by being ready to be a good neighbour to anyone who would like a chat or a bit more company or help to see them through a difficult time. Members of our pastoral team visit people in their homes and offer home communion, including the residential and nursing home Danesford Grange. Our choir and members of the congregation visit neighbours there to share in celebrating some of our Christian festivals.

We support...

Many local charities including the Bridgnorth Food Bank, Bridgnorth Youth and Schools Project, Cameron's Fund - Asthma UK, all of which have benefited from donations to the Harvest Auction over recent years. We have also supported the diocesan appeal for Wateraid and have recently given a donation to the College of St Barnabas, a charitable clergy retirement home in Surrey.



We care for the natural world...

The Churchyard has many interesting monuments, including a cast iron table top tomb, obelisks, war graves and a number of military officers' graves. The oldest grave stones date from the early 1700's. In recent years sheep have been used to graze the churchyard, which has proven to be an environmentally and financially friendly form of maintenance. Early February sees the first signs of spring with the snowdrops appearing, covering much of the north side of the churchyard. These are soon followed by the daffodils. The wildlife takes many forms including large families of rooks, wild birds, rabbits, moles, toads and slow worms. Although not seen, the signs of badgers and foxes are also visible.

We work together...

To care for our beautiful building and churchyard so that all those who enter it may glimpse the glory of God and worship him and so that the local community might join us whenever possible. Everyone has their part to play in this and in arranging our social and fundraising events.

Quatford Church has had a choir for many years. Since the development of the Bridgnorth team of churches the choir has included members of Oldbury parish, and serves both parishes at Festival times. We also enjoy leading services in surrounding country churches, and often sing at weddings and funerals, giving secular concerts, covering a wide range of light music, fundraising for our own churches as well as contributing to local and worldwide good causes. We entertain at varied venues, especially at local care homes. The choir does not officiate weekly at our churches - churchgoing members lead from within the congregation - but we keep busy and rehearse throughout the year on Friday evenings.



We meet socially...

We have a varied programme of social activities over the year which are open to everyone.

We worship together...

..... every Sunday at 9.00am for Holy Communion.
On the fifth Sunday of the month we sometimes have Morning Prayer or Evensong or join with the other churches in the Bridgnorth Team. After our services we enjoy sharing and chatting over a cup of coffee. During the year special services are attended by many who are not regular churchgoers including all the Christian festivals of Easter, Harvest Evensong and Christmas including the traditional Carol Service.

We invite you...

What would you like to see happening in the community? Do you have ideas about how we can all work together to build a good future – for ourselves? our children? our world? How can we help and support you? Tell us.....

Key contacts...

Vicar: Rev Liz Angell 01746 767187 Email angell304@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Rachel Edwards 766146; Bob Curtis 766126

Parish Office for baptism and wedding enquiries:

Avril Bridges 01746 767174 bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk

Address of the Church: (Kidderminster road A442)

Quatford, Bridgnorth, WV15 6QJ (next to The Danery pub)

Website: www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk