

Linking Parish Churches
around Bridgnorth

CROSS+LINK



St Mary Magdalene
Bridgnorth



SS Peter + Paul
Tasley



St Calixtus
Astley Abbots



St Nicholas
Oldbury



St Mary Magdalene
Quatford



St Leonards Hall
Bridgnorth



Bridgnorth
St James' Hall

Acton Round
St Mary the Virgin

Aston Eyre
Aston Eyre

Monkhopton
St Peter's

Morville
St Gregory the Great

Upton Cressett
St Michael's



Priestly Ponderings

As I am writing this my first edition of my Priestly ponderings, I find myself perched on our remaining two seater sofa, in a partly packed house as we prepare to make the move to Bridgnorth. I thought it would be good to introduce myself and tell you a bit about me and my husband Darren.

So in the words of Julie Andrews in one of my favourite musicals '*Lets start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.*' Darren and I met in my mid teens and married in South East London in August Of 1991. We have four children, a son and three daughters and six grandsons. So life is far from boring or quiet a lot of the time.

We moved to Highley, in Shropshire in the autumn of 2003 and at that point I was studying with Open University to be a science teacher. And it was during 2008 following a recommendation to train to be an Ordained Priest in The Church of England. If you want to know more about the shift from one to the other you might have to ask me over a G&T at some point in the coming months. I was Ordained deacon in the July of 2011 and we moved as a family to Church Stretton for me to serve my Curacy which I have to say was absolutely amazing! And the time flew. Before I knew it I was having to apply for posts for the stage in ministry and since then we've spent eight happy year over the border in Lichfield diocese, initially in what is now the Haughmond and Wrekin deanery and latterly in three rural parishes up the A5 in Whittington and West Felton with Haughton. Again I have loved my time in each role meeting the most amazing people and having the privilege of journeying with them through all the seasons that life inevitably brings our way.

I am so looking forward to ministering among you and coming back to Bridgnorth, feels like coming home if I'm honest as our youngest daughter Hollie was just 3 years old when we moved and is now 24! The years certainly fly by.

Please pop in to an open house that we are having at 19 Ludlow Road on Saturday the 14th of December between 10-2pm we'd love to see you!

Every Blessing, Suzan

Suzan

Rev. Suzan Williams

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Suzan Williams' installation service will be held on 9th December at St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth at 7.00pm when Suzan will become Priest in Charge of Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry

Winning tickets for

ST MARY'S 200 CLUB

NOVEMBER DRAW

£20 John James 118

£10 Mavis Cartwright 86

£10 Anwen Arthur 105

£10 Christopher Speke 75

£10 Martin Blackburn 20

£10 Miles Layland 78

£10 Carolyn Cundy 125

ST MARY'S CONNECT

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 17th December 2024** in The function room at **The Shakespeare Pub at 12.30**

If you would like to join us please contact Catherine Wilson 01746 761786 to book your place, these are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **January date will be—Tuesday 21st January 2025**

ST MARY MAGDALENE BRIDGNORTH COFFEE SHOP

St Mary's Coffee Shop Every Saturday—10.00am—12.30pm

News from St. Marys

This month has been a month of Remembrance with our cascade of poppies on display throughout as a focal point for those coming into the church at this time.

We also hosted the Remembrance service. It is always a privilege to be the focus of the town's remembrance.

This month also saw the return of our service for the Commemoration of the Departed where families are invited to come and remember their loved ones. As always it was a very moving service.

At the time of writing this all our thoughts are now turning to the preparations of the Licensing Service for Suzan Williams which we at St. Mary's are excited to be hosting on behalf of the Benefice. The service will give us the chance to share this new beginning with friends from the Benefice, town, Deanery and beyond.

Excited as we are about the service we are even more excited about sharing in this new period of Ministry. We have waited a long time for our new priest in charge and we wish Suzan well and send her our love and prayers as she begins her ministry amongst us.

Talking of looking forward we are also looking forward to all our many Christmas festivities and services during this month of December. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the Christmas Period.

Just a point to mention the next St. Mary's connect lunch is on the 17th December. If you are planning to join us can you let either me or Jane Peeler know as being party season we need to give the Shakespeare an idea of numbers.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Catherine Wilson



St Mary's Chamber Choir

Presents

Music for Advent & Christmas

Saturday 7th December 2024

At

*St Mary Magdalene Church,
Bridgnorth.*

7pm

Tickets £10 on the door

Includes programme, mincepies and drinks

Directed by Steve Cooper

Accompanist : Oliver Clarke

Bridgnorth Calendar

A big thank you to Liz Reid for her initiative in organising the new Bridgnorth Calendar which contains stunning images of Bridgnorth sent in from local people and each month is sponsored by a local business.

The calendars are on sale at St Mary's and in the office £10 each with all proceeds to St Mary's Church.

From Dean Sarah

I'm not going to wish you a merry Christmas yet even though this is probably my best opportunity to infest the whole diocese with my festive cheer. As I write, the thoughtful season of advent has not even begun so I don't want to sing gloria at you, or bellow ho-ho-ho. Expressions of seasonal enthusiasm have changed, and I wonder how many people today really understand the original language of Christmas anymore. "To us is born a saviour" What does that mean and why should it matter?

Advent is about looking at ourselves and at the world and realising just how much we need that saviour. Christians understand that Christmas would be pointless if we didn't - just a marketing ploy cooked up by sellers of toys and frozen party nibbles to get us all to spend as much money as possible. But what if you have never been told? If a fire engine screeched to a halt outside your house with sirens blaring and blue lights flashing, you might wonder what it was doing there if your house was not on fire. You might be mildly interested but you would hardly celebrate your salvation! In the same way this baby whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day and who we hail as Saviour is presumably similarly underwhelming if you cannot see anything that we need saving from!

Sometimes it feels easier to believe in evil than in God. But if you do believe that evil exists- if you see it in all its brutality in our daily news, if it touches you in grief, loneliness, hatred, jealousy- then you perhaps may dimly begin to understand why we need our Saviour. If you look at the impact of individual and corporate greed or the priorities and conduct of those who run our society you may begin to understand why we need our Saviour. If you look at crime, war, corruption and oppression, then you may perceive our deep need of salvation

Perhaps we all vaguely sense the need for a Saviour because we can all see some of what is wrong. It is only a step from that yearning for things to be better to realising that science and virtue-signalling won't deliver and that our only hope of real and change is in God. Whether we recognize Him in the Christmas story repeated every year by those persistent folk in the churches and our tiny children with their tea towels on their heads is another question altogether.

Perhaps this year it might be time to look a bit deeper and see what all the fuss is about. Coming soon to a church near you.

Dean Sarah

Quatford News

November has been a quiet time for us, but things are gearing up towards Christmas. The "HolyDusters" have gathered for a cleaning session in preparation for the Carol service which falls a little earlier this year than usual. We intend to meet in church on Thursday 12th December to decorate the church and dress the tree.

Please note:

Carol Service - 15th December at 3.00pm

Christmas Eve - 24th December- Christmas Eve Communion.
3.00pm

We look forward to our autumn 'tidying up' with Gods Acre volunteers on 5th of December, always pleased to see them and always a great help.

We recently had a visit from a small team of bell ringers . There are only 3 bells at Quatford, but it was a welcome sound to hear the bells being rung. They had great fun and made an offer to come to ring the bells anytime they are required. Always an advantage to have a back up squad. Ian Rowe from Morville has kindly brought a team to ring for weddings in the past.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our annual quiz at the last minute but hope to re arrange at a later date in the spring.

Finally, like every one we look forward to welcoming our long awaited

Priest in Charge, Suzan Williams to our Benefice and hope that Suzan and her family will be happy in Bridgnorth.

We at Quatford send our very best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rachel Edwards and all from Quatford



Tune into Christmas with...

Bridgnorth Sinfonia

Conductor - James Ross Leader - Margaret Wright

Fairy Tales

A Family Concert

- Anderson-Lopez,**
Music from Frozen
- Liadov,**
The Enchanted Lake
- Nielsen,**
Aladdin Suite
- Tchâikovsky,**
Sleeping Beauty Suite
- Weber,**
Invitation to the Dance
- Enesco,**
Romanian Rhapsody No.1

3.30pm Saturday December 21st 2024
St Mary's Church, Bridgnorth
Tickets £12 (under 16s no charge)
Available online at bridgnorthsinfonia.com
or on the door



Tasley News

Welcome to the December 24/January 25 edition of Tasley News.
Where have the last 12 months gone?

At our Remembrance Day Service we were joined by the Congregation of St Calixtus for our joint Service of Remembrance. Our thanks to Clive as always for leading our Worship and also to Stephen and the Choir who sang two Anthems, In Flanders Fields and Crossing the Bar. Both very moving and appropriate pieces of music.

In December we will be welcoming Revd Suzan Williams as our new Priest in Charge of The Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes and look forward to meeting her at her installation on Monday 9th December.

On Sunday 1st December (the 1st Sunday of Advent) we will be joined by Archdeacon Fiona for our Service of Holy Communion.

Looking ahead to Christmas.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 22nd December at 4pm at which we will be joined by The Astley and Tasley Choir
Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 9pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next coffee morning on 2nd December.

100 Club Winners

November

2 Jenifer Caine

133 Ben Harris

79 Gareth Hollands

December

Christmas Bonus – 72 Ann Davies

134 Edward Andrews

76 Jenny Rogers

46 Patrica Millman

Events

Fri 3rd Jan – Christmas Party in the village hall at 7pm- £15

Sat 18th Jan – Flicks in the Sticks with Fish & Chips in the village hall at 7pm- £12. The film will be “Thelma”

Margaret

Astley Abbots News

Our morning Harvest Service was celebrated at St Calixtus with generous, colourful displays around the church followed by a Harvest lunch. The congregation enjoyed the and we saw a video communication from Revs Simon and Sarah Cawdell in Gulu, where they described their Diocesan Farming project and the development of the Bible College. Meanwhile the children identified things they wanted to thank God for, and they wrote them on paper shapes to hang on the prayer tree. (see photo). Please continue to pray for Simon and Sarah.



The Harvest lunch was well attended. Our thanks go to Charlie from Aldersons for delicious pies and the 'team' for the lovely food. Thank you to everyone for your gifts for the work in Gulu and the donations for the Food bank.

On Remembrance Sunday, we at St Calixtus joined with our friends at St Peter and St Paul, Tasley, to remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women who helped defend our freedoms and protected us and our way of life. The service was led by Rev Clive Parr, with contributions from the Two Churches Choir.

We have enjoyed delving into Acts and learning more about the life and ministry of Paul. Our last bible study on Tuesday 19th November followed Paul's final journey from Jerusalem to Rome. Thank you to everyone who has taken participated, discussed and prepared. Our group bible study will restart in February.

We are looking forward to December when we have the chance to share the good news about Jesus at several of our activities and services.

Café Church, 'Take a fresh look at...Christmas' will take place at Astley Abbots village hall on Sunday 8th December at 10.00am. Come along for a bacon buttie and pastries, meet your friends and hear a talk and chat about, 'What Christmas means to you!'

Carols by Candlelight will take place on Sunday 15th December at 6.00pm, followed by refreshments. This will be followed on Monday 16th December by our Prayer meeting at 9.00am.

The outdoor Crib service will take place on Christmas Eve, 24th December at 4.00pm. Do come along with friends and family and dress up warm. Come along as a shepherd, an angel, Joseph or Mary.

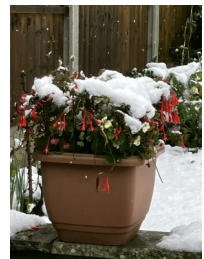
Celebrate with us on Christmas day when we join together for Morning Prayer at 9.30am.

We pray that along with us will know a sense of God's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in this Season of Advent.

Rosemary Patey

St. Nicholas, Oldbury & Eardington – News

Writing this while watching the earliest snow I ever remember makes me think how very much our lives have changed over the years. I have few memories of an Autumn as brilliantly coloured and lasting as the one now ending – most seem to have come in and gone with a few cold blasts, leaving heaps of dry brown leaves to kick through along the pavements. This Autumn seems to have gone on for months with glorious reds and golds in the trees around – but now it'll end quickly with the sudden cold snap, Climate change, or just climate??



December will as always be busy, at St. Nicholas as everywhere else. On 1st, we shall be celebrating three things – the first Sunday of Advent, our own St. Nicholas Patronal – a little early, but there won't be a service

on the Sunday nearest the actual date – and finally a double Baptism. We will be welcoming Darcy Godson and his little brother Bleu along with all their family and friends into our church – the Church, I should say! Let's hope it's not as cold as it is now.

Then on 9th December, our new Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Suzan Williams, is to be installed by Bishop Richard at St. Mary's at 7p.m., and we hope we will be well represented there, if nothing else but to share this celebration with all the other churches in the Benefice and those of her present churches who accompany her to say their goodbyes. After so long a vacancy, it will be a great joy to have her guiding us.

Following that, we will have our normal 3rd Sunday of Advent service on 15th December, followed on 16th by our Carol Service. We will follow the pattern of recent years of opening at 5:30 to welcome people with mulled wine and mince pies, aiming to start the service itself at 6. As well as the wonderful traditions of readings and carols, Carol, our Choir mistress, has promised something new, especially for children, with instruments. . . so encourage your families to bring their children & friends along!

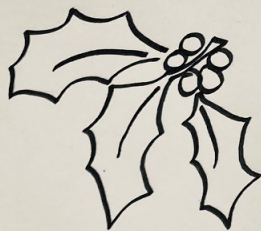
And then it'll be Christmas Day for Oldbury's next service – Holy Communion of Christmas at 10:00 a.m., to which everyone is welcome. After that, there will be no services except at St. Mary's until 2025 – A very happy Christmas to everyone!

Allowing Rev. Suzan a little time to catch her breath and adjust to Bridgnorth, we are still planning on continuing our fortnightly services, alternating with Quatford, so in January we expect to have our services on 5th & 19th, Holy Communion unless something changes this. Everyone is always welcome to join us, especially if their own church cannot offer a service.

And finally, a few notes about future plans & events here. At our Coffee, Cake & Chat session last Sunday, we had a very wide-ranging discussion around topics like ways to use some of the bequest we were left by our late member, Jean Driver, how we can try to maintain good Safeguarding practices with no appointed Safeguarding officer, how the Bridgnorth Deanery is merging with the Severn Gorge Deanery to form the new Severn Borders Deanery, (which should offer wider support resources to our clergy), and how we'd like to bring in some more social events – another visit from the John Moore Quire is planned for March – details later. It felt very good to be able to talk things over with so many supportive people – thank you all!

And to finish, may I wish everyone a happy, and inspired New Year.

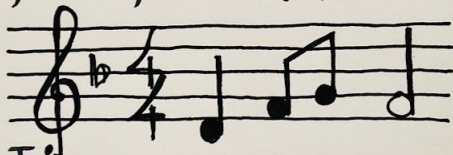
Liz Fisher



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CHRISTMAS AROUND THE BRIDGNORTH AND MORVILLE TEAM MINISTRY

7th Dec 7.00pm St Mary's Chamber Choir Christmas Concert (incl. excerpts from The Messiah) St Mary Magdalene

8th Dec 10.00am Christingle Astley Abbots Village Hall
4.00pm Carol Service Morville

15th Dec 3.00pm Carol Service Quatford
6.00pm Carol Service Astley Abbots

16th Dec 6.00pm Carol Service Oldbury

17th Dec 6.00pm Carol Service Monkthopton

21st Dec 3.30pm Sinfonia Concert St Mary Magdalene

22nd Dec 4.00pm Carol Service Tasley
6.00pm Nine lessons and Carols Service St Mary Magdalene
6.30pm Carol Service Aston Eyre

24th Dec 4.00pm Crib Service Astley Abbots
4.00pm Crib Service St Mary Magdalene
4.00pm Christmas Communion Quatford
9.00pm Christmas Communion Tasley
11.30pm Midnight Service St Mary Magdalene

25th Dec 9.30am Morning prayer Astley Abbots
10.00am Christmas Communion Oldbury
10.30am Christmas Communion St Mary's
11.15am Christmas Communion Morville





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Contact our area coordinator Kate: 07582 243634

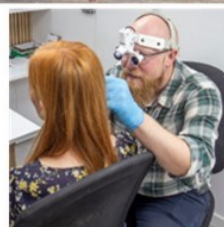
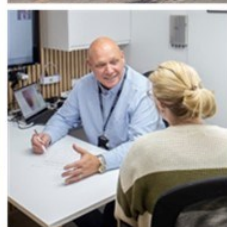
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Dave, Becky and Anthony Jennings



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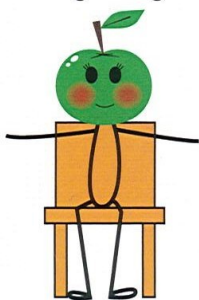


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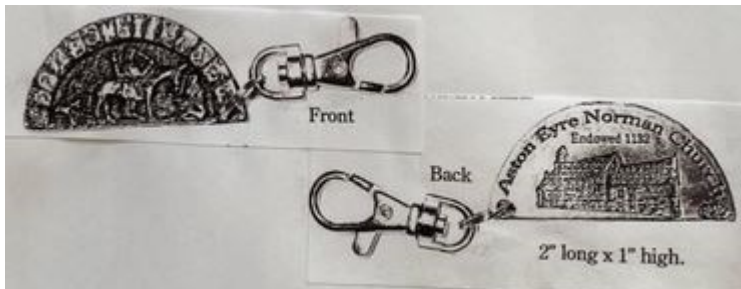
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Oldbury Wells School 765454
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St Mary’s Primary School 763455
Castlefields Primary School 764072

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
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01743 260260

<div><div>Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry</div><div>Team Office: St Leonard’s Hall Church, Racecourse Drive, Tasley, Bridgnorth WV16 4NR Tel: 01746 767174 Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges</div></div>	
<div><div>Open to personal callers: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am</div><div>Email : bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk Website : www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk</div></div>	
<div><div>Anna Chaplain/Reader Mrs Jane Peeler 767043</div><div>Honorary Assistant Ministers Revd. Marjorie Brooks 01746 761942 marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876 boxbruk@hotmail.com</div><div>Local Ministry Development Group Mrs Sandie Phillips 769271 Mrs Kay Prior 768259</div></div>	

**St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth
Churchwardens**

Mr David Oxtoby...766053

Mrs Jane Parr...07814908917

Secretary Miss Catherine Wilson...761786

Treasurer Mrs Nicky Cooper762487

Vergers Mr Roger Taylor...767345

Deputy Organist

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

**St Nicholas, Oldbury
Churchwardens**

Mrs Liz Fisher ... 764059

Treasurer Mr Quentin Leiper...764559

Organist Mrs Carol Wall...764365

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Mrs Helen Holding....07813 584469

Secretary Mrs Juanita Gennard...768674

Treasurer Mr Michael Payne....07790 610441

Organist Mr Stephen Lomas...768648

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Janet Brick....714344

Tim Morris....789271

Secretary Helen Smith01952 883599

Treasurer Mrs Kathy Renshaw...789271

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Mr Dafydd Jenkins....07703 457839

Treasurer Mrs Shelley Caine...714362

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Vacant

Vergers Mr Bob Curtis....766126

Secretary Miss Rachel Edwards...766146

Treasurer Mrs Marian Newell...765287

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Mr John Andrews 761708

Secretary Ms Lesley Edwards...761847

Treasurer Mrs Irene Rogers...765926

Organist Mr Stephen Lomas...768648

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Mr Ed Pugh....01746 789685

Treasurer Mrs Tamsin Preece..01746 765538

St James' Hall Church

Booking Secretary Mrs Liz Fisher...764059

elizabethfisher29@icloud.com

St Leonards Hall Church

Booking Secretary Rachel Connelly...767660

Tasley Village Hall

Booking Secretary Fiona Berriman... 765512

Astley Abbotts Village Hall

Booking Secretary Charles Morris.....762029

Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

December 24/January 25

Wednesday 22nd January

by 1.00pm

If you would like to contribute to the magazine,
please send to Avril at the Office on
bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk.
If you would like to advertise please also
contact Avril on the above details

DECEMBER '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	1st Dec Advent Sunday	8th Dec Advent 2	15th Dec Advent 3	22nd Dec Advent 4
See page 14 for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and mid week additional Carol Services etc throughout the Team				
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	18.00 Nine Lessons and Carols
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC	15.00 Carols	
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 MP	10.00 Christingle in Village Hall	18.00 Carols	9.00 HC
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 Family Service and Baptisms		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 Family Service	10.30 to join St L. Hall Church	16.00 Carols
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC together with Tasley	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	16.00 Carol Service	11.15 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		18.30 Carols
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP		18.00 Carols
Monkthopton	18.00 MP			

JANUARY '25

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	5th Jan 2nd Sun after Christmas	12th Jan 1st Sun after Epiphany	19th Jan 2nd Sun after Epiphany	26th Jan 3rd Sun after Epiphany
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ BAPTISM OR FC
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	9.00 MP	9.00 Life and Soul
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 HC	
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 HC	10.30 FS	10.30 HC	10.30 Life and Soul
St Leonard's Hall Church	10.30 FS		10.30 FC	
St Gregory the Gt. Morville	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP		18.30 Carols
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP		18.00 Carols
Monkhopton	18.00 MP			