

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
					

From Archdeacon Derek

Ash Wednesday this year will fall on the 14th February which of course is also St Valentine's day! Ash Wednesday is traditionally the beginning of Lent and this has been marked over the years as a period of self-discipline, fasting and spiritual journeying. It is a period of penitence and self-examination and seeing ourselves from God's perspective. Even if we don't have a strong faith we have learnt through the work of Educational Neuroscientists that intentional self-reflection helps us to learn and enhances how we apply, transfer, retain and recall new ideas and information.

The bible recognises that as we go through life we will be tempted and tested and that our response to those times will help to shape the depth of our spiritual lives. I am often astounded by the way many Christians have been shaped by sermons and theology that promise good things but never talk about the cost of following Jesus. The writer and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this a theology of cheap grace.

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Lent gives us an opportunity to realign our lives with God's values, it gives us a prolonged and focussed time to reflect and pray and to read the bible and deepen our faith. The 40-day period is time enough to build in new habits and actions into our lives, which will have a lasting effect.

With ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel & Hamas and so much uncertainty in our world I am finding that there is a great deal of anxiety in society about the future and a sense of aimlessness and general anger and tiredness. Lent gives us as Christians an opportunity to give these feelings back to God and to ask him to heal and restore us. It is also, as Paul reminds us, a time to recognise that our human experiences are common and that whilst heightened by the personal challenges or world events, are not unique to us but the difference is that our faith will endure.

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

As Christians, whilst we can use this time for reflection, we also know how the story ends and we have an enduring hope within us because Jesus has conquered death and brought forgiveness to us. We are forever Easter people who live in the light of the resurrection and we can mark Lent because of his sacrifice for us. The rhythm of the spiritual and liturgical year is a helpful tool to remind us that there is a cost and a purpose to our faith, which is not about self-benefit and self-fulfilment but about generosity, servant heartedness and a simple humbler faith. As Christians, we have a message of hope for a better future and Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to share the good news.

The Venerable Derek Chedzey

Archdeacon of Hereford



St Mary's Chamber Choir
SOS! Sing on Saturdays
(Choir founded in 2005)

Rehearsals resume on **Saturday 13th January 2024** in preparation for our Good Friday Concert on **Friday 29th March 2024 at 7pm.**

These rehearsals take place at 10.00am - 11.30am in church (St Mary's - East Castle St).

No voice test just come along and join 50 other singers both men, women and students as we begin to prepare music for Easter.

New members are always welcome.

For further details: contact John Turnock - email john.turnock48@gmail.com

More details about the choir can be found on our website: www.stmaryschamberchoir.co.uk



Music Director - John Turnock
Accompanist - Oliver Clarke

Winning tickets for the December and January ST MARY'S 200 club draws are as follows:

DECEMBER

£20 June Griffiths 97
£10 Lin Oxtoby 155
£10 Martin Blackburn 57
£10 Carolyn Cundy 176
£10 Alice Parr 182
£10 Kathy James 63

JANUARY

£20 Sherrie Ann Broadfield 104
£10 Helen Payne 107
£10 Sylvia palmer 47
£10 Ann Amor 167
£10 Sylvia Robbins 59
£10 John James 87
£10 John James 144

ST MARY'S CONNECT

Our next lunch and get together is on **Tuesday 20th February at The Shakespeare Pub at 12.30**

If you would like to join us please contact Helen Howell on 01746 763066 to book your place, these are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

ST MARY'S COFFEE SHOP

St Mary's Coffee Shop

Every Saturday—10.00am—12.30pm

At the back of church



Presents
'Music for
Good Friday'

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Ogden, Parry, Paulus, Smith, Stainer, Stopford,
Tallis, Todd, Weelkes & Whitbourn.

Admission Free

Followed by hot cross buns and coffee

St Mary Magdalene Church
East Castle Street, Bridgnorth
Good Friday 29th March 2024
7.00pm

Music Director : John Turnock
Accompanist : Oliver Clarke

The Toy Lion

And so we banish him to bed,
(Refusing our goodnight embrace)
Into the darkness, where instead
Of prayers, he goes (to our disgrace)
Clutching his rag-page story book
And toy lion with bland, vacant face.

With sounds of his subsiding grief
And mutterings behind his door,
He talks to things of child-belief,
Re-ordering his world once more.
And in the silence, I can sense,
He chides "Where were you padded puss
With teeth and claws in my defence –
Like when we dream, the two of us"?

Roger Taylor

Bedtime Gods

Do children need to be taught to say their prayers, let alone instructed to do so?

At the time of laying down to sleep, it is natural to somehow replay and review the events of the day, often confirming or revising within our consciences our decisions, words or actions so that we take some sense of reconciliation into our sleep.

For the Believer, certainly the adults among us, it is a small step away from prayer; but it starts much earlier in life than that.

Often for a child the bedtime toys become almost 'household gods', and by the time a doll or teddy bear is smooth with use by the child, it

will have shared more pre-sleep confidences than the parents ever will.

The experience recalled in the accompanying poem 'The Toy Lion' may resonate with many who have had the care of children.

Roger Taylor

Thank you

Nick, Joy & James would like to thank all those who sent cards & messages of condolences after our beloved Rachel passed away. Also thank you to everyone who attended the service of thanksgiving for her life at the end of November. The 230 plus congregation helped us in ensuring the service was truly uplifting, just as Rachel had wanted & indeed had planned it.

A heartfelt thank you to Jane Peeler for leading us in such a beautiful service & John Turnock for providing the musical accompaniment for the hymns, all of which Rachel had chosen. If anyone would like an order of service who wasn't able to get one we do have some spare copies so please feel free to get in touch.

To date £5250 has been donated to the A -T Society & Cancer Research UK but still awaiting final confirmation from the charities involved as some donations were sent directly to them. This is a marvellous testament to how highly thought of Rachel was within the Church & the wider community.

Thank you & may God bless us all!

Joy xx

Rev. Preb Andrew Alexander Roberts R.I.P.

It was with sadness that we heard the news that Rev. Preb Andy Roberts passed away peacefully on 31st December.

Andy was Rector for the Bridgnorth Team Ministry from 1994—2009. We send our love and prayers to Liz and the family at this sad time.

It is the family's wish that there will be a memorial service in Bridgnorth at a later date to be arranged.

St. Nicholas, Oldbury & Eardington

By the time you read this, 2024 will already be a month old, so it seems wrong to be wishing everyone a happy and peaceful New Year, but as this is the first Cross+Link of the new year, perhaps it can be allowed.

All the festivities of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, not to mention St. Nicholas' Patronal, all went well this year, and were well attended and enjoyed by everyone who came to join us. We said farewell to Ken Biggs, who, after so many years' being part of St. Nicholas, moved to Weston-super-Mare to be nearer to his family. If you have to leave Bridgnorth, Weston has to be a good substitute, and we send him all our good wishes for this new part of his life. After all that, however, everything can seem to go quiet again, before the next barrage of commemoration and celebration that leads us into Easter. Life at St. Nicholas, as in all our churches, resumes its ordinary routines for a breathing space.

Our services continue on the first and third Sundays at 10:30, and it delights us to see people from our other team churches joining us when there is perhaps no service temporarily at their own church, due to the interregnum. We at Oldbury & Quatford feel especially privileged to have the dedicated ministry of Rev. Marjorie Brooks throughout this time, and our doors are always open to everyone to share in this blessing.

We also continue to support life in the village, especially since the re-opening of the Village Hall, where we are always made welcome at the various social events held there. Our Coffee & Cake sessions on 5th Sundays have proved popular with many local people out for a

walk. (But please note this advance warning – the next 5th Sunday will in fact be Easter Day, so will be full Easter Communion service, with the Coffee & Cake session moved to the following Sunday – details in next month's issue!)

Apart from that, February will be mostly occupied with contributing to the next stages in the process of appointing a Priest-in-Charge for the Benefice. It can seem that things move at a glacial pace, but having reached the point where the sale of the Rectory has been accepted, and a property on Ludlow Road identified as more suitable accommodation, we can now see forward to the process of advertising the post, short-listing and even interviewing potential candidates. The first stage in this is the completion of the Benefice Profile; there will be a Joint Council meeting on 6th February to agree the final version, and then a further meeting on 20th to adopt it and to determine the next parts of the process – advertising, short-listing and interviewing etc. Elaine & I as your representatives on the Joint Council will keep everyone informed, and will take all views and comments forward to the Council on your behalf. Prayers for patience and understanding are always appreciated through this!

In the meantime, let's look forward to Spring again!

Liz Fisher

QUATFORD NEWS

I start by wishing you all a very happy new year. The news from the Diocese that a property has been purchased for a new rectory is a step forward, which means the next stage of the process can now begin with view to the Benefice Appointing a much needed Rector/ Priest in Charge. With much hard work from David and Graham the profile has reached the final stages and is all but ready to be approved by the PCC's, Our thanks must go to Graham and David for their unstinting work in leading us through the whole process, they both deserve medals!!

A very pleasing attendance for both our Christmas services was encouraging, with numbers up slightly. At our Carol service, we welcomed new chorister William who began our service by singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's city, then joined with a few other children sang away in a manger, he then did a repeat performance for the service at Oldbury, we hope this will be the first

of many visits from William, we look forward to the next occasion. Special thanks to Marjorie for leading us in two lovely services, to all who brought mince pies etc for the gathering after the Carol service.

As Easter Day falls on a 5th Sunday this year, Oldbury will be hosting the service, so we look forward to joining with Oldbury for this special service.

The provisional date of Sunday 14th April has been made for our APC meeting to be held in Church at 11.30.

Our first project in the new year is to create 2 small areas in the churchyard as memorial gardens for the burial of cremains. Both proposed areas are close to where we planted trees in 2022, so they will be the defining feature in each area. This will of course require a faculty! *Rachel Edwards*

ASTLEY ABBOTTS NEWS

A very happy New Year to everyone, it is getting lighter slowly and the bulbs are coming up, it will be Easter before we know it!

I would like to say a very big thankyou to all of you that have supported our church in 2023,ministers,organists, congregations,and people doing flowers, cleaning, churchyard tidiers,coffee makers, meeters and greeters! Without you all the church would be a sad and lonely place.

Our Christmas services were very successful, our thanks to Simon Boxall for engaging the children so beautifully during a rather damp crib service, to Judy and Rosemary for a lovely carol service and Stephen for taking Communion AND playing the organ on Christmas morning . We raised £80 for cancer research at my "Carols and mince pies"

Looking forward please join us for our first Cafe Church of 2024 on February 18th 10am in the village hall.

Rosemary and Graham Patey are hosting a lent group at their house Oakland, Cross Lane Head starting on Tuesday 20th February, just let them know if you would like attend 01746 769125
Hope to see everyone soon *Idonea*

Tasley News

Welcome to our 1st edition of the 2024 Cross+Link.

We hope you all had a good Christmas as we now look forward to a Happy and Peaceful New Year..

In December we again enjoyed our Annual Christmas Lunch at The Bulls Head Chelmarsh. Our thanks to Norma, John and all the team for providing us with another brilliant Christmas meal.



Barry's Quiz was another great success in December and we look forward to more of the same this year.

Thank you Barry for making it a very enjoyable evening.

Our Carol Service was as always most enjoyable and well attended.

Thank you to Clive for leading our worship and to Stephen and the Astley and Tasley Choir.

The Tasley Social Committees annual Christmas party was again held in the Village Hall on 5th January. We were joined by the A B Ukulele band who made the evening most enjoyable with their playing and singing with audience participation. The proceeds from the evening £450 were donated to the Church.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 1st Coffee Morning of the Year on

Monday 5th February 10.30 -12MD.

As I end my new letter can I ask you to remember all those who have been and still are affected by Coughs, colds and Covid related illness. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and Prayers.

The 100 club fees for 2024 are now due, please contact Bob if you would like to join.

December 100 Club Winners.

Christmas Bonus 40- Ann Turner

1– 46 Patricia Millman

2- 82 Matthew McParlane

3- 9 David Winwood

Future Events

Sat 10th Feb – “Flicks in the Sticks” with Fish & Chips in the village hall at 7pm.

Margaret

“WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

‘I beg you, bear with one another in love’ - Prepared by the women of Palestine

Everyone invited, everyone welcome

Bible Reflection - Preparation ahead of service

2:30pm Monday 19 February @ No.7 / Baptist Church, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

2:30pm Friday 1 March @ Baptist Church, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth

Refreshments provided



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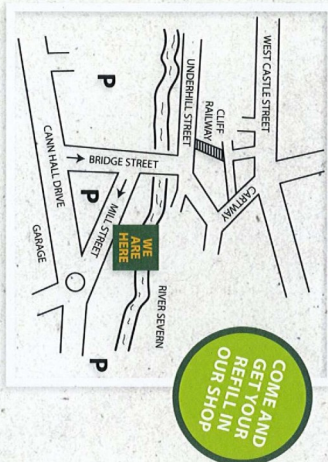
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Friday	9:00am - 5:00pm
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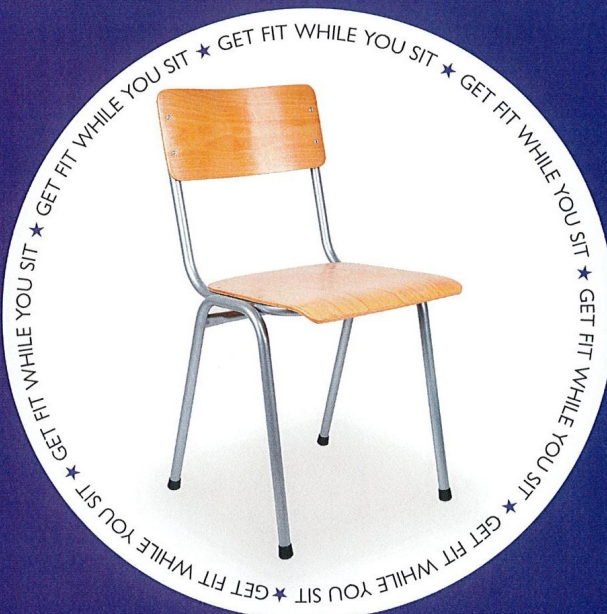
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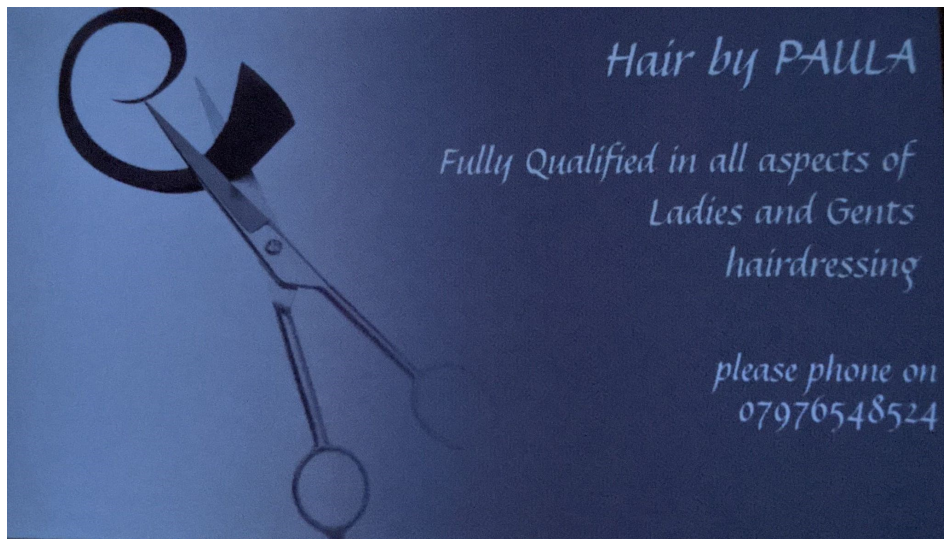


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<div><div>Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry</div><div>Team Office: St Leonard’s Hall Church, Racecourse Drive, Tasley, Bridgnorth WV16 4NR Tel: 01746 767174 Team Administrator: Mrs Avril Bridges</div></div>	
<div><div>Open to personal callers: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am</div><div>Email : bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk Website : www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk</div></div>	
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Organists Dr John Turnock...716282

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Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

March '24

Wednesday 21st February 2024

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

FEBRUARY '24

<i>HC = Holy Communion</i> <i>MP = Morning Prayer</i>	2 Before Lent 4th Feb	Sunday next before Lent	Lent 1 18th Feb	Lent 2 25th Feb
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/FC/ Baptism
St Mary Magdalene Quatford		10.30 HC		10.30 HC
St Calixtus Astley Abbotts	9.00 HC	9.30 FS	10.00 Café church—in AA Village Hall	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		
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP		
Monkhoppton	10.00 HC			