# Linking Parish Churches CROSS+LINK around Bridgnorth



St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth

SS Peter + Paul Tasley

St Calixtus
Astley Abbotts

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 The Rt. Reverend Richard Jackson

By the time you read this the Conclave is likely to have concluded. There will be a new Pope. The selection process for the Archbishop of Canterbury will take significantly longer! Both processes seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit, its just one seems to be more efficient, although less consultative. The work of seeking the Spirit's guidance is not straightforward. I'm fascinated by oblique references in the Bible to this apostle or that going on a mission with the confident assertion they were, 'led by the Holy Spirit'. The Old Testament prophets seem even more confident, their words often appended by, "thus saith the Lord", or equivalent. I wonder what form that leading took? Was it a strong inward impression; an audible voice, or a response to what they had read in scripture? I remember someone coming to me for counsel many years ago who said he felt the Lord was leading him to leave his wife because he had gone off her and had fallen for a work colleague. I suggested obeying the command not to commit adultery probably applied in this case. It didn't need a strong sense of the presence of God. Those commands are there for a reason, especially when unruly human passions get the better of us.

How are we to distinguish the actual leading of the Holy Spirit from too much cheese before bedtime, or vain attempts to sanctify retrospectively what we would have done anyway? In the Bible discernment in big areas of life is almost invariably corporate. Multiple voices and perspectives come together, each with a piece of a puzzle, each reflecting something of the work of the Spirit within them. Individuals need an objective view. Our capacity for self-deception about our gifts is almost boundless. It is more likely that God will lead us in directions that cohere with the way he made us rather than contradicting them.

But sometimes corporate discernment in the Bible leads people in directions that are risky and don't make much sense. Paul is led by the Spirit to Rome to arrest and execution. The Holy Spirit might nudge us into a spiritual conversation that we would otherwise avoid out of English politeness. Ultimately, there is no fail-safe guide to getting it right. Desiring to follow the Lord's guidance is a necessary first step. Regular worship and Bible reading, forming our minds in Christian ways will certainly help also. Being part of a community where we can be open to the wisdom of others is also vital. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead his followers into all truth after Pentecost. Through mistakes and humility I believe he leads us in his way in the end.

The Rt. Reverend Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford

### Fire from Heaven: Rediscovering the Power of Pentecost Today

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place..." — Acts 2:1

Every spring, fifty days after Easter, churches around the world celebrate Pentecost—a feast often described as the "birthday of the Church." But Pentecost is more than a page in Christian history. It is a powerful reminder that the Spirit of God still moves, still speaks, and still ignites hearts with divine fire.

Pentecost originally marked the Jewish festival of Shavuot, a time of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the harvest. Yet, in the upper room in Jerusalem, it became something far greater. Acts 2 tells the story: the apostles, fearful and unsure, were gathered together when "a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house." Then came fire—tongues of flame resting on each one of them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in languages they had never learned, proclaiming the wonders of God.

It was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). The frightened disciples were transformed into bold preachers of the gospel. The Church was born not through strategy or structure, but through Spirit-empowered witness.

#### **Pentecost for Today**

In a world saturated with noise, opinion, and division, Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not just an institution—it is a movement of the Spirit. The same Holy Spirit that descended on the apostles is still with us today, equipping believers to speak life, cross barriers, and live out the gospel with courage.

Too often, we reduce Pentecost to a historical footnote or a once-ayear liturgical event. But its message is urgent: the Spirit is still being poured out. The fire of Pentecost was never meant to be contained within the first century—it was meant to spread.

Are we ready to receive that fire?

What does it look like to live a Pentecost-shaped life today?

Boldness in Faith: Pentecost people are not silent spectators. The Spirit gives us the boldness to speak truth in love, to stand up for justice, and to proclaim Christ without shame.

Unity in Diversity: At Pentecost, the gospel was heard in many languages. The Spirit doesn't erase our differences but uses them to reflect God's glory. In a fractured world, the Church must model unity rooted in Christ.

Mission in Action: Pentecost compels us outward. The early Church didn't stay in the upper room—they went into the streets. The Spirit empowers us to serve, to reach out, to love beyond comfort zones.

#### Come, Holy Spirit

Pentecost is not about spectacle—it's about surrender. When we open our lives to the Spirit, we are drawn into God's mission. We may not see literal flames, but we can burn with holy purpose. We may not speak in foreign tongues, but we can speak hope in a hurting world.

This Pentecost may we not just remember a moment, but rekindle a movement. May we pray, as the early Church did, "Come, Holy Spirit"—and may we live as if we expect Him to answer.

**Every Blessing** 

Suzan

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#### ST MARY'S CONNECT

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

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.

#### ST MARY MAGDALENE BRIDGNORTH COFFEE SHOP

St Mary's Coffee Shop Every Saturday—10.00am—12.30pm. At the back of church.



### **Benefice Day**



### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of June 10-2pm Morville village hall

Please come along and prioritise this time together where we will continue to explore as a Benefice the sense of who God is calling us to be and how the outworking of our faith will influence the way in which we seek to reach out to the communities around us.

We will worship together, pray together, eat together and spend time expressing our desires, dreams, frustrations and joys.

Please let Suzan know if you're staying for lunch for catering purposes.

Contact Suzan for more details rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com

Tel 01746 528599

#### **Quatford News**

#### **PCC** meetings

Our quarterly meeting on Wednesday 12 March and annual meeting on Sunday 13 April both went smoothly. Rachel, our churchwarden, works very hard to maintain the fabric of the building and organise the worship and fellowship within it – all of us appreciate her efforts very much.

#### **Coming events**

Sunday 8 June, 10.30am: Holy Communion following the order of service in the Book of Common Prayer (1662).

Saturday 28 June, 7pm: our Summer Concert will again feature the Bridgnorth Show Choir, who gave us such an entertaining evening last year. Tickets are £10, to include desserts and liquid refreshments (free parking) – proceeds to church funds and choir charities.

Everyone is welcome and we love to see the church packed full.



Wildflowers in our churchyard, just before the sheep returned for a fortnight to control the grasses

#### **Quinquennial inspection**

To quote the Church of England: 'Every five years, your church building must be inspected by a suitably experienced and qualified professional, appointed after consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee. They will help you make sure your building is kept in good repair.'

Preparations for our inspection in June have fallen to Rachel. This has involved appointing a new architect (after retirement) and ensuring that essential repairs, including the lightning conductor, are done before the inspection. On top of that, all documentation and certificates must be in order.

#### **Shropshire Historic Churches Trust**

This organisation raises funds to help take care of the county's historic church buildings and most of the churches in the Bridgnorth Team are members. The Trust, which was set up in 1991, makes grants to help maintain and repair churches and chapels of all denominations, particularly those of architectural or historical significance. It also encourages public appreciation of these buildings through talks and visits, including open gardens. Find out more at shropshirehct.org.uk

#### **Incorporated Church Building Society**

We have a wooden plaque in our porch acknowledging a grant from this organisation. It is worn and some of the wording is difficult to read, including a stipulation that some seats are allocated for use by poor people. The Society was founded in 1818 to assist Anglican churches of any age, sometimes giving grants for new churches, and is now part of the National Churches Trust. I'm curious whether any other churches in the Team have similar plaques and, if so, what they say.

Marian Newell
Treasurer, Quatford PCC
newellmarian@aol.com



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Admission: £10 | Concessions: £8

Tickets Available via www.stagereadyacademy.com

#### **More Local Events In June**

# World Day Of Prayer Summer Gathering Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 3-4.30pm

No.7 West Castle Street, Bridgnorth.

Bring and share refreshments – all welcome!



#### St Mary's Church Fundraising Event:

Afternoon Tea with Hazel:

2pm-4pm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Come along for sandwiches, freshly baked cakes and refreshments in a beautiful garden!

Tickets £7: At 1 The Croft, Bridgnorth, WV15 5AE



#### **How Long O Lord?**

They shall beat their swords
Into ploughshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword
Against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 2:4

#### **The Heavy Horses**

I watched those horses, as with sudden jerk

They hauled a tiller; and another team

Jangled their harness as they bent to work

Dragging a plough through cloud of their own steam.

It seemed ironic now as off they trode;
Clyesdale or Shire which rolled the furrows raw;
These, once, the knights of old in armour rode
Old England's heavy horse of joust and war.

And might they be the ones to see fulfilled

Centuries on, the ancient prophet's word:

As they draw over farmland, turned or tilled,

The blades and ploughshares beaten from the sword.

Roger Taylor 27.07.2010

#### **Spectacles For Uganda**



During her visit on 26<sup>th</sup>
June, Sarah Cawdell is
collecting generic reading
glasses to take back to
Uganda. Any donations of
reading glasses to be given
to your church warden to
pass on, or to Keely in the
office

Thanks for your help.

#### St Calixtus, Astley Abbotts

Hello from us all at St Calixtus! What a busy month May was, and so much fun too.

We rang the church bells for VE80 as requested. The commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe was a great thing to be part of. Lots of people from

our community joined us - some of whom had never tried ringing church bells before. I have to say, most of them were better than me!! Thank you to all who came along ringing the bells for almost an hour was fantastic achievement.





We enjoyed hosting Bishop Richard who led our Rogation Service at Stanley Hall, another lovely time & special worship. Thank you to Clare & Michael Thompson for hosting us in their gorgeous garden & to everyone who's hard work made the outdoor service happen. It was the cause of great excitement that +Richard used his Harley Davidson Motorbike to travel to us and that he has a Crozier that breaks down into several pieces to fit into his bike pannier!

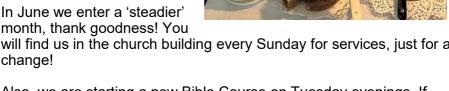
We thoroughly enjoyed Cafe Church in the Village Hall where Isabel Carter joined us to help us 'Take a Fresh Look at.....Our Earth'. Our next Cafe Church will be at 10am on Sunday 13th July. Do join us for breakfast plus stimulating and inspiring discussion.

Again, grateful thanks are due to Clare & Michael for inviting us to provide teas & cakes at their NGS Open Garden, we are so happy to have raised additional funds towards the running costs of our

building. We also had a lots of fun & want to say a massive thank you to all bakers, tea makers, sellers, cup collectors & washer uppers, having more volunteers was very welcome & made the effort much more manageable.

We are very proud to congratulate Michael Payne. our PCC Treasurer, on winning the Bridgnorth Walk for the second year running, what an achievement! Well done Michael.

will find us in the church building every Sunday for services, just for a change!



Also, we are starting a new Bible Course on Tuesday evenings. If you would like to know more, please ask after Sunday service or phone Graham or Rosemary Patey on 01746 769125

We hope to see you soon; in the meantime, we hope that this beautiful weather will continue.

God bless

Helen

St Mary Magdalene, Quatford

# Summer Concert

An entertaining musical evening with the Bridgnorth Show Choir

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, 7pm

**Tickets £10**, which includes desserts and liquid refreshments, are available from the Quatford Church Choir or pay on the door.

Proceeds to church funds and choir charities

Free Parking

#### St. Mary's News

This month has been a busy time at St. Mary's. Firstly, we had the joy of our Holy week and Easter celebrations.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Team Good Friday three-hour devotion service which this year was led by Rev. Suzan Williams. It was a time of quiet reflection which gave us the opportunity to concentrate on the events of Good Friday. On Holy Saturday we were treated to a concert of delightful music for Holy Week and Easter given by the Chamber Choir. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the evening such a success.

Easter Sunday always has that very special feel of excitement about it and it was lovely to have so many in church so we could share together the great gift and joy of Easter.

Our May Fayre was another joyous and well attended occasion which raised in the region of £300 for funds.

Finally, this month saw us holding our APCM. The results of the election for the post of Church Warden and officers of the P.C.C. are as follows:

Church Warden: David Oxtoby

Vice Chairman of the P.C.C.: David Oxtoby

Treasurer: Nicky Cooper

P.C.C. Secretary: Catherine Wilson

Parish Giving Officer: John Fadelle

P.C.C. members: Michelle Ross and John Fadelle

Team Council members: Roger Taylor, David Oxtoby, Sheila Royle

Deanery Synod Members: Roger Taylor, Sheila Royle, Catherine Wilson.

Catherine Wilson.

#### **Tasley News**

Good news! We're pleased to say more services are on the horizon for June!

Stephen's DBS has come through and he will be once again leading our Morning Prayer/Life and Soul and All age Services.

It was good to see you all at our only Service for May, which was Holy Communion led by Revd Suzan.

Service dates for June are:-Sunday 1st June 10.30am. Morning Prayer. Sunday 8th June 10.30am. All Age Worship. Sunday 15th June 10.30am. Holy Communion. Sunday 22nd June 10.30am. All Age Worship with Baptism. Sunday 29th June 3pm. Patronal Service. Songs of Praise with hymns chosen by the Congregation.

Due to illness our APCM has been rearranged for Thursday 5th June at 7pm in Church. Members of the Congregation are welcome to attend this meeting.

We wish all those experiencing health issues at this time a speedy recovery and we send them our best wishes and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.



Our coffee mornings continue and as our May meeting coincided with the VE Day celebrations it was decided we would

have a patriotic theme of red white and blue. The morning as always was well supported and a great success. The money raised at these events continues to help our local charities and good causes. The next is on June 2nd ,10.30am-12pm.

#### Tasley 100 Club Winners for May

36 Stephen Caine 99 Florence Davies 18 Phil Gough

#### **Future Events**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 7pm: Cheese & Wine with a Cuan Widlife Talk in the village hall. Tickets are £10.00

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Margaret

#### **News from St Nicholas, Oldbury**

Our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) was held following our service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This meeting is of course a formal requirement in the Church of England, but it also provides us with a valuable opportunity to look back on the previous year's activities and understand the issues facing our parish church as we look forwards. The life and future of our church depends on a group of wonderful volunteers and is a real team effort. That said I am sure we would all like to especially thank our Church Warden, Liz Fisher, and the Rev. Marjorie Brooks for their incredible dedication and support. You are

both hugely valued.

Looking to the future the PCC have decided to commission a feasibility study to establish the best practical options to improve our energy efficiency. We all agree that the church needs to be a warm welcoming space, and this is essential for the long-term sustainability of the church in the community.



#### News from St Nicholas, Oldbury continued

Our current heating system is out-dated and prohibitively expensive to run. The generous legacy from the late Jean Driver will allow us to pursue this further and see what might be possible.

It was lovely to hear that six members from the Oldbury community decided to ring the church bells to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. Armed with a glass of wine, the bells rang out across the village at 6:30pm and were enjoyed by all. Plans are now afoot to repeat this for VJ Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August. We hope to see more of this spontaneity!

Finally, the gardens at Westwood House will be open on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 4-8pm. The Oldbury Team will be in action offering Pimm's and light refreshments. It is almost mid-summer's day, the roses will be at their prime, and we all hope you will be able to join us for a relaxing evening in the garden. £6 for adults, children FOC. All funds raised will be split between the SHCT (Shropshire Historic Churches Trust) and St Nicholas, Oldbury.

Carolyn (Roly) Trevor-Jones



#### **Summer Quiz**

#### See how you get on with some summer fun!

- 1: Due to the iron expanding, which world famous landmark grows about 6 inches every summer?
- 2: The month of June is named after which Roman goddess married to Jupiter, the king of the gods?

3: According to folklore, the weather for the following 40 days is predicted on what day, which falls on July 15 every year?

4: What is the common name of Cerastium tomentosum, an herbaceous flowering plant?



5: The sunflower is the national flower of which country?



Answers: 1: Eiffel Tower 2: Juno 3: St Swithun's Day 4: Snow-in-summer 5:

Ukraine



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specialist...cannot
recommend enough...
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#### Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry

Team Office: St Leonard's Hall Church,

Racecourse Drive,

Tasley, Bridgnorth WV16 4NR

Tel: 01746 767174

Team Administrator: Mrs Spencer-Lea

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs

8.30am - 11.30am

#### Email:

bridgnorthteamministry@yahoo.co.uk

Website:

www.bridgnorthteamministry.org.uk

#### **Priest in charge**

Revd. Suzan Williams 01746 599529 rectorbridgnorthandmorville@gmail.com

#### Anna Chaplain/Reader

Mrs Jane Peeler 01746 767043 annachaplainbtm@yahoo.com

#### **Honorary Assistant Ministers**

Revd. Marjorie Brooks 01746 761942 marjorie.brooks47@googlemail.com

Revd. Simon Boxall 07788869876 boxbruk@hotmail.com

#### **Advertising Space in Cross+Link**

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#### **Annual rates:**

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**Secretary** Miss Catherine Wilson...761786 **Treasurer Mrs** Nicky Cooper ....762487

Verger Mr Roger Taylor...767345

#### **Deputy Organist**

Mr Oliver Clarke...07545756869

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Mrs Liz Fisher ... 764059

**Treasurer** Mr Ouentin Leiper...764559 Organist Mrs Carol Wall...764365

Vergers Helen Bagnall & Pam Winwood

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Vacant

Verger Mr Bob Curtis....766126

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#### **Upton Cressett Monkhopton** Churchwardens

Mr Terry Fellows...01902 564748 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

#### Astlev Abbotts Village Hall

**Booking Secretary** Charles Morris.....762029

Deadline for Cross+Link articles for

#### **July edition**

Wednesday 18th June 2025 by 1.00pm

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

### **JUNE '25**

HC = Holy Communion MP = Morning Prayer	1st June Easter 7	8th June Pentecost	15th June Fathers Day	22nd June Trinity 1	29th June Trinity 2
St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 FS/ Baptism/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 MP	9.00 MP
St Nicholas Oldbury	10.30 HC		10.30 MP		10.30 Coffee & Chat
St Peter and St Paul Tasley	10.30 MP	10.30 FS	10.30 HC	10.30 FS/ Baptism	15.00 Patronal Festival
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 MP	11.15 HC
Aston Eyre		10.00 MP			10.00 HC
St Mary the Virgin Acton Round		10.00 MP			
Monkhopton	10.00 HC				