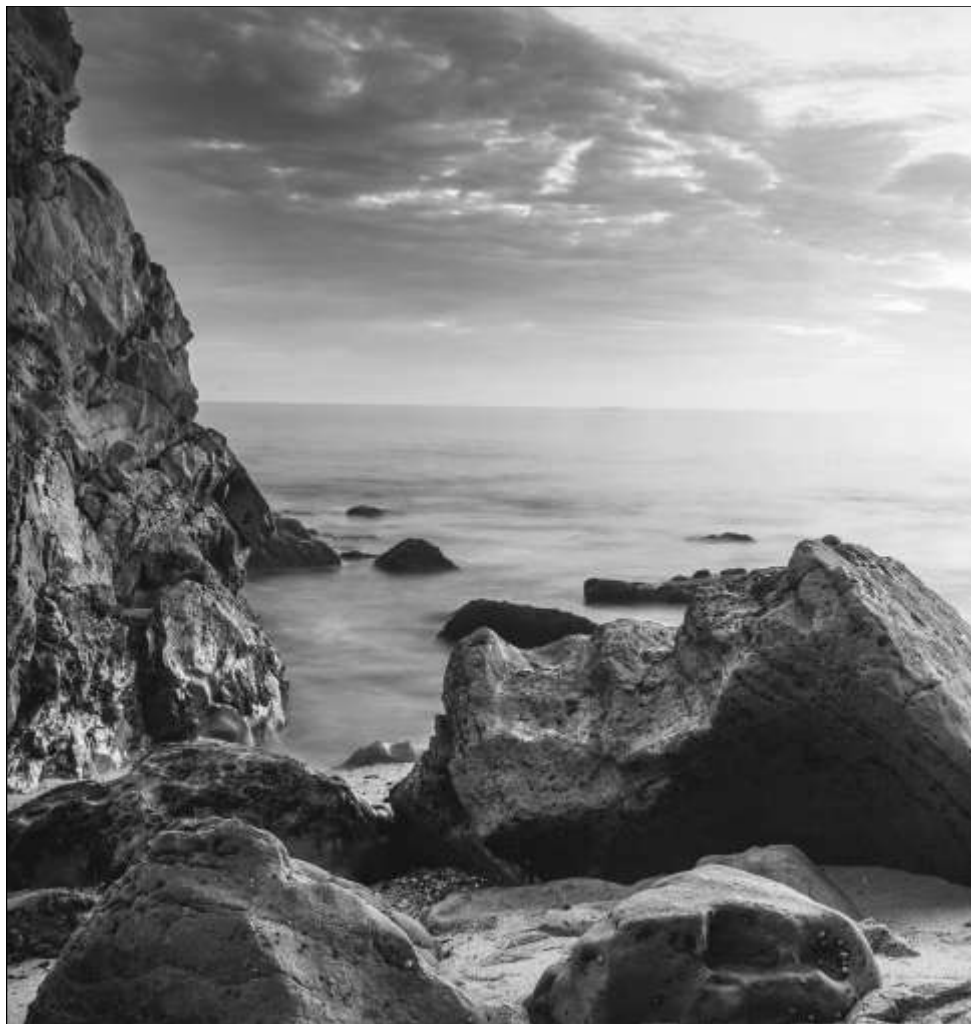


The ARCH Messenger

To show our love for God and You
June 2025



Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench & Harvington
www.archbenefice.org.uk

ARCH Benefice: parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench and Harvington

Rector: The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley
01386 870527, rector@archbenefice.org.uk

Pioneer Deacon: The Reverend Chris Sheehan
07977 072105, chris@archbenefice.org.uk

Office hours: 9.30am to 9.30pm Monday-Friday;
day off: Saturday; Sunday afternoons: quiet space
Urgent pastoral matters – any time

Readings

1 st June	Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
8 th June Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-35; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17
15 th June Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
22 nd June	1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
29 th June Lenches Flower Festival	Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 125; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Matthew 16:13-19
6 th July	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
13 th July	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
20 th July	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
27 th July	Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

Please use the 'Contact Us' page on our website
www.archbenefice.org.uk
to submit editorial or enquire about advertising.

Thought for the month

Is it really hot yet?

I used to do *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio Bristol. I enjoyed it for many reasons, not least because as many people listened to the Breakfast Show as went to church in the Diocese on a Sunday.

I liked the absence of delay between writing and publication. The thought had to be relevant to the day's news. I wrote it the afternoon before broadcast and submitted the script for approval. Sometimes the news changed and I had to rewrite in the early hours of the morning. But it was broadcast live, by me, at 8.43am the next day.

Clergy don't have many short jobs with a beginning, a middle and an end. A task that started and finished within twelve hours was quite satisfying. Not many people can do the most important job of their day before breakfast.

That said, print deadlines are different. I'm starting to write this piece on 1st May on a sunny morning watching blue tits fledge from our garden nest box. Last night I went to a football match in a T-shirt on a balmy spring evening. Next week promises a return to more normal weather for the time of year. What will June give us? Summer fairs and fêtes in the sunshine, we hope. Who knows?

You'll perhaps wonder where I'm going with this? Maybe one of the secrets of English skill and adaptability is that every day, yes every single day, we need to check we have the right clothes and equipment before leaving the house. Umbrella or shades? Waterproofs or T-shirt? Wellies or sandals? Factor 30 or WD40?

We've even invented sports where rain doesn't stop play. Nothing stops our summer partying because we bear the image of One who made us creative. Now, who will hold this umbrella over the barbecue?

Steve Tilley

Stop date for next issue: Monday 9th June

Rector's Corner

Daily prayers:
8.30am and 6pm

via Zoom – contact me for details
(e-mail rector@archbenefice.org.uk)
This replaces Tuesday prayers and Benefice prayers

Home Communion: I will contact the house-bound, and am open to requests.
(contact me on 01386 870527) *Please feel free to ask even if you are only temporarily out of commission*

Men's Night
8pm

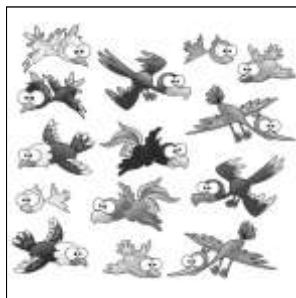
Wednesday 11th June at The Lenches Club, Church Lench
Revd Richard's final one! £12 for the kitty – any surplus contributed to worthy causes. Reserve your place:
rector@archbenefice.org.uk or 01386 870527



Wild on the Wing

Sunday 22nd June 3.30-5.30pm
at Church Lench Village Hall

Crafts, story, song and a FREE 2-course meal
All welcome!



From the Registers

Rous Lench

3rd May

Wedding

Luke Lancaster and Kassie Shortell

Harvington

18th May

Baptism

Sophie Steventon

Notices

Wanted: ARCH Benefice Administrator

After more than 14 years as Benefice Administrator and more than 16 years (and over 160 issues) editing the *ARCH Messenger*, I feel it is time to let my keyboard/mouse retire and for someone else to take over.

The job involves creating the weekly pew sheets, running the Benefice website (it needs re-designing/updating), collating and editing the *ARCH Messenger*, organising baptism packs, providing administrative support for the holiday clubs and general support with other administrative tasks as they arise (eg printing leaflets). A printer is supplied by the Benefice.

You would be working for the new Rector (or a Benefice-appointed representative if no appointment is made in the near future), working from home on a self-employed basis for around 6 hours per week (the hours can vary depending on the schedule). The Benefice currently pays the Real Living Wage of £12.60 per hour which is reviewed on a regular basis.

Please contact Revd Richard Thorniley (rector@archbenefice.org.uk) with a current CV if you are interested in applying for the position.

A decorative graphic consisting of several black footprints arranged in two curved paths, one on the left and one on the right, framing the central text.

Flower Festival walk **Reverend Richard's FINALE**

Saturday 28th June, 10.30am

starting from St Peter's, Abbots Morton

A walk from Abbots Morton to Harvington, visiting the churches at Abbots Morton, Rous Lench and Church Lench to admire their floral decorations and pausing at Church Lench for a ploughman's lunch in the Village Hall.

Please bring your own drinks and arrange transport (if required) to Abbots Morton or back home from St James', Harvington.

Notices

Thank You Richard and Gill

Sunday 6th July, 11am

Benefice Service at St James', Harvington

Revd Richard will be taking his final Benefice service at on Sunday 6th July. Everyone is welcome to join us as we wish Richard and Gill all the very best with their move and retirement, and thank them for their more than two decades of service to the Benefice.

A bring and share lunch will take place after the service. Whilst not essential, to help with planning, please e-mail Katie Horton on eventssjch@outlook.com if you wish to join the lunch.

Please join us to say 'farewell and thank you'
to Richard and Gill

Muddy Kids

Tuesday 22nd - Thursday 24th July, 10am-2.30pm

The Muddy Kids Holiday Club is running again this year! Lots of great activities plus the obstacle course at Ellenden Farm. We are looking for help so please check your availability and let us know!

£9 per day or £26 for 3 days (ages 5-10)

£7 per day or £20 for 3 days (young helpers ages 11-16)

To reserve a place or offer help, please get in touch with Matthew Cook at harvingtonyouthproject@gmail.com



The Nicene Creed: who is God?

'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'

2025 sees the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words?

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins '**we believe**' (in Latin, '**I believe**'). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and **greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching** proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea in AD 325 to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

In one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: '**Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one**' (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

The Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: '**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name**' (Matthew 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who are His children through their faith in Jesus.

Maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and **Creation is His alone:** '*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty*' (Genesis 1:1-2). The implication is that **He created 'ex nihilo' ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable,** lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

Of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, **but also the spiritual powers:** '*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him*' (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the 'big picture' of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?

Canon Paul Hardingham

Psalms: what's the big idea?

Continuing the series introducing the books of the Bible...

'The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible, because most of the Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us' (Athanasius of Alexandria).

The Book of Psalms contains 150 prayers or songs of praise, the majority (73) attributed to David although some were composed later. They were mostly composed for liturgical worship. There are songs of praise, in which people **joyfully express praise for God's work of creation and sustaining** (eg Psalms 135 & 136). In others, the psalmist recounts a desperate situation and gives **thanks for God's answer to his prayers** (eg Psalms 30 & 116).

There are a significant number of psalms of lament, both individual (eg Psalms 3-7 & 22) and communal (eg Psalm 44), which begin with a cry for help. Some express deliverance from sin (Psalms 51 & 130) or point to the certainty that the Lord has heard their prayer (Psalm 7 but contrast Psalm 88). The theme of trust is central in many psalms (Psalms 23, 62 & 91).

The 'royal psalms' (eg Psalms 20, 21 & 72) point to the promised Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus. There are also psalms teaching wisdom (eg Psalms 37 & 49), 'torah' psalms focusing on the law of the Lord (eg Psalms 1, 19 & 119), and psalms which celebrate the history of Israel and God's faithfulness (eg Psalms 78, 105 & 106).

The psalms can help us in our own prayers by providing us with models to follow as they express our own deepest feelings as we approach God: *'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul'* (Psalm 23:1-3).

Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

Miscellaneous musings...

If your troubles are deep-seated or long-standing, try kneeling.

We should believe that nothing is too small to be named before God. What would we think of the patient who told his doctor he was ill, but didn't go into the details?

Understanding the Trinity

Trinity Sunday has its place in our liturgical calendar yet we do not often hear **sermons on the Trinity**. The term 'Trinity' isn't found in the Bible and the Early Church took nearly 400 years to come up with a clear understanding of it.

However, there are hints of trinitarian language in the New Testament such as **when Jesus instructs His disciples to baptise 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19)**. Our understanding of the Trinity arises from God's activity in our world, as reflected in the creedal questions:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

So why should the Trinity be important for us? If 'God is love' (1 John 4:8) it means the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in a community of love together. Their relationship has been expressed as a divine dance as they interact with one another, expressing love for each another and complementing the work each one has to do. **As people made in God's image, we are called to live this community of love in our lives and churches.**

The Trinity also provides the basis for our mission: 'As the Father has sent Me, so send I you' (John 20:21). Just as God the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus sends us into the world to do God's work, equipped and accompanied by the Holy Spirit. **In sharing God's love, we share the life of the Trinity.** Augustine spoke about the Spirit being the love between God the Father and the Son.

'At the heart of reality lies the love between the Father and the Son. The Spirit unites us with Christ so that we begin to experience the same depth of love that exists between the Father and the Son' (Graham Tomlin).

Canon Paul Hardingham



Like Father, like Son

'Dead ringer' is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say 'spitting image' when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.

This month includes Fathers' Day and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how often have you heard someone say 'Oh, you really look like your father'?

One day Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, '*Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father*' (John 14:9). What an amazing statement! Jesus was saying that He was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said, '*I am in the Father and the Father is in Me*' (John 14:10). These words must have shocked His hearers for He was saying that He was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before but certainly His miracles were proof that He was different. No-one else could do what He was doing. Some people wondered – could He really be who He said He was?

So Jesus attempted to make His position clear and said, '*If you had known Me you should have known my Father also*' (John 8:19). The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and believe. Were His deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at Him and say 'Yes, this is God in the flesh' or 'No, He was just a good person – but also perhaps deluded or crazy?'

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname 'doubter', exclaimed, '*My Lord and MY GOD*' (John 20:28). Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae, he said clearly, '*It was by God's own decision that the Son has in Himself the full nature of God*' (Colossians 1:19). Like Father, like Son!



Thank you for your call: it's important to us

'Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and He will say, Here I am' (Isaiah 58:6-9a).

I spend a lot of time trying to communicate with people. Technology should make it easy, but it can be a nightmare. Trying to log on to websites, changed passwords, secret words, and then getting 'no-reply emails' demanding information, but there is no way to give it to them! Then holding on a phone, trying to talk to someone human, and going through security questions.

Yesterday, after a difficult time trying to sign documents online, which all had to be signed at the same time, I came across this passage. It is a beautiful insight in trying to get through to God. God does not ask security questions, **your mother's milkman's name or your cat's date of birth.** God does expect us to have similar priorities and the sense of justice. We may not always get the answer we want, but He will answer.

Any questions? Please call. Your call is important to Him.

David Pickup

Responses to school exam questions...

The word 'trousers' is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.

A monsoon is a French gentleman.

When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting; when people do it, we say they are crazy.

To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

A lighter moment

Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. **The banker replied, 'I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and together they are putting me into a deep depression.'**

Absentee

I gave my four-year-old granddaughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. 'No,' she replied sweetly, 'He wasn't there.'

Challenge

A bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought they had him stumped. However, after a few well-chosen words, the **bishop smiled and said, 'I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed!"'**

(the quotation is from Corinthians 15:51)

Tidy garden

My husband was attempting to build a patio for the first time and bought 100 blocks. Laying them out in a pattern, he discovered the chosen area was too small so he stacked the blocks against the house and cleared more space.

The next day he put the blocks back down, only to find that the ground was too hard to keep the patio level so he ordered a truckload of sand to be delivered the following morning. Again, he stacked the 100 blocks against the house.

Observing all this, our next-door neighbour asked, **'Are you going to put your patio away every night?'**

Musings...

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove you don't need it. Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

My dog will eat anything until you put a pill in it. Then he's Gordon Ramsey. Sometimes I think I understand everything – but then I regain consciousness.

On what security cameras will tell you...

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least, whose elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to his nephew Darren, a recently-ordained low-church curate...

My dear Nephew Darren,

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the **suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door**, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance when she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache, does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures so all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items, and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Abbots Morton **St Peter's Church**

(www.abbotsmorton.info/st-peters-church)

FLOWER ROTA

1st & 8th June

Pippa

15th & 22nd June

Jenny

A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who arranged flowers in St Peter's for Easter

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June

This year's flower festival is titled *Retirement*. Please could the arrangements reflect this theme and be placed in the church on Saturday 28th June.

Please do bring family and friends to view our wonderful arrangements during the festival.

PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings and councillor vacancies

All parishioners are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings which are held in January, March, May, July, September and November in the Village Hall. Further details and agendas can be found at www.abbotsmorton.info. Residents are invited to put forward any ideas, concerns or queries during public question time. If you cannot attend a meeting in person, please raise issues with the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. These will be filled by the co-option process through the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk for more information.

Parish Paths Warden

We are very pleased to welcome our new Parish Paths Warden, Ann Clayden. Ann hopes to get around all the public rights of way on a regular basis but if you spot anything in urgent need of attention you can report this to Ann via the Clerk at abbotsmortonpc@gmail.com.

Abbots Morton

VILLAGE HALL

(www.abbotsmorton.info/abbots-morton-village-hall,
abbotsmortonvillagehall@gmail.com)

We have exciting plans for the summer including a quiz night, pub night and a classic car show! Expect further details in the next Village Hall newsletter, and follow us on Facebook for up to date information. If you would like to be added to *The Friends of AMVH* WhatsApp group, please drop us an e-mail with your details.

Tuesday 3rd June, 10am-12noon: Community coffee morning
If you haven't been to one of our coffee mornings yet, do drop by any time between 10am and 12noon. It's absolutely free and a lovely opportunity to spend a couple of hours with others in the community. Please join us – you'll get a warm welcome.

Friday 13th June, 7.30-10.30pm: Pub night
This will be a 'bring your own drinks' affair so there is no charge. Just bring your favourite tipple and spend the evening with your neighbours. There will be a power pot for donations.

Classes at the Village Hall

- ◆ *Tai Chi: Wednesday 10-11am.* Run by Andrew Lowe as 7-week sessions. To join, contact Andrew on ***** or www.taichiworcestershire.com
- ◆ *Yoga: Monday and Thursday 9.45-10.45am.* Led by Amy Hoang-Jones. If you would like to join, please call Amy on *****
- ◆ *Art: Tuesday 1-3pm.* Run by Charli Farquharson in 7-week blocks with the next starting on Tuesday 3rd June. A supportive and friendly class for all levels of creatives. £175 per 7-week block or £30 per session. Contact Charli on ***** or *****@*****

Easyfundraising

We have 28 supporters to date and the Village Hall has benefited from the scheme by more than £1,400 thanks to their support. By joining you can help to raise funds for your Hall every time you shop online at NO cost to yourself. Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotsmortonvillagehall and sign up to help the Village Hall

Rous Lench St Peter's Church

VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 2nd July 7.30pm: *Swing from Paris*

Enjoy an evening of Parisian-flavoured music at Rous Lench Village Hall with *Swing from Paris*, an all-string jazz quartet of violin, guitars and double-bass, inspired by the music of the 1930's-1950's. Their Parisian-flavoured jazz and gypsy swing has been delighting audiences for over 15 years. Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing, from Benny Goodman, Charlie Christian and Artie Shaw to Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the master of tango Astor Piazzolla.

*Tickets £16 in advance – early bird tickets available until 2nd June
Book online at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swing-from-paris-at-rous-lench-village-hall-tickets-1297756136539*

Pig Roast

Saturday 28th June from 5pm
Rous Lench Village Green

Come and join in the fun at this year's pig roast!

- ❖ Food and drink galore ❖ Fabulous music line up ❖
- ❖ Children's entertainment ❖ Amazing tombola and raffle prizes ❖

Sunshine and a good time guaranteed!

The fun starts at 5pm so get there early to get your space.



Church Lunch **All Saints' Church**

FLOWER ROTA

14th June
27th June
12th July

Jenny Dainty
Flower Festival – combined effort
Jackie and Joy

LENT LUNCHES – THANK YOU

The PCC Social Committee would like to thank everyone who either helped at the recent Lent Lunches or just came along to consume the delicious homemade soups! All five lunches were extremely well attended and the total raised was the wonderful sum of £1,377!!

VILLAGE HALL

Interested in hiring the hall for your summer party? For booking enquiries, please contact Bev Gillis at clvillagehallbookings@gmail.com or see our pages on www.thelenches.org.uk.



THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB PICKLEBALL FOR ALL



Pickleball is coming to the ARCH Messenger community villages

Pickleball is a low impact sport suitable for all ages and fitness levels
It is a very sociable game whose rules are simple and easy to learn

Sessions are being run by Andy Reynolds, a qualified pickleball coach, at the Lenches Tennis Club every Monday evening

You don't need to be a member to play

To find out more contact valetenniscoach@gmail.com

Church Lench First School News

VE Day: The children learnt about the importance of commemorating and celebrating VE Day on 8th May. During the afternoon we celebrated 80 years since victory was announced in Europe after World War II by playing lots of fun games outside and eating yummy cupcakes! We finished with a remembrance and reflection session and a prayer;

Dear God, Thank you for the brave people who worked for peace and helped end the war. Thank you for the freedom we have today. Please help us remember those who gave so much so we can live in peace and safety. Help us to be kind, and to forgive, and to build a world full of hope and love.

Rock Steady concert: Our *Rock Steady* concert took place on Monday 7th April and the children all performed brilliantly! We were amazed at how much confidence they showed playing in front of our audience. Well done to all our bands, we are looking forward to the summer term concert!

Tri Golf day: On Wednesday 30th April, Robert Axcell Steele from Evesham Golf Club and Alice Lowe from The Golf Foundation came to deliver a golf experience day for all classes. The day was a great success and all children had a fantastic time and loved trying a new sport. We spotted a lot of talent across all three classes so it would be lovely if some children decided to take golf lessons in the future!

School fete: We are looking forward to welcoming our community to our school fete on Saturday 7th June from 12.30-2.30pm. There are lots of stalls available including the popular tombola and raffle! We also have a barbeque and bar on site. All funds raised will support the school with trips, experiences and resources for the children throughout the year.

Transition: We are looking forward to welcoming our new pupils throughout the summer term from local nursery and pre-school settings. We have a variety of dates confirmed for the children to meet their teachers and spend time in their new classrooms with their peers. Meanwhile, our Year 5 pupils will be **getting ready to meet their new teachers at their chosen middle schools. It's a busy summer term with lots to prepare!**

Mrs S Price, Headteacher

Church Lench Flower Festival

Flower Festival weekend in All Saints' Church

The theme in church will be *The Joy of Retirement*

Flower Festival Events

Friday 27th June

7.30pm *The Flower Festival Friday Frolic*

An evening of Song, Stories and Sauvignon

Come and hear Richard Churchley with *Folklore and folk-songs of the West Midlands* with a bit of audience participation, followed by wine and nibbles

*Tickets: £10, children under 12 free. Available on the door or from Richard Ball (*****@*****) or the PCC*

Saturday 28th June

11am- **Flower arrangements in All Saints' Church**

5pm Open gardens and scarecrow trail

Craft Fayre, plant sales and refreshments in the Village Hall

Children's forest school/nature trail in the Community Orchard

Sunday 29th June

11am **Flower Festival Holy Communion in All Saints' Church**

11am- Open gardens and scarecrow trail

5pm Craft Fayre, plant sales and refreshments in the Village Hall

Children's forest school/nature trail in the Community Orchard

*For further information about any of the above items, displaying a scarecrow or helping in any way over the weekend, please contact Lyndall (*****) or Nadine (*****@*****)*

Church Lench



THE LENCHES TENNIS CLUB

We continue to welcome new members

Coaching courses to suit all ages and abilities.

Why not join?

Adult Tuesday daytime and evening courses

Evening cardio tennis and pickleball

Many junior courses for all ages: 4 years to teenagers

For more information, please contact

Junior coaching: *****@*****

Adult coaching: *****@*****

Membership information: *****@*****



All Stars Cricket & Dynamos Cricket

Friday evenings, 6pm

The Lenches Cricket Club are running weekly sessions for
5-11 year olds every Friday evening at the Lenches Sports Club
starting on Friday 30th May

For more information and to book, visit www.ecb.co.uk/play/programmes
or contact Charlie Yorke Brooks (*****)



Harvington **St James' Church**

RETIREMENT PRESENT

In July, after 24 years of faithful service, Revd Richard and Gill Thorniley will be retiring to their new home on the south coast. In grateful thanks, members of **St James' Church** are making a collection for their retirement gift.

If you would like to contribute, please send donations:

1. By BACS transfer to *St James Harvington PCC*, a/c no *****, sort code *****, and please put **RICHARD** in the reference
2. By cheque made to *St James Harvington PCC*. Please place in an envelope marked clearly *Rev Richard Retirement Gift* and give it to John Liggitt (Parish Treasurer) or Mrs Katie Horton (Church Warden) at *****
3. We would discourage cash donations, but if unavoidable, please put in an envelope marked clearly *Rev Richard Retirement Gift*, and as above pass to John or Katie.

There will also be a retirement book set up in the back of the church for anyone who wishes to record their thanks or best wishes to Richard & Gill. We will present this to them when they leave.

All donations by the end of June please.

CAMEO TEAS

Wednesday 11th June, 1.30pm **at St James' Church**

This month Year 5 from Harvington First School will be visiting us for afternoon tea and a chat. This is our annual invitation to the children, and very much enjoyed by all our young and not-so-young friends.

We need as many friends as possible from CAMEO Teas to come along and entertain our young visitors! For more details, or if you need a lift to the church, please contact Sophie (*****, *****@*****).

Please note the earlier start time of 1.30pm.

Harvington Festival

Harvington FESTIVAL

JUNE 20TH - 29TH 2025



RED CARPET FILM NIGHT

VILLAGE HALL,
FRIDAY 20TH JUNE, 7.30PM

OPEN GARDENS

£5 ENTRY, FROM VILLAGE HALL,
SAT & SUN 21ST - 22ND FROM 2PM

LES FILLES SAUVAGE

COFFEE CONCERT @ ST JAMES'S
SATURDAY 21ST 11AM



LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

@ COACH AND HORSES
SATURDAY 21ST 7PM



GUIDES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

ALL WELCOME - ELLENDEN FARM SHOP
SUNDAY 22ND 11AM - 3PM



CLASSICAL CONCERT

ST JAMES'S CHURCH
TUESDAY, 24TH 7PM

KEEN HISTORY TALKS - PIRATES!

VILLAGE HALL,
WEDNESDAY 25TH 7.30PM



HARVINGTON ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 26TH 5 - 8PM



HARVINGTON SINGERS

SUMMER CONCERT @ ST JAMES'S
FRI. 27TH & SAT 28TH 7.30PM



HARVINGTON YOUTH PROJECT

SPORTS DAY ON THE PLAYING FIELD
SUNDAY 2PM - 4PM

ANNUAL DOG SHOW

ELLENDEN FARM
SUNDAY 29TH 11AM

THE BIG FESTIVAL QUIZ

@ THE COACH AND HORSES
SUNDAY 29TH 7.30PM



ALL INFORMATION AND TICKETS AT
HARVINGTONFESTIVAL.ORG

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DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value



Harvington Summer Fete

Saturday
7th June
11am - 3pm



St James
Churchyard,
Church St

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN! FREE ENTRY

- ❖ vintage cars ❖ food & drink ❖ games stalls ❖ live entertainment ❖
❖ market stalls ❖ tombola ❖ book fair ❖ local craft stalls ❖

PLUS *village shuttle bus - see details below*

Cash accepted for refreshments & market stalls

Card and cash for games tokens

*For more information please contact Katie Horton *****,
eventssjch@outlook.com or on Facebook at **St James's Events***

Summer Fete Shuttle Bus Service

Due to extremely limited parking for the Summer Fete, we are running a shuttle service around the village with the following stops:

- ◆ Leys Rd (corner of Blakenhurst)
- ◆ Leys Rd (corner of The Rowans)
- ◆ Golden Cross pub
- ◆ Opposite the Baptist Chapel
- ◆ Village Hall
- ◆ junction of Stratford Rd/Church St/Village St
- ◆ Village St (junction with Hughes Lane)



The service will run continuously from 10.30am at Leys Rd/Blakenhurst until 12noon, then at 30 minute intervals during the afternoon.

The service is complimentary but donations to *Shine Out of School Clubs* will be gratefully received.

Harvington

FAITH TODAY

Friday 6th June, 10am at *****, Leys Rd

This month Judith Noon will lead a discussion on the life and significance of Simeon. We remember the *Nunc Dimittis* **when Simeon says 'Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace'** and **look forward to learning more. Please join us!** Refreshments will be served.

We will be taking a break during July and August and meetings will resume in September. For more information on the *Faith Today* group, please get in touch with Sophie on *****, or *****@*****.

GARDENING TEAM

Saturday 14th June, 9.30am-12noon

Please spare a little of your day to help Joy and Julian and the team as they make the churchyard a beautiful place to visit. I can promise good company and a break will be arranged around 11am for tea, coffee and a chat.

Clive Allen

HARVINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

(*****)

The Community Support Group are a small team of DBS-checked volunteers who are available to support residents needing a hand at any time. We are often able to assist with:



- ◆ transport for appointments or shopping
- ◆ small DIY jobs or gardening
- ◆ helping with admin eg form-filling
- ◆ a friendly visit or chat, or sit-in while a carer takes a short break

For bigger concerns we may be able to give advice or point you in the right direction. So, if you need help please contact Wendy and Konrad Monks on ***** (leave a message if we don't answer and we will get back to you).

Harvington

FILM NIGHT

Friday 20th June, 7.15pm: ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** (cert 18)
Milos Forman's acclaimed adaptation of the Ken Kesey novel. After being imprisoned for statutory rape, an unrepentant Randle Patrick McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) is transferred to a state mental hospital where he must serve the remainder of his sentence. Here he sets about leading his fellow inmates in a revolt against the cold and inflexible Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher) and the hospital's systematic oppression of its patients. The film won five Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Actor (Nicholson) and Best Actress (Fletcher).

Doors open 7.15 pm; screen illumination 7.45pm

Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £3 and see the film for free!

Bring your own glasses, drinks and nibbles, and please take away all rubbish.



Harvington Singers presents an evening of **SUMMER SOUNDS**

Friday 27th June, 7.30pm and Saturday 28th June, 7.30pm

at St James' Church, Harvington

Interval refreshments

*Tickets: £9 adults; £5 juniors. Book online at harvingtonsingersonline.org.uk,
e-mail tickets@harvingtonsingersonline.org.uk, phone ******



See overleaf for news from Harvington First School



Harvington First School News

After a lovely Easter break we've had a very short half term of only four weeks! However, the staff and children have still managed to fill the half term with lots of exciting learning and events.

On 8th May we had a lovely morning remembering and celebrating VE Day. Each class did different a VE Day activity such as sewing, art work or making flags, spitfires or biscuits. The children enjoyed learning lots of facts and thinking about the importance of the day. During the morning, the whole school had a rather chilly picnic of squash and biscuits.

Year 5 have been busy practising their cycling skills and learning how to be safe out and about on the roads. You may have seen them around the village.

KS2 have visited the *We the Curious* science museum in Bristol. The museum has a range of interactive exhibits which the children enjoyed exploring. Each class had their own science workshop and they all visited the planetarium.

Year 1 visited the Birmingham Botanical Gardens to support their science topic about plants. After a tour around the gardens they completed their own scavenger hunt.

This half term our school value is *Respect*. We have been discussing the importance of treating others with respect even if we do not agree with the way they behave or the things they say. We have also been thinking about how we should treat the things that belong to us and to other people respectfully.

*Becky Enstone,
Acting Headteacher*

Financial emergency? Extra help needed? Live in Harvington?

St James' Church manages an emergency fund on behalf of the community. If you need a little financial assistance, please call

***** and we will offer what support we can.

If you are in a position to top up the funds, we would be very grateful!

Richard Thorniley

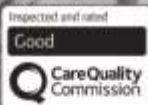
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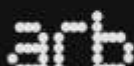
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Key to Church Services

VH Village Hall
BCP Book of Common Prayer
Service

*All other communion services use
the Common Worship liturgy*

ARCH Benefice July 2025					
(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington	
6 th July				11am Benefice Service	
13 th July	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Morning Service	
20 th July		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Family Service	
27 th July	11am Morning Service		11am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion	

ARCH Benefice June 2025

(key on p30)	Abbots Morton	Rous Lench	Church Lench	Harvington
1 st June		10am Benefice Communion		
Wednesday 4 th June				11am Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th June Pentecost		8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Communion
15 th June Trinity Sunday	11am Holy Communion		11am Morning Service	9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 th June				11am Holy Communion
22 nd June		11am Morning Service	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 3.30pm Messy Church at Church Lench VH	9.30am Family Service
29 th June Lenches Flower Festival	11am Flower Festival Morning Service	6.30pm Flower Festival Songs of Praise	11am Flower Festival Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion