



**St Gregory's Church
Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ**

**NEWS 19
July 2024**

Rector (Day off Monday)	The Revd Julie James	01531 651795
Licensed Lay Minister	Michael Harper	01684 830133 / 07942 390194
Churchwardens	Mark Lister	01531 631503 / 07908 967165
	Sarah Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
PCC Secretary	Christina Leake	01684 310409 / 07979 553074

Dear Friends

I recently went to USA for a family wedding. It was tiring, since I only knew my son and his fiancée, and not the other few hundred people present; and also the President of that august nation tells me that one becomes more susceptible to jet lag as one gets a little older...

But it was a lovely time. Our daughter in law's parents are Christians, albeit from a somewhat different tradition (they're Presbyterians, attending a church which majors on expository preaching and psalm singing - both of which I appreciate, especially if done well). They were all delightful, and it made me realise afresh that, if we see our primary identity as followers of Jesus Christ, we immediately have a remarkable bond with others of like persuasion: other differences fall by the wayside. I have always found this; I have worked with Christians in countries as diverse as Liberia, Zambia, Ukraine, Russia, USA, Georgia, Armenia - it's always the same. As Paul puts it, 'For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'. (Galatians 3:27-8)

A last thing happened on that trip. I lost my phone. It must have been when I was getting out of a car at a hugely busy drop-off point at Chicago O'Hare Airport (we had to double park), but I didn't notice until we were queuing at check-in. I had to find it ... but could I remember where on that long concourse we had been discharged from the car? Negative. I went out, ran up and down hopelessly and dreamt of my poor old phone, squashed to a slimline version; and then prayed that wonderful prayer of desperation: 'Lord, help!' And I just had a nudge to go to a fearsome lady traffic director who was barking directions to cars - 'Ask her.' I did.

'Excuse me, I'm so sorry to bother you; but you wouldn't happen to have found a phone, would you?'

'Oh honey', she purred, 'would it be this one?' (they love an English accent).

And yes, it was, not slimline, and I did a jig of gratitude! Coincidence? Maybe. But, as William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury, famously said, 'When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't.' Sometimes it's the little things that remind us to pray through the day.

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Trinity 8	21 July	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Eldersfield Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 9	28 July	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 10	4 August	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday Trinity 11	11 August	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Trinity 12	18 August	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 13	25 August	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Hollybush Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 14	1 September	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday Trinity 15	8 September	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Trinity 16	15 September	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Eldersfield Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 17	22 September	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 18	29 September	10.30am	Joint Benefice Harvest Service	Castlemorton

Refreshments are served after most services and children's activities are provided at St Gregory's during morning services. All are very welcome.

Harvest Service – Sunday 29 September, 10.30

Do join us for this annual service of special thanksgiving. We shall be collecting donations of food (unperishable please) for Ledbury Food Bank and would welcome your support if you feel able to do contribute. Just bring along your donation to the service and leave it in the box provided.

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefice

Tuesday	13 August	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown, Pendock
Saturday	7 September	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Saturday	7 September	7.30pm	Elgar Ensemble in concert	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 September	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown, Pendock
Sunday	15 September	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Berrow with Pendock PCC Gift Day	Berrow and Pendock churches
Saturday	28 September	12.00 - 4.00pm	Pumpkin Festival	Berrow Village Hall



1st Berrow and Pendock Pumpkin Festival

Saturday 28th September 2024
12 p.m. ~ 4 p.m.
Berrow and Pendock Village Hall, WR13 6JN

Pumpkin themed stalls, teas, coffees, cakes and pumpkin soup in the village hall.

Grow your own pumpkins and squash and enter our competitions.

Including, heaviest, ugliest, strangest shape & squash monster.

Also, craft competitions; countryside pumpkin carving, painting & drawing and writing a poem.

For information or details on competition classes please contact us at:

- BerrowVillageHallMalvern@gmail.com
- Or message us on our Facebook page
- www.facebook.com/BerrowAndPendockVillageHall



Kaleidoscope

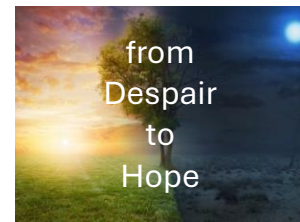


An alternative setting of evening worship at St Gregory's on the **4th Sunday of each month** starting at 6.30pm.

Come and join us in a relaxed service which offers a blend of traditional and modern music and songs, readings and a short talk.

Sunday 28 July 2024 6.30pm

Frank Harriss will lead this service on the theme



with a message from Michael Harper

All welcome!

Benefice BBQ – 13 July

Thank you to Revd Julie and her husband Bob for their generous hospitality in hosting such a lovely 'at home' BBQ gathering recently – it was a good opportunity to share an evening with our new benefice friends.

Update on St Gregory's Church

Spire Repair



We are delighted that the spire has been repaired ahead of the planned date, due to a cancellation in the diary of the steeplejacks. We hope to return to ringing the bells again very soon, so listen carefully as you pass the church – you might just hear a quarter peal being rung!



Yes, St Gregory's has entered the 21st century and we now have WiFi installed!

Details of how to access this may be found inside the church, so do give it a try.

Parish News

We send our sympathy to the Stuart family following the recent death of Barbara. She and her late husband Scott were former residents of Mouchers Corner and in their time in the village contributed to and generously supported many parish activities.

Many congratulations to those recently celebrating special birthdays. Among those celebrating their 80th are: Sterling Hart, Diana Atkinson, Wendy Bardon and, at the end of this month, Sue Merrick and Christine Wilman. Extra special wishes to Mary Weaver who has just celebrated her 90th birthday.



Happy Birthday to you all!



Special thanks to the Shindig team - what a wonderful community event with activities to suit all and a fantastic fund raiser for local causes!