



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

**NEWS 23  
November 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

Change is inevitable, of course, and we accept that. But sometimes the changes come with such rapidity that it threatens our sense of stability, of security.

And that's a bit how it feels at the moment. Far reaching political changes: Russia threatening Ukraine and the war there draining billions from Western coffers, Israel facing existential threat from militant Islam, but in its reaction plunging vast numbers of innocent people into untold suffering, North Korea playing with nuclear weapons and allying with Russia, and what about Iran's nuclear programme - and its deepening links with Russia? China's eyeing up Taiwan, which looks to USA for support and - and - and . . . How should we react?

An elderly lady doctor with whom I worked once used to say - you manage anxiety by saying 'what's the worst that could happen?' - but I'm not sure that helps much! The apostle Paul says 'don't be anxious about ANYTHING, but pray about everything' (Philippians 4:6). That sounds more positive. Jesus says 'do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.' That sounds good - almost too good to be true. Why? Because bad things can happen to good people. Yet we are still encouraged to trust God.

Jesus says that if we put our trust in Him, we won't perish but have everlasting life. Our bodies will die, but we will find a greater life. He validated His statement with astonishing wisdom, impossible healings and rising from the dead.

Can we have that sort of trust? Or are we like the climber who found himself alone and stuck halfway up a mega rockface, unable to go up or down. Desperate, he prays: 'GOD - if you're up there, help me!' And a voice comes back - 'I am here, son; just let go and I shall surely catch you.' Pause. 'Is anyone else up there?' That's the question. When rubber meets road, where do you put your trust? Much depends on whether we have dared to take up the challenge of Jesus and simply follow. It's quite possible to go to church for a lifetime and never say, Lord, my life is not my own; it's yours, and I'm going to walk with you, and find fullness of life in you - as you have promised. Not my will, but Thine be done.

Now you may say, well, let's see how Michael gets on when the going gets tough. And truly I don't know. St Peter claimed great things and fell short - at first. It was a learning curve for him. Well ... let's join him and learn together.

Lord Jesus, help us live in peace and trust in You, come what may, we pray.





Michael Harper  
Licensed Lay Minister

## Diary Dates

### Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Advent	17 November	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion All Age Worship	Pendock Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Christ the King	24 November	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Advent Sunday	1 December	8.30am 10.30am  10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Church @ the School  Family Communion Deanery Advent Service (Great Malvern Priory)	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill Malvern
Sunday Advent 2	8 December	8.30am 10.30am 12.00noon  4.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Memorial Service for Jen Cahill (née Howick) Carols, Candles and Cake	Bushley Berrow Castlemorton  Eldersfield
Sunday Advent 3	15 December	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion Hollybush Christmas Carol Service	Pendock Castlemorton Hollybush Longdon
Tuesday	17 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Bushley
Wednesday	18 December	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Castlemorton
Thursday	19 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Queenhill
Friday	20 December	2.00pm	School Carol Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Advent 4	22 December	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Nine Lessons and Carols	Birtsmorton Longdon Berrow
Monday	23 December	4.00pm	Crib Service	Castlemorton
Tuesday Tuesday	24 December 24 December	5.00pm 11.30pm	Crib and Christingle Midnight Mass	Eldersfield Hollybush
Wednesday	25 December Christmas Day	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Christmas Day Service	Queenhill Berrow
Sunday	29 December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bushley

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

	 <p>Join us for one of our Christmas services this year. There are many across the benefice to choose from. We would love to see you.</p> 	
---	--	---

## Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefice

Friday	23 November	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	7 December	10.00 - 12.00	CaCoffany – Christmas Special!	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 December	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Sunday	22 December	12.00 – 2.00pm	Walk, crafts and more	Eldersfield
Friday	3 January	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice (Note change of date)	Castlemorton
Saturday	4 January	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton



### A Service to remember Jen Cahill (née Howick)



**Sunday 8 December  
12.00 noon  
St Gregory's Church  
Castlemorton**

You are invited to join us as we remember Jen who passed away in June.

Friends are invited to join the family for a special service to celebrate her life, particularly remembering her younger days in Castlemorton.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

If you are hoping to attend, please let Sarah know, to assist with seating and catering –

Email: [sjmusgrave33@gmail.com](mailto:sjmusgrave33@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07715 562311 / 01684 833869

### St Gregory's, Castlemorton



**Crib Service  
Monday 23 December  
4.00pm**



Come and help us build the Nativity Scene

Fun for all the family with short readings and well-loved carols, accompanied on the piano

# CaCoffany!

*Christmas Coffee Morning*

**Saturday 7 December 10.00-12.00**

St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton, WR13 6BQ



**CaCoffany Dates for 2025 . Saturdays 10.00-11.30**

4 January, 1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July  
6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December

# Kaleidoscope



An alternative setting of evening worship at St Gregory's on the **4<sup>th</sup> 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.



## War Memorial Restoration Project

The successful coffee morning on 9<sup>th</sup> November highlighted many local memories and some from further afield. We hope that this event may be extended and repeated, with so much material to share.

Thanks to all who have donated to this restoration project, which has allowed work to commence under the careful eye of Dr Bryan Smith in his lead role. The recent cleaning and repointing of the Memorial was much appreciated by those who attended the Remembrance Day Service.

Thanks also to all who supported and organised this special service, especially to Michael Harper and Jeremy Cox for their leadership and to Gary Burton who laid the wreath. All those in attendance enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

The project will be continued when weather conditions are more favourable.

## Parish News

Our best wishes are extended to Barrie and Jenny Bruton, who have retired from Kings Cottage to Malvern Link. Jenny was a former member of the Hall committee for a while and kindly contributed to the selection of kneelers in church. We hope they will settle quickly into their new home and be very happy there.