



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

**NEWSLETTER
January 2025**

Rector (Day off Monday) Licensed Lay Minister Churchwardens	The Revd Julie James Michael Harper Mark Lister Sarah Musgrave Christina Leake	01531 651795 01684 830133 / 07942 390194 01531 631503 / 07908 967165 01684 310330 / 07715 562311 01684 310409 / 07979 553074
Further information at https://berrowlongdon.org.uk		

Dear Friends

Happy New Year! It's customary to say so and I mean it. I was concerned, however, to read from an 'etiquette expert' (who awards such titles?) that you shouldn't say it for too long into January otherwise it will become unwanted and insincere.

You'll probably know the Bobby McFerrin song '*Don't worry, be happy!*' which neatly captures the current pop psychology mood. Just reframe your challenges and be intentionally positive and all will go well. There is some element of truth in this and I completely agree with Abraham Lincoln who said 'most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be.'

But with the current pandemic of mental illness and the overwhelm that we can feel internally, combined with all the external problems with which we're surrounded, to suggest we can have a good year by simply re-evaluating our situation and having good intentions is folly at best and arrogance at worst.

I'd like to counter with three verses from the bible:

1. 'If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness'. 1 John 1:9
2. 'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus'. Philippians 4:6-7
3. 'I lift my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth'. Psalm 121:1

So instead of just a Happy New Year, I'd like to wish you a year free from guilt and shame, a year free from all worry and anxiety, and a year spent in the ever helpful, kind and loving presence of the God who created the heavens and the earth. And to our etiquette expert I can confidently say that this wish can last all year.

Jeremy Cox
Authorised Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Epiphany 2	19 January	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion All Age Worship	Pendock Castlemorton Berrow
Sunday Epiphany 3	26 January	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Wednesday	29 January	1.00pm	Castlemorton School Christingle Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Presentation of Christ in the Temple	2 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Church @ the School Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday 4 th before Lent	9 February	8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Friday	14 February	2.00pm	School Gold Book Celebration	Castlemorton
Sunday 3 rd before Lent	16 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion All Age Worship	Pendock Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday 2 nd before Lent	23 February	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton

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



2025 Lent Course

Save the Dates!

5 Consecutive Thursdays beginning 13 March



'Lentwise' is a five-session course which helps us to deal with the rigours of real life. Using fresh insights from St John's gospel, it explores direction, nourishment, wisdom, refreshment and security.

Written by Dr Paula Gooder, who is a British Theologian, Anglican Lay Reader and Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral, the course will be run as a house group, with light refreshments and key questions to open up discussions and to combine fellowship and encouragement as we journey this Lent.

Please do make contact so we know to expect you, but all are welcome!

Home Farm, Rye Street, Birtsmorton, WR13 6AS

Dates: Thursdays 13 March to 10 April, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Contact Jeremy Cox: jeremycox@btinternet.com

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefices

Friday	24 January	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	1 February	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Tuesday	11 February	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown, Pendock
Friday	28 February	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	1 March	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Saturday	1 March	7.00pm	Charity Quiz (details overleaf)	Castlemorton Parish Hall

Kaleidoscope



resumes this month on
Sunday 26 January at 6.30pm

Come and join us as we explore the character of Noah in bible passages, hymns, old and new, and a short address from our Licensed Lay Minister Michael Harper



All welcome!

CaCoffany!

**St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
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Saturdays

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

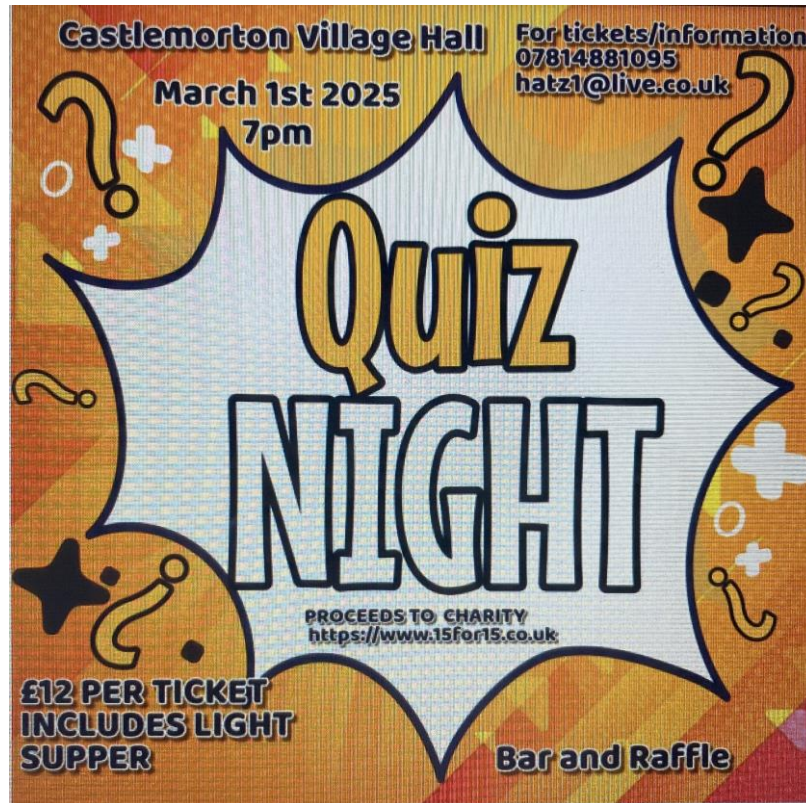
10.00-11.30am

A monthly coffee morning with the chance to sing uplifting hymns and listen to guest musicians



**10.00 Singing favourite hymns
10.20 Guest musicians
10.30 Singing favourite hymns
10.50 Coffee, cake and chat**

**No admission charge
All welcome!**



Castlemorton Children Shine at Worcester Cathedral Tree Festival

Last month, Castlemorton C.E. Primary School contributed to the Worcester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival with a tree decorated entirely by the talented Yellow and Green Class pupils.

Inspired by the natural beauty of their surroundings, every decoration was hand made from wood that the children had carefully cut during Forest School sessions. The process involved teamwork, creativity, and developing practical skills, with pupils shaping snowmen, Father Christmas designs and festive ornaments from the wood they had collected.

Their tree stood amongst many others in the cathedral, showcasing not only the children's artistic talents but also their commitment to sustainability and hands-on learning. The exhibition ran until 7 January. Many congratulations to Yellow and Green Classes for their fantastic work!

