



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

**NEWSLETTER
August 2025**

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Further information at https://berrowlongdon.org.uk		

Dear Friends

Exploration is part of human life. My smaller grandchildren want to explore the washing machine - all those pretty lights! - and anything else I wish they wouldn't, and as people mature there are literally endless avenues for exploration.

King Solomon explored life's meaning. He looked for it in knowledge and reason, in pleasure and possessions (think all those wives! - and all that gold), in work and accomplishment; and he concluded that life is 'vanity, all is vanity...'. The word for vanity means vapour. Or 'a bubble'. It looks lovely, but it might pop at any time.

But today I read the account of the transfiguration (Lk 9:29-36), when Jesus, praying on the mountain top, became absolutely radiant; Moses and Elijah (long 'dead') also appeared in glorious splendour, and Jesus spoke with them. Three disciples were there and saw his glory. They were awed and afraid. Peter blurted out something manifestly silly and they all heard God say: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to Him!' Jesus merely revealed to them who and what He truly was: God incarnate - in flesh.

How do you react? Many would say 'fairy tale'. But - all through the Bible we read of times when God reveals Himself in some way and it produces awe and wonder; people respond either in great fear or great joy. As Psalm 126 puts it, 'when the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream; then our mouths were full of laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy...'. And when Philip preached in Samaria (Acts 8:4-8), God's presence was with him in power, and 'there was great joy in that city'. Those who hunger for God in their midst are full of joy when He manifests Himself. Those who don't are very afraid.

Steven Hawking, renowned physicist, said, 'Christianity is for people who are afraid of the dark'. John Lennox, renowned mathematician, said, 'Atheism is for people who are afraid of the light'.

I am convinced that we can find God as we earnestly seek Him. I'm with the poet Mary Oliver who said in her poem *Mysteries*, Yes:

*Let me keep company always with those who say 'Look!'
and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.*

Let's be open, seeking, welcoming Jesus' presence. As Jesus said to doubting Thomas, 'Stop doubting! Believe!' To walk with Jesus brings a fullness, a quality of life which nothing else can. And it doesn't end with a 'Pop!'. So, we look, laugh, worship, love and welcome - together.

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Trinity 8	10 August	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 9	17 August	10.30am 10.30am	Family Communion All Age Worship	Castlemorton Pendock
Sunday Trinity 10	24 August	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Eldersfield Berrow Longdon
Sunday Trinity 11	31 August	10.30am	Holy Communion for Berrow and Longdon Benefices	Bushley
Sunday Trinity 12	7 September	10.30am 5.00pm	Family Communion Evensong	Queenhill Hollybush
Sunday Trinity 13	14 September	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 14	21 September	10.30am 10.30am	Family Communion All Age Worship	Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Trinity 15	28 September	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Eldersfield Berrow Longdon

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



Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday 5 October Save the date!



Castlemorton will be holding a Harvest Festival service on Sunday 5 October at 11.15. This will be a non-eucharistic service, so no Holy Communion will be available. The later start time all enable us to enjoy a Bring and Share lunch together afterwards in the church.

If you would like to attend a service of Holy Communion that day, then Queenhill will be happy to see you at their Harvest Festival service which will take place the same morning, starting at 10.45.

More information next month.

St Gregory's Parish News

We are delighted that a new bench has been installed in the churchyard in memory of Mick Merrick. It provides additional seating for contemplation near the War Memorial.

We are grateful to members of Castlemorton Environmental Group who gathered to tidy the churchyard recently and for all their work to diversify a designated area.

Please note that the A449 from Little Malvern to British Camp will be closed during the period 1 September 2025 – 30 January 2026. Traffic will be diverted via Eastnor.

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefices

Saturday	9 August	2.30pm and 7.30pm	<i>The Last Free Rave</i> - play	Coach House Theatre Malvern
Saturday	16 August	7.30pm	<i>The Last Free Rave</i> - play	Castlemorton Parish Hall
Friday	22 August	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	23 August	7.30pm	The Greenwood Consort – details overleaf	Bushley Church
Saturday	6 September	10.00-11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Tuesday	9 September	10.30-11.30	Bible Study	Tudor House Fisher's Place, Pendock (Change of Venue!)
Saturday	13 September	All day	Ride and Stride details overleaf	Churches around Worcestershire
Sunday	14 September	2.00-4.00pm	Gift Day	Berrow and Pendock Churches
Friday	26 September	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton

Kaleidoscope



A lay-led, relaxed and informal service featuring a variety of worship music

**Our next Kaleidoscope is on
Sunday 10 August at 6.30pm**

when we shall be exploring the Old Testament character of Esther through readings, music, prayer and a short address.



Do come along and join us – the service will be followed by refreshments.

All are very welcome!

Berrow-with-Pendock PCC

GIFT DAY

Sunday, September 14th
from 2 – 4pm
at

**St Faith's Church, Berrow
&
The Church of the Redeemer,
Pendock Cross**

**Please support
the lovely churches
in your midst**

Thank you

CaCoffany!

St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ

Saturdays

6 September, 4 October, 1 November
6 December (Christmas Special)

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!**

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC
CHURCHES TRUST

SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 13th September 2025



A fantastic way to see your local area and raise money for the
church/chapel of your choice!

More information, sponsor forms and related documents
can be downloaded from the website:

www.ridestrideworcs.org



The Greenwood Consort



presents

British Baroque

Finger: *Trio sonata in C*

Galliard: *Bassoon sonata in C*

Handel: *Recorder sonata in Dm*

Oboe sonata in F

Trio sonata in F

Purcell: *An Evening Hymn*

Crown the Altar

O Fair Cedaria

What a Sad Fate is Mine

Williams: *"In Imitation of Birds"*

Saturday 23rd August 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Bushley GL20 6HT

Free entry. Retiring collection in aid of
Bushley church. Refreshments served.

The Last Free Rave

A play by Rachel
Tobin

Saturday 16th
August at 7:30pm

**morton
majestic** Castlemorton
Cinema

www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk