



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

**NEWSLETTER
February 2026**

Associate Priest	The Revd Anthea Elston	07398 741170 (Day Off – Friday)
Licensed Lay Minister	Michael Harper	01684 830133 / 07942 390194
Churchwardens	Mark Lister	01531 631503 / 07908 967165
PCC Secretary	Sarah Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
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Further information at <https://berrowlongdon.org.uk>

Dear Friends,

Friendship: it's a great blessing! I don't mean the 'Facebook friends' sort of relationship (though I'm sure that can be close); I mean a special connection with people who know what makes us tick (and still love us!), and who know we know what makes them tick (if you get the drift). Not in every detail, of course - but in essence - in what matters; at that level, our closest friends *know* us and we *know* them.

It makes me think about communication. It's been part of my job, communicating with patients, with relatives, teaching more junior staff, and I came to realise a long time ago that meaningful communication often starts with a little small talk, yes, and then a carefully considered question. Recently I've been reading a book about mentoring/coaching; the subtitle is 'Say less, ask more and change the way you lead forever.' - interesting! And it suggests simple questions to ask, like 'What's on your mind?' - followed up with 'and what else?' - and perhaps 'how can I help?'

Jesus did that. He asked lots of questions. On one occasion, when two of John the Baptist's disciples followed him, he turned round and asked, 'What do you want?' It's translated by some as 'What are you looking for?' It was a welcoming question but not a superficial one; indeed, if asked by a spiritual teacher, it often referred to spiritual quest. So essentially, he's saying, 'Why are you following me?' Curiosity? Thirst for political revolution? Or something deeper; something eternal? And, long story short, they keep following Jesus; they become his disciples. He has that effect on people.

So, in our lives, what are we really looking for? Jesus now, as then, has astonishing truth to teach us, and offers us (as he puts it) 'life in all its fullness'. As from the 18th February, we shift into the season of Lent: perhaps that's a good time to address that question afresh? We'll gladly help as we are able.

God bless

Michael

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Epiphany 5	8 February	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Friday	13 February	2.00pm	Castlemorton School Gold Book Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Epiphany 6	15 February	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion All Age Worship Start The Week	Castlemorton Eldersfield Castlemorton
Ash Wednesday	18 February	7.30pm	Holy Communion with optional imposition of ashes	Pendock Cross
Sunday Lent 1	22 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Berrow Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 2	1 March	10.30am 5.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong Start The Week	Queenhill Hollybush Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 3	8 March	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Mothering Sunday	15 March	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion All Age Worship Start The Week	Castlemorton Pendock Cross Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 5	22 March	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Berrow Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Palm Sunday	29 March	10.30pm 10.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Birtsmorton Bushley Castlemorton
Refreshments are served after most services and children's activities are provided at St Gregory's during morning services. All are very welcome.				



St Gregory's Church Register



Monday 12 January Funeral Service at St Gregory's followed by private cremation John Shuker, son of the late Don and Betty Shuker, who died on 13 December 2025

Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family and also with the family of Brian Swindells who died before Christmas.

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefices

Saturday	7 February	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 February	10.30 - 11.30	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Thursday	19 February	7.30pm <i>The Marching Band</i> film		Castlemorton Parish Hall
Friday	27 February	7.30 - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Friday	6 March	7.30pm <i>Bugonia</i> film		Castlemorton Parish Hall
Saturday	7 March	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 March	10.30 - 11.30	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Thursday	12 March	7.30pm <i>The Choral</i> film		Castlemorton Parish Hall
Wednesday	18 March	7.30 - 9.00pm	Visiting Bell Ringers	Castlemorton
Thursday	19 March	7.30pm <i>Souleymane's Story</i> film		Castlemorton Parish Hall
Friday	27 March	7.30 - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton



For details of the programme at our own local cinema, visit
<http://www.castlemortoncinema.co.uk>



Start The Week

The new venture has begun

Start the Week is a short weekly gathering with a bible passage or two, songs and prayers for our church, our community and ourselves.

During Lent there will be time set aside for devotions appropriate for the weeks leading up to Easter.



Join us at 6.30pm, in the church, on Sundays for a time of reflection, peace and prayer.

We would love to see you!

Kaleidoscope



A lay-led, relaxed and informal service featuring a variety of worship music, bible readings, prayer and a short address.

Sunday 8 February at 6.30pm



In 2026 we shall examine in greater depth a phrase of The Lord's Prayer each month.

The theme in February will be *Heaven*

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

All are very welcome!

CaCoffany!

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Saturdays

**7 February, 7 March, 11 April, 9 May
6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October
7 November, 5 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!**

Save The Date!



**The Annual Parochial Church
Council Meeting
for St Gregory's
will be held this year on
Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 7.30pm
in Castlemorton Church**

This provides the opportunity to find out what is happening in your church, how to secure its future and to chat over refreshments.

We hope you will note the date and join us on this evening.

Christingle 2026

The pupils of Castlemorton Church of England Primary School love gathering in St Gregory's Church for their services at the end of each half term, but their favourite reason for going to the church for collective worship is, arguably, for Christingle.

The whole school took part in this special service on the morning of Friday 26 February and all pupils sang enthusiastically and handled their Christingle oranges with great care.

The photograph shows the collective worship team after they led this very special service. It was a privilege and my great pleasure to be able to join the children on this occasion.

Sarah Musgrave
School Governor and Churchwarden

