



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

**NEWSLETTER
March 2026**

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

Dear Friends,

A decade ago, we watched *The Night Manager*, a hugely successful adaption of John le Carré's spy novel. It featured many of the classic elements of a great story, was terrific to watch and ended brilliantly.

Like many, we were excited at the arrival of a second series. The story developed well, tension built and the final denouement beckoned. There then followed the most appalling ending I've ever witnessed on TV.

The main villain, described by Hugh Laurie, the actor who played him, as the most evil man in the world, not only survived, but triumphed! The traitor in MI6 remained undetected covering her tracks by murdering two good agents. Finally, our hero, whose plan had gone disastrously wrong, was left suffering in the jungle, leaving us questioning whether he'd even survived. I've rarely experienced such a dismal, depressing finale: evil triumphs, good fails.

I'll sidestep the producers defence, although some have suggested that it's just a cliffhanger to ensure a large viewing audience for series three. Cynicism is one short step from nihilism, coming, as it does, after commercialism...

It would be as if the Christian story were rewritten to say that, after Jesus' dramatic birth, astounding life and super-natural ministry, it all ends with his death on the cross. The Jewish leaders triumph, the Romans march pitilessly on and Jesus' followers are left bewildered, in hiding until they are outed and ruthlessly crushed.

Fortunately, we live in God's reality, and he has prepared the ultimate, satisfying ending which just gets better and better. Here we exist in Lent, under the shadow of Good Friday. But Sunday's coming. Here we live in turbulent times, but glory awaits. Here we struggle in sin, then we shall delight in perfection.

This is the truth for those who trust in Christ. Whatever our nightmares, our challenges, our pain, God has prepared a glory exceeding anything we could possibly imagine. As St Paul wrote in Corinthians: 'no eye has seen, no ear heard, no mind imagined what God has prepared for those who love him'.

May you have a wonderful Easter and know the truth of his glorious resurrection.

Jeremy Cox
Authorised Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Lent 3	8 March	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
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
Friday	27 March	2.00pm	School Easter Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Palm Sunday	29 March	10.30pm 10.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Birtsmorton Bushley Castlemorton
Good Friday	3 April	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	Queenhill
Easter Sunday	5 April	6.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Sunrise Service Family Communion Holy Communion	Hollybush Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Easter 2	12 April	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Easter 3	19 April	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Worship Family Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Castlemorton Castlemorton
Sunday Easter 4	26 April	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Berrow 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.

Errata

Please note the following changes to events posted in last month's newsletter:

1. Start The Week

There will be no gathering for Start The Week on Easter Sunday.

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Tuesday 28 April

Apologies for printing the wrong venue for our Annual Church Meeting on Tuesday 28 April. The meeting will take place at **Castlemorton Primary School at 7.30pm, with a short service of Compline beforehand at 7.00pm.** This will be a joint meeting for all four parishes of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley and Queenhill. All are most welcome to this gathering of parishioners from across the Longdon Benefice. Refreshments will be available and there will be the opportunity for discussion about the future of our churches.

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefices

Saturday	7 March	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 March	10.30 - 11.30	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Wednesday	18 March	7.30 - 9.00pm	Visiting Bell Ringers	Castlemorton
Saturday	21 March	3.00pm 7.00pm	Jenny Lind Singers Concert Flowers Brass Band Concert	Pershore Abbey John Masefield High School, Ledbury
Friday	27 March	7.30 - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	11 April	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany	Castlemorton
Tuesday	14 April	10.30 - 11.30	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Saturday	18 April	7.30pm	Concert featuring Cecily Howick and Friends	Ashleworth Church (Full details next month)



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

Parish News

- We are keeping Dorothy Bartlett in our prayers as she recovers from a fall at home.
- We wish Nigel and Andrew Bedford well as they prepare to leave the village in the near future. We are grateful for all their support for St Gregory's over the years.



If you are missing the Lent Course this year, come along to **Start The Week**, a prayerful gathering at 6.30pm in the church on each Sunday (except the 2nd Sunday in the month when Kaleidoscope takes place). This shorter service currently includes Lenten reflections as a part of the worship, and we watch a short film clip which introduces the profound lessons the early Desert Fathers and Mothers learned in the Egyptian wilderness. It's a time of meditation and peace which is so welcome in our busy lives.

The next Start The Week is on **Sunday 15 March at 6.30pm** in St Gregory's Church. All are most welcome.



Sunday 15 March

This is a special day for all parents and there are two services both at **10.30** to celebrate Mothering Sunday:

All Age Worship ~~BEXFORD~~ Pendock
Family Communion ~~Castlemorton~~ Cross

At Castlemorton, we have an activity table for children to enjoy and the opportunity to have Holy Communion during the service.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Do come along with your families.

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!**

Kaleidoscope



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

Sunday 8 March at 6.30pm

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive our trespasses
As we forgive those who
trespass against us
And lead us not in to temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom
The Power and the Glory
Forever and ever
Amen

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

The theme in March
will be

Hallowed Be Thy Name

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

All are very welcome!

Massed Band Concert

2024 Great British Champions
Flowers Band



& **Local Brass Musicians**



Saturday 21st March

7pm - 9pm

JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL, LEDBURY, HR8 2HF

**Tickets £15
Children £5**

Available from Ticketsource
Scan the QR Code to go
directly to the Ticketsource page



www.lcbb.org.uk

Event kindly sponsored by:



Herefordshire
Council

Funded by
UK Government



AT PERSHORE ABBEY

**A programme of music for Spring celebrating
birdsong, light and natural beauty.**

**Saturday 21st March, 3pm
Tickets £12.50**

Including works by
Alec Roth, Ola Gjelo,
Rebecca Clarke,
Roxanna Panufnik,
Amy Bebbington,
Sarah Quartel,
Tarik O'Regan,
Bob Chilcott,
Kate Hill
... and more.



Buy tickets on the door, or scan the QR code, or go to
<https://buytickets.at/jennylindsingers/2062690>

