



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

**NEWSLETTER
August 2026**

Associate Priest Licensed Lay Minister Authorised Lay Minister Churchwarden PCC Secretary	The Revd Anthea Elston Michael Harper Jeremy Cox Sarah Musgrave Christina Leake	07398 741170 (Day Off – Friday) 01684 830133 / 07942 390194 01684 770657 01684 310330 / 07715 562311 01684 310409 / 07979 553074
Further information at https://berrowlongdon.org.uk		

Dear Friends,

I was reminded recently of a Thomas the Tank Engine cartoon: Thomas is on his side, having come off the tracks, and he's shouting 'I'm free! I'm free at last! I've fallen off the rails and I'm free!' But Thomas' newfound freedom is illusory. He's built to run on rails, and he can't function when he's fallen off them. All he can do is lie on his side shouting silly things; and wait for somebody with a crane to sort him out.

Tagore reflected the same point (perhaps less memorably?) when he wrote 'Emancipation from the bondage of the soil is no freedom for the tree.'

Paul, addressing the Athenians, memorably said that it is 'in God that we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28). God is our 'soil', then? Exactly.

St Augustine, in his book Confessions, prays 'You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.'

And the Bible - from Genesis to Revelation - teaches that it is precisely choosing to go our own independent way which in truth binds us; freedom and fullness of life lies in seeking to know and to do God's will.

Oswald Chambers, author of *My Utmost for His Highest*, put it well when he wrote 'We are only free when the Son sets us free (John 8:36); but we are free to choose whether or not we will be made free.' Jesus invites us - Follow Me; but we decide whether we will follow, trust and obey - and paradoxically thus find freedom in His service. That definite decision is the starting point.

How can we then live fully and in true freedom? By bringing all our choices, all our questions, to the Lord and asking for His guidance. Sometimes that's hard; how do we hear Him? That's perhaps for another time; suffice it for now to say we start by telling Him that we really want His way more than our own, and asking that He show us. Sometimes I can't hear His reply - and then I pray - 'well, if what I think I should do is wrong - block it! Close the wrong doors; open the right ones.' It works! I'd even say life lived this way becomes an adventure. And putting our hands, our very lives, into the hands of the One who created and loved us is so much better than 'taking our fate upon ourselves.' At least, I find it to be so.

May God bless you in the adventure!

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Trinity 9	2 August	10.30am 5.00pm 6.30pm	Family Communion Evensong Start The Week	Queenhill Hollybush Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 10	9 August	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 11	16 August	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion All Age Worship Start The Week	Castlemorton Eldersfield Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 12	23 August	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Longdon Berrow Castlemorton
Monday	24 August	11.00am	Dorothy Bartlett's Funeral	Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 13	30 August	10.30am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise Start The Week	Bushley Pendock Old Church Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 14	6 September	10.30am 5.00pm 6.30pm	Family Communion Evensong Start The Week	Queenhill Hollybush Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 15	13 September	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Kaleidoscope	Bushley Birtsmorton Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 16	20 September	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion All Age Worship Start The Week	Castlemorton Pendock Cross Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 17	27 September	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Start The Week	Eldersfield Longdon Berrow Castlemorton

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



Parish News



We were saddened to learn that Dorothy Bartlett died recently and send our thoughts and prayers to her family at this time. Her funeral service will take place at St Gregory's, on Monday 24 August at 11.00, followed by burial in the churchyard.

The family encourages all who attend to wear a splash of red as this was the favourite colour of both Dorothy and her late husband Lionel.

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefice

Until Thursday 27 August		Between 9.30 and 4.00pm	<i>Threads Through The Cross</i> Exhibition	Tewkesbury Abbey
Wednesday and Thursday	5-6 August	3.00pm and 7.30pm	Malvern Chamber Music Festival (details below)	Great Malvern Priory
Tuesday	11 August	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Friday	28 August	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bellringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	5 September	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany	Castlemorton
Saturday	5 September	2.00 - 4.00pm	Working Party to tidy churchyard	Castlemorton
Tuesday	8 September	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Tudor House, Fisher's Place, Pendock
Friday	25 September	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bellringing practice	Castlemorton
Sunday	27 September	2.00 - 4.00pm	St Faith's Gift Day	Berrow Church



Elgar Ensemble Great Malvern Priory

Wednesday 5 August

3.00pm Debussy, Beethoven

7.30pm Bridge, Stanford

Thursday 6 August

3.00pm Bridge

7.30pm Elgar, Bridge, Schubert

Full programme and ticket details at
malvernchambermusicfestival.com

Details of the musicians may be found at
<http://elgarensemble.com/>

Saturday 5 September 2.00 – 4.00pm

Can you spare a little time to help us?

Come and join the working party and help tidy the churchyard.

If you can come along for any length of time, please contact Sarah Musgrave so we know whom to expect. You will need to read and sign a brief risk assessment, I'm afraid, and that can be emailed and read in advance and will be ready to receive your signature on the day.



Please bring your own tools – small fork and secateurs are most useful, and a bucket for weeds. If you have a strimmer and are willing to use that, we'd be particularly delighted to see you!

sjmusgrave33@gmail.com

CaCoffany!

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Saturdays

5 September, 3 October, 7 November,
5 December (Christmas Special)

10.00 – 11.30am

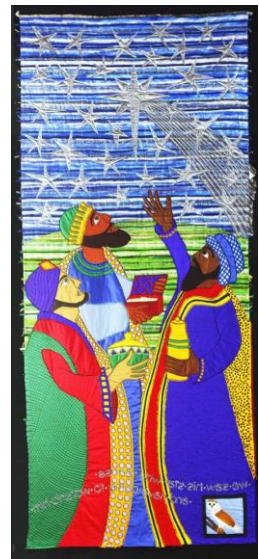
**A monthly coffee morning with the
chance to sing uplifting hymns and
listen to guest musicians**



**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!**

Threads Through The Cross



**A powerful exhibition of 18 large panels
depicting the life of Jesus, created by textile
artist Jacqui Parkinson.**

**On display at Tewkesbury Abbey until Thursday
27 August.**

**There is a trail for children to follow and see if
you can identify the birds and their significance
each panel.**

St Gregory's, Castlemorton

Start The Week

**6.30pm on every Sunday
except the second Sunday in the month**

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

It offers the opportunity to join together and enjoy a time of
peace and tranquillity before the business of the week begins.



Join us 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 9 August 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 August will
be

*'and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass
against us'*

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

All are very welcome!