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messenger

April / May 2024



St John The Evangelist, Shobdon - 21 March 2024

Service details and magazine content available on-line at
www.arrowvalechurches.org.uk

Rector's Letter

Finally we are seeing some sun amidst the rain and all of a sudden Summer beckons. Everything in the garden has suddenly burgeoned and is looking very lush. By the time you get this Easter will be on us and then we have all the pleasures of Spring and new life to look upon. And since Easter is so early this year, we will be looking at tulips rather than the customary daffodils.

I look out on our beautiful surroundings and remember the summers of my childhood spent in my Grandad's house in Dorset. Idyllic summers where it never rained, and the days merged into one long hazy whole.

This is God's creation. God is not only in us but in all creation and God created us for joy. Psalm 126:2, "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy."

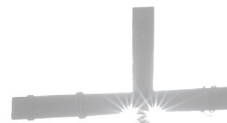
As we approach Summer, I feel we need to be reminded of God's love for us and spend time, 'considering the lilies of the field'. We are better for time just being thankful for what is all around us. Time to just be. Time to remember what it is to be a beloved child in God's creation.

Here's to an idyllic Spring into Summer.

Spring Psalm

Only at this season
do we enjoy forsythia's
golden explosion
or tulips' full palette.
Only at this season
are fields so emerald,
their architecture so clear,
trees having not yet leafed
and obscured earth's imagined corners.
If my eyes could sing
they would make of
this veriditas doxology,
as would my tongue
touched with good wine,
or my fingers skimming
the perfection of your skin.
No created beauty is
too insignificant to adore,
too small for us to psalm.

Bonnie Thurston



COPY DATE

Please make sure that all copies for the next issue are with
Your Parish Contact By 16th May.
For Advertising Email: malcolmwthompson@btinternet.com

Thank You

MESSENGER CONTACTS



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debbieweaver92@gmail.com

Shobdon – Heather Weale
heatherweale@me.com

Lyonshall FOOD BANK collection point

St. Michael and All Angels church at Lyonshall now has a collection box to receive items of food and toiletries for the local Kington Food Bank. In these days of uncertainty, the food bank is very much in need to help those who find themselves in difficult situations. All donations of non-perishable food with good use-by dates can be placed in the collection box inside the church, all items would be very much appreciated and gratefully received with thanks.

Kington and District Food Bank

are in need of the following items:

- Tinned food
- Dried food products
- Toiletries
- Sanitary items

If you would like to donate there is a collection point in Pembridge church or at The Steppes, Pembridge.

If you are in need or know of anybody who require food bank vouchers please contact Rev. Anna Branston on 07776 92458

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- *Pembridge HSBC* - 40.28.13 Acc. 71305085
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- *Shobdon Santander* - 09.01.52 Acc. 54109705
- *Byton Lloyds* - 30.94.99 Acc. 00509867

**Should you wish to pay by cheque, please contact
The Rector for advice.**

PARISH CONTACTS

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07777 692458 abranston2002@gmail.com

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Mr Simon Edwards 01544 267430
Mr Steve Weaver 01544 267815

PEMBRIDGE

Mrs Jacqui Thomas 01544 388471
Mrs Gill Smith 01544 388441

SHOBDON

Mr Terry Teale
terryteale100@gmail.com

• CHURCH CONTACTS •

LYONSHALL

Mrs Liz Avery 01544 340409

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Rev Anna Branston 07777 692458

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Mr Clive Edwards 01544 388831

Mothers' UNION
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MU Arrowvale Branch Report

Our January meeting was held at Shobdon Methodist Chapel and our theme was "looking ahead". As there is so much uncertainty in the world we talked about the about God's steadfast love and how faith can give us confidence to look to the future, whatever that may hold for us. We thought of Abram and Sarai aged 75 being tasked by God to move location and because of their faithfulness they ended up with a name change and a son, Isaac! We read Malcolm Guite's interpretation of Psalm 100.

Sarah informed the meeting about a Provincial Gathering in Oxford on 22nd June and about the Lady Day Service on 9th April in Cusop together with the Quiet Day in Leominster Priory on 8th May. After prayers, we enjoyed a good chat over tea and biscuits.

Our February meeting was the AGM held at Shobdon Methodist Chapel. After the reports and minutes of the previous AGM were approved by members we discussed some suggestions for the coming year. We plan to have our usual Summer and Christmas lunches, together with a Communion Service in September. We would also like to invite the MU Diocesan Chaplain, Revd Penny Littlewood to a meeting to welcome our newest member, Ann Fairbrother. We would also like to plan a fund-raising event such as a coffee morning or a soup/roll lunch event.

We then learnt about the World Day of Prayer on the 1st March and used some of the resources that the Christian Women of Palestine had developed. They used the symbol of an olive tree to represent friendship and reconciliation, cleansing and healing, light and above all peace. We were told that the olive tree has such longevity that the trees in the garden of Gethsemane have the same roots as they had in Jesus' time.

We looked at Ephesians 4 which begins "As a prisoner of the Lord, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace". After prayers, we had the most delicious lemon curd sponge cake and tea.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm usually at Shobdon Methodist Chapel. For further information and help with transport, please contact Sarah Westaby 0771 1556497 email: [sfwestaby@gmail.com](mailto:sfewestaby@gmail.com)



Shobdon Church has a busy year ahead with various events and really needs more volunteers. There are lots of ways in which you can help, from handing out tea and coffee, to publicity – both online and posters, to making cakes, to cleaning the church (sweeping, wiping, clearing), to handyman work. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated. Besides the normal running of the building, there will be events in May, July and October. If you think you could lend a hand, please contact:

Anne Walker 01568 708 712 Email: anne.walker52@gmail.com

APCM

Shobdon's APCM will be held on Sunday 14th March after the 11am service.

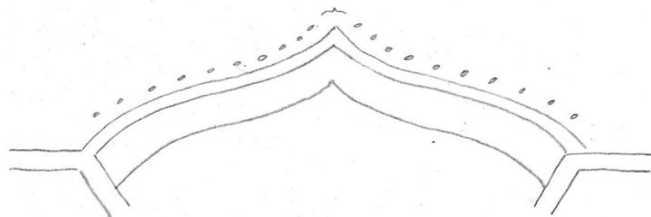
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Staunton on Arrow WI

With 32 members, our group has continued to be a happy, friendly place to share our knowledge and creative skills on a range of subjects and activities and we look forward to another entertaining year ahead.

For our January meeting Staunton on Arrow WI had a wonderful presentation of how to make Sushi by one of our members Becky Bissell and her husband Mark. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening and to finish Mark organised a quiz for us, to test our knowledge on all things Sushi.

We are always pleased to see new faces, so if you would like to come along as a visitor with a view to joining us as a full member, you would be most welcome to any of our meetings, with a small charge for refreshments of £5. We meet at Staunton on Arrow village hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

For more information see our website. www.stauntononarrowwi.weebly.com

Wendy Williams, Secretary
07990 748897

Doves & Doorways

- Appreciating & Finding The Hidden Expression Of Grief -

A small three day exhibition in April at Byton Church, presented by Holly Barker. From Friday 26th to Sunday 28th April, 11am to 2pm.

Exhibiting a collection of linocuts, a large canvas painting and prints in black and white, with narratives around the theme of grief, death and feeling.

In honour of our beautiful rustic churches on the historic Black & White route in Herefordshire. Inviting creativity, conversation, and the possibility of informal painting and sketching to which St Marys church lends itself so beautifully on a isolated hillside with a reflective walk to the church door.

The inspiration for this theme comes from the craftsmanship, culture, and mother nature's changing seasons found in ancient churchyards, in workings from photographs and mixed media over time as an amateur maker.

A website with grief cards and prints would be available, with a 10% tithe to Byton church funds.



Bridge Drive

This was well attended and thanks go to all who supported it in any way- the kitchen ladies, the players, people who gave food and draw prizes and donations.

A special thanks to Zita Chilman who very efficiently ran the event. Much needed monies were raised towards our church expenses.

Easter Weekend

Good Friday walk up the hill with the cross as usual and Easter Sunday communion at 9.30am.

AGM

This will be held at Court House Farm on Monday, April 15th at 7.30pm.



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Save The Date For Lyonshall Open Gardens

29th June 11.00 - 4.00. Several Gardens will be open as well as the official opening of the meadow. Cream teas and cakes will be served. There will be an opportunity for younger members of the community to get involved too. More details to follow in the next few weeks.

Easter Service

There will be a Holy Communion Service in Lyonshall Church on Easter Sunday, March 31st, at 11.00am.

Lyonshall Church APCM

This will be held in church on Sunday April 28th after the 11.00 am Holy Communion service.

Lyonshall Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings are held at Lyonshall Memorial Hall every second Friday between 10 and 12 noon. The next two dates for your diaries are Friday April 12th and Friday May 10th.

Fundraising News

Our Coffee Mornings continue to be very generously supported. In February we raised £240 which was shared between two animal charities: the PDSA and Dogs for Good. In March we donated £240 to Acorns Children's Hospice.

Come along to our monthly Coffee Mornings and meet old friends and new. Enjoy refreshments, stalls and good company in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and support a good cause at the same time.

For further details, contact Kathy Thompson on 01544 340386. Everyone welcome.

Announcing The Unveiling Of The Verdun Oak Sculpture

You are invited to attend a special event on Saturday 20th April to mark the unveiling of the Verdun Oak Sculpture. We will be formally revealing the Sculpture at 3pm followed by an Afternoon Tea Reception at Pembridge Parish Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend so please come along if you can. Please see further details in the coming weeks on the Parish Council and Portrait of Pembridge websites. Verdun Oak Sculpture Committee

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LYONSHALL GARDENING CLUB



Thursday 4th April
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7.30pm

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from Westonbury Mill Water Gardens**

Come and join us for a talk about their spectacular water themed garden near Pembridge, and exciting new plans afoot to develop the garden further.

**Entry £2.50
Refreshments & raffle - Everyone welcome**



APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on the 19th May after the Morning Service.

Quiz Night

Many thanks to all who supported our Quiz Night. It was again a successful evening won by The Mothers of Invention team. Thank you to those who entered teams and for all those who helped by setting up the hall, food preparation and a special thank you to Meryl who wrote all the questions. We made £460 towards church funds.

Cream Teas

The Cream Tea season will start on the 26th May and continue until the 8th September. Please come and join us for a homemade cream tea from 3.00pm – 5.00pm each Sunday afternoon.

Environment Weekend – June 1st and 2nd

Sunday June 2nd has been designated Environment Sunday as it is the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day. Pembridge Church will be offering a special morning service at 11.00am based on the environment and the challenges the world is facing. During the whole weekend there will be a chance to visit the church to look at displays and information showcasing local environment groups and their work and on the Sunday afternoon cream teas will be available between 3pm & 5pm.

Bronwen Lewis in Concert

Friday 5th July - 7.30pm in Pembridge Church
Tickets - £20 to include light refreshments

We have managed to book Welsh singer/songwriter, Bronwen Lewis, to perform in concert, in Pembridge Church on the evening of Friday 5th July this year. Her warm music style sits somewhere between Country, Pop and Blues with a varied repertoire, from traditional Welsh hymns to Ed Sheeran. She plays piano and guitar.

Bronwen appeared on the BBC's theVoice back in 2014 when she brought Tom Jones to tears. After this she starred in and sang the song "Bread and Roses" in the BAFTA Award Winning and Golden Globe nominated film "Pride".

During lockdown, Bronwen performed over 45 virtual concerts from her home and went viral on Tik Tok with her Welsh language covers of famous pop songs, building herself a large fan base. She has also appeared in television specials, has supported Max Boyce on tour and performed on BBC Radio 1. She now has her own programmes on (English speaking) Radio Wales.

Following her hugely successful 2022 tour, "From the Living Room", Bronwen has been back touring again with "More from the Living Room".

We look forward to a lovely evening with Bronwen. Not only does she have an incredible voice but she is also a great entertainer, connecting with her audience through her likeable personality and her emotional and funny stories between the songs.

She has a successful you tube channel so why not try this link to introduce you to some of her music: <https://www.youtube.com/@bronwenlewis3323> More details about this concert will follow in the next magazine and on posters nearer the time.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Saturday 20th April

Saturday 18th May

10.30am

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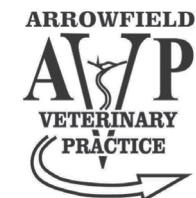
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A Smallholders Life and Times

"Rain rain go away, come again another day"; we used to chant this in the playground at Titley school Not much has changed; each year we have a different weather challenge. As a smallholder, gardener and horse rider now facing life and its challenges on my own since my partner Merv Tong died last year, I do try and be positive about most things.

The seed order arrived, and the broad beans and sweet peas had been sown into pots and placed in my new polytunnel. Lovely green shoots appeared, only to be snapped off by a mouse who had taken all the seeds from below leaving only the green shoots as evidence. There is still time. I had to sow some more, but this time I put them in a safe place hopefully away from voracious pests!

Riding a horse around the surrounding lanes is always interesting, being able to look over the hedges, listening to birdsong and generally enjoying nature. Sometimes the peace is disrupted by the occasional runner busily texting, with earbuds firmly fixed who runs into the back of my horse. Or the motorist who is unable to stop on a narrow lane, just for ten seconds so I can ride safely past, who then shouts, "horses shouldn't be on the roads". People forget horses were our main form of transport for hundreds of years.

Horse riding is now a wonderful form of therapy in our busy lives, and another way of observing things. In a field not far away from where I live, I have noticed at least five footballs kicked over the hedge from a nearby property. Goodness knows what will happen when the combine comes along at harvest time.

I have hung up my lambing waterproofs after nearly 20 years of delivering lambs. With Merv gone, it would have been impossible to continue, but I have chosen five sheep as field ornaments. I do miss the lambs leaping about, but not the endless bottle feeding, late nights and the traumas that go with lambing time, not to mention the vet bills.

Holly our one remaining goat, is allowed to roam freely but not in the vegetable garden! Goats do not eat washing off the line, but I've discovered that they do eat daffodils, roses and will nibble at your hair given the opportunity. Holly loves to be near the horses, rubbing herself against them and I think that she would be an excellent burglar deterrent, creeping up behind them to chew their hair!

I often notice a single red kite flying in our area and wonder if it is Merv in spirit keeping an eye on me.

Marion Williams



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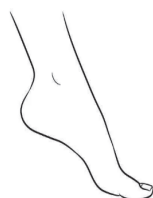
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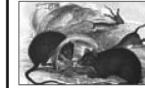
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March 31st Easter	Byton	9.30
	Lyonshall	11.00
	Pembridge & baptism	11.00
	Shobdon	11.00
	Staunton	9.30
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April 4th Moorcourt Prayer Group	9.30 Quiet Prayer	10.00
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April 7th	Shobdon Joint service	11.00
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April 14th	Shobdon HC	9.30
	Pembridge 3 Cs	11.00
	Lyonshall HC	9.30
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April 21st	Staunton HC	9.30
	Pembridge HC (sung)	11.00
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April 28th	Shobdon HC	9.30
	Moorcourt HC	9.30
	Lyonshall HC	11.00
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May 2nd Moorcourt Prayer Group	9.30 Quiet Prayer	10.00
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May 5th	Byton HC	9.30
	Pembridge HC (Family)	11.00
	Staunton EP	6.00
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May 12th	Lyonshall HC	9.30
	Pembridge 3 Cs	11.00
	Shobdon HC	11.00
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May 19th	Staunton HC	9.30
	Pembridge HC (sung)	11.00
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May 19th Pentecost	Pentecost Joint service Pembridge	11.00
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May 26th Trinity Sunday	Shobdon HC	9.30
	Moorcourt HC	9.30
	Lyonshall	11.00
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June 2nd	Byton HC	9.30
	Pembridge HC (Family)	11.00
	Staunton EP	6.00

Morning Prayer – Monday Pembridge School 9.00