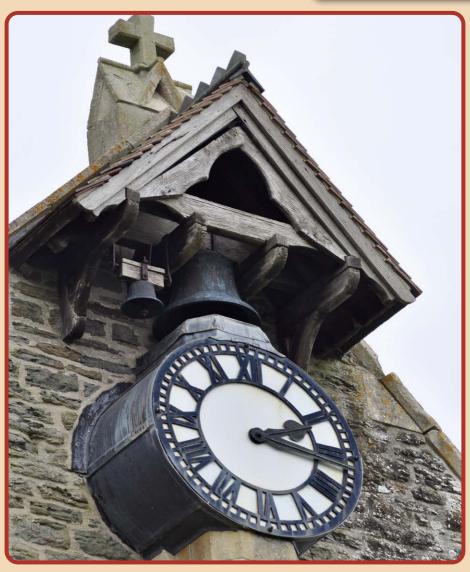
October / November 2024



St Mary's Church Byton. The clock is a memorial to those who were killed in the Great War

A Word from The Arrowvale Messenger

We send our best wishes to Anna and look forward to her return over the next few weeks. In the interim, we are providing the Bishop's most recent message to us all.

Bishops of Hereford's Weekly Message 19th September 2024.

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's message.

One of the many failings of social media is the illusion it gives of real connection. As we discovered during lockdown, Zoom and Teams allows us to function but they're no substitute for real face to face meeting. So much of our communication happens through body language and throwaway gesture. These are lost when we meet electronically. To really know someone requires us to see the whites of their eyes.

As we move on to the second stanza of the Apostles creed that might be a helpful metaphor. We believe in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord. If we only had God as a distant creator, we would be more likely to retreat in fear than approach in in love. Ancient pagan practices conceived of their 'gods' in that way. The relationship was purely transactional. How might they placate an angry deity or persuade a reluctant, distant one to come up with the goods?

However, Jesus gives us an altogether different picture. Paul reflects in Colossians 1: 15 that, "the Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Not only that but the possibility is held out that human beings can enter into a similar filial relationship. In Romans 8:29 we read, "for those whom God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." When you consider the words spoken of Jesus both at his baptism and transfiguration, this is an extraordinary promise. "You are my son, the beloved, in you I am well-pleased". The next two stanzas of the creed will delineate how one enters into such a relationship. But for now, the biblical understanding that this is what Jesus Christ makes possible for broken, sinful human beings is primarily in view.

I am grateful for the kind messages from many people on the news of my Father's death a few weeks ago. We used this photograph on the front page of the order of service at the funeral. Those of you who've met me will I hope be able to see the likeness, although right to the end he had far more hair than I do! He took up painting in his very long retirement which started in 1984 at the age of 58. We have quite a few of his pictures. I have inherited that aspect of his creativity and I see in myself many traits both positive and negative that he has passed on. We all bear an image of our parents. When we meet the parents of friends we usually see something of our friends in them. In Jesus we see the invisible God made visible. We bear the image of both parents; Jesus Christ allows us to see God in his purest form. It really is like the difference between the grainy zoom call and meeting face to face, amplified a thousand-fold. A being completely inaccessible through human reason alone becomes accessible, even knowable. His intentions towards humanity are revealed as good. His actions can be seen through the lens of love. The words of affirmation, clarity of identity and purpose spoken of Jesus are revealed to be the Father's words to us too.

As we will see in all aspects of the creed, these are truths that have a deep psychological resonance. We all long to be known and loved as we are. We long for an unequivocal welcome into family. In a world like ours where so many relationships end in disappointment leaving a trail of insecurity and hurt behind them, our faith speaks of the possibility of something far more secure and lasting. Jesus the son shows us the character and intentions of God the father, and they are indeed good.

The destination of all this is summed up in Revelation 21:7. "Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children." This is not just a psychological prop for the now but a promise for all eternity. Good news indeed.

a psychological prop for the now but a promise for all eternity. Good news indeed. Richard

COPY DATE

Please make sure that all copies for the next issue are with **Your Parish Contact By 16th November.**

For Advertising Email: malcolmwthompson@btinternet.com

Thank You —

MESSENGER CONTACTS



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Shobdon – Anne Walker anne.walker52@gmail.com

Editor – jackedwardscontact@gmail.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 07777 692458

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From The Registers

LYONSHALL Wedding Tyler Evans and Harriet Williams - August 2nd

Wedding Stephen Williams and Tina Barker - August 3rd

Wedding Lewis Davies and Amy Betts - August 17th

Ellie Marie Parsons - August 4th **PEMBRIDGE Baptism**

Burial Richard S Gwilliam - August 17th

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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.

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PEMBRIDGE

Mrs Jacqui Thomas 01544 388471 Mrs Gill Smith 01544 388441

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CHURCH CONTACTS

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Mrs Liz Avery 01544 340409

SHOBDON

Rev Anna Branston 07777 692458

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW

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MU Arrowvale Branch Report

We have been rather busy over the past few months. In May, Revd Penny, our Diocesan Chaplain, attended our meeting and held a service to admit Ann and Holly as members and for all members to re-affirm their commitment to the MU, its aims and objects. We had tea, scones and sponge cake afterwards to celebrate!

After the Diocesan Council meeting which Sarah attended in early June, we had our annual summer lunch at the Pembridge Water gardens. Seven members were able to come along together with our Diocesan member Sue, also Sandra and Heather joined us.

We didn't meet in July as Sarah was ill. However, in August, 6 members met at the former Shobdon Methodist Chapel to consider the character of Mary Magdalene. Whether or not she had been a prostitute is questionable, but the key issue is that lesus forgave for any wrongdoing, and she became a devoted follower. But some of her behaviour was outrageous (for the times); washing a rabbi's feet, letting her hair down, using (or some would say, misusing) costly oils - shocking! But Jesus praised her for her bravery. Mary was present at the crucifixion (all the men had run away) and at the resurrection. We also thought about our founder, Mary Sumner, who created the MU nearly 150 years ago. Mary Sumner through faith and social interaction, together with perseverance and prayer created the MU. MU now operates in 83 countries worldwide, helping to transform lives through literacy campaigns; teaching business techniques for women especially to become self-sufficient and improve their family's lives. We also have an anti-modern day slavery campaign, an ending domestic abuse campaign (Rise Up, no more I in the 3), and are helping to overcome homelessness, here in Herefordshire, to name but a few. After reading Psalm 32 together and singing Nancy's favourite hymn – Blessed Assurance – and prayers, we enjoyed our usual tea and cake.

We are a small and friendly group. Please come along and see for yourself!

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm at various locations but please contact Sarah Westaby, email: sfewestaby@gmail.com or 07711556497 for more information.

PEMBRIDGE NEWS



Thank you to all who supported the Strawberry Fayre by attending and helping on the day. It was again a lovely afternoon, eating delicious refreshments, enjoying lovely weather and listening to a variety of music. Thank you to Hayley and the Love to Sing choir, and to Andy Davies and friends for their singing and playing. We do appreciate everyone's support in helping us raise vital funds towards the mission and upkeep of our church.

Pudding & Pimms

Thank you to all again for your support at the Pudding & Pimms at Broxwood Court on the 8th September. Even though the weather was not what was ordered, the puddings and venue made it the successful afternoon that it was. Thank you to Mike and Anne Allen and Richard Snead-Cox for their offer of venue and additional support towards this event.

Annual Autumn Supper With Talk - Saturday 26th October

Please join us once again for our Autumn Supper on Saturday 26th October at Pembridge Parish Hall at 6.45pm for 7pm where you will be served a delicious hot supper before enjoying a talk from our speaker Sue Adams-Wheeler. Sue—whose home is in Pembridge—has had a fulfilling career working with Riding for the Disabled. She has travelled widely teaching others the skills involved in therapeutic equestrian training. Tickets will be available from Ye Olde Steppes or with Gill (01544 388441) ianandgillian@gmail.com or Meryl (0154432976) merylgriffith@gmail.com or via the Arrowvale website at a cost of £15. Pre- booking is essential.

Piano Concert - November 2nd, 7:30

Once again we are delighted to welcome local pianist Richard Errington to The Great Hall, at The Bishop's Palace for a recital which will include works by Beethoven, Grieg, Debussy, Bach/Busoni among others. Admission will be $\pounds 15$ - either at the door or by contacting Gill on 01544388441 or Meryl on 01544329760 or via the Arrowvale website.

The Woodcock Craft Fayre - Saturday 23rd November 10am to 4pm

Our annual Woodcock Craft Fayre will be taking place in the church on 23rd November, between 10am and 4pm. Join us in the beautiful surroundings of our ancient church where you can purchase an array of products directly from independent crafters. Why not shop sustainably for your Christmas gifts? You'll also have a chance to try your luck on the Bottle Tombola and the Raffle. We will be serving tea and coffee with cake throughout the day, or why not come at lunchtime

and enjoy some delicious home-made soup. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we would love to see you there. We are always grateful for your support.

Why do we call it the Woodcock Craft Fayre? During the Middle Ages, the Woodcock Fayre was a hiring fair held in November in Pembridge Market Hall and was an important place for agricultural labourers across the county to seek work from landowners. This practice carried on through the 19th and into the 20th century and only ceased after the First World War. Our modern-day Woodcock Fayre was reintroduced in 2016 and has grown since then. It is an opportunity to showcase the amazing wealth of crafts and crafts people in our local area, together with the opportunity to trade – the foundation of our village of Pembridge.

Pembridge Footlights Society Sat. 5th October - The Met Les Contes D'Hoffman

Sat. 5th October - The Met Les Contes D'Hoffman
Wed. 16th October - Royal Ballet Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Sat. 19th October - The Met Grounded
Sat. 23rd November - The Met Tosca

Details and booking on pembridgeparishhall.co.uk or if you would like to go to this and are unable to access the website contact: Marguerite Fothergill 01544 388279

This Girl Loves to Sing and Love 2 Sing Choir sing Christmas at Pembridge Church on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm

Join us for an evening of Christmas Cheer with Hayley Osborne and our local community Love 2 Sing Choir with seasonal refreshment. Tickets £5 available on the door.

Dates for the Diary

- October 20th 2024 Harvest Service There will be a hot soup lunch following the service. If you thinking of bring a harvest donation please bring tins or dried food items that can be donated to the local food bank. Thank you.
- 29th March 2025 Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz & Blues Guitarist concert at Pembridge Church



Woodcock Craft Fayre

Saturday, 23rd November 10am to 4pm Pembridge Church

Join us in the beautiful surroundings of our ancient church where you can purchase an array of products directly from independent crafters Shop sustainably for Christmas

Light refreshments available all day



Proceeds to Pembridge Church



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A Smallholders Life & Times

The welcome return of Pembridge show brought back memories of digging a whole row of Winston potatoes to try and find enough matching unblemished samples to fit on a white plate. None of my vegetables were of show standard this time, instead I thought that I would have a go with a few flowers, most of the classes were so well supported that extra space had to be made on the display tables. I was pleasantly surprised to win with my Cactus Dahlias, one of the few varieties that survived the Winter outside.

Colourful butterflies have been feeding alongside wasps on the windfall pears, they have become a rare sight compared to past years, but the pesky cabbage white butterflies are not a rarity to help stop the damage from their caterpillars I have adopted the Cottage gardeners method of growing flowers such as Pot Marigolds (Calendula) in among my Winter Brassica's, and I have been lucky, so far there has been no damage to the leaves.

There are areas in my garden (where daffodils bloomed in the Spring) that were left for tall grasses to grow, these have now been mowed. This is something that most sensible growers/gardeners have done for many years, together with leaving odd corners to grow wild,



allowing nettles and a surprise of flowers to grow naturally.

I am amused that something that has happened over such a long time, has a new name: "Rewilding".

A few recent days of precious warm weather meant that at last I have six round bales of haylage, and a "pup" (a smaller version) to store for Winter emergencies, but sadly not for feeding Holly the goat. She had reached the grand old age of 16 yrs, her ashes have been buried close to Merv, and her sisters Sara and Raisa in the wild meadow.

Autumn is on its way, I have seen swallows congregating on the wires, robins are trilling, and there is a big hairy spider in the bath. It will soon be time to light the Rayburn, before settling down to some early nights and Winter projects.

Marion Williams



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Lyonshall Coffee Mornings Fundraising News

Our Coffee Mornings continue to be very generously supported. In August we raised a magnificent £260 which was donated to the Acorns Children's Hospice and in September our annual Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning Event was a huge success raising £450.

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.**



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 October 11th and Friday November 8th.



Hannah Roper Concert

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust are organising a concert in **Lyonshall Church on Saturday 19th October** as part of their fundraising initiative 'Music in Quiet Places'.

Hannah Roper in Concert: Folk to Film 7 pm.

Hannah was born and brought up in Herefordshire and maintains strong musical links with the county. A talented violinist (a winner of the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin prize for string-playing while reading music at Cambridge), her career has taken her to national and international venues including Carnegie Hall in New York, playing alongside leading ensembles including the English Symphony Orchestra and the Oxford Philharmonic. Her solo programme this evening will comprise an eclectic, light-hearted selection of pieces by (among others) American, Armenian and British composers.

Donations will be divided between HHCT and Lyonshall church.

Drinks and nibbles will be available.

Recollections of life in Lyonshall - Sally Boyce

MORE than 40 years ago, Lyonshall was a different place altogether.

There were two village shops, a hairdresser and a thriving pub. The beer had only stopped flowing a few years earlier at an alternative hostelry, the Old Maidenhead. Hard to imagine now the pastoral scenes when the late Horace Addis, a stalwart of the village, would amble slowly through the village with his small herd of cows, heedless of the occasional cars. Earlier still, Mr Addis provided milk deliveries throughout Lyonshall with his horse and cart. The same vehicle also came in handy when a death in the village required his services as an undertaker.

Living at the corner shop, (run by the Whiteside family), the owner Stan Jones remembered the halcyon days when Lyonshall fielded its own football and cricket teams. He would happily recall how his regular Saturday job involved him diligently sweeping the entire half-mile length of Lynhales drive.

Services at the Mission Room in Holmes Marsh had ceased by the late 1970s, but garrulous characters such as the late Jim Clarke could bring it back to life with his colourful descriptions of when the Marsh was at prayer.

Such as the Sunday when a jocular group gathered nearby, and as the cider went down, the volume of their singing went up. Eventually, the vicar stepped outside and invited the men to join the service, with their cider flagons, and according to Jim a jolly time was had by all.

Sweet Miss Fisher, (Gladys) was a familiar sight in Lyonshall, often gathering armfuls of kindling wood from Lynhales drive to take back home for her fire. Before the First World War she was to marry her sweetheart, who went off to join the fight. When a telegram brought news of his death, she mourned his loss and abandoned any future thoughts of matrimony.

During the Second World War, there are those who claim Miss Fisher bravely put herself forward for Churchills' Secret Army, a highly covert organisation set up in the desperate days after Dunkirk. She would have been among those all over the country who prepared to make up the British resistance should Germany have invaded.

Later on, she was always smartly attired with her grey hair in a neat bun when she walked around the village. So it was a great surprise to learn about her work during the war, that she would have been required to sign the Official Secrets Act, and not allowed to tell those closest to her about her role.

The stories of village life within living memory are many and varied, so it's important, and fascinating, to hear from those whose knowledge of life in Lyonshall spans many decades. Their recollections will be featured in future editions of The Arrowvale Messenger.

Lyonshall 300 Club Prize Winners

1st - Ruth Ford 2nd and 3rd - Daniel Sutton 4th - Sylvie Dyke 5th - Laura Rowlett

Lyonshall Church Flower Rota

There are two people on the rota for each month and there is currently one place vacant in August. Would anyone interested in helping please contact Ruth Lias on 01544 340 244.

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WIENS)

Songs of Praise

This took place in early August and was a well-attended service with hymns chosen by local people which was followed by coffee. Marina took a very informative service which we all enjoyed.

Services: - November 3rd Harvest Festival at 11am followed by lunch.

Details of this from margaret@edwardsbyton.co.uk nearer the time.

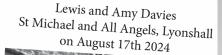
We wish Anna a speedy recovery and thank John Repath and Marina for taking our services.

Margaret



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Stephen and Tina Williams St Michael and All Angels, Lyonshall on 3rd August 2024



Tyler & Harriet Evans St Michael and All Angels, Lyonshall on 2nd August 2024





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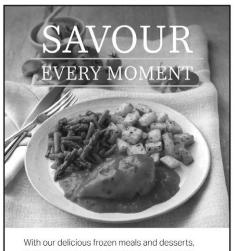
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Faith in Fostering

Our Faith in Fostering event will be held on Monday 7th October at the Bishop's Palace in Hereford. It starts at 6pm.



Fostering



Faith in Fostering

Our Faith in Fostering initiative encourages those from faith communities to contact us to explore how you could change the life of a local child or young

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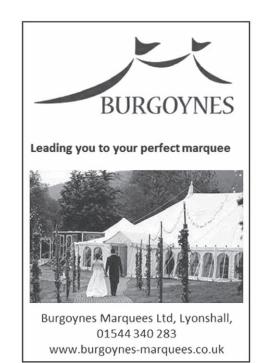


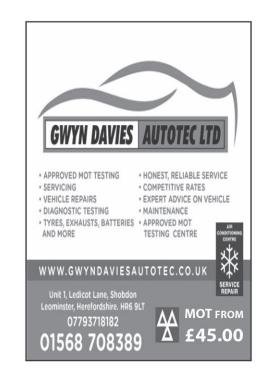
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October 3rd	9.30am Moorcourt Chapel – Prayer Group / Quiet Prayer
October 6th	11.00am Pembridge Church – Holy Communion
October 13th	9.30am Shobdon Church – Holy Communion 11:00am Lyonshall Church – Holy Communion 11.00am Pembridge 3 C's
October 20th	9.30am Staunton Church – Holy Communion II.00am Pembridge Church – Harvest Festival
October 27th	9.30am Moorcourt Chapel – Holy Communion 11.00am Shobdon – Harvest Festival 11.00am Lyonshall Church – Holy Communion
November 3rd	
November 7th	9.30am Moorcourt Chapel – Prayer Group / Quiet Prayer
November 10th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES DATES AND VENUES TO BE ARRANGED AND PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE AND CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS NEARER THE TIME
November 17th	11.00am Pembridge Church – Holy Communion
November 24th	9.30am Moorcourt Chapel – Holy Communion 9.30am Lyonshall – Holy Communion 11.00am Shobdon Church – Holy Communion

Morning Prayer - Monday Pembridge School 9.00

While offering reasonable guidance, this schedule is subject to change and clergy availability. Please check the Pewsheet and Arrowvale Churches website (arrowvalechurches.org.uk) for

updated times and dates closer to the time.