

BYTON
LYONSHALL
SHORDON
STAUNTON-ON-ARROW
MOORCOURT
PEMBRIDGE

THE ARROWVALE GROUP

OF PARISHES

messenger

April / May 2025



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

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Please make sure that all copies for the next issue are with
Your Parish Contact By 16th May 2025.
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Thank You

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From The Registers

Shobdon Registers
Funeral

13th January 2025 - Frances Nicholas

Baptisms

25th January 2025 - Bertie Peter Conod
25th January 2025 - Florence Olivia Conod

Lyonshall Registers
Burial

28th February - Joan Tippins
3rd March - Corinne Armitstead

Pembridge Registers
Burial of Ashes

7th March - Philip "Pip" Ryde

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Mr Steve Weaver 07971 260518

PEMBRIDGE

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Mrs Gill Smith 01544 388441

SHOBDON

Mr Terry Teale 01568 708725

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SHOBDON

Rev Anna Branston 07777 692458

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW

Mr Clive Edwards 07980 337508

Rector's Letter

Spring is here again and Easter is on the horizon. You will find details of our Easter services on the back page. All are welcome at all our services.

On Palm Sunday there will be a dramatised passion play on the streets of Pembridge, with local music groups singing folk songs and hymns. You are very welcome to join us and sing along.

In recent years Reverend Susie Bishop has led services and prayers at Shobdon church. Sadly for us, the time has come when her ministry is developing elsewhere and she is focusing her ministry there. She celebrated her last service with us at the end of March.

I would like to thank Susie for her thoughtful and loving ministry with us. She will be greatly missed.

We are so pleased that Nick Clarke has been licensed as a Local Worship Leader and therefore you can expect to see him leading services and preaching. Marina Whichard will also be developing her ministry further.

After Easter the 4th Sunday service at Shobdon will be Matins, and the BCP communion at Staunton will continue. Do come and join us, see what we are doing and invite friends and family to 'taste and see'.

I hope you have a lovely Easter!

Anna

Phillipians 2

Imitating Christ's Humility

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

GIVING

Thank you for any donations you are able to give. Donations can be given in the following ways;

Electronic Transfer (BACS) should be made to

- *Lyonshall Lloyds* - 30.99.50 Acc. 21808163
- *Pembridge HSBC* - 40.28.13 Acc. 71305085
- *Staunton Lloyds* - 30.94.99 Acc. 00114439
- *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.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact:

- Rev. Anna Branston on 07777 692 458, by email to abranston2002@gmail.com, or at The Rectory, Pembridge, HR6 9EB, or
- Jane Owen, Byton Parish 07964 271744 or
- Dr M Lias, Benefice Safeguarding Officer on 01544 340244 / 07815304318 or
- The Safeguarding Officer at the Hereford Diocesan Office Carl Steventon on 07593817717 or for non-urgent matters contact The Diocesan Office on 01432 373000 and ask for the safeguarding team.

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

Bishops / Arch-Deacon's News

I'm just outside Christchurch in New Zealand this week. Below me you can just about make out the many surfers in the water. Surfing is a bit of a religion in parts of New Zealand. There were surfers in the water until it was almost dark last night and already in the water just as it was getting light at half past six this morning. I've never been surfing myself, but I can see it would be fun. I have too high a centre of gravity; I suspect I'd just find it frustrating, and it would make me cross with myself as I kept falling off. For those who love it, it can become a consuming desire. I suspect we all have our own obsessions which whilst not bad in themselves can become so if they lose proportion.

Buddhism identifies desire as the root of suffering, in the sense that frustrated desires lie behind it. The goal of life becomes eliminating desire to achieve enlightenment and peace. The Christian diagnosis is radically different. The problem is not the presence of desire – that is to be a human being; the problem is that it becomes misplaced in fallen human beings like you and me. As St. Augustine of Hippo said, "Lord, give me chastity, just not yet!" One of the goals of Lenten abstinence is to foster a re-ordering of affections in ways that draw us away from destructive and misplaced desires focussed on our own ego needs and towards the God who promises to be the source of our deepest satisfaction. Jesus had to endure the same temptations himself. The first of these in the wilderness was to turn the stones into bread. "You don't have to live with an ungratified physical desire", says the devil. Secure your life by acquisition and everything that makes life comfortable. Jesus' response was clear and unequivocal, "a person does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God". Essentially, our desires are not the best guide to what will ultimately make us happy. In the Genesis garden story Eve "saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he

ate it". Lest we repeat the old lie that it was Eve who was the temptress, the key phrase is, 'who was with her', he was there all the time. This is an indictment of humanity. They were both misled, but in slightly different ways. Giving in to that desire didn't end particularly well.

There is wisdom in the proverb 'moderation in all things', but this is slightly different. Christian wisdom says that growth in holiness is accompanied by allowing our desires to be put in a different order. Jesus said, "seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you". So, how might this work out in the practical day to day? Well, Jesus clearly promised at the end of the Great Commission that I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Approaching the day with the sense that Jesus is with us might cause us to ask the question, "can I do this with Jesus by my side?" Would the thing I am desiring and sacrificing for increase the amount of love, kindness and peace in the world, or would it simply make my life more comfortable, perhaps requiring a sacrifice to be made by someone else? Would the fulfilment of this desire make Jesus better known? The answer to these questions may of course be neutral, in which case go ahead! There is a difference between self-restraint and asceticism. I don't believe spiritual growth is necessarily about heroic sacrifices so beloved of our Celtic and monastic forbears in faith, or massive desire suppression. Its more likely to be the advice from Paul in Romans 12 to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. That requires a degree of self-reflection. These are questions to ask ourselves throughout the day with the prayer that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. I hope by God's grace my hierarchy of desire is different now to when I became Christian forty-seven years ago. I hope and pray in the latter part of my life they will continue to change to more faithfully reflect the Lord's agenda. I pray that this Lent we will all be making moves in a similar direction.

Richard

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.



MU Arrowvale Branch Report

E-Mail Scam:

Regrettably, one of our Parishioners has been scammed earlier this year.

With the rise of scamming as a growing and increasingly complex issue, how do we protect ourselves against fraudsters?

- Please check and double check the origin of any unexpected digital enquiry.
- Never respond to the message, because it's highly likely that the sender (most likely a BOT) will have assumed the I.D of a person that you know and it will manipulate you very quickly.
- Contact the person independently and ask for clarity.
- If in doubt, do nothing, nobody you know will ask you to pay for something on their behalf, or for your passwords or bank details.
- Please be vigilant, never assume, and question why the sender would ask for sensitive information by speaking directly using a trusted number or e-mail you have used previously.
- Always try and speak to our contact, you will know their voice and mannerisms.

Please do your best to follow this advice with your own judgement, in hopes that these checks and actions can prevent any unfortunate incidents in the future for our readers and supporters.

Thank you for reading, and be safe.

The Arrowvale Messenger Team



In January we held a lunch meeting, kindly hosted by Anthea, and heard news from the Diocese. We also discussed plans for our meetings this year and the Pancake Cafe on Shrove Tuesday, the 4th of March.

Subscriptions were now due and had increased to £36 per annum. These support the work of the M U nationally and internationally, where many projects are funded to help educate women and help them support their families.

The AGM in February was at Sarah's house and began with our usual short time of worship, with our prayers focussed on increasing membership. Sarah gave both the Leader's and Treasurer's reports. In addition to our meetings we had helped with the Pentecost Experience for Pembridge Primary school held in the Church and had contributed towards the cost of Bibles given to year 3. We had also donated to the Crisis Intervention Fund (CIF) run by the Herefordshire Diocese MU, the Diocesan MU itself and the MU Big Give, for overseas work.

Final planning for the Pancake Cafe then took place. A choice of soups would be offered as well as pancakes, and there would be a sales table. There would not be a fixed charge but donations would be requested.

On March 4th the Pancake Cafe was well supported and raised £360 for CIF. Morrisons supermarket donated the butter for the rolls and all other foodstuffs were donated by members and friends. We were very grateful for all the help and support we received because as a small group we could not do it alone. Thank you all.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, mostly at 2.30 pm.

Please contact our Leader, Sarah Westaby, for more information.

- Jenny Repath, Secretary

Email: [sfwestaby@gmail.com](mailto:sfewestaby@gmail.com) or 07711556497

All welcome!

SHOBDON NEWS



JUBILEE FIELD AND ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AVENUE

Shobdon's Jubilee Field is just a short walk down the path behind the Post Office Car Park. Immediately on the left, with access for all, you will find a 1.8-acre enclosed patch of land surrounding a pond with beautiful views to the south and east. Ongoing planting will be taking place by Shobdon Parish Council, including a wild flower area, planting of shrubs, and trees.

Another feature of the Jubilee Field is an Avenue of 10 elm trees just 7-8 ft tall at present, planted by the Royal British Legion. Inspiration for the Avenue came from the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) scheme, a unique UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which invited people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

When the weather is dryer and hopefully in time for VE day celebrations in early May, RBL will install a bench so the Jubilee Field and the Avenue becomes a place where people can enjoy nature, sit, and reflect.

Corbett Farms Ltd offered the lease of the land to Shobdon Parish Council which they accepted and we thank them for providing this area for the residents.

BYTON NEWS



Good Friday

The usual walk up the hill with the cross will take place on Good Friday April 18th. We shall gather at the church from 10am for a 10.30 start. Hot X buns and coffee to follow.

Easter Sunday

Communion at 9.30am at the church.

AGM

This will be on Monday, May 12th at 7.30pm.

STAUNTON NEWS



Staunton on Arrow Village Hall

Subject: **Help Keep Our Village Hall Open – Your Community Needs You!**

Dear Staunton on Arrow Community,

We hope this message finds you well! As we prepare for our AGM in May, we're writing to share an important opportunity to ensure our Village Hall remains a vibrant hub for our community.

The Village Hall needs you

For decades, the Hall has been the heart of our parish—hosting events, celebrations, classes, and gatherings that bring us all together. But to keep its doors open, we urgently need new committee members to join our team. Without additional support, we risk losing this vital space that so many of us cherish.

The commitment is small, but the impact is huge

Serving on the committee requires just 3-4 meetings per year (and a willingness to share your ideas!). Whether you're passionate about events, fundraising, maintenance, or simply want to help guide the Hall's future, your voice matters. No prior experience is needed—just enthusiasm for preserving this special place.

Why step up?

- Ensure the Hall remains open (there is a real danger the hall may have to close)
- Help shape a space that fosters connection, learning, and joy.
- Work alongside friendly, like-minded neighbours who care about our community.

If you've ever thought, "I'd love to help, but I don't have time," this is your chance! With such a light time commitment, it's easy to make a lasting difference.

Please join us.

To volunteer or learn more, contact Debbie Stokes at debbiestokes456@gmail.com by the end of the month. Together, we can ensure the Village Hall remains a cornerstone of our parish.



Staunton on Arrow WI

Our February meeting was a fun evening playing 'Cornhole', a bean bag tossing game that found our members in two teams competing against each other to get the highest score which became very competitive.

In March we were delighted to have Vanessa Collins talk to us about her experiences in the police force during the 80's and 90's with some very funny and hair-raising stories.

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

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Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



*Saturday 10th May
10.30am
in Pembridge Parish Hall*

*Home-made cakes
Coffee/tea
Chat and friendship
meet up with the neighbours
Free but donations gratefully
accepted*

*Hosted by
Pembridge Friendship Group*

Easter Lilies

If you would like to have lilies placed in church in memory of a loved one, please leave your donation with Sam at The Steppes or Gill as least two weeks before Easter. Please also leave a name of the person(s) being remembered so that we can remember them at our Easter service.

Cherish the Churchyard

The first mow of the year has been carried out on the wildflower area and the hope is that this will encourage the wildflowers to come through as the Spring continues. This year we hope to see a variety of flowers rather than just the yellow rattle which appeared last year.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

4th May 2025 12.00pm.

1.) The Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens.

Anybody who lives in the parish may attend and vote at this meeting.

2.) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Election of PCC and acceptance of annual reports.

To be eligible to vote you must be on the Electoral Roll of the parish church. This year the Electoral roll is being renewed and so anyone wishing to be on the roll must register. Registration forms are available at the back of the church and will need to be returned before the 19th April 2025.

Dates for the Diary

10th May	Quiz Evening Pembridge Parish Hall, 7.30pm (Look out for posters nearer the time)
25th May	Start of the Cream Tea season
7th/8th June	Environment Weekend
2nd August	Strawberry Fayre

Foodbank

Thank you to all of you who donate items to the foodbank. These items are taken to the Kington Group of Churches who administer the food as required. There are two donation points, one at the back of the church and the other one at the Village Shop. A big "Thank You" to Sam and Adrian for managing the donations left at the shop. Please consider donating to this worthy cause, or if you are in need of food please contact the Rector on 07777692458 or abranston2002@gmail.com

Churchyard

To all dog owners who use the church grounds please can we ask that you clean up after your dog. Over recent months we have seen an increase in dog mess being left, which is not pleasant for people attending church services, visiting the church or just using the churchyard as an outdoor space to enjoy. Thank you.

**THE REMI HARRIS
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Thank you all who attended. A full report will be in the next edition of the magazine.

A Night of the Big Screen

- April 5th 7.30pm

Love to Sing Choir and Love to Sing junior choir will be performing songs from stage and film in an evening of entertainment in Pembridge Church.

Tickets are available at £10 from:
Gill 01544 388441
- ianandgillian@gogglemail.com
and Meryl 01544 329760
- merylgriffith@gmail.com
to include refreshments.

The dedication service of the

newaltar frontal for the Lady Chapel

Our grateful thanks to our Rural Dean Rev Katie Smith for her wonderful dedication service and blessing of the new frontal dedicated to the memory of Catherine Fothergill on Sunday 23rd February. During a very moving service we sang Catherine's favourite hymns and remembered her great service to the village and the church.



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The Pembridge Tapestries 10th Celebrations

As we've said many times before, in Pembridge we love to celebrate. You will remember that back in 2015 we had an amazing Flower Festival to celebrate the completion of the 12 tapestries. The launch of the Pembridge Map in 2019 revealed by Dr Alex Langlands was followed with the Lord Lieutenant coming to church to unveil the Pembridge Jubilee Tapestry in 2022. However, the Pembridge Tapestries 10th anniversary celebration was one we were not expecting, basically because we hadn't realized it had been ten years since we first put the tapestries on exhibition in church. But one person did realize this date and decided to do something special about it – that person was Andy Davies.

Andy composed 12 songs, one for each tapestry, and these he presented with concertina accompaniment, together with a lively group of singers joining in each chorus. He invited the Eardisland Village Band to accompany him along with Haydn Osbourne on his saxophone. Each tapestry was projected onto a screen, nobly operated by Richard Goddard, with narrations by mainly the stitchers of the tapestries, along with Nick Clarke. A big thank you to all those who helped make the

event such a wonderful success. It was a truly magical evening!

It was wonderful to have a full church and we are delighted that Andy donated the evening's proceedings of just over £700 to church funds. Thank you so much Andy!

Exhibition of the work by the Pembridge Tapestry Group

We used the opportunity of the 10th Anniversary celebrations to put on an exhibition of all the work that has been completed by the group since it started in 2011.

Along with the tapestries themselves, we added photographs and also the original designs for the work. We also exhibited the work and photographs of all the items we have made for Pembridge School, such as altar frontals, the church window tapestry, and the children's own work formed into a zig-zag book.

This also gave us the opportunity to display our new altar frontal for the Lady Chapel that had previously been blessed by our Rural Dean Rev Katie Smith and designated to the memory of Catherine Fothergill.

A Smallholders Life & Times

Nadine, Nicola, and new comer Jazzy have been placed in egg boxes in a warm place to encourage them to produce new shoots (this process is called chitting). I have taken a risk, a chosen few have been planted in the polytunnel—and even more of a risk—a row has been planted outside in the vegetable garden. The risk being the danger of frost, the new emerging shoots can be "earthed up" with a draw hoe to form a protective cover, or fleece placed over to do the same thing. If all goes to plan, (growing vegetables is often more about defeating the weather and controlling pests), I should have an



abundant crop of delicious new potatoes to accompany the Broad beans. Last year mice nipped off the new broad bean shoots at ground level, but this time I started them into growth indoors. Half are also planted in the polytunnel and a short row planted outside. They are fairly frost hardy, and should grow without any protection, unless there is a spell of severe weather, fingers crossed. Something that doesn't seem to be available in supermarkets—and I am surprised that a variety with a long shelf life hasn't been invented as of yet—are sweet peas. They are next on the list to be sown, followed by tomatoes. We all have our favourites for flavour, mine being Black Russian (beefsteak variety), Gardeners Delight (an easy to grow cherry tomato), and Merv's all-time favourite Shirley. Let's hope for a warmer summer this year. Gerald, one of my remaining handful of sheep, decided that the grass really was greener on the other side of the hedge and barged his way through into the garden. Oh well I thought, perhaps allowing all five sheep to graze the lawn would be helpful. It was, but they also ate all the roses, several shrubs, and a plant I thought may have been poisonous: Fatsia Japonica. Sheep seem to have a built-in knowledge about what is safe to eat, they didn't touch the rhododendron or flowering red currant, but they cleared all the ivy in the surrounding hedge. After many grey days in February, riding out along the surrounding lanes on my ponies, what a lovely sight, an almost continuous trail of snowdrops, followed by the lovely yellow hues of primroses and daffodils. With the addition of the dawn chorus, the distant drumming of a woodpecker, some spectacular sunrises and sunsets, also being able to wear shoes after what seems like months of wearing wellingtons, Spring should be just around the corner.

Marion Williams

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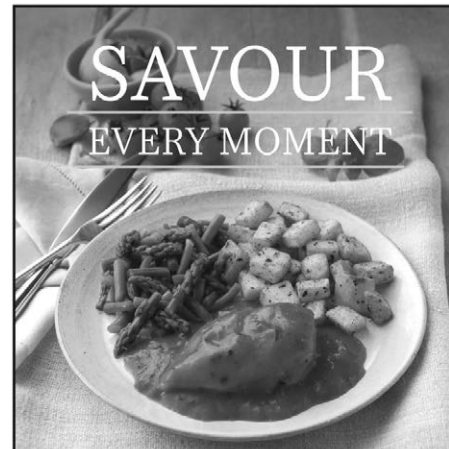
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Our former Reader Ian Smith

Ian is taking on a bicycle ride on the RBL's Netherlands Liberation Trail 2025 to celebrate the nation's official Liberation Day and raising funds for the life-long support that many of our armed forces need, long term. Ian celebrated his 80th birthday back in October having been born two months after his father (Royal Horse Guards) was killed in France. He is attempting this 200-mile ride, taking place over 3 days on 3rd - 5th May, to remember the sacrifice of his father and also to raise vital funds for the RBL.



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Talk & Tea Afternoon

Rebecca Tope is a well-known author of crime fiction set in the countryside and lives on a smallholding in Herefordshire. She was also the ghost writer for the TV series 'Rosemary & Thyme'.

She is coming to give a talk entitled 'The Wrong Cow' in Lyons Hall Church on Wednesday, April 9th at 2.30 pm.

This will be followed by Afternoon Tea in the Memorial Hall and promises to be a very entertaining event.

Tickets £15 from PCC members.

Lyons Hall Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings are held at Lyons Hall Memorial Hall every second Friday between 10 and 12 noon.

The next two dates for your diaries are Friday 11th April and Friday 9th May.

Fundraising news...

Our Coffee Mornings continue to be very generously supported.

In February we raised £380 which was shared between the Little Princess Trust and the RSPCA.

In March we donated £350 to two carers charities; Carers Uk and the CarersTrust.

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.

Easter Service

There will be a Holy Communion Service in Lyons Hall Church at 9.30am, Easter Sunday, on April 20th.

Lyons Hall Church APCM

This will be held in church on Sunday May 25th after the 11.00 am Holy Communion Service.

Don Preddy 1944 - 2025

Sadly for us all, Don died at St Michael's Hospice, on March 12th after a sudden and short illness. He died peacefully with Shan at his side.

Don and Shan moved to Lyons Hall in 1997 and very soon became popular members of the parish involving themselves in community and church life.

Don was a valued member of our congregation and a regular reader at our services. We shall all miss him greatly.

We send our deepest sympathy to Shan.

Talk & Tea Afternoon with Rebecca Tope

Rebecca Tope is a well-known author of crime fiction set in the countryside and lives on a smallholding in Herefordshire.

She was also the ghost writer for the TV series 'Rosemary & Thyme'

'The Wrong Cow' in Lyons Hall Church

Wednesday April 9th 2.30 pm

To be followed by Afternoon Tea in the Memorial Hall

Tickets £15 from Lyons Hall PCC / 07825 060108

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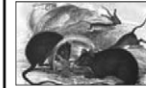
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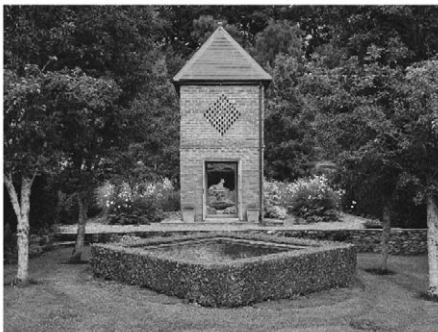


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March 30th Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	Joint service Lyonshall 11.00am
April 6th Lent 5	Byton HC 9.30am Pembridge HC (Family) 11.00am Staunton EP (BCP) 6.00pm
April 13th (Palm Sunday)	Joint service Pembridge Passion play Procession 10.15am Service in church 11.00am
April 17th (Maundy Thursday)	Pembridge HC & Stripping the Altar 7.00am
April 18th (Good Friday)	Walking the Cross Byton 10.30am Preaching the Cross Moorcourt . . . 12.30am
April 20th (Easter)	Pembridge Dawn Service + bacon butties 5.15am Lyonshall HC 9.30am Staunton HC 9.30am Pembridge HC Sung 11.00am Shobdon HC 11.00am Byton HC 9.30am
April 27th	Moorcourt HC 11.00am
May 4th	Byton HC 9.30am Pembridge HC (Family) 11.00am Staunton EP (BCP) 6.00pm
May 11th	Lyonshall HC 9.30am Pembridge 3Cs 11.00am Shobdon HC 11.00am
May 18th	Staunton HC BCP 9.30am Pembridge HC Sung 11.00am
May 25th	Moorcourt HC 9.30am Shobdon Matins 9.30am Lyonshall HC 11.00am
June 1st	Byton HC 9.30am Pembridge HC (Family) 11.00am Staunton EP (BCP) 6.00pm
June 8th	Lyonshall HC 9.30am Pembridge 3Cs 11.00am Shobdon HC 11.00am

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.

Morning Prayer – Monday Pembridge School 9.00