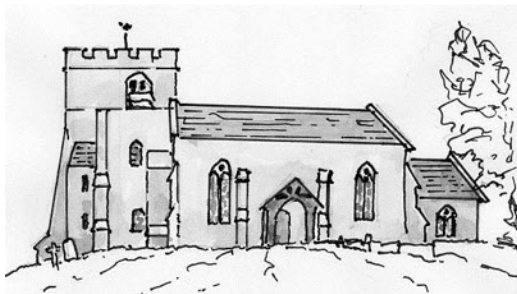
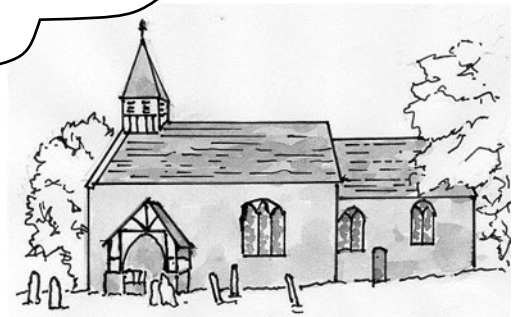


FROME VALLEY NEWS

The Parish Magazine for Acton Beauchamp, Bishops Frome, Castle Frome,
Evesbatch, Fromes Hill, Much Cowarne, Ocle Pychard & Stanford Bishop.



OCTOBER 2021



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Editorial:

If you lose your paper copy of the newsletter It's always available on the website where it can be seen in full colour. It can also be emailed to you.

I always acknowledge receipt of emails - if I don't please send to Parish office as I have had some email issues.

e-mail:

f r o m e v a l l e y @ i c l o u d . c o m

www.fromevalleychurches.org.uk

Sarah (oldholbans@hotmail.com)

Lots of Harvest news this time

I am still doing the FVN so please use my email - oldholbans@hotmail.com

OR contact the Parish Office for more information.

FROME VALLEY NEWS COLLECTION DAY FOR THE

November 2021 ISSUE

Could volunteers from all churches kindly collect their new batch of issues from the Parish Office TBC

If this time is not convenient please contact Eleanor at the office to arrange an alternative time.

Childline:	0800 1111
Samaritans	116 123
Domestic Violence :	0808 2000 247
Mind	0300 123 3393
Age UK	0800 169 6565

This advertising space could be yours!

**Contact Sarah Sevastopulo
email: oldholbans@hotmail.com**

**Rates per issue:
£3.00 eighth page, £6.00 quarter page,
£10.00 half page, £20.00 whole page**

Diocesan Discover Intern letter

To those I have already bumped in to on my travels, a warm hello - and to those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ewan, and I am the new *Discover* Intern for the Diocese of Hereford. For those of you who are not familiar with the *Discover* scheme, it really is what it says on the tin - an opportunity for young adults to live and work within parishes and benefices all over the country, spending time with the local vicars, PCCs, attending services, meeting families in preparation for baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and all the other tasks that go on within Church communities that so often go unseen.



My route to this parish from my home in Northamptonshire has been very much roundabout - indeed, so has my entire religious journey. I came to faith around four years ago, during my first year of university, having spent much time and energy in my teenage years trying very hard to avoid it entirely. This is not the time for me to rattle on in great detail about my spiritual 'eureka' moment (though I would be more than happy to talk about it with you!), but suffice to say it was the single greatest paradigm shift in my life. In fact, so great was this change in perspective that it took a couple of years to really sink in - perhaps unsurprising, when everything that you have held to be true is suddenly flipped on its head! As I was finishing up my degree, and trying to figure out what I actually wanted to do with it, the pandemic hit.

Those first few months of lockdown and general unsettlement were difficult, as they were for so many others. However, they also allowed me to really think about the path that I wanted to embark upon for the rest of my life. I realised that, if one truly and earnestly believes in what we proclaim to be true, then one has a duty to do all that one can to further its message and introduce others to it - this year will, I hope, allow me to discern if God is calling me to do this through ordination and ministry.

I am the only person taking part in the *Discover* scheme in the whole of the Hereford Diocese this year. This raises an awkward truth - the Church needs to find a way of communicating with younger generations in rural areas. It is all well and good if young Christians flock to the lights and sights of the big cities, but it would be disastrous if this resulted in the collapse of these important and historic rural communities, with no one left to pick up the mantle.

This is one of the main takeaways that I am hoping to get from my time in this beautiful part of the world. We in the church walk a fine tightrope between quite rightly respecting and adhering to tradition, whilst also finding ways to show the masses that our ancient institution is just as relevant today in our digital, online, individualistic modern world as it was 2,000 years ago. My one constant prayer for this year is that God might show me, and indeed the wider community, how the Church can remain the beating heart of the rural community for years to come.



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24hr 7 days a week call out service

Careline - Help at the push of a button
Careline can give you or your loved ones the reassurance and peace of mind that if you require help, it is not far away! Careline is a 24-hour personal emergency response service, based in Hereford, which is connected to your home through an alarm unit linked to your telephone line. **In times of need, help is just the push of a button away!**
For information please speak to our Careline team on 01432 384100. Herefordshire Careline is run by the Independence Trust, part of the Herefordshire Housing Group.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Bromyard Community Transport are remaining open.
Transport for Covid Vaccinations
Cathy Marsh (Manager) Bromyard Community Transport Tel: 01885 488452

Childline: 0800 1111
Samaritans 116 123
Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247
Mind 0300 123 3393
Age UK 0800 169 6565

HELP IS STILL AT HAND
There is a Bromyard Support Group number - 07824 660480
is there to help anyone who is isolating or just feel like some support during these exceptional times.

Frome Valley Pastoral Group
The Pastoral Group are all very actively engaged in emailing and telephoning people through out this difficult time. If you have any concerns or would just like to speak to someone please call one of the group;
Rev'd Steven Baggs 01885 490582 stevenbaggs@me.com
Rev'd Richard Allaway 07969 699270 rja5204572fco@gmail.com
Mrs Judy Orgee 01531 640525 Tony & Liz Davis 01885 490394

Conquest Theatre

Live on Stage
Ben Holder (violin, vocals) and **Stuart Carter Smith** (guitar) Jazz at it's best.
October 2nd 7.30 pm
Remi Harris shares and talks about the music that shaped and influenced his life October 3rd 7.30 pm (fundraiser in the foyer)
Conquest Productions - Little Shop Of Horrors - Sci fi horror musical with electrifying 1960s pop/rock score Fun filled show with live band October 19-23
Our Star Theatre Co Dracula ...the bloody truth. Spooktastically side splitting
October 30th 7.30 pm

Event Cinema
Met Opera (live) Boris Godonov 5.55 pm October 9th
Met Opera (encore) Fire Shut Up in my Bones 5.55 pm October 28th

Film
The Last Bus October 1st 8 pm 12A

For full programme visit www.conquest-theatre.co.uk or call box office 01885 488575

Ocle Pychard Ramblings

I don't know about you but I really feel that there is autumn in the air right now! For the past couple of weeks Daddy-Longlegs have been appearing in the house with their long, dangly legs trying to get out but unable to find the exit to the outside. The wasps are buzzing around more lazily after gorging themselves on the fallen apples and pears in the garden. They make collection of the fruit on the ground a hazardous affair which requires the wearing of heavy duty gardening gloves to avoid being stung.

Everywhere the trees are beginning to change their summer colours for those of autumn and this year's finale. The maple tree in my garden is shedding a few of its leaves already and they lie in crisp curls on the grass. All around the wild life are preparing for the winter months ahead; there is a sense of urgency. A good example of this are the squirrels are dashing around gathering fruits, seeds and nuts, they like to bury their caches of food in the bags of compost that I keep in the greenhouse which quite tiresome! So it is a constant battle between me and the squirrels.

Storms of rain have returned, short and sharp in nature, that leave the warm soil streaming and giving off the wonderful scent of the ground, of life and living things. During one shower of rain I watched a small bird taking a dip in the bird bath and it was enjoying itself so much revelling in the cooling water (oblivious of the rain), after the hot few days.

Along the hedgerows the blackberries are ripening and the elderberries hung like purple jewels on the bushes. The hawthorn berries are turning to that wonderful red colour and these will sustain the fieldfares during the hard winter months. Everywhere the harvest is reaching fruition and being gathered in.

Soon our thoughts will be turning to harvest festivals, bonfire night and Christmas. So below there are the dates for events at Ocle Pychard Church to the end of the year.

- **October 3rd 8.30am Holy Communion**
- **October 15th 6.30pm Harvest Festival**
- **November 7th 8.30am Holy Communion**
- **November 14th 10.30am Remembrance Sunday at Much Cowarne**
- **December 5th 8.30am Holy Communion**
- **December 17th 7.00pm Carol Service**
- **December 24th 8.00pm First Communion of Christmas**

NB. Donations for Harvest Festival would be most gratefully received and these can be left in the church during the week of Harvest. Dried and tinned foods please as it will all be given to the Ledbury Food Bank.

Please will all the Ocle Pychard Church flower ladies help to decorate the church in the 2 or 3 days before the service.

Let's make it special this year. Thank you.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH FROMES HILL

HARVEST FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2021
SERVICE at 6.45pm

followed by **supper** at

The Wheatsheaf, Fromes Hill at **7.30pm**

Tickets £12.50
from Joan Rose 01531 640587

EVERYONE WELCOME PLEASE
COME AND JOIN US

*Donations welcome for
Ledbury Food Bank*

ST MARYS BISHOPS FROME

Harvest Supper



Saturday 9th October

Bishops Frome Village Centre

7pm

Tickets - Adults £10, Children £5

Reserve your tickets by ringing:

Shirley Lewis on 01885 490669

**Beer and Cider available in the hall,
bring your own wine**



Harvest in the Frome Valley

Acton Beauchamp 3rd October 11.30am

Bishops Frome 10th October 10am

Castle Frome 22nd October 7.30pm

Evesbatch 24th October 11.30am

Fromes Hill 15th October 6.45pm

Much Cowarne 10th October 10am

Ocle Pychard 15th October 6.30pm

Stanford Bishop 8th October 6.30pm



ST. GILES' CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sunday, October the 3rd, at 11.30am.

Everyone is very welcome to join the congregation, at St. Giles' Church, for our Harvest Festival.

With Covid 19 precautions still in mind, the traditional Charity Harvest Auction will be replaced by the collection of non - perishable food parcels.

These will be donated to The Bromyard Food Bank.

Looking forward to welcoming you all on the 3rd of October

Stanford Bishop News

Dear All,

October – Autumn, the vivid greens of the woodlands are replaced by a patchwork of autumnal shades with swathes of yellow, orange and brown leaves.

Many animals start to fatten up for winter. A brisk walk in the countryside on a crisp bright morning admire the colours of the leaves, the smell of ripening fruit, hazelnuts, rosehips, sloes, sweet chestnut and walnuts.

In the garden the callicarpa produces eye catching clusters of purple berries, the euonymus alatus' leaves turn a striking shade of crimson.

Potatoes are lifted, next year's crop has been sown.

Harvest Service & Supper Friday 8th October at 6.30 pm followed by a hearty supper of homemade cottage pie with crusty bread followed with seasonal puddings £10.00. A draw will take place.

Our usual services are 4th Sunday of each month at 8.30am



**SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
MY BIRTHDAY!**

Thank you to all who contributed to the cake, the flowers and the wonderful organ rendition of "Happy Birthday". It made my day very special.

Heather Partridge



Castle Frome October 2021 News, Views & Muse



Communion Service

Sunday 10th October
8.30am



Family Service

Sunday 24th October
10.00am

This is a reverent and informal service for the family of the Church. All are welcome. Coffee, tea and squash served at the close of the service, offering a time to socialise.



Hilary's Nature Diary

Flying kites

One success story amongst our biodiversity gloom and despair has been that of the red kite. The wonderfully named *Milvus milvus* was in Britain long before Hamlet talked of feeding his slave's offal to 'all the regions kites'. Numbers of this largely carrion eating bird of prey plummeted historically, leaving just a small population in central Wales. A series of reintroduction programmes, however, has brought this striking bird back from the brink of extinction.

Today, it is not unusual to see red kites flying low over the skies above the church, a once common sight for our forebears. Its angled wings and deeply forked tail easily distinguish the species from the healthy local buzzard population.



Harvest Festival

We are happy to announce our Harvest Festival will be held
on
Friday 22nd October
7:30pm

We are hoping also to be able to attend a Harvest Supper at Hilary and Ian's home. (Subject to their agreement)

It will be lovely to be able to return to a social gathering post Covid Restrictions.



St James' Stanford Bishop

Harvest Service & Supper

Friday 8th October

Service At 6.30pm

Following the service a Harvest celebration supper of home cooked food will be held in the church. If you are unable attend the service you are most welcome to join us in church for the supper at 7.15pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH MUCH COWARNE

It is good to be getting back to our normal pattern of services and to see the majority of our regulars returning to enjoy being able to participate more fully in the services. We have also had a wedding and a christening in recent weeks when the relaxing of limits on guest numbers meant that everyone was able to enjoy these important family occasions to the full.



The Lead Rein Fun Ride for young riders was held on Saturday September 11 and after the preceding very rainy day the riders and walkers were thankfully able to enjoy warm, sunny weather for their ride through the orchards, lanes and stubble fields around Much Cowarne. Although numbers were rather fewer than we had anticipated, the young riders enjoyed the varied course and the



addition of a few jumps for those who wished to take them. Hopefully it will be possible to arrange a similar ride in the future. Thanks to Martin & Marlene Hewitt for hosting the event and providing refreshments and to Nicky Hoskins for planning the course. Over £400 was raised for Much Cowarne Church and a donation of £50 was made to Blood Cancer UK.



CHURCH CRAWL on Saturday September 25th. This is organised by the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust for their members, this year it will start and finish at Much Cowarne where we shall be providing refreshments. Whilst the actual Crawl is mainly for members/supporters, any parishioners who wish to hear about the history of St Mary's Much Cowarne are welcome to come along to the church.

HARVEST SERVICE AND LUNCH: the service will be held on October 10 at 10.00am and the lunch will be at the Plough Inn, Stoke Lacy; as full details of the lunch are not available at the time of writing please watch out for posters at the church and on all the usual notice boards.

Those wishing to come are asked to contact Jean Parkes (01432 820402) or Jill Cooksley (01432 820264) to make a booking.

There will also be a Bring & Buy Sale and Raffle during the time at the Plough.

September 2021

Hello everyone! I hope you've all had a really good and restful summer, and managed to catch up with friends and family. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with people more (while still taking Covid precautions). It's been great to see people enjoying getting out and about and exploring the creativity of the county during the H.Art festival over the last couple of weeks! In my last update before the summer I mentioned the council's Covid Recovery Plan. That's now in full swing – in July we allocated more than £6 million over the coming year to a whole range of activities designed to boost the county's economy. The money is being spent as follows:



- Nearly £3 million on actions to help people back into work and to support business viability and resilience, including 'one stop shop' employment help, grants to help businesses rent vacant units, business advice, promoting tourism, promoting 'shop local', and (coming soon!) vouchers for local residents to spend to boost the local economy.
- £1.5 million to support safe and welcoming spaces – including grants to revitalise town centres, measures to help people get around more easily (including free weekend bus travel for everyone, everywhere in Herefordshire!), plus developing car pools in several locations, helping businesses use ebikes, and developing new cycling routes.
- £2 million for projects that support people's physical and mental wellbeing, including free events and activities (like free Halo swimming lessons), specialist mental health support, educational catch up, and action to address digital exclusion.

These investments will really help boost our county's economic and social life as we try to 'build back better' from the pandemic.

Talking of building... another thing I'm really pleased about is that this week the council Cabinet will vote on adopting new 'net zero carbon' building standards for our affordable housing project. You might remember that I mentioned in some of my previous updates that our Coalition administration is planning to build hundreds of new affordable homes for local people (both affordable rent and shared ownership) – since sadly the housing market is failing to deliver the homes we need. Our new Herefordshire FutureHomes standard will ensure that these homes are high quality and net zero carbon - which means they will be far cheaper to heat than normal houses, making them even more affordable for residents 😊.

If you're interested in the details you can view the document online as part of the papers for the cabinet meeting on Thursday 16th September, which you can find on the Herefordshire Council website – or email me and I will happily send you a copy. The same goes for any other issue with the council – if you can't find what you are looking for on the website (which I admit is not the most user-friendly in the world, unfortunately) do please get in touch and I will do my very best to help.

And on the topic of information... Autumn always brings the annual budget consultation process. Please do take the opportunity to have your say – tell the council what the priorities should be. Just search the Herefordshire Council website for 'budget consultation' – the online consultation is open until 4th October. Also, in late November I am hoping we will have a 'participatory budgeting' exercise focused on how we can do even more as a council to tackle the climate emergency.

I've run out of space! If you would like my help with anything, please do get in touch.

Landline: 01531 670729, Mobile: 07950 714947,

Email: Ellie.chowns@herefordshire.gov.uk.

All the very best! Enjoy the beautiful autumn! Ellie

NEW LYCH GATE MEMORIAL TO THE FALLEN OF BISHOPS FROME

(from the Hereford Times, July 2nd 1921)

Few responded more readily when the call came for them in the early days of the Great War than did the youth of the parish of Bishop's Frome. One of a scattered population of some 500, no less than 60 men forsook the work of the field, the garden, the carpenter's shop and other rural pursuits, and went into the unknown with that stoutness of heart which ultimately secured the victory. Of that 60, twenty will never return but their names and their sacrifice have been perpetuated in the centre of their native village by the erection of a lych gate of beautiful construction and design at the entrance to the churchyard and on the roadside.

The people of the district who have subscribed to the erection of such a noble monument to their gallant dead are to be congratulated on their choice. It is true that the crosses that have been chosen in so many instances have symbolism of their own, but there is danger of their becoming so hackneyed as to lose much of their significance.

Gothic Design

The lych gate is situated on the North-West corner of the churchyard and adjoins the main road. It is of the porch-shape type of 14th century gothic design. The base is built up in coursed rubble stone of the neighbourhood, and on this is placed the framed structure, all of which is carried out in English oak. The entrance at either end of the lych gate are formed with curved and moulded arches, and above there are open framed gables, surrounded with beautifully carved and cusped barge boards. The side framing is arranged with eight panels, four on either side having cusped heads. The roof is covered with sand faced tiles of dark colours. These give a very restful effect, and are in keeping with the tiled roof of the ancient church adjoining.

So many of the lych gates lack seating accommodation which was one of the main objects of such structures designed in the old days to give rest and cover to the mourners awaiting the coming of the vicar, who usually met them at the churchyard entrance gate. This has not been overlooked by the architect, who has provided for seats on either side of the entrance gates. Arrangement has been made on each side of the lych gate for an oak tablet which records the names of the fallen. The work has been carefully carried out by Messrs. William Powell and Sons of Whitehorse Street, Hereford. Messrs. A and J Herbert, a local firm, have built the stone house and wing walls. The design was prepared by and the work carried out under the superintendence of Mr Herbert Skyrme, M.S.A., architect, of Hereford. The amount of the contract was £468, but the extra base of Forest of Dean stone cost an additional £16 and the carving of the names £8.18s. 6d., giving a total cost in round terms of £486. The amount received to date in direct subscriptions, and in gifts in kind from the members of the committee is £390. 18s., so that a sum of nearly £100 is still required. Toward this debit balance further donations are invited

The members of the committee responsible for the organisation of the scheme and for the raising of the funds required are as follows: Mr J. J. Hyde (Chairman), Mr J. T. Rogers, Mrs. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pudge (The Frogend), Mr. G. W. Firkins, Mr. J. Baker, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. L. Bullock, Mrs. D. Williams, Mr. Evans, Mr. H. Went, Mrs. Browne, Mr. J. P. Pudge, Mr. W. Partridge, Mr. J. Parker (hon. Treasurer), and Mr. S.C Herbert (hon. secretary).

Roll of Absent Ones.

The inscription on the oak panel is as follows:
"To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the following men from this parish, who gave their lives for God and King and country, 1914-1918 A.D"
Alfred Baker, George Bloomfield, Henry Bloomfield, Robert Bloomfield, George Corbett, Harland Cadle, Thomas Davies, Edward Frances, Christopher Farrington, Henry Hancox, Edward Herbert, Harold Jeynes, George King, William Morris, William Oliver, Hubert Raine, Herbert Shuck, James Turner, Ronald Yates. R.I.P.

MEMORIAL TO BISHOP'S FROME WAR HEROES.



THE NEW LYCH GATE DEDICATED BY THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.

(FROM THE HEREFORD TIMES JULY 1921)

The Dedication

The unveiling and dedication ceremonies took place on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a large congregation. The former ceremony was performed by Lady Hopton, of Lugwardine, and the latter by the Bishop of Hereford. The first portion of the service was held in the church, the surpliced clergy, in addition to the Bishop *included Revs. from the parishes of Holmer, Stoke Lacy, Much Cowarne and Castle Frome*. The exceedingly simple service, yet very impressive, opened with the unaccompanied singing of the hymn "Let Saints on earth" and after Psalm xxiii had been sung to a Gregorian chant, the Vicar read the special lesson from the Book of Wisdom iii. The collection having been taken up towards the deficit on the memorial fund, all present, choir, clergy and Bishop leading, made their way to the lych gate.

Here Lady Hopton removed the Union Jack from the tablet containing the names of the fallen, and the Bishop said the dedicatory prayers. These ceremonies were followed by the hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow" after which the Bishop gave an address. The 'Last Post' was sounded by Mr. J. James, of Bromyard, formerly of the 7th K.S.L.I., and the service concluded with the Benediction pronounced by the Bishop.

"Challenge to the Living"

The Bishop [.....] gave an eloquent but brief address on the significance of the memorial he had just dedicated. He said they were gathered together on an occasion which would live long in the memory of those who had taken part in it. The hearts of some of them were torn with sorrow when the names were read out of their men who went out to some lonely grave on the hillsides of France, the flats of Mesopotamia, or the mountains of Italy or Palestine, to some corner of the foreign field that "is forever England". Those whom God had spared, shared in their sorrow by their sympathy, and by trying to lighten their load. They as English men and English women, were rightly, justly and thankfully proud that men of their race, bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh, were not found wanting in the stern days of war, but went forth rather than betray their trust. They had gathered in God's house and in God's acre as Christian men and women, to sorrow "not as men without hope", for they who slept in Him. That memorial would be seen by every passer-by, and would stand as a memorial that the memory of those men, and their sacrifice would never be forgotten, but would be remembered not only by this generation, but by the generations yet to come.

That permanent memorial had been erected so that all people in the days to come might know that the men of that village counted not their lives unto themselves, but went out and gave them up for those they loved. Those men should never be forgotten. They had erected that lych gate not only as a memorial, but also an expression of gratitude. Some of them knew what a village in the war zone looked like – houses laid level with the ground, church in ruins, trees blasted and blackened, and fields bare and shell torn. Those men whose names he had just read out, with others, had made with their bodies a living rampart that the homes they had left should be spared such a thing. Therefore, the people of the parish had erected that lych gate as a token of gratitude, and an expression of thankfulness to them, and to God, who gave them the strength and determination to carry through, even unto death, the trust that was committed to them. Again, that lych gate stood as a challenge not to be unworthy of the great sacrifice by which their safety and freedom had been won. They and he had all they had today because their brothers thought not of self but of others, thought not of what they could gain but of what they could give, and they honoured them because they gave everything – even life itself – for those that they held dear. They followed in the footsteps of the Son of God Himself who gave His life for them all and it was as they and he shared their spirit and followed their example that they would show themselves not unworthy of so great a sacrifice. That lych gate stood in the village as a condemnation of all selfishness, of all self-seeking, and of all self-gratification, and a challenge to the men and women who passed by to live for others as those whom it commemorated died for their friends.

"Sons of this place let this of you be said;
That you who live are worthy of your dead.
These gave their lives that you who live may reap
A nobler harvest ere you fall asleep"

"To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the men from this parish,
who gave their lives for God and King and country, 1914-1918 A.D"

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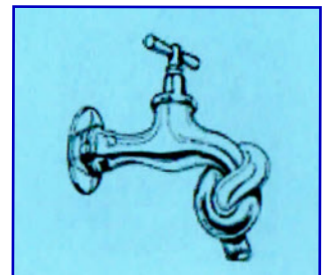
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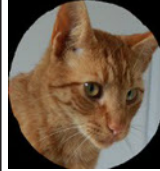
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11.30am FitSteps
1.50pm Silver Swans Ballet for over 55's
3pm Belly Dance

WEDNESDAYS

9.30am Modern Jazz/Lyrical Dance
10.35am Adult Ballet
11.45am FitSteps
12.50pm Flamenco
2pm Adult Ballet
3pm Pilates

THURSDAYS

10am FitSteps
11.15am Silver Swans Ballet for over 55's
2pm New Silver Swans Ballet for over 55's
8pm New Zumba class TBC

FRIDAYS

9.30am Dance Mix Gold
10.30am Silver Swans Ballet for over 55's
11.45am FitSteps
2.45pm New Zumba class TBC

SATURDAYS

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SUNDAYS

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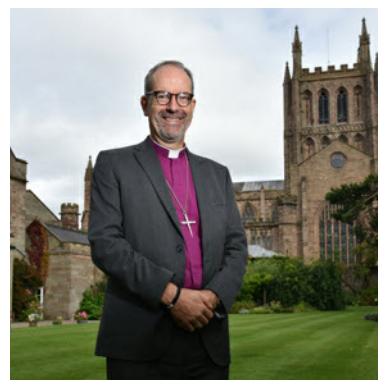
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From Bishop Richard

Hello everyone, and welcome back to the weekly video. I hope you've had a good summer despite the weather.

Last Monday, I got back into the swing of things with the Bishop of Chester and a few friends on a pilgrimage on our motorbikes from Chester to Hereford. We stopped at several venues en route, each one providing a theme for our prayers, and each of which are relevant to our future as the church of England.



We began our diocesan section at St. Edith's church in Pulverbatch. Not a major pilgrimage site I hear you say. But if the fruitfulness of our church is to depend on a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to energise life and faith, it stands as a sobering reminder of the way the established church has often treated renewal movements. One of my episcopal predecessors described John's Wesley's enthusiasm as a very horrid thing. As I was leaving university, Deborah and I felt a call to the mission field. To be sponsored in this would have involved going to Bible College. When I said this to the then Dean of Christ Church, Eric Heaton, he looked down his nose (literally), and in sneering tone asked, "are you Bible College types – only they are so intellectually primitive!" In the late 18th century, Sukey Harley, a simple girl in service to one of the local farms here experienced a spiritual awakening. It manifested itself as a desire to read the scripture, for which she needed to learn to read. She said, "I had a desire to read; I longed to read the blessed Word for myself. I got my little wench to teach me the letters; she used to grow sleepy, so I would give her two suppers of a night to encourage her, all the while I was praying to my God to enable me to learn. Such enthusiasm was greeted in this church by being pelted with books and sticks from the gallery. The then Rector, William Gillpin, resentful that several members of his congregation, including his daughters Jane and Mercy, began meeting on a Sunday in homes to read the bible and pray together, complained, "My poor pious children are all bigots." I wonder how much healthier our church would be if the joyful renewal of methodism had been able to be contained within it rather than excluded. Fortunately, the renewing power of the Spirit is rather less sneered at these days and there is great fruit. I think of a church in one of the conurbations in the diocese of Chichester, planted into a closed church in November 2009. Since then it has grafted 4 congregations into other churches that were struggling. When I left the diocese, on an average Sunday in that Deanery, 40% of the adult Anglicans, 55% of the under 16s, and nearly all those between 17 and 25 were to be found in that church and its plants. These were not people hoovered up from other churches, but many fresh to faith from the 300 or so people a year who were doing Alpha courses there. I often wondered whether some of the surrounding churches might have done better asking why that was so, rather than sneering at the enthusiasm and commitment.

Our next stop was Wenlock Abbey. The ruins that you see are now in the care of English Heritage and are the remains of a Cluniac foundation founded in 1079. They are built on the remains of St. Milberga's original nunnery, founded by Milburga's father, the King of Mercia in around 670, and later destroyed by the Vikings. As with many Saxon saints, her actual activities are surrounded in myth and legend. There are the obligatory thwarted suitors, and miracles attributed to her cult that stretch credibility a little, including the vomiting of an extraordinary worm that caused a wasting disease. However, we do know she actively organised the evangelisation and pastoral care of South Shropshire. As with many of these early saints, they depended on the active intervention of the Holy Spirit

for fruitful ministry. Their ministry was not just an exercise of strategic thinking, although Milburga was a good organiser. They saw faith as a supernatural thing, with discipleship as supernaturally empowered living for God. The degree to which we recover that will determine our fruitfulness in the years to come.

Our penultimate stop was St. John's in Ludlow. St. Johns can sometimes feel a poor relation to the grandeur of St. Laurences, and yet there is a faithful congregation here committed to reaching this community. It focussed our attention on the failings of the Church of England in reaching the poor and helping them become disciples of Jesus. We have some fantastic people doing great work in parts of our diocese like this, South Wye and Telford, but its still the case that the % of people attending an Anglican church in poorer communities is well under 1%. We prayed about more fruit in our outreach. How can we have the courage to be sufficiently flexible to make space for those who find our wordy liturgies, times and styles of meeting are excluding?

Finally, we stopped here at St. Peters church in Hereford. We are investing here in a new project, with the aim of reaching younger people with the Gospel. Hardly any children or young people come to Sunday worship in our diocese. Its not being melodramatic to say that if we don't begin to reconnect with this generation, the church of England will die with us. We prayed that we would be prepared to submit our own preferences both for the times of our meetings and how we meet to make space for this missing generation. We prayed that we would be able to connect the good news of the gospel with the specific issues for young people that it so clearly addresses.

Ultimately, its good to start this new season with prayer. Our issues are deep and knowing the way forward is challenging. But we serve a God in whose power Christ was raised from the dead. Who knows where dependence on that power in prayer rather than on our own ingenuity will take us.

September is often the month when refreshed by our summer holidays, we hit the ground running. Given that most of us left full time education a while ago, it is slightly odd that September still feels like a sort of new year. These patterns can become entrenched. We do things habitually, even though the reason we started doing them that way has long since passed. The Mothers Union in my curacy church refused to meet at any other time than 2:00 pm in the afternoon. Given that most were over 80, the reason that they had to leave at 3:00 pm was to pick the children up from school, it all seemed rather curious.

We are creatures of habit, especially in matters of faith and worship. That applies whether we love the BCP or singing modern worship songs. We find what works for us and hold on to it tightly. Words from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah that God is 'doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it,' can cut little ice. But God's new thing is always rooted in his past dealings with us. He doesn't change, but our context and culture does. If he encourages us to change, it is not for the sake of novelty, but to ensure that the timeless message of the Gospel can be heard afresh by each new generation. The glory of the church is that it looks very different according to the culture in which it is placed. Our Tanzanian friends have different churches to ours, as do our friends in Nuremberg. Our challenge, as we look forward, is that our church (the Church of England) is by and large perfectly designed to minister to a culture that no longer exists. What we need to become to be the Church that fruitfully ministers to our contemporaries is something else, it is a journey we embark on together. We seek to discern God's guidance, but it is a road we must travel.. +Richard

The Frome Valley Group

October 2021

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Acton Beauchamp	<i>11.30am Harvest Festival SB</i>				
Bishops Frome	<i>10.00am Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00am Harvest Festival SB</i>	<i>10.00 Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00 Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00am Group Service RA</i>
Castle Frome		<i>8.30am Holy Communion SB</i>		<i>10.00am Family Service Lay Led</i>	
Evesbatch				<i>11.30am Harvest Festival SB</i>	
Fromes Hill	<i>10.00am Matins Lay Led</i>		<i>11.30am Holy Communion SB</i>		
Much Cowarne		<i>10.00am Harvest RA</i>		<i>10.00am Holy Communion RA</i>	
Ocle Pychard	<i>8.30am Holy Communion SB</i>				
Stanford Bishop				<i>8.30am Holy Communion SB</i>	
	<i>Trinity 18 Green Job 1.1; 2.1-10 Psalm 26 Mark 10.2-16</i>	<i>Trinity 19 Green Job 23.1-9,16,17 Psalm 22.1-15 Mark 10.17-31</i>	<i>Trinity 20 Green Job 38.1-7 Psalm 104.1-10,26,35c* Mark 10.35-45</i>	<i>Last Sunday after Trinity Green Job 42.1-6,10-17 Psalm 34.1-8,19-22* Mark 10.46-52</i>	<i>All Saints Gold or White Isaiah 25.6-9 Psalm 24.1-6 John 11.32-44</i>

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

The Baptism of Logan Thomas Hydes took place on 8th August 2021 at St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Frome.

The Baptism of Ava Frances Hagger took place on 15th August 2021 at St Giles, Acton Beauchamp.

The Baptism of Clemmie Florence Michaela Dobbs took place on 22nd August 2021 at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne.

Weddings

The Wedding of Kathryn Elizabeth Lloyd and George Samuel Ainge took place on 28th August 2021 at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne.

Funerals

The Burial of Ashes of Marion Lawrence who died on 31st May 2021, aged 98, took place on 16th July 2021 at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne.

The Burial of Ashes of Christine and Richard Stephens took place on 12th August 2021 at St Mary the Virgin, Much Cowarne.

They Rest in Peace.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BISHOPS FROME

DATE	READER	PRAYERS
Oct 3 rd	Sarah	TBA
Oct 10 th	Martin	TBA
Oct 17 th	Lucy Cranmore	Liz
Oct 24 th	Angela	TBA
Oct 31 st	Liz	TBA
Nov 7 th	Sarah	TBA

ST JAMES THE GREAT, OCLE PYCHARD

Date	Day	Time	Service	Reader	Sidesman	Flowers/Cleaning
Oct 3 rd	Trinity 18	8.30am	Holy Communion	J Ridler	S Ridler	M Evans & I Hicks



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Monday - Internet Café, 10am to 12
Monday - Board Games, 2pm to 4pm, first Mons
Monday - Tai Kwon Do, 6pm
Monday - Zumba with Tracy, 7.30pm
Tuesday - Zumba with Bev, 7pm
Wednesday - Needlecraft, 2pm to 4pm
Wednesday - Kick Boxing, 7pm
Thursday - Talk Community Café (see below)
Friday - Tai Kwon Do, 6pm

Next Board Games Afternoon
4th October. Call Susanna 01885 490440. Scrabble, Rummikub etc, plus tea, cake and time to chat. There's plenty of space for more in the **Needlecraft Group** every Wednesday afternoon as well – with tea, biscuits and chatting while practicing and sharing any sort of needle skills, call Beryl 01531 640359



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Talk Community Directory



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Thurs	9.00 to 12.00

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Covid guidelines change so if you are thinking of booking, please email for the latest version

VICAR

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e-mail: stevenbaggs@me.com

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LAST COPY DAY for the November 2021 issue of

THE FROME VALLEY NEWS is: Monday 11th October '21

And the collection date will be : TBC