

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter - September to November 2018



Flower Festival Model of the Church

***Letter from Revd Mark Searle
Rector, All Saints Church, Weston***

**This is the sign that is often out
during the summer at my
favourite campsite. Placed in the
middle of the road so you have to
drive round it as you come in. I
don't expect that Martin, the
campsite owner, has any idea how
significant it has become for me.**

**-SLOW -
If there is DUST behind you
You're going too fast -----**



The drive down takes a couple of hours and the roads get narrower and bumpier the closer you get. There are some silly traditions that we have developed for the journey. Like the joke about the wind farm, who can spot the sea first or the threatened day trip we have never taken to the bee centre. But as we come over the brow of the last hill everything in me is getting ready to slow down. Quite often the sign is out at the entrance to remind me.

Changing pace is so important. Over this summer I hope that you get the chance to take life at a different speed. That you have some moments when you can get away from the crowd and the day to day, rest up and reflect.

Jesus knows the importance of slowing down. He would often escape the expectations of the crowds and walk the hills. Spending time with the Father in prayer. Whether you have a staycation, fly abroad to escape the heat or even if you have to work al the way through I hope you will find some moments to reduce your speed this summer.

**Kick off your shoes, lie down in the grass and allow Jesus to refresh your soul.
Mark Searle**

FRIENDS OF LANGRIDGE

The Flower Festival held from 30 June – 1st July was a wonderful occasion organised by the Friends and we would like to thank all those who helped us in contributing towards the Festival week-end - particularly sponsors and arrangers.

On the Sunday we had invited the MacIntyres to give a Wildflower Walk and this year Jane kindly did so. In her words - Departing from the churchyard we walked the ancient track from Court Farm to Manor Farm. The wild flower rich hay meadows which were buzzing and fluttering with insects and butterflies clearly illustrate a key contribution to wildlife; and then by the crooked path past a splendid crop of wild carrots and down Tyning Lane and back for tea.

On 18 October we have invited Tim Stuckes to give a talk in the Village Hall on his Travels which will include Santiago de Compostela. Details will be on our website.

We have enjoyed providing refreshments following some services which gives an opportunity for people to relax and chat together, and particularly the Tea before Bishop Fenwick's Organ Recital in June.

LOCAL NEWS

Many of you will be aware that sadly two wonderful people who were well known within the community and the church at Langridge have died recently.

Ann Flewitt who died on 13th August had played the organ here for many years. Although living in Lansdown she enjoyed joining us for some services and, from time to time, her brother George Craine took services, and Angela still plays the organ for us. Ann and Peter shared the joy of their daughter Jane's wedding to William in the church in 2009 and then the pleasure of watching their young family growing up.

Gaye Gibbs who died on the 15th August and Digby had lived with their family in Upper Langridge for a long time. Gaye had been involved with church activities such as Christingle services, and helped in the earlier Flower Festival creating a beautiful arrangement on the pulpit stairs. Their daughter Jo was married here in 2009 to Christopher and, following the birth of Theodora, the baptism service was taken by Nigel Rawlinson in 2014. Gaye had such happiness with her grandchildren who gave them all constant pleasure.

Both Ann and Gaye will be missed by so many and our prayers are with their families.

Ann's funeral will be at St Michaels Church, Broad Street 31st August at 1pm.
Gaye's funeral will be at St Mary Magdalene, Langridge on 3rd September at 1pm.
Details of their funerals will be on the church website.

FLOWER FESTIVAL



The Chancel Garden



Angela bell ringing



LANGRIDGE FLOWER FESTIVAL 31st JUNE – 1st JULY

The last Flower Festival was held in 2012 and so it was wonderful to have the Friends of Langridge gather their energy and enthusiasm to create another. We are indebted to those who organised it, Victoria, Iris, Alecia and Kate in particular, together with those who created such beautiful arrangements and others who dealt with publicity and organised the children's activities - which produced amazing creations, plus the tea and cakes. The many visitors who came were thrilled to have done so and praise poured in afterwards too, and the proceeds went towards the church funds.

Jane's fascinating Wildflower Walk took place on Sunday afternoon and was enjoyed by the large number who took off from the church, returning in time for our open air Thanksgiving Service at 4pm taken by Mark Searle.



Children's activities in the churchyard



The painting of pots



Flower Festival Thanksgiving Service led by Mark Searle

PAST SERVICES

Over the last three months we have benefited from services led by eight of our regular visiting clergy, underpinned by Mark Searle - who led our memorable outdoor Flower Festival service and the Patronal Festival Service for St Mary Magdalene, both in July.

A special mention should go to the Family Service in June, with music provided by Sarah Couchman's guitar.

On 15 July a joint service was held at North Stoke church, to which members of the congregations at All Saints and Langridge were invited, and we welcomed our dear friend Bishop Richard Fenwick. He played the organ throughout the service and also preached an inspiring sermon.

On 29 July Revd Robert Webb conducted our service in which we celebrated Lammas. We followed the tradition of giving thanks for the first fruits of harvest with a loaf made by a member of the congregation who, this year, was Claire Jones.

The beautiful Thanksgiving Service, taken by Mark Searle, at the end of the Flower Festival was held outside in the churchyard, overlooking the valley in the evening sunlight. It was an occasion we shall always remember - listening to Mark's words and singing as the organ music filtered out to us in our peaceful surroundings.

GDPR

You have no doubt already been bombarded with a torrent of briefings and warnings about GDPR. This newsletter uses personal data only where names and addresses are used to distribute newsletters by post; we consider that we are able to do this because supporters of St Mary Magdalene, Langridge would reasonably expect that we would keep them informed of past and future news and events about the church.

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PAST EVENTS

QUIET DAY 2nd June

A day for contemplation and discussion was led by Liz Bravin with a theme of Conversations with Jesus. This was divided into three periods – two in the morning and then one following our lunch together in Court Barn. We were introduced to the chosen conversation from the bible which we read to ourselves and contemplated the passage in depth and then discussed different aspects and interpretations of what we felt. We had time for prayer and reflection when we could analyse each passage personally in the peace of the church and surroundings.

SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST ORGAN CRAWL

We were honoured once again to welcome Richard Fenwick to Langridge for another of his extraordinary organ recitals on 16th June. On this occasion, his recital formed the third leg of a “church crawl” which began with visits to three churches with special organs where we learnt about their history and listened to the organ music played by the organist from Wells Ray Willis. First at St Marys Church, Bitton and then on the Sweetland organ at All Saints, Weston and ending at Langridge with Tea, followed by a recital by richard, returning to us following his recent retirement as Bishop of St Helena.



Rt Revd Dr Richard and Jane Fenwick

FUTURE EVENTS

Autumn churchyard clearing – all welcome

We plan to do this autumn’s work in the churchyard on Saturday **November 3rd**, between 10 am and noon. Do come along if you would like to help. Coffee/tea provided but bring your own tools!

2nd Saturdays in the Village Hall continue to be popular, and many thanks to all those who help organise it with Victoria.

Ride and Stride 8th September

Once again this September, thousands of people across Somerset and the UK will be walking or pedalling to support the annual Ride+Stride fundraising event on **8th September**. You might wish to join the joint walk in the Lam Valley, commencing at St Mary’s Charlcombe at 12 noon, via Woolley, Langridge, St Catherine, Batheaston, and back over Little Solsbury Hill to Upper Swainswick – there to join the annual Harvest Beerfest run by St Mary Swainswick. You can join any leg of the walk: details from St Mary’s Charlcombe website.

I will be away on holiday that day, so I plan to do my annual ride later in the year. You have been warned!

Tony Davies

FUTURE SERVICES

As we move into Autumn and into the later stages of the church year, we have two special services planned. On 23rd September, Mark will lead the **Harvest Festival Service**, which will be at 4 pm and followed by an auction of the produce. Our **Remembrance Service**, which this year will actually be on 11th November, will be at 9:30 am and will be led by Revd Roger Clifton.

On 26th September Mark Searle will be taking the service when Dee Pelham-Reid and Anthony Tobin will have their marriage blessed.

You may receive this Newsletter in time to join us for our service on **26th August**, when Mark will lead a service focussed on Bible study, and accompanied by coffee and croissants. The idea for this pioneering occasion arose at our most recent PCC meeting, when we reviewed patterns of attendances at our services over the years and discussed ways to make our services more enjoyable occasions when we grow together in faith.

Dates for your diary – Our **Carol Service** will take place on Sunday 16th December and **Christingle** will be on 23rd December

NEW RECTOR OF BATH ABBEY - appointed 31st July 2018

Bath Abbey has this week announced that the Revd Guy Bridgewater is to be the new Rector of Bath Abbey, starting at the end of this year.

Canon Bridgewater is currently Team Rector and Rural Dean of Horsham, a role which he has held for eleven years. He was ordained in the Diocese of Salisbury in 1987 and has since served the church in many different ways. Prior to Horsham, he was Diocesan Missioner and Residentiary Canon in the Diocese of Gloucester. He has also held posts in Dorset, at Lee Abbey in Devon, and as Vicar of Cranbrook in Kent. The exact date of his licensing and induction is yet to be confirmed but it is expected that this will be in November.

Commenting on his appointment Mr Bridgewater said, “What an overwhelming privilege it is, to be asked to join the wonderful team at Bath Abbey. Serving the heart of the City in worship and hospitality and justice, seeking to be “A People and Place Fully Alive” with the glory of God ... to be a small part of that noble Abbey vision is the greatest honour I can imagine. My wife, Jebs, and I are thrilled by the invitation, and we look forward enormously to the challenges and joys of ministry in this great City” Bishop Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells who oversaw the appointment process, added “I am delighted that Guy Bridgewater is to be the new Rector of Bath Abbey and I look forward to welcoming Guy and Jebs to the diocese. Bath Abbey has a long and wonderful history and an exciting future ahead. As the Abbey seeks to step out in mission and ministry with confidence and faith may God’s blessing and guidance be with all who minister, volunteer and work there.”

James Playfair, one of Bath Abbey's Churchwardens, who was involved in the appointment of the new Rector, said: "We are delighted to be welcoming Guy at a particularly exciting time in the Abbey's history. Not only are we engaging with nearly half a million worshippers and visitors per year, we have just started work on our innovative Footprint project which will transform the Abbey and improve how we serve our congregations, the local communities and visitors. The Abbey needs the best leadership at this crucial time, and we are fortunate to have been able to appoint Guy. He will bring vision and leadership, and has the relevant skills and experience that we prayed for within our community.

Letter from the Right Reverend Bishop Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath & Wells. September 2018

LANGRIDGE SERVICES September to November 2018

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
September 2	9.30	HC BCP	Revd John Crowe
September 9	9.30	MP BCP	Mr Tom Peryer
September 16	11.00	Family Service	All Saints Weston Team
September 23	4pm	EP CW Harvest Festival	Revd M Searle
September 30	9.30	HC CW	Revd Judith Harries
October 7	9.30	HC BCP	Revd Antony Claridge
October 14	9.30	MP BCP	Mrs Sarah Couchman
October 21	11.00	Family Service	All Saints Weston Team
October 28	9.30	HC CW	Revd Mark Searle
November 4	9.30	HC BCP All Saints	Revd Judith Harries
November 11	9.30	MP BCP Remembrance	Revd Roger Clifton
November 18	11.00	Family Service	Mrs Sarah Couchman
November 25	9.30	HC CW	Revd Mark Searle

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter (December to February 2019) please contact Liz White regarding Church matters, and Judy Rippin for the Friends' news. We would like to hear about all items of interest – comments, events or special occasions by 16 November.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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You can follow current news over the next three months on our website:

www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com or let us have your email address if you would like to receive the e-newsletter. Contact: angelaumpleby@sky.com