St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

Parish newsletter

September to November 2026

Letter from Revd Emma King
Curate of
St Mary Magdalene, Langridge;
All Saints, Weston,
and St Martin, North Stoke

Dear Friends,

As summer will soon give way to autumn, there is something quietly reassuring about the changing of the seasons. The long evenings begin to shorten, the harvest is gathered, and the landscape slowly prepares for what comes next. Creation reminds us that life is never static.

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us in Chapter 3 v. 1: "There is a season for everything, and a time for every matter under heaven". While change can sometimes feel unsettling, every season brings its own beauty and its own opportunities to see God's faithfulness at work.

As many of you know, this is my final newsletter before I begin a new chapter of ministry at Holy Trinity, Combe Down. It seems right that this transition comes as one season draws to a close and another begins. Whilst

saying goodbye is never easy, I leave with a full heart with the privilege of serving in this beautiful place.

One of the things I will treasure most is the peace of St Mary Magdalene church. Nestled so beautifully in the valley, it has been a place where the busyness of life seems to fade away and where God's presence has often felt especially close. Whether gathering for worship, pausing in quiet prayer, or simply standing outside and taking in the beauty of the surrounding countryside, it has been a place of nourishment - not just for me but for all who come or pass through.

I have seen Jesus at work in this community through countless acts of generosity, faithfulness and love. You have encouraged me more than you may ever realise, and it has been a joy to share this part of the journey together.

As autumn approaches, my prayer is that this church and community will continue to flourish; that God will lead you into a season of fresh hope, renewed vision and abundant fruitfulness. The same God who has been faithful in the past walks with us into the future, and His promises remain unchanged.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, and may God richly bless St Mary Magdalene church and all who find a home here, in every season to come.

With my love always, Emma

Date	Service	Time	Officiating
6 September	BCP HC at Langridge At All Saints Weston	9.30 11.00 Fare-well to:	Revd Huw Davies Revd Emma King
13 September	Harvest Festival	**3 p.m.**	Mr Callum Houston
20 September	CW HC	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
27 September	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Callum Houston
4 October	BCP HC	9.30	Revd Huw Davies
11 October	CW MP	9.30	Revd Claire Morrish
18 October	CW HC	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
25 October	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Callum Houston
1 November *All Saints Day*	BCP HC	9.30	Revd Huw Davies
8 November *Remembrance Day*	Remembrance Service	**10.40**	At Weston Village War Memorial
16 November	CW HC	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
23 November	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Callum Houston
29 November (5th Sunday)	Advent Sunday	9.00 or 11.00	Two services at All Saints Weston

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we are invited to join the congregation at All Saints, Weston.

Key to abbreviations: MP = Morning Prayer; HC = Holy Communion; BCP = Book of Common Prayer; CW = Common Worship

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Organ Recital

Bishop Richard Fenwick is returning on **Saturday 5 September at 5.30 p.m**. by popular request to perform a concert on the organ. Many have enjoyed his playing in past years, and you are invited to spend an enjoyable evening listening to our fine organ being put through its paces. For further details and tickets (£10), contact Liz White, Tel: 07870 674212

Congratulations are due to Victoria Humphries for running the Second Saturday event! News of its success has travelled as far and wide. A visitor who was impressed by the way it brings people together and creates community has taken the idea back their village in the Cotswolds.

Victoria is looking forward to welcoming you to **Second Saturday** events this autumn on **12 September, 10 October** and **14 November.**

Come to Langridge Village Hall between **10 a.m. and noon** to meet friends and enjoy a relaxing start to your weekend with tea or coffee, cakes and pastries.

Our **Harvest Festival service** will be held at **3 p.m. on Sunday 13 September**. We will be thanking God for this year's harvest and praying for local farmers who are dealing with challenging conditions this year.

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Jeremy Humphries says, "we will be running our regular **Church Cleaning Morning** on **Saturday 17 October.** All welcome to help, weed, cut back and inside polish and

clean! **10 a.m. to 12 noon**. Feel free to bring tools etc. Come along for a communal clear up assisted by coffee and chat!”

A team of cleaners and groundspeople

The popular 10-week **Alpha course** will begin again on **12 January**. If you are interested in discovering more about Christianity, look out for details in the next edition of this newsletter. If you can’t wait that long, speak to Tom Yacomeni.

UPDATES

Our thanks are extended to Jeremy Humphries for organising this year’s Wildflower Walk in June. He reports that “the cloudy sky didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of everyone attending! We were very lucky again to be shown

around the beautiful fields and valleys at Manor Farm, Langridge. We are hugely grateful to Jane and Laurie MacIntyre for their hospitality, and for their expertise and knowledge of all the flora and fauna along with their insight into the fascinating world of wild seed farming. Plenty of questions asked and all answered! And we mustn't forget the wonderful teas and cakes, some kindly donated, at the end to refresh us!”

Wildflower enthusiasts learning more about the local flora

PATRONAL FESTIVAL – MARY MAGDALENE

During the service on 19 July to celebrate the life of our patronal saint, Mary Magdalene, our Rector, Tom, took us on a little peregrination, visiting all the windows in the church in which Mary Magdalene appears. (It is thought that she’s in all of them!) Following tradition, each sermon

point began with the same letter. Tom demonstrated that Mary Magdalene's life traces the journey of every disciple: **F**reed by Christ's grace; **F**aithful in following Him; **F**earless because of His presence and being **F**irst to share the good news wherever God gives us the opportunity.

Her story reminds us that Jesus doesn't simply rescue people—He restores them and sends them out. May we, like Mary, be people who can say with conviction: "I have seen the Lord."

Mary encountering the risen Lord

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

We often think of the spring as being a time of new beginnings as the earth awakens from its hibernation. Autumn is also a time when many things start after the refreshment of a summer break.

Remember in your prayers:

- **Emma King and family** as Emma begins her new ministry in Combe Down
- **Claire Morrish and family** as Claire begins her new ministry in this benefice
- **Callum Houston** as he takes on the responsibilities of church warden
- Give thanks for **Revd Huw Davies** for helping with services
- **Ben Humphries** as he seeks to establish a career after graduating
- **Colin Maggs** that his health will continue to recover
- **Local farmers** dealing with challenging conditions
- **Tom Yacomeni and the PCC**

MEET THE CONGREGATION: CLAIRE MORRISH

Claire celebrating her ordination with her three sons.

Back in December, when the Benefice of All Saints Weston with North Stoke and Langridge was offered as a possible curacy for me, I visited St Mary Magdalene church one afternoon to sit and pray. I was touched by the peace of the place and its ancient roots. There was a real sense that Jesus was near, having been worshipped for generations in this precious place. I particularly appreciated the fact that along with Jesus, there was a female figure in all the stained-glass windows.

Later, John and I visited to experience worship with you one Sunday and now I have been ordained Deacon; I am very privileged to serve you as a curate and care for your souls.

Thank you for your prayers for this time of change and this new beginning. So far, apart from the heat which has at times had me melting, everything has gone smoothly. I feel very loved both by those I have left in the sending parish of Holy Trinity, Combe Down and those I have met here.

I am a Yorkshire lass. I was born in Harrogate and grew up in Leeds, attending St Matthew's church and school, Chapel Allerton, Leeds. I studied Biochemistry at Oxford University before training to teach science and chemistry in Bath and then taught for 10 years at Chew Valley School. As our family grew, I moved from the classroom to the lecture hall and worked at Bath Spa University in their teacher training department. I sensed a call to ministry some 12 years ago and, at first, became a full-time children's minister at Holy Trinity, Combe Down. Two years ago, I began training at Sarum College Salisbury for ordained ministry.

My deepening faith and subsequent call to ministry has been a slow growing process. If you want to hear more about it, do listen to my testimony talk given at All Saints Weston on 5 July available on YouTube on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzY5V0x0Qc4

I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Yours, Claire

CONGRATULATIONS TO BEN HUMPHRIES

Ben will be known to many as he is the son of Jeremy and Victoria, and has served in the past at St Mary Magdalene as a sidesman.

Over the past few years, he has been studying at Portsmouth University on his BSc Sports Management course. His hard work has paid off as he graduated this summer with First Class Honours degree. Not one for resting on his laurels, he had an amazing opportunity to spend two-and-a-half months working on the Organising Committee of the Commonwealth Games where he was involved with sorting out pre-Games venue logistics, accreditation of all volunteers and venue staff, and managing athletes at the opening and closing ceremonies. He is currently interrailing around Eastern Europe with his grandmother (!) before he heads home to reality to start job hunting.

Ben working at the Commonwealth Games

LETTER FROM MICHAEL BEASLEY, BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

Called to care for God's earth

> *Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:26).*

These words come from the account of creation found in Genesis Chapter 1. I'm often asked about this text. Is it true? How do I square its words with my understanding of science? Do I believe this is how the world was made?

I don't think Genesis 1 is a literal account; a description offered in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. Rather, I suggest that this account is so stuffed with truth that it's hard for us to deal with. Truth that's not about factual deception but about meaning, purpose and value. Genesis 1 asks 'How do we understand the world?' and 'How should we live in it?'

Take for example the words ‘have dominion’ to be found in Genesis 1:26 given above. These words, an interpretation of the Hebrew word *radah*, have been understood very differently.

Some would say that ‘have dominion’, *radah*, has been understood as harsh domination, treading down, and using raw force; a justification for treating the non-human world as an expendable resource for human consumption that has led to our destruction of so much of the natural world around us.

Others suggest that the true meaning of *radah* is service and care. This sees ‘have dominion’ as a call not to crush, but to protect, nurture, and provide justice. This view sees humankind invited to act as deputies for God, called to cultivate the earth responsibly while preserving its health and flourishing.

Arguments about the interpretation of a Hebrew word may seem specialist. But the way in which we read one of the most important passages of the Bible can shape our whole world view. Service and care or domination and destruction? These differing ideas lie at the very heart of the arguments we have about how humankind should treat our earthly home that God has gifted us. What steps will we take, however small, to protect it?

+ Michael Beasley

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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Newsletter information

There are two ways to receive this newsletter:

a) a printed copy, or

b) a digital version that is emailed to you.

If you'd like to update your preferences, please email info@stmarymagdalenelangridge.com or call Victoria (07836 733163).

We are always delighted to receive ideas and/or contributions for future editions of the newsletter. Suitable topics include memories of local interest, special occasions, and forthcoming local events. The deadline for contributions for the next edition is **14 November 2026**. Please contact Lisa Davey with 'Langridge Newsletter' in the subject line.

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

www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com

Once again, we would like to thank the staff at All Saints Church Centre, Weston, for printing this edition of our newsletter.

www.allsaintsweston.org

Emma King and family will be saying goodbye to the benefice at the 11 a.m. service on 6 September at All Saints, Weston.