

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter March to May 2019

Letter from Revd Mark Searle
Rector of All Saints, Weston

February 2019



Fill Your Hope Tank

Looking into a Christian community from the outside can leave people feeling a little confused. Christians can sometimes come across as overly optimistic, and even sometimes annoyingly full of peace (not always - frankly sometimes life is just hard). A friend of mine had a major life tragedy a few years ago. At the funeral service, he sang courageously and in the face of great adversity, "all is well with my soul". Some people were annoyed, most joined in. What was going on was not unreality, but an immense work of grace and peace in a young man's life. Life was tough, but he knew God was with him, so all was well with his soul.

There is a prayer in the bible that ends with¹, "now to him who is able to do more than we can ask or imagine". It is one of those hopeful passages that followers of Jesus like to hang on to. We hold it up against the impossible, confident that our God has got this. The world looks on like we might be slightly crazy, but these words and the hope we have are not unfounded. There are at least four things that underpin our audacious hope.

Hope founded on Jesus -

In Ephesians, Paul lays out clearly the good news of Jesus². That his death deals with the mess we make and that his resurrection brings us to life.

Hope that is purposeful -

The church is not a collection of people who are just hopeful, we also have a clear purpose³. "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."

Hope that is rooted in love -

All this is deeply rooted in knowing that we are loved by God. We are supposed to know his love in a way that surpasses knowledge.

Hope is discovered in community -

Right after Paul has outlined these amazing truths he goes on to talk about unity and community. All these things are worked out with others. Following Jesus is not a solo activity. The church is described as the body of Christ, we are inseparable from one another.

So out of this, let me give you four things to ponder as a way of keeping your hope tank full.

1. Are you holding onto the good news of Jesus as revealed in the bible or have you accepted a diluted version?
2. Have you got a clear purpose? Whether you work in a shop, a bank or a hospital, you're retired, at school or unemployed, you can live as if serving the Lord. Suddenly even ordinary life has meaning.
3. When was the last time you stopped and rested before God who loves you? Remember that we are supposed to be fruitful, but fruitfulness comes from abiding.
4. How are you doing with being part of the church family? Are you gathering with others for worship regularly? Are you meeting with others in a small group (we call them homegroups here)? Are you looking out for others? There is a place in this family for every one of us and the church family needs you so that we can be all that God has made us to be!

As we follow the way of Jesus together I pray that we would be rooted and established in love so that he can do more than we could ask or imagine.

Bible references: 1. Paul's amazing prayer in Ephesians 3:20 2. Ephesians 2:1-10 Ephesians 3:10

FRIENDS OF LANGRIDGE

The Friends continue to support the church with their activities. The popular Second Saturday is attended from a very wide area. The refreshments after some services are always friendly gatherings, although less frequent with the new change of time of some services. The next will be on 24th March.

At the Friends' recent meeting Victoria Humphries stepped down as Chairman after many active and productive years. We are all very grateful for her enthusiastic and efficient input. We very much hope a successor will be able to take over her role in the near future. Possible activities were discussed and the AGM will be held in the Hall on 2nd April.

PAST SERVICES

Once again we were forced to cancel our service on 3rd February due to snow. On this occasion, it was Canon Roger Clifton who had a morning off (he was himself also snowed in at home).

We were pleased to welcome Mark for the Christmas Carol Service, Rev Nigel Rawlinson on Christmas Day, and Tom Peryer for Christingle, as well as Rev Antony Claridge on Advent Sunday. Colin Maggs and Sarah Couchman also led services for us. Three innovations have been introduced: representatives of Genesis Trust and The Gideons have talked at two of our services, in place of a sermon, and by the time you read this we will have had two Reflective Services with bible study, led by members of our congregation.

In February we were sad to learn that Revd John Coe had died. For many years he took our services at Langridge and the funeral was attended by a very large congregation in St Luke's Church.

The Gideons

On January 20th Alan Dickson, Ian Argyle and Adrian Rubie joined our morning service to tell us about the work of Gideons UK – the British part of the International Gideons organisation. Alan, who is chairman of the Bath branch, explained that the Gideons' mission is to take the word of God and make it available to all people (at a time when only 3% of Britons go to church, and only 1% regularly read the bible).

The Gideons work through four main activities:

- Giving scriptures - the Bath branch gives 6,000 to 7,000 scriptures each year, mainly to Year 7 school pupils (including 75% of Bath secondary schools) and to university 'fresher' students;
- Placing scriptures – in hotel rooms, care homes, hospitals, prisons, cruise ships – any place where people might pick it up and read it;
- Sharing personal testimony;
- Prayer.

Gideon Bibles are available in over 200 different countries; and the Gideon Bible 'app' is free, easy to download to any smartphone or tablet, and it offers both text and spoken scriptures in 1,300 languages.

Why does Alan himself do this? He told us he sees reading the Bible as vital to being a Christian, and the strongest evidence of God and of the reality of Jesus as Saviour of the world. Alan gave us four examples of people, in different age groups and walks of life, whose lives have been turned around through reading the Bible.

For anyone moved by his talk, Alan offered three steps for them to take:

- Read the Bible more;
- Become a Friend of the Gideons;
- Become a Gideon.

You can find out more at <https://gideons.org.uk>

PAST EVENTS

It has been a quiet period for church events, although the PCC and the new Standing Committee have continued to ensure that “the show is on the road”.

Next time you are at Langridge, have a look at the stonework of the porch and of the effigy at the West end. Both have been expertly cleaned and refurbished by Liz White's friend Corinne Jackel, who is a professional conservator.

One past event which must be applauded is another heroic effort by our churchwarden Tony who has for several years taken part in the September Ride and Stride fundraising day each September – more of which you can read later.



View of the snowy Langridge Valley from Manor Farm

FUTURE SERVICES

There will be **no service at Langridge on 17th March**; the Bath Half takes place that morning, and renders the free movement of people almost impossible.

The 9:30 service at St Mary Magdalene on 24th March will be followed by coffee and croissants, courtesy of the Friends of Langridge. The service on **19th May is at 11am** and will be followed by another lunch at the Hare & Hounds. Full details nearer the time.

The Annual Meetings of the church will take place at Langridge Village Hall on April 2nd at 7:30 pm, chaired by Mark Searle.

This year we have a Lent Course, jointly with North Stoke and ASW, of four Thursday evening meetings at 7:30. The topics are from Living Fruitfully, published by Embrace the Middle East. The dates and venues are:

March 14th: Stonecroft, North Stoke BA1 9AS (Mike Roberts)

March 21st: Fleetlands, Weston Park BA1 4AL (Penny Faux)

April 4th: Stone Cross, North Stoke BA1 9AS (Peter Durman)

April 11th: 52 Purlewent Drive BA1 4AZ (Tony Davies).

Sarah Couchman is with us on Mothering Sunday, 31st March (nb the clocks go forward that morning!). Rev Antony Claridge will lead our 9:30 Holy Communion on Easter Day.

At the Morning Service on 16th June at 9:30, we will have a talk from the Bath Welcomes Refugees group in place of a sermon.

Members of the congregation are invited to suggest (initially to Tony Davies please) which hymns they would like to be sung at our services. *TD*

FUTURE EVENTS

There will be another Church cleaning and churchyard clearance morning on Saturday 11th May.

It is hoped also to arrange a **Quiet Day** on 4th May. Details will be on our website.

Claire Jones has kindly volunteered to be Electoral Roll Officer; this is year when the Roll must be completely reconstructed. If you have not already sent to Claire the relevant form and wish to be on the Roll, please contact her **before 3rd March**.

Continuing the aim of strengthening links between the churches, there will be another "Three Churches Walk" on 27th May (a Bank Holiday Monday), which this year is the day after Rogation Sunday when parishioners traditionally "beat the bounds" of their parishes. The walk starts from All Saints Weston car park at 10:30 am. The route may be similar to the 2018 route. More details nearer the time from Tony Davies.

The Bath Spa (University) Ladies Choir will give a recital at Langridge, on a date in May to be confirmed. They were invited after their very enjoyable Christmas Concert at All Saints Weston.

We look forward to an organ recital by Bishop Richard Fenwick in late June or July. *TD*

RIDE & STRIDE 2018

Ride+Stride day is always the second Saturday in September; but in 2018, Vicki and I were on a cruise around the Mediterranean at that time (can't complain!). Since I am a trustee of the Somerset Churches Trust, I felt obliged to do something in 2018; but I left it to the last possible day, New Year's Eve.

I wanted to do something that wasn't too physically strenuous, so I chose to see how many churches, chapels, and former places of worship I could get to on a walk from home down into Bath. I found 43 of them! Only about 30 or so are current places of worship, and only 14 are current C of E churches.

In all I walked about ten miles (and took all day, including coffee at Waitrose cafe).

In Weston there is All Saints, the former Countess of Huntingdon's Church, the Free (Moravian) church, Emmanuel, the Methodist church, St John's on the Upper Bristol Road and St Michael's chapel behind it, and Locksbrook cemetery chapels.

Thence I went to Twerton (where there are two former non-conformist churches, one now a home and one now the office of Divine Divas) and then via Julian Road, which is studded with churches, to Bathwick and into town. Immediately behind St John's Bathwick is St Mary's Churchyard Mortuary Chapel, whose roof was removed in the 1850's so it now has trees growing in the nave.

There are loads of churches etc in the city centre. From there I went to the Magdalen Chapel on Holloway, across to Widcombe Baptist and St Matthew's, and down to the bus station to take the number 4 home.

Usually, Ride+Striders are slowed down by the very nice people who open up the churches, provide drinks and biscuits, and of course want to have a chat. But on New Year's Eve in the city, very few were open, in fact only 4: Hay Hill Baptists on the Paragon, St John's RC on South Parade, Bath Abbey, and St Michael's in Westgate Buildings – a beautiful little church and the spiritual home of the St John's Foundation. St Mary's Bathwick locked up as I approached.

Next year, the second Saturday in September is actually my 70th birthday. So I might try to see if I can get to 70 places of worship. I will need to scour the suburbs of Bath, and I might use my bike to get around them more quickly. Otherwise it will be a very long day!

Finally my sincere thanks to those who kindly sponsored me. In all we raised £360, of which half will come back to Langridge. And it's not too late if anyone else wished to sponsor me: but I won't ask for £1 per church!

Tony Davies

MEMORY CORNER

From the Godwin Family of Tadwick

Amelia recounts the story of a special horse - SPRING SPICE

At the age of 47 we have said goodbye to our wonderful Spring Spice.

I wanted to write this to pay my respects to the most amazing pony as he deserves to be remembered - and what a wonderful life I have shared with him.

I was 10 when we went to look at Spice from an advert in the Western Daily Press. I knew instantly that he was the perfect pony. He was beautiful with his shiny chestnut coat and Appaloosa white spots. He was gorgeous and it wasn't long until he was settling in at his new home Tadwick Farm.

My whole childhood was about Spice. We trotted along the country lanes and Bridleways every day. We knew them like the back of our hand/hoof and as my abilities grew we hit the showjumping ring. He was a natural - he would quite literally fly around the ring, and we loved being part of the Avon Vale Pony Club and all the fun of Pony Club Camp. He was perfect.

As I got older and moved away Spice found a new home with Hannah Ryan. She had spent years riding with me and it felt right that she should enjoy riding Spice, and I knew she would look after him.

The years went by and Spice and I had grown older and, as a wonderful surprise, Mum and Dad arranged for him to come home. I couldn't believe my eyes, it was lovely to have him back.

20 years on from that day Spice has continued to play a huge role in the lives of my brother Alastair's three children, and then my own two daughters lives. They have all loved riding him, brushing and cuddling him. He was so gentle we could do anything with him.

Spice used to love looking down the Valley. He would stand and stare at it taking in the beauty as we all do, and always loved it when Hedley's cows were in the neighbouring field. Even in his 40's Spice would make us all laugh with a buck and a canter around the field.

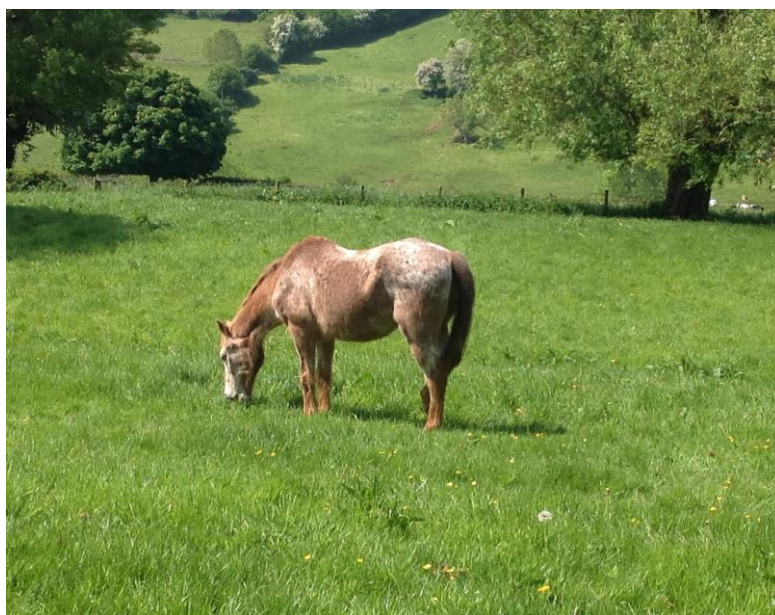
It is an amazement to everyone that he lived to the incredible age of 47 and I have to thank my Mum and Dad for firstly bringing him into my life, but also for the years of devoted care you have given him.

We will miss you Spice - the fields will never be the same but you are resting now and will always be remembered. You really were a once in a life time pony.

I would like to thank Richard Davey for your support on the sad day of losing him and to thank you for helping us lay him to rest at Tadwick Farm.

Thank you Spring Spice you really are a legend.

Amelia Gough



Spring Spice at Tadwick

We would like to give our thanks to the team who clean our church and arrange the beautiful floral displays for our regular services and at Christmas; and also to say how grateful we are to our dedicated organists.



**LANGRIDGE SERVICES
March to May 2019**

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
March 3	9.30	HC BCP	Revd Canon J Crowe
March 10	9.30	MP BCP	Revd R Webb
March 17	-----	NO SERVICE	-----
March 24	9.30	HC CW then coffee/croissants	Revd M Searle
March 31	9.30	Mothering Sunday MP CW	Mrs S Couchman
April 7	9.30	PASSION SUNDAY HC BCP	Revd J Harries
April 14	9.30	PALM SUNDAY MP BCP	Revd Canon R Clifton
April 18	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday HC BCP	Revd R Webb
April 21	9.30	EASTER DAY HC CW	Revd A Claridge
April 28	9.30	HC CW	Revd M Searle
May 5	9.30	HC BCP	Revd Canon R Hunt
May 12	9.30	Reflective Service	Langridge
May 19	11.00	Family Service CW	Mr T Peryer
May 26	9.30	ROGATION HC CW	tbc

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter (June to August) please contact Liz White regarding Church matters, and the Friends' news. We would like to hear about all items of interest – comments, events or special occasions by 17 May.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Rector	Revd Mark Searle	01225 421159
Church Warden	Tony Davies	01225 336124
Treasurer	Laura Somodi	07816 961951
Langridge Friends		
Newsletter editor	Liz White	01225 744852

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



SPRINGTIME AT LANGRIDGE