

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter March – May 2020

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

February 2020



Spring sunshine & frost from the church porch

Peace in an uncertain world

Whatever you think about the political chaos of the last three years, at least it's all over and we now have total clarity about what will happen next.... if only it were that easy. The uncertainty looks to be with us for sometime and I expect for a bit more after that.

Just when we think we might have some peace and stability, along comes a pesky virus that threatens to put large amounts of people in self imposed quarantine.

Back in 2001 it was another outbreak. Foot and mouth shut down large parts of our countryside and decimated farming communities. With a continual cycle of chaos and uncertainty, how can we find peace.

The bible outlines a few things that can help us here. You see, peace is not something we work ourselves up to, or earnestly discover. It is something that is received as a gift from God. It is independent of circumstances.

In a letter in the New Testament, the writer tells us that the way to receive peace is to change our focus by giving thanks to God. He says that we should do this in every circumstance. It's not a will power thing, it's about changing our focus to see God at work in everything.

In another place in the bible, Jesus says to his followers, "my peace I give to you". Peace is a gift, not something we strive for. We receive it when we start to look to God and thanksgiving is that action that helps us see him at work.

So what will you do today, will you worry? Why not give thanks, start to look up and receive peace.

Mark Searle

Rector of All Saints Weston, Bath

FRIENDS OF LANGRIDGE

As ever, we are grateful for the support of the Friends, who very kindly made the Christingles for us in December, and have offered to make posies for our Mothering Sunday service on March 22nd.

We would like to thank them as well for providing refreshments following some of our morning services and at Recitals. There are some Friends also who kindly help at the popular Second Saturday Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall on Lansdown. This has become a really well established event with people coming from a very wide area, and even with walkers and people driving past dropping in too!

PAST SERVICES

Christmas seems a long time ago. Sarah Couchman led our Christingle service on December 15th, complete with the traditional Christingle oranges. Mark Searle led the Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols on December 22nd. We were pleased also to welcome Mark for our Christmas Communion.



The Christmas crib

As ever, we have been very well served by our team of visiting clergy, most of whom led two of our recent services: Rev John Crowe, Rev Robert Webb, Rev Antony Claridge and Rev Roger Clifton. We look forward to seeing each of them again soon.

We awoke on 19th January to an icy morning. The journey down Langridge Lane to church was perilous. The return trip even more so (many thanks to our organist Paul Bright for his brave navigation of the lane!), but the views across the valley that morning were spectacular!

PAST EVENTS

The Beckford Singers gave us a beautiful choral concert on 14th December. They are local to the northern side of Bath, and sing both sacred and secular music a cappella. Other choral concerts were on in Bath that evening, and so the attendance was disappointing, but nevertheless we hope to invite the Beckford Singers to join us again for a Choral Evensong.

There was a small evening gathering by kind invitation of Marie at Court Farm shortly before Christmas. It was a particularly cold and damp night but we sang carols and enjoyed festive pastries by a lovely warm fire.

Letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton For Parish Newsletters – March 2020

Let's talk

'It's good to talk!' so the old BT advert (other telecommunications firms are available) used to say. I agree. Who doesn't feel better after having a good old chat with a friend, or even after having a quick chat with a stranger when stuck in a tedious queue? It may seem then, that this year's Lent Challenge from Bishop Peter and myself is no great challenge at all as we are simply suggesting that we have conversations with our neighbours, family and friends.

The challenge comes in what we might talk about. We are encouraging all of us, including Bishops, to step outside what may be our normal topics of conversation, and perhaps our comfort zones, and grapple with some simple questions about life, death and everything in between.

The challenge is both to listen to someone else's viewpoint and to ask ourselves how our own answers connect to what we believe.

In order to help us have those conversations the Go Team and discipleship team have produced a handy pack of question cards, and by the time Lent begins, we hope that each church will have received at least one of these packs of 40 Everyday Questions. The questions are suitable for all ages so can be used in a whole host of ways – with friends, family, colleagues, in school, with a Lent group, at a 'bring and share' lunch, even in church on a Sunday.

We've already been out and about across the diocese asking people some of the questions on the cards. And you can bet that asking school children questions like 'Should all bad people be punished?' or 'How would you describe God?' has yielded some very interesting conversations. We will be sharing some of the conversations we've had with a range of people on Facebook and Twitter so if you are on social media then do keep an eye out for them during Lent, and by all means let our communications team know how you are getting on using the hashtag #40questions.

We really hope the 40 Everyday Questions cards generate some interesting, meaningful and indeed, Godly conversations that will help us hear the point of view of those around us and refresh and deepen our faith in God this Lent.

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley Bishop of Bath and Wells

FUTURE SERVICES

By the time you read this Newsletter, the season of Lent will be upon us. We intend once again to put on a Lent course, in conjunction with our colleagues at St Martin's North Stoke and All Saints Weston. Provincially, there will be four sessions on consecutive Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, commencing on March 12th. Please see the website for final details.

There will be a service of the Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at Langridge on Maundy Thursday, at 6 pm led by Rev Robert Webb. Our Easter Sunday service, at 9:30 am, will be led by Tom Peryer.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are looking forward to a **Recital 'Songs and Music for Springtime'** featuring Jules Addison playing our organ, and Luana Godwin (soprano) at 7 pm on Saturday 21st March. Tickets £8 (available in advance or on the door) to include a glass of wine. Please check details on our website.

We are hoping to arrange another **Quiet Day** at the church on 25th April. Details will be on our website for this event as well.

The **Spring Churchyard clearance** will be undertaken on 2nd May at 10am. We would love to see any willing helpers with gardening tools and energy! Coffee supplied.

We are planning to repeat the **Three Churches Walk** (Weston → Prospect Stile → Lansdown → Weston) in late May; date and further details to follow. *TD*

WANTED CABINET MAKER.

As no doubt many churchgoers will have noticed our hymn books & prayer books do suffer from damp which causes the binding staples to rust and the pages to stick. A very little heat would improve the situation. We have the trace heater and also now an electric supply is in the vicinity.

The final stage is for somebody to make an appropriate front to the shelves, turning them into a ventilated cupboard with the heater at the bottom. There is some thin oak boarding available for sliding doors which have aged patina to match our old church on one side. Please contact Mike for further thoughts. *MS*

New Hassocks in St Mary Magdalene Church

As mentioned in our last Newsletter we were awaiting the arrival of the two new hassocks which had been designed and made by Ruth Corbett with Margaret Allen. Roger Clifton was taking the service on the 2nd February and blessed them with a beautiful prayer of dedication.

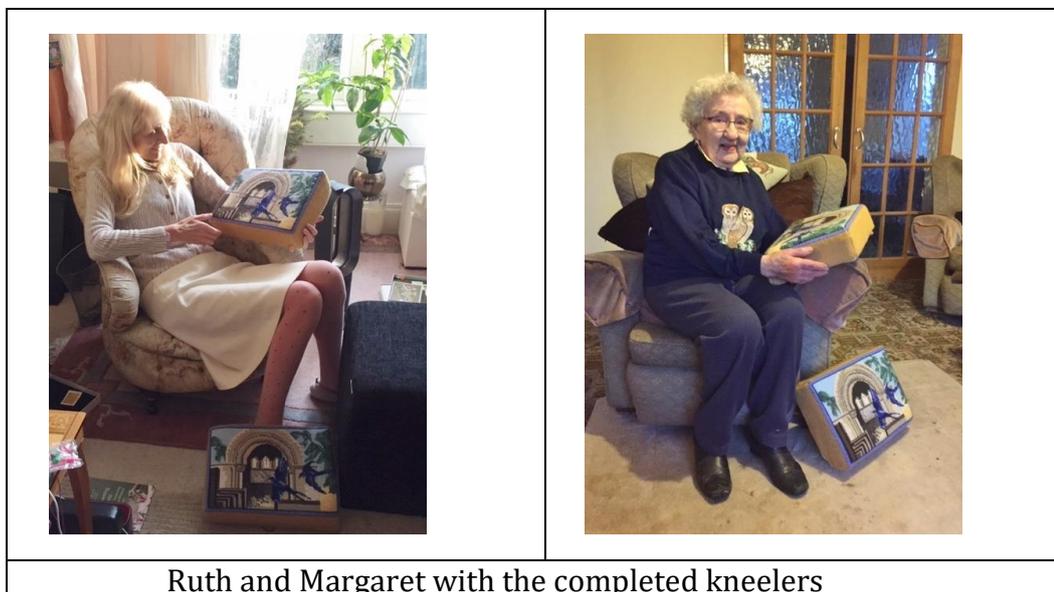
A Message from Ruth Corbett

I am very glad the final pair of kneelers I designed are completed, despite periods of illness in both Margaret and myself, & they now take their place near the altar rail.

The design of the third pair was inspired by watching our yearly visitors, the swallows, swooping and diving inwards into our fine, quiet church.

I noticed they seemed irresistibly drawn towards the beautiful light falling through the old window panes. I felt this was like a metaphor for how we are drawn towards God in prayer, and the feeling we can have of being drawn 'home' as we approach the altar and kneel.

The central part of the design, depicting as it does the actual three dimensional interior was more painterly than the previous four kneelers, and I stitched these myself. I am so grateful to Margaret for all her diligent and neat skilled stitching in the completion of the backgrounds. It is good to see the backgrounds harmonising and blending in with the floor tiles.



Sir Roger Scruton, who recently passed away, was a deep thinker whom I hold in high esteem. I especially agree with him about "Why Beauty Matters".

I have long felt that art should celebrate both beauty and the sacred, and in a healthy society, with spiritual 'wellness,' one might say, these two qualities are not separable, but combine to help us contemplate the Divine. I long for the day when art returns to its previous function of respecting & honouring the sacred and the transcendent. Perhaps the day will come, sometime in the future.

It is partly because of this that when Margaret suggested (as retired Treasurer) that I submit my invoice for the work done, I explained that I feel it was important to do the work voluntarily and not for a materialistic motive. If instead, the Friends of Langridge would like to contribute something, I would be happy to support the idea floated by Liz White — to set up a special bookcase in the Church for a mini library of books for Christian and spiritual study.

I have a few books, for instance on the history of angels within the Church, and some Victorian prayer books, which I would like to donate if this comes to fruition. *RS*



LANGRIDGE SERVICES
March to May 2020

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
March 1st	9.30	MP BCP	Revd Canon R Clifton
March 8	9.30	HC CW	Revd M Searle
March 15	9.30	Family Service	Revd A Claridge
March 22		MP CW Mothering Sunday	Mrs S Couchman
March 29	9.30	HC BCP Passion Sunday	Revd Canon J Crowe
April 5th	9.30	MP BCP Palm Sunday	Revd Canon R Salisbury
April 9	6.00pm	HC BCP Maundy Thursday	Revd R Webb
April 12	9.30	HC CW EASTER DAY	Mr T Peryer
April 19	9.30	Reflective Service	
April 26	9.30	HC BCP	Revd R Webb
May 3rd	9.30	MP BCP	Revd Canon R Clifton
May 10	9.30	HC CW	Revd M Searle
May 17	9.30	Family Service Rogation	Revd J Harries
May 24	9.30	HC BCP	Revd Canon J Crowe
May 31	9.30	HC CW Day of Pentecost	Revd Canon R Hunt

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter (June to October 2020) please contact Liz White regarding Church matters or the Friends' news. We would like to hear about all items of interest – comments, events or special occasions by 17 May.

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