

## St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter June to August 2018

Letter from Revd Mark Searle  
Rector of All Saints, Weston



Church with hot air balloons

### Growing Community

Living things grow. Look around you and see for yourself. The trees are covered in leaves. At this time of year we can also recognise where things are not growing. In our garden, in the middle of a sea of green trees, there is one tree that is bare. We can tell that it is no longer alive because it shows no evidence of growth.

Living things are supposed to grow. But growth can be difficult because it means change. This happens to us every day and we don't complain much. The cells in our bodies are continually being renewed. I am not the same person I was yesterday and neither are you. We are all changing fast because we are alive.

The Church family is a living thing. As followers in the way of Jesus we are part of his living body. Not stones in a building, but living stones who are being built into a spiritual house. We have been included and a being made holy. Because we are alive, we are being transformed and changed. This is true as individuals and as a community.

Sometimes we find it easier to equate growth with something that is just spiritual. But the narrative of the bible is not just about spiritual growth. It is growth in people who come to know Jesus and so the church family should be a numerically growing community. If you're not convinced then take some time to reflect on the following:

- God called Abraham and blessed him to be a blessing - Genesis 12
- He then raised up a family and a nation as hope for the world.
- Then he sent Jesus to die "Once for All" - Hebrews 10:10
- Jesus sends us as the Father has sent him - John 20:21
- There is even a book called Numbers
- We have been sent to make disciples of all nations - Matthew 28:19

So as a living community we are supposed to grow and this growth includes numbers. Let us look at what the early church did to make sure they were healthy and ready to grow. In doing so, we will hang on to two key principles of church family growth. 1. Our job is to remain and then we will be fruitful (John 15). 2. The Lord is the one who brings the growth (Acts 2:47b). Let's be a growing community.

*Mark Searle*

## **FRIENDS OF LANGRIDGE**

As mentioned in the Spring newsletter we shall be holding a special weekend for our **Flower Festival in the Church** on **30 June – 1<sup>st</sup> July**, so do come and bring your families and friends.

The theme for the festival is ‘Summer in the Valley’ and the church will be decorated with stunning displays, both large and small, using flowers from Langridge valley and beyond.

There will be activities for children, an ice cream stall and refreshments.

Car parking is available, however, please be aware that unfortunately, there are no toilet facilities at St Mary Magdalene.

The Church will be open from 10am to 5pm both days (with a service taken by Mark Searle to close the Flower Festival at 4pm on July 1<sup>st</sup>).

**\*Volunteers urgently needed – can you spare an hour please?**

**Many of you enjoyed helping in our last Festival 6 years ago and so do contact**

**Victoria – 07836 733163 or [victoriahumphries@berrymead.co.uk](mailto:victoriahumphries@berrymead.co.uk)**

For more information please go to [www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com](http://www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com)

## **PAST SERVICES**

The most notable feature of our services in recent months was the forced cancellation of two services in March due to snow. Who knows how many years have passed since this last occurred?

Nevertheless, we were pleased to welcome Roger Clifton to lead our Mothering Sunday service, Robert Webb on Maundy Thursday, Anthony Claridge on Easter Sunday, and Richard Hunt on Rogation Sunday. We also welcomed for the first time Dave Parr, who is part of the All Saints Weston team. Langridge is so blessed with the range of talent that is available to us to take our services!

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **THREE CHURCHES WALK**

When preparing for Mark Searle’s arrival, the three churches in the Benefice were keen to strengthen links between the churches. In this spirit of collaboration, we put on a “Three Churches Walk” on 5<sup>th</sup> May, the day before Rogation Sunday when parishioners traditionally “beat the bounds” of their parishes.

Walking parties from all Saints Weston, St Martin’s North Stoke, and Bath Racecourse converged on Prospect Stile where 24 walkers joined in a celebratory hymn. Thence to Langridge Village Hall for lunch (kindly hosted by the Friends of Langridge) and subsequently by diverse routes back to Weston. Six of the party were able to visit St Mary Magdalene, Langridge on their way back to Weston.

We were blessed by the weather; the whole day worked well with no casualties or problems; and there was general enthusiasm for repeating the occasion annually, if not more often. Watch this space for more details!

### **CHURCH & CHURCHYARD CLEARING**

Our thanks as usual to the hardy team of volunteers who assembled on 21<sup>st</sup> April for another spring session of churchyard clearing. We believe we are gradually winning the battle against the ivy, the weeds, and the badgers.



**Claire weeding the churchyard**

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The annual meetings of the church took place at Langridge Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> April - our first annual meeting chaired by Mark Searle. After many devoted years of service, Joanna Pelly stood down from the PCC, and Mark presented her with a gift in thanks for her long and faithful work for Langridge Church.



**Joanna receiving a rose from Ros**

Jenny Lewis was thanked for taking care of the PCC Secretary's duties over the previous year, and Claire Jones kindly volunteered to take over in that position.

Our PCC is becoming somewhat reduced in numbers, and this is a matter to which the PCC will turn its attention in the coming months.

### **FUTURE SERVICES**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July as part of the Flower Festival, Mark Searle will lead a flower-themed service in Langridge church at 4 pm.

There will be no service at Langridge on 15<sup>th</sup> July; instead, Langridge and North Stoke will have a joint service (this year at North Stoke), led by Dr Richard Fenwick, Bishop of St Helena.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **QUIET DAY**

This Newsletter comes just in time to let you know that our **Quiet Day**, which was originally planned for 19 May has been moved to **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. This will take place between 10am and 3pm in the church, with a light lunch in Court Barn. Do come and join us for a day of quiet reflection and discussion in the peace of the church and beautiful surroundings.

### **ORGAN RECITAL**

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Somerset Churches Trust has a “church crawl” around three churches with rather special organs, concluding at Langridge with a Recital by Bishop Richard Fenwick, commencing at approximately 5 pm (teas at 4:30 pm).

## **Diocese of Bath & Wells** - Posted on 17th May 2018

**The ‘How Green is Your Church’ the West of England Eco-conference, takes place on Saturday 16 June in Bath at Southdown Methodist Centre, The Hollow BA2 1NJ 9.30am- 3pm** and

Diocesan Environmental Consultant and organiser Caroline Pomeroy can't wait! She says, “For a keen greenie like me, these are (relatively) good times! Thanks largely to the ‘David Attenborough effect’ hardly a day goes by without mention in the news of plastics – the recent announcement that plastic straws will soon be banned was a small but significant step in the right direction. And there's lots happening around food waste, electric cars, tree planting, renewable energy, veganism... the list goes on. It's being discussed on the news and on social media all the time. Hooray!

“But for those of us who call ourselves Christians, how often do we hear these issues talked about in church? In many cases, not a lot. The bible tells us that ‘The earth is the Lord's and everything in it’ and that we are called to be good stewards of the earth – and increasing numbers of churches of all denominations are getting involved in making that a reality.”

Kevin Durrant is minister of Keynsham Baptist Church and one of the conference's key speakers. He says, “The conference is designed to encourage “greener” churches it is not about adding a little environmental window dressing to our existing activities; it's about re-focusing our churches on what they were originally meant to be – families of disciples dedicated to ‘seeking first the Kingdom of God’, a kingdom that encompasses all of creation and aims to bring ‘all things in heaven and on earth under one head, even Christ’ (Eph 1v10).”

Also speaking at the conference is Dr. Simon Stuart, the Conservation Director at Synchronicity Earth and recently retired Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The conference is aimed at inspiring, encouraging and equipping Christians to take creation care seriously. There are speakers on theology and science, as well as people who've been working on all aspects of ‘greening’ the life of their church. *Find out more on [the conference website](http://wegreenchurch.org.uk) <http://wegreenchurch.org.uk> and book using our [on-line form](#).*



**PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO**

## **A QUIET DAY**

**on 2nd JUNE 2018**

**to be held in the historic church of**

**ST MARY MAGDALENE, LANGRIDGE BA1 8AJ**

**nestled in the beautiful valley  
north of Lansdown opposite Bath Racecourse,  
(a lane leads from the Racecourse down a lane for 1 1/4 miles)**

**The theme will be**

### **Conversations with Jesus**

**which will be led by Liz Bavin  
with time for contemplation & discussion**

**The Day will run from 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**in the church and also in Court Barn next door, where we  
will join together for a simple lunch which will be provided  
(please let us know if you would like one!)**

**NB:**

**Access to the church is up some shallow steps with a handrail  
which can be tricky for some people. There are only lavatories  
up in the Barn next door and not in the church. If these may  
pose a problem and you'd like to come, please contact us so  
that we can help.**

**Email [swjones@doctors.org.uk](mailto:swjones@doctors.org.uk)**

**Tel 07775828316**

**St Mary Magdalene Church  
Langridge BA1 8AJ**

As the culmination of the 2pm Tour of Three Organs in  
the afternoon with the Somerset Churches Trust and  
Tea at Langridge

on

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

You are invited to an

**ORGAN RECITAL**

at

**5.00pm**

by

**Dr RICHARD FENWICK**

**Bishop of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean**

who will perform a varied programme of music on the  
Roland organ

**There is no charge for the organ recital but a donation (shared  
between Somerset Churches Trust and St Mary Magdalene  
Church) would be greatly appreciated.**

Limited off-road parking available above the church.

Details of the Day on the website:

[www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com](http://www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com)

or book direct with Tony Davies 01225 336124

## Memory Corner

I spent my teenage years living at home on Charmy Down. Our house was beside the A46 just up from Tree Tops Garage. That was the mid to late 1960's, before the M4 existed, and the A46 was a quiet road then. Today we can look across from Manor Farm Langridge at the lines of traffic and the ever to and fro of blue flashing lights, and imagine the carnage. Burt Sumption is long gone, but he lived on Hartley Bends in my day, and at that time he would take his pony and cart down the A46 to Bath, holding up the traffic, such as it was. He would have taken the newly opened three-lane section from below Tree Tops Garage to Upper Swainswick. This replaced the winding road that dropped through the contours giving glimpses of Bath, and which still exists today, hidden in scrub, and if you search you will find a milestone to Bath amongst the Blackthorn.

Everything changes with time, for better or worse, but some places change little. There is no vehicle access to Charmy Down. Park somewhere and walk up one of the paths onto the down and step back in time. It is a massive open expanse, farmed but completely devoid of modern development. The perimeter pre-historic and later field systems remain, but the central part was bulldozed flat to accommodate the WW2 military airfield. This was little used at the time and was abandoned after the war. What remains of the airfield rots and slowly returns to nature. It is now a beautiful place.

I was a farm labourer on Charmy Down 50 years ago, working for Richard and Rosie Breach at Hartley Farm. In town the seasons pass without much notice, but not on Charmy Down. It can be a harsh place, but I have good and lasting memories. In winter it always snowed. First daily milking was early and if a beast had not come in off the kale it must have calved. Always in a far off corner, finding it, I would sling the calf over the back of my neck, enjoying the slimy warmth, and trudge back through snow with mum behind, good memories. Of the tractors, the Zetor was best. Rusting exhaust pipe to warm the hands on, no cab, no steering wheel (it fell off years before), and fast. Hurling down the runways flat out with mole grips clamped to the steering column, wobbling madly on the turn at the end, great fun. But to stiffen the character, nothing beats cattle drenching. We crammed the herd tight behind gates in the yard and jumped in. My task was to grab each beast in turn by the neck, pull the head back with left thumb and fore finger in it's nostrils, and with the other hand hold the lower jaw wide open for Richard to pour the creamy contents of an old Coke bottle down it's throat.

Evening entertainment always started with a walk down the three lane to Upper Swainswick to catch the single decker into Bath, or to drop in at the youth club at Oriel Hall opposite Hurley's Garage. But time moves on.

One day back on Charmy Down I was sweeping slurry in the yard when I heard strange and unfamiliar music coming from the student flat upstairs at the back of Hartley Farmhouse. A long haired student came down and over to me.

Holding a sleeve he said, "Just out, Sgt Pepper, this will change the world".

Donald MacIntyre, May 2018

<b>LANGRIDGE SERVICES</b>			
<b>June to August 2018</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
June 3	9.30	HC BCP	Revd John Crowe
June 10	9.30	MP BCP	Revd A Claridge
June 17	11am	Family Service	All Saints Weston Team
June 24	9.30	HC CW	Revd Robert Webb
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	4pm	Flower Festival Thanksgiving	Revd Mark Searle
July 8	9.30	MP BCP	Revd Roger Clifton
July 15	----	Joint Service at North Stoke Church	Bishop Richard Fenwick
July 22	9.30	Patronal Festival HC CW	Revd Mark Searle
July 29	tbc	Lammas	Revd M Searle
August 5	9.30	HC BCP	Canon Roger Clifton
August 12	9.30	MP BCP	Mr Tom Peryer
August 19	11am	Family Service	All Saints Weston Team
August 26	9.30	HC CW	Revd Mark Searle

\*This is a provisional list which will be completed on our website shortly

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter ( September to November ) 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 15 August.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Rector	Revd Mark Searle	01225 421159
Church Warden	Tony Davies	01225 336124
Treasurer	Laura Somodi	07816 961951
Langridge Friends	Judy Rippin	01225 858118
Newsletter Editor	Liz White	01225 744852

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

[www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com](http://www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com) or let us have your email address if you would like to receive the e-newsletter. Contact: [angelaumpleby@sky.com](mailto:angelaumpleby@sky.com)