

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter September - November 2021

Letter from Revd Mark Searle

Rector of All Saints, Weston

September 2021



Church service registers

August is holiday time. Well, not quite this year. I do hope that you've managed to get some kind of break, whether it's resting at home or sneaking off to Cornwall or Wales. Maybe even grabbing a last-minute break abroad, if you're willing to take the risk. Whatever you've done this August, I hope that you've managed to get a rest.

The Bible begins with God creating everything out of nothing. Then he rested. So, the first thing that people did after God had created them, was rest. This is a significant opening, and one for us to remember.

Jesus also invited his disciples to come away with him, and rest after a hard day's work. It was in this place that they reflected together where they were re-centred, where they learned. And ultimately, this was the place where they grew as they abided and rested in him.

In Isaiah, it says that this, those that wait upon the Lord, will renew their strength. So, I do hope that whatever you've been doing this summer, whether it's a holiday at home. Continuing to work, a house full of kids, or whether you've managed to sneak a holiday away somewhere. I hope that you've managed to get some rest. and that in doing so, you've drawn closer to Jesus.

God bless Mark.

Mark Searle

Rector of All Saints Weston, Bath, with Langridge and North Stoke

https://www.allsaintsweston.org.uk/Groups/304706/Sundays_Church_Live.aspx

RECENT SERVICES

Live services, with a Zoom alternative when possible, have become the 'new normal' for Langridge. Over the last three months, we have been able to have live worship at St Mary Magdalene every Sunday. In addition, three of our worshippers regularly join the service via Zoom - so long as there is a laptop available at the church, and the internet connection works. Techies might wish to know that this is best achieved by using a wifi dongle, hung on the south window outside the church.

We are, once again, grateful to those who have led our services during these strange times – the ever-faithful team of Antony Claridge, Roger Clifton, Judith Harries, Richard Hunt, Robin Lewis, Colin Maggs, Robert Webb and of course Mark Searle. All are happy, indeed keen, to take live services.

Roger Clifton led our Patronal Service on July 25th and, with Penny, went on to join us for lunch (see below).



July service in the Churchyard with
Victoria reading the lesson

RECENT EVENTS

On May 18th we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We were pleased to hold a live meeting in the Village Hall, albeit with a lower attendance than in previous years.

Second Saturday took place in June, and was enjoyed by all. It will resume on a monthly basis from September 11th.

There was another successful Langridge Lunch at the Hare & Hounds on July 25th, following the Patronal Service. Eighteen attended and all enjoyed the occasion.

FUTURE SERVICES

Our Harvest Festival service will be slightly earlier this year, on September 12th. Mark Searle will lead the service, which will be at 4 pm. If you would like to help decorate the church you can join us on the Saturday morning.

Remembrance Sunday this year is November 14th.

FUTURE EVENTS

For Ride+Stride in September this year, Tony is planning to join some Somerset Churches Trust friends to walk from Woodspring Priory (just north of Weston-super-Mare) to Glastonbury Abbey.

Richard Fenwick has kindly agreed to give another organ recital, which will take place at 6:30 pm on October 2nd. Richard is currently acting as locum Bishop of St Helena, and will have given the same recital in the Cathedral on St Helena by the time you read this article.

On November 26th Jules Addison and his partner Anne-Marie will perform a cello and piano duet recital for us, at St Mary Magdalene, Langridge. Details will be on our website

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FRIENDS OF LANGRIDGE / SECOND SATURDAY

We are delighted that our **2nd Saturdays** will be starting again on 11th September from 10am - 12. This has always been a popular gathering and a chance to meet new people from the Valley and further afield. We do hope that everyone will be able to join us again, and maybe introduce a friend as well, to celebrate after such a long time.

Looking forward to the delicious cakes and coffee



Organist Terry leaving church

It's so wonderful to have music and singing again in our services

MEMORY CORNER

As you have read above we are delighted to welcome Bishop Richard Fenwick to Langridge to give us another organ recital this year. Music has always played an important part in his life. He studied music before and after he was ordained and contributed so much to the world of music including recitals in London and many cathedrals, and has always been very highly regarded. Later in his distinguished career he was elected Bishop of St Helena in 2011 and as you will see below has made the journey there many times.



Prosperous Bay and the island's Airport

Bishop Richard writes from the Island of St Helena:

“Curiouser and curiouser” – Journey to the South Atlantic, 2021

Travelling out to St Helena was always a fantastic adventure – especially in the days when absolutely everything depended on the old Mail Ship – the “RMS Saint Helena”. She used to plough up the Atlantic from the Cape to St Helena, then on up to Ascension Island, close to the Equator. Once a year she would make the very long journey up to the UK, via Tenerife – to Cardiff, or Portland. Again, once a year she would take the fierce journey through the “Roaring Forties” out to Tristan da Cunha – and once in recent years she took the adventurous travellers further west again to Gough Island and icy South Georgia – though no landing was allowed!

The “RMS”, as she was known, was a small ocean-going liner about 275 foot long, and luxury wasn't the word! Deck games, quiz nights, sunset Barbecues, and silver service in the dining room was the way it all went. Goodness, it was hard work – but hey ... somebody had to do it!

Our first time out here was in 1996 when I went out to do a 3 month sabbatical, and the first stage of the journey was always the same. Firstly down to Ascension Island on the long-haul Falklands flight with the RAF, then we'd wait for the mail ship to arrive for the return journey South. Ascension was a real surprise – a mountainous volcanic island the size of Guernsey – very hot, and with scenery like a moonscape. In the centre of the island was the high and aptly named “Green Mountain”. When I first went there, the farm on the top was just-about working, and to get up to the “Red Lion” where the Saint Helenian staff lived you had to take the hair-raisingly steep and narrow road which wound up from Two Boat's Village on up through the bamboo forest and banana plantations – and into the wonderful cool of the mountain top. Here the farm used to be situated. It was also where His Honour, the Administrator lived with his family in what had originally been the sanatorium for the large old naval station down at the capital, Georgetown. St Mary's, Georgetown is a real bit of “colonial gothycke” - white painted, with a tiny tower and spire, and the memorials of so many who have lived and died there in times past around the walls.

But then, once the RMS had dropped anchor in the Bay, we would don life jackets, and get loaded into the tender – which rose and fell between 6 and 8 feet with the swells! Then, from there out to the mail ship up the companion way in the baking heat – and into the cool of the air conditioned cabins. Once loaded, as we pulled out of the bay, over the Tannoy they would be playing “Rule Britannia” - and as we made the 3 day journey down to St Helena (many popping Stugeron pills as we went), we would be treated to the sight of the occasional whale, or whole flocks of Flying Fish skimming over the water. Strange, and utterly magical!

St Helena is an even bigger surprise, for it is much larger than Ascension, in fact the size of Jersey - and as you sailed, eventually the great mountainous mass of St Helena would rise up out of the horizon. The whole business of loading went into reverse as we dropped anchor, sounded the 3 blasts to announce arrival, and as we then prepared for the launches to take us the half-mile in from the Bay to the landing steps on the jetty. There in front of us was the City of Jamestown – a perfect little Georgian military port town, complete with the draw-bridged moat, the City Walls, the Castle, the beautiful Castle Gardens ... and the old “colonial-style” houses, complete with shady inner courtyards, and verandas. Opposite the Castle stands the venerable old Garrison Church of St James, with its old-fashioned Anglo-Catholic tradition – and a treat to visit and spend time in. Ah now remind me to tell you about the famous “Jacob's Ladder” stretching 700 feet from behind the church to the top of Ladder Hill and the old Barracks. But that's for another time.

Manna - the 4 page monthly magazine from the Diocese of Bath & Wells

Manna which provides interesting information on events within the Diocese of Bath & Wells has now changed to a monthly mailing format rather than a quarterly magazine from the diocese. This will be issued monthly and will be available to download here on or around the first of the month. If you would like to receive the Manna mailing by email at the beginning of the month you can sign up on our Newsletter Sign Up page.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/effective-communication/manna/>.



Langridge evening sunlight

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH



During this long, long period of Lockdown there are very many people who have come to this ancient building in the beautiful valley set among the surrounding fields and hills.

The Church of St Mary Magdalene has provided comfort to many individuals who may not have joined our congregation for a service on a Sunday, but who come to seek comfort and solace in this place of peace and inspiration, They may be visiting for the first time or come infrequently but regularly.

A large number mention their gratitude in finding the church open for them to enter. In addition to writing in our book for visitors they often mention to anyone present at the time, the joy of finding the flowers which are always within. We are indebted to two local residents who have created beautiful displays throughout these long months.

We remember that together with those living within the Valley, and others in a wider circle of villages and communities beyond, we are blessed to be custodians of this unique place of worship where everyone is welcome.

LANGRIDGE SERVICES
September – December 2021

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
September 5 th	9.30	BCP MP	Revd Canon R Clifton
September 12 th	4pm	CW EP Harvest Festival	Revd M Searle
September 19 th	9.30	CW HC	Revd J Harries
September 26 th	9.30	BCP HC	Revd R Webb
October 3 rd	9.30	BCP MP	Mr C Maggs
October 10 th	9.30	CW HC	ASW
October 17 th	9.30	CW MP	Mr R Lewis
October 24 th	9.30	BCP HC	Revd Canon R Clifton
October 31 st	9.30	CW HC	Revd R Hunt
November 7 th	9.30	BCP MP	Revd A Claridge
November 14 th	9.30	CW MP	ASW
November 21 st	9.30	CW HC	Revd J Harries
November 28 th	9.30	BCP HC	Revd R Webb

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter December to February 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 **17th November 2021**.

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**