

St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

Parish newsletter March to May 2026

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



Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As spring begins to unfold around us, we are reminded that God is always at work bringing new life, fresh hope, and quiet transformation. Buds appear on bare branches, daylight extends a little longer each evening, and the world slowly wakes from winter. In the same way, God's Spirit is always at work in our lives and in our church, renewing us and drawing us closer to Him.

As we journey towards Easter, we stand at the very heart of the Christian story. Easter is not just a date in the calendar or the conclusion of Lent; it is the moment when everything changes. The resurrection of Jesus tells us that love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, and life is stronger than death. Whatever this season has held for you, joy or struggle, certainty or questions, Easter proclaims that God is not finished with us yet.

This Easter season, my prayer is that we might rediscover the wonder of the risen Christ. That we might hear again Jesus' gentle encouragement: "Do not be afraid." And that, personally and as a church community, we might live as people of resurrection hope, carrying kindness into our communities, compassion into our relationships, and courage into our faith.

May this spring be a season of renewal for us all. May we know the joy of the risen Christ. And may our church and our community continue to be a place where people encounter Jesus and find hope!

With every blessing this Easter season, Emma x

Date	Service	Time	Officiating
1 March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	CW HC	9.30	Revd Richard Hunt
8 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	CW MP	9.30	Revd Emma King
15 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)</i>	CW HC	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
22 March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Callum Houston
29 March <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	CW MP	9.00	Revd Emma King at All Saints Weston
5 th April EASTER DAY	HC CW	9.30 (or 9.00 at ASW)	Revd Tom Yacomeni (or Revd Emma King at All Saints Weston)
12 April <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	CW MP	9.30	Mr Robin Lewis
19 April <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	HC CW	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
26 April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Callum Houston
3 May <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	BCP MP	9.30	Mr Colin Maggs
10 May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>		9.30	Revd Emma King
17 May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	HC CW	9.30	Revd Tom Yacomeni
24 May <i>Whitsun/Pentecost</i>	BCP MP	9.30	TBC
31 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	All Saints Weston	9.00	Revd Tom Yacomeni

For the location of the Easter Day service, please consult our website or phone All Saints Church Centre. 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 SPRING DIARY

Victoria Humphries is looking forward to welcoming you to the ever-popular **Second Saturday** event taking place on **14 March, 11 April** and **9 May**.

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.

The proceeds of Second Saturday have recently helped to pay towards the church car park gateposts, for which a generous donation was also made by Philip and Mandy Osborne for which we are very grateful!



Victoria's selection of teas

Jeremy Humphries says, “we will be running our popular **Church Spring Clean** on **Saturday 16th May**. 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 along with a coffee and chat!”

He adds, “we are delighted to be running our annual **Wildflower Walk** in the fields around our beautiful church, on **Sunday 7th June at 2.30 pm**, courtesy of Jane and Laurie MacIntyre, at Manor Farm, Langridge, BA1 8AJ. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the beautiful valley close to the church and learn about the fascinating history and knowledge of the local flora and fauna. Tea & cake available and any home-made cake contributions are always welcome!” Find more details on the Langridge Church website or contact Jeremy on 07860 832447 for more information about the Church Spring Clean and the Wildflower Walk.

UPDATES

Monday Bible Study

Our curate, Emma King, reports that “one of the joys of this season moving from winter to spring has been seeing people grow in confidence and faith through a Bible study at Weston Hub. We have been following The Bible Course from The Bible Society every Monday morning, which has helped us explore the big story, discovering how the Bible points us to Jesus and speaks into our lives today.

The Bible is not just an ancient book; it is God’s living word, shaping us, challenging us, and grounding us in truth.

As we move through to Easter and into the months ahead, I am always amazed by the many ways in which we serve, pray, give, and care. Church is not just what happens on a Sunday; it is the life we share throughout the week, in small acts of faithfulness and love.”

Toilet Facility

The temporary toilet facility recently installed in the churchyard has survived the winter weather and has provided much appreciated relief for parishioners and walkers alike. Our thanks for regular cleaning are due to Tom Yacomeni. A true servant heart!



The luxurious facility in St Mary Magdalene’s churchyard

MEET THE CONGREGATION: JOHN NETHERWOOD



I was born in Bath at the start of the Second World War and lived in Combe Down, where I began my schooling at the infant school and primary school there. When old enough, I joined the Combe Down church choir as a young treble. My senior school education was at Oldfield Boys' School on the Wellsway. I played rugby at Combe Down Rugby Club.

On leaving school, I took on an apprenticeship in the grocery trade at S.W. Bush and Son in Kingsmead Square and progressed to Bath Wholesale Grocers in Newark Street as a trainee salesman.

My fiancée and I married at St Saviour's Church in 1961. We bought our first house in St George, Bristol when I was transferred to that city as a catering sales representative. Our daughter was born in 1966. She has since married and established a family.

I worked as a sales representative for McVitie's, the biscuit manufacturer for 29 years when I then retired. I lost my wife in 2002. I then took part-time employment at Axa insurance for eight years. I moved home back to Bath in 2004, and now live with my partner, Eileen.

My hobbies include playing bowls both indoors and outdoors. I also enjoy visiting old churches. It is fascinating to enter a church and date its architecture, then pick up a guide at the rear of the church and hope my investigations have been correct!



Exterior of St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

What a delight it was to visit St Mary Magdalene at Langridge for the first time! The wooden exterior doors, the porch with its Norman arch, and the stone stoup, on entering looking to the left, there is the Early English Gothic font. Look towards the altar, you'll see the wooden carved pulpit and, of course, the internal Norman arch. The first recorded priest was back in 1297! If you visit, there is so much more to discover.

On leaving the church, when the heavy internal door is opened, on a nice day when the weather is at its best, the sun shines through the doorway, opening to illuminate the inside of the church. Looking out beyond the door, a green field has cows or sheep grazing. The silence and peace become apparent. Sitting on the seat for a short while, we can enjoy the moment and feel at peace and a sense of fulfilment.

I attended the Alpha course in 2025; I really enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. Now, I go along to the Monday Bible study, and both these meetings have really helped me grow in faith. I regularly attend services and am pleased to regard St Mary Magdalene church as my spiritual home.

John Netherwood February 2026



Interior of St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

Draw near this Lent

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is 'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'. It's a very different way of thinking about the season. Often, we identify Lent as a time for prayer and fasting when we 'give things up'. More recently many have decided to adopt an opposite approach – of 'taking something up for Lent'. 'Draw near' has a much wider remit. Each week, it invites us to explore a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

The 'Draw Near' approach fits well with how Lent began. During the Church's earliest days, those wishing to become Christians were known as 'catechumens', people who were learning to live as disciples of Jesus. Preparation was intensive. It took place particularly in the 40 days before new Christians were baptised on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Our season of Lent comes from this ancient practice.

When the Church began, it didn't have the trappings we're used to seeing around us such as buildings, hymn books, pews, or paid ministers. Church wasn't an institution. It was known as 'the Way'. Christians met in each other's homes and sought to work out how to follow Jesus in their everyday lives. This wasn't so much about head knowledge, believing a particular set of doctrines. It was about the habits and practices that Christians constantly cultivated to help them draw nearer to God who is with us, in us, around us and beside us every moment of every day. 'Draw Near' comes out of this heritage. It's an invitation to make Lent a journey that brings us closer to God.

I invite you to make use of 'Draw Near' this Lent. It includes materials for adults, for families and for children, resources for schools and encouragement for churches. More information can be found at www.cofeio/DrawNear. As we approach Lent, let's draw near and join each other on the journey to God that is the Way.

+ Michael Beasley

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Revd Tom Yacomeni	07786 806640
Curate: Revd Emma King	07824 466512
Church Warden	(vacant)
Treasurer: Tony Davies	01225 336124
Langridge Friends: Jeremy Humphries	07860 832447
Newsletter Editor:	davey_lisa@hotmail.com
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Newsletter information

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 **16 May 2026**.

We would be pleased to reduce the cost of printing, so if you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know by contacting Lisa Davey with 'Langridge Newsletter' in the subject line. If you have an idea or contribution for an article, please use the same email address.

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