

St Mary Magdalene, Langridge

Parish Newsletter **June - August 2024**

Letter from Tom Yacomeni
Rector of St Mary Magdalene, Langridge;
All Saints, Weston and St Martin, North Stoke
May 2024



Dear friends,

Hello and thank you for your interest in the community and activities at St Mary Magdalene, Langridge.

At our Benefice walk and picnic on Rogation Sunday earlier this month, we climbed to the top of Kelston Round Hill and said prayers for the parishes of Langridge, North Stoke and Weston.

Traditionally Rogation Sunday has been the time to pray for a good harvest, but today we also ask God to bless and prosper all the residents, businesses and communities in the area too.

Prayer is one of the privileges of having faith, because whether we are enjoying life or facing challenges, we can lift our thoughts and concerns to God. Prayer brings communities together in uncertain times, and when we pray, change happens.

So please pray with me that more volunteers will step forward over the coming months. Could God be calling you to serve this year?

Whatever happens in the future, we need not be anxious: As we are reminded in Philippians 4 verses 6 and 7: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

Prayer brings peace. What a wonderful promise!

With my love and prayers,
Tom

SERVICES

You may receive this newsletter in time to welcome Roger Clifton's leadership for our Trinity Sunday service on May 26th (see previous newsletter).

On 16th June, instead of a service at Langridge there is an 11 a.m. benefice-wide service at the All Saints' Centre in Weston, to which we will welcome Adrian Youngs for one of his final services as our Archdeacon before he moves to an exciting new role.

June to August 2024

Tom Yacomeni will lead our Patronal Festival service on 21st July, and Judith Harries will return to lead us for a Lammas Day service which will take place on Sunday 28th July (ahead of the day itself which is 1st August). All being well, we will have Lammas bread with which to celebrate on that day.

On other Sundays, there will be the usual weekly service at 9:30 A.M. at Langridge, led by our stalwart team of visiting clergy and lay readers.

We look forward to welcoming you!

SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE, LANGRIDGE

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
2 June	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Robin Lewis
9 June	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Emma King
16 June	11.00	Benefice Service – All Saints Centre, Weston	Revd Tom Yacomeni
23 June	9.30	BCP Morning Prayer	Mr S. Howard
30 June	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr C. Houston
7 July	9.30	BCP Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
14 July	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Mr T. Peryer
21 July	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Tom Yacomeni
28 July	9.30	BCP Morning Prayer	Revd Judith Harries
4 August	9.30	BCP Holy Communion	Canon R. Hunt
11 August	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Emma King
18 August	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Robin Lewis
25 August	9.30	BCP Morning Prayer	Mr C Maggs

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE

Second Saturday



Our small community of Langridge is fortunate to have a village hall that hosts various events. A popular gathering, known as **Second Saturday**, allows us to catch up with friends and neighbours over freshly brewed coffee or tea, and a selection of cakes from Parson's Bakery for which there is no charge, but donations are welcome.

If you prefer to start your day slowly, there are newspapers and a selection of donated books (bring and buy) to read.

Upcoming dates are **June 8th** and **July 13th** from 10 a.m. to noon. Please note we are taking a break in August but will be back in September. If you wish, you can contact Victoria Humphries (pictured on the left in pink) on 01225 891361 to let her know that you wish to pop in.

How can you resist those delicious cakes and pastries?

IMMINENT EVENTS – JUNE 2024



On **Saturday 1st June**, you are invited to join members of the congregation and other stalwarts of the village for a morning of bonding over a bit of hard graft with some churchyard clearance and church cleaning at St Mary Magdalene, starting at **10 a.m.** Coffee and biscuits will be provided to fuel this vital work to help enhance our village surroundings. Contact Tony Davies for his suggestions on which tools to bring.

IMMINENT EVENTS – JUNE 2024

The Friends of Langridge are delighted to announce that the very popular **Wildflower Walk** will be taking place again this year. Make **Sunday 23rd June 2.30 p.m.** a date in your diary to wander around the beautiful valleys surrounding St Mary Magdalene courtesy of and under the expert guidance of Jane and Donald MacIntyre of Manor Farm, Tynning Lane, Langridge, BA1 8AJ. Tea and cake will be provided - and any further cake contributions will be very welcome! Contact Jeremy Humphries on 07860 832447 to register your interest.



FUTURE EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE



QUIET DAY

The beginning of September is always a bit hectic with getting back into the swing of things after holidays and the start of the new academic year. So, it is the ideal time to have a **Quiet Day** led by Liz Bavin, during which we will have the opportunity to reflect, take stock of where we are and where we want to be in different aspects of our lives. Why not join others in our village on **Saturday, 14 September** for a few contemplative hours?

FUTURE EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE

If you prefer rousing sounds of organ music to the still small voice of a Quiet Day, then you are in for a treat on **Saturday, 21 September!** This is the date when St Mary Magdalene will be hosting Richard Fenwick who will be giving an organ recital at 6.30 p.m. in the church. Details will follow in the next edition of the newsletter.

Do you play the organ, or know someone who does? The congregation is looking for organists to join the rota to play at services every three months. A modest fee will be paid. Contact Tony Davies for more details!

Photo: ©www.geography.org.uk

ORGAN RECITAL



PAST SERVICES

We have been very well looked after this spring by the usual team based at All Saints Weston; Tom Yacomeni and Emma King both led a service each month. We welcomed once again visiting preachers and clergy Robert Webb, Judith Harries, Robin Lewis and Roger Clifton. Our sincere thanks to them all.

And the congregation would also like to express a special word of thanks to Callum Houston, who led our Palm Sunday service. Callum and a group of his friends decorated the church and churchyard with Palm crosses, and made the service really memorable.

Tony Davies

PAST EVENTS – MAY 2024

The month of May was full of fun and activities!

The annual benefice-wide event took place on 12th May on Weston Rec. Members of the villages and churches of Langridge, Weston and North Stoke met together in beautiful sunshine for a picnic, ball games, a tug of war and a walk up to Kelston Hill.

There was a wide range of ages from babies and toddlers to those somewhat older in years. Two Chinese visiting professors at the University of Bath also joined us. They brought some traditional beef dumplings to share and joined in the tug of war with gusto!

If you missed out on the fun this year, keep your eyes peeled. There are already plans for a similar event next year!



Tom Yacomeni and Tony Davies (checking the sky) prepare to walk up to Kelston Round Hill

Gregory Steward



Tenor Recital

On May 17th, the professional tenor Gregory Steward gave a stunning solo recital at Langridge Village Hall. It is extraordinary that a singer in his early 20's has such depth in his voice and such a range. Since graduating with a First Class honours degree in Music from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Gregory has been enjoying performing concerts in towns and villages in the South West, whilst embarking on his solo career. With gentle accompaniment, Gregory treated us to a range of favourite compositions, including sacred music, most memorably a moving *Ave Maria*, and robust renditions of favourites from the musicals – *West Side Story*, *Les Mis* and others. His audience were hugely appreciative – enjoying an evening of fine music accompanied by tasty refreshments.
Tony Davies

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting	
was held on Wednesday 22nd May , at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory, Church St, Weston. Those in attendance learned about the annual reports of church activity	and elected the officers and PCC. If you would like to be more directly involved in the life of the church and village, contact Tom, the Rector, to discuss how you might contribute.

Electoral Roll	
The deadline for entering your name on the current electoral roll of the church has now passed. If you consider St Mary Magdalene to be your church of choice – the church you attend regularly, be it every Sunday, or every Christmas and Easter, where you will have your children	baptised, a loved one’s funeral, or celebrate a marriage, and you want a say in how the church is run and contribute to the life of the community, then speak to Tom (Rector) or Emma (Curate) to find out how you can become more involved in future and have your name added to the roll next time it is updated.

Memory Corner	
<p>As we approach the end of the first year of the reign of King Charles, we can take this opportunity to pause and reflect. We plan to plant a tree in our churchyard to celebrate this first year of his reign and, at the same time, we can appreciate the role which our church has played over so many centuries.</p> <p>This beautiful and ancient building has witnessed the passage of history of many monarchs through both tragedy and celebration.</p> <p>We ourselves were so fortunate to have experienced life during the years of Queen Elizabeth II’s long reign, and also to benefit from</p>	<p>the commitment of our royal family, even during this difficult year for our new king. As well as providing a sanctuary, the church of St Mary Magdalene has channelled our prayers of sorrow, hope and gratitude. We, and all those who contribute to the spiritual life of the community, are privileged to be custodians of this rural building and are aware of the peace, solace and inspiration that it provides for so many – including those both locally and further afield-- which will continue.</p> <p>Liz White</p>

History of the Church

Following on from my article in the last newsletter about the wooden coats of arms, for this newsletter I'm concentrating on the stained-glass windows. Once again, I draw heavily on the NADFAS Record of Church Furnishings, from 1985, and a Faculty application dated 5th November 1896 which is referred to in that report.

We have, in all, ten stained glass windows (the vestry and North Transept windows are plain glass). Most were probably installed in 1898 after approval of the 1896 Faculty, at the instigation of Rev. Charles Shickle (Rector 1886-99) who master-minded the reshaping of the church at that time.

The main window on the South side is dedicated to Rev. Robert Morres, Rev. Shickle's predecessor who died in 1885, and the central



Stained-glass windows

window on the North side is allegedly in memory of Elliot J Morres (presumably a relative). But the records suggest that this window glass had been moved there, and had been the church's East window until the semi-circular apse was built in the 1880's.

To its left, the narrow window in the North wall, like other windows, pictures St Mary Magdalene (see left). The coat of arms at the top is of the Gunning family of Swainswick (remembered in plaques in the chancel) but was added after the 1896 Faculty application. The three current East windows, behind the altar, are undated, although a small brass plaque (which is worth reading) states that they were erected in memory of William Church Macdougall who died in Bath in 1867. However, the 1896 Faculty application contained quite differently designed windows. Perhaps they decided not to erect those, but to stick with the windows fitted when the apse was built some years before?

The wording, which stretches across the left- and right-hand windows, is “ [We] Believe that / Thou shalt come / to be our judge / We therefore / pray Thee help / Thy servants whom / Thou hast redeemed / with Thy precious blood” which comes from a Latin Christian hymn traditionally ascribed to St Ambrose who died in AD 387 or St Augustine who died in AD 430, but with antecedents that place it much earlier.

You may not even have noticed the small window, high up above the archway at the West end of the nave. We have Mike Smallwood to thank for illuminating it. It's a figure of a bearded man with a book and a staff. Liz thinks it may depict the Bishop of Coutances in north-west France. Geoffrey de Montbray, Bishop in the 11th century, was for a time based in Bristol [and is recorded as having 'burned Bath' in 1088].

Tony Davies

Lammas Bread	
<p>Lammas comes from the Old English hlafmæsse, meaning “loaf mass” which was a celebration to give thanks for the first-fruits of the harvest.</p> <p>The Lammas loaf should ideally be baked by members of the congregation, using local produce wherever possible. Other small loaves or buns, in the tradition of 'blessed bread,' may be distributed to the congregation.</p> <p>Two patterns of readings at services are suggested: the first concerning the offering of the first-fruits and the second concerning the bread of life.</p>	<p>Vicki Davies often makes the Lammas loaf for the service at St Mary Magdalene, but if you would like to make a contribution of a loaf or rolls, there are lots of recipes on the internet to choose from. (Please let Tony Davies know what you plan to bring to the service on 28 July.) Unfortunately, the lack of space has prevented printing a recipe here.</p>

You can follow current news over the next three months on our website:
www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com.

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 **17 August 2024**.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email or contribute an idea or article, contact davey_lisa@hotmail.com with Langridge Newsletter in the subject line.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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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.uk