

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter June to August 2023



**Letter from Revd Tom Yacomeni
Rector of Langridge
June 2023**



Dear Friends,

Welcome to this newsletter and thank you for your interest in the community and activities at St. Mary Magdalene's. We want to be open, welcoming and available for everyone - locals, visitors and pilgrims to find peace and hope in the midst of life's challenges. Although there has been a centre of worship here at Langridge for many hundreds of years, the life and message of Jesus is just as relevant for us today as ever. 'In this world you will have trouble', said Jesus, 'but take heart! I have overcome the world.'

My friend David Bute recently came to England and shared what it has been like trying to run a church and a business in central Ukraine over the past couple of years. He said it felt really strange to be able to travel or come to a church meeting without constantly being on the alert for air raid sirens or other security threats. It made everyone listening realise how easily we can take our freedom and security for granted. And yet in the middle of the danger, David explained the church is perfectly placed to offer peace and hope to traumatised people. As well as practical support, the church shares the message of hope and reconciliation through Christ, and in those moments when certainties are stripped away, people are so glad to receive the assurance that they are loved, known and held.

Although we live in relative peace in the UK, I still come across many people who are anxious about the future. We all need to hear and receive the message of God's love for us as demonstrated by Christ's life, death and resurrection. The bible puts it like this: 'Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' (Romans 5v1) As we trust that God loves us and has a purpose for our lives, then we really can take heart and overcome the challenges that face us.

With my love and prayers for some wonderful summer months,

Tom

RECENT SERVICES

Roger Clifton led our celebrations on Easter Sunday, on which occasion the highly talented Daniel Cushing was our organist. Roger also led our service on Rogation Sunday, and explained to us the connection between rogation (“asking”) and beating the bounds of the parish – the connection is praying for a good harvest.

Richard Hunt (another talented musician) led our service on Palm Sunday.

We are grateful to Colin Maggs for playing the organ on three consecutive Sundays in April as well as in March and May.

Robin Lewis once again led a three-session Lent course for Langridge and North Stoke. Robin has kindly offered to host another Bible Study course later this year.

For so many years our church has been very fortunate to have been supported by the dedication and hard work from Mike and Ros Smallwood. Mike sadly died in February after a few weeks in hospital and the Revd Robert Webb led his special memorial service on the 14th April. Angela Craine was the organist for this occasion.

Mike had a lifelong interest in canal boats and tributes were made to him for his early commitment in the 1960’s when gathering a team who worked together to restore and expand the Kennet and Avon Canal over many years. This work was finally recognised by British Waterways for their remarkable achievement. A beautiful floral arrangement which depicted a canal boat was laid on the altar during his service.



Flower arrangement of floating canal boat

Our service on Coronation Sunday with Robert Webb included the National Anthem at the end and was greatly enhanced by a session of handbell ringing performed by four brave members of the congregation. All were rewarded with tea and biscuits afterwards.



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Meeting took place on 17th May, kindly hosted at the Rectory by Tom and Mims Yacomeni. At the first meeting, Victoria Humphries was elected by acclaim as our Churchwarden. Our sincere thanks go to Tony Davies who has long held this position with such dedication. The second meeting received reports on the activities, fabric and finance of the church, and Alastair Jones joined the other members of the PCC. Laura Somodi stood down from the PCC after over six years of sterling service as our Treasurer (volunteers welcome to take over the role!).

RECENT EVENTS

20th May saw a church working party active in glorious sunshine. Ros, Mims and George worked hard to dust and clean the church; Joanna polished the brass and provided refreshments; Alex cut back overhanging trees and brambles; whilst Tom and Jeremy cleaned out gutters, nailed down loose boards and climbed into the belfry to check on the state of the bell frame. Thanks to all for giving up their Saturday morning.



On 14th May (Rogation Sunday – see above) Tom Yacomeni led his flock for a picnic on Bath Racecourse, followed by a series of energetic rounders games and a walk to Prospect Stile. Over 40 folk, including representatives of North Stoke and Langridge, enjoyed the fun.

FUTURE SERVICES

This year St Mary Magdalene Day will be on Saturday 22 July. We shall be holding a service on Sunday 16th July to celebrate her Patronal Festival which will be led by Revd Tom Yacomeni.

FUTURE EVENTS

Friends of Langridge are delighted to confirm the Wildflower Walk on Sunday 18th June at 2.30pm courtesy of Jane and Donald, at Manor Farm, Langridge, BA1 8AJ. A wonderful opportunity to explore the beautiful valley close to the church and hear expert input on the local flora and fauna. Tea & cake available as well with any home-made cake contributions always welcome! Details for tickets will be on the website.

We are working on possible dates for Gregory Steward, a professional tenor, to give us a recital at Langridge. Further details to follow on our website.

Our dear friend Richard Fenwick will be giving us another of his superb organ recitals on 21st October (fresh from 3 months in St Helena, including a concert there, and another concert in York).

We still hope to have another Quiet Day in the church in the late summer which will be arranged with Liz Bavin from All Saints Church. Details will be given on the Church Website in a few weeks. We do hope that you will be able to join us and bring friends with you.

MEMORY CORNER

Many of you will be aware that our small ancient church is not just a historic building. For centuries people have worshipped here as our congregation still continues to do, but there is a far larger 'congregation' who love this holy place and regularly visit when walking in this beautiful valley. They come from far and wide and frequently or less often – but they return. The peace of the church of St Mary Magdalene is a solace to many on their journey through life and we feel privileged, as a congregation, to be custodians in our own time as others have before. The messages we receive are heartfelt and inspiring for others too.

A message left by a recent visitor to the church:

“Thank you for being here – and for being such a ‘comfort’ and a little piece of heaven with a big heart of love. Much appreciated your beautiful valley on this lovely Spring Day. Very grateful for such a lovely place.”

From the Bishop of Bath and Wells

At the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen, Bishop Michael together with the Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, were Bishop Assistant's to the King; a role carried out by the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Bishop of Durham since the Coronation of Richard I.

The order of service for the Coronation Service reminded everyone that, "Throughout the changing centuries, the Coronation Service has held together hopes both for our immediate and our eternal destinies. It has been and still is an occasion for prayer."

Bishop Michael has been speaking about his role in this historic event. He talks about his experience of the day and explained how alongside the long and very detailed rehearsals he also spent a lot of time in prayerful preparation.

"We had a lot of prayer around the preparations we prayed. We prayed for God to be with us in all that we were doing. On the day it was wonderful to really listen to elements such as the King's Prayer and appreciate the spiritual significance of what was happening."

He has shared with us his memories of the day and his joy and honour that as the Bishop of Bath and Wells he had the privilege of supporting of His Majesty King Charles and Her Majesty the Queen during the service of

Coronation. **A commitment to serve**

'Your Majesty, as children of the kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of kings'. In reply to these opening words at his Coronation, King Charles III responded 'In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve.' This short exchange summed up what the service was about and what it intended to convey.

The King's commitment to service is not in any doubt. To give just a few examples, he has engaged with our most challenged communities far more than any politician, he called on us to care for the environment years before it became popular to do so and, of course, founded The Prince's Trust, which supports our most challenged younger people in so many ways.

He becomes king of a new era, the Carolean era. Our times see us face some big challenges. Our question is how to address them. I was immensely struck by all the agencies and charities present in the Abbey for the King's Coronation. Their participation spoke of the ways in which we're going to need to act differently in the years ahead to address the issues that confront us.

Because it's all too evident that the power of government, be that local or national, to respond to the problems we see is less now than it was when the late Queen began her reign. Our challenge in this era is of how we're going to come together, in service, to address the different challenges that lie before us, be that the climate, how we tackle poverty, how we respond to a troubled international situation. All of us will have a part to play.

Where to find the resource to act in the way that's going to be needed? As I stood beside the King at the Coronation what inspired me was to see the way he drew so much strength, purpose and resolve and assurance from his Christian faith for the service he's called to give. And in that we can follow him too.

Bishop Michael

LANGRIDGE SERVICES
June to August 2023

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
4 June	9.30	BCP HC Trinity Sunday	Revd Robert Webb
11 June	9.30	CW MP 1 st Sunday after Trinity	Mr R Lewis
18 June	9.30	CW MP 2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Mr C Maggs
25 June	9.30	BCP MP 3 rd Sunday after Trinity	tbc
2 July	9.30	BCP HC 4 th Sunday after Trinity	Mr C Maggs
9 July	9.30	CW MP 5 th Sunday after Trinity	Miss E King
!6 July	9.30	CW HC Patronal Festival	Revd T Yacomeni
23 July	9.30	BCP HC 7 th Sunday after Trinity	Revd D Parr
30 July	9.30	CW MP 8 th Sunday after Trinity	Mr T Peryer
6 August	9.30	BCP MP 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Canon R Clifton
13 August	9.30	CW HC 10 th Sunday after Trinity	Revd D Parr
20 August	9.30	CW MP 11 th Sunday after Trinity	Mr C Maggs
27 August	9.30	BCP HC 12 th Sunday after Trinity	Revd R Webb

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter (September -November 2023) please contact Liz White regarding Church matters - and also for the Friends' news. We would like to hear about all items of interest – comments, events or special occasions by the 25th August 2023.

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