

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

March 2024



Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. As you receive this, there will be many signs of spring waking up with slightly lighter and brighter mornings and evenings. Everything always feels so much better in the spring with its evidence of new life, and I am looking forward to seeing its progress as I sit on the bench outside of St Mary Magdalene church before a service on a Sunday.

Since my arrival in the Benefice seven months ago, my family and I have been blown away by the welcome we have received and the love that has been shown to us across all three churches. As you can imagine it has been a busy but fruitful time getting to know everyone and remembering so many names.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbour as yourself”. So, I have spent the last seven months doing just that: getting to know and loving our neighbours in the community. Leading a fun Christingle at Christmas at St Mary Magdalene was a wonderful way to get to know people and their families, spending time with our worshipping communities in church on Sundays and working in the RUH as a chaplain and in local schools are also ways of serving people.

In my daily work, many people often ask me how I know that Jesus is there. The answer is quite simple, really. I see him in other people in all the places my work takes me: at the Welcome Café in The Hub in Weston, I see Jesus in the volunteers who serve people a warm meal with love regardless of their background. In the hospital, I see Jesus in the doctors and nurses as they treat the patients with such care and compassion. In the schools, I see Jesus in the teachers who teach with such love and patience. And in our churches, I see Jesus as people worship him in many different and wonderful ways. To see the work of Jesus going on in our Benefice in normal, everyday lives brings so much hope that we are doing just as Jesus commanded us to do.

With much love, and prayers for you and your families this springtime, and always,

Emma

FUTURE SERVICES

We are already in the season of Lent as Easter falls quite early this year. Callum will lead us again on Palm Sunday, and Robert Webb will once again take a Maundy Thursday service at 6 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, we will welcome back Judith Harries to lead our Communion service at 9:30 a.m. There is bound to be coffee afterwards!

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 will see Emma King on Mothering Sunday, Robin Lewis for Rogation, Tom Yacomeni at Pentecost and Roger Clifton on Trinity Sunday.

(All dates listed below)

SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE, LANGRIDGE

March to May 2024

Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
3 March	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Robin Lewis
10 March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Emma King
17 March	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Tom Yacomeni
24 March	9.30	BCP Morning Prayer	Mr Callum Houston
28 March (Maundy Thursday)	6.00	BCP Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
31 March (Easter Day)	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Judith Harries
7 April	9.30	BCP Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
14 April	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Emma King
21 April	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Tom Yacomeni
28 April	9.30	BCP Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
5 May (Rogation Sunday)	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Robin Lewis
12 May	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Emma King
19 May (Pentecost)	9.30	Common Worship Communion	Revd Tom Yacomeni
26 May (Trinity Sunday)	9.30	BCP Morning Prayer	Canon Roger Clifton

PRAYER – composed by Callum Houston for the people of Langridge and prayed at the Candlemas service



Heavenly Father, we give thanks for your love and care which has shielded your ark in this timeless valley.
An ancient sanctuary free from the chaos of our modern world, your little country refuge has provided shelter and solace for generations upon generations.
Ever faithful, you have ten-fold reciprocated the love given by your community in Langridge,
Keeping her sailing steadfast throughout the centuries so that we today can still appreciate Your peace within her walls.
On her stones generations have trod, have trod, have trod, and with our faith and Your love they will continue to do so for many more centuries to come.
Lord, may we keep Your stillness and peace in Langridge and your ancient church doors open, Amen.

REGULAR EVENTS



In addition to weekly services at St Mary Magdalene church, you are also assured of a warm welcome at **Second Saturday** in Langridge Village Hall. Catch up with friends and neighbours over freshly brewed coffee or tea, and a selection of cakes from Parson's Bakery. 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. The event takes place every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

FUTURE EVENTS – MAY 2024

May will be a busy month! Join us for another benefice-wide event for Rogation. This year's event is planned to be on the **Sunday after Rogation, 12th May**, at Weston Rec (parking at Weston Hub), and may well include some sporting activity, a picnic, and a short service. For further details, check the Langridge Church website or contact one of the team at St Mary Magdalene (details at the end of the newsletter).

Gregory Steward's much anticipated tenor **recital** will take place on **Friday 17th May** at 7 p.m. in Langridge Village Hall. Further details on the All Saints Weston website or as above.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 22nd May**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory, Church St, Weston. All are welcome to hear the annual reports of church activity and to elect the officers and PCC. There will be vacancies to be filled for the churchwarden and the treasurer. If you would like to put your name forward, please contact the Rector.

FUTURE 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 Langridge Church 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 with any cake contributions always welcome! Contact Jeremy Humphries 07860 832447 for further info.



FUTURE EVENTS



JULY or SEPT 2024

The date of the **Quiet Day** led by Liz Bavin is yet to be finalised. Possible timings are either July or September. Further details in the next edition of the newsletter.

PAST SERVICES

We had a memorable run of service leaders at Langridge in December – beginning with Nigel Rawlinson, then Emma King took Christingle and Tom Yacomeni led the Carol Service and Christmas Communion. We have also welcomed to lead services Richard Hunt, Tom Peryer and Robert Webb, and Callum Houston once again to lead a service in February – this time BCP Morning Prayer, another first for him and expertly handled.

At Candlemas in February, our congregation joined those of All Saints Weston and St Martin's North Stoke for a joint and very moving Service of Light at the All Saints Centre. All Saints church building is, of course, closed whilst undergoing major refurbishment.

(Tony Davies)

UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH

Our Stage One fabric maintenance projects, following the latest Quinquennial report, have been completed. Work to prevent water ingress to the west nave arch, the pointing of various mortar joints and the reconstructing of a stone gable damaged from years of frost, have all been undertaken. Stage Two will see the weathered guttering on the north side of the church, maintained, wire-bushed and painted.



(Jeremy Humphries)

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

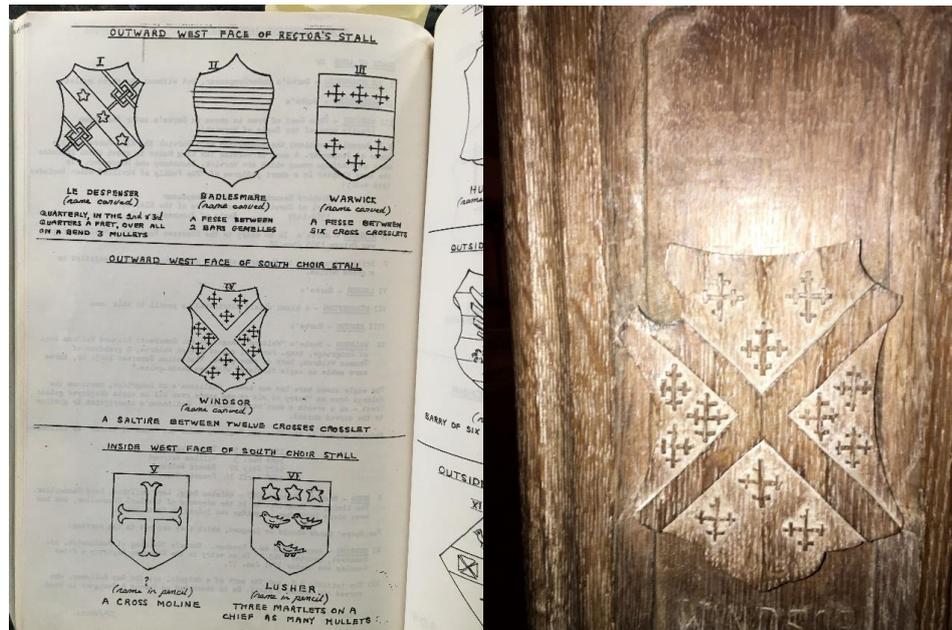
Coats of Arms: Historical

Tony Davies writes: Many readers will know that a team from NADFAS (now known as The Arts Society), led by our own Jennifer Beazley, drew up an iconic 'Record of Church Furnishings' for Langridge Church in 1985. Flicking through my copy recently, I was struck by the graphic drawings of the carvings on the 15 wood panels supporting the choir stalls. These panels were carved in the late 19th century when the church was extended and modernised. The panels are, I read, 'blazoned' (carved) with the following coats of arms:

Le Despenser; Badlesmere; Warwick; Windsor; Lusher; Hungerford (this one is blank!); Newton; Waldron; Hogg; Gunning; Sambourne; and Hall.

The Record explains the connections between Langridge and some of these families.

Space does not permit me to show them all in this newsletter, but below is a copy of one page of the Record and my photo of the Windsor carving.



Coat of Arms: Modern

Michael Messer, a Weston resident and traditionally a long-term supporter of St Martin's North Stoke, is knowledgeable on heraldry and has his own coat of arms. Michael has invited Langridge Church to display a newly made Royal Arms, which is pictured below. The coat of arms will be available to view at March's Second Saturday event.



... AND DOORS!

In a future article for this newsletter, I will explore the comment in the Record that the outer door to the vestry was "Moved from the North doorway when it was blocked up"!

BATH & WELLS DIOCESE Bishop Michael's February letter

[A better way](#)

Culture, it's said, is 'how things get done around here'. This suggests that our understanding of the world is largely formed by our experiences and what we're accustomed to. That's all fine until everything around us, as it does, keeps on changing. Then we're then set on a collision course between how we think things should be, and how they actually are. Anybody aged over 40 who's had to ask a nine-year-old how to use their new phone will understand this dilemma perfectly.

Cultural collisions aren't just restricted to technology. They affect churches too. Many of us grew up with a model of church set up by the Victorians. This mostly meant that each parish had one church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. Yet even this was new in its day. Look much further back and things worked very differently. The New Testament speaks of churches where lots of different people played many different roles, each operating out of the particular skills and gifts given them by God. In the letter to the Ephesians, the writer describes a church where 'some [are] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.'

So, what would be the right model of church for our day? The Victorians' assumption that the vicar would do almost everything would seem to be a crying waste of the gifts and passions that together we share. And as more of our clergy care for three, six or more parishes, the nineteenth century model is increasingly leaving our vicars tired, overstretched and liable to burn out.

We need a better way; one that draws on the rich talents, abilities and skills that our church members have. Here in Bath and Wells, we're calling this 'shared local ministry'. Examples of what that can look like exist in many places around our diocese. Neither first century nor nineteenth century, but an emerging twenty-first century way of how we want 'to get things done around here'. A better way to inhabit well the faith we've inherited in our time and generation.

Bishop Michael

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 May 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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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.churchinsight.com

Prayer for the Benefice	Composed by Tom Yacomeni and prayed at the Candlemas service
	<p>Heavenly Father, On the hill and in the valley, in the town and in the village, we, your people, commit ourselves to sharing the life and message of Jesus. You know our hopes and our fears, our plans and our dreams. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire our work, that young and old, churched and unchurched, may grow in the knowledge and love of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.</p>