

St Mary Magdalene, Langridge Parish Newsletter

March 2025 – May 2025

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



February 2025

Spring is in the air!

In Langridge, we understand the rhythms of life—planting, waiting, and harvesting. Just as the fields need time to rest before new growth appears, our hearts sometimes go through seasons of waiting and uncertainty.

As the seasons change and the countryside awakens from winter's rest, we are reminded of God's faithfulness, and we are invited to reflect on the greatest renewal of all – the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter reminds us that after every winter, spring comes. After the darkness of Good Friday, the joy of resurrection morning breaks through. Easter is more than just a day of celebration; it is the heart and foundation of our faith. The empty tomb declares that sin and death have been defeated, and through Christ, we are offered new life, hope, and a future filled with His grace. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

As we gather at St Mary Magdalene church in worship this Easter season, let us rejoice in the new life we have in Christ, and be mindful of those around us who need to hear the message of hope. Just as the first disciples were sent out to proclaim the Good News, we too are called to be messengers of hope in our families, communities, and beyond. May we be a church that reflects Christ's love, welcoming all with open hearts and hands.

This season, I encourage you to embrace the joy of the resurrection. Let it renew your heart, strengthen your faith, and inspire you to share Christ's love with those around you.

My prayer is that this Easter will be a time of deep gratitude, renewed faith, and joyful celebration. May we walk forward, standing firm together in the power of His resurrection. Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Easter and may the hope of the resurrection fill your hearts and homes.

With my love and prayers,
Emma

FUTURE SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE, LANGRIDGE

March to May 2025

Date	Time	Type of Service	Officiating
2 March	9.30	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
9 March	9.30	Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer	Mr Callum Houston
16 March	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Tom Yacomeni
23 March	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Robin Lewis
30 March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>		At All Saints, Weston	See church noticeboard BST begins
6 April	9.30	Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer	Mr Stephen Howard
13 April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30	Common Worship Holy Communion	Revd Emma King
17 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	6 pm	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
20 April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9.30	Common Worship Holy Communion	Revd Tom Yacomeni
27 April		At All Saints, Weston	See church noticeboard
4 May	9.30	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion	Revd Robert Webb
11 May	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Mr Tom Peryer
18 May	9.30	Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer	Mr Stephen Howard
25 May <i>Rogation Sunday</i>	9.30	Common Worship Morning Prayer	Revd Tom Yacomeni

Rogation Sunday 25th May 2025

All are welcome to our annual Benefice Walk and Picnic!
This year's host is North Stoke Parish.
Parking is available either at the church, or Peter Durman's house: Stone Cross, North Stoke, BA1 9AS
Toilet facilities are available in North Stoke Village Hall

The word 'rogation' comes from the Latin verb 'rogare' – to ask. Rogationtide is a time when churches pray for life and growth during the growing season time and asking for God's blessings on emerging crops.





The **Second Saturday** gathering in Langridge Village Hall welcomes all ages to enjoy lively conversation while indulging in a selection of cakes and biscuits. On the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day, visitors enjoyed a heart-shaped cake decorated with strawberries. (If you missed it, the recipe is on the website; see link at the end of the newsletter). Victoria Humphries does a sterling job of brewing coffee and tea. Newspapers are available to browse through and you can also 'bring and buy' second-hand books. There is no charge, but all donations are gratefully received!

Spring dates are 8 March, 12 April and 10 May.

Churchyard Clearing Morning

Have you ever thought of getting involved with the church congregation in a practical way? If so, your skills are needed by the churchyard clearing team!

Tools will be provided.

Contact Jeremy Humphries on 07860 832447 for further info.

(Photo: illustrative from © naturebring.com)

Saturday 17th May from 10am-12pm.



Wildflower Walk: Sunday 15 June

The Friends of Langridge are delighted to announce that the ever-popular Wildflower Walk will be taking place again this year. Courtesy of and under the expert guidance of Jane and Donald MacIntyre of Manor Farm, Tynning Lane, Langridge, BA1 8AJ, we will have a glorious opportunity to explore the beautiful valleys surrounding Langridge church and admire local wildflowers. Put the date in your diary now: **Sunday 15th June from 2.30 p.m.**

Tea and cake will be provided and further cake contributions always welcome!

Contact Jeremy Humphries on 07860 832447 for further info.

(Photo: illustrative from © Pinterest)





Alpha 2025

The Alpha course is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment answering questions such as: Who is Jesus? Is there more to life than this? How do I read the Bible? How do I pray? Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs.

Alpha started in 1977 at Holy Trinity Brompton, London. In 1990, Nicky Gumbel, the vicar there, repositioned Alpha as a course for people outside of the church to explore the Christian faith through a series of talks and through conversation with others.

This year we have been holding two Alpha courses that have been attended by people of all three churches within the Benefice.

The Joy of Christingle

I was delighted to be able to attend the Christingle service in December 2024 having missed the previous year's event. Our family was visiting, and our twin grandsons were thrilled to sing along with "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" after learning it at school, and baby Rupert was just enthralled by everything. The boys were excited to hold their lighted Christingle, and Tom Yacomeni's talk reminded them that the orange represents the

One takes place on Monday mornings at the Weston Hub just before the Welcome Café, and the other on a Tuesday evening at All Saints Centre. In total, we have had over 25 people joining together to share a meal together, discuss questions, and enjoy each other's company. John, who attends St Mary Magdalene in Langridge, is participating in his first Alpha course, and says,

"I am really enjoying it. I didn't realise how much I would learn about the Christian faith, and I am making lots of new friends. I am very glad that I have signed up and am looking forward to what comes next."

So, if you have questions, I would urge you to contact me, or keep an eye out for our next Alpha course or look on the Alpha website for one starting near you soon.

Emma King

By Kay Kebby-Jones

world, the red ribbon the love and blood of Christ and the candle itself is symbolic of Jesus, the light of the world, bringing hope to everyone.

For those who attended it was a joyful occasion, and I must admit that the joy continued with the twins eating their sweets and fruit, all before they reached Upper Weston!

Do join us at the next one in December 2025.

Meet the Congregation

I'm Alastair Jones, a retired aerospace consultant. I was born in Bath and have lived here, as well as in France and I've worked all over the world.

On our return to the UK in 2010, my wife Kay and I settled in Weston in late 2017. Initially, we travelled over to Larkhall to attend church. After the pandemic, a good friend of ours, a visiting vicar at St Mary's, mentioned that we should try this church as the congregation was very friendly and may suit us. I have really been enjoying the preaching and teaching by all the visiting leaders as this is adding context to Bible readings and their meanings in a modern life. One is never too old to learn new things!

As a child, in the late '60s, I sang in St. Saviour's church choir and then went on to join St. Swithin's, Walcot, for an exciting Sunday School. During my teens, like St. Paul, I spent my time in the wilderness before returning to St. Saviour's with rectors Anthony Millican, Philip Sourbut and Mike Norman. During this time, I moved towards the evangelical wing of the church enjoying the freer form of worship. I attended mega-churches in Nashville and Anaheim, USA, and a mission church while in Toulouse, France. More recently, I have begun to re-explore and have preferred quieter forms of worship. I wanted to understand the original meaning of the "Book of Common Prayer" and "Morning Service" and how they really fit into a modern world. Jesus's teaching is still very relevant, and I would encourage anyone to apply their own research, thoughts and learning.

Over the last couple of years, with the arrival of our grandchildren, the Christmas season has again become very special. We all enjoyed the Christingle service with its orange fruit and red ribbon representing the world and Jesus's blood for us. My twin grandsons were excited to be at St Mary Magdalene's again, listening attentively and

Alistair Jones



Jesus, the servant King, depicted in Alistair's favourite window. He says, "I also just love the purple colour here, which, on a sunny day, is really striking".



Alistair, Kay and family enjoying the Christingle service under Alistair's favourite window

Answering their questions about Jesus's birthday has been very special.

For me, the best things about being part of St. Mary Magdalene's is the small friendly community that invites new people in without worry and the open church with its thousand years of worship.

As we all continue our journey with God, we keep the importance of Jesus as the servant king in our hearts and my desire is that this continues to bless the Langridge valley.

Memories of ...

Joanna Pelly writes:

Chris and his family came to live in Langridge at much the same time as my family came to the other side of the valley in 1974. John and Joan Mant – Chris's neighbours – were very active in caring for the church building and started the Friends of Langridge with the object of raising much-needed funds and persuaded both families to become involved. Chris became churchwarden, a task he fulfilled with integrity and love for the church.

Chris and Margaret were great supporters of the Friends of Langridge and generously gave barbecues, lunches, teas at their home at Langridge House to help with fundraising.

Chris was a lovely, courteous, good-natured man to whom we owe so much for all he gave to Langridge church.

Liz White remembers:

In 2011, when Peter Pelly retired from the role of churchwarden, Chris helped Peter's successor, Ros Smallwood, to become established in the post. The following year Chris also retired, and I became the new churchwarden. I learned so much from him and about all he had done, such as applying for Lottery funding and linking with English Heritage. He researched the county records for more recent incumbents to be added to our board in the church as well as taking important church records to be stored in the historic County Archives at Taunton. Both Ros and I felt so grateful for his instruction and privileged to follow him and Peter.

Chris Britton

When Margaret died, their family arranged for Chris to move to a retirement home in Larkhall. It was a very friendly residence, and Chris enjoyed the company at lunch and in the afternoons when everyone contributed topics and memories to the conversations. They always included Chris and obviously enjoyed his sense of humour and knew all about our church at Langridge.

Chris had always enjoyed painting and was very accomplished and contributed beautiful paintings to the annual exhibition in Langridge Village Hall. He continued to join his group of artists each week with a friend.



View from the church gate by Chris Britton

Beside the main building of his residence and running below Chris' windows was the brook heading down towards the Avon half a mile away. I asked Chris if he remembered the spring and stream which flowed below his Langridge home, going down the beautiful valley from Upper Langridge, past our ancient church and then meeting the Lambrook at Lower Langridge. This then flowed down the valley and below his balcony and flat! He appreciated the link of water running from his old home to his new one.

Bishop Michael's letter; January 2025



Bringing hope into the world

“A leader” said Napoleon Bonaparte, “is a dealer in hope.” At the start of 2025, this is a tough challenge for leaders everywhere. Conflicts continue around the world. The climate emergency is ongoing. At the polls, voters in many countries express their dissatisfaction with the status quo. As we look around us, can hope mean anything more than mere wishful thinking? As we look on all the challenges that exist, have we anything more to say than “I hope that that somehow, somewhere, something will turn up”.

More than ever, the Christian understanding of hope is what we need. Christian hope is broader, deeper, stronger altogether than any ‘wishful thinking’. In scripture, hope is not just a vague desire that something good in the future will somehow happen. Rather, the Biblical understanding of hope is of a confident expectation and desire that good in the future will come. It’s an assurance based in our pre-existing experience of God’s goodness, God’s love, the faithfulness that he has already shown towards us.

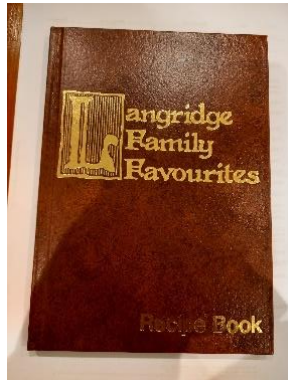
Scripture also contains the idea that while hope is something which comes primarily from God, it is also something in which human beings have a part to play, a contribution to make. The letter to the Hebrews says this: “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.” (Hebrews 6:10-11)

God graciously calls us to join in bringing hope into the world. Our work, our love, our diligence matter. The contribution we make is important in bringing into being the future that God wants for us. At the start of this new year, we are called to take the lead: to be signs, symbols, dealers in the hope for which our world longs today.

Bishop Michael

(This letter first appeared in the Manna Mailing for January 2025)

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will be preparing for the season of Lent. Traditionally, many people give up a luxury during this period to remind themselves that Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for forty days and nights. In the Middle Ages, fasting was a much more severe affair than just giving up chocolate, sugar or alcohol. On the website, there is a recipe for a Kent Lent pie, and also one for Frozen Yoghurt Bites, both of which are low in refined sugar. It was interesting to discover that Chris Britton, (whose life is remembered elsewhere in this newsletter) was involved in the printing of The Langridge Village Cookbook perhaps in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Joanna Pelly still has a copy; does anyone else? If so, perhaps you would like to share your favourite recipe from the book.



The Editor is grateful to all contributors for the articles included in this edition of the newsletter. We are always delighted to receive articles or ideas for future editions. Suitable topics include memories of local interest, special occasions, and forthcoming local events. All contributions may be edited for length and/or suitability at the Editor's discretion.

The deadline for contributions for the June to August edition is

16 May 2025.

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

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You can also follow current news over the next three months on our website:

www.stmarymagdalenelangridge.com

Many thanks to the staff at All Saints Church Centre, Weston, for printing this edition of our newsletter.

www.allsaintsweston.org.uk