

St Mary Magdalene Langridge

Langridge Parish Newsletter December 2022 to February 2023



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

December 2022



Harvest Festival

It has been a joy to start getting to know the Benefice of Weston, North Stoke and Langridge over the past few weeks. I have enjoyed meeting with everyone and I just want to commend all those who have worked so hard over these last months and years to keep things going so well in the Churches during the pandemic and vacancy. Thank you so much! As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church 'We thank God for all of you... your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.' These three 'virtues' of faith, hope and love are the distinctive hallmarks of a church that is healthy and firing on all cylinders and I pray that during my time as Rector of this Benefice our levels of faith, hope and love will increase more and more!

But how can we grow in faith, hope and love when so much of society seems to be losing faith, especially when it comes to institutions like the church? Well, the answer is to focus on 'the author and perfecter of our faith', Jesus Christ. Buildings may crumble (although we do our best to keep ours well maintained!) and institutions do fall (and we have seen how even the UK is not immune from governmental failures!) but our faith is not in human beings, buildings or systems. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and forever and he is the only one who is trustworthy for all time.

The Adventurer Bear Grylls said 'My faith is an important part of my life, and over the years I've learnt that it takes a proud man to say he doesn't need anything. It has been a quiet strength and a backbone through a lot of difficult times.' As we face continuing challenges in the economy, geopolitics and environment, we need the backbone of Christ's love, forgiveness and grace to get us through. But he won't let us down so rest assured, as Julian of Norwich said nearly 700 years ago: 'All shall be well, all shall be well... for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let go.'

With my love and prayers for the Advent season and the New Year ahead,
Tom

PAST SERVICES

It is hard to realise that since our last newsletter (in which we were looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th September when we rang the bells 70 times in the church), we have, together with so many worldwide, sadly mourned the loss of our Queen. She was a remarkable and dedicated individual who devoted her life to God and her subjects. We are privileged to have had Queen Elizabeth as our monarch. Now we look forward to a new era with the coronation of King Charles 111 which will take place on 6th May 2023.

Closer to home we have welcomed the Revd Tom Yacomeni as the Rector of our Benefice. His service of induction, on 3rd October in All Saints Church, was taken by Bishop Ruth of Bath and Wells and attended by members of the Benefice congregations, together with many from his previous parish of Locking near Weston super Mare. His first service at Langridge was to celebrate Harvest and we are delighted to welcome him and his family.



Gathering with churchwardens after the service with Bishop Ruth

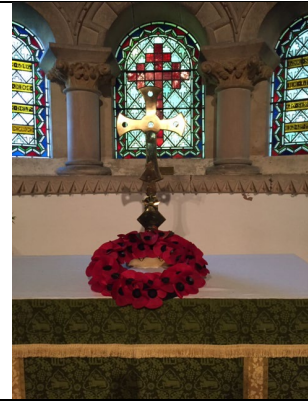
On 2nd October, Langridge Church hosted a service consisting of the Litany and Ante-Communion. A small contingent from the Prayer Book Society joined us to take part.

Robert Webb led the service. Robert began by explaining that the Litany was compiled in 1544 by Thomas Cranmer. This was a time of great concern about war and plague (echoed in the present day!) and Cranmer sought to create a form of worship in which the full gamut of people's concerns could be shared and prayed for. At Langridge the Litany was said, although we were told that it can be sung to a five-part accompaniment to great effect, for instance in procession around Tewkesbury Abbey.

After the service, and most welcome tea and cake, we emerged to glorious sunny Sunday views of the Langridge valley.

Robin Lewis led our Remembrance Service on 13th November. A solemn occasion, and very moving as Robin bade us to remember not only fallen British troops but also the dead from wars such as that in Ukraine.

Remembrance Sunday
Wreath



PAST EVENTS

We have had two musical recitals in recent months. In September, Evelyn Strasburger sang a gorgeous combination of sacred and folk songs in a 'Recital of Music for a Country Church', accompanied by pianist Charles Wiffen. A delightful afternoon of music old and new.

In October, Richard Fenwick gave another of his organ recitals, entitled 'Music for an Autumn Evening...to bring encouragement in changing times'. Richard also selected pieces old and new, drawing mainly on little-known Parisian composers.



A Busy Weekend

SECOND SATURDAY returned this autumn and we are delighted that so many regulars have returned. We look forward to seeing you and your friends in the New Year.



Second Saturday in the Village Hall

FUTURE SERVICES

Christmas approaches. Tom Peryer will lead Christingle at 11 am on 11th December; Tom Yacomani will lead our Carol Service at 3 pm on 18th December; and Dave Parr will lead Christmas Communion at 9:30 am on Christmas Day.

Rev Judith Harries will take out service on Candlemas (29th January) and asks each attendee to bring a candle, to be blessed for their home to commemorate Jesus as the Light of the World.

FUTURE EVENTS

A new book 'Glass and Glory' has been published, celebrating the world-class stained glass windows and fittings at St Stephen's Church, Lansdown. You will probably not read this in time to attend the book launch on 25th November, but copies of the book are available via Vivien Sampson (07713 037399).

We are hopeful of another Lent Course jointly with St Martin's, North Stoke. Keep an eye open for news of the first session, which will probably be in the week commencing 27th February.

Members of the Langridge congregation will remember the late Ann Flewitt with affection. We were so grateful to her for playing the organ for very many years. She loved the church and it was always a pleasure to meet her with her warm welcoming smile. The poem below reflects her nature so beautifully.

MEMORY CORNER

from PETER FLEWITT

My wife Ann was an organist at St Mary Magdalene Church until late December 2016, when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died August 2018. She was so grateful to Rev Robert Webb who visited her at home many times in his Morris Minor, during her illness and gave communion. As her wish, her ashes are interred in the beautiful grounds of the church.

She wrote this poem in the gardens of Wolfson College, Oxford in August 2009

WAITING

Seated a little while at the edge of the shrubbery path,
Looking for nothing more than what is there
In the bending grasses, the rising stems
 And swelling seed heads:
In the manifold flowers rocking with the weight of bees;
In the sunlit stillness disturbed only by the wandering
 Flight of butterflies
A search no longer, just a waiting
In the warmth of the August afternoon.

H Ann Flewitt

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESE

Bishop Michael gifts a thousand tree saplings at installation - Bath and Wells Diocese

In a service marked with tradition and symbolism Rt Revd Michael Beasley, was installed 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells on Saturday 12th November in Wells Cathedral.

A phrase that has stayed with Bishop Michael from the service when he first became a bishop is 'bishops know their people and their people know them'. As he seeks to live out that sentiment - rather than make a conventional car journey home to Wells, after attending Morning Prayer at Bath Abbey on the morning of his installation, Bishop Michael took a different approach. From the Abbey he set out on foot to catch the bus to Odd Down Park & Ride. He then travelled to villages by car, electric bike, police car and even a tractor and vintage lorry to Wells meeting church goers, those who support their communities and representatives from the business and farming community, along the way.

Members from every parish across Bath and Wells attended the Cathedral service, young and old, members of clergy, together with parish lay representatives and guests from local schools, businesses, and civic society. All were encouraged by Bishop Michael to ".....be people who long for a harvest - a world transformed into a place of peace, fairness, service, justice, loving-kindness."

The Bishop invited everyone to take home a hazel sapling. A hazel that will grow, offers shelter to birds and creatures, capture carbon, hold moisture in the soil.

Hazel saplings are a symbol of a commitment to everyone to turn words into action. Among the biggest challenges we face as citizens of the earth is the climate catastrophe that advances on us. He added 'Our world has so many needs - of poverty, of hunger of disease, of hardness of heart. As a way of marking this day plant a sapling as a sign that under God each of us, in every place, can play a part in working for change, for transformation, for life.'

As well as the offer of receiving a sapling from the Bishop, attendees received information on where best to plant the sapling plus updates on the environmental work of churches in Bath and Wells, including their Wilder Church project with the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

For the service Bishop Michael wore the Coronation Cope; originally commissioned for the Coronation of HRH Edward VII in 1902, and worn by the Bishops of Bath and Wells at the three subsequent coronations. His Oath of Allegiance to the King was taken on Bishop Robert Creyghtone's Bible which dates back to 1633, and he received the 15th century episcopal ring.

All of you who will remember Preb Revd Patrick Whitworth will be pleased to hear he has written 'another' book! He will be coming to Bath to launch his new book at the church of St Michael's Without (opposite Waitrose) from 6pm on Monday 5th December 2022.

LANGRIDGE SERVICES			
December 2022 – February 2023			
Date	Time	Type of Service	Preacher
December 4 th	9.30	BCP HC 2 nd Sunday in Advent	Revd Roger Clifton
December 11 th	11am	Christingle (CW MP)	Mr Tom Peryer
December 18 th	3pm	Carol Service 4 th Sunday in Advent	Revd Tom Yacomeni
December 25 th	9.30	Christmas Communion CW	Revd Dave Parr
January 1 st	9.30	BCP MP 1 st Sunday after Christmas	Mr Colin Maggs
January 8 th	9.30	BCP HC 1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Revd Robert Webb <i>tbc</i>
January 15 th	9.30	CW MP 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Revd Tom Yacomeni
January 22 nd	9.30	CW HC 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Revd Richard Hunt
January 29 th	9.30	BCP HC Candlemas	Revd Judith Harries
February 5 th	9.30	BCP MP Septuagesima	Mr Tom Peryer
February 12 th	9.30	CW HC Sexagesima	Revd Roger Clifton
February 19 th	9.30	CW MP Quinquagesima	Revd Tom Yacomeni
February 26 th	9.30	BCP HC 1 st Sunday of Lent	Revd Dave Parr

If you have contributions for the next Newsletter March to May 2023 please contact Liz White regarding Church matters or for the Friends' news. We would like to hear about all items of interest – comments, events or special occasions by **20th February 2023**.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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	+ Peter Flewitt	01225 312506
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Langridge Friends & Newsletter editor	Liz White	01225 744852
+ joint churchwarden		

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.

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