



**St Gregory's Church  
Castlemorton  
WR13 6BQ**

**NEWS 14  
February 2024**

Dear Friends

My wife Jane and I try and relax in the evenings; usually this takes the form of 'best of three' rummy, or Scrabble, or something gently enjoyable on television. Our Scrabble is competitive - intensely competitive; it reminds me of a 49-year-old man I looked after as a very junior doctor who had just had a heart attack. 'What are your hobbies?', I asked, innocently. 'Fishing', he said. Hmm. 'Not usually considered a risk factor for premature heart disease', I mused. 'Ah!', said he, '*Competitive* fishing!'

So last night we eschewed Scrabble and watched an episode of *Yes Minister*; it turned out that it was about the appointment of a Bishop. It was very funny as it laid out the (fictional) thinking that went behind a recommendation to appoint a particular candidate; and how a deeply held Christian faith might actually be a drawback - on political grounds. But, of course, it's all fiction - ?

It did remind me of the wonderful little book by C.S. Lewis which forms the basis of our Lent Course this year - *The Screwtape Letters*, which are short missives from Screwtape, a senior devil, to his nephew Wormwood, a junior devil, as to how to keep his 'patient' away from meaningful Christian faith. Like *Yes Minister*, they're laugh out loud comedy in places - but there's much real truth waiting to be explored. (And can any who watch the news do other than believe there truly is a malign force in this world?) So senior devil Screwtape - from his profoundly anti-Christian perspective - makes the penetrating comment to Wormwood: 'A moderate religion is as good for us as no religion at all - and more amusing.' Either, he points out, keeps people away from taking the radical and remarkable Jesus seriously; and that is a great loss. (Do join us at Lent Group, by the way - details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Lent's a good time to focus on Jesus' words. The most challenging words in all the gospel? - arguably - 'Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do as I say?'. They catch me out time and again and make me glad that being a Christian is first identifying as Jesus' follower, and thereafter learning to prefer His instructions to my inclinations. I have to admit it; I'm a slow learner!

Kind regards

Michael Harper

Licensed Lay Minister

## Diary Dates

### Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Lent 1	18 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 2	25 February	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Hollybush Longdon Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 3	3 March	8.30am 10.30am  10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church  Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Mothering Sunday	10 March	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Mothering Sunday Service Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Lent 5	17 March	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Eldersfield Castlemorton
Friday	22 March	2.00pm	School Easter Service	Castlemorton
Palm Sunday	24 March	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Good Friday	29 March	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	Hollybush
Sunday Easter Day	31 March	6.30am  10.30am 10.30am	Sunrise Service  Family Communion Holy Communion	Old Church, Pendock Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Easter 2	7 April	8.30am 10.30am  10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church  Family Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill
Sunday Easter 3	14 April	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Sunday Easter 4	21 April	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Sunday Easter 5	28 April	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton

Refreshments are served after most services and children's activities are provided at St Gregory's during morning services. All are very welcome.

In addition, **Compline** is available via Zoom at 7.00pm every Friday and on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week, 25-28 March. For details of how to join Zoom services, visit <https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources> (note change of website).

## Other Events at Castlemorton (CM) and in the wider benefice

Thursday	22 February	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 1	Home Farm Rye Street
Friday	23 February	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church
Thursday	29 February	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 2	Home Farm Rye Street
Saturday	2 March	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Thursday	7 March	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 3	Home Farm Rye Street
Tuesday	12 March	10.30- 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Thursday	14 March	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 4	Home Farm Rye Street
Saturday	16 March	7.30pm	<i>Safety Last</i> – silent movie accompanied by organist Jonathan Hope. Details on page 4	CM Church
Thursday	21 March	7.00 for 7.30pm	Lent Course 5	Home Farm Rye Street
Friday	22 March	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church
Saturday	6 April	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Friday	26 April	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church

### Benefice Lent Group 2024

This year the Lent Group will focus on *The Screwtape Letters*, a fascinating little book by C.S. Lewis. It's an amusing but insightful look at how the devil tries to discourage and deviate us from deepening our relationship with God.

Each week we will read one of the short letters and then consider the issues it raises, with the help of key questions designed to open up discussion. The accent - as always in our house groups - will be on the enjoyment of one another's company and encouragement in our Christian walk: we make room for both laughter and seriousness!

**Dates:** Thursdays – 22 Feb, 29 Feb, 7 Mar, 14 Mar, 21 Mar

**Time:** Light refreshment from 7.00pm, meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm

**Venue:** Home Farm, Rye Street, Birtsmorton WR13 6AS  
(home of Jeremy Cox and central to the enlarged benefice)

All are most welcome. If you can let Jeremy know that you are coming, it helps with preparation.

**Contacts:** Jeremy Cox                      jeremycox@btinternet.com  
Michael Harper                      drmpgh@duck.com

## Castlemorton Events

# Safety Last

Silent movie starring Harold Lloyd



St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton  
WR13 6BQ  
Saturday 16 March 7.30pm

with organ accompaniment improvised by

**Jonathan Hope**

Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral

Tickets £10 from Sarah Musgrave 01684 310330/07715 562311  
Email: [sjmusgrave33@gmail.com](mailto:sjmusgrave33@gmail.com)

Bar open throughout the evening, refreshments afterwards

## Kaleidoscope

Please join us for the first new 'Kaleidoscope' at Castlemorton

The theme will be 'Christ the Good Shepherd', with a focus on the 23rd Psalm and Luke 10.

There will be time for meditation, confession and intercessions, together with worship songs, both traditional and new.

The service will be lay-led by Frank Harriss; Jeremy Cox will give us some thoughts on Luke 10.

We hope to see you there!

**Sunday 25 February 6.30pm**

**All welcome**



## Welcome to The Revd Julie James



On Sunday 28 January, The Right Revd Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley, licensed The Revd Julie James as Curate in Charge in the parishes of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley and Queenhill with Holdfast. The service was attended by over 70 from the wider benefice and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards.

A special occasion indeed!

## Farewell to Cecily Howick

Cecily has been a loyal supporter of St Gregory's for over 30 years and we have all enjoyed her company and her music over that time.

She is pictured here with her daughter Alice and former parishioners Vince and Annie Warwick. They return to visit us from time to time and we hope Cecily too will come back to see us in Castlemorton. Meanwhile, we wish her well as she settles into her new home in Bradford on Avon and hope she will be very happy there.



## Church Contact Details

Rector (Day off Monday)	The Revd Julie James	01531 651795
Licensed Lay Minister	Michael Harper	01684 830133 / 07942 390194
Churchwardens	Mark Lister	01531 631503 / 07908 967165
	Sarah Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
PCC Secretary	Christina Leake	01684 310409 / 07979 553074