



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

**NEWS 12  
December 2023**

**Churchwardens: Mark Lister 01531 631503 - Sarah Musgrave 01684 310330 / 07715 562311**

Dear Friends

When we come to New Year, our thoughts often turn to the idea of the Christian pilgrimage, or journey of faith, which is well-attested in the Bible and has long been an eloquent metaphor for the Christian life. No doubt this thought occurred to King George VI when, in his Christmas Message to the Empire in 1939, he quoted from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins: *'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'* And he replied, *'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'* As we stand on the threshold of a new year, and in the light of the birth of the Son of God that we are celebrating, we are invited to re-set the course for our lives, as those continuing on that journey of faith, the destination of which is the Kingdom of God. Anyone starting out on an expedition makes lengthy and serious preparations, and ensures that he is well equipped. Here are some essential pre-requisites for that journey.

First, the Word of God – the Holy Scriptures – act as both a map and a compass for the journey. Although the Bible does not directly address, and answer, every modern dilemma we face, there are deep veins of wisdom available to those willing to devote time and energy to digging them out. Considering the significance of the journey we are on, such effort does not seem out of place.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit – the spirit of Jesus – is both the leader and our travelling companion, someone who has already encountered the toughest challenges that lie ahead and knows exactly how to overcome them. The writer to the Hebrews expressed better than anyone what our new year resolve should be: *'Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.'*

Thirdly, the Church – all those who love Jesus and have set out to follow him – are our companions on the journey, and what a joy it is to share the challenge with them. Devotees of Tolkien will think of the nine companions, to be known as the Fellowship of the Ring, who set out for Mordor to return the ring to Mount Doom. They needed each other through the many trials and tribulations of the journey, and so shall we!

Yours sincerely

*Chris Moss*



The Revd Christopher Moss

## Diary Dates

### Services across the LCBQ Benefice until end of January and across the wider benefice from February

Wednesday	20 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Castlemorton
Thursday	21 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Queenhill
Friday	22 December	2.00pm	School Carol Service	Castlemorton
Sunday	24 December	5.00pm	Crib Service (venue changed)	Castlemorton
Monday	25 December	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion	Queenhill Castlemorton
Sunday	31 December	6.30pm	New Year's Eve Service	Castlemorton
Sunday	7 January	10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Celebration of Epiphany	Longdon Queenhill
Sunday	14 January	10.30am	Family Communion Farewell to Chris and Eileen afterwards	Castlemorton
Sunday	21 January	10.30am	Holy Communion	Queenhill
Sunday	28 January	4.00pm	Service to mark the start of the new benefice	Castlemorton
Sunday	4 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Café Church Holy Communion	Eldersfield Eldersfield Queenhill
Sunday	11 February	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Bushley Berrow Hollybush
Ash Wednesday	14 February	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Pendock
Sunday	18 February	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Holy Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Sunday	25 February	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy 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.

	<p style="font-size: small;">Join us for one of our Christmas services this year. There are many across the benefice to choose from. We would love to see you.</p>	
---	--	---

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

Saturday	23 December	3-5pm	Christmas Sing-along (£6 adults/£2 children)	CM Hall
Thursday	28 December	3.00pm	<i>Puss in Boots – The Last Wish</i> Free entry if you bring a feather	Morton Majestic CM Hall
Friday	29 December	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice (Please note - a later date)	CM Church
Saturday	30 December	7.00pm	MLG Bach Christmas Oratorio	CM Church
Sunday	31 December	8.00pm	MLG Bach Cantatas – Sunday after Christmas	CM Church
Saturday	6 January	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Tuesday	9 January	10.30- 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Sunday	14 January	11.30	Farewell to Chris and Eileen after the morning service at 10.30	CM Church
Friday	26 January	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church
Tuesday	30 January	9.30- 11.00	Community Drop In	Pendock School
Saturday	3 February	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Tuesday	13 February	10.30- 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Friday	23 February	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church



There is still time to make a donation towards their gift (**by 6 January please**), in one of two ways:

- Cash or cheque (payable to *PCC Castlemorton*) in an envelope marked **CMgift**, given to PCC Treasurer Frank Harriss or any member of the PCC (except Chris!)
- An online payment to the PCC bank account at Lloyds Bank

Account name PCC Castlemorton  
Account Number 00156058  
Sort Code 30-95-41

If making an online payment please use the reference **CMgift**.

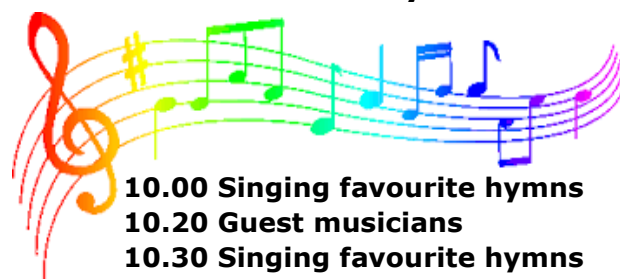
**Do join us to say farewell and present our gift to them on 14 January (details above)**

## CaCoffany!

St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton

10.00-11.30

A monthly coffee morning with  
music for everyone



10.00 Singing favourite hymns  
10.20 Guest musicians  
10.30 Singing favourite hymns  
10.50 Coffee, cake and chat

*No singing experience needed  
just come and sing  
or simply enjoy the coffee and cakes!*

Free admission – all welcome. Email hymn requests to [sjmusgrave33@gmail.com](mailto:sjmusgrave33@gmail.com)

**2024 Dates – Saturdays**

6 January, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April  
4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 7 September  
5 October, 2 November, 7 December

## The Future of our Benefice

The forthcoming retirement of The Revd Chris Moss means that our worship pattern will change in the benefice of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley and Queenhill with Holdfast. We remain hugely grateful to him for nearly 30 years of ministry in this area and wish him and Eileen a well-earned long and happy retirement.

For future ministry, we are fortunate in having The Revd Julie James in the adjoining benefice and are most grateful to her for agreeing to oversee the worship in our own four parishes in addition to those in the benefice of Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton. The boundaries between benefices have changed over the years, but this is the first time we shall be part of a united benefice of nine parishes.

The church officers for Castlemorton will remain the same and key contact details are as follows:

Rector (Day off Monday)	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

We look forward to working with Julie within the wider benefice. Further details about the services and events in the wider benefice may be found in the online magazine at:

<https://berrowbenefice.org.uk/parish-magazine-december-2023>

## Parish News

A huge 'thank you' to **Dave Adams**, who has recently retired from mowing the front of the church yard. We are grateful to him for taking responsibility for this on a weekly basis over many years.

Our thanks also go to Simon Yates and to Michael Howell for their continued mowing support in other areas. Next year will see some changes as we acknowledge biodiversity in the churchyard. Please ask for further details if you wish to know more and become involved in this project.



## St Gregory's Church Register



Wednesday 6 December	Funeral Service and Burial at St Gregory's	Arthur John WAGSTAFF, of Huntsbridge, Castlemorton, who died 11 November 2023, aged 82 years
Thursday 14 December	Funeral Service at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury	Mathew Nicholas George WADDINGTON of Millfield, Nafford Road, Eckington (son of former parishioner Susan Payne), who died 13 November 2023, aged 51 years



Finally, all members of Castlemorton PCC send our warm wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year