

Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine

November 2017

From the Rector

Some while ago, I read a survey of motorists that found that around 85% of drivers consider themselves to be "above-average". Of course, this can't be true: By definition, at most 49% of drivers will be above average.

The survey gives us an insight into our human nature: People generally view themselves as better than others. And if they are better than others, then they are doing a good enough job, they are good enough. This happens in all parts of our lives, far more than we are aware.

We get to see it in The Beatitudes, Jesus' famous teaching about what it is to be blessed. The message of the Beatitudes is often spoken as: If I do *these* things well enough, I will be happy. If I am good enough at *these* things, I will be blessed." It seems to be a human standard of measure: If I am better than average, I'm in good shape and of course in this area of my life that matters to me, I am. I'm better than average so others are worse than me.

Jesus turns things round saying it's not pride or putting down others, but humility that matters, most especially recognising our need for Him and all He brings: His strength, gentleness, righteousness, mercy, purity, peace, death and life:

- You can't mourn without appreciating how insufficient you are to handle life in your own strength.
- You can't be meek unless you know you have needed gentleness yourself.
- You can't hunger and thirst for righteousness if you proudly think of yourself as already upright and blameless.
- You can't be merciful without recognising your own need for mercy.
- You can't be pure in heart if your heart is full of pride.
- You can't be a peacemaker if you start fires or fan flames.
- You can't identify with Christ in the face of negative reactions from others without dying to yourself and renouncing your own rights.

All are rooted in humility, being poor in spirit.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

William Barclay wrote: "Blessed is the man who has realised his own utter helplessness and who has put his whole trust in God... first, he will become completely detached from things, for he will know that things have not got it in them to bring happiness or security. Second he will become completely attached to God, for he will know that God alone can bring him help and hope and strength." May we all be poor in spirit, realise that Jesus means everything and share His love and kingdom here.

EASTNOR NEWS

We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 8th October and the church looked beautiful. Our organist, Hilda Hawcutt had a very busy time as we enjoyed many joyful hymns of Thanksgiving. We have been lucky to have Hilda as our organist for well over 15 years but she has played the organ all her life. Her father was the organist for a garrison church in North Wales and one Sunday he was not well enough to play so the 12 year old Hilda (who had been learning the

piano since she was 5) stepped in and has never looked back.

Eastnor Primary School had their Harvest Thanksgiving on Friday 6th October. Joan led the service to a packed church and each class had their own special contribution to make. Joan has now become a governor of the school and being a former teacher as well as an invaluable member of the clergy means she is well placed to assist the school with their religious education and any necessary help with OFSTED inspections.

Our bellringers practice each Monday morning and they attract ringers from outside the district as well as locally. They were very pleased to welcome a group of ringers recently from Winchcombe who were on tour in this area. Two new bell ropes have recently been purchased which Alan Bagworth and his colleagues will be fitting soon. Years of use have finally taken their 'toll' on the current ones.

As always, our warm welcome remains open to you all should you wish to visit us one Sunday. Our services are every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:15am. Remembrance Sunday Service on 12th November will be held inside the church at 10:45am. We look forward to welcoming you.

St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury and St John the Baptist, Eastnor Services during November

Sunday 5th November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
3.00pm All Souls Service
6.30pm BCP Evensong

All Saints Sunday

Sunday 12th November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
10.45am Eastnor Remembrance Day Service
10.55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
Followed by Remembrance Day Service in Church

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 19th November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm BCP Evensong

Second Sunday before Advent

Sunday 26th November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion
4.00pm Worship Service

Christ the King

Friday Morning Communion at St Katherine's Chapel.

This service is held 10.0am every Friday. All are welcome.

A Choral Concert of Christmas Music with the celebrated Bath Chorus

Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm

Free Admission.

**Retiring collection at the door for the work of St Michael's
in the community.**

The Gospel in Action

I hope you enjoy these contributions firstly from a church on Mount Carmel where Elijah had his encounter with the prophets of Baal.

'Blessings to you from Mount Carmel. The heat of Israel's summer reached peak records this month, yet this didn't stop the hundreds of worshippers from over ten nations coming with their "instruments and weapons of spiritual warfare" to spend a week with us on top of Mount Carmel for the 7-day worship event "Celebration for the Nations". The glorious presence of the Lord filled the sanctuary and saturated our property, as Israeli Jewish and Arabic teams, Korean, Filipino, Eritrean, German, UK and Finnish teams brought us before the Throne of God, releasing the river of life. Powerful corporate intercession for Israel and the nations flowed out as we worshipped Yeshua (Jesus) together in unity as "one new man".

With gratitude and Shalom'. (from Dani Sayag, Peter Tsukahira, Vladimir Tsapar)

A statement by Ughelli Diocese, Nigeria 'We are worried that the murderous activities of Fulani herdsmen have continued unabated and unchecked. The recurring and orchestrated killings of Christians in Southern Kaduna, mass killings in parts of Benue State and others across the country have increased suspicion that the so-called herdsmen are an extension of terrorist groups carrying out an evil agenda of ethnic and religious cleansing.....They sack entire villages, rape women and girls, maim, kidnap, kill and commit other forms of violence while destroying farmlands and economic sources...**We therefore call on the Church today to wake up, be keenly observant, watchful, vigilant and mindful of the enemies of our souls and our faith**....Christians must be more prayerful, focused and strategic.....being conscious that the world is coming to an end and at last to triumph and be able to stand before our Lord Jesus Christ.'

*We cannot begin to imagine the terrible plight of these Christians facing such extreme evil from the Fulani herdsmen, and equally as bad Boko Haram. Yet again, it seems that the pages of history will be awfully soiled by violence and evil. But we can be heartened by the inspirational courage of Christians facing evil. One Nigerian leader compared what they were facing to be similar to the persecution of the early church remembering the first Christian martyr, Stephen. "God could have prevented Stephen from being killed, but he let him be martyred so that the Gospel could go beyond Jerusalem.....And then he let someone like Paul come on board, in order to do more things than Stephen could have done. **We regard Paul as the first Boko Haram militant. but God used Paul!!!"** Do pray in earnest for these our wonderful Christian brothers and sisters. Pray too that the 'Pauls' of today will emerge; that positive good can come out of such heartless evil. Lord, have mercy.*

PS A quote from Robert Warren, author of the Purpose Driven Church, "Do not try to change the church. Instead, love the church and let God do the changing – spend time loving the hard to love." **Bill Mackenzie**

Two hours in the day of a church steward

Ruth Kett gives us some insights into what it is like to do a typical two-hour shift as one of the stewards who greet visitors to the church during the summer months and help to answer their questions:

How did you come to be one of the team of stewards? Soon after moving to Ledbury and starting to attend St. Michael's church early in 2001, I became aware from the pew sheets that the stewards' rota was being revised for the summer months and that new volunteers were needed. So I offered my services and was duly offered a slot on Thursday afternoons. (The number and timing of slots is according to personal preference and gaps in the rota). I had a few misgivings as my knowledge of the church and its history was very rudimentary but the organisers, John and Valerie Lowe, gave us new recruits a tour of the church and helpful suggestions as to what to expect.

What are the most common questions that you get asked by visitors? Undoubtedly the most often-asked question is: "Why is the tower separate from the church?" To which the answer is – nobody knows! Many people come in looking for things they have heard about from others, such as the bullet holes in the north door from the time of the Civil War, the Skynner tomb in the chancel and Mrs. Skynner's hat, the mysterious red light in the roof of the chancel and so on. Many are amazed at the size of the building and ask why a small

town like Ledbury has such a large church.

What happens when you are asked a question you cannot answer? There is a very useful collection of information, *Notes for Stewards and Visitors*, at the back of the church, together with details of all the memorial stones, tablets and tombs, which might enable you to find answers. If not, all you can do is confess your ignorance and try to find out the information later so as to be ready if the question comes up again. At quiet times you can browse through these aids to increase your knowledge. I've been doing this for sixteen years but I'm still learning.

How do you pass the time when no visitors are in the church? There can be some quite long periods when one is alone in the church, especially at the beginning and end of the season. As well as brushing up my knowledge of the building I always bring a book or crossword to fall back on. But at times I like to sit quietly and absorb the peace and prayerful atmosphere of the place and to imagine the many generations of worshippers who have loved and cherished it in all its long history.

Assuming that you enjoy the role, what aspects of it are particularly rewarding?

I enjoy the opportunity to share with visitors the beauty of such an old and much-loved building, plus the chance to meet people from all over the world who find their way to Ledbury and to hear about the places they come from. Also, quite a few of our own parishioners pop into the church during the course of the day on various errands and it is good to chat to them too. Altogether it is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the long tradition of welcoming people to our splendid church.

From the Chairman of The Friends of St Michael's

Here are extracts from the report of Canon Ryc Smith at the AGM of The Friends on 11th October:

The work of this body is to support the maintenance and enhancement of our magnificent and ancient church building. We see it as our responsibility to pass it on to future generations in good heart as well as being "fit for purpose" for the many and varied needs of both the worshiping community and the wider parish. The committee has supported two major fund-raising initiatives, *Summoned by Bells* at the time of the Poetry Festival, for which particular thanks to Tim and Mary Anne Keyes and their team. This event opened the eyes and minds of many to the joys of poetry in its various forms and gave enormous and lasting pleasure. The other event was the *Dean's Delight*, an entertaining and humorous evening of music and anecdotes by Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford. Both these events helped to build up the reserves so that we can give support to such projects as arise from time to time such as the matters of lighting and heating which are under discussion at present by the PCC. Something we are keen to establish is a register of Friends. This would enable us to build up the standing order base and income stream. At present the main source of our income continues to be from the bookstall, so efficiently managed by Maggie and Bill Mackenzie. Another aspect of the life of the church presently under the Friends wing is the organisation of welcome stewards which is most ably carried out by Anne Tattersall.

From early this year we heard that our treasurer, The Rev'd Rodney Harrison was reluctantly going to have to hand over the role due to ill health. Rodney was a tremendous asset as he was not only at ease with the accounts but also dealing with the Charity Commissioners. His death at the end of May was a great loss to Jenny and the family and to us all. I was hugely relieved when John Lindeck said that he would take the task on for a year.

Plans are well in hand for a major Flower Festival to take place next May with proceeds being shared with St Michael's Hospice and we are grateful to the hospice fundraising team for their collaboration with our team in this venture.

We have been wonderfully well served by Ann Davies as Secretary. She has decided to stand down and will be replaced by Brian Bowers.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on November 18th at 9.15 for 9.30 at the Seven Stars Hotel in the Homend. Price £8. The speaker will be Simon Cameron talking about Noah's Camp for families held near Ledbury for the

first time last year. If you can come, please sign the sheet at the back of church so that we have some idea of the numbers for catering.

Favourite hymns

Many people find that hymns play an important part in their personal faith. They can act as prayers, summarise key themes, encourage, inspire and enlighten. Different members of the St Michael's congregation make their selection below and explain why.

Christine Bainton: One of my favourite hymns is *Be still my soul* written by Katharyn von Schegel.

The words "Be still my soul" are found in Psalm 46 v 10 and the first verse of the hymn is:

*Be still my soul: the Lord is at your side
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain
Leave to your God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

When my life seems full of struggles and challenges my natural response is be restless and be anxious.

But I found that if I sit quietly and sing this hymn to myself it speaks and refreshes me. It tells me to be still, stop fretting, trust in the Lord and wait for Him to act. It also reminds me that the Lord is on my side and, though things change, He remains the same. Furthermore, it reassures me that He orders and provides for my life giving me strength, comfort and direction. The tune Finlandia was composed by Jean Sibelius. It transports this beautiful poem into a higher plain which for me makes it a truly calming, spiritual hymn.

Peter Veasey: I was brought up in the RC Church and learned some beautiful hymns. However, when I left home to go to college in Aberystwyth I heard, for the first time, Welsh hymns sung by powerful Welsh voices and was blown away by them. This wasn't in the local churches, but in the local pubs! At that time it was the tradition for students, after a few drinks, to sing – and oh how we sang! The range of songs was very wide, from old music hall, through the pop music of the day to church music. Many of the most beautiful hymns were sung in Welsh and may be unfamiliar outside Wales; however, one great favourite known to all is Cwm Rhondda (**Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer**). Even today it brings tears to my eyes when I hear it. Sadly the modern Aber students no longer maintain this great singing tradition.

Sue Cooper: I have chosen that lovely Wesley hymn:

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in my Saviour's blood?

First the question is asked and then it describes to me how we as individuals are sought out in spite of our sinfulness causing His pain, and the sheer mystery of His love for us. After He has freed us and our acceptance of Him, we are ultimately able to approach the eternal throne. A wonderful hymn and also great fun to sing!

David Gates: A few miles north of Eilat in southern Israel there is an interesting desert place. There are tall columns of rock once part of a nearby cliff face. They are ideal shelters from the hot sun. They could be a real life-saver. Bishop Timothy Dudley Smith's paraphrase of Psalm 91, **Safe in the shadow of the Lord**, has rightly become much-loved. In the first verse the psalm begins: *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*"

It's a picture of God's protection as we stay 'Safe in the Shadow of the Lord.'

Years ago in the desert in Israel I personally realised that "to dwell" does not mean being static. The sun moves and to benefit from its shade I had to move to stay cool. Moving is an analogy for the Christian life. Where is God directing you and me? Somewhere new, a seemingly difficult or is it to stay put when that is against our natural inclination? This hymn became meaningful and of great help to Ann and I during a very trying and difficult period. It deserves to become an essential in any modern hymn book.

Margaret Neal: From a child I went with my family to our church on Good Fridays to a Hymn Singing Festival which was started in the 1930's, by Welsh people who wanted the standard of hymn singing in Herefordshire to improve. This festival continued into the 1980's gathering people from all over the county to fill the chapel and to sing for 2 hours, afternoon and evening. The congregation, choir, soloist conductor, minister, and organist made music, singing in unison, practising tricky bits, the choir providing the harmony and anthems and a soloist to sing special pieces to enrich the experience. My love of music stems from this time. It was not a concert. It was a Good Friday Service. We praised God. We listened to and sang about Christ's death on the cross and his sacrifice for us all. The words and meaning were always important.

'**O thou, who camest from above**' by John Wesley 1762 is a favourite hymn of mine, learned on a Good Friday. The words are wonderful, are a prayer, a plea, and a great challenge. I love the tune 'Hereford', influenced by my family of tenors, enjoying the high soaring notes in the 3rd line.

Diana Veasey: Isaiah 55:12 (NRSV): *For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.* (Read the text to discover the joy of returning to God after messing up – just as Jesus explained years later... God first loved us so we know how to love Him and each other!).

In the 1980s, I was seconded from teaching to write materials for Secondary Personal and Social Education, supervised by an Open University atheist with a counselling background. I am a Christian with a counselling background, so we shared the same approach to learning. I determined to support young people from all religions and none. The materials gave 'permission' to explore a spiritual dimension as a natural part of everyday life, take it or leave it, listening actively to others and sharing personal experience. The spiritual need in my own school was raw following a series of sad deaths and life-changing accidents amongst a number of pupils over several years. Facilitated learning really helped.

That same year, nominated by Buxton Christians to be interviewed for Songs of Praise, the producer heard about my work, and I was filmed facilitating a class in one of the several schools trialling the materials.

The hymn I chose for broadcast, **You shall go out with joy**, reflected the joy I felt encountering God through young people thirsty to understand the ticking of life; surrounded by green hills, with woodland turning the rainbow colours of autumn - all inescapable evidence of the majesty and wonder of God's creation and His healing presence.

Deer Park Estate: Car Rota

I'm delighted to say that the rota is now well established and has nearly completed its first year, thanks to our willing volunteers. This coming year I would like to enable passengers to attend *every* Sunday if at all possible. Could you be one of those to fill a gap? This is what we still need:

- 1st Sunday 1 car which can take a 'walker', plus 2 passengers
- 2nd Sunday Rota complete
- 3rd Sunday 1 car which can take a 'walker' plus 2 passengers
- 4th Sunday 1 car for 3 passengers (no 'walker')

The **Reserve List** could do with a few more volunteers too. This list covers any regular driver who is ill or on holiday and also 5th Sundays and other occasional services. If your car can accommodate a walker, please indicate, as some passengers cannot travel without. NB Volunteers are only asked to do one Sunday a month (unless they volunteer for more!) This is your opportunity to make a difference. What I do know is that each passenger couldn't be more appreciative of your act of kindness.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you. *Hilary Sharp (tel 01531 631972)*

Bosbury Players Present

Guys and Dolls by Frank Loesser on Weds 29th November – Sat 2nd Dec at 7.30pm. in
Bosbury Parish Hall.

Tickets £12 Adults, £6 U16's, from Gill Andrews 01531 640410, The Bell Inn,
Bosbury Barbers, and John Goodwin (Colwall)

“...but it has always been like this.....”

Thoughts from Ian Stainburn who is currently chairing the new Buildings and Fabric Working Group (St Michael's Church and St Katherine's Chapel)

“Have you removed the pews yet”. This was the first question he asked when I joined our former Rector, the Rev'd Dr. Colin Beevers for a meeting at Great Malvern Priory last week....and he wasn't joking! Perhaps I should explain?

Because of a role that I hold in the Diocese of Worcester I am an *ex-officio* member of Ledbury PCC, I have been a member of the congregation since moving to Ledbury and was the Inspecting Architect for the parish church for nearly 20 years until my retirement. Both the church community and the building mean a great deal to me and I am grateful for all of the welcome and help that I have received from you and your predecessors during my time as your

“consultant” and subsequently.

During the interregnum, Tony Hodder and others initiated a discussion about how might St. Katherine’s Chapel and Hall be improved and better used. Keith Hilton-Turvey has raised the subject again and convened two meetings in the Hall to hear opinions. I think that it was almost unanimously thought that, in its present form and condition, St. Katherine’s Chapel and Hall is not “fit for purpose”.

Prompted by those discussions, attention turned to the parish church and the thought that it, too, may no longer be “fit for purpose” in its present configuration. There may be other ways of using the spaces that it provides for, perhaps, different patterns of liturgy and worship, for welcoming and mission, and for more regular use for secular events. We need “facilities” appropriate for the 21st Century.

A glance at our own church guide book and, indeed, any that describe the history and evolution of church architecture and fabric in England will emphasise that major changes usually happened during every 100 years or so. The plan of our church hanging on the arcade column at the west end of the north aisle demonstrates these sequential changes very well and it is necessary to bear in mind too, that the place was almost derelict as recently as the early 19th Century.

The present configuration and furnishings of our church, the heating system and pendant electroliers all date from either the major repair programme of circa 1849 or the re-ordering by John Loughborough Pearson in 1905. His re-ordering was entirely in accordance with the liturgical fashion and organisation of congregational worship initiated and developed by the Oxford Movement and the Ecclesiologists. Thus, we have serried ranks of fixed pews, steps up into the Chancel from the nave, stalls for a robed choir, with the organ in the Chancel, an east end Sanctuary and High Altar with the spectacular Last Supper reredos.

Oh yes, Pearson had also to cope with the difficulties posed by a collapsing timber floor and perpetually damp ground conditions so raised the nave floor to its present level leaving the west end entrance 3/4 of a metre below it.

All in all, this 19th century concept is no longer entirely suited to the way in which we worship and use our building now: we have a nave altar, we receive before the “Sacrament of coffee” in the south aisle as well as at the High Altar, we do not have a robed choir (so what is the Chancel used for now?), we have a Chapel “reserved for private prayer” but isn’t the entire building sacred space? We are often cold, uncomfortable and the inadequacies of the lighting are often commented upon.

With these thoughts in mind and following discussions with Keith, our Churchwardens and others, and because I am only too aware of the significance of our church building and of St. Katherine’s Chapel and Hall in our lives and those of the people of Ledbury, whether they attend regularly or not,

I suggested to the PCC that a “Buildings and Fabric Working Group” might be established to examine ways and means of “improving” both buildings to ensure that they will be “fit for purpose” for a good few years from now. I said that I would be prepared to co-ordinate the activities of that group and

to ensure that it sought opinions and ideas from members of the congregation and other people within the town. I am somewhat daunted to report that the PCC agreed to the proposal.

A preliminary meeting of a group was convened at the end of August during which it was agreed that our tasks initially would be:

- to understand what we have already (technically known as a “Statement of Significance” for each building): historic fabric, of course, but also personal gifts and items of importance to local people and families.
- to invite opinion from you, the congregation, the LMDG, WRDG and all other working groups on what do you consider to be good or not about the two buildings, how they work and where they might fail.
- to examine places elsewhere in this Diocese and others to see how change has been managed or, in some instances perhaps, not.
- From these consultations to prepare and publish a “Statement of Need” from which to develop a comprehensive development plan that will, of course, consider practicalities, programme and finance.

All of this will take time; Bishop John of Worcester has remarked that progress in the Church of England can sometimes seem to be slow, and it might be thought that it “has the brakes of a juggernaut but only the engine of a lawnmower”!

We will be seeking formal advice from, amongst others, The Dean and Chapter, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Church Buildings Council but more important than all of these: **FROM YOU.** We will be preparing “bulletins” from time to time and we ask for your help. Please do give some thought to this and write notes to put in the church letter rack for my attention or contact me directly
by e-mail: ir.stainburn@btinternet.com

REMEMBRANCE NOVEMBER 2017



There will be three opportunities for Remembrance in Ledbury
in November 2017

**ARMISTICE DAY
SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER
10.55 am**

**A short
Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial**

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER
10.45 am**

**Parade
Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial**

LEDBURY & THE WAR 1917

4th –12th NOVEMBER

**St Michael and All Angels' Church, Ledbury
open 10 – 4 daily (except during services)**

This is the fourth in the series of exhibitions about Ledbury and the First

World War. In 2014 *Life in Ledbury 1914-1918* covered all aspects of life in

This was the town during the war, 2015 commemorated the Ledbury connection with my Christian journey, some of the conference was *My Kingdom Come* and the opening speaker was Emily Winkler. She moved all of us with her inspired teaching and I decided there and then that I would attend all the sessions. As the theme developed in the following days, my eyes were opened to the reality of who I am in Christ (2 Cor. 7:18) something of which we all need to be reminded. This led to the realisation that, as children of Almighty God, we belong in his kingdom (Luke 12:32). We not only need a new heart; we also need our minds renewed (Eph. 4:22-24). As citizens of the kingdom here on earth, we strive for righteousness, peace and joy which are the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

At Pentecost we celebrated 50 years of charismatic revival in the Catholic church - a joyful occasion with Pope Francis in Rome and all Christian denominations taking part. Michelle Moran, President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, spoke to us about what had been achieved through this.

The teaching given in preparation for the 'Healing' service was very helpful to me as this is an area in which I have been struggling. Jesus instructed his followers to pray for healing in his name by the laying on of hands. The result may not be visible to everyone and does not indicate a lack of faith. None of us can ever know God's mind, it is a mystery, but we are helped by God more and more.

The teaching throughout was inspirational. I found the quiet periods in the afternoon particularly beneficial. For me the balance was perfect - refreshing and full of prayerful, joy filled worship. What blessed me especially was how folk from the various churches in our town prayed and worshipped together and shared fellowship in a 'close to kingdom' atmosphere. *Susi James*

Pre - Christmas Lunch

We will be holding the Christmas lunch at the Three Counties Garden centre in Newent on Wednesday 13th December. In the past, it has been a thoroughly worthwhile occasion. Transport can be arranged.. The food has been excellent and sharing a meal with others from St Michael's has been thoroughly enjoyable.

Further details later but please put the date in your diary and sign up on the list at the back of church. This is a chance to invite people who might be thinking of joining the church

Christians Together in Ledbury

A meeting was held on 22nd September attended by over 20 representatives, both clergy and lay, from nearly all the churches in Ledbury. There was some frustration about the slow rate of progress although the work done by Tony Hodder was much appreciated. Those present expressed a desire for a more structured and representative to develop and guide ecumenical activities in the town. A number of areas in which collaborative ventures could be profitable were identified and the pattern under which joint ventures started and then gradually faded away was commented on.

Anna Nugent, the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer was among those present and she was asked to advise how the churches in other areas had started working together and what had proved successful. She commented that each area had different aims and needs and that she would be happy to work with us in developing a suitable organisation for Ledbury.

Meanwhile a meeting had been scheduled for Saturday 11th November at 11.30am at the Baptist Church, Ledbury with the following aims

-) **To update church members about work in the past year**
-) **To look at local work in the context of National and International perspectives on the move towards unity**
-) **To share and discuss the vision for the work in the foreseeable future**
-) **To encourage full and broad participation of all church members in the work.**

Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting

Music in Church - Organ recitals on 3rd Monday of each month at 12.30pm:

20th November - Robert Milan

18th December - Christmas Selection -

(A medley of organists, each playing a Christmas themed piece).

Reflections on Time



Two of my father's many expressions referred to time; "There's no time like the present" and "Time waits for no man." I heard recently the 1950's song by Pete Seeger "Turn, turn, turn; to everything there is a season"; the lyrics of which are taken from Ecclesiastes 3v 1-8. It made me reflect on how often we use the word "time" on an everyday basis. We talk about "quality time", we are always "running out of time" and "a stitch in time saves nine". Children's stories often start with "Once upon a time", and at school they will often hear "one at a time", "all in good time! and may be chided for "wasting time". As we get older we often say, "where does the time go?" and "time flies". We talk about "time well spent", desperate times", "time on your hands" and "the time is right". As consolation we hear that "time heals all wounds" and that a holiday may give us "the time of our lives".

The passage in Ecclesiastes represents all the seasons and the important matters of our lives.

To everything there is a season and
A time for every purpose under heaven
A time to be born and a time to die
A time to plant and a time to pluck out that which is planted
A time to kill and a time to heal
A time to break down and a time to build up
A time to weep and a time to laugh
A time to mourn and a time to dance
A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing
A time to get and a time to lose
A time to keep and a time to cast away
A time to rend and a time to sew
A time to keep silence and a time to speak
A time to love and a time to hate
A time for war and a time for peace

Opposites are listed in these verses; while time and seasons may seem random, the underlying significance denotes a divinely chosen purpose for everything. In conclusion I would like to quote Bill Keane, the American cartoonist "Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future but today is a gift. That's why it is called "the Present".

Eileen Cooper

Poetry in Flowers 2018

The Flower Festival will take place from Friday 25th to Monday 28th May 2018 to support the work of St Michael's Hospice and the Friends of the Church. Day tickets for the event will be available from 1st November 2017 and the prices are:

- From 1st November 2017 – 31st January 2018 = £6
- 1st February 2018 – 24th May 2018 = £8
- On Festival days 25th May – 28th May 2018 = £10

Viewing times on the Friday, Saturday and Monday will be 10.30am to 5pm. A service will take place

at 9.30am on the Sunday, to which all visitors will be welcomed and the Festival will open at 11.30am on that day.

Tickets will be available:

- Online – by clicking the link
- On the Church website www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk
- Or via the Hospice website www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Manual tickets can be obtained by contacting the Flower Festival Coordinator on 01531 631104 or pauline.s@pobroadbandco.uk. (A stamped address envelope may be required if tickets cannot be collected)

Flower Festival update

From the earlier planning stages, all is becoming much more of a reality as we hosted the Arrangers' Viewing Day on 2nd. of October. This was to show each arranger exactly where their arrangement would stand in the Church. Our fundraising approaches to businesses in Ledbury are bearing fruit but now I am asking you, the congregation, for your help in sponsoring flowers as you do so generously at Easter, perhaps in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a happy event in your life. Any amount, small or large will be very gratefully received and will go initially towards funding the flowers which will decorate the Sanctuary and St. Anne's Chapel. St. Anne's will be reserved for Private Prayer throughout the Festival. Any excess will be used more generally towards the overall costs of providing the flowers for each arranger.

If you could arrange to put any monies and your name and address through my door at Hope Cottage, 25b, New Street, I would be most grateful as I am soon going to be out of circulation for a while having a hip replacement! If it is more convenient, please give it to Margaret Chapman who will pass it on.

St Michael's Bookshop - Reading for Advent

For many Christians the Season of Advent is one of the favourite seasons of the year. We have a selection of books for Advent on the bookstall:

Advent for everyone by Tom Wright journeys through Matthew. He helps us to understand Advent within the wider context of God's love for us. John Sentamu commends this book—"if you do nothing else in your preparations for Christmas, read this book"

God with us by J John looks at individuals in the Bible - starting in the Old Testament - through to the characters in the Christmas story and ending with YOU and how Jesus' life affects you.

The little book of Advent is a collection of readings from some of the most celebrated modern day spiritual writers with passages specially selected for each day of Advent.

Three other books are: **Lighted windows by Margaret Silf**, **In the Manger by Max Lucado**, **Walking Backwards to Christmas by Stephen Cottrell**.

Many of the books are set out like an Advent Calendar with daily readings and reflections. Check them out on the bookstall. On Sundays November 19th and 26th at coffee time we will be taking orders for Bible reading notes for 2018.

Bill and Maggie Mackenzie

MTWARA MINBUS APPEAL

Bishop Oscar and Father Jackan have asked for help from the Deanery Group to purchase a bus to take Kindergarten children to and from school. There are now over 320 children at Kindergarten – some children are currently taken to school by motorbike! So far they have raised nearly half the money needed, but are about £2,800 short of the money needed. We would like to raise at least £1,000 towards this project and are proposing a Lent Lunch and Easter Appeal throughout the deanery.

We will be asking for support from St. Michaels: details in due course.

We will be sending our usual Christmas money to provide food for the poor of Mtwara and this will come from the Deanery Mtwara fund.

Elaine Toyer

Christmas cards

All of us like receiving Christmas cards. We send them to people we do not see much during the year and also to people who we meet each week, maybe at church. As we have done in the last few years we will be putting a board in church on which members of the congregation can pin a card to all their friends at St Michael's. The board will be in place from the beginning of December. Why not consider doing this and giving the money you save to the chosen charities which this year are the Friends of St. Michael's and Ledbury Community Action which runs services such as Dial a Ride and the provision of mobility transport for the disabled.

Christmas Cards. Stop!

Before you rush out and buy lots of Christmas cards for your friends at St Michael's, remember that you can put a single card for all your friends on the board in the church. Think of the time you will save! And the money! You might like to give this to the two charities which have been chosen by the church by putting it in the container which will be at the back of the church from the beginning of December, **The Friends of St Michael's** and **Ledbury Community Action** which runs Dial a Ride and provides mobility vehicles and community transport for the town.

Lunch on Christmas Day

The Mackenzies and the Wraggs will be cooking and serving a traditional turkey meal in the Baptist Church Hall for people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas day. If you know of such persons, please let them have their names and telephone numbers as soon as possible so that they can invite them. Bookings need to be made by 19th November,

They wish to provide transport for those who need it so are asking for volunteers to collect the guests between 12 and 12.30pm when they will be too busy cooking to do this themselves. Drivers will only be needed one way as they will be able to take them home. Please consider if you can offer this half hour of your time on Christmas day for these lonely people.

Please contact Bill and Maggie on 579009 or Bruce and Ruth on 670196.

Christmas memories

All of us have memories of something unusual or something funny that happened over Christmas. We would like to know about them. Could you write them down in a few words (preferably not more than 100) and send them to John Lindeck for inclusion in the December magazine. The more we get to know about each other the better.

Operation Christmas Child

Leaflets at the back of church give details regarding the packing of shoeboxes. Given out through local churches, these boxes help share the love of Jesus with needy children overseas. Filled boxes should be left at the Heritage Centre, ("Cards for Good Causes") Church Lane, between 2nd - 18th November. Thank you.

Church Cleaning

I have offered to co-ordinate the regular cleaning of the church. At present, I do not know who does what, and how often – at what intervals. Over the next two months I want to find out, so if you are a 'Holy Duster' perhaps you could contact me. If you would like to be involved in helping with cleaning the church, I would be pleased to hear from you. I am going to suggest that we have a big 'Clean Up' day in Advent. I have already been asked to organise a big 'Spring Clean' for the Flower Festival in church in the Spring of next year. Brian Bowers blizbowers.10@gmail.com

Church Officers

Clergy - Rector:	Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey	(07796 585407)
Others:	Revd. William Simmonds	(01531 635796)
	Revd. Tony Hodder	(01531 636840)
Lay Readers:	Brian Bowers	(01531 631306)
	Mary Anne Keyes	(01531 579021)
Churchwardens:	Lois Pratt	(01531 636849)
	Christine Bainton	(01531 636036)
PCC Secretary:	Alan Pratt	(01531 636849)
Treasurer:	Bruce Wragg	(01531 670196)
Office Secretary:	Sarah Williams	
	(Tel. 01531 631531, Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net)	

For further information ring the church office or look on the church web site (www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk)

Circulation. The editor has been thanked by several people, both members of the congregation and others for the magazine which keeps them up to date with what is happening in the church. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested in what we are doing, particularly if for some reason they are unable to get to church, please take a copy of the magazine for them.

The December/January issue of the magazine, due for publication on November 26th and will be compiled by John Lindeck. Please send contributions to him by 15th November at johnmlindeck@gmail.com

