

Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine
December 2017 and January 2018

A joyous Christmas and blessed New Year to you all

From the Rector

Do you look forward to getting *to* Christmas or just aim to get *through* Christmas? We can be so busy getting *to* or getting *through* that we don't actually *get* Christmas — and miss its meaning and miss out on a joy that lasts.

All the decorating, entertaining and shopping, often get in the way.

Two women stopped in front of a store window at Christmastime.

In the midst of all the stuff to buy was a small Nativity scene, a speaker over the window played Christmas carols. The women stopped to admire it... and one said to the other: "Good grief! Even the church is trying to horn in on Christmas."

The second woman nodded, replying, "And most of those carols are far too religious!"
I don't think they got it!

Part of *getting* Christmas is understanding who was born that day.

Christmas carols suddenly get more punch... "Joy to the Word, the Lord has come." Jesus wasn't yet another prophet, or great teacher.

This was God revealing Himself to us in the flesh.

Christmas is a birthday party — for Jesus.

It's why we say "Happy Christmas!"

We can wear ourselves out, driven by our expectations to have the "perfect" Christmas.

To get Christmas, we simply need to receive Jesus' gift to us... Himself.

Knowing Him gives meaning and enjoyment at Christmas

May we all get Christ this Christmas and enjoy all that Christ's birth brings...

no matter how 'religious' that makes it!

Happy Christmas!

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

Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Light up a Life Service (for St Michael's Hospice)

Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Town Carol Service

Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
4.00pm Eastnor Carol Service
4.00pm Christingle Service
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

Monday 25th December Christmas Day
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Christmas Communion
11.15am Eastnor Christmas Communion

Sunday 31st December First Sunday of Christmas
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Watchnight Service

Sunday 7th January Baptism of Christ
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of Epiphany
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

Sunday 21st January Third Sunday of Epiphany
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Christian Unity Service
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 28th January **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am	Eastnor Parish Communion
4.00pm	The 4 o'clock Worship Service

Friday Morning Communion at St Katherine's Chapel.

This service is held 10.00am every Friday. All are welcome.

Wednesday Evening Worship

On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6.45 for 7.00pm in St Anne's Chapel, I have for the last three years led a short worship service. This often takes the form of Compline although we have also used a form of Evensong from the Anglican Church of New Zealand, an Iona evening prayer service and a Northumbria Community night prayer service. A small but regular congregation of between three and nine attend and have found it an oasis of calm in a stressful life. We would be delighted if you felt able to join us, either occasionally or on a regular basis.

William Simmonds

Holy Communion for the House Bound

There is a team of Church members at St Michael's who take Communion to friends who are not able to come to Church. This is not only for the very sick and the house bound, but can also be for anyone who for one reason or another cannot get to Church, such as during a time of recovery from illness or surgery. Holy Communion is also offered in Ledbury Hospital, The Nursing and Care Homes, and Leadon Bank. If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home please leave a message at the Parish Office (telephone number 01531 631531).

St. John the Baptist Church, Eastnor

We held a peaceful and moving tribute on Remembrance Sunday and were joined by residents of Eastnor as well as our Wedding couples and their families. The school had a special assembly for Remembrance on Friday 10th November led by Rev'd Joan Wakeling. The children learned more about Armistice day and held a short silence between 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

As November comes to a close, we look forward to Advent and the celebrations of Christmas and the special Weddings and Baptism which we have arranged in our church. The school have planned to enjoy their Christingle on 13th December. Rev'd Joan and Heather are taking a Christingle Service for the residents of Bircham Grange on December 19th and they will be joined by the young children from Bubbles Nursery in Eastnor. You are also warmly invited to our **Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm** followed by mulled wine, mince pies and good company. Our **Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be held at 11:15am**. As always, our welcome remains open to you all should you wish to visit us one Sunday. Our services are every **2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:15am**. We look forward to seeing you. Meanwhile we wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Beverly Jones - Churchwarden

PCC Secretary's Scratchings from meeting on 27th September and 22nd October

The meeting was attended by 15 members of the PCC. After the usual acceptance of the minutes of the PCC and Standing Committees. The Treasurer's report showed that we are still running at a deficit this year. The draft budget for 2018 had been circulated. This shows a forecasted deficit of some £13600. If we continue on this path our reserves will be exhausted and there may have to be

some prioritisation of expenditure. The Children's and Families worker's post has been advertised but there were no applicants. We will revisit this sometime in the near future – February? Thanks were expressed to Diana Veasey and her team for their hard work. The congregation is asked to pray for guidance over this situation. A report from Deanery synod was received. They have been discussing how to improve mission within the benefices. The major topic of discussion was Baptism Policy. This was a well-informed discussion with strongly held views being expressed. This discussion was continued on 22nd October when the meeting agreed to

- Look at families attending services before the baptism

- Look at the initial contact with families considering baptism.

- Establishing a small group to assist in baptism generally

- Check with Young Church Leaders about visiting children before baptism

This year's charitable donations are being discussed by Ian James, Christabel Panter and William Simmonds. David Kirkham gave a report on the 'Small Groups' questionnaire. He also suggested that the Mtwara display could be improved.

Alan Pratt

REPORT FROM YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church has had a busy few weeks since they returned from the Summer Break. Numbers have varied from week to week but on the whole have been healthy. We have been pleased to welcome new families and some returners.

During September we had an enjoyable morning revitalising our display boards in the Chapter House and by the entrance to the Church. This was Victoria and family's final session with us and was in a sense their parting gift. We still keep in touch however and if we ever get WIFI in the Church the aim is to have a virtual link with the Young Church in Victoria's new parish.

We were delighted that Oliver Clark was able to represent us at the Mayor's Civic Service, on 1 October 2017, by delivering a reading around the Service theme of Thankfulness.

The Harvest Festival Service followed on the next week. The children had spent a lovely morning with Julia looking for autumn leaves, twigs, berries etc. and made beautiful pictures featuring the lovely autumn colours for the Service. They took an active part reading prayers and singing songs. Since then we have planted the outdoor containers with Winter Pansies and bulbs which are looking lovely in the autumn sunshine.

Our Light Party (Alternative Halloween) was well attended and enjoyed by all; a great example of joint working between St Michaels and the Baptist Church. The latter were a great help on the night and a number of families from their Messy Church attended. A big thank you is due to everyone who helped on the night. Activities included lantern making, biscuit decorating, Glow Stick Skittles, Pass the Pumpkin, Pumpkin Relay, story and songs etc.

I was delighted to see that Noah and Finlay Jones were carrying the Standards for the Ledbury Cubs at the recent Remembrance Day Parade; they did very well; those Standards are not light to carry!

Now we are focussing on the coming of Advent and Christmas and the Best Gift of All. We are decorating a Young Church Christmas Tree for the display at the Christmas Light Switch On, launching the Giving Tree, the Travelling Crib, planning Christingle and making the Oranges and a Christmas Morning Nativity item.

The Community Advent Party takes place on Sunday 3 December 2017 2.30 – 5.00 pm, at the Community Hall; more helpers would be welcome or just come along and participate and chat to families; above all enjoy and make some new friends in our Church family.

We will be carol singing at Harling Court and Born Court on Monday 18 December 2017 from 4.30 pm, accompanied by Phillip Holland and his accordion; the congregation and friends are very welcome to join us.

Jill Jupp

Christmas Events

Saturday 2nd December - Advent Quiet Day. This will be held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in New Street. It will be led by the Rev'd Michael Gallagher and the subject will be 'Waiting for God'.

Sunday 3rd December - Community Advent Party at Ledbury Community Hall from 2.30 to 5.00 pm. Advent crafts, games carols, bring and buy and tea all included. All children must be accompanied by adults. Helpers needed. If you would like to come or help please contact Jill Jupp on 01531 635129

Wednesday December 13th - Church Christmas Lunch - This popular event will be held again at the Three Counties Garden Centre, Newent at 12 noon for 12.30pm. It is always an excellent meal in very good company. If you wish to come, please sign the list at the back of church indicating if you need transport. Cost £14.95 for 2 courses or £16.95 for 3 courses. Further details from Sue Simpson (632989).

Saturday 16th December - Church Cleaning. A Church Clean-up Day will be held between 0900 and 1200, in preparation for Christmas. There is a provisional list at the back of Church with details of 'who does what', in the way of regular cleaning duties. There are several areas that need covering. If you feel you want to take on some of these duties, please fill in the blank space. With thanks, **Brian Bowers.**

Monday 25th December- Christmas Day Lunch - The Mackenzies and the Wraggs will be serving a traditional turkey meal in the Baptist Church Hall for people who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day. If you become aware of someone who would really appreciate this, please let the organisers know as soon as possible. Volunteers are still needed to provide transport for guests between 12 noon and 12.30. The organisers will provide transport home where necessary. If you can help, please contact Bill and Maggie on 579009 or Bruce and Ruth on 670196.

Church Christmas card - We all like to send and receive Christmas cards and we greet our friends at Christmas by sending them cards. These cost a lot of time and money. This year, as in previous years, why not one card pin, addressed to the congregation, on the special notice board at the back of church and give the money you save to the two charities we are supporting, The Friends of St Michael's and Ledbury Community Action which provides services such as Dial-a Ride and Community Transport. A container will be placed near the notice board for your contribution.

Music in December

Busy times ahead!

Saturday 2nd December 7.00 - Ledbury Choral Society present a Christmas Fantasia including music by Vaughan-Williams, Bach, Purcell and Rutter and a chance to join in singing your favourite carols. Tickets £10 from Ledbury Books and Maps or on the door. Interval refreshments.

Friday 8th December 6.30. Malvern Christian Witness Choir performing at Leadon Bank.

Saturday 16th December 7.30 - A Choral Concert of Christmas Music; Bath Chorus (free admission) + opportunities to sing along with some carols. The Bath chorus are a young auditioned choir which have performed across the UK and are delighted to be visiting Ledbury.

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December, 7.30 at the Market Theatre, Ledbury.- Community Choir's Christmas Concert

Unfortunately the organ recital planned for Monday December 18th has had to be cancelled as John Masefield school are using the church on that day to rehearse their carol concert

Philip Holland

Church Away Day

The LMDG are planning an away day to discuss various church issues on **Saturday 3rd March** at Pool Barn. Further details later but please reserve the date.

Men's Breakfast.

The next breakfast will be on **Saturday 27th January** at 9.15am at the Seven Stars Hotel in the Homend. Price £8.00. The speaker will be John Davies.

*In July last year, Tony Hodder took on the new role of Ecumenical Officer.
In this interview he gives an insight into the challenges and rewards of the post.*

Did you have a clear 'job description' of the role or was it meant to be a blank sheet?

The nature of the role means it is evolving over time. At the start of the project there were a number of key responsibilities that I took on, including:-

-) Developing unity amongst the different denominations in Ledbury
-) Develop ecumenical prayer, worship and mission
-) Develop our thinking behind the 'one church' concept

I was also to be involved within each individual church in terms of helping with understanding on unity, and discussing issues within each denomination.

What have you learned from this experience about the different approaches of different denominations to acting as faith communities?

Our Christian denominations have so much more in common that holds us together, than things that divide us. In many, many discussions with individual church members it seems that people are primarily attracted to their denomination because of relationships built with people already in that denomination coupled with an enjoyment of the worship style(s) of that denomination. Theology has never come up as a factor.

There are differences in the way leadership and decision-making is affected in the various churches. Some are more 'congregational' in their approach with major decisions being taken at meetings of members, whilst others have committees where elected members are chosen to make decisions, always with feedback and communication to all members. This does have an impact on the time taken to make decisions but, almost always, the answer is the same!

In what different ways do you think mission is being and could be most fruitful in our town?

There has often been a 'collaborative' approach to mission but this has been strongly reinforced by the building of relationships across denominational boundaries. As people have gotten to know each other more, informal communication has improved resulting in wider knowledge of where help is needed on the various mission projects. Denominations are also working together to utilise resources effectively, in many instances agreeing how projects should be led, from so that there is no duplication of effort.

My personal opinion is that the biggest impact on mission has been through the shared prayer and worship times. 7-12-7 has had a major visible and invisible effect on mission as we have bought our needs before God together and, more importantly, listened and discerned what God was asking of us for his kingdom.

Is there such a thing as a typical week in the role?

There are a number of regular things that I am involved in weekly. Obviously they include 7-12-7 prayer and Monday night worship, but also regular speaking assignments in one or other of the churches (Anglican, Baptist, Elim, Methodist). I also lead Children's worship once a month at St Michaels and lead adult worship as part of the ongoing rota. My involvement with the Youth drop in is on Monday and Wednesday evenings. There is also the necessary administration and preparation time needed in carrying out these responsibilities. An increasing amount of my time is taken up with pastoral work, as agreed with church leaders and also with a number of individuals who are not regular Sunday church goers. I also support the needs of church leaders themselves as and when requested.

To what degree are you still a member of the Ministry team at St Michaels?

My home church is St Michaels and I have permission to officiate there and at Eastnor. I am scheduled in to the regular leading and preaching rota with recognition of my assignments at other churches. I am still a member of the PCC and LMDG but have been given permission to only attend when needed as I have regular commitments on the evenings these meetings tend to happen.

What would you like us to pray for?

I would very much like people to pray for God's guidance and direction for the future and that we would all unite in seeking his will for the Body of Christ in Ledbury. I would also appreciate prayers for a continuing openness and patience for us all as we push into being 'one in Christ' so that the world may believe that Jesus was sent by the Father.

Thank you all so much for your loving support and prayers.

Tony Hodder

Friday Night at Coffee No1

It was Friday 10th November and the first gathering at *Coffee No 1* was to take place from 6-8pm. In my mind I had imagined what it would be like – perhaps 12 or maybe fifteen people tucked in a corner of the large café with maybe a guitar or two (we were invited to bring an instrument). It would be a pleasant meeting of some church regulars. I would go and support it. I drove down to park in St Katherine's. As I turned into Bye Street I glanced over at the café - it looked very busy, there were crowds of people. Oh, I thought, it's busy; crowds of people, there won't be much room for us.

I parked the car and walked over to find that the crowds were 'us'.

Coffee No 1 was filled with Ledbury Church folk – all of us- Anglican's, Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Elim and also a good number with no connection to any of our churches. Tim and Stuart had their guitars and there was a bit of a sing song in one corner. The place was buzzing with talk and laughter everyone having a good time. All ages were there, from small children to oldies, the staff serving coffees loved it all and hoped we would be back again. Next month the meeting is on Friday 8th December – make a note in your diary and come along for a great evening - the coffee is good too.

Heather Lucas

This was what we should be doing, going to where people are and showing that we love them. Many in the community think of Christians as self righteous and hypocritical and it is only when they meet us that they can see that this is not the case. Archbishop Temple once said that the work of the church only starts when we go out of the church doors.

Christmas memories

Electricity Blackout on Christmas Day - Imagine the scene – Christmas Day in about 1983 – a house full; teenage daughters, parents, elderly grandmothers, great aunt, with full-on traditional Christmas lunch on the go. A very cold day and equally cold large house so attempts to reach a comfortable temperature necessitated use of all extra heating appliances. Ovens and hobs were at full capacity when BANG. Blackout of electricity! Search for an available cooker, SOS to Electricity Company, rugs and woollies for old people and turkey, vegetables, Christmas pudding transported to neighbours. Then what bliss. A knight in shining armour – well at least overalls - in the form of the man from SWEB who worked a miracle appears. Amid lots of fun and laughter Christmas dinner only two hours late was enjoyed by all.

Ann Tombs

One Christmas when my family and I were in Kobe, Japan we went to a united church carol service in English and found at the door of the church a shoe box containing a ginger/white kitten. We took him home and called him Noel and when we left Japan ten years later passed him on to a Japanese vicar.

David Wood-Robinson

CHRISTMAS 2015. We finished cooking and eating our evening meal on Christmas Eve, but when I went to make sure that the oven door was clean I couldn't open it. A red key was showing on the timer panel, so handbook consulted- oven only 5 months old-instructions said press the red key and count to 4, Nothing happened and after several more attempts I gave up. How are we going to cook the turkey with the family arriving in the morning? Our very kind neighbour was away, so was able to call her to ask permission to use her oven. Yes, of course was the reply. So on Christmas Day the turkey was cooked. About 10 days later an engineer arrived who was very kind while

he explained that I was pressing the wrong area on the panel The moral of the story is 'Keep up to date with technology and make good friends with your neighbour and thank GOD for them.

Joyce Potter

As a young child I loved Father Christmas. Each year he left me a stocking filled with exciting things - apple, orange, nuts and some shiny coins - all costing under sixpence. I remember a skipping rope and some paints. But presents from relatives went into a sack left in the cupboard until after lunch on Christmas Day when Father Christmas came into the dining room and gave them out. I was sad because Daddy was not with us to share our delight but I was told he was cooking the dinner. How we did not recognise Father's grey dressing gown, despite the false beard and red hat!!!!

Margaret Young

Christmas at Sea. We passed through the Straits of Gibraltar just after midnight on Christmas morning, heading out into the Atlantic Ocean, bound for Philadelphia. Our passage through the Mediterranean had been glorious with a smooth sea and warm winter sunshine. The Captain had departed to his bed and I was on the Bridge on my own, apart from the lookout. The ship was on automatic steering and was pitching easily into the ocean swell. Soon the wind began to increase and by 4 o'clock, when I was relieved, it had reached Gale Force 6 and we were shipping seas over the main deck. By breakfast time we were bashing our way into a Full Force 8 South-Westerly Gale, pitching heavily and shipping seas – big Atlantic rollers – even over the Bridge and Wheelhouse. The coming of Christmas had made life extremely uncomfortable.

Brian Bowers

My late father in law was always an early riser. At Christmas he used to take a mischievous delight in phoning us when he got up – perhaps before 6:30 - to wish us a merry Christmas. Sometimes I used to bribe Andrew's mother with the promise of chocolates to keep him occupied until what we considered to be a more civilised hour. One particular year the phone rang at about 7 am. Groaning, we got out of bed and went to answer it. A regrettably cheerful voice announced 'the turkey's cooked'. It appeared that Andrew's parents had decided to programme the timer on their new cooker. However, they had set it so that instead of the oven coming on at 7 am for 6 hours, it had come on for six hours to go off at 7 am and they had been greeted with the smell of cooked turkey as they came downstairs.

We could only hope they enjoyed turkey for breakfast and cornflakes with all the trimmings for lunch.....

Catherine Beech

Five or six years ago, Alan and I invited Janet Round to our Christmas dinner. Janet was to die a few

short months later of cancer, and as she had not wanted her immediate family fussing over her, she was pleased to accept our invitation. Alan collected her shortly before the meal was ready and we were delighted to see she was able to enjoy a small amount of every traditional dish. An hour or so later, she was ready to go back home. We were glad to have shared the day with a friend who is still missed, especially in our house group.

Lois Pratt

Above our lounge fireplace is a large picture of the pathway to Boars Hill with a puddle in the middle. For the 8 years when Barbara and I were in charge of Christ Church, Northcourt, Abingdon, from 1967 to 1976. Each Boxing Day, much to my surprise, about 50 of the congregation, of all ages, shapes and sizes responded to my invitation to walk that muddied path through the fields and pathways to stand on the ridge of Boars Hill (Matthew Arnold country) and view the magnificent city of Oxford. Passing through the village of Sunningwell, we climbed up Lincombe Lane, stopping for mugs of tea or coffee, at the large house of Bruce and Jeanette, much to their surprise. Leaving our muddied boots out side we sat around the rooms to have a bite and sup together before setting off to complete our adventure.

In the Old Testament God said to his people '*Open you mouth wide and I will fill it*' and in the New Testament Jesus said, '*Ask and ye shall have, seek and ye shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you*'... That is what the church has been responding to ever since, and why it continues to grow. The puddle is no longer there. Instead there is now a large church is which is filled each Sunday morning with an ever growing congregation.. Whenever I look at that puddle which everyone walked through, it reminds me of the precious beginning of that story..

David Price

Flower Festival Update

We have held 3 very successful Fund Raising events:

-) **The Bangers and Mash Quiz** which raised £521 after expenses. Sincere thanks to Maggie MacKenzie and Chris Lynch for their huge hard work.
-) **Gill Romanowski's Coffee Morning** which raised £305. Many thanks to Gill
-) **A sponsored dog walk** organised by Judy Street and her dog Perry and his friends organised a Sponsored Dog Walk on our behalf and this raised an astonishing £251. Again thanks to Judy

These, together with accumulated funds and new gifts, have pushed us £200 over the original target of £2,500 to pay the expenses of the festival. There are still 'promises' of funds from the initial Sponsorship letter delivered to all businesses in Ledbury. If you feel you would like to contribute to the festival, please contact me. We can now start planning in detail for what is going to be a **great** occasion.

There is one more Fund Raiser planned for early spring 2018 which is a Concert by the Pax Singers followed by Tea in the Chapter House scheduled for Sunday 11th March at 3.00pm. I will give details of the help we need later but thank you so much to all those who have contributed so far.

Pauline J. Smith Festival Co-ordinator

The Llangasty Quiet Weekend - February 9th-11th 2018

This is a reminder that **The Llangasty Weekend** is coming up again at the beginning of next year, and to give you the dates for your diaries! We will meet near the beautiful Llangorse Lake near Brecon. This lovely Retreat House, looking out over the lake, gives the opportunity for quiet and peaceful contemplation in the company of others. After the busyness of Christmas and just before the start of Lent, it gives us time to draw aside, to stop and to let God speak to us deeply. It is a pleasure to have the **Reverend Elizabeth Reed** as our speaker, a priest who has led several of our previous Retreats. The theme she has chosen is "**Blessings**".

This is a highly recommended weekend – brochures will be available in December and early booking is advised. If you would be interested in finding out more or to request a brochure please: either ring me **Cherry Bentley-Taylor on 01531 660261** or email: **cherry@bentley-taylor.com**

SMALL GROUPS at St MICHAEL'S

Thank you to everyone who did reply; the response was quite overwhelming. One development that we were not anticipating is the starting of a new group on Thursday mornings!

"One is challenged to be more real in one's faith and life"

"I have benefitted from being a member of a house group"

"Our group have become a group of really supportive friends".

These are just a few of the comments made by members of our congregation in response to the recent questionnaire on small groups in St Michael's.

If you are not a member of a small group, you could be missing out on this sort of experience. So have you thought about joining one?

In a typical small group we explore a Bible passage or book, we share what is going on in our lives, we pray together and we have social events such as parties or outings.

If you would like to join such a group, please contact David Kirkham by phone (637227), Email (david.kirkham2@btinternet.com) or by putting a note including your contact details in the K pigeonhole at the back of church.

Chernobyl Children Lifeline

The Malvern branch of this charity is looking for hosts for this year's health boosting holiday for children living in the area still affected by the Chernobyl explosion over 30 years ago. The children will be approx. 11 years old and stay in homes in pairs for either 2 or 4 weeks. They come with a leader/translator and there are full days of out of home activities planned for them 3 -4 days during the week and also some events at weekends. Many local families have gained much from the experience over the last 12 years as well as it being of great benefit to the visiting children. The hosting period will be between June 6th and July 4th. If you think that you can help or would just like to find out more please contact Dorothy Knights at dorothyknights@waitrose.com or 01684 561358.

Quiz Night

Community Action Ledbury

organise, among other things, Dial-a-ride, mobility aids in Ledbury and Community Transport, particularly to the surrounding villages.

As a result of Local government cuts, there is a serious financial problem and CAL are organising a number of fund raising activities

There will be a Quiz night on Friday 9th February in the Burgage Hall at 7.00pm.

Price £15 each including **a fish and chip supper** and a raffle.

The Hall is not licensed but feel free to bring your own drinks.

Please come yourself and invite your friends. Tables of 4 are required.

To book places contact CAL (635339),
Roger Gates (631844) or John Lindeck (631329)

Book Review

“Christian Breadcrumbs” is made up of articles originally written for a parish magazine by a now retired Priest. Many of them were in response to particular questions and doubts from Parishioners. They were not only for those who already worship faithfully (and would like to know more), but also for those outside the Church who have an open mind and would like to understand something of what we believe and do - even if they disagree with it! The Breadcrumbs proved popular and so they have been made into a small book (£5) with the author giving any profit to any church which stocks it.

For a Christian, the word ‘faith’ means ‘trust’ as much as it means ‘belief’. This ‘trust’ springs from, and grows into, ‘the love of God’. ‘Trust’ and ‘love’ have to be reinforced by will-power and determination. Otherwise we give up when it gets difficult. These are enormously strengthened if, in our minds, we have a reasonable understanding of the truth. Without this we have nothing to say to those around us who do not share our faith and tend to scorn it. *“Christian Breadcrumbs”* helps....

Ian Beer

Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken

I have recently been on a Maranatha five day silent retreat in Llandudno. We were guided by 2

leaders and, each afternoon, we shared in 2 groups what God was saying to us and showing us.

It was too windy to go out on Wednesday but, on Thursday, I walked by the beach while the tide was in. I sat on a seat in the sun enjoying God's creation and many bible verses came to mind. 'The sea is his and he made it', 'God is my rock' etc. As I looked around, I saw houses, fences and various signs which reminded me of God's provision, protection, warning and guidance.

We had a short communion and a healing service when each person in turn received prayer from 2 members of the group. At the end, the leader blessed each one individually and anointed us with the oil of joy. It was a very special and blessed retreat.

People have asked '**What is Maranatha?**' It is a community of Faith, Hope and Love started in 1981 by a Roman Catholic Monsignor and a Methodist lay reader. They were united in wanting to see Renewal, Healing and Unity in churches. They formed a group to pray together and it quickly spread all over Britain and abroad. They are involved in reconciliation particularly in Ireland and work together with other Christian groups. They hold retreats, teaching weekends and inter-denominational gatherings and set up prayer groups. I was in one in Sutton Coldfield. Everything is done through prayer and listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Literature, CDs and videos on healing, unity and other subjects are available.

Now God has asked the Maranatha Community to lay down its mantle. Nothing is arranged for 2018 except the annual conference. We are waiting and praying for the Lord to show us what his plans are. '**Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus**'

Ann Williamson

Gospel in Action – Worldwide Prayer Breakfasts

Most people would not quickly associate the European Parliament with prayer. Yet for the past eighteen years, members of the European Parliament have gathered with invited participants from other European institutions for an annual prayer breakfast, seeking relationship around Jesus and his teachings.

On Wednesday 7th December 2016 the prayer event took place in the European Parliament building in Brussels with some 200 politicians, civil servants, lobbyists, think tank specialists, journalists and church and organisational leaders.

The Prayer Breakfast movement, which began in Washington, under President Eisenhower in 1953, has spread to some 130 locations around the world, including Brussels, creating occasions to underscore the role of faith in public life, contrary to the popular misconception that faith belongs only in the closet.

Co-host of the Prayer Breakfast in Brussels was Slovakian Euro-parliamentarian, Branislave Skripek. Raised in a communist family with no church connections, he had one day felt suddenly bathed in a divine presence, a totally unexpected and unsought experience. This began his spiritual journey and ministry as an evangelist which continues today, even in the arena of the European Parliament.

One of the guests Branislave introduced was Princess Margaretha of Liechtenstein who spoke very personally about the spiritual encouragement she had received from her uncle and aunt, King

Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium. She spoke warmly about the king's personal integrity and his great struggle of conscience and faith which had led him to abdicate the crown in 1990 for 36 hours when the Belgian government signed into law a bill permitting abortion.

(report from Joel News International)

PRAISE God for these prayer meetings in the heart of the European Parliament and for the witness of Princess Margaretha. PRAY for more leaders willing to stand up to those who legislate against the laws of God. PRAY for many more influential leaders to have life-changing encounters with the living Christ.

Abbreviated Bible Quiz

See if you can solve these clues to different numbers in the bible.

E.g. **2 L of P to the C** = 2 Letters of Paul to the Corinthians

Old Testament

1. 12 T of I
2. 6 D of C
3. 8 P on the A
4. 3 S of A
5. 16 B of P
6. 8 C in the S of S
7. 16 B of P
8. 3 C of J
9. 8 S of J (or B of D)
10. 10 P in E

New Testament

1. 4 H of the A
2. 3 T of J in MG
3. 9 F of the S in G
4. 7 L to the C in R
5. 9 B in the S on the M in M
6. 99 S W N R
7. 2 S S for a P
8. 7 M F E to J
9. 7 W V and 7 F V
10. 30 P of S P to J

Answers to Tim Keyes by the end of December.

A small prize will be awarded to a person selected randomly from all those who get 20 correct answers.

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.

Contributions. If any one has an item for inclusion in the February issue of the magazine, please contact **Brian Bowers** (01531 631306) or Email blizbowers.10@gmail.com). A magazine like this can only serve its readers if the members of the congregation contribute. If you have some activity you want to publicise or an experience you feel might help other members, please contact him. Even things like saying what is your favourite hymn and why, would be appreciated.

The February issue of the magazine will be published on January 28th and all contributions should be sent to Brian by January 15th