



**Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine**  
**MAY 2017**

**Christ has Risen and Ascended – Alleulia!**

**A member speaks**

*I want to thank all the leaders of the churches in Ledbury for the most special Holy Week, which was truly ecumenical.*

*It began on Saturday, 8th April with the conclusion of the first CAP Money Management Course where, between presenters and delegates, five churches were represented.*

*In addition to the Anglican Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services there were many ecumenical events. On the afternoon of Palm Sunday participants in the Lent Groups from all Ledbury churches concluded this year's meetings with an afternoon tea. Monday evening saw a very special ecumenical gathering at Pool Barn. On Tuesday and Wednesday this church hosted the superb professional theatre production of the Crosslight passion play, where people from many churches and no church attended. From 8am on Thursday, Christians from all Ledbury churches joined in 24-hour prayer all through the night until 8am on Friday.*

*This was followed by the Walk of Witness behind the cross to the Market House, where a moving and joyous ecumenical service was conducted by representatives from most churches in the area. It was so enjoyed by some that after the planned service ended, some continued to sing spontaneously. Someone I spoke with afterwards said, 'I did not know the Ledbury churches had anything to do with each other.' Well, they do, and they will.*

*What a week! So thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this week happen, and I think it indicated that Tony's role as Ecumenical Minister in Ledbury is bearing fruit.*

*It is my prayer that we organise more ecumenical (and where suitable, outdoor) events in this town, so that people who live here will see that Christ's church in Ledbury is **alive!***

**Ruth Wragg**  
**And so say all of us!**

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

**Sunday 7th May**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Confirmation Service with Prayer Ministry  
6.30pm Evensong

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday 14th May**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry  
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday 21st May**

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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Thursday 25th May**

7.30pm Holy Communion

**Ascension Day**

**Sunday 28th May**

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

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday 4th June**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry  
6.30pm Evensong

**Pentecost**

**Friday Morning Communion:** while St Katherine's Chapel is being renovated, this service will be held at 10.30am at Harling Court. All are welcome.

## Rector's Letter

*There's quite a bit going on in May and June, so I thought I would give you a flavour and the opportunity to put some of the key events in your diary and come along.*

**Sunday 7 May 10:30am.** Confirmation service with Bishop Alistair

**Sunday 21 May 9:30am.** We have two Readers being licensed and the LMDG (current and new members) will be re-commissioned by Rev'd Dr John Daniels

**Wednesday 31 May 7:30pm.** There will be a meeting for the Church in Ledbury to pray and discuss St. Katherine's.

*Come and contribute to building the vision for the future of St. Katherine's. What would you like to see St. Katherine's used for? How would you like to see it used to build God's Kingdom?*

**Thursday 25 May to Sunday 4 June.** Ledbury churches will be taking part in the global prayer initiative encouraged by the Archbishop of Canterbury, called *Thy Kingdom Come*. We're urged to pray individually and together that God's Kingdom will come in Ledbury and in us, like never before. Everyone will have the opportunity to be part of it. Look out for news, information and events over the next few weeks.

**Sunday 4 June 10:30am.** Christians Together will be celebrating Pentecost together and then enjoying a pig roast at the recreation ground

**Christian Aid Week. (14th to 20th May).** This is the 60th year of the event and the need for help for disaster relief and with refugees is as great as ever. If you are able to collect from a few houses between 14th and 20th May and/or, for an hour, carry a tin at the Co-op or in the High Street on 20th May, please contact Margaret Young on 635691 or by Email at [mfyledbury@hotmail.com](mailto:mfyledbury@hotmail.com)

Other events in the week include a service at the Methodist Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 14th May, a coffee morning at St Katharine's Hall between 10am and noon on Monday 15th May and tea at 10 Biddulph way between 2.00 and 4.00pm on Thursday 18th May.

## St. John the Baptist Church, Eastnor

We have just enjoyed a wonderful Easter Service at Eastnor, led by Keith and with a congregation of 32 including several children. Many stayed on afterwards for coffee, cake and chocolates. For a small, country church we were very pleased to welcome so many.

We have had a team gardening session in the churchyard tidying up 'front of house', clearing the pathway that leads to the church and tackling the ivy on the boundary wall.

Repairs commence in May on the section of the churchyard boundary wall which collapsed last autumn. The ground around the church Tower has now been sectioned with a wooden knee-high fence but we are pleased with the appearance as the wood does at least blend in.

We had our fundraising Quiz night on Friday 21st April at the Cricket Pavilion in Eastnor. We were delighted with the response and are looking forward to other similar events with our church and community friends. At the time of going to press, the amount raised has not been finalised.

Our Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11:15am. We extend a warm **invitation and welcome to everyone of you.**

**Beverly Jones, Churchwarden**

**"Thy Kingdom come"** The Archbishop of Canterbury has suggested that churches should take part in a global wave of prayer for the period between Ascension Day (25th May) and Pentecost (4th June). More information is available on the website at [www.thykingdomcom](http://www.thykingdomcom)

Obviously St Michael's and the other churches in Ledbury want to be part of this. All the usual activities will take place during this period but the weekly ecumenical prayer meetings at noon and 7.00pm on Thursday 30th June will take the form of prayer walks for those who are able to take part. All Ledbury churches will join in a combined service on Pentecost Sunday at 10.30am at St Michael's. At 2.00pm on the afternoon there will be a pig roast in the recreation ground open for everybody. Please make sure you invite your friends and neighbours and remember **'Prayer changes things'**.

**Tony Hodder**

## Forthcoming events

### Poetry Festival

I am very grateful to the growing number who have now chosen a poem for the Sponsored Poetry Reading event in July at St Michael's. I hope that we will be able to raise a good sum of money for the church as well as offering a chance to enjoy a feast of poetry in the church setting. We still need hundreds more poems and therefore many more sponsors. Just to allay some misconceptions, you do not have to read your own poem or even turn up to hear it read (although we hope that hearing it will be one of the pleasures you derive from sponsoring). Remember that you can write a dedication which will go in the booklet that acts as the programme of the event. You might want to choose your poem in memory of someone dear to you, or as a celebration of an anniversary, for instance. Please support this initiative if you can, and suggest the idea to friends and family too. Sponsor forms can be found on the table at the back of church.

*Tim Keyes*

**Sunday June 18th 2.00pm - 5.00pm.** Three gardens open at Baynams, Hereford Rd. In aid of the Church Flower Guild and the Flower Festival. Car parking available.

### Concerts in church

Free organ recitals on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 12.30pm.

- May 15th - Peter Johnson
- June 19th - Malcolm Macleod
- Saturday 8th July, 12.30pm - Shakespeare in song and sonnet (Jane Field, Elaine Fleming and Philip Holland).

### Host Families Needed

Families and homes interested in hosting children for a health boosting holiday this summer still have the opportunity to do so through the Malvern branch of Chernobyl Children Lifeline. The children, age 11, live in the area affected by the Chernobyl explosion over 30 years ago and stay in pairs for a period of 2 or 4 weeks. There are a lot of activity days planned for them so what is needed is a welcoming home for them to be based in when they are not out and about. Hosts range from families with young to older children to retirees with no children at home. If you have a willing heart to be involved and would like to find out more please talk to Dorothy Knights at [dorothyknights@waitrose.com](mailto:dorothyknights@waitrose.com) or 01684 561358. This year's holiday is June 7th – July 5th.

*Dorothy Knights*

## Reviews

**Elijah** - It was a great pleasure to welcome the members of Ledbury and Newent Choral Societies to St Michael's on the 8th of April for a performance of Elijah. There was an enthusiastic audience of well over 100. The fact that the oratorio was sung in English added greatly to our enjoyment of the occasion. The performance was of high quality and what stood out was the enthusiasm of the singers. The soloists were top grade and the power of the voices of the two men was astonishing. The story of Elijah is well known and loved and, because it is so dramatic, we tend to forget how the people involved felt. Listening to this we were able to get a better understanding of what the events portrayed meant to each of them. Altogether a great occasion, not least because of the opportunity to talk with others there and enjoy a glass of wine

Thanks to all concerned (singers, orchestra, caterers, welcomers, our concert committee and all) for a highly worthwhile evening. Come back soon.

**CAP Course:** The first Christians Against Poverty Money Management Course in Ledbury concluded on the 8th April, attended by seven delegates ranging from the unemployed to the well-paid. All benefitted from the proven advice that the course imparts.

The next free course will be in The Chapter House at St Michael's on the 22nd and 29th July. The course is for everyone who wishes to have healthy finances, not just those whose poor money management has landed them in poverty.

Please register interest by email at [ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net](mailto:ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net) or by phone to Ruth Wragg on 01531 670196

**Crosslights.** Those of us who had seen Riding Lights on the previous occasion when they visited St Michael's knew we were in for a rare treat. It is not for nothing that the **Riding Lights Theatre Company** has earned their reputation. We were not disappointed. Those who saw them on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week enjoyed a deeply moving experience. The complete silence and deep concentration during the performance proved this. You literally could have heard a pin drop. The play concerned the reactions of Peter, John and Mary, Jesus' mother, to the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. All of us, fully aware of our failures, were excited by the way that Peter was forgiven what, to him, seemed to be unforgivable behaviour. We understood a bit more the difficulties that John, a grown man, and Mary, a middle aged woman, encountered in their new relationship. We laughed and we cried (in my case literally) as we watched. I think all of us received new insights into what following Jesus entails. There could have been no better way to lead up to the grief and joy of Easter.

## Ledbury Mothers' Union

It was Mary Sumner, a one time resident of Colwall, who founded the Mother's Union. She had seen from first hand experience the hardship and lack of support that young families had to face and in the context of her own deep personal faith started a movement that was to spread all across the world. Ledbury is fortunate to have a group which is linked to our own parish church. The aims and objects of the Mothers' Union are the encouragement and support of Christian family life, through prayer and action. MU is about the love of God, about friendship, and about support. We try to show this in our small way in Ledbury.

The members of the Ledbury branch get together twice a month. A morning communion service (3rd Wednesday of each month) – followed by coffee in town and an afternoon meeting (1st Wednesday of the month) that can take various forms – talks, social gatherings, discussions, outings. The group actively raises funds for Mothers' Union charities, supporting those who face adversity both in the UK and abroad.

If you would like to know more, there is information about the Branch on the Church notice board. Come along to one of our meetings or talk to one of our members. You will receive a warm welcome.

*Janet Gallagher*

## From the Tower

At our recent AGM, Andrew Kett took over as Tower Captain. He is keen to continue the emphasis on good striking (ie a nice even distance between the bells as they are struck) as a priority. That said, many ringers are making progress with new methods. We have rung a number of Quarter Peals as well as one full Peal (for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday) in the last year as well as for six weddings. We will from now on be ringing before Evensong on the first Sunday of each month. The purchase of a portable simulator (which allows potential recruits to experience bellringing away from the tower and in a very accessible manner) allows us to take bellringing into the local community. We spent a day at John Masefield High School and hope to demonstrate the simulator on the Community Day and during the Poetry Festival. We aim to invite members of the congregation to visit us in the tower while we are ringing on selected Sunday mornings in May and June. Look out for a sign-up sheet at the back of church. If you are interested in joining us, please ring me on 01531 579021.

*Tim Keyes*

## The next time you feel God can't use you, just remember

Noah was a drunk  
Abraham was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses stuttered  
Gideon was afraid  
Samson had long hair and was a womaniser  
Jeremiah was too young  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal  
Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran away from God  
Naomi was a widow  
Job went bankrupt and ran away  
Peter denied Christ  
The disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
The Samaritan woman had been married 5 times and had a new partner  
Backhaus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy was too young and had an ulcer and  
Lazarus was dead

**but**

**They were all used in God's plans and in His work**

## **Christine Bainton is our new Churchwarden. She tells her story.**

I joined Sunday school aged four. When I was eleven, along with three other girls, I was asked to join the church. This was in 1953 when Anglican choirs only had boys and men. As you can imagine, we girls were regarded with great curiosity throughout the diocese! I have spent 58 years sitting in the choir stalls of the different churches I attended, living through the various changes in Liturgy, Sunday worship and Music.

Meanwhile I graduated in Chemistry and became a researcher. In 1963 I took on the role of analysing the ions and gases in the water in the loop system of the Polaris Submarine. I was the only woman among a group of men and I had great fun working with them.

Mike and I married and had four children. However, when our youngest son started school I decided I must go back to work. As an interim measure I acquired a degree in the Earth Sciences - Geology, Geomorphology and Meteorology. Unexpectedly, I was offered a post teaching Chemistry at the new Comprehensive school where we lived. I accepted and became Head of Science. I had some unusual and amusing experiences including teaching three of my own children. During this time I attained an MA degree in nineteenth and twentieth century English and French Literature and, later a PhD in Linguistics. I became a lecturer in my various subjects.

Then, without warning, my dominant right hand suddenly went into a seizure shutting off the blood supply. Life threatening problems occurred resulting in my having no choice but to have it amputated and retire early. My next challenge was to retrain my brain so that I am now automatically left-handed.

During my life I have acted as Chairman or Treasurer of various organisations, served on Packs and Deanery Synods; been a school governor; sung in various choirs and been a Churchwarden. My other interests are philosophy, poetry, art, creating my own art work, reading, travelling and socialising.

Throughout the ups and downs of my life, my faith has sustained, comforted and strengthened me. I pray it will continue to do so.

***Dr Christine Bainton***

## **LEDBURY FOOD BANK**

Every Wednesday and Friday from 10.00am to 12.00pm, a small group of dedicated individuals man the Ledbury Food Bank inside an unobtrusive entrance at the west end of St Katherine's Hall. The Food Bank is fundamentally a Christian organisation with a policy of helping all in need irrespective of origin, age or religion. The scheme works on a voucher system that gives support for up to 6 weeks to all those, who for any reason, are in need of that support. People who need more than 6 weeks support will be helped for longer. Vouchers for the supply of food can be obtained from charities, surgeries, churches, housing associations, schools and many other local organisations.

Being a volunteer brings great rewards as you meet two types of people, those who get pleasure from giving, and those who are grateful for the support that they receive. If ever there was a 'win-win' situation, being a volunteer at the Food Bank is it! If anyone is interested in volunteering, please pop into the Food Bank on a Wednesday or Friday, have a good look at what happens, and then decide whether you would like to help. Apart from the magnificent generosity of local people, who give both food and money, the Food Bank gets much welcome support from the Co-op and Tesco. Thanks to them we can cope with the current increasing demand. Nobody goes hungry if we can help it.

Being a helper at the Food Bank all sounds very rosy, but there are two downsides. It is sad to see the number of those that are in need, and it is also sad that pride prevents some from coming who we should be helping. However, recent months have seen a marked rise in the numbers that the Food Bank is helping. In the year from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016 the Food Bank fed an average of 35-40 people per week, but in recent weeks that number has rocketed to 64. We don't know if that reflects the level of need in the community or if, as years go by, more and more know about what the Food Bank can do for them. Whichever it is, we need the Ledbury community's help in providing donations of food or money so that we can carry on helping those in need.

**Martin Ham**

## Church Officers

**Clergy - Rector:** Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey (07796 585407)  
**Others:** Revd. William Simmonds (01531 635796)  
Revd. Tony Hodder (01531 636840)

**Churchwardens:** Lois Pratt (01531 636849),  
Christine Bainton (01531 636036)

**PCC Secretary:** Alan Pratt (01531 636849)

**Treasurer:** Bruce Wragg (01531 670196)

**PCC members:**

**Clergy:** Revd Keith Hilton-Turvey\*, Revd William Simmonds.

**Churchwardens:** Lois Pratt\*, Christiine Bainton\*

**Deanery Synod members:** (4) Christabel Panter, Richard Thursby,  
Peter Veasey, 1 vacancy.

**Elected members: (6)** Ann Davies, Ian James, David Kirkham,  
Heather Lucas, Ann Tombs, Diana Veasey

**Assistant wardens: (4)** Alan Pratt\*, Sue Simpson\*,  
Peter Tattersall\*, Malcolm Thomas\*

**Co-opted:** Bruce Wragg

\*Members of Standing Committee

**Office Secretary:** Sarah Williams  
(Tel. 01531 631531, Email: [ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net](mailto:ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net))

**For further information look on the church web site**  
**([www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk)) or ring the church office.**

**Local Ministry Development Group:** The membership has been refreshed and now is: Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey. Revd. Tony Hodder, Revd. William Simmonds, Tony Goodall, Tim Keyes, Heather Lucas, Maggie Mackenzie, Chris Noel, Christabel Panter, Peter Veasey, Philip Weaver.

*If any one has an item for inclusion in a future issue of the magazine, please contact John Lindeck (01531 631329, [john.lindeck@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.lindeck@btopenworld.com)).*