

Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine

JULY AND AUGUST 2017

*We were privileged to have Bishop Richard with us to celebrate the completion of the new scheme for the organisation of the 17 parishes in the old team ministry. Herewith his notes for the talk he gave on this occasion. The **Readings were Isaiah 43: 14-21, Colossians 1: 15-18 and 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31***

This service is described as a celebration of the new benefices. What are we celebrating? One thought from each of our readings.

1. We are celebrating something new.

Isaiah. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

So much has been done to bring us to this point. Thank you to everyone concerned.

Alongside much that is good and positive, there has been quite a bit that has generated more heat than light. Sometimes within the church we have an unrivalled ability to get distracted and to use energy on those distractions. As we look to the future, let's ensure that this group of benefices is not characterised as a sort of everlasting Brexit debate. Can there still be free movement of people? Do we belong to a single deanery market?

In a sense, today is no big deal; we are recognising what we are already are. But as we celebrate this, we are putting down a marker, to do a new thing in which we work together in a new way.

2. We are celebrating our belonging to Jesus Christ.

"Christ is head of the church." That's what we heard at the start of our service. He alone is the source of all Christian ministry. Through the ages it is Christ who has called men and women to lives of service. Our reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians put it like this: "the Son is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible..... all things have been created through him and for him.....and he is the head of the body, the church."

Obvious? Maybe, but important to be reminded of it. Horribly easy to forget.

"Schadenfreude" - one of my favourite words. It's a lovely word, but not a very lovely characteristic. It means taking delight in other people's misfortune.

"So you think we are struggling—well just look at them over there." Deeply

unattractive. “If one part suffers, every part suffers; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.” That’s important in a group.

So what next?

1. Praying together. Those involved in ministry and others. At this time of the year, focus of the Holy Spirit, we are not on our own.
2. Sharing our gifts. So much to be gained by discerning how this can happen.
3. An outward focus. Imagination. If what we are on about is just finding ways of quietly looking after a slowly declining group of churches, we are simply rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic.

In service to the community, and in explicit sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ, let’s ensure that each of the benefices, and the group working together, look for ways of breaking new ground. Not meeting for meeting’ sake, but in order to make a difference.

Yes, this evening we are celebrating that God is doing a new thing; that Christ is the head of his church; that our unity and diversity enables us to pray, to share and look outwards together in the name of Christ.

May God bless all that you do in his name.

St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury and St John the Baptist, Eastnor

Services during July and August

Sunday 2nd July

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Baptism Service
6.30pm Evensong

Third Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 9th July

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

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 16th July

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

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 23rd July

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

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 30th July

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Evening Worship with Malvern Christian Witness Choir

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 6th August

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

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 13th August

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

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 20th August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 27th August

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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. St Katharine's Chapel is now back in use and this service is held there at 10.30am each Friday. All are welcome.

December congregational meeting At this meeting it was agreed that there would be another congregational meeting in June to review what progress has been made. The Rector and Churchwardens have since decided that the issues raised at the December meeting should be referred to the LMDG so that firm proposals will be available for another congregational meeting planned for January 2018.

Music in church

3rd Monday Lunchtime Organ Recitals (12.30-13.30)

17th July - **Laurence John** (Organ scholar at Hereford Cathedral)

21st August - **Andrew Caskie** (Nicholson Organs)

18th September - **Charles Pavey** (Holy Trinity, Malvern)

Fringe Concert as part of Poetry Festival - Saturday 8th July, Elaine Fleming, Jane Field, and Philip Holland present ***Shakespeare in Song***. Settings of Shakespeare and 3 arrangements for organ from Mendelssohn's incidental music for A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Eastnor Primary School had a visit to the Bell Tower before half-term. They were met by our Tower Captains Celia Walters and Alan Bagworth who gave them a short talk about the bells and showed them a working model before letting them have a try at ringing. The children were very interested, asked some good questions and had great fun. Living in Eastnor, it was wonderful to hear their efforts throughout the day. Eastnor Primary School is wonderfully at home in the church. They visit every day for their assemblies and every Thursday morning they enjoy "Open the Book".

On May 30th, the Bell ringers also welcomed a visiting band of ringers who rang a Quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Unfortunately repair work still hasn't started on our boundary wall because our builder has been so busy. But we are high on his list and so hopefully work will commence soon.

The joint fete for our Church and Eastnor Cricket Club has been scheduled for Sunday 20th August, 2017 and will be held on the valley lawn in Eastnor Castle. I hope you can come along and see us as well as enjoy the beautiful Eastnor Castle and grounds.

As always, a 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. We look forward to seeing you.

Beverly Jones (01531 636378)

Mtwara News

We regularly receive news from Father Jackan Waweru telling us about the Kindergarten. All the children are well and about 350 now attend the school. A request for help to support the establishment of a chicken project for teachers and parents to help support families themselves has been received. We shall have to plan future fund raising events to further this project and we are very short of help on the Committee. If any church members feel they would like to help with this link please come to our next meeting which is on THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST at 11am in the Vestry – Ledbury Parish Church. You will be most welcome.

Elaine Toyer on behalf of the Mtwara Committee

Forthcoming Events

Summoned by Bells (Sponsored Poetry event). The Friends Committee is very grateful to all those who have sponsored poems and offered practical help with the running of the event. Now we want as many people as possible to come and hear all the poems that have been chosen. Full programmes of the names of all the poems will be available soon at the back of church. Sessions are 12.30 to 2.00 pm each day from 4th to 8th July and also 5.00 to 6.30 pm (3.30 to 5.00 on the 8th). We look forward to seeing you. Tell all your friends!

Men's Breakfast: The next men's breakfast will be at the Seven Stars restaurant in the Homend on Saturday 15th July at 9.15 for 9.30am. Price £8. The speaker will be Brian Bowers on the subject of '**Christianity with its sleeves rolled up**'. He will describe his experiences as a helper in various projects in West Africa with Christian Aid.

Church Barbecue. Sunday 2nd July at church shortly after the service. A chance to get to know other members of the church without feeling you have to rush home to prepare lunch. There is no charge but contributions to the cost will be welcomed. Lucy Huxley is organising the event and is seeking help in setting up, cooking, cleaning up and taking down. She can be contacted on 01531 634128 or 07748 128063

St Katherine's Chapel - Wednesday 5th July 11.30am, service celebrating the refurbishment and reopening of the chapel followed by light refreshments.

Dean's Delight

An evening of song, music and reminiscence
by the Dean of Hereford

Friday 1st September at 7.30pm at St Michael's and All Angels
in support of The Friends of Ledbury Parish Church

Tickets £10.00 to include a glass of wine available from
Ann Davies 01531 631873 or the Parish Office 01531 631531

St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury
Secretary's Scratchings from the PCC 24th May 2017.

The meeting was attended by 16 members and an observer and opened with a reading and prayer. In correspondence, a power supply for the flower festival was agreed as was cleaning of the belfry. The minutes of the last PCC and the standing committee were accepted with almost no matters rising apart from agenda items.

Rev'd Tony Hodder gave the meeting a report on his activities as Ecumenical Officer, with stress on his work with the youth at the Drop-in centre which can number some 70 per week. He described his involvement with Churches Together in Ledbury and the support he gives to the various churches. He drew attention to the opportunities for communal prayer and asked that more people support this.

The Treasurer had circulated his report before the meeting. There had been a bequest and the finances are running to budget. The Meeting was strongly reminded of the dangers of running a deficit budget, the treasurer being of the opinion that our reserves could be exhausted in 5-6 years unless matters change. The meeting decided to keep our contribution to the Common Fund to the 2017 level.

Diana Veasey gave a detailed report of the progress towards advertising for the Children's and Families Worker. This should now happen before the end of September 2017 with a view to the person being appointed by January 2018. The Team were thanked for their hard and detailed work. Arrangements for the Community Day were outlined and a request for help with the Summer Fair made.

Roger Thursby reported from Deanery Synod that a new lay co- chair was needed as William Hopkinson was retiring after many years. Synod is starting to discuss what its purpose should be. Contributions to this debate would be welcomed.

The Garden of Remembrance is becoming full so an extension will be required. A Faculty will be applied for. The St Michael's Banner in the Chapter house will be conserved and moved to the West Door Well. The embroidery fund could be used for this. The long meeting closed at 10.00pm with prayer and the Grace.

Alan Pratt - Secretary to the PCC

The Once and Only God

God almighty, God triumphant,
Maker of our perfect world.
God the patient, God the faithful,
Ever loving all mankind.
God of justice, God of mercy,
To himself for ever true.
God who loves each human being,
Even when we curse his name.

God who cannot look on evil,
Perfect in his righteousness.
God who gave us total freedom,
Him to follow or ignore.
God who when we turned against him,
Loved us still, just as before.
God who sent his own son, Jesus,
To restore our bond with him.

Jesus, son of God almighty,
From a teenage virgin born,
Forced to flee his home and country
Till King Herod was no more.
Brought up in a loving household,
Working as a carpenter.
Loving son to loving mother,
Friend to all who crossed his path.

Jesus baptised in the Jordan,
By the one who came before.
Jesus tempted just as we are,
Yet no fault in him was found.
Jesus living as a pauper,
With no house to call his own.
Jesus, teacher, healer, preacher,
Helping all who passed his way.

Jesus hunted by the priesthood,
Captured in Jerusalem.
Mocked and tortured by his captors,
Tried by those who want him dead.
Taken to the Roman prefect,
Sentenced to be crucified.
Flogged and killed by those who loathed him,
On the hill at Calvary.

Jesus buried in a hill cave,
Sealed and guarded by his foes.
Three days later, Jesus risen,
Seen by friends and family.
Taken up to live in heaven
Till he comes to judge the world.
Sends his Holy Spirit to us
So that we might live like him.

How we praise our precious saviour.
Loving all who dwell on earth.
Takes our misdeeds and removes them.
Far as East is from the West.
What a joy it is to serve him,
Trying hard to do his will.
Knowing that he always loves us,
Whether we do good or ill.

God the Holy Spirit with us,
Living in our very souls.
Guarding, guiding, feeding, loving
Helping us to serve our God.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Three in one and one in three.
How we praise you, precious Godhead
Hope of all and Source of love.

'Let them eat cake'

The Christian church is notorious for offering cake at every opportunity. By doing this it is promoting the development of Type 2 diabetes with all its attendant diseases. When I suggested to someone last year that this should be re-considered, they said 'Oh, you're a spoil sport.'

Whether or not Marie Antoinette actually said regarding the peasants 'Let them eat cake (brioche)' we cannot be sure. But if she did it was because there was no bread for them to eat, which was the staple and healthier foodstuff.

We must always remember that Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8 v 3 when he said while tempted by the devil, 'Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Have we replaced feeding people with the word of God with feeding them cake? Can we not as Christian churches feed people outside of formal services with prayer, discussion and practical help?

There is nothing wrong with offering healthy refreshments that are not sugar-based. But they should be at meal times rather than between meals, because eating between meals is a major cause of obesity which can lead to diabetes.

I would love to know what others think. Consider this: last year there were 7,370 leg amputations in England alone, and rising. That was without all the other 'complications', as they are euphemistically known. The total cost of treating diabetes types 1 and 2 (the major part of which is part 2) is in excess of £14 billion per year to the Health Service, without the cost of absenteeism from work, early retirement and social benefits, which more than doubles the cost.

Am I a spoil sport?

Ruth Wragg

60 Years a Priest

A lot changes in 60 years! Watching “Call the Midwife” I found it hard to believe that I served my curacy only five miles from Poplar and five years after all that was happening. Erith, just down the Thames, was a very old parish and we lived under the smoke cloud from British Oil Cake Mills and shared a small terrace house with an aged brother & sister who had a store cupboard full of rusty tins and mouldy jam bottles, our first job! But it was a marvellous experience, especially of visiting at endless doors, many of them held ajar while one talked.

In many ways I have bridged a huge chasm in the life of the Church. It was all Prayer Book then, of course and one had to stick to it very strictly. What a change has been happening since so that now one wonders what will come next in the service. All the better for it! And of course the whole ethos of society around us has totally changed so that the BBC can poke fun or even ridicule at Christian truths. But those truths are still the only way for us to lead a really satisfying, useful and happy life and we must trust God to bring our country back to Him in His good time – perhaps through Thy Kingdom Come prayers.

There’s been a chasm too in my ministry between the life of Christians here in the UK and those in Japan where we lived and worked for 13 years. I once stood in a commuting train during a strike and out of 500 odd people standing with me I reckoned there might be five other Christians of whom one might be an Anglican! But some did respond to our witness and one such played that beautiful bamboo flute at Jane’s funeral.

We live in a nation that has taken on the values of materialism and humanism and our task now is to get inside people’s minds and help them to see how much they are missing and **could** have if Christ is invited in as Rescuer and Guide and Bodyguard.

Revd David Wood-Robinson

My story

I was born in London and lived there until we moved to Ledbury in 2000. I was brought to believe in God. As a small child - there were always prayers at bedtime and thanks given at mealtimes, and I was baptised as a baby, but we were not churchgoing Christians. Apart, that is, from my Great Grandmother who was known to be very "religious". She lived with us for a while and I remember her telling me about Jesus and reading the bible to me. Her brand of Christianity was very proscriptive; television was "the devil's box" and lots of things were "wicked" but she taught me choruses and that Jesus loved me. I went to Sunday School, joined the Crusaders and made lots of friends and later, in my teens I helped with teaching the juniors. I read the Bible most days using Scripture Union notes. My grandfather took me to church and later I was confirmed when I was 14. At School there were scripture, or "Religious Knowledge" lessons taught by a Christian teacher.

But, when I grew up and went out into the world, I drifted. I would always have said I believed in God, but I hardly went to church and, although I prayed if I was worried about something, I had put God in box, up on the top shelf and occasionally got Him down, probably at Christmas and sometimes at Easter.

An Uncle and Aunt, who I am very close to, had moved to Devon. They came to faith and are now very strong, committed Christians. My late mother, also in Devon, renewed her fairly shaky faith and worshipped regularly at her local village Church. When I visited them and later took Terry, my husband, with me we would join them at one or other of their churches, but as far as I was concerned God was still up on that shelf, brought down in emergencies.

When Terry and I married we were both drifters; Christmas and Easter churchgoers. A few years after we moved to Ledbury, Terry was diagnosed with Alzheimers and the future started to look a bit grim. One day, looking at St Michael's spire from the kitchen window, Terry announced he wanted to go to church, so we went the following Sunday. It was during the interregnum; Bob Sharp was preaching, 'I like that chap' Terry said 'can we go again?' and so we did. About a year later it was "Back to Church Sunday", Paul Dunthorne, now the Rector, said "You may be wondering why you are here this morning". These words hit home with me. What was I doing there? Was God really part of my life or was I just turning up? The church was running two courses – "Start" and "Emmaus". If anyone wanted to chat about this they could talk to John Lowe or David Gegg who would be in St Ann's Chapel at the end of the service. I explained my position - I would love to do one of these courses, but Terry's dementia was increasing and I couldn't leave him alone. "Don't worry", said John, "Valerie will sort you out". And she did; once a week Valerie came to me and over a cup of coffee we did Emmaus. We came to The Prodigal Son, and it hit me. Although I had put God away, He wasn't on that shelf, He was waiting for me come back home, looking out for me every day and running to meet me when I

turned round. I was really going to need Him. The next few years were not easy, but how I would have coped without God in my life I don't know. Now I cannot imagine a life without God being an important part of it, I am so glad I had that knowledge and faith as a child and very sorry that I left Him out of life for so long. But He is back now – Hallelujah!

Heather Lucas

A Journey of Faith

My mother's family were very involved in the church and she took us to matins until the war and petrol rationing started when I was just 5. I never went to Sunday School but I had a lovely book about Jesus. At Boarding School we had prayers twice a day. We heard intellectual sermons at the village church but our bishop was wonderful and we sometimes had interesting mission speakers. My uncle sent me Bible Reading Fellowship notes.

After school I did not go to church regularly until I discovered 'Family' services and began to take the children. My son Peter's Christian Union leaders helped him greatly and therefore helped me.

I started attending Tuesday talks at Birmingham Cathedral. They used Mission Praise, a modern hymn book, and David MacInnes gave excellent 20 minute talks. He spoke about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and baptism in the Holy Spirit. He also warned against becoming involved in things with ungodly ties. Someone was healed while listening, what was being taught was life changing.

I joined a number of Christian groups and began to go to various events and on holiday with friends or family, sometimes including John, my husband, who had health problems. I went to monthly meetings run by an Anglican church for worship and teaching. We invited the Holy Spirit to enter our lives. To some he brought deliverance, comfort, conviction, joy, peace and laughter. Others received whatever he knew they needed including physical or emotional healing. Members of the ministry team received words or pictures from the Holy Spirit which they shared with us so that we could claim them and pray about them. I found it so good to worship, pray and share with Christians of other denominations and nationalities but sharing one Lord, one faith and one church through unity in the Holy Spirit.

I have been greatly helped by the Maranatha movement (sadly now being wound up) who helped many people and communities by bringing churches together and through their teaching, fellowship, gatherings and retreats.

I thank our amazing God for leading me along this path. I recently read that God loves us too much to leave us as we are when we give ourselves to Him.

Ann Williamson

A year of Ecumenical ministry

Although I have been in post almost twelve months now I, and others, feel that God was stirring up a new work with his people well before then. A key moment in time was the 24 hour prayer vigil held on Maundy Thursday in 2015. People from all our Ledbury churches came to spend time in prayer on that day and God's voice was clearly heard calling us to gather more in prayer together. This resulted in the 7-12-7 prayer initiative and the 'church in Ledbury' has been coming together each Thursday to pray for the past two years.

The other key moment was when Bishop Richard came to preach to our churches during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. One key theme from his sermon was the call to be one so that people would know that Jesus was sent by his Father into our world (John 17). This was seen by church leaders and others as a prophetic word to accompany the call to unity in prayer that arose from that original Maundy Thursday prayer vigil.

The ecumenical project, and my ministry within it, emanated from these beginnings and I have been officially working in an ecumenical capacity since August 2016. The Diocese has generously allowed me to continue living in my house and my salary and other project costs are funded from people within Ledbury churches. The project, and my work, is overseen by a Council of Reference, consisting of leaders from the Anglican, Baptist, Elim and Methodist churches.

Over the past twelve months God has brought many blessings as we have steadfastly prayed together, including the commitment of church leaders to be part of the 7am prayer each Thursday. Of key value has been a deepening bond between the church leaders, enabling a sense of deep unity and mutual support amongst them. One of them has stated that he has never seen such unity in the whole time he has been in Ledbury. The relationships also extend to church members across all denominations, and the result of this has been the deepening of friendships amongst Christians, evidenced clearly at the joint services that have been held in the Town.

During this time we have also set up the Monday night ecumenical worship at Pool Barn and this has also served to build togetherness as God's people worship and pray together on a regular basis. These Monday nights have also helped with the need for healing and reconciliation amongst and across our churches.

The Council of Reference have asked me to continue to encourage people to join the prayer and worship already in place. We see this as something that God wants us to expand and deepen, so that our relationship with God and each other is deepened and

and the foundations are built for the mission God is calling us into. We all seek his will and direction as we continue to pray and worship together.

One major outreach already in place is the youth drop in at the BBI building (Old Library) and from the early seeds planted we have seen rapid growth in attendance on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The work has also deepened as we have begun to establish good relationships with the young people. This work is a long-term project and the main fruits of this work may not be seen for sometime yet, but the mission is an important one and vital for the needs of the young people in our town. Please do pray for an increase in volunteers for this work and for a permanent base to be found for young people in the future.

At a recent PCC meeting I gave PCC members an insight into what I do 'below the waterline' (based on the iceberg principle there is only ever 10% of work visible, 90% pretty much unseen) and related to them stories of the lives I touch through the increasing pastoral work I do (inevitable as I spend more and more time encountering people) both inside and outside the churches. When I counted up the numbers of people I now encounter on a regular basis it is approaching 300 individuals!

Can I thank you so much for your prayerful support for the project and also for me personally. Over the next couple of weeks there will also be a letter issued to all church members inviting you to support this work financially for the future. Whatever you feel able to give will be very much appreciated. I can't begin to tell you how humbled I am to receive precious gifts from God's people that allow me to carry out the ministry to which I know he has called me (and you) .

With my thanks and blessing

Tony Hodder

Church Officers

Clergy - Rector:	Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey	(07796 585407)
	Others: Revd. William Simmonds	(01531 635796)
	Revd. Tony Hodder	(01531 636840)
Lay Reader:	Brian Bowers	(01531 631306)
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 look on the church web site
(www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk) or ring the church office.***

We were pleased to welcome Luke Rees as a member of the church family when he was baptised in church on June 4th

Contributions. If anyone has an item for inclusion in a future issue of the magazine, please contact John Lindeck (01531 631329, johnmlindeck@gmail.com)

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.

Christian Aid Week. The amount raised in the week by street collections and other events was £5,687. Many thanks to all who contributed both with time and money and, particularly Margaret Young who organised the event. She is giving up this role and a volunteer is sought to replace her. Please contact Margaret or the Church Office (details above).