



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

**NEWS 22
October 2024**

Rector (Day off Monday)	The Revd Julie James	01531 651795
Licensed Lay Minister	Michael Harper	01684 830133 / 07942 390194
Churchwardens	Mark Lister	01531 631503 / 07908 967165
	Sarah Musgrave	01684 310330 / 07715 562311
PCC Secretary	Christina Leake	01684 310409 / 07979 553074

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, I perhaps rashly enrolled for a diocesan book club, to discuss a modest tome with the engaging (?) title 'Christian Apologetics: an Introduction.' It's written by Alister McGrath, an erstwhile college friend of mine with a doctorate coming out of both ears - one scientific, one theological. Like most of my erstwhile college friends, he went on to much bigger things than I. I never really understood him, in truth, but I have since appreciated that it's because he is intelligent, and so can make the simple complex. (Not fair! - he perceives complexity through the facade of simplicity).

So why are you reading this book, you ask? Good question! Actually, I'm enjoying it. Let me share just one little observation from it... What do we mean by Christian faith? Well - to most people outside Christianity, faith is 'merely some kind of belief, or intellectual assent', and it's founded on some reasonable collation of evidence (historical, philosophical, cosmological etc). To believe in God to this degree is to believe that God exists. But, as McGrath points out: 'recent scholarship suggests that ... 'faith' in the cultural world of the New Testament is best described as 'relational trust'. So, the Apostles Creed starts with the Latin word *credo*, and *credo* means *to trust or confide in a person or thing; to have confidence in.*' I believe in God...

So Christian faith embraces both an intellectual judgment, and a *credo*, a personal commitment to (and trust of) God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And when we get to that point the adventure begins - as we learn to want God's way in our lives, to trust Him more than we trust ourselves and, amazingly, to build a relationship - with God! It is extraordinary, but it's what He created us for; just as Adam and Eve walked with Him before they decided they knew better, and just as the disciples walked with Him - even after the resurrection - so we are made to walk with God.

Simplify that, you might say. Well: walk through life one day at a time in conversation with Jesus, listening, loving, obeying. Never mind the circumstances; just keep your eyes on Jesus. He says 'take my yoke upon you', and 'go MY way and I'll work it all out for good.' It takes practice, but truly it's how to live out Christian faith. It goes very deep. Me? Well, I've still got my L-plates! - but I'm journeying. And church is where we journey together, sharing experiences, praying for one another, encouraging one another - it musn't be just a formality, but real life, together. Lord, help us.

Wishing you much blessing

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Trinity 21	20 October	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion All Age Worship Family Communion	Pendock Berrow Castlemorton
Friday	25 October	2.00pm	School Harvest Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Trinity 22	27 October	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Saturday	2 November	3.00pm	All Souls Commemoration	Castlemorton
Sunday All Saints Day	3 November	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Patronal Holy Communion Family Communion	Eldersfield Hollybush Queenhill
Sunday 3 rd before Advent	10 November Remembrance Sunday	8.30am 10.45am 10.45am 10.45am	BCP Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance Remembrance Day Service Remembrance Day Service with laying of wreath Remembrance Day Service with Holy Communion	Bushley Queenhill Castlemorton Berrow
Sunday 2 nd before Advent	17 November	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion All Age Worship	Pendock Castlemorton Eldersfield
Sunday Christ the King	24 November	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Kaleidoscope	Birtsmorton Longdon Castlemorton
Advent Sunday	1 December	8.30am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Church @ the School Family Communion Deanery Advent Service (Great Malvern Priory)	Eldersfield Eldersfield School Queenhill Malvern
Sunday Advent 2	8 December	8.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Carols, Candles and Cake	Bushley Berrow Eldersfield
Sunday Advent 3	15 December	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion Hollybush Christmas Carol Service	Pendock Castlemorton Hollybush Longdon
Tuesday	17 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Bushley
Wednesday	18 December	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Castlemorton
Thursday	19 December	7.00pm	Carol Service	Queenhill
Friday	20 December	2.00pm	School Carol Service	Castlemorton
Sunday Advent 4	22 December	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Nine Lessons and Carols	Birtsmorton Longdon Berrow
Monday	23 December	4.00pm	Crib Service	Castlemorton
Tuesday	24 December	5.00pm	Crib and Christingle	Eldersfield

Tuesday	24 December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Hollybush
Wednesday	25 December Christmas Day	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Christmas Day Service	Queenhill Berrow
Sunday	29 December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Bushley

Other Events at Castlemorton and in the wider benefice

Friday	25 October	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	2 November	10.00 - 11.30	CaCoffany!	Castlemorton
Saturday	9 November	10.00 - 12.00	War Memorial Restoration Project Coffee Morning	Castlemorton Parish Hall
Tuesday	12 November	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Friday	23 November	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Castlemorton
Saturday	7 December	10.00 - 12.00	CaCoffany – Christmas Special!	Castlemorton
Tuesday	10 December	10.30 - 12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock



A Service to remember All Souls



**Saturday 2 November
3.00pm
St Gregory's Church
Castlemorton**

Do join us as we commemorate loved ones who have passed away.

This is a simple service with prayers, hymns and the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance.

Messages may be written to add to the Tree of Remembrance. Please leave your message during the week before the service in any of the baskets placed in our churches. They will be collected and tied to the tree.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

All are most welcome.

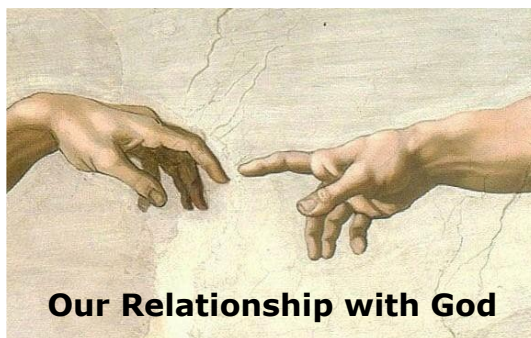
Kaleidoscope



An alternative setting of evening worship at St Gregory's on the **4th Sunday of each month** starting at 6.30pm.

Come and join us in a relaxed service which offers a blend of traditional and modern music and songs, readings and a short talk.

Sunday 27 October 2024 6.30pm



Our Relationship with God

All welcome!

Castlemorton War Memorial Restoration Project



Coffee Morning
Saturday 9 November
Castlemorton Parish Hall
10am – 12noon
Free admission and coffee



The Parish Council and St Gregory's Parochial Church Council have launched this appeal for the 102-year-old memorial to be cleaned, re-pointed and the names re-cut so it may honour the fallen for another 100 years.

It is an opportunity to reminisce about memories of World War II, from your grandparents, parents and yourselves.

BCH Archive will have a small display about the era and its impact on the area.



All Welcome



CaCoffany!



Saturday 2 November 2024
St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ

Themes of Fireworks and Remembrance

Bring your friends for Cake, Coffee and Singing

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



No admission charge – proceeds from Bring and Buy stall support maintenance of our lovely church
Donations appreciated

Email hymn requests to sjmusgrave33@gmail.com

Make a date!

Christmas Special . 7 December . 10.00-12.00

Remembrance Sunday



All are welcome to join us on Remembrance Sunday to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Please note the slightly later start time of most of our services, to allow for the period of silence to be observed at 11.00.

Christmas is coming!



Many are beginning to make plans for the Christmas holiday, so we have listed all the services available to you over the Christmas period across the nine parishes in our benefices. These include Crib Services and Carol Services as well as Holy Communion on Christmas Day itself, so there is something to suit everyone.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and hope you will be able to join us.