



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

**NEWS 13
January 2024**

Dear Friends

It's one of those times: whenever I hear the news - it's not good! Wars, earthquakes, lava flows, even our much-loved vicar retiring! I wonder if life might have been easier in less well-connected times, when people knew what was going on in their village but not much more. Then I reflect that there were other things to worry about then.

As a student I had two posters on my wall; one was Picasso's *Don Quixote* (a print, of course), and the other a picture of a rose with the words 'Life is not a bed of roses'. Picasso reminded me that there's no need to invent problems when they aren't there - don't tilt at windmills; the other reminded me that, as Job so eloquently put it, man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upwards (so are women).

So how do we respond to storms? For myself - often not too well. I like to be in control, and I can't control storms.

So it was for the disciples, crossing the Sea of Galilee. A 'furious storm' arose so that the 'waves swept over the boat'. Astonishingly, Jesus, though in the boat, was asleep. His disciples - certain of them seasoned sailors - cried out 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!' (Matt 8:25). This was quite some storm. It unnerved the seasoned sailors.

So how to cope with storms, wherever we encounter them? Whether personal, or family, or a world in a whirl.

If I'm honest, I would tend to run around saying, with Corporal Jones, 'Don't panic!', while obviously panicking. Conversely, St Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, said 'have no anxiety about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. And if any had a life of trouble and care it was him. Many would say, well, he's just being superspiritual. But I don't think so, and I think his counsel is worth aiming at. Which of us has changed anything by worrying? And which of us has lost anything by praying? The old army adage, that everyone prays in a foxhole, has truth in it. Might it be that God is training us to worry less and pray more?

I think we just need to make sure Jesus is in our boat. Can he be? Yes! The lovely passage in Revelation chapter 3 verse 20 reminds us: 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone opens to me I will come in and sup with him, and he with me'. Then, with Jesus close, we learn not to be fazed by happenings. Peter, when asked by Jesus whether he was going to stop following, said 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.' The choice in trouble is: faith, or fear?

Lord, in our trials *and* our joys, help us to walk with you, and show us always what we should do. Amen.

Michael Harper
Licensed Lay Minister

Diary Dates

Services across the Berrow and Longdon benefices

Sunday Epiphany 4	28 January	10.30am	Holy Communion	Birtsmorton
		4.00pm	Licensing Service to mark the start of the new benefice. See details opposite	Castlemorton
Sunday Presentation of Christ in the Temple	4 February	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Eldersfield
		10.30am	Café Church	Eldersfield School
		10.30am	Family Communion	Queenhill
Sunday Next before Lent	11 February	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Bushley
		10.30am	Holy Communion	Berrow
		6.30pm	Evensong	Hollybush
Ash Wednesday	14 February	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Pendock
Sunday Lent 1	18 February	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Pendock
		10.30am	All Age Worship	Berrow
		10.30am	Family Communion	Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 2	25 February	10.30am	Holy Communion	Birtsmorton
		10.30am	Family Communion	Longdon
		6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	Castlemorton
Sunday Lent 3	3 March	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Eldersfield
		10.30am	Café Church	Eldersfield School
		10.30am	Family Communion	Queenhill
Mothering Sunday	10 March	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Bushley
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Berrow
		6.30pm	Evensong	Hollybush
Sunday Lent 5	17 March	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Pendock
		10.30am	All Age Worship	Berrow
		10.30am	Family Communion	Castlemorton
Palm Sunday	24 March	10.30am	Holy Communion	Birtsmorton
		10.30am	Family Communion	Longdon
		6.30pm	Kaleidoscope	Castlemorton
Good Friday	29 March	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	Hollybush
Sunday Easter Day	31 March	6.30am	Sunrise Service	Old Church, Pendock
		10.30am	Family Communion	Castlemorton
		10.30am	Holy Communion	Eldersfield

Refreshments are served after most services and children's activities are provided at St Gregory's during morning services. All are very welcome.

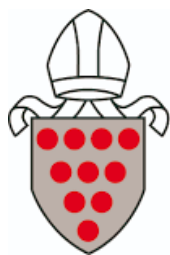
In addition, **Compline** is available via Zoom at 7.00pm every Friday and on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week, 25-28 March.

For details of how to join Zoom services, visit

<https://berrowbenefice.org.uk/using-phone-church>

Other Events at Castlemorton (CM) and in the wider benefice

Friday	26 January	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church
Tuesday	30 January	9.30-11.00	Community Drop In	Pendock School
Saturday	3 February	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Tuesday	13 February	10.30-12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Friday	23 February	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church
Saturday	2 March	10.00	CaCoffany!	CM Church
Tuesday	12 March	10.30-12.00	Bible Study	Thistledown Pendock
Saturday	16 March	7.30pm	<i>Safety Last</i> – silent movie accompanied by organist Jonathan Hope. Details on page 4	CM Church
Friday	24 March	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	CM Church



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

All are welcome to join us for this special service with Bishop Martin

Service of Licensing by the Right Reverend Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley of the Reverend Julie Margaret James as Curate in Charge in the parishes of Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley and Queenhill with Holdfast

**Sunday 28 January 2024
St Gregory's, Castlemorton
4.00pm**

Refreshments afterwards



Change of Communion Service at St Gregory's

Please note that the service of Family Communion held each month at St Gregory's will in future take place on **the Third Sunday of each month.**



The children's activities will still run and all are welcome to join us for this service.

Castlemorton Events

Safety Last

Silent movie starring Harold Lloyd



**St Gregory's Church, Castlemorton
WR13 6BQ
Saturday 16 March 7.30pm**

with organ accompaniment improvised by

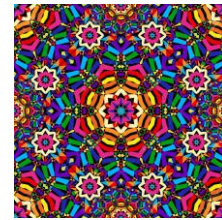
Jonathan Hope

Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral

Tickets £10 from Sarah Musgrave 01684 310330/07715 562311
Email: sjmusgrave33@gmail.com

Bar open throughout the evening, refreshments afterwards

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 25 February 6.30pm

All welcome!



Farewell to Chris and Eileen Moss

Over 110 of us gathered on Sunday 14 January to enjoy the last service which The Revd Chris presided over and to bid him farewell.



St Gregory's was packed with regular parishioners, joined by families who have known Chris and Eileen over the years. Many had been married by Chris and had brought their children back for baptism. The service included some of Chris's favourite hymns and some additional musical items provided by local musicians.

Dr Michael Harper expressed our thanks to them for nearly 28 years of ministry in this benefice and presented them with our gift and flowers. After a toast to their long and happy retirement, they and members of their family were able to mix with all who had come to wish them well. Although we are all sad to see Chris and Eileen leave this area, it was a very happy and memorable occasion for everyone present.

Church Contact Details

Rector (Day off Monday)	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