THE PARISH MAGAZINE
OF
ST PETER’S, EDGMOND WITH ST CHAD’S, KYNNERSLEY
AND ST LAWRENCE’S, PRESTON WEALD MOORS
including
VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 2018

Visit us at www.stpeterschurchedgmond.org
and www.edgmondparishcouncil.co.uk
RECTOR
Position vacant

RESIDENT MINISTER (part time; usual day off: Saturday)
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LICENSED READER
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John Ingram, Lovatt Cottage, 5 Turners Lane, Edgmond 810337
Chris Taylor, Provost’s House, High Street, Edgmond 810880

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Jane Gill 811201

TREASURER AND STEWARDSHIP RECORDER
Rodney Bunyan 810957

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
Dr Colin Brown 550164

TOWER CAPTAIN and RINGING MASTER
Mark Adams 810471

TOWER SECRETARY
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GREAT NEWS! Our new Rector will be the Revd Prebendary Helen Morby, who will be licensed to Edgmond with Kynnersley and Preston Wealdmoors and to Tibberton with Bolas Magna and Waters Upton in St Peter’s, Edgmond on 3rd July at 7.30 pm. She will move into Edgmond Rectory shortly, together with her husband Rob and little dog Bernie (see front cover). Helen writes:

Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who gave me such a warm welcome on the Familiarisation day and the Interview Day. Meeting so many of you certainly helped to affirm the sense of call I believe I have received from God to come and serve in the parishes. Rob and I are very much looking forward to joining you there.

Just so that you know a little bit about myself and my family - I am currently Rector of the Benefice of Kinnerley with Melverley, Knockin with Maesbrook and Maesbury where I have served since October 2012. Before that, following my curacy at St Chad’s, Lichfield, I served 8 years as Vicar of Farnworth with Cronton Mission in the Diocese of Liverpool. Prior to my ordination, our family were actively involved at St Bartholomew’s Church Penn, Wolverhampton. Now, at the time of writing, I am looking forward to being installed as Prebend of Wolvey in Lichfield Cathedral on 15th April. It was a great surprise to receive the invitation from the Bishop of Lichfield and I felt really honoured to be asked.

Whilst my years in Farnworth were a fruitful time and with many blessings, I do have a real passion for rural ministry and I very much look forward to continuing with that when I move to your parishes. My interest in rural ministry is also a central focus for my current studies at Chester University where I am studying part time for an MA in Practical and Contextual Theology. Whilst I’m finding it a bit challenging at times, I am also discovering great value in what I learn and find it enriches my ministry. As you may imagine, I don’t get a lot of spare time but I do enjoy getting out to do a bit of gardening and also some sewing. I also enjoy spending time with family and friends…and holidays!

I have been married to Rob for 35 years and we have three grown up children, Luke who lives in Wrexham, Joanna in London and Ruth in Wolverhampton. Ruth is marrying Tom on 28th May this year so, before moving, we have a wedding to look forward to! Rob teaches Design and Technology at Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port and will be travelling from Edgmond to school four days a week. We have a little dog, Bernie, who has a big personality!

My first priority after I am licensed in July will be to get to know as many of you as I can and to find out what is important to you all in each of the Churches. I also look forward to journeying with you to discover where God may be leading us. From experience I know that can sometimes be into some surprising places. There are many challenges for the Church at this time but I believe that through a growing relationship with God, we can learn just a little bit of how to face these challenges so that together, and as individuals, we can help to reveal more of God’s Kingdom to those we encounter in life.

With every blessing

Helen Morby
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FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM
25th March at St Michael's, Waters Upton - Ronnie John, son of Claire and Andrew Carroll.

FUNERAL
26th March at St Peter’s, Edgmond - Irene Doody. The service was followed by interment in the churchyard.

CREMATION
20th March at Telford Crematorium - Jeanne (Jan) Wilson.

JEANNE (JAN) WILSON

The chapel at Telford Crematorium was filled with family, friends and neighbours who came to pay their respects to Jeanne, who was known to everyone as Jan.

Jan was born in 1927 in Exeter, the first of three daughters. The family moved to Shropshire when her father was posted to Hinstock where he trained pilots in the Fleet Air Arm in night-time flying. The family moved into Beaumaris House, Newport, in 1942 where they stayed until 1945. Jan outraged public sensibility in Newport at the time when she was seen wearing trousers in public. She and Jim bumped into each other during a blackout and were immediately smitten with each other. Jim decided to join the Fleet Air Arm to impress her father, and he spent the war based in the Admiralty Islands near Indonesia. When he returned home he and Jan were married in Torquay in 1946. They had planned to emigrate to Australia but the unexpected death of Jim’s father meant that they had to remain in Newport to run the family business and look after his mother. In 1952 they moved into Parkfield in Edgmond where the three boys were born, and where Jim and Jan remained until their deaths.

While other members of the family became hooked on sailing, Jan was quite content to be a member of various club committees, and to help provide refreshments. She was a member of the Church Flower Guild and the Tangent Club, and she was an avid reader. But for Jan family meant everything to her, and the driving power in her life was love.

We extend our deepest sympathy to all her family, and especially to Peter, Andrew and her sister Jacquie, at this sad time.
IRENE DOODY

Miss Irene Doody came from a small and very private family (her only brother John died about 10 years ago) and this was reflected in the size of the congregation at her funeral. She was an extremely independent person and she had stipulated that there was to be no music whatsoever at her funeral; she had requested that the Sermon on the Mount, Psalm 23 and Mark Anthony’s speech in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* be read instead.

Her family first lived in Green Lane, then Victoria Park and finally in Robin Lane. Irene was very proud of attending Newport High School and playing hockey for them. When she left school she started working in the typing pool at Harper Adams College and worked her way up to becoming the Principal’s secretary. She worked in this capacity for both Principal Price and Principal Harris until she retired. Harper Adams was her life, and because she had an extremely good memory she was asked to assist in the production of the book “The Lure of the Land” which was printed to celebrate the centenary of the College. She loved flower arranging, having been introduced to it by Principal Price’s wife, and became a founder member of Newport Flower Club. She loved both Wimbledon and football, and woe betide any visitor who called when either was on television.

Unfortunately she suffered a stroke some time ago and was never quite the same person after that. As she deteriorated she had to leave her little bungalow in Newport and move into a care home, and she finally into Morris Care in Wellington where she died. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and to all her friends.

FROM THE EDITOR

Just one picture on our front cover this month – the Revd Prebendary Helen Morby, who is to be our new Rector, together with her teacher husband Rob and their very cute little dog called Bernie. We’re all very excited that Helen will soon be here to lead our six parishes and trust that she, Rob and Bernie will have a happy and stress-free move into the Rectory and into their new life with us. We are looking forward to Helen’s licensing on 3rd July and to getting to know her in the months and years ahead.

The next edition of the Parish Magazine and Village News will be for the month of June 2018. The deadline for contributions is Sunday 6th May. Please let me have your news and articles in good time - they can be delivered to me at the address on the inside front cover, or preferably emailed to me at sarajanetaylor@yahoo.co.uk. Photos of all the activities going on in our villages are also very welcome.

Don’t forget that you can also read this magazine online on both the village and church websites (addresses on the front cover).
HEALING SERVICE

Just to remind you all that the next monthly Healing Service at St Peter's, Edgmond will be held on May 13th at 6.30 pm (please note this later time during the summer months; the service will be held at the earlier time of 4.30 pm when the hour goes back in the Autumn). Everyone is welcome at a Healing Service. It is not a curing service, but a healing service, and is a short, quiet, contemplative service.

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY COLLECTION BOXES

We would be grateful if all holders of Children`s Society collection boxes would let us have them for opening during the next few weeks. We can collect your box if it helps - just phone us. Many thanks.

Keith and Jane Norton, 3 Bayley Hills, Edgmond
Tel: 810684

COFFEE AND CHAT

The next Thursday Coffee Morning at St Peter’s Church will be on April 17th following the 9.30 am Holy Communion Service. You don’t have to attend the service to be able to have a cup of coffee. Just turn up at the church at about 10.00 am or thereabouts, and join us for coffee (or tea) and a chat. We shall look forward to seeing you.

SNOWDROP WALKS

In spite of the poor weather we made a few pounds for the Friends of St Peter’s! The Snowdrop Walks raised £55.50 from Sambrook WI and £38 from the other walks. There will also be £5.87 gift aid tax refund from the WI and £8.25 refund from the other walks - a grand total of £107.62 altogether!

BLUEBELL WALKS

The snowdrop walks have now finished and we are looking forward to the bluebell walks which are expected to begin about 16th April. If you would like to take a bluebell walk phone Anne Furniss on 550216 to book. Walks cannot take place when it is very windy! For the less able there is a 5 minute walk, the longer walk takes about 30 minutes. No dogs please. Tea, coffee and cakes are available after your walk in “The Stables” kitchen, if you have time. Donations are for the Friends of St Peter’s Church. Once again we thank Anne for making these walks available to the community to raise money for the Friends of St Peter’s Church.
Saturday April 28th at Harper Adams University

FIELD TO FORK
Family Festival

A celebration of all things food and farming
Farmers’ Market – Kids’ Zone – Live Music – Beer Tent
Education Activities for all ages – Tractor/Trailer Tours
Entry Free
www.fieldtoforkfestival.com

ST PETER’S CHURCH, EDGMOND

SUNDAY SERVICES
7.45 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Service (as announced)
6.30 pm Healing Service (2nd Sundays)

10.30 am SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS
MAY 2018

May 6th
6th of Easter

Family Communion
Gospel: John 15: 9-17

May 13th
Sunday after Ascension

Sung Eucharist
N T Lesson: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end
Epistle: 1 John 5: 9-13
Gospel: John 17: 6-19

May 20th
Pentecost
(Whit Sunday)

Sung Eucharist
O T Lesson: Ezekiel 37: 1-14
N T Lesson: Acts 2: 1-21
Gospel: John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

May 27th
Trinity Sunday

Sung Eucharist
O T Lesson: Isaiah 6: 1-8
Epistle: Romans 8: 12-17
Gospel: John 3: 1-17
On Thursday 10th May at 2.15 pm in Edgmond Church our speaker will be the Revd Rich Cresswell on “the Heavenly Feast”.

Everyone is welcome. For further information and/or help with transport please contact Margaret Matthews on 825976.

CHILDREN’S GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

We had a very successful morning with 35 children attending the Workshop as well as lots of parents who also stayed and enjoyed the very happy atmosphere over a cup of coffee.

Palm crosses were given to the children and we began with some songs and a short prayer, before they began their activities. The children made Easter cards, painted eggs, planted cress seeds, coloured Easter crowns, iced egg-shaped biscuits, made Easter baskets, coloured pictures of the Passion and made butterflies to hang on the Easter tree. The session ended with another song and prayer.

We are very grateful to all those who helped with the Children's Workshop, in preparing all the activities, and both during the morning and afterwards, when everything had to be tidied up and the pews put back in place, ready for the service at 2 pm. It could not have taken place without the continued commitment and enthusiasm of our wonderful band of helpers. Thank you to everyone concerned.

Jane and Diana
ST PETER’S SCHOOL EASTER SERVICE

The school held its Easter Service in Church on Wednesday 28th March, and it was a very special occasion this year. The church was packed with children, staff and many parents and friends who had come to share in this Act of Worship and to say goodbye to Ms Silverlock, who was retiring. Throughout the service, the children read the story of Christ’s Passion sensitively, and sang beautifully and with great enthusiasm. The Revd David Stokes Harrison ended the service with thanks and Easter prayers.

Ms Silverlock has taught at our school for 23 years, and during that time has been responsible for all the music, both in school for all their regular Acts of Worship, Nativity Plays and for their church services. It was fitting therefore, that the children had prepared a surprise for her at the end of this service, when the whole school gave a very special and heartfelt tribute to her by singing “Thank you for the Music.”

Jane Norton, Foundation Governor

Join us for an evening with

The Ronnies

An exceptional jazz and close harmony group influenced by Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters

St Peter’s Church, Edgmond
Friday 25th May 2018 at 7.30 pm
Tickets: £8
Proceeds to The Friends of St Peter’s Church
PARISH WARDEN’S REPORT

Following the recent spate of criminal activity, a meeting of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators was called by P.C. Lee Thomas of the Newport Safer Neighbourhood Team. I also attended. Many things were discussed and, as a result, Lee sent me the Edgmond (and surrounding area) crime statistics for March, together with some other interesting information. I have therefore used his entire report for your consumption.

John Keeping (813125)

“Crime info for March 2018. I’ve included incidents around the periphery of the village again as it’s likely they are linked.

Overnight 7th to 8th March
Burglary at farm buildings, Edgmond village
Chainsaws, power tools and commercial batteries stolen

Overnight 15th to 16th March
Farm buildings at Adeney broken into
Chainsaw, Karcher power washer and tools stolen

Overnight 22nd to 23rd March
Garage broken into at property on Chetwynd Road (nr Chetwynd Church)
2 x quad bikes stolen – a green Kawasaki KLF300 and a black Quadzilla R100

In addition, there have been further reports during the month of suspicious vehicles seen in the local area:

At approx 18.30 on the 15th a Silver Astra was reported paying attention to buildings between Edgmond and Lilleshall

Mid afternoon on the 19th March a suspicious male found on the grounds of a property in Edgmond Marsh. Claimed he had run out of petrol and was looking for assistance but left householder with false details when challenged.

Approx midday on the 23rd March a suspicious Silver Ford Transit van with black side sliding doors was seen on the grounds of a property in Tibberton. When occupants were challenged they claimed they had come to collect a cement mixer that needed repairing.

To try to prevent and deter any further criminal activity around the village, everyone will hopefully note an increase in police vehicles carrying out patrols as and when able. It is also vital that local residents please report suspicious incidents, vehicles and people seen around the village to police straight away on the 101 number so that the control room can assess and deploy officers to check these matters out where applicable.

I have been made aware of some concern over using 101 and the fact it is not a free call. It is important to note that it has never been free to call the police for non-emergency matters, but the idea of 101 is so that people don’t have to hunt around trying to find the right phone number for their local police.
Calls to 101 cost a flat 15 pence from landlines or mobile phones, no matter how long you are on the phone. In reality, calling 101 is for most instances, far cheaper than it ever was to call police via a normal local STD code such as 01952 or 01743 which charged for your call by the second.

The only exception to this is if you have a landline or mobile phone package which includes calls to numbers beginning 03 as well as 01 and 02. If you do, then in most cases you can call West Mercia Police via the ‘alternate contact number’ of 0300 333 3000 and that call will be allocated from your ‘inclusive minutes’. Check with your phone provider to make sure if calls to this number are included in your call package.

And don’t forget, if you see a crime in progress, or think a crime is about to happen, always call 999.

Finally, working with the existing Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in Edgmond, we are looking to expand the scheme throughout the village and over the next couple of months will be looking at ways to encourage more residents to become involved and be more aware of unusual activity around their homes and workplaces.

If you are interested in starting or being part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your street, please contact the Newport Safer Neighbourhood Team by email at newport.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or calling us on 101 extension 66684”.

EDGMOND PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

I have lived in Edgmond for the past 16 years (writes Robert Higginson) and I have been a Parish Councillor for about 8 years. For the past two years I have been the Chairman and I chaired the Edgmond Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

My wife and I decided to live in Edgmond because we wanted to live in a village and thought that Edgmond was perfect for us. I still want Edgmond to remain a village. I do not want it to expand and move closer to Newport or move into the open countryside by allowing the building of large developments. Edgmond is a village with a long history and, along with other villages in the Telford & Wrekin District, this should be recognised, hence the importance of our Neighbourhood Plan.

You will be aware that our roads are in a very poor state of repair after the winter and poor weather conditions that are continuing. You may not be aware, however, that Telford & Wrekin Council has a new policy for the repair of potholes. Rather than repair them in the order that notification is received, which has meant that those in our Parish have been repaired quite quickly, potholes are now going to be repaired on fast and busy roads first. This could mean that repairs in our Parish may not be carried out as quickly as they have been in the past. If this does happen please do not think that your Parish Council is failing in its duty to inform Telford & Wrekin Council of problems. If you notice a new pothole please follow the normal procedure by informing the Clerk to the Parish Council, Katrina Baker, by telephone on 07813 788094 or by email at edgmondpc@btinternet.com – there is a direct link from our website. You can, of course, continue to use the ‘Fix My Pothole’ App at telford.gov.uk.
We are fast entering the ‘growing’ season and I would like to take this opportunity to ask residents to check their hedges so that they are not overhanging into roads and pavements. This is especially important when on a road where visibility is important or where the road is narrow.

We are aware of the poor state of the surface on the Shrewsbury Road car park and have listened carefully to comments from residents. Telford & Wrekin Council is also aware of the situation and we will continue to pursue this issue.

We have not forgotten about the Community Speedwatch campaign. I agree that it is taking an inordinate amount of time to get it off the ground. At a recent meeting, we were reassured that things are still ongoing and training for volunteers is ‘imminent’.

As I write this piece, this event hasn’t yet taken place, but on May 2nd Harper Adams University will celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Thomas Harper Adams, the founder of Harper Adams University. Princess Anne, as chancellor of the University, will be present. Councillor Gwyn Jones and I, as the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Parish Council, have been invited to attend.

Robert Higginson
(Chairman Edgmond Parish Council)

You can contact the Parish Council via the Clerk to the Council, Katrina Baker MBE, The Oaklands, Waters Upton, Telford, Shropshire, TF6 6NP, Tel: 01952 541939 (home) 07813 788094 (mobile), email: edgmondpc@btinternet.com

NEWPORT SHROPSHIRE U3A – THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Tuesday 15th May: this is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is for MEMBERS ONLY. After the formalities of the AGM are concluded there will be a presentation.

Joy BLIZZARD will present “Love Food - Hate Waste"

The UK wastes over £12.5 billion of food each year either in the home or supermarkets. It’s not all the fault of the young either. How and why does this happen and what can we do about it? Joy has spent over 20 years involved in campaigns to help people recycle more and waste less - working briefly in East London before escaping to Devon and then Shropshire. She also worked at a national level with TV and radio appearances. Joy will give us ideas on portion control, preserving food, making menus and lists when shopping to help us not to throw food away.

The meeting will take place in The Royal British Legion Club, Audley Road, Newport commencing at 2.00 pm. Refreshments are available and there is ample car parking. As this is also the AGM it is regretted that Members only may attend this particular meeting.
EDGMOND VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Planned Events for 2018

May 5th – Table Top Sale 9.30 am – 12.20 pm, then every 1st Saturday of each month.
The Table Top Sales are very popular so do come and join us for breakfast and bag a bargain. £2 bacon /sausage sandwiches - mug of tea /coffee £1
Contact Janis on 01952 820572. Tables £5 each
Further Table Top Sale Dates - June 2nd & July 7th.
NO TABLE TOP SALE IN AUGUST.

Picnic in the Park event on Sun 8th July 2-6 pm - more info to follow (Contact Lyn on 07974 203 965)

Date for Quiz Night to be confirmed.

To book the Village Hall for your special event contact Janis on 01952 820572.

Improvements Completed
1. Vertical blinds in the New Extension are now fitted
2. Pavement/footpath from car park to new extension completed
3. Additional Heater fitted in new extension
4. Fire door between new extension and hall installed.

Further improvements planned
Refurbish Gents
Refurbish old ladies toilets to a store room.
Level Car Park
Fit Double external electric socket outside
Replace high level strip lights in main hall with new LED fittings
If you can help in anyway with the above please get in touch).

200 Club April monthly draw winning numbers

No.139 won £10 No. 95 won £10
No. 135 won £5 No. 91 won £5
No. 3 won £5 No. 78 won £5

Congratulations everyone and thank you for your continued support. We still have a few numbers left if you would like to purchase another number for £10 per year or become a new member of this elite group. Contact Denise Bishop on 01952 812850 or Amanda Hill on 07879 476062 if interested.
NEWPORT BRIDGE CLUB NEEDS YOU!

Newport Bridge club was founded in 1980 and has run successfully in many venues in the town over the succeeding years. Meetings are now held in the Hub in Newport (the old library building next to the Victoria hotel). We meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.00 pm. The club is home to bridge players of all standards.

We would like you to come and join us; lessons can be arranged if you are a beginner. For improving players, the best place to improve is playing with us in a friendly environment where people are keen to share their knowledge.

We look forward to seeing you. For more information contact David West on 01630 661314, or Joan and Guy Kershaw on 01952 603312, or Ken Davies on 01952 419070.

ST CHAD’S CHURCH, KYNNERSLEY

PCC Secretary: Mrs Georgina Edge 01952 603648

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICES in MAY 2018</th>
<th>N T Lesson:</th>
<th>Gospel:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday May 13th 7th of Easter (White) 10.30 am - Holy Communion</td>
<td>Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end</td>
<td>John 17: 6-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Simpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday May 27th - Trinity Sunday (White) 10.30 am - Family Service</td>
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<td>Judith MacPherson</td>
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</tbody>
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The PCC would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone involved in keeping both the churchyard and burial ground in such fine fettle. All your hard work is very much appreciated and admired. A special thank you to “Caring for God's Acre” group for laying the hedge in the burial ground.

Dates for your diary:-

Something new on Sunday 10th June at 10:30 am: Songs of Praise. We extend a warm welcome to all community groups and hope they will join our congregation and enjoy their favourite hymns with us.

Special Family Service on Sunday 22nd July followed by a tea party at which we hope to welcome our new Rector.
KYNNERSLEY WI

‘Benthall Hall and a thousand years still in the making’ is the title of the talk by our Guest Speaker Nick Swankie, Head Hardener of Benthall Hall, on Tuesday 8th May.

Why not come along and see what we get up to? We are a friendly group and you would be made very welcome. Visitors £4 (the first visit is free). We meet in Kynnersley Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. New members always welcome.

KYNNERSLEY GARDEN CLUB

The Kynnersley Garden Club annual plant sale will be happening at the Village Hall on Friday 11th May from 7:30 pm, with lots of home grown plants, flowers and vegetables and a garden book sale. There are usually some interesting plants members bring along for sale from their own gardens, all at a very reasonable price. All proceeds go to the Garden Club funds. Garden Club members will be given a free plant to take away and bring back in September for the annual show - a members’ challenge.

Please spread the word locally to friends and family to encourage visitors to come and grab a bargain at our very friendly club. Tea/coffee will be available. Contact Hannah Sherlock by email at talksherlock@gmail.com.

Kynnersley Garden Club is always seeking new members to come and join our friendly garden club. We meet every 2nd Friday of the month in Kynnersley Village Hall or out and about locally, and have members at all gardening levels.

ST LAWRENCE’S CHURCH, PRESTON

Churchwardens: Mr D Brown, The Conifers 676671
Dr T Goode, 32a Moorhead 670242
PCC Secretary: Mrs P Jones, The Rockery, Wheat Leasowes 603612

| SERVICES IN MAY 2018 | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| **Sunday May 6th**   | **N T Lesson:** Acts 10: 44-end | **Mr D Brown** |
| **6th of Easter (White)** | **Gospel:** John 15: 9-17 | **Mrs A Smith** |
| **9.00 am - Holy Communion** | **Sidesman:** | **Mrs B Vickers** |
| **Sunday May 13th - 7th of Easter (White)** | **N T Lesson:** Acts 2: 1-21 | **Mrs B Vickers** |
| **10.30 am - Family Service** | **Gospel:** John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15 | **Mrs P Jones** |
| **Sunday May 20th**  | **Sidesman:** | **Mr D Brown** |
| **Pentecost (Red)**  | **Epistle:** Romans 8: 12-17 | **Dr T Goode** |
| **9.00 am - Holy Communion** | **Gospel:** John 3: 1-17 | **Mrs B Vickers** |
| **Sunday May 27th**  | **Sidesman:** | **Mr D Brown** |
| **Trinity Sunday (White)** | **Epistle:** Romans 8: 12-17 | **Dr T Goode** |
| **9.00 am - Holy Communion** | **Gospel:** John 3: 1-17 | **Mrs B Vickers** |
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

St Lawrence Church is holding a special *Songs of Praise* to celebrate the life of the late Thelma Gale, who gave so much to the Church and the community, on **Sunday 10th June, 2018** in the afternoon, followed by refreshments. Full details in the June magazine.

PRESTON CHURCH LENT LUNCH

St Lawrence Church Lent Lunch, held on Palm Sunday in the School hall, raised £153 for the Bishop’s Lent Appeal. A big ‘thank you’ to all who provided a lovely selection of soup, cheese and biscuits and cake, to everyone who supported us and to staff of the School for the use of School hall.

*PJ*
SHROPSHIRE BELLRINGERS GO CONTINENTAL

Bellringing in the English style is very much the preserve of the English - about 95% of all world towers with bells hung in the English way are in England. Ten years ago there were no bells on Continental Europe that were hung in the English style but in 2008 a new English-style ring of eight bells was installed in Dordrecht, Holland, and for some ringers these have become a desirable destination for a weekend trip. They are something of a curiosity because the impetus for installing the bells was a Dutchman named Paul de Kok who was somehow inspired to learn to ring in the English way when a teenager. He really ‘got the bug’, and along with his son Harm Jan and daughter Thirza, has become an extremely competent bellringer. In cooperation with the local council in Dordrecht the bells are installed in a building in the grounds of the Grote Kerk (Great Church), and Paul has complete control of the use of the bells. They can barely be heard outside the building so ringers can indulge themselves, and ring 24/7 if they wish! They are purely a secular ring, rung for the pleasure of the ringers, and are not rung for any services.

Though Paul and his family often visit England to satisfy their appetite for ringing, they also welcome visiting groups to go to Dordrecht – this then gives them the opportunity to enjoy their own bells.

A couple of years ago one of our Edgmond ringers, Bill Deason, thought it would be a good idea to organise a trip for some of his Edgmond, and other Shropshire ringing friends. He enquired about the availability of the bells to find that there was a waiting list - the earliest date we could go would be March 2018, so plans began to take shape.

Then in 2016/17 an appeal was launched to install a new ring of bells in St George’s Memorial Church, at Ypres, Belgium. This Church was built, complete with tower, after the First World War as a memorial to the war dead, but no bells were installed at that time. But the approach of the 100th anniversary of the end of the war provided the stimulus to raise the money and install the bells as a tribute to those who died in that terrible war, and they were duly hung and commissioned in remarkably short order in September/October 2017. It seemed like too good an opportunity to miss, so our planned trip to Dordrecht was extended to include the new bells at Ypres.

On 9 March eighteen ringers from Shropshire (plus ten-month-old baby Enid) arrived in Dordrecht. We were warmly welcomed by Paul and his family. They have made something of an art form of welcoming visiting ringers and we were no exception – they organised our accommodation and our meals and gave us a wonderful experience. We are most grateful.
With the heaviest bell weighing only 1.5 cwt the bells are very light compared to most church bells, and small bells are often quite difficult to ring, but these have been cleverly hung and are relatively easy. Over the next day and a half, we made very good use of them and succeeded in completing a full peal, and four quarter peals, and with everyone ringing in at least one of these. The full peal, of Cambridge Surprise Major, was the first ever rung by a resident Shropshire Association band outside the UK. The methods rung for the quarter peals were Grandsire, Yorkshire, Amsterdam and Dordrecht, the latter two giving a polite nod to our host country!

Apart from our English style bellringing, another highlight of this visit was the climb up the huge tower of the Grote Kerk to see the 67 bells of the carillon, but especially to see and hear one of the leading carillon players in Europe play Rule Britannia for our benefit! The bells of the carillon range in size from less than 50 kg to approximately 10 tons and the whole installation is centuries old – an awe-inspiring experience. We were also able to go to the top of the tower and take in the view of Dordrecht and the river Rhine.

After the meal together on the Saturday evening, our own Paul Lewis gave a hearty vote of thanks to the de Kok family for their very warm welcome and their hospitality, and to Bill Deason who had masterminded the whole trip. Bill had put in a tremendous shift, planning and advising the rest of the group on travel and all other arrangements.

After more ringing and lunch on the Sunday, the whole group set off by train bound for Ypres, in western Belgium. After two changes of train and about 3½ hours we arrived there in early evening. An hour or so later we all assembled at the Menin Gate for the daily Last Post ceremony at 8 pm. This took place with great dignity in front of a silent crowd of 200 to 300 people. It was good to see an air cadet band from a Yorkshire school taking part – children from British schools regularly feature in these ceremonies and hopefully through this will maintain the memory of all those who sacrificed their all.

After a meal and a good night’s sleep, most of us had time to take in the sights of Ypres for an hour or so next morning. Ypres was almost completely destroyed in the first war, including the enormous 13th century Cloth Hall. Centuries ago Ypres was an important centre of the linen industry in Flanders and did much trade with England, and the Cloth Hall was the centre of this industry. After the war, the main square, including the Cloth Hall, and much of the city was rebuilt to the same plans and designs as before, and today is a very attractive place to visit. Today Ypres has the title ‘city of peace’ and is twinned with Hiroshima, another city which suffered the worst of warfare.
St George’s church is full of plaques commemorating the fallen of regiments or families or school old boys from the UK. The new English chaplain, Gillian Trinder, seems to be very active in reviving the fortunes of the church. The tower is small with room only for a light ring (tenor 6 cwt) and there is not room in the ringing chamber for many people other than the eight ringers. We had a very enjoyable ring and I think did justice to the evocative venue. A local band is in training by experienced ringers from UK and there is an expatriate bellringer living in Ypres who has taken on the role of Tower Captain. They hope to be able to ring for Sunday services before too long.

After lunch with our hosts, we started to go our different ways. Some were staying on for a day or two to see more of the battlefields, some were returning by Eurostar and some flying home. We apologise that we were not here to ring the Edgmond bells on 11th March, but this was a very memorable trip which was a privilege to be part of. We are all very grateful to Bill Deason for organising the whole trip and advising us on all aspects.

_Edric Broom_
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