



# News and Views

*A round-up of what's been going on in our churches*

April 2025

**Welcome to our first 'News and Views', celebrating all that has been going on in our churches, and looking forward to what's to come.**

## **APCM's & PCC's**

In March and April we held out Annual Church Meetings at Stoke Lacy and Bromyard. Through the various reports we celebrated all that had happened in 2024 and started to look ahead to 2025.

At these meetings we elected our PCC's, the team of people who help to maintain our buildings, look after safeguarding, as well as guide our ministry and mission.

### **Stoke Lacy PCC**

Richard Combe	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Tina Lifely	<i>Treasurer / Deputy warden</i>
Helen Combe	<i>Deputy warden</i>
Betty Arnett	
Susan McKeeman	

### **Bromyard PCC**

Roger Wilkins	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Mark Franklin	<i>Churchwarden / Treasurer</i>
Rob Lowe	<i>Safeguarding Officer / Deanery Rep</i>
Robert Hollis	
Brenda Allan	<i>Safeguarding</i>

We would like to add to the PCC's and so will be looking to co-opt members in the near future. If you are interested in helping serve our churches in this way, please speak to Rev Phil or one of the churchwardens.

## **Families and Young People**

Rev David has been spear-heading our work with children, families, and young people.

Along with Betty Csüllög, he has started our Parent & Toddler group, Pebbles, at the Falcon Mews. Initially we've been meeting fortnightly and have established a 'core' membership

of around 15 children with their parents/carers. And it's been a real joy to welcome some of the families to our Gather and Easter services.

David has also been working with our young people. They have formed 'Boulders', which gives space for Bible study, prayer, food, and fun.

And what next? Rev Phil & Rev David are prayerfully considering running a two/three-day Holiday Club in the summer holidays.

## Marriage Preparation Day

In February we held our Deanery-wide Marriage Preparation Day at St Peter, Bromyard. This is the second year of the Deanery working together to host this event. Wedding couples from across the Deanery who are getting married in 2025 came together to think through what married life might look like, and to start planning their big day.

We have three couples getting married this year:

Henry Henshall & Sofi Buzzard	14 <sup>th</sup> June	St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy
Ryan Skyrme & Jenna Arnold	19 <sup>th</sup> July	St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy
Martyn Craddock & Amberley Shuck	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	St Peter, Bromyard

Please pray for our couples as they make their plans and prepare for their wedding days.

## Lent

Our journey through Lent started on Ash Wednesday with two 'Ashing' services at St Peter, Bromyard.

Mid-way through Lent, St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy, held a Lent Luch at Stoke Lacy Village Hall, bringing together members of the church and community around soup, bread, cheese, and chat.

During Lent, a group has come together to explore the Bible through the Bible Society Bible Course. In the first five sessions we've covered the Old Testament, with some lively and stimulating discussions following the video presentations. We will be completing the course after Easter with three sessions on the New Testament.

## Easter

What a joy Easter Sunday was! Nearly 130 people gathered across Brockhampton, Bromyard, and Stoke Lacy, to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We had families from Pebbles, visitors, along with friends and family.

## Betty Arnett

Easter Sunday marked Betty Arnett's completion of 80 years of faithful service as organist at St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy. We are very thankful for her ministry, and guidance to those of us choosing hymns for worship. Betty will still be playing at PM Praise on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.

## Bromyard Deanery

The Bromyard Deanery covers 22 churches, gathered together in 4 Benefices (Bromyard & Stoke Lacy, Bredenbury, Frome Valley, Greater Whitbourne).

Much of our discussion has been around the setting up of a Group Ministry, enabling the four Benefices to work more closely together. The Group Ministry is in the process of being set up, the next stage being approval from Bishop Richard.

One of the first areas for closer working is Family and Children's ministry. Greater Whitbourne have established seasonal 'Fun Days' over the last couple of years, and we are now working on building a Deanery-wide team to support these and develop other opportunities for working with families and children. As part of this, the next vacancy within the Deanery will have a special responsibility for School and Young People's work.

## ***Future Plans***

### Party in the Park

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00am we will be gathering at Kempson Playing Field for a time of worship as part of Party in the Park. This is an opportunity for us to meet and chat with people from the wider community, to get to know them, and to pray for them. St Peter's music group will be leading worship from the main stage.

At the end of the day, at 6:30pm, we will share communion at St Peter's, and we will pray for all the people and conversations that we've had in the morning.

This will be an essential part of our Year of Engagement, so please book the date and plan to be there!

### Bell Sunday

Our bellringers are an important part of the life of St Peter, Bromyard, and on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May we will be celebrating all that they give and share with us.

### Blessing the Land in Springtime

As part of the agricultural year, we are going to be gathering at Moreton Jeffries, 4:00pm, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May to bless the land in readiness for a good crop, and a successful year for our farmers.

### Scarecrow Festival

Plans are already afoot for us to be represented at the Scarecrow Festival. The theme this year is games, so our scarecrow is taking on a sporty look! We are hoping to have a team of people who will join our scarecrow in the Festival Procession on the Friday evening.

### Rev David Hall Priesting

Rev David is going to be ordained as a Priest on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Hereford Cathedral. This will be a joyful, and joyous celebration of the next stage of Rev David's growing into ministry.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, Rev David will be presiding for the first time at Holy Communion, 10:30am at St Peter, Bromyard. Do put both these dates in your diary!

### Buildings plans

At St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy, we have recently replaced the old storage shed with a larger, better waterproofed shed. This has facilitated a clear out and appraisal of what we have stored away.

In Bromyard, the Diocese has bought out our share of the curacy house in Lower Thorn which has released a significant sum of money. The first step of a wider plan for St Peter's building is to remove the pew plinths in order to level the floor. This will create a much safer, and more useable space for Gather, Pebbles, youth work, concerts, art exhibitions etc.

We also have a potential legacy which has been left specifically for reworking the entrance to St Peter's. We'll know more about this in June/July.