# TEAMTALK

50P WHEN SOLD

The Magazine of All Saints, Holy Trinity and St Nicholas', Hereford
St Michael's, Breinton and Breinton Parish Council




**SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3pm | **Breinton Carols** | St Michael's |
| 4pm | **Pop-up Nativity** | All Saints |
| 6.30pm | **Nine Lessons & Carols** | Holy Trinity |

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3pm | **Quiet Christmas** | St Michael's |
| 4pm | **Christingle** | Holy Trinity |
| 10pm | **First Communion of Christmas** | Holy Trinity |

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10am | **Holy Communion** | St Michael's |
| 10am | **Festal Mass** | All Saints |



westhereford.org.uk

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Monday to Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Out of Hours**

Please leave a message on the tele-phone answering service, or send an email

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Hereford
HR4 9AA
01432 370414
jm.mumford@btinternet.com
Staffed:
Tuesday mornings 9-11am
Thursday 9.30am-4pm
Answer phone at other times.

**Baptisms**

*May their lives be long and happy*

**Weddings**

***May their lives together be long and happy***

**Funerals**

*Please remember the departed their family and friends in your prayers*

Comparisons are the enemy of joy.



Dear friends,

There is a story by Tolstoy, *Where Love Is, God Is, that has found its way into many Advent sermons, and I have come to love it. Martin is a widowed cobbler in a Russian town, living in a basement room where the only view is of passing boots. One evening, after reading his Gospels, he hears a voice promise that Christ will visit him tomorrow, and that he should keep watch on the street.*

Martin is up early the next morning, with the samovar warm and his eye on the window. The first person he sees is Stepan, an old man clearing snow, blue with cold. Martin taps on the glass and calls him in for tea. Later a young woman goes by with a baby in a thin shawl, and Martin brings her in as well, feeds them both, and finds something warm to wrap them in. By afternoon he has almost given up on his visitor. Then he sees an old woman selling apples catch a boy with one in his pocket. Martin steps out and talks her round to forgiveness, and the two of them walk off together, sharing the weight of her basket.

That night Martin settles down with his Bible and hears a rustle in the corner. One by one the old man, the woman and her child, the apple seller and the boy stand in the lamplight, smile at him, and are gone. His book lies open at the words, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

Martin spent the day making room and found Christ had been in his house since morning, wearing a worn coat and holding out a cold hand. Bethlehem tells it the same way. God arrives as a newborn in a borrowed stable, and from that night the door of heaven has been found in ordinary places, among ordinary people who turn up when we least expect them.

Hope lives there. It is the quiet confidence that God is on the way, and that he will come in a form we can welcome with a cup of tea and a chair by the fire.

This Christmas I hope you will have a few moments at your own window. Someone may be passing who would be glad of a knock on the glass. Someone in your own household may need the kettle put on and a little of your time.

If you would like help making that kind of room, our Making Room for Hope course runs on Thursday evenings from 26th November, 7pm to 8:30pm, at All Saints, and everyone is welcome. An accompanying daily Advent devotional is free in print at All Saints, Holy Trinity, and St Michael's, and as an e-book at westhereford.org.uk/making-room.

All our Christmas services are listed elsewhere in this issue, and there is a place for you at each of them.

With love and every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Jonathan

# CHRISTMAS CAROLS & TEA

You are invited to come along to All Saints on the afternoon of

Sunday 13th December ( 3pm-5pm)

to enjoy singing some well known carols & share time together over a delicious Christmas Tea. No charge... bring a friend! It will nearly be Christmas!

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Lights!!

I love light. When the children were teenagers, upstairs I kept finding bedroom lights left on, and when questioned got the response – 'I'm going back up in a minute'. Eventually I threatened to remove bulbs if lights stayed on. For a few days light switches were found, but then those invisible people who live in the bedrooms and need lights on when everyone else is downstairs began to reappear. There wasn't much light pollution from the street – there is even less now, so it was particularly dark when the lights were off, and the winter gloom does feel unpleasant. Winter can be a time of depression and loneliness, longer nights and cold temperatures don't tend to encourage us to be joyful and smile. Maybe it's no wonder the children leave their bedroom lights on.

Lights though bring a smile, a glimpse of joy and wonder to our faces throughout the year …..the fireworks in the dark sky, the flames of a bonfire, the candle flame flickering on a table, the warmth of the sun on your face….and so as the Christmas lights go up (and so do our electric bills), it struck me that our home doesn't feel quite so gloomy and the atmosphere in the streets and communities is lifted briefly. The lights that decorate our homes and streets through December and into January may well be part of the temporary secular celebration of Christmas, but they speak about the permanent light of Christ, the light that shines in our lives, banishing the gloom and darkness.

The Bible is full of the contrast between light and dark, perhaps one of the most famous passages is in John's gospel where Jesus speaking to Pharisees and other Jewish leaders says this 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. We often say of Jesus, over the Christmas period, that he is the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. Christmas comes and goes again so quickly, for a moment we focus on the birth of Jesus, the gift, the light come into our dark world and then the lights are put away! But the cold wet weather and dark winter nights remain, perhaps even more starkly than before the joy of Christmas time.

Christians believe that the light (Jesus), who has come into the world has not gone, he is with us each day bringing light into our lives and often we need to open our eyes to see it. As we put up and take down our lights this year let's not forget that Jesus brings light to everyone, every day of the year.

The Venerable Sam Hustwayte

Archdeacon of Ludlow

In the darkness, a woman is labouring;

Her journey has been fraught ;

She is weary already

Now she must give all that remains of her strength to her unborn child;

In the darkness she is alone.

Her struggle has no respite;

She must obey her body

She must obey her calling.

There is no easy way, no putting it off,

No denial.

Everything depends upon her courage

Her fortitude and her belief

That this child must, by grace, enter our world.

It has been asked of her

So she responds with her heart and soul

Body and mind

Focussed on her precious task.

Until the moment of birth

And the child is delivered

Not in comfort but in a place of penury;

Not within her family but away from welcoming faces

Suffering the gossip and spite of neighbours;

Who are too ready to condemn

To name her " Sinner".

What Child is this

That  demands her obedience?

What child is this that brings Kings to their knees?

What child is this that comes to fulfil the law?

What child is this that subverts our perceptions of Greatness?

What child is this whose wisdom astounds the Learned?

What child is this that threatens the power of Rulers

And turns them into killers of children?

What child is this that is forced to flee the knives of Soldiers?

What child is this that asks for nothing but to teach us a better way to live together in Peace.

What child is this?
Christine Richmond



## Could This Be You?

Holy Trinity needs three people to step into key roles as soon as possible: a Church Warden, a Treasurer, and a PCC Secretary,

**Church Warden** – Wardens are the practical backbone of a parish. The role covers looking after the building and its upkeep, supporting the vicar, and acting as a point of contact for the congregation and the wider community. It suits someone organised, approachable, and willing to get their hands dirty when something needs fixing or arranging.

**Treasurer**—The Treasurer oversees the church's finances and reports to the PCC, working alongside our bookkeeper, who handles the day-to-day accounts. You don't need to be an accountant.

**PCC Secretary** –The Secretary keeps the Parochial Church Council running smoothly: arranging meetings, taking minutes, and making sure decisions are recorded and followed through. It's a role for someone well organised, a clear writer, and comfortable keeping people on track.

If you think you could help with any of these, or you'd simply like to know more about what's involved, get in touch with Jonathan on jonathan@westhereford.org.uk or 01432 806470.

# Making Room for Hope

Advent invites us to ask what kind of people we are becoming as we wait for Christ. This year we offer two ways to explore that question together, an evening course and a daily devotional, both called Making Room.

The course

Four evenings at All Saints, on Thursdays from 26th November, 7pm to 8:30pm. Each week has a theme, a question to dwell on, and a simple practice to carry through the days that follow. Everyone is welcome, and no preparation is needed.

Offering Ourselves. What would it mean to give God everything, and not only an hour on Sunday?

God at Work. How do we find God in the grind of an ordinary week?

Living with Open Hands. What would it look like to be truly generous as Christmas spending gathers pace?

Sharing the Good News. How do we talk about faith without being weird or pushy?

The devotional

Twenty-seven days, from Sunday 29th November to Christmas Day. Each day offers a reading, a short prayer, and a reflection of around 150 to 200 words written by one of our clergy or readers. They are made for a bus seat, a kitchen table, or the gap between one task and the next. Brother Lawrence found that washing pots in God's presence was as holy as receiving communion, and the devotional is written in that spirit.
Printed copies will be available at All Saints, Holy Trinity, and St Michael's. An e-book can be found at westhereford.org.uk/making-room.

Come to the evenings, take a booklet home, or do both. There is room for you.

Rev Jonathan Widdess.



## CHRISTMAS TEA (+CAROLS)

**You are invited to come along to**

**All Saints on the afternoon of**

**Sunday 13th December ( 3pm-5pm)**

**to enjoy singing some well known carols & share time together over a delicious Christmas Tea.**





**No charge... bring a friend! It will nearly be**

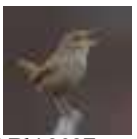
Christmas

## December Saint of the Month: Andrew (30th Nov – but often bumped to 1st Dec!)

Andrew is named as an apostle in all four gospels. Putting what they say together, he was brother to St Peter and they worked as fishermen together. Mark and Matthew have Jesus calling them to follow him while they were casting their nets into the Sea of Galilee (a bit further out than some images show) But John places him as a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John speak of Jesus as the Lamb of God and started to follow Jesus as well, then bringing his brother Peter to Christ too. Perhaps the net incident came later as Jesus gathered the Twelve to go out on mission with him. Andrew was there at the Feeding of the Five Thousand for instance, and likely spoke Greek and was able to help some Greeks in Jerusalem meet Jesus. In later tradition he is strongly associated with mission further afield but became the Patron Saint of Scotland because his relics came there, not he himself. He became the patron saint of Scotland because of a legend that his relics had been brought there in the eighth century. The Eve of St. Andrew's Day traditionally includes prayers for global mission,



*Almighty God,*
*who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew*
*that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ*
*and brought his brother with him:*
*call us by your holy word,*
*and give us grace to follow you without delay*
*and to tell the good news of your kingdom;*
*through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,*
*who is alive and reigns with you,*
*in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*
*one God, now and for ever.*





# Advent Carols

Sunday 6th December, 6.30pm

## All Saints, Hereford

With the St Nicholas' Hereford Choir

westhereford.org.uk

***HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR !!!***

***MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE who***

**READ, CONTRIBUTE, PRINT, DISTRIBUTE AND HELP IN ANY WAY IN PRODUCING TEAMTALK.**

**I am always grateful for the support and kindness I receive throughout the year,**

**Jenny (Editor)**

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**FYI**

**The ALL SAINTS FUNDRAISING TEAM is building up money towards the ALL SAINTS FUTURES PROJECT.**

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**Christmas Tea.** 🍰

**No charge... bring a friend! It will nearly be**

Christmas! 🎄😀🎅🫖🎶




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## St Nicholas Mothers' Union

Theme 2025 -2028 Join us and Join in. We are changing lives! 1876 – 2026

In November we had a talk about Fire Safety in the Home. For me the clear messages were that fire, smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms have changed in recent years and you should have the updated versions fitted, and if there is a fire either vacate the building or stay and keep your doors shut, the door will act as a fire break.

**From national Mothers' Union** - All of our work is guided by our three core pillars of transformation: Ending Violence – promoting peace and safety, Ending Injustice – advancing gender justice and Ending Poverty – fostering self-reliance and resilience.

Our global programmes include literacy and savings groups, parenting and resilience training, and domestic abuse awareness campaigns. These initiatives are rooted in local communities - we listen first, then respond with practical, faith-led action. Every day, globally, our members carry out thousands of quiet acts of service that bring hope and healing.

Mothers' Union today reflects the diversity of the modern world. We are a movement that continues to evolve, welcoming people of all backgrounds and identities. While we are a women-led movement, men are welcome to join! 150 years of courage, care, and community, and we're just getting started – so why not join us?

**16 Days of Activism 25 Nov to 10 Dec against Domestic Abuse**

**Vigil Saturday 28 November 2026 12:45 outside the cathedral**

**December**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sun 6** | **St Nicholas Day** |
| Mon 7 | 12: 00 Noon MU Lunch meeting, Price's Chapel, Bricknell Close |
| Thurs 10 | Midday Prayers, Cathedral |

**January 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon 4 | 2.15 pm MU meeting, Price's Chapel – At the AGM in September it was decided that the AGM will in future be held in January thus aligning the accounts and reports to the Diocesan year end. Year-end accounts will be available. |
| Thurs 14 | Midday Prayers, Cathedral |

**February**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon 1 | 2.15 pm MU meeting Speaker: Cllr Cat Hornsey, Mayor of Hereford |
| Mon 8 | Trustee Meeting, Hereford |
| Wed 10 | **Ash Wednesday** |
| Thurs 11 | Midday Prayers, Cathedral |

Please see church notice sheets for updates about meetings and just our theme says **Join Us and Join In.**

If you want more details please contact me: 07988 750673, annenewman57@hotmail.com, or just turn up at one of our meetings!

Anne Newman, Branch Leader

Mothers' UNION

Diocese of Hereford

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**Good luck!**

## CANDLEMAS CONCERT

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## FAVOURITE CAROL???

Perhaps we ought to have a competition for our favourite Christmas song? Competitions seem to be the format for lots of shows on TV.

How do we compare ? For some there will be songs with special meanings and associations for others just the feeling each note brings to us.

That's what we are after—the feeling of warmth and love that Christmas brings. Carols are loaded with happy memories – for most of us – and if not for you then please, just smile at the rest of us,






### Christmas quiz

1) What colours does Father Christmas wear?
2) Who pulls his sleigh?
3) When is St Nicholas' Day in Holland and Germany?
4) In some countries St. Nicholas has a servant to frighten naughty children. What is his name and what colour does he wear?
5) When is the Feast of Stephen?
6) Marley is dead, Who is Marley?
7) What colour is a Christmas Rose traditionally ?
8) Which actor provides the voice of Arthur Christmas in the animation 'Arthur Christmas'?
9) How many different types of bird are mentioned in the song 'The 12 days of Christmas.'?
10) Which country sends a huge tree every Christmas to be erected in Trafalgar Square?
11) Do the Wise Man come from the East or the West?
12) What is traditionally hidden in a Christmas Pudding on Christmas Day?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

### CRACKERS!

**W**hat do you call a reindeer with bad manners?
Rude-olph!

**W**hat do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

Horn-aments!

**W**hat do you call a cat sitting on the beach on Christmas Eve?

Sandy Claws!

**W**hy does Santa go down the chimney?

Because it soots him!

**W**hat kind of motorbike does Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

**W**hat do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes!

**W**hat do you get if you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frostbite!

**W**hy did the snowman go to the veg market?
He was picking his nose!

**W**hat do snowmen wear on their heads?
Ice caps!

**W**hat kind of music do elves like best?
Wrap music!

**W**hy are Christmas trees bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!



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# Ancient Songs from a King

People have been praying the psalms for three thousand years. Shepherds and kings prayed them, and so did Jesus, in the synagogue and on the cross. They have brought hope to monks in their cells and to exiles far from home, and they hold grief and praise, doubt and trust, in the same breath. Over the next ten months we will take one psalm at a time and dwell on it long enough to let it speak.

Come and listen to an old prayer, and see what it has to say to us now.

December 2026: Psalm 80, Come and Restore Us

> *Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.*

December is a month of waiting.

The days are short and the nights are long. Lights appear in windows, familiar carols fill our churches, and we begin to look towards Christmas, when Christ was born among us as a child.

Psalm 80 is an ancient prayer from a people in trouble. Israel has suffered defeat and its future looks uncertain. The people remember how God led them out of Egypt and planted them in a land of their own. Now they feel exposed, and wonder whether God has turned away from them.

The psalm begins with a cry:

> *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.*

God is a shepherd who knows his people and leads them. The image is tender, and the prayer is urgent. The refrain comes round three times, and the title grows each time: God, then God of hosts, then LORD God of hosts. The people draw nearer with every cry.

Then the psalm gives us a vine. Israel is brought out of Egypt and planted by God. Its roots spread, its branches reach towards the sea, and it fills the land. Then the wall around it is broken down.

Why have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

The vine needs its keeper.

There is something fitting about reading this psalm in Advent. At Christmas, Christians celebrate the belief that God has heard this longing and come among us. The child born in Bethlehem is the sign that God has not abandoned his world. He knows the fragility of human life from the inside, and he begins the work of making all things new.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says:

> *I am the vine; you are the branches.*

The one who comes at Christmas is the keeper the vine has been waiting for. We are invited to remain in him and draw our life from his, so that we may bear fruit.

## For reflection

Where in your life, or in the world around you, do you long for things to be restored ?

BREINTON VILLAGE HALL







## Easyfundraising: £2.5 million paid to bodies like ours in Quarter 3 of 2026



The good news is that St Michael's is still one of the organisations raising the most money through Easyfundraising. However now we are only in the top 50% when we used to be in the top 20%!

Since joining Easyfundraising, St Michael's Breinton has received almost £2000 – at no cost to those choosing to route their online purchases through Easyfundraising. But the amounts raised lately have been declining. We have some who have registered with this organisation not really making much use of it and others who have expressed interest in joining not actually taking that next step.

SO PLEASE…. If you order online from thousands of big-name retailers or you change your insurance, broadband etc through one of the online comparison sites or you book holidays online, join Easyfundraising!

It is very easy to do. Sign up to support us and see your favourite online retailers donate to us for free whenever you shop with them.

Sign up here: https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmichaelschurchbreinton/Y6XZEE/dda1/U5SijpKB/Q2255/facebook/97.42



# CHRISTMAS FAIR  HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

## SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 9.30AM – 4PM

Over 40!!! stallholders will be in the Cathedral on

Saturday 19  December for our  Annual Christmas Fair.

The Fair opens at 9.30am and will be featuring homemade produce, handcrafted items and plenty of festive gifts and crafts from local stallholders.

Entry is free for the Christmas Fair and donations on the door will go to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. It is best to bring cash on the day as not all stalls will be taking card payment.

Al's Garden Care

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE

February EDITION OF TEAMTALK IS

January 10th

For all enquiries about advertising please contact

Jacqui Tonge

jaquitonge@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 07828055727



# Down Memory Lane – Lindsay Arthur Lafford 1912- 2014

I have just got back from meeting Julia Lafford Winton (here for the Three Choirs Festival 2025), at the Cathedral Library where she was looking through her father's deposits which told of his life story and his connection with Hereford Cathedral. Her father, Lindsay Arthur Lafford had discovered his talent and love of music as a child in Hereford from which he left to go to spend 4 years in Hong Kong as Organist and Director of Music at St John's Cathedral. From there in 1939 he had the opportunity to return to England or go to teach at Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges USA. He opted for America for an academic career, where he eventually became a professor and composer and wrote pieces which would be played during the Three Choirs Festival here. What made me interested in his life was his connection with Holy Trinity where he learnt to play the organ. Great composers and musicians must start somewhere and why not here!

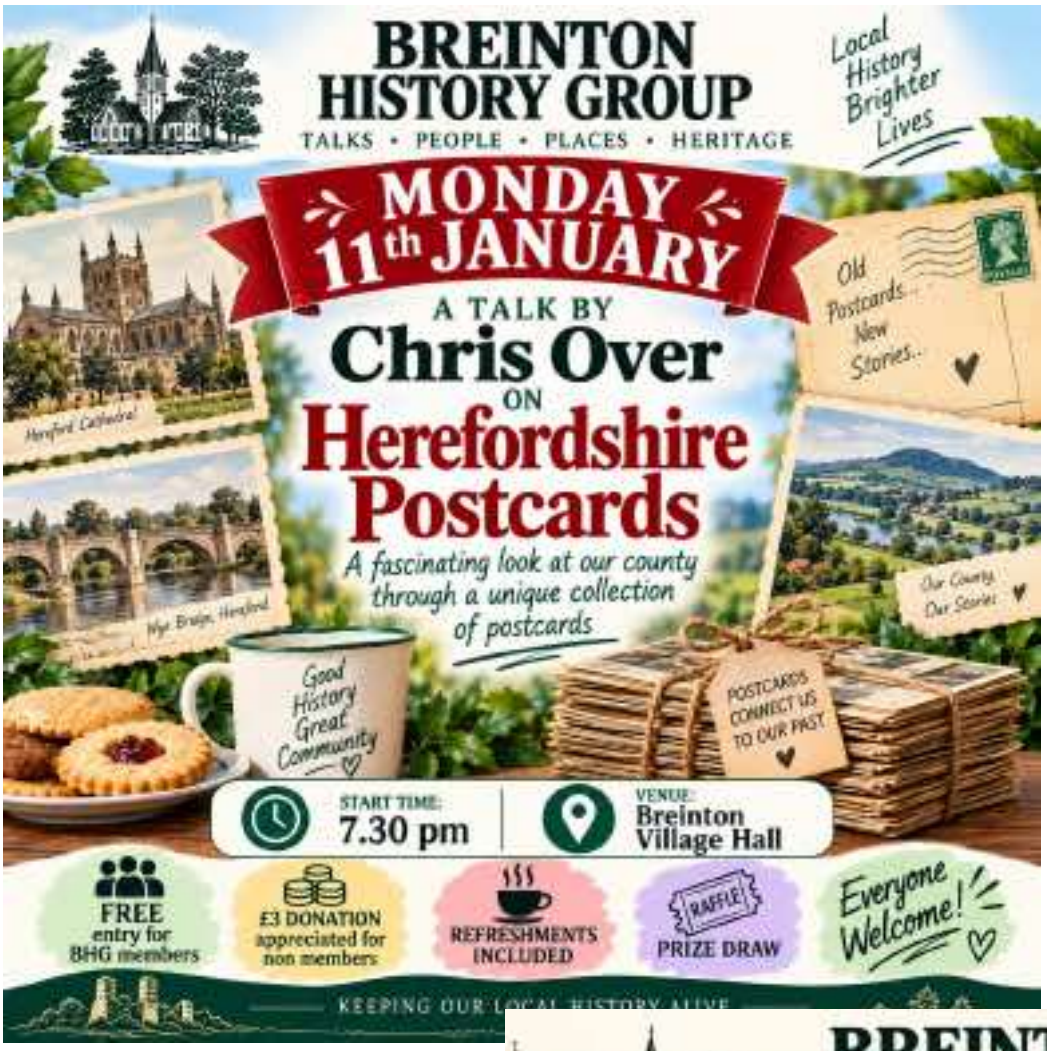
Lindsay's parents, Arthur and Julia Lafford moved to 59 Baysham Street from Gloucester in 1915. In the 1921 census Arthur was working as a shipping manager for R J Smith & Co., Great Western Railway Agents and he later managed the carting at the Barton Road Station where he must have had an office. He had been working as a shipping clerk for the carting agents in Gloucester and was to continue to work as a railway clerk until he retired. Julia was from a very musical family in Cinderford, Forest of Dean. She had a beautiful alto voice and sang in the Three Choirs' Festival choruses for many decades.

Their son Lindsay, had been born in Gloucester in 1912 and his mother Julia, recognised and supported his musical talent so that by April 1922 he joined the Hereford Cathedral Choir. His daughter Julia told me that she remembers him telling her that, "*His very first organ lessons and practice were at Holy Trinity, with his mother pumping the air pressure for the chest*." It was at the time that Arthur Wigley was organist and choirmaster and although I can't be certain, I expect Lindsay's early musical teaching was through Arthur as well as his mother. Lindsay didn't join the Cathedral Choir until he was 9 and so it is likely that he spent one or two years in HT choir and perhaps started to learn to play the piano with Arthur for he started having piano lessons from the age of 6. Arthur must have spotted Lindsay's talent and perhaps suggested to Julia that Lindsay should audition for the Cathedral choir. That led him to receive the Sinclair Scholarship which enabled extra educational resources such as organ lessons from Percy Hull and piano lessons from Winifred Banks, and he also learnt to play the bassoon. "*While a chorister and young organist, Lindsay performed under Ralph Vaughan Williams' baton in the Three Choirs Festival of the late 1920s and 30s*", says his daughter. As a chorister he was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and had to fit singing services and rehearsals around the school timetable.

Lindsay became Senior Chorister, and when his voice changed, he "*went up to the organ loft"* in 1929. As an assistant organist he would go out to places like Tupsley and Lugwardine to play for services. At Lugwardine his daughter told me that the gardener pumped the organ during practices and when he played long pieces a red sweaty head would appear round the side and ask when he could go and get a pint. Julia his daughter told me that, "*Geraint Bowen says that Lindsay is the only person who had the privilege of playing the original Father Willis organ, the 1934/5 renovation AND the 2005 (present) update*" at the cathedral.

Lindsay died in 2014 aged 101, after a brief illness and his ashes were deposited by his family in Hereford cathedral cloister. Do look online to find out more about his work and life in the USA. I wonder if anyone has a Holy Trinity choir photo taken around 1920 when Lindsay might have been a member of the choir or perhaps you knew his family or who his friends were when he was a boy living in Baysham Street. Julia and I would love to know!

Jean Thomson


BREINTON
HISTORY GROUP
TALKS • PEOPLE • PLACES • HERITAGE
Local History Brighter Lives
MONDAY 11th JANUARY
A TALK BY
Chris Over
ON
Herefordshire Postcards
A fascinating look at our county through a unique collection of postcards
Old Postcards... New Stories..
Hereford Cathedral
Wye Bridge, Hereford
Our County Our Stories
Good History Great Community
POSTCARDS CONNECT US TO OUR PAST
START TIME:
7.30 pm
VENUE:
Breinton Village Hall
FREE entry for BHG members
£3 DONATION appreciated for non members
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
RAFFLE
PRIZE DRAW
Everyone Welcome!
KEEPING OUR LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE


BREINTON
HISTORY GROUP
TALKS • PEOPLE • PLACES • HERITAGE
Local History Brighter Lives
SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY
WASSAIL
A traditional celebration to bless the orchard for a healthy harvest
Good Company Good Traditions Brighter Tomorrows
WASSAIL GOOD HEALTH GOOD HARVEST HAPPY PEOPLE
TIME:
6.00 pm
VENUE:
Breinton Village Hall
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
DONATIONS APPRECIATED
Everyone Welcome!
KEEPING OUR LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE

2027


BREINTON
HISTORY GROUP
TALKS • PEOPLE • PLACES • HERITAGE
Local History Brighter Lives
MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY
A TALK BY
Clare Wichbold
Constance Radcliff Cooke from Hellens
The remarkable story of a Herefordshire woman ahead of her time
START TIME: 7.30 pm
VENUE: Breinton Village Hall
FREE entry for BHG members
£3 DONATION appreciated for non members
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
RAFFLE PRIZE RAFFLE
Everyone Welcome!
KEEPING OUR LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE


BREINTON
HISTORY GROUP
TALKS • PEOPLE • PLACES • HERITAGE
Local History Brighter Lives
MONDAY 7th DECEMBER
THIS MONTH IS
IN HOUSE ENTERTAINMENT
An enjoyable evening of fun and festive spirit!
Good Company Great Times!
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
START TIME: 7.30 pm
VENUE: Breinton Village Hall
FREE to BHG members
£3 DONATION appreciated for non members
RAFFLE PRIZE RAFFLE
Everyone Welcome!
KEEPING OUR LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE



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COMMUNITY FUND




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# Some more good news!

As you will know, work has been under way to address problems with the bell cote and the roof of St Michael's. We have some good news to report! The final stages of the work have almost been completed and the problems are no worse than we thought.

We are very grateful to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust for their generous response to our application for financial assistance. We have been granted £8,000 towards the costs of the repairs! We are pleased to report that Laslett's Charities are also helping us and has granted £3,000!

However, as we have reported before, the work is expensive and the scaffolding alone cost approximately £12,000. We are expecting further large invoices as the work concludes. So you can appreciate why we are still asking for help again from the parish. Many thanks to those who have already contributed but we still have a long way to go. Please consider if you are able to help by making a donation. Every sum, large or small, is gratefully received.

**You could make a donation through electronic banking.** The church account name is Breinton Parochial Church Council. The sort code is 40-52-40 and the account number is 00006501 please insert "for fabric repairs" in the reference box

**You could make a cash donation.** This should be done through the West Hereford Team Office, Vowles Close, Hereford, HR4 0DF. Cheques should be made payable to Breinton Parochial Church Council with "for fabric repairs" written on the back of the cheque.

Other ways include:

You could make a one-off donation through the **Parish Giving** scheme. Scan this QR code

Or visit the Parish Giving website www.parishgiving.org.uk or phone them on

0333 002 1260. You could also set up a regular monthly donation if you wish.

You could make a **one-off donation online** through our **Give a Little** page https://givealittle.co/campaigns/1099258d-0548-401d-b95e-82b5312814dc

Or scan this QR code

If you are a UK taxpayer, you could gift aid your donation. Donating through **Gift Aid** means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). It will not cost you any extra. You need to make a Gift Aid declaration for us to claim**.** You can do this by filling in a form**.** You may of course have already completed a Gift Aid form in which case there is no need to fill in another one.







CHRISTMASTIME FOR ONE

UNLUCKY/LUCKY READER!





**Answers to quiz on page 15**

1) Red

2) Reindeer

3) Dec.6th

4) Knecht Ruprecht/Zwarte Piet (Black Peter) Black clothing

5) Dec 26th

6) Scrooge's partner.

7) White

8) James McAvoy

9) 6

10) Norway

(11) East

(12) Silver charm, silver threepeny bit/ silver sixpence


For all enquiries regarding advertising

PLEASE CONTACT
**Advertising co-ordinator**
**Jacqui Tonge**

**Tel: 07828055727**
**jaquitonge@yahoo.co.uk**


**If you wish to help St Michael's and have a Smartphone, you might like to use this QR code which will take you to our**

**Give a Little Page.**
**Thank you for your support.**

**SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION**

Do you live in Breinton? Are you at university and needing books for your course? Or are you a teenager who needs equipment for a Duke of Edinburgh Award? Maybe you need help in buying school uniform for your children?

Breinton has access to limited funds which come partly from the rental of land left many years ago to support the education of young people in the Parish. This money is carefully managed for your use and you are invited to apply for it. If you are interested, either for yourself or for your child, please telephone Helen on 353850


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ALASTAIR CONWAY

Jonathan and his sister Anna return from China after raising in the region of £8,000 for St. Michael's, Hospice







Anna & Jonathan have completed their fundraising trek on The Great Wall of China. They were part of a group of 27 who have collectively raised over £75,000 (plus Gift Aid) for St Michael's Hospice., Hereford.

They said that it was the most amazing experience and it was surreal to have a Hereford community together in such remote locations.

Memories and friendships were made and most importantly vital funds were raised .

It's not too late to donate

https://www.justgiving.com/page/jonathan-brookes-4

## Easyfundraising: £2.5 MILLION paid to bodies like ours in Quarter 3 of 2026

The good news is that St Michael's is still one of the organisations raising the most money through Easyfundraising. However now we are only in the top 50% when we used to be in the top 20%!

**Since joining Easyfundraising, St Michael's Breinton has received almost £2000 – at no cost to those choosing to route their online purchases through Easyfundraising.**

But the amounts raised lately have been declining. We have some who have registered with this organisation not really making much use of it and others who have expressed interest in joining not actually taking that next step.

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It is very easy to do. Sign up to support us and see your favourite online retailers donate to us for free whenever you shop with them.

Sign up here: https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmichaelschurchbreinton/Y6XZEE/dda1/U5SijpKB/Q2255/facebook/97.42



## Evergreen Immortals

Yews all over the UK will likely live on for hundreds more years, passing down their stories, legends and history forevermore.

If you find yourself with one of these majestic trees in your churchyard, here are a few things you can do to help them out. Most Yews don't need much management and generally like to be left alone. However, clearing anything over their root plate and underneath the trees as well as any ivy growing up the trunk will give them the best conditions to thrive. Get thinking about how you can involve your local communities with our Love Your Yew Week in Feb 2027. To find out more, follow the link to our website to read why Yews are so important to churchyards and how you can help them today.

Kaitlyn Elverson Engagement Officer, Nature in Sacred Places Project (NiSP)
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk – individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

## NOVEMBER QUIZ

### IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S REPAIRS

The quiz which took place in the Village Hall in Breinton was well attended despite a cold and rainy night.

Everyone enjoyed the picture rounds and naturally the cake . The round on Africa was not a hit , however, and rounds on gardening and cookery have been promised for the next quiz!!

Now is the time to swot up on possible questions!. (Just joking!)

A Raffle was a new addition in order to raise further funds for the church and the total raised including the raffle was a bumper £265!!

Thanks go to June and Lyn who manned the raffle while June provided some prizes. Needless to say , Sheila helped with the teas and Jackie and Gary did sterling work washing up and clearing away.

Many thanks to everyone who braved the weather and made it such an enjoyable evening.

**The next QUIZ is in aid of**

**BREINTON VILLAGE HALL and is planned for**

**MARCH 12 2027**

**If you fancy getting a bit more involved with the Village Hall,** we would love to hear from you. We are always grateful for an extra pair of hands to keep things running smoothly for the community. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours now and then, it really does help and is hugely appreciated. It's also a great way to meet people and be part of village life.

Contact us at:

breintonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com





## TREE OF LIGHT AND HOPE

You are invited to place a star on the TREE OF LIGHT AND HOPE at the back of St Michael's Church from Advent Sunday - November 29th— until Christmas.

A star can be in memory of a loved one, someone who is ill, a person in need of prayer, peace in the world, hope for the future or whatever you wish.

If you would like to donate to the work of the Church, this would be gratefully received.

Stars will be in the Church from Advent Sunday or contact Ann Powell on Hereford 266432

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

**Online Services**

**Evening Prayer, 6.30pm every Sunday**, except the first Sunday of the month. Follow this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82460018059?pwd=eWUxRW1KM1FXRVNtYlkvK3o4WlpyUT09
Meeting ID: 824 6001 8059 Passcode: 072124

**Morning Prayer, 8.30am Monday – Friday. Follow this link:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84352782015?pwd=OU1PNGNZV09OZzExUUo0OGJGajVsdz09
Meeting ID: 843 5278 2015 Passcode: 985657

**Midweek Services**

**8:30am Monday - Friday – Morning Prayer Online (see above for details)**

**12:10pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – Low Mass at All Saints'**

**10:00am Thursday – Holy Communion at Holy Trinity**

**N.B: RE. THE SERVICES LISTED**

**These services are correct at time of going to publication. For up to date information, please refer to our website www.westherefordteam.org.uk**

THE LAST WORD - From the Editor

I like to have new and interesting articles for Teamtalk BUT I STRUGGLE with unknown quantities.

WORD is my friend and easy to use.

So PLEASE send everything in WORD! Many Thanks

DEADLINE JAN 10TH FOR THE FEBRUARY 2027 EDITION!



# Services during *December* 2026



## Sunday 6th December 2026

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Holy Communion |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Parish Eucharist |
| 6:30pm | All Saints | Advent Carols with St Nicholas Choir |



## Sunday 13th December 2026

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | BCP Communion |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Morning Worship |
| 3:00pm | All Saints | Christmas Tea with Carols |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |



## Sunday 20th December 2026

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | All Age Eucharist |
| 3:00pm | St Michael's Breinton | Carol Service |
| 4:00pm | All Saints | Pop-Up Nativity |
| 6:30pm | Holy Trinity | Nine Lessons & Carols |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |





## Thursday 24th December 2026 – Christmas Eve

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 3:00pm | St Michael's Breinton | Quiet Christmas |
| 4:00pm | Holy Trinity | Christingle |
| 10:00pm | Holy Trinity | First Communion of Christmas |



## Friday 25th December 2026 – Christmas Day

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 10:00am | All Saints | Festal Mass |
| 10:00am | St Michael's Breinton | Holy Communion |



## Sunday 27th December 2026

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Team Service |

**Online Services**

**Evening Prayer, 6.30pm every Sunday**, except the first Sunday of the month. Follow this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82460018059?pwd=eWUxRW1KM1FXRVNtYlkvK3o4WlpyUT09

Meeting ID: 824 6001 8059 Passcode: 072124

**FOR FURTHER MIDWEEK SERVICES SEE PAGE 28**

## Services during January 2027



### Sunday 3rd January 2027 – Epiphany

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Holy Communion |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Parish Eucharist |

### Sunday 10th January 2027

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | BCP Communion |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Morning Worship |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |

### Sunday 17th January 2027

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Morning Worship |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Parish Eucharist |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |

### Sunday 24th January 2027

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Holy Communion |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | All Age Eucharist |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |

### Sunday 31st January 2027 - Candlemas

| Time | Church | Service Type |
|---|---|---|
| 9:30am | All Saints | Parish Mass |
| 9:30am | St Michael's Breinton | Morning Worship |
| 11:00am | Holy Trinity | Parish Eucharist |
| 6:30pm | Online (see over for details) | Evening Prayer |

**ALL services are correct at time of going to publication. For up to date information, please refer to our website [www.westherefordteam.org.uk](http://www.westherefordteam.org.uk)**

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**BENEFICE**
*For all Parish administration including Baptism and Marriage enquiries and some of the people listed as contact please call the Team Office 273086*

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

**Holy Trinity**
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Vacancy
June Rynn 07944 676034
Verger
June Rynn

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)
Jane Jones

PCC Secretary
Vacancy

PCC Treasurer
Vacancy

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Chris Wright

PCC and Electoral Roll Secretary
Julia Wright

PCC Treasurer
Vacant
Mothers' Union Secretary, Bellringers' Secretary & PSO
Andy Lewis 357281

**Written copy for the FEBRUARY 2027 issue of Teamtalk should be sent to the Team Office by 10th JANUARY 2027 at the latest!**
office@westhereford.org.uk

(WORD DOCUMENTS, PLEASE, preferably in Arial size 11) or to Editor direct:

jesherfmag@gmail.com

**All Saints**
Churchwardens
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Trevor Bray

PCC Secretary
Maggie Fletcher 273149

PCC Treasurer
Jackie Mumford

Church Office
Jackie Mumford

Bellringers' Secretary
Anne Newman 07988 750673

PSO
Mel Carter

**St Michael's**
Churchwardens
Vacancy

Caroline Offley 07912031910

PSO
Lyn Gage 07443 598263

PCC Secretary
Lyn Gage 07443 598263

PCC Treasurer & Gift Aid
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07933960012

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Parish Footpaths Officer
John Wade 355344

Clerk to the Charities
Helen Powers 353850

County Councillor
Charlotte Taylor 07742 880054

Parish Council Chairman
John Hull
07818 465182

Parish Councillors
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Jackie Morris 264410
Lorraine Lewis 0777 367 5774
Emil Morfett 07919350247
Dr. Chris Easter 07757 956 363

Parish Clerk
Lisa Law
Breinton Parish Council
Office 9
The Old Vicarage
1 Rowberry Street
Bromyard
HR7 4DU-
clerk@breintonparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Hereford Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team.**
PC Stefan Hawes 07773054234
PCSO Christina Howard 07773052529
PCSO Adam Westlake 07773052580
These contact numbers are not for crime recording or for urgent calls. These should be directed to the emergency number 101 or online recording of crimes at the website https://www.westmercia.police.uk
USE 999 IN AN EMERGENCY