

Footprints

Issue No. CCLXXXIX

September 2026.

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Copy by 15th of month, please..

Events Diary - September 2026

- 3rd Thurs 12-2.00pm Lunch in Company - Martley Memorial Hall
- 6th Sun 9.00am Communion at Cotheridge Church
10.30am Worship for All - Broadwas Church
- 7th Mon 11.00am Royal British Legion meeting at Talbot Hotel
- 9th Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
- 11th Sun 3.00pm Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
- 18th Fri 6.30 onwards Bingo & Pop-up Pub - Village Hall
- 20th Sun 10.00am Café Church - St Peters, Martley
10.30am Holy Communion at Broadwas Church
- 23rd Wed 10.15am Holy Communion at Heaton House
- 24th Thurs 2.00 - 4.00pm "Cuppa & Chat" - Cotheridge Church
- 27th Sun 10.30am Harvest Festival - Martley Church
6.00pm Harvest Evensong - Broadwas Church
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A Date for the diary: **Sat. October 24th 2.00pm** at the Village Hall, Broadwas. An afternoon exploring the local history of the village and parish and maybe a bit beyond.

Monthly musings from Rev Anne (Team Rector)

September is a time of new beginnings in the world of education. Children either starting school or moving on to a new school. Young people moving onto further education and some adults starting a new job. For those remaining in the same educational establishment it is still the start of a new school year and in many cases a new class.

New beginnings can bring a sense of anxiety alongside a sense of moving on to new pastures, new learning and new adventures. Our parish churches are about to experience new beginnings as they prepare for my retirement which will be marked during an Advent Carol service in Leigh Church on November 29th at 10.30 am. As Mike and I prepare for a new beginning in our life so are the parishes I have had the honour of serving in one way or another over the past eleven and half years. However, many things remain the same. I will still be a priest having been ordained for life. This is the same for the parishes. Reorganisation around the groupings is currently being worked upon which will see the end of the Worcestershire West Rural Team Benefice since Rev David Sherwin was appointed Rector of the WWRT. However, each parish church will remain a Christian presence within their local community.

There have already been new beginnings in the past five years with Clifton, Lower Sapey and The Shelsleys moving towards becoming part of Lower Teme Valley South, part of the Muddy Boots grouping, with Rev Julia Curtis. Currently, the Archdeacon has asked Martley and Wichenford to consider joining the Beacon Group (Hallow, Grimley, Holt and Broadheath) who are in vacancy. Both the Beacon Group and Martley and Wichenford Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) have started the process. That leaves the parishes of Lower Teme Valley (Broadwas, Cotheridge and Knightwick), Leigh and Bransford, Alfrick-w-Lulsley, Suckley and Crown East (including Rushwick). Discussions are ongoing as to the shape of a new grouping to include these five parishes and a.n.other parish which the Archdeacon hopes to conclude during September.

All being well, it will not be long before your Parishes have a new incumbent, which in itself will be a new beginning. Potentially there may also be a need to bring about further changes around governance. A stipendiary incumbent attending lots of rural PCC meetings is not necessarily the most effective use of time and could well be a potential

barrier to someone taking on the role. Rural ministry is no longer one church one Vicar. Those days, within the Church of England, are long gone. Hence discussion and consideration around putting strategies in place to ensure the local church is sustainable and hence maintain a Christian presence in the years to come.

The Church of England is founded on faith, scripture, tradition and reason. In a world of continual change the Christian faith, rooted in scripture, is a constant and our parish churches are steeped in tradition with reason underpinning the ministry and mission of each of our unique and very special churches. All our churches have a past. They are still serving their communities and so, through the actions taken now, we pray they will remain here for future generations. The past often informs the present which in turn creates the future. Not always though. Sometimes I wonder if, as a race, we have really learnt lessons from history, but that is another debate and I only have a page!

In preparing for my retirement from a leadership role in Parish Ministry, as churches and communities, along with me, let us embrace change (knowing how difficult this can be) to enable any transition to help us engage with whatever lies ahead. Jesus tells his followers not to worry and to trust in God. The God who is with us always, even to the end of the age. The God of the past, the present and the future.

With many blessings

Rev Anne

An interesting phenomenon?:

We have all experienced :The Law of Unforeseen Consequences, but there is also another more intriguing one and I can't remember its name. That could actually fall under it. Let me explain by example: One person looking out of the window says to another sat down across the room "What's that bird that just flew away?" A general understanding that another can see what you can see.

A friend of mine hated going to visit his brother to look through his latest holiday snaps, when there was an awful lot of "just out of sight to right or left was something very interesting !"

There must be a name for this ?

Village Information

Church Officials:

Team Rector - Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355
Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897
Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish
Rob Pearce 01886 821959
Peter Walker 01886 822137

Parish Councils

Broadwas & Cotheridge : **www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk**
Chairman – Richard Burrows
Clerk – Email : clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk
Knightwick & Doddenham
Clerk – Richard Timney 07515881231
Email : richardtimney@yahoo.com

Village Hall - Broadwas Georgina Tabberer, Chair,
Email : **Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com**

Clubs and Societies

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - David Creed-Newton - 01886 880534
davidcreednewton@btinternet.com
Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192
Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711

Schools:

Broadwas C of E Primary School & Bumblebees Pre-School/Wrap
Care tel: 01886 821347
office@broadwas.worcs.sch.uk / broadwasbumblebees@msn.com

Community Website - www.broadwas-cotheridge.com

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