



# Acton and Bednall Cornerstone

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Cornerstone our new monthly way to keep in touch. Information for inclusion should be with Phil by the 20th of the preceding month.

### Sunday Services for March and April 2025

2nd	March	09:30	Bednall	MP	Phil
9th	March	09:30	Acton	HC	David
16th	March	09:30	Bednall	HC	Delphine
23rd	March	09:30	Acton	MP	Delphine/Roger
30th	March	09:30	Bednall	Mothering Sunday	Phil
6th	April	09:30	Acton	HC	David

### Friday Service at St James, Acton Trussell at 10am

7th	March	10:00	Acton	BCP	Delphine
21st	March	10:00	Acton	BCP	Greg
4th	April	10:00	Acton	BCP	Delphine

### Sunday Lunch at the Moat House

Tickets are now available for Sunday Lunch at the Moat House. Please arrive at 12:30 for a 1pm lunch. The price includes a 3-course lunch together with coffee and mints. Tickets are priced at £31 and are available from Pat Bates (714091) and Mary Lewis (712190)

## Zoom

Every Sunday at 11:00 we have a service on Zoom. To receive details please contact Roger telephone 01785 714527 or email [roger.howarth@ifdev.net](mailto:roger.howarth@ifdev.net)

## Ministry Team

**Rector:** Greg Yerbury  
**Ministers:** Delphine Howarth  
David Primrose  
**Readers:** Esther Burd  
Jonathan Burd

**Safeguarding.** Every parish must have an individual to contact regarding safeguarding. This is a point of contact for any safeguarding questions or concerns. Our Safeguarding Officer is Howard Searle who can be contacted on 01785 715640 or [howardsuesearle@btinternet.com](mailto:howardsuesearle@btinternet.com). Howard is new to the role. We thank him for volunteering and serving our parish.

### Baptisms

Please contact Delphine.

### Bereavement

At a time of loss contact Delphine

### Weddings

Weddings are possible at both Churches in our parish and are ideal in combination with the award-winning nearby hotel of The Moat House at Acton Trussell. Please contact our parish wedding coordinator Pat Bates, Revd. Delphine or Grete Willacy to discuss your requirements.

**Communion** — The current guidance from the Church of England is that communion can be received in both wafer and wine. Receiving the bread only is considered as receiving communion in full. If you wish you may also receive wine from the common cup. If you prefer to have your wafer dipped (intinction) then this can only be done by the minister. Please indicate to the minister if you wish this to happen.

For more information on any Church matter please contact one of the Churchwardens:

**Acton** Roger Howarth

**Bednall**

Grete Willacy Phil Clayton

## Reflection for Lent

One of the things that some people love to do is to tell you how to be who you are. The minute they find that you are a '.....' (fill in the blank), they begin to offer direction about what a 'good' version of you would do. Invariably, I find, this the opposite of what I think I should do. This can be particularly true of being a Christian. People love to tell you what a good Christian is and how they might respond to any particular situation.

It is therefore reassuring to discover in the Gospels that exactly the same thing happened to Jesus. The temptation narratives are, effectively, the devil doing precisely this to Jesus. We already know that Jesus was the Son of God because he had been declared to be so at his baptism in the previous passage ('This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased', Matthew 3.17 also in Mark 1.11 and Luke 3.22). However, no sooner had Jesus been driven out into the wilderness than the devil began to press him: 'If you are the Son of God....turn these stones into bread; throw yourself off the temple and bow down and worship me (Matthew 4.1-11 and Luke 4.1-12).

The point of the temptations was not to work out *if* Jesus was the Son of God – we already know that he was -- but *what kind of Son of God* he would be. Would he use who he was for his own benefit (by turning stones into bread when he was hungry) or for the benefit of others (by feeding the 5000 or turning water into wine)? Would he get God to save him just because he could (by throwing himself off the temple so the angels would catch him) or give his own life so that he could save others? Would he worship the devil as a shortcut to having power over the whole world or live a life of love and service caring for that world and giving up the power he already had?

Of course, we know the answer to all these questions, we've read the Gospels and heard the stories so often that we know how it ends. We know exactly what kind of Son of God Jesus chose to be. During Lent, however, we are invited back into these stories to look again with fresh eyes. The question this time is not what kind of Son of God will Jesus be but what kind of follower of this Son of God will we be? Will we use who we are as Christians for our own benefit or the benefit of others? Will we use our prayers to ask God to intervene to help us in our own lives, or seek to find ways to transform the lives of others? Will we take shortcuts and easy routes – the equivalent of selling our souls to the devil – or live with integrity the life God has called us to live?

There are many people in the world who would like nothing more than to do tell who we should be, how we should act and what decisions we should make but the Jesus whom we follow is not one of them. He invites us to follow in his footsteps and in doing so to find those answers for ourselves and, then, to work out what they mean in practice. The season of Lent is a time that creates space – 40 days just like the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness – in which we can ask these questions of ourselves and of God. The season of Lent invites us to step aside, to take time in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, to reflect and to ask ourselves these deep, soulful questions. Who am I really? What kind of follower of Jesus am I? What kind of choices should I make to reflect that? How do I choose to live the precious life God has given me?

However as you observe Lent this year – whether you give things up or take new things on – may it be a time in which you can ask these deep questions . . . and, freed from the many voices that clamour to give you their pre-packaged, one size-fits-all answers, to hear the still, small voice of God declaring you to be a beloved child of God.

**Dr Paula Gooder**

## Contact Information

<b>Rector</b>	Revd Greg Yerbury	<a href="mailto:rector@stmichaelspenkridge.co.uk">rector@stmichaelspenkridge.co.uk</a>	01785 714344
<b>Minister</b>	Revd. Delphine Howarth	<a href="mailto:delphine.howarth@ifdev.net">delphine.howarth@ifdev.net</a>	01785 714527
<b>Reader</b>	Roger Howarth	<a href="mailto:roger.howarth@ifdev.net">roger.howarth@ifdev.net</a>	01785 714527
<b>Reader</b>	Phil Clayton	<a href="mailto:phil@phil-clayton.uk">phil@phil-clayton.uk</a>	07411 064108
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Grete Willacy	<a href="mailto:mmwillacy@gmail.com">mmwillacy@gmail.com</a>	01785 661939
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Howard Searle	<a href="mailto:howardsuesearle@byinternet.com">howardsuesearle@byinternet.com</a>	01785 715640
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Roger Howarth	<a href="mailto:roger.howarth@ifdev.net">roger.howarth@ifdev.net</a>	01785 714527
<b>Weddings</b>	Pat Bates		01785 714091
<b>Moat House</b>		<a href="mailto:info@thelewispartnership.co.uk">info@thelewispartnership.co.uk</a>	01785 712217
<b>Flowers</b>	Carol Bloxham		01785 715282
<b>All Saints School</b>	Zoe Scott		01785 334977
<b>Friends of Bednall</b>	David Primrose		01785 748976
<b>Friends of St James</b>	Len Bates		01785 714091
<b>Messy Church</b>	Eleanor Simms		01785 716265
<b>Church Lane Antiques</b>	Stuart Lloyd		07779 870140
<b>BATS (Choir)</b>	Sue Searle		01785 715640
<b>Community Centre</b>	Sue Calvert		01785 713735
<b>BATTH Social Group</b>	Sue Calvert		01785 713735
<b>Thursday Tea Room</b>	Sue Calvert		01785 713735
<b>Bowls Club</b>	Alan Webster		07411 311990
<b>Bednall Banter</b>	Katie Holmes		07788 214938
<b>NHS—non emergency</b>			111
<b>Police—non emergency</b>			101
Bednall, Acton and Teddesley Hay website		<a href="http://batth.co.uk">batth.co.uk</a>	
The Churches page is		<a href="http://batth.co.uk/churches/">batth.co.uk/churches/</a>	