

Contact Information

Rector	Revd Greg Yerbury gregyerbury@gmail.com	01785 714344
Minister	Revd. Delphine Howarth Rev.delphine@btinternet.com	01785 714527
Reader	Roger Howarth rogerhowarth@icloud.com	01785 714527
Reader	Phil Clayton phil@philclayton.org.uk	07411 064108
Churchwarden	Grete Willacy mmwillacy@gmail.com	01785 661939
Safeguarding	Howard Searle howardsuesearle@btinternet.com	01785 715640
PCC Secretary	Phil Clayton secretary.abpcc@outlook.com	07411 064108
PCC Treasurer	Alison Kendall treasurer.abpcc@outlook.com	
Weddings	Pat Bates	01785 714091
Moat House	info@thelewispartnership.co.uk	01785 712217
Flowers	Carol Bloxham	01785 715282
All Saints School	Zoe Scott	01785 334977
Friends of Bednall	David Primrose	01785 748976
Friends of St James	Len Bates	01785 714091
Messy Church	Eleanor Simms	01785 716265
Church Lane Antiques	Stuart Lloyd	07779 870140
Local Voices (Choir)	Sue Searle	01785 715640
Community Centre	Sue Calvert	01785 713735
BATTH Social Group	Sue Calvert	01785 713735
Thursday Tea Room	Sue Calvert	01785 713735
Bowls Club	Alan Webster	07411 311990
Places of Welcome	Grete Willacy	01785 715640
NHS—non emergency		111
Police—non emergency		101
Bednall, Acton Trussell and Teddesley Hay website	batth.co.uk	
The Churches page is	batth.co.uk/churches/	



Acton and Bednall
Cornerstone

May 2026 Volume 4 Number 4

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Cornerstone our monthly newsletter. Please let Phil have any content by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

May and June Sunday Services

May 3rd	09:30	Bednall	Morning Prayer	Roger and Phil
May 10th	09:30	Acton	Morning Prayer	David
May 17th	09:30	Bednall	Holy Communion	Delphine
May 24th	09:30	Acton	Holy Communion	Delphine and David
May 31st	09:30	Bednall	Morning Prayer	Esther and Jonathan
June 7th	10:30	Penkridge	800th Birthday	Bishop of Lichfield
June 14th	09:30	Acton	Holy Communion	Delphine

Ascension Day Thursday 14th May

18:30 Bednall Holy Communion David

Friday Services at St James, Acton Trussell

May 1st	10:00	BCP	Delphine
May 29th	10:00	BCP	Greg
June 12th	10:00	BCP	Delphine

A Zoom service is held on Sundays at 11:00. Please contact Roger for further information. Call 01785 714527 or email rogerhowarth@icloud.com

Places of Welcome The new community meeting room at All Saints, Bednall is open from 2pm - 4pm every Tuesday. Please do come along for refreshments and conversation. Please speak to Grete for further information.

Church Finances. Each year it costs over £50,000 to run our Church buildings covering service costs, payments to the Diocese, heating, lighting and insurance. We rely on the generosity of all the donations we receive and fundraising events for which we are most grateful. In the past we have received free banking. Now we have to pay a fee to bank all cash. We also pay to pay in each individual cheque and to write a cheque. These costs are significant. We are therefore asking everyone to pay direct into our bank account and receive payments electronically. Our details are **Lloyds Bank**. Account name: **Acton and Bednall PCC**, Sort Code: **30 98 00** Account Number: **02549299**. To receive money from the PCC by direct transfer please contact Alison Kendall our treasurer. These transactions are free.

Ministry Team

Rector: Greg Yerbury
Ministers: Delphine Howarth
David Primrose

Readers: Esther Burd
Jonathan Burd
Phil Clayton
Roger Howarth

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.

Baptisms

Please contact
Delphine



Bereavement

At a time of loss please
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.

St Michael's Church Penkridge

This year St Michael's Church, Penkridge is celebrating 800 years. There will be a special service on **7th June starting at 10:30** where the Bishop of Lichfield, Bishop Michael will be preaching. There are no morning services at Acton Trussell, Bednal, Dunston, Coppenhall on

Ascension Day 2026

Ascension Day is on **Thursday 14th May 2026**. There will be a service of Holy Communion at **All Saints, Bednall at 6:30pm**. David Primrose will be presiding. Immediately following the service (approximately 7pm) there is the Annual Meeting of the People and following this the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Churchwardens. For more information on any Church matter please contact the Churchwardens. **Acton:** Roger Howarth. **Bednall:** Grete Willacy and Phil Clayton

Reflection for Ascension Day

'Up' we think, is where authority and power can be found. We talk about 'high-ranking' and 'higher' powers. It is a fundamental assumption for us that ambition will get us 'to the top'. So, up is where the action is. Ascension Day then, can be a bit of a pain in the neck, as we all crane our heads to look upwards, to where the ascended Christ has sat down on a throne, on the right hand of power. Think of all those wonderful paintings in the domes and ceilings of our churches and palaces where God sits on high, deciding things, ruling, and generally being the boss and top dog. Ascensiontide really does invite us to look up to God (which is no bad thing) and to think about his power (which might be a bit more problematic).

I have listened to many conversations about decision-making and authority in the last few days. Are we following the science? Who gets to decide whether children return to school? What does moral authority look like in this crisis? Is the government offering strong leadership? The questions matter; lives and livelihoods are at stake. We need people who can make the right decisions; we rely on them. We have depended absolutely on the expertise and decision making of the medical profession and we will on go on doing that. I live in a world where people have power and authority. Where decisions are made that affect me. I do not always like it, I am not always sure the decisions are wise or right. It is not always comfortable living under authority. I do not always look up to some of the people who have power. Even so, sometimes my life depends on them; sometimes I need them to do what they must do. They have their privileges, but they bear great burdens.

Looking up, on Ascension Day, we must not fall into the trap of thinking that the God is just another decision maker, the biggest boss of all. That would be, I am afraid, bad theology. God does not change his mind, nor do one thing one day and another the next. God has no agenda and no 'to do' list. God is ever the same. God is always and forever a pouring out of love. No whims, no fancies, no decisions, and no strategy. On Ascension Day, Jesus carries his life (and yours and mine) into the heart of that love, forever.

We do not keep Ascension Day well if we give ourselves a pain in the neck. We do not keep it well if it makes us grovel in exaggerated obedience. God is indeed the only One who can create, the only One who can redeem. All things do depend on God. Even so, there are no decisions to be made and it is not obedience, or resignation, that is required from us. It is not power that we worship, it is love.

*The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE
Dean of Westminster Abbey*