



Acton and Bednall Cornerstone

July 2026 Volume 4 Number 5

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.

July and August Sunday Services

5th July	09:30	Bednall	Holy Communion	David
12th July	09:30	Acton	Holy Communion	Delphine
19th July	09:30	Bednall	Morning Prayer	Phil
26th July	18:30	Acton	Patronal Festival	Delphine
2nd August	09:30	Bednall	Holy Communion	David
9th August	09:30	Acton	Holy Communion	Delphine
16th August	09:30	Bednall	Morning Prayer	Roger
23rd August	09:30	Acton	Morning Prayer	Roger
30th August	09:30	Bednall	Holy Communion	David
6th September	09:30	Acton	Holy Communion	Delphine

Garden Party

A garden party is being held on **18th July** at the home of Toni Castle from 3 - 5pm. Toni is situated at Church View, Common Lane, Bednall opposite All Saints Church. Tickets are £15 per person from Toni (07977 657646) or Alison Kendall

Friday Services at St James, Acton Trussell

July 10th	10:00	BCP	Delphine
July 24th	10:00	BCP	Greg
August 7th	10:00	BCP	Delphine
August 21st	10:00	BCP	Greg
September 4th	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 Welsome The new community meeting room at All Saints, Bednall is open from 2pm - 4pm every Tuesday. Please do come along for refreshments and conversation.

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 howardsueearle@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.

People's Emergency Briefing

Join us on Monday evening 13th July, at The Community Centre and bring your friends and neighbours for a free showing of the film, "People's Emergency Briefing". This was first shown in Westminster last November, and since April is being shown by churches, local community groups and others around the country. The film presents a factual account of the climate crisis and challenges us to respond. It's both hard-hitting and hopeful. We start at 7pm; the film lasts 50 minutes; and then we will have an open discussion about what we can do. Our PCC are sponsoring this event. For questions or to tell us you are coming, please contact Alex Thompson, Dave Barrow, Toni Castle or David Primrose all who have already seen the film. Full details are available at www.nebriefing.org

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

From the Diocese - David Wright

Visions, goals, strategies: they're key to helping our churches move together into the future, to God's glory. These words can be a distraction, but a vision is just how and where we want to be in the future, goals are just waypoints: things we want to see on our journey: they may lie ahead or we may have passed them, reassured that we are on track. Strategy is just the plan or the map we follow. We shouldn't get bamboozled by words.

Money can also bamboozle us. Strategies provide choices about the future we want to live in: money provides opportunities to make choices. Sometimes money's presence or absence appears to be the deciding factor, or we make it that, not God or us together with God.

When it comes to money, the anxieties are often to do with not knowing what to do with it or not knowing where to find it. There is often the sense that 'if only' we had more, 'we could...'. Sometimes, an unexpected gift or legacy places the opposite problem: 'what we could do now, so many possibilities.' We seem often to be besieged with opportunities either those we can't afford or those we can't choose between.

Opportunities and choices together give us a future when yielded to God. They give us the courage to work with what we have, not what we hope for, because we recognise that it is God's resource we are using not our own and that he has provided, is providing and will provide what we need to move forward.

So a strategy is something that uses God-given talents and God-given resources to bring new life. Money too, is a God given resource that can help create opportunities to be living bread and water to others. Money and strategy have the power to confound or to bless. The way to demystify both is to put them together, prayerfully and with eyes open.

The opportunity before us all, in Lichfield Diocese now, is to embark on a journey together: the Seeking the Kingdom journey where we have chosen to prefer growth to decline and recognised that we can grow into the future through feeding our faith, supporting our ministry and building up our parishes and communities. We can grow by being better at being church, together.

These choices are the choices before us in Seeking the Kingdom, supported in the consultations across the four episcopal areas last autumn. Our opportunity, simply put, is to express the values of God's Kingdom in our churches, in our communities and in our lives so that we can bring the life in all its fullness that Jesus Christ came to give us and so that we can become his hands, feet and body.

As we embark on a shared path, we stop spending our resources on distractions and may find we have enough to put towards the task at hand: inhabiting the future that God calls us into: his Kingdom

David Wright is Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

GROW

GROW is an acronym that stands for Goal, Reality, Ownership, Way forward. Revd. David Primrose led a series of 4 sessions where a number of individuals from the congregation has the opportunity to discuss ways that our Church may grow especially during our period of interregnum.

Alongside the course which David led the Ministry and Churchwardens have met to hear about the work that the groups have already started and to try to put together an overall vision for the Church in our parish.

"We want to be a Church where God's love is shared amongst us and is known to all who experience and connect with our parish to support them in their faith journey however that journey looks."

Following the course 5 groups have formed. These are:

- Prayer - Revd Delphine Howarth
- Children & Families - Alison Webb
- Creativity - Alison Primrose
- Music - Judith Carder
- Harmony - Revd. David Primrose

All of the groups are open to anyone so it is not too late to join any of the groups should you wish to do so. Please have a word with the group leader or any of the Churchwardens if you would like to be part of one of the groups.

The next meetings of some groups are happening during July:

- Harmony is meeting on 21st July from 7pm to 9pm at All Saints Church.
- Music is meeting on 24th July from 11am to 12:30 at All Saints Church.

The Prayer group is meeting for a quiet day at Shallowford House, Near Stone on Monday 12th October. Places are limited.

The Children and Families group has been very active and there have been more opportunities for Messy Church in recent months. Other activities are planned in the coming months.

Creativity is looking at ways to express ourselves through alternative ways particularly at major christian festivals.

Donations

We have noticed that in our efforts to collect donations by more cost effective means the level of giving has dramatically reduced. In May this year donations were down by around £300 in just 1 month compared to May 2025. The PCC are trying to ensure the amount of cash/cheques that has to be paid in at the bank is substantially reduced to avoid our donations going towards bank profits rather than for the good of our Churches.

If you used to donate by placing cash on the plate or using the envelope scheme and have not yet found an alternative way to make your kind donation go further please speak to Alison K our treasurer or one of the Churchwardens. We do realise that changing from cash to a more direct payment may need some assistance and reassurance.

Reflection - Just Money

Jesus said: “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Talking about money can be an emotive subject. There are so many aspects to consider; I just want to focus on one, that of ethical banking. It featured as a topic on the Carbon Literacy course which twelve of us took earlier this year.

We are all used to ethical factors influencing our daily choices when we spend money. Perhaps we shop local, buy Fairtrade, or avoid products associated with certain regimes, businesses or practices. We can accept that the minor inconvenience or slightly higher price is a cost which we are willing to pay so that our money does good rather than harm.

In a similar way, we can look at the bank which holds our money for us. One important way in which banks differ from each other is (as well as charges, interest rates, ease of access, etc) how they invest the funds they hold on our behalf. To varying degrees, all the major high street banks invest significantly in the extraction of fossil fuels, as well as other highly profitable activities which may be considered, by some, to be unethical. With their impact on climate change, investing in the extraction of fossil fuels neither reflects our love for our neighbour nor our care for creation. In fact, £10,000 invested with one of these banks is calculated as being equivalent to the carbon footprint of driving over 10,000 miles in a petrol car each year.

For most people, bank loyalty is strong, yet switching banks is very easy. If you want to consider switching banks, you can follow these simple actions.

- 1 Check your bank's carbon credentials on this website: <https://bank.green/>
- 2 Consider alternatives on that website or, for a simpler list: <https://www.mymothertree.com/bank-league-table>
- 3 If you intend to switch, follow these steps: <https://justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch/>

We switched our own bank account and would be happy to share our experience. Our PCC will be considering whether to switch our church bank account so if you do pledge to switch your personal account, please let me know so your example can be an encouragement.

And if you want to go further, the Just Money Movement also have information about pensions, investing, and spending.

David

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/	