

PARISH NEWS

OF

ST WEONARDS, GARWAY, ORCOP,
PENCOYD, TRETIRE, MICHAELCHURCH,
HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

APRIL 2021



ILLUSTRATION FROM LOUISE BROSNAN

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CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Vacant
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher 01981 540790
Garway	Vacant
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm 01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember 01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding 01432 840492
Hentland	Robin Symonds 01989 730439

Local Contact

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors 01981 580208
Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors 01981 580208
Bellringing	Mr Peter Hallowell 01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris 07932 668363
Orcop Evergreens	Gill Bannerman 01981 580685
Woman's Fellowship	Miss June Griffiths 01981 580353
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Mrs Fay Rowlands 01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Gill Bannerman 01981 580685
St Weonards Hall Booking	Julie Ross 01981 580201
St Weonards Pre-school	Maggie Evans 07855 550108
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood 01981 540022
Garway Hall Bookings	Hilary Keenan 01600 750243
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones 01600 750273
@Garway	Colin Finnie 01981 580086
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson 01600 750465
Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton 01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler 07940 308696
Dore Community Transport 08452 020144 01981 240924
St Weonards Group website www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward:	Toni Fagan (Green)	tonifagan@btinternet.com
		office hours 01981 540721
Dinedor Hill Ward:	David Summers	david.summers@herefordshire.gov.uk

Samaritans	National Helpline 08457 909090
	Hereford 01432 269000
HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide).....	0870 1704000 01978 367333

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Kirsty O'Brien, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Hayley Cohen and PCSO Christopher Yarwood. How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by the **12th of the month**:

Magazine Editor	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Garway:	Mrs Ruth Maskell Windy Ridge, Garway	01600 750454
Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher 3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	01981 540790
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Meg Oubridge Tretire Smithy	01989 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com
or paper notices to: Miss June Griffiths, Hillside, St Weonards

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
Orcop:	Parish Clerk Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org Parish council website www.orcop.wordpress.com	01981251887
St Weonards:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 580498 07967 352903
Llanwarne:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 580498 07967 352903
Hentland:	Kath Greenow AILCM Hackford House, Dinedor clerk@yourparishcouncil.co.uk	01432 840874

VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS www.stw.org.uk

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Revd Elizabeth Cathie
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Vicar's Letter

Happy Easter

The Resurrection of Jesus

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This year the Easter season is a rather stark reminder that we have been living our strange pandemic lifestyle for more than a year. Maybe it's a good time for all of us to look back over that time and ponder how we have coped, how we have helped others to cope, how others have helped us and what new things we have learnt through the experience.

If we live with others there will probably have been times when that company has been a blessing – but maybe other times when we have longed for a little more of our own space and time. If we live alone perhaps it feels the other way around – too much of our own company and not enough contact with others. For all of us these months may have been an opportunity to deepen our relationships with just a few people – or maybe a chance to cast our net wide and draw in all those we have begun to lose touch with.

Probably we all look forward to these strange months of our lives coming to an end, emerging into the lighter, brighter days of spring and looking around us to see where we go next - what we carry with us from this time and what we choose to leave behind. As we all sift this shared – but also individual – experience through our minds over the coming weeks I trust that we can all find ways to move forward in hope and faith. May you know God's blessing in your hearts and lives this Easter season and may you carry that Easter blessing out to others – family and neighbour, friend and stranger.

Easter blessings

Elizabeth



Easter Day Holy Communion service

by Zoom

Sunday, April 4th at 10am.

If you have not attended one of our Zoom services before, and would like to, please email franiphillips@gmail.com

From the registers:

The funeral of **Vera Morris** of Orcop took place at Orcop church at the beginning of March.

The funeral of **Robert Taylor** of Hentland took place at Hentland church on the 9th March.

We give thanks for their lives and send our sympathy and love to their families at this time.

Service Rota April 2021

We're all becoming used to the disruptions to life that Covid19 presents us with. But familiarity doesn't always make for an easy acceptance, and so the absence of, or changed format of, a particular service can be irksome to any of us. Please be patient – we're doing our best.

At the churchwardens meeting on 24th February, it was agreed that all services in the Benefice would be on Zoom during April and May. Obviously this isn't the most convenient plan for everyone but it is the plan that seems to be wise as we head towards a time when Covid restrictions may become less severe.

Our churches are mostly able to remain open for private prayer and reflection, but for some of our buildings there's a need to maintain more limited opening times, so do check before you go if you're making a special visit.

4 th April	Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
11 th April		10am	All-age service	Zoom
		3.30pm	Iona Lay-led service	Zoom
18 th April		10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
25 th April		10am	All-age	Zoom
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
2 nd May		10am	Holy Communion	Zoom

Once released YouTube and website services will be available to view at any time.

Services over Easter in churches in Wormelow Hundred Benefice

1 st April	7.30 p.m.	Much Dewchurch	Compline for Maundy Thursday
	12.00 p.m.	Much Birch	Words and Images for Good Friday
4 th April	9.15 a.m.	Llandinabo	Matins
Easter Day	9.15 a.m.	Much Birch & Much Dewchurch	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Dewsall, Little Birch & Little Dewchurch	Holy Communion

If you would like to receive the link to a Zoom service which you have not previously attended, please send a brief email to the contact below:

Holy Communion at 10am on 1st and 3rd Sundays: franjphillips@gmail.com

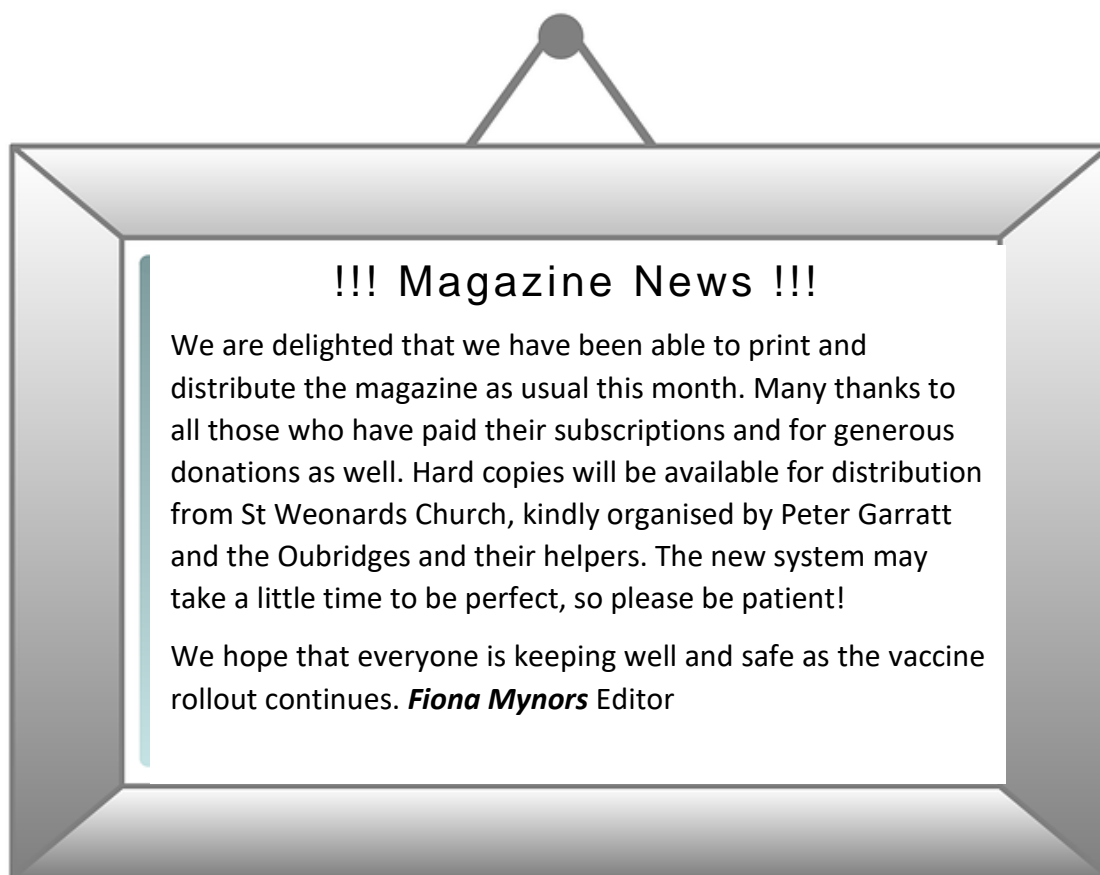
All age service at 10am on 2nd and 4th Sundays: stweonardspcc@gmail.com

Iona-style service at 3.30pm on 2nd Sunday (in April, 5th Sunday in May): peter@pember.plus.com

Evening prayer at 6.30pm on 4th Sunday: elizabethamalcolm@outlook.com

Retirement

Rev Elizabeth Cathie has taken the decision to retire at the end of April. Balancing the care of her frail mother and the work of the parish has been challenging. We send Elizabeth and Sean our best wishes in their future ministries as they move to Hereford.



PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



27th April Christine Davies 01981 580129

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS



The Williams and Lewis families attending the Zoom All Age Service in the lambing shed! It was excellent that they were able to join us despite the demands of lambing and we hope that the sheep enjoyed the singing. If you are interested in joining us for this informal service, available on zoom, do contact St Weonards Church stweonardspcc@gmail.com and details are on the parish website www.stw.org.uk

Recovery

Fay Bowen and her family would like to thank all those who rang, sent good wishes, cards and flowers when she was ill.

We were delighted to hear that Fay is recovering, and we look forward to seeing her out and about at some stage in the future, and of course possibly enjoying her very special Welsh cakes! **Fiona Mynors**

GARWAY

Garway School and Pre-school

With great excitement school opened its doors to all the pupils in March. As Miss Jones wrote, *What a wonderful first week back for all our children! It has been so lovely to see everyone again and to enjoy the smiles and laughter around the school. The children have been buzzing with energy and enthusiasm but are now feeling shattered after a full week back in school.*

We have spent the week adjusting back into the routines of school life, enjoying being with friends again, learning and playing together and chatting (LOTS of chatting!) Throughout the school there has been a focus on well-being.

The normal curriculum has begun and staff are helping pupils to settle down to work again. As part of important outdoor learning, Class 4 will be working towards their 'Young Forester' award during their weekly Forest School sessions. Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre staff are going to be working with Classes 1 and 2 in an exciting programme of weekly outdoor challenges and problem-solving activities.

Pre-school have their own excitements and learned more about Space! They made space rocket snacks, painted planets, sung space songs and became astronauts in their own rockets!

Fiona Mynors

I found this anonymous poem whilst sorting through some paper work. It was dated 2003 but may have been written earlier. A little thought provoking in our present time. **Ruth Maskell**

I almost went to Church

I almost went to church last night
But couldn't find the time
So much to do in the garden to have left it would
have been a crime
So I dug and hoed and weeded
And went wearily to bed
But made a resolution
I'd go next week instead

I almost went to church last night
But I left it rather late
And unpunctuality
Is a thing I really hate
So I sat before the fire
Took up a book and read
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead

I almost went to church last night
But some old friends of mine came
And to have closed the door on them
Would have been an awful shame
So we talked and chatted and gossiped
Until the goodbyes were said
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead

I almost went to church last night
But a certain preacher was there
And for his kind of preaching
I didn't really care
So rather than go to church
And come back with a heavy head
I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead

I almost went to church last night
But my favourite programme was on
And by the time it was finished
The time for church was gone
So I sat before the telly
Until the set was dead
But I made a resolution
I'd go next week instead

I almost went to church last night
But found it was too late
The church was locked and silent
And 'For Sale' was on the gate
Oh, the remorse, which now I felt
The little church was dead
And I – Yes I – had killed it
By going next week instead

FRIENDS OF GARWAY CHURCH

For the last 800 years our parish church of St Michaels has served the community of Garway. This historic church was built by the Knights Templar. They built six churches in England and Garway is one of the best preserved, with more Templar features to be seen than in any of the others.

With falling congregations, our Parochial Church Council is finding it increasingly difficult to finance keeping this ancient building functioning and it was decided that forming a 'Friends of Garway Church' (a registered charity) would help alleviate this problem.

The Friends aim to help conserve and improve the church and its grounds with fund-raising activities and encourage more visitors by advertising the church's historical interest and offering guided tours. Friends could volunteer for more active work including keeping the church looking cared for and welcoming.

Becoming a Friend of Garway Church will help to ensure that the church lives on for another eight hundred years.

There is an annual subscription for membership of The Friends of Garway Church (a registered charity).

Individual	£10	Life membership	£100	Family	£15	Life membership	£150
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For this you will be kept informed of all the activities of the organisation through a newsletter and will be invited to all fund raising functions. A Membership Application form can be obtained from

Mrs Pearl Beach – Treasurer Cae Duff, Garway Common. Garway. HR2 8RF

Garway Heritage Group

The Garway Heritage Group (GHG) was created to explore the rich and diverse heritage of Garway and the surrounding area and to make its work available to others who may share our interests.

Our focus is on learning how historical events, from the Bronze Age to the present day, have impacted on our area and have influenced -- and continue to influence -- the bigger picture of social development.

Monthly talks are held between September and April on the third Tuesday of every month. During the summer months, walks, visits and events are arranged and advertised through an email list and this magazine. To find out more, look at the website.

<https://www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk/>

For the time being, we will be posting some pieces on an irregular, more or less frequent, basis depending on what you send us – whether you are a Garway Heritage Member or not, you are welcome. These will offer a little more depth to previous talks, reminisces of World War 2, looking to the future post Coronavirus and more. Please send them to me, the chairman – liz@fouracretrust.org.uk

As there is no news yet of the reopening of Garway Community Hall or, indeed, the end of Covid restrictions, please look out for details in our newsletter or by email which you can receive by logging in to our website.

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

As a result of the continued lockdown, we have been unable to hold any social gatherings or church services throughout February and March, so our contacts have been by phone, email or Zoom, or maybe unexpected meetings on walks, such as we had with Elizabeth Malcolm and trusty companion Sam in Aconbury Woods a few days ago!

Church services have continued to take place on Zoom, as did a recent PCC meeting, when we heard of plans for the repairing of the roof in St Mary's Tretire, which is in a pretty bad way. The repairs are planned for mid to late March. It is hoped that the church can remain open for private prayer, but be aware that the presence of builders, and a large amount of dust and dirt maybe somewhat inhibiting.

Lockdown has also prevented gathering for the annual Lent Lunches of soup, bread and cheese, which many of us have enjoyed over the years. However, our churchwarden, Elizabeth came up with an innovative idea of compiling a booklet of soup recipes submitted by members of our PCC and any others who wished to contribute. Her suggestion was that we should then choose one of the recipes and make a batch of soup for the first Wednesday in March, (Wednesday having been traditionally Lent Lunch day) and again on 17th March, and make enough to be able to share some with a neighbour.

Elizabeth organised a Zoom meeting over the lunch period, so we were able to chat to others as we tried out our new recipe in a simple lunch -- quite a novel experience but really pleasant to see some familiar faces and exchange experiences as we enjoyed our soup and bread. We tried the *Leek and Potato* one, which was very tasty, and our neighbour enjoyed it too. She rang us later to tell us so.

Next time, 17th March we are going to try the Spicy Sweet potato recipe. If you have a particularly favourite soup recipe, Elizabeth would welcome any additions for her booklet, so do send them to her. If you would like a copy of the soup recipes, contact Elizabeth on 01989730201.

We are still unable to share Sunday worship in our churches, but there will be a Zoom Benefice Holy Communion service at 10 .00 on Easter Day, so even if you have not joined in one of these Zoom services before, do send your email address to franiphillips@gmail.com if you would like to take part, and remember to have a little bread and some wine with you for the service.

Elizabeth, our vicar, is retiring at the end of April to have more time to spend caring for her elderly mother who has been very poorly in hospital after a really bad fall. On behalf of all her parishioners in Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd, we thank her for her years of ministry in our parishes and wish her and Sean a happy retirement in their new home in Hereford. **Margaret Oubridge**

Editor's note: We hope that Margaret continues to make a good recovery after her recent surgery.

ORCOP

As I write this month's Orcop News, I have just heard of the death on 9th March, at home at Moat Villa, of Eric Morris, husband of the late Vera Morris.

The funeral service of Mrs. Yvonne White took place outside, at the graveside, on a beautiful spring morning, with family members only, taken by the Revd. Elizabeth.

We send deepest sympathy to Yvonne's family and friends and grateful thanks for the donation to the Orcop Churchyard Fund.

We were saddened in Orcop to hear of the death of Mr Tom Wade-Evans, who passed away peacefully at his home, Ebenezer House, on 16th February, aged 96 years. A family ceremony was held at Hereford Crematorium. I remember him reading in church on many occasions and his late wife displaying beautiful flower arrangements.

We send deepest sympathy to all his family.

In February we received an email from our Priest, the Revd. Elizabeth Cathie, to say that she was retiring on April 30th. No services will be held at Orcop Church in April, all on Zoom

What will happen after Elizabeth retires on that date I do not know.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Church cleaning rota: April - Mrs. W. Dudfield

It is with great sadness that we write of the death of Vera Morris, nee Meadmore, aged 95 years. Vera was born at Stradway Farm, Orcop, in May 1925. She was the youngest of five children born to George and Bertha Meadmore. Vera walked across the fields to Orcop Church and Orcop School, and later to local village dances, where she met Eric Morris. Vera and Eric were married at Orcop Church in January 1946, so have recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. Vera lived all her life in Orcop, most recently at Moat Villa, the bungalow they built on Moat Farm, where they have farmed for over 60 years. Vera was a true Orcopian, who never travelled far and liked the simple things in life. Vera's funeral took place at Orcop Church on Thursday 4th March.

The Family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, condolence cards and generous donations in memory of Vera.

Written by the Morris Family



ORCOP PLC

Post Lockdown Concert

**Plans are afoot for a concert in Orcop Church
in celebration of the easing of lockdown.**

The date will be fixed as soon as the regulations permit.

Various star performers already on board!

Watch this space.....

If you would like to participate please email garratt_peter@hotmail.com

HENTLAND

A Herefordshire Epitaph

When arboriculturists were pruning the Irish yew on the right of the path from the lych gate to the church, a falling branch broke an old tombstone at the foot of the tree. It was made of the local red sandstone and was leaning towards the path by as much as 40 degrees, so that the lower half was buried and had lain unseen for as long as anybody can remember. It couldn't be left where the pieces lay, so we had to obtain 2B permission from the archdeacon to re-position it elsewhere.

Permission granted, we had to work out how this could be done, when the two large pieces each weighed well over a hundredweight, certainly beyond the capacity of an elderly churchwarden. Young and fit Philip Watkins was equal to the task, and brought two of his men to assist. Thanks to their efforts, the stone is now reassembled and laid flat some 6 yards west of where it had been, let into the turf so its surface is level with the surrounding ground. Being of the notoriously brittle red sandstone, the tombstone's surface had delaminated to such an extent that the inscription on the upper half was broken in several pieces and hardly legible, having been exposed to the weather from the day it was erected, but for what appeared to be the name Lewis and the date 17th April 1811. But the lower left quarter which had been submerged in soil for many years, was seen to bear an inscription which, when cleaned of the adhering mud, read as follows:-

In youth & strength put not your trust
For in my youth I was laid in dust
Unto Gods will I justly yield
It was by a Bull that I was kill'd

Robin Symonds

Wildlife in our Garden

Margaret looked up the habits of moles on her i-pad. According to one informant they only dig out new tunnels for a limited period at this time of year. When they've made their tunnel system extensive enough they just stop digging. Margaret suggested I stop worrying about trying to discourage them by pushing the soil back into their holes. Instead I could scoop it up and put it on the seed bed. I thought I would give this a try. But three weeks later enormous molehills were still appearing on the lawn every day. I was about to resort to traps when suddenly no more appeared and haven't done since mid February. Wonderful! The only downside is that there may well be some subsidence of soil over the tunnels as the year goes on. We'll see.

All through February the squirrels were still managing to jump to the seed feeder from various take-off points and managed 1.8 metres horizontally. But since it was moved further away at the beginning of March they haven't been seen on it again. Yet.



Our feeders have been visited by much the same species of bird since Christmas. The marsh tit (or willow tit) reappeared briefly on 10th February, and a coal tit on 22nd. On March 6th there was a goldfinch; we put out the nyjer seed again, but it hasn't been back so far.

There is a low wall just outside the window that we look out from when we're eating breakfast. We've started putting seeds for the birds on it every morning. It has proved very popular, especially with the chaffinches. It also attracts robins, sparrows, a cock pheasant, the squirrels, even great tits and blue tits, but especially dunnocks.

Dunnocks generally do not attract a lot of attention. Perhaps this is because they do not sport bright colours and usually hide themselves away, scratching about under hedgerows. They don't seem to fly higher than about 6 foot from the ground and I have never seen one on a feeder. They used to be known as hedge sparrows but actually are quite different from the familiar house sparrow. They do have streaky-brown backs but there the similarity ends. You can tell them from sparrows by their sharp, narrow beaks and the grey around their necks and down their breasts. The books say that the sexes are alike, but I have noticed that some are a darker colour than others. This may well be just ordinary variation, and nothing to do with male or female, but it does help with identifying individuals.

Also dunnocks are fairly solitary compared with gregarious house sparrows. We have had a dunnock in the hedge outside our window for some years, but usually on its own, so we were delighted when occasionally we saw there were a pair. This year for the first time we have had at least two pairs. I wonder whether they are becoming more common nationally?

John Oubridge

A Wiltshire Walk

We are delighted to hear from Liz Everall who has moved away but shared her walk near her new home, and her granddaughter's lovely poem.

I thought perhaps you might like to come for a walk with us? No need for your wellies or to get out of your chair. I've got my boots on and warm clothes in spite of the sun, it's always much chillier up the hill, and we walk across the grass which is owned by our neighbours; the huge rookery is in great voice in the beech trees. We go through a little wicket gate and out onto the bridle path which leads up behind our house to Summerslade Down. It's quite a pull, tall hedges on both sides and a bit muddy, but in ten minutes we reach the open hill and turn around. The view is quite amazing, huge open rolling fields, about 50-60 acres each, we've put up some deer and they are making for a copse of trees, lovely to be able to watch them for such a distance. The village, Brixton Deverill, 25 houses, lies below us, none of the houses in the Deverill valley are on the hillside. All are clustered down by the River Wylde, an unbelievably clear chalk stream which rises some three miles away at the head of the valley, beyond Kingstone Deverill. The wind has got up and we are pleased we brought our woolly hats.

We come out of the fields and onto the open down, closely grazed by the Dorset Down sheep, and straight up the steepest part of the walk and arrive at the Beech Clump where Sarah Ashton's mother's ashes are scattered. There are hundreds of daffodils flowering there in her memory, a most beautiful spot. We are now about 800 feet up, the view from here is towards Salisbury Plain and Cow Down in one direction, and in the opposite direction over Cold Kitchen Hill via Boar's Bottom! Talk about the long view and such a big sky! On the top of the down is a stone circle which was constructed in the 1970s for midsummer goings on! On we go through the gorse which is beautifully in bloom, the larks are singing above us and we can see buzzards and red kites. Some days we see the barn owl, huge murmurations of starlings and golden plover and sometimes, to our great excitement, hares but not this afternoon.

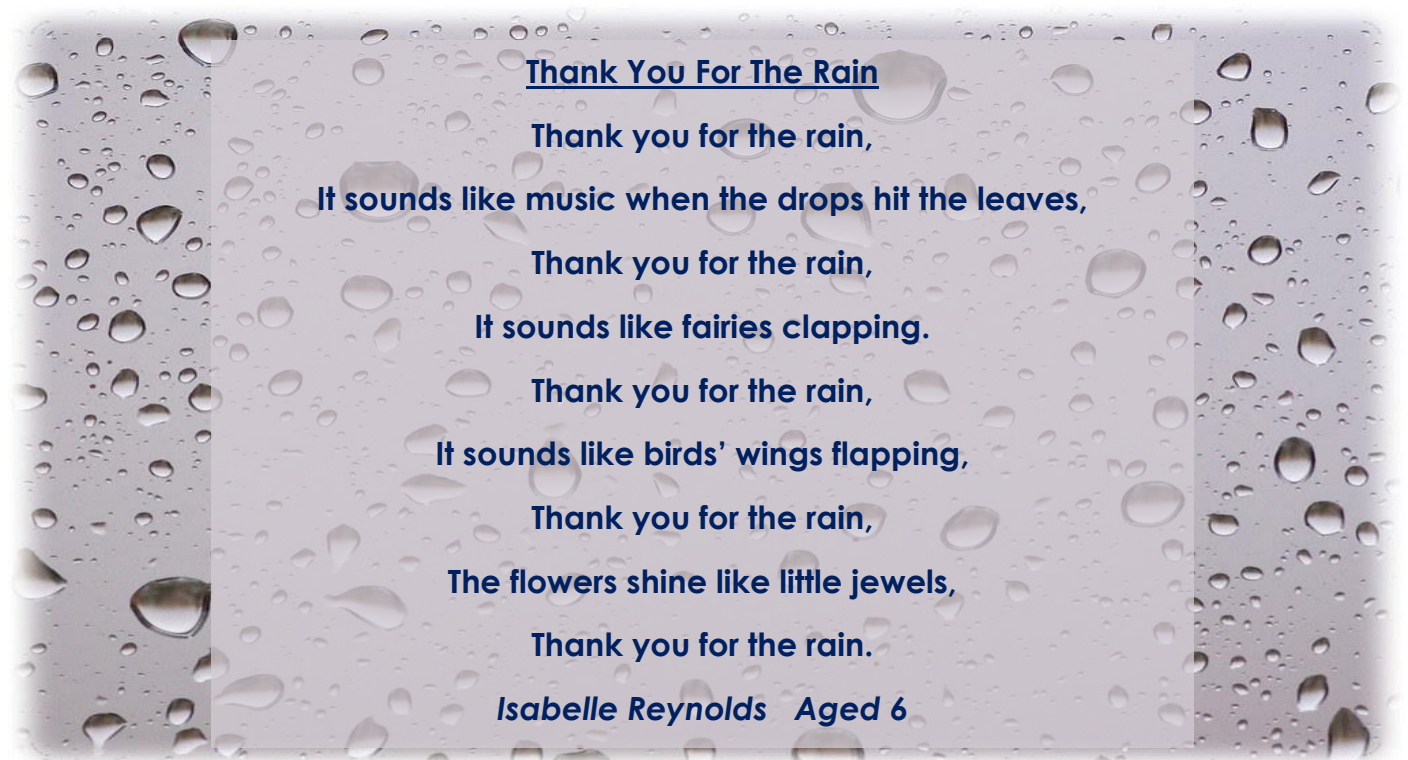


Gently down the hill to the Long Barrow then a steep plunge to our right down into the combe. Hundreds of very contented, very white sheep hardly stir as we pass and we climb steeply up the other side to the Owl Barn where there are big owl nesting boxes. A track leads on up over the down, and as we start to drop we look down on Monkton Deverill. A steep descent to George's Barn and then we advance over several stiles into the flat, beautiful, green river meadows, more sheep and a pony or two. On the left we pass The Old Vicarage with its fine garden and a ha-ha that lets us have a good nose! Then directly in front of us our stone church comes into view which is set amongst more beech trees, idyllic. Daffs are in bloom there too and the path leads through a kissing gate into the churchyard.

We cross and leave by the main gate and as we pass the Manor House, we meet Dan and Emma with baby Freddie and Nessa, their enormous black Newfoundland dog, and there is Dan's Mum getting out of her car with four Golden retrievers! We stop and have a chat, well distanced, and then leave them and walk the couple of hundred yards up the no through road and into the drive which serves Manor Yard. We're home now, boots off.

Would you like a cup of tea?

Liz Everall, Brixton Deverill



Book Review

***When I Come Home Again* by Caroline Scott**

I am always slightly wary of books that start with the surprise appearance of an amnesiac, fearing it will be trite and meaningless, but I could not resist dipping into this one, and I am very glad that I did.

The First World War is just coming to an end when a soldier in uniform appears in Durham Cathedral with no knowledge of how he arrived there, his history or his identity. James Haworth, newly qualified doctor, newly married and himself newly returned from the Front, is despatched to fetch Adam Galilee, as the nameless man comes to be known. Adam is taken to Fellside, an old rambling house owned and run by a Dr Shepherd who seeks to find new and gentle ways of helping those returning damaged from the war.

Adam has a profound effect on those around him, staff and patients, as their lives become intertwined with his. A skilled artist and naturalist, he takes over the large garden in the grounds of the old house, walks in the woods, draws portraits and acts as a listening ear to those around him. But at no point does he feel the

inclination to delve into his past and the traumas that are presumed to have brought him to this place. He is content to let this lie.

However, the staff cannot resist pursuing Adam's identity and place a photograph of him in a newspaper, hoping to spark a memory. The resulting queue of bereaved relatives, convinced that Adam is their son or lover or brother confronts him with an insoluble dilemma – each is willing him to remember them and put an end to their longing, and Adam is torn between honesty and compassion

The sheer weight of loss and expectation is beautifully expressed and brings into focus the desperation of families who lost loved-ones in the war. But, in the end, it seems that objective truth is less important than finding a home for the love they felt and continue to feel.

Hilary Smallwood

Editor's note: by the time the magazine is published Hilary will have moved back to Garway and we hope that she will enjoy being back in the village.

Garden Notes

Every now and then we are all encouraged to plant a tree. I seem to remember when Dutch Elm Disease was doing its worst, the government came up with the slogan 'Plant a Tree in '73'. More were planted after the Great Storm of 1987 and in 2000 we planted 250 Millennium Woods all around the country; the village I was living in back then planted the very first one (Daeda's Wood – 3500 trees in nine acres). There was the Big Tree Plant in 2010 which aimed to plant one million trees and the Countryfile TV programme is running a two-year campaign encouraging us all to plant something (anything, not just trees) to do our bit towards combatting climate change and to help wildlife. The aim is to plant 750,000 trees around the country. Over 367,500 so far. Add your new trees to the interactive map - plantbritain.co.uk

This week I have planted three trees here. Not only do I have a completely new look for the garden, I also have the prospect of flowers in the spring and the changing colours of the leaves and also fruits in the autumn. I haven't chosen anything unusual, just excellent, good value trees. Good value, that is, in terms of what they contribute to the garden, to the wildlife and to our pleasure of course.

First to be planted was a crab apple – *Malus* 'John Downie' which will give us a pretty display of spring blossom and a huge crop of pear-shaped gold and red fruits to make crab apple jelly in the autumn. Next, we planted a pink-flowered hawthorn – *Crataegus* 'Paul's Scarlet'. This one isn't a great one for producing haws, but I prefer its reddish-pink flowers to the white-flowered varieties.



Lastly, we planted a mountain ash – *Sorbus aucuparia* 'Cardinal Royal'. This is a neater more vertical shape than some and will give us white flowers in spring, masses of bright red berries and russet leaves in autumn. There was a mountain ash in the garden where I grew up and this one will bring back memories of being a little girl. I am sure we all associate certain plants with our childhood (just like certain smells and foods) and the mountain ash was an important tree in mine. Chrysanthemums too bring back lots of vivid memories. I've never grown them myself – they seemed to go out of fashion for years – but my father always grew them because he believed that my mother loved to have them in vases. I am not sure that she was actually as keen on them as he believed, but he enjoyed choosing and growing the different colours, especially the bronze ones. Of course, it's not just the look of them that is so distinctive and so memorable – it's *That Smell*.

All the trees we have planted were bare root. I have had a couple of failures in recent years by planting pot-grown trees which were probably too pot-bound. Although the crab apple is only a tiddly one, I chose to buy

larger older specimens of the other two. I wanted instant effect even though I know that the smaller tree will actually establish far more quickly. For trees which are over three metres tall, they have worrying little root but I am assured that they will be absolutely fine. They will need good stakes though and I have given them two stakes each, one on either side. I know that there is a lot of debate about the best way to stake a tree, but this is what the nursery recommended.

All I have to do now is remember to water them regularly and, together with the bees, insects and birds, enjoy our new trees.

Julie Davies



Scarecrow Trail 28th – 30th May

Due to Covid restrictions Ewyas Harold Festival of Arts is holding this one event.

Get creative and let's put on a spectacular, scarecrow trail.

Exciting hamper prizes for best adult and children's categories. Vote for your favourite.

Keep an eye on the website <http://ewyasharoldartsfestival.wordpress.com>

For all the latest details.

Keep up to date by heading over to the Facebook page too.

Parsnip, Rosemary and Honey Soup

Our neighbour Niamh Harris, who works at The Saracens Head Inn in Symonds Yat, shared some delicious soup she made from one of our rather enormous parsnips! What was in it I asked? Made up from her head, so here is what she told me.

Parsnip and potatoes

Vegetable stock

Rosemary sprigs

Seasoning to taste and personal preference

Honey, salt & pepper,

Oregano, sage & thyme

Mustard powder

Boil vegetables in stock with all seasoning except for honey and rosemary.

When fork tender, drain stock into separate bowl.

Use hand blender to mix veg whilst slowly adding stock until the consistency you like.

Keep blending and add rosemary leaves and 2 teaspoons of honey.

Blend for one last time to ensure all well mixed.

Best served with a warm roll and butter.

Did you hear?

Revd Richard Coles was vaccinated by his local GP. They are friends from infant school days, and one of their teachers was Mrs Gilbert. Her daughter Sarah grew up to become Professor Sarah Gilbert, the leader of the vaccine development team in Oxford!

Chuckle Corner

Thanks to Hilary Smallwood for spotting this:



I want to get on that road that Saul in the Bible was on.

The road to De-Mask Us.

And while looking through old diaries she found this little gem, from Caroline aged 4: *Mummy.....do blind babies have tiny white sticks?*

Angel Delight- one of the few desserts to feature in the English Hymnal. Verse 6 of *O worship the King* starts

*O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
Whom Angels Delight to worship above!*

And Yorkshire features in the nativity story-
They came from the East Riding, on a camel.



Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic primary school for lunch. At one end of the counter was a large pile of apples. One of the nuns made a note and posted it on the apple tray: *Take only ONE. God is watching.*

At the other end of the counter was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, *Take all you want. God is watching the apples.....*

Law of Gravity -

Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

Law of Probability -

The probability of being watched is directly in proportion to the stupidity of your act.

Quiz answers that went rather wrong in the heat of the moment:

Name something made of wool.. a sheep.

Name a job that helicopters are used for..tuna fishing

Name something in the garden that is green...a shed.

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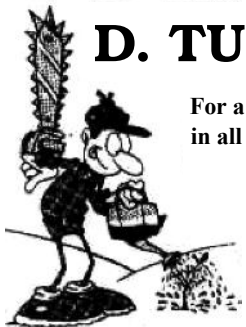
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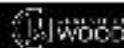
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