

PARISH NEWS

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

JUNE 2021



LOUISE BROGAN

ST WEONARDS BENEFICE

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Associate Priest of the St Weonards Group of churches
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Garway	Vacant
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm 01989 730201
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Youth Group, Tear Fund	Mrs Fay Rowlands 01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Gill Bannerman..... 01981 580685
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St Weonards Pre-school	Maggie Evans 07855 550108
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood 01981 540022
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Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones..... 01600 750273
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Much Dewchurch Gardening Club	Linda Ashton..... 01981 540804
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St Weonards Group website www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward: Toni Fagan (Green) tonifagan@btinternet.com
office hours 01981 540721

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Samaritans National Helpline 08457 909090
Hereford..... 01432 116123 jo@samaritans.org
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
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St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com or paper to Fiona Mynors, The Dower House, Treago, HR2 8QB

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Orcop:	Parish Clerk Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org	01981251887

Parish council website www.orcop.wordpress.com

St Weonards:	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS Email: clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 580498 07967 352903
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VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS www.stw.org.uk

Vicar's Letter

Dear Readers

As you will know, our vicar Elizabeth retired at the end of April, and we wish her and Sean well in their new home.

Our little group of parishes now enters a slightly uncertain time. Unlike previous times when a vicar has retired, it is unlikely that there will be a new person appointed just to our group. Probably the clergy who cover the rest of our Deanery—that large area which extends from south Hereford right down to Monmouth, and across to Weston-under Penyard-- will be spread a little more thinly, and work across boundaries more than they have done in the past.

But, surprisingly, Covid had given us a silver lining to that cloud, because in this last year, when we have not been able to meet together in our church buildings, we have all developed other ways of coming together, and we are well-prepared for being short-handed now. We have all got a lot better at making the most of the remarkable advances in technology, particularly using Zoom and YouTube to share a service, and it has been such a joy to see 40-plus people gathering from their sitting rooms, sometimes coffee cup still in hand! Someone said to me the other day—'it makes you realise that church is not the building—it is the people!' And quite often we see old friends, who have moved out of the area, but who are still able to be with us via Zoom. So we are already offering a good variety of services—Communion, All-age, Iona-style morning prayer, and evening prayer, guided by our able church wardens and leaders. And for all of us, it goes to show that we are able and willing to find new ways of working, and new ways of coming together.

Now our churches are opening up, and our challenge is to carry on meeting up with all those people we see on Zoom, but in the flesh, by attending services in the churches when we can, and so continuing to have the pleasure of seeing them.

There won't always be a service in 'your' church every Sunday, so how about chatting to your friends, asking them whether they fancy going to church, and if so, whether they would like to share a lift, and a chat along the way?

Services will be advertised on the centre page of this magazine, with contact details for those running them.

I look forward to seeing you soon!--*Frances*

June Benefice Service

Our June benefice service is at 10am on Sunday June 6th via Zoom. This will be the only service in our group of parishes on this day, so that we can all gather together and share each other's company and fellowship. It will be a Communion service.

If you are not already a member of our Zoom congregation, and would like to be, then please send me an email today at franjphillips@gmail.com

I hope to see you there--*Frances*

For any last minute changes we suggest you check www.stw.org.uk

June service rota

6 th June	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom
13 th June	10am	All- age service	St Weonards Church
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Orcop Church
	11.00am	Iona Lay-led style	Upper Barn Hoarwithy HR2 6QE & Zoom
20 th June	10am	Holy Communion	Hoarwithy
	6.00pm	Annual Evening Service	Michealchurch Church
27 th June	9.15 am	Holy Communion	Hentland Church
	10am	All-age service	Zoom
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Pencoyd Church
4 th July	10am	Holy Communion	Zoom

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the relevant churchwarden or Rev Dr Frances Phillips.

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 Sunday: franjphillips@gmail.com

All age service at 10am on 4th Sunday: stweonardspcc@gmail.com

Iona-style service on 2nd Sunday: peter@pember.plus.com

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

Christian Aid

A reminder! May is traditionally the month when we collect for Christian Aid, who help people of any faith in the third world. We decided last year that most people prefer to give online nowadays, so this is just a reminder to have a look at their website and to see if you wish to make a donation, to help people in countries even worse affected by Covid than we have been. **Frances**

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



22nd June Colin Robinson 01600 750544

!!! Magazine News !!!

We hope you have received your paper copies as we are back into routine thanks to the 'bagging team' and distributors.

Please check that you have paid your subscription. Thanks as always to our advertisers.

Newsletter from Much Birch Surgery

Covid Vaccine Update

74% of patients have now received their 1st dose and 52% patients have had both doses of the vaccine. All patients aged 50 and over who had their first dose Covid vaccine through the practice should have had their 2nd dose by the end of May. If any patients have not and they had their first dose either at the practice or the Larruperz centre in Ross on Wye, please contact the practice as soon as possible.

All further vaccines for under 50's should be booked through the National Booking Service online

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus->

vaccination/ or by **phoning 119.**

Covid Vaccine 'Passports'

The practice is unable to provide evidence of Covid vaccine status. For patients wishing to demonstrate their Covid vaccination status, proof of vaccination is available on the NHS App. The NHSapp can be downloaded from the relevant App store for iPhone or Android devices. For patients who are unable to use the app, call the NHS helpline on 119 and ask for a letter to be posted to you. This must be at least 5 days after you've completed your course of the vaccine, the letter may take up to 5 days to reach you.

Access to appointments

The practice has been open throughout the pandemic and we are now busier than ever. It may take longer to get an appointment than normal but if you have an urgent matter the GP will speak to you on the day you phone. Appointments are either telephone consultations, video or face to face. Many patients have found remote consultations have worked well throughout the pandemic. The GP or nurse is able to take a full history, arrange any preliminary tests, e.g. blood tests and follow up with the patient with the results. If the GP decides on speaking with the patient that it is necessary to see them in person, a face to face appointment will be arranged, often on the same day. Patients are also able to book face to face appointments in advance if they prefer however, for a routine face to face appointment there may be a wait of 2 to 3 weeks.

For those patients with internet access Online Consultations is another way to obtain advice. Follow the Online Consultation link from the practice website home page. Many conditions are covered and if further clinical advice is required the GP receives a request to respond.

If the GP has requested an appointment they will determine its urgency and inform the receptionists. If you require a medication review and it is not booked before your medication runs out, you will not go without. The GP will be happy to issue another prescription if they can see an appointment in the diary. Please rest assured that everyone is working extremely hard to maintain services and prioritise access to GP's and nurses. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

As life begins to return to some more normality, we are delighted that we can again meet friends and family at home. Also we can hold services in our church. It seems such a long time since we were doing this freely more than a year ago. Although Rev Elizabeth Cathie retired last month and as Frances has said in her letter, we will not have our own designated vicar for the moment, the life and ministry of the church continues in our parish. We will have services regularly again and benefit from oversight from our rural dean Rev. Sean Semple and his team, as well as Frances and lay leaders. Do take a moment to look at the service rota to see the variety of services that are available where we can worship and enjoy fellowship together.

After further discussion, we are planning a slight change in our All Age Service routine. We shall be in church for the second Sunday in the month and on Zoom for the fourth one.

Please come and enjoy the Open Garden event at Treago from 2.00 to 4.30pm. We shall be raising some much needed funds for church, but our main aim is to be able to share some time with neighbours. Details below. We shall have our Grand Draw which is a selection of hampers generously donated and the ever popular wilderness wood trail for the young at heart! If you are able to contribute cakes or help with teas, do get in touch on 01981 580 208, or just come along and enjoy the afternoon!

We look forward to seeing you! *Fiona Mynors*

Open Garden Treago Castle

Sunday 27th June, 2.00pm



Wilderness wood trail, skittles, rose garden, teas, grand draw.

Entrance £1 adults. 50p children.

Treago is signposted from St Weonards off the A466. HR2 8QB

Proceeds to St Weonards Church

GARWAY

Garway School Does the Daily Mile



Garway School children joined in a National Event aiming to get 1,000,000 million children moving across England as school children all ran a mile on the same day, April 30th. The Spice Girls were challenged with providing refreshments to the 120 plus children after their endeavours.

The children walked up through the village led by a pony and congregated in their 'bubbles' in their individual coned off area on The Common. They then did several circuits of the common to achieve their mile, waving flags they had made as they went.

The children and staff then danced and sang and did their moves, joined by some of The Spice Girls, and had a wonderful time in lovely sunshine.

Cakes, cookies and squash were then distributed amongst the bubbles and refueled the children before they walked back to school.

What a fabulous afternoon, it was good to see some villagers joining us on The Common and what appeared a degree of normality returning to Garway life. Thank you to everybody who made cakes and cookies and helped with 'feeding time'.

It has been suggested that it would be nice to have a Community Picnic on The Common with the school before the end of term. This sounds a lovely idea, so watch this space for further news about that. **Garway Spice Girls**

ORCOP

We were pleased to welcome the Rev. Crispin Pemberton to Orcop Church on Sunday 9th May to take the 11am communion service. It was a very good service and well-attended. The Covid rules were of course followed and we were treated to a couple of hymns from Westminster Abbey via Crispin's iPhone. The next service will be at 11am on Sunday 13th June and will be taken by the Rev Brian Phillips. An old friend of Orcop, Brian can be relied upon to come up with new, stimulating and often amusing interpretations of traditional themes and stories.

Arrangements are progressing for ORCOP PLC (Post Lockdown Concert) and a date has now been fixed, Saturday 11th September, subject of course to restrictions being lifted as anticipated. The concert will showcase the wealth of musical, poetic and thespian talent residing in Orcop and the neighbouring villages. The programme will be varied, ranging from serious items lamenting the impacts of Covid 19 to others celebrating the new freedoms we should be enjoying by then. Full details will appear in the August magazine, but please put this date in your diary as it will be an evening not to be missed.

Sadly, we hear of yet another death in Orcop. Mr Frank Turner, who lived at Poolfield Farm, died on May 1st, aged 92 years. His funeral will take place at Orcop Church on May 20th. 1st.

Although regular services at Orcop Church have been few during lockdown, there have been several funerals and it is appropriate to thank Guy and Mary Thomas for their continued generosity in allowing parking in front of their barn. Parking near the church is otherwise very limited and without their help it would be difficult for our ancient church, designed for access on foot or horse, to function now that everyone arrives by car. *Margaret Fletcher*

Peter Morris

It is with deep sadness that I write that our dear Dad (Peter Morris of Belle Vue, Garway Hill) passed away suddenly at QE Hospital on 9th April. He was laid to rest on 30th April at Orcop Church, reunited with our dear Mum. The following is the eulogy that was read by Reverend Mark Johnson at the service.

I only had a few chances to meet with Peter, but in talking with his daughters, Hayley and Joanne, I have a picture of a man who had farming blood running through his veins, was kind, caring, wise and rooted to the Herefordshire soil. He, as you may well remember, suffered with Jo and Hayley, the loss of Hazel in 1995.

Peter was born in January 1941, one of four children, but only three survived to adulthood. He was born at the family farm of Belle Vue, high on Garway Hill, a beautiful but sometimes unforgiving landscape that played a major part in his life. He went to the local school at Garway until he was about 15, when he left to work on various farms and eventually also to work for the Forestry Commission.

Peter met Hazel via Young Farmer dances. They were introduced by Hazel's sister Marion and her then boyfriend Douglas, who was also a cousin to Peter. They started courting in 1962 and were married at Tidenham Church in March 1966, near Chepstow, as that was where Hazel's family lived.

They lived at Old Hall in Orcop for a while and then moved to Dellburn at St Weonards where Hayley, the first of their two children was born. In 1970 the arrival of Jo completed the family and they moved back to Belle Vue and re-established the connection with Garway Hill.

There is no doubt that farming is hard work, but Peter applied himself with all the energy he could muster, and helped by Hazel, a growing Hayley and Jo, when she was not sitting in the field eating fresh cut swede, they would raise calves from the market, sheep and lambs, a bit of veg and, especially for Christmas, chickens, turkeys and geese.

Hayley and Jo followed in Dad's footsteps going to Garway Primary and then to Kingstone before heading out to work, and eventually finding other halves and having their own children.

Meanwhile, Peter and Hazel had the chance to manage a farm just by Kington Golf Course, so they let the land, converted Belle Vue into a holiday home and moved out to the farm there. It was a chance for Peter to flex his farming muscles and one he enjoyed. Unfortunately, after only a few years there, Hazel was killed in a car crash. It was something that shook the family to the core, as these things do, but they managed to find the strength to pull through, with the help of family and friends. Peter stayed at Kington until he retired at 65, moving back to Belle Vue in 2006.

While up at Kington, he met Mel a few years after Hazel's tragic death. Mel was from Liverpool and on holiday in a local cottage. They hit it off and started to accompany each other to events and on holidays, though Mel bought her own place in Kington. They enjoyed holidays in the UK, Cornwall, Devon, Wales, and loved going to National Trust places, and had a great fondness for Powys Castle.

Mel was diagnosed with cancer and Peter became her main carer, especially over the last 12 months. Mel died in 2018.

After Mel's death, Peter busied himself around the hill at Garway. He would go out pretty much every day to have a look around the common and meet up with farmers and locals, chat away and find out the latest gossip – or farming information as he would classify it.

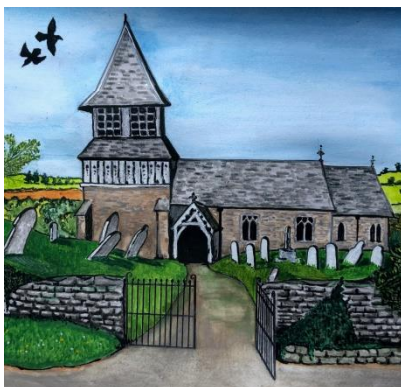
He had a fall in March on the hill and had to be helped home. This set off a tragic train of events, with chances missed and the reason for the fall going undiagnosed that led to his sudden death. Although the family did have the chance to be with him in those last hours, it was not the way they wanted to say goodbye.

Peter will be remembered by all of us as a kind and gentle man. He never had a harsh word for anyone. He took the adage that if you have not anything good to say, do not say anything at all. He was a much loved Grampy to Sophie, Hazel, Paige and Yasmin. He loved to see his girls flourish, enjoying their success, and no doubt, worrying over them as any grandfather would. He had that wonderful ability to turn his hand to anything, from putting up fencing to fixing a plough, to restarting a tractor. Farmers become Jack of all trades and Peter was no exception.

He will be greatly missed for his knowledge and his love, for the care he extended to family and to friends, and our community will remember him for years to come.

Hayley, Jo and families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kind messages of sympathy, condolence cards, and generous donations in memory of Peter. **Hayley Thomas**

ORCOP CHURCH LIMITED EDITION PRINTS



An original watercolour painting of Orcop Church was presented to Elizabeth as a retirement gift.

A limited edition of 50 top quality Giclee prints of the painting, on Hahnemuhle German Etching paper are available, signed by the artist, at £25 each (unframed).

ALL SALE PROCEEDS WILL FUND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCH

If you wish to order, please email garratt_peter@hotmail.com or phone 01981 580418

Flower and cleaning rota: June 4th and 11th Mrs C Morris.

Advance Notice for your diary 18th July

Chris Northam, local cellist Roz Gladstone and members of the Zoltan Ensemble will be performing at the Steiner Academy. Programme includes: Beethoven String Trio in G. Mozart Piano Quartet in G minor and music by Schumann, Piazzolla and Brahms. Tickets £10 plus concessions. More details next month

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

Another month of lockdown has passed, and gradually some degree of normality in our lives is returning. I expect, like us, you have been pleased to welcome friends and family into your garden, and shared a socially distanced cup of tea or coffee with them, though our garden is not looking quite as inviting as it usually does at this time of year, because of the precautions we have had to take covering tender plants up from frost, or in some cases, unsightly victims we neglected to cover.

At last we have been able to have two evening services in Pencoyd church;

One on the evening before the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral, led by our church warden, Elizabeth Malcolm, with quiet respect, giving thanks for the life of Prince Phillip. There was a recording of the choir of King's College, Cambridge singing the 23rd psalm; a reading from St John's Gospel chap 14. vv1 - 6, and then the choir of Sheffield cathedral singing "O God our help in ages past". A very meaningful but simple service much appreciated by the 9 people who attended. (I am grateful to Linda Miles for that account of the service.)

On the 4th Sunday in April, we were privileged to be able to hold a lovely service of Evening Prayer from the Iona tradition, led by our vicar, Elizabeth Cathie, her last service in our Benefice, for which she provided hymns recorded on her CD player, as we are still unable to sing hymns in church. So, as we wish Elizabeth and Sean farewell, and every happiness in their new home in Hereford, we embark on another interregnum of probably considerable length, as other parishes in our deanery are also struggling with the same problem of a shortage of ordained ministers.

We will hear more about this situation at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 25th May at 7.00 pm in St Weonards church. Our new Rural Dean, Rev. Sean Semple; our Archdeacon Derek Chedzey, and the vicar of our neighbouring Benefice, Wormelow 100. Rev Mark Johnson will all attend. Between them, they will be able to enlighten us on various aspects of the future of our benefice. So, if you are keen to know more about the future of our parish of Pencoyd and Tretire with Michaelchurch, I recommend you come to this meeting which is open to everyone in the benefice, and promises to be informative.

We have been delighted to remain in regular conversation by phone or Zoom with our friends, Peter and Liz Everall, as I know many of you are. Last week they were able to show us the beautiful oak corner cupboard they have bought for their dining room, on which they chose to spend the cheque to which many parishioners and others contributed. It's so lovely to think they have found something they are really pleased with, to remind them of all their friends back here in P, T and M.

I know many people miss them as do we, and especially at annual events like the next one coming up in June, the Midsummer service at Michaelchurch. In the last few years especially, Peter, with his Trio Giovedi provided the musical accompaniment for the hymns at that service, as of course there is no electricity in the church there. This year the service is to be held on Sunday June 20th at 6.00 pm, gathering outside afterwards (weather permitting) for a chat and a drink together.

The next event in our parish is on the very next evening, when we are breaking with T and P tradition and making a bid to shake off the Lockdown Blues, by holding a celebratory barbeque, kindly hosted by John

and Kathy Handby at Michaelchurch Court on Monday June 21st at 6 .00 pm. Admission will be by tickets which can be obtained by contacting Kathy Handby on 01989730842 or by email:- kathy.handby@btinternet.com

Tickets for adults £15.00 to include food and a glass of wine. For children under 10 there is no charge. As many of you will be aware, church funds have been seriously depleted as the result of there being no services in our churches throughout lockdown, and no fundraising events, so this is our first opportunity to raise some much needed funds for our 2 churches. So please come along to meet up with friends and neighbours you haven't seen for a year, and boost our churches' funds. **Margaret Oubridge.**

Letter from Wiltshire

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we have now been here in Brixton Deverill for nearly six months and are well and truly settled and happier than we ever could have dreamt! The walks, as you may have gathered, are one of the main plus factors and, of course, top of the list is being close to the family. They are here frequently, walking the dog and eating meals in the garden. We are all very much looking forward to the relaxation of the rules so we don't have to sit outside in all weathers. Some great joys this last week, have been the appearance of huge numbers of cowslips in a field of beautiful Devon heifers, and whilst bird watching in the early morning seeing fifteen hares, eight of them together playing tag around the gorse bushes. Of course there is a down side, but it's not insurmountable, the soil is ghastly! Nasty clay or chalk and riddled with flints, poor drainage and then, when it does dry out, rock hard.



Enough of all this, the main purpose of writing to you is to thank you again for your very generous parting gift, which we have at last spent! We now have a handsome Georgian, oak corner cupboard in our dining room which looks very smart and will always remind us of our dear friends in Tretire and Pencoyd and the rest of the St. Weonards Benefice. Thank you!

With love and very best wishes to all of you, **Liz and Peter**

Post Box News



The Pencoyd parish area had been without a postbox for several months after the Royal Mail removed it without local communication causing postal challenges for the Pencoyd locals who have traditionally relied upon it, like all other local areas.

However, due to the good work of our Herefordshire Councillor Toni Fagan , Paula Snow [Pencoyd Parish Councillor] and Anthony Snell [Pencoyd resident and Harewood End Parish Councillor] , we are pleased that the Royal Mail has finally agreed to replace it, and the new postbox is now in operation.

We would like to inform the local Pencoyd Residents, and encourage everyone to use it.

Peter Snell

HENTLAND

St Dubricius Hentland opens up



Writing today, 15th May, there is some equivocation about Boris's Road Map, with the arrival of the Indian variant. So far, it seems to be mainly afflicting the North of England, but with its reported 'increased infectivity' we cannot be sure about the Fourth Stage which is scheduled to release us all on 21st June. But as far as our celebratory organ recital by Anna Lapwood at 7.00pm on Saturday 26th June is concerned, we are carrying on as planned, but instead of tickets, we are inviting everybody who wishes to attend to register with me by telephoning 01989 730439 or emailing robin.symonds@btinternet.com A list will be compiled and places allocated, and all being well, we shall be able to accommodate about 120. If we are told that restrictions cannot be lifted as planned on 21st June, we shall be able to let people know that numbers cannot exceed 30 and face masks must be worn and it will be a matter of 'first come, first served.' Either way, with no tickets for sale, there will be a retiring collection.

Anna Lapwood is the first female director of music and organist at an Oxford or Cambridge college, recently presenter of BBC Young Musician and is to be heard from time to time on BBC Radio Three. She has now let me have some details of the programme, and together with some composers we have all heard of, including J S Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Villiers Stanford, there are some less well-known. I had to find Elizabetta da Gambarini on Google; she was English, a mezzo soprano who composed for harpsichord and organ and died in London in 1765 at the age of 34. Another is African-American H T Burleigh (1866-1949) best known for his arrangements and popularisation of spirituals. Florence Price (1887-1953), also African-American was a versatile singer, teacher, organist and composer whose symphonies were performed by major orchestras. Anna will be joined by tenor Ruairi Bowen who will be singing some songs by English composers. It all sounds pretty exciting! **Robin Symonds**

The End of the Story...

In youth and strength put not your trust
For in my youth I was laid in dust
Now to Gods will I justly yield
It was by a bull that I was kill'd
17th April 1811

Work on the chancel decoration is now finally complete, having started in May 2018 and scheduled to have finished in September the same year. But, bedevilled by bats, (whose comfort and breeding cycle are by law given preference over the relatively trivial need to maintain a 700-year old building) and in addition the scourge of the Covid pandemic, it has taken the best part of three years to see it through. But it has been worth waiting for! And now, with the rebuilding of the 1869 Walker organ all but complete, we shall soon be throwing open the doors for all to see. The electrician has promised to come in the next fortnight to connect the organ and to rewire the chancel lights, and on 26th June, Anna Lapwood will be coming to play the organ to show it off and tenor Ruairi Bowen will be singing a selection of English songs. It will be an evening to remember. Once we can be certain what the distancing rules are, we can take bookings. Enquiries after 1st June to robin.symonds@btinternet.com

Robin Symonds

HOARWITHY

Great News we are putting the church back on the electronic lock from Monday 31st May so you will be able to visit from 8.30am to Dusk (by then 9.00pm)

As you will see from the Service Rota we are having a Holy Communion in the church at 10.00am on 20th June (the first one in church for 15 months!)

Also our first face to face Lay Led Iona Style Service will be at Upper Barn Hoarwithy HR2 6QE at 11.00am on Sunday 13th June and technology permitting we will Zoom this at the same time

Praise the Lord!

Every Blessing, Peter

Date for the diary: Period Instruments return to St Catherine's Hoarwithy

Having had their annual Holy Week concert at St Catherine's cancelled by this and last year's lockdown, our friends the Musical and Amicable Society are returning to Hoarwithy to perform at 7.00pm on Saturday 10th July with 'Purcell and Friends', a selection of songs and dances from Purcell's theatre works, French baroque music by Lully and Lambert, and concertos by Telemann and Vivaldi. Soloists are mezzo-soprano Nicola Wemyss and Lisete da Silva, baroque flute and recorder.

Tickets £15 will be on sale from 21st June at Rossiter Books, High Street, Ross-on-Wye or by email robin.symonds@btinternet.com Enquiries 01989 730439.

Church Access



St. Catherine's Church in Hoarwithy is without doubt one of the most unusual churches in Herefordshire with its impressive Italianate Romanesque architecture and decor. It enjoys a commanding spot on the side of a steeply rising hill in the village, ensuring that not only is it visible from many vantage points, but

also providing magnificent views across the Wye valley from the cloisters on the side of this beautiful building.

The downside of its position is the access. A steep and long path up from the roadside, to the church entrance, is difficult to climb for all but the very fittest. The impact of this has been significant, not least of which is the inability of our villagers to be able to worship there, or for many other events to be held successfully. Without disabled access, the opportunity to be competitive in attracting national grants to fund desperately needed restoration work is all but impossible. There is no doubt that the long-term usability and therefore sustainability of the church is under threat if access to it is not improved. With lack of use comes lack of revenues and funds, lack of local and wider support for grants and funding, and ultimately the threat of its closure. Put simply - use it or lose it.

At the beginning of 2021 Cedar Rise, the wooden bungalow that sits below St. Catherine's church, was put up for sale. After much discussion within the PCC and Hereford Diocese, and wider consultation across the community it was agreed to put an offer in for its purchase. This would be to provide much needed disabled access to the church and some degree of parking. We are delighted that our offer was accepted and our excitement is being contained whilst we go through the legal processes and surveys. We should know the results of these in the coming weeks, hopefully then leading to its purchase by the PCC.

There is no doubt this is an enormous step of faith by the church and the village as they look to make St. Catherine's more accessible, and leave a legacy for generations to come that helps secure the future of one of the most spectacular churches in our part of the country.

We will keep you updated as to the next steps in the coming months. You will be unsurprised to hear we will be asking for help with this project as we move forward! We are already hugely encouraged by the pledges and offers of help by the village, and would ask that you would pray for guidance and wisdom for the Hentland & Hoarwithy PCC as we prepare to take this project on.

If you have any questions (or offers of help!) please do speak to us.

With every blessing

Jeff Goulding & Peter Pember Church Wardens, St. Catherine's.

Book Review

***Cry the beloved country* Alan Paton**

What a book. It is not surprising that Paton credits it with having provided him with a lifelong income, so great was its popularity and justifiably so.

Set in 1950s South Africa, the novel takes us on a journey with elderly village pastor Stephen Kumalo to the city of Johannesburg in search of his young sister Gertrude and her son, and of his own son, and only child, Absalom. Both had ventured into the city as an escape from village poverty, seeking the opportunities they dream will confront them upon arrival in the promised land. Nothing has been heard from either for several years. It is a journey that takes Kumalo into an alien world of crime, corruption temptation and fear, and challenges his strength and his faith.

We are deep into the era of apartheid and of simmering rebellion from the black population. As black Johannesburg priest Theophilus Msimangu says to Kumalo; 'I see only one hope for our country, and that is when white men and black men, desiring neither power nor money, but desiring only the good of their

country, come together to work for it'. He was grave and silent, and then said sombrely, 'I have one great fear in my heart, that one day when they are turned to loving, they will find we are turned to hating.'

Black and white tiptoe about one another, moved by both hatred and humanity and trust and fear. Neither community is free; both are locked in an unequal interdependence.

The realities that face Kimalo in his quest are painful indeed, but small glimmers of hope are to be found in a few white people who speak out and seek to do right, and in those black workers who struggle against the temptations on the city; who strive to resist the hatred that stirs them and the material rewards of a life of crime.

Central to the narrative is the killing of a young white husband and father, whose writings reveal his profound sense of injustice at the status quo and responsibility towards the black population. He hones in on the central moral dilemma of the whites: 'we believe in help for the underdog, but we want him to stay under. And we are therefore compelled, in order to preserve our belief that we are Christian to ascribe to Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth our own human intentions. The truth is that our own civilisation is not Christian; it is a tragic compound of great ideals and fearful practice of high assurance and desperate anxiety, of loving charity and fearful clutching of possessions.'

Such universal truths litter the pages of this book. It is a heartfelt cry for his 'Beloved Country' that has echoes in all countries and in all times. It is a profoundly moving book that holds human motivations up to scrutiny, but in a gentle and forgiving way. It is not just a story from the past; it is about us and our lives.

Hilary Smallwood.

Childhood memories

TED'S TALE No. 25 Recollections of a Derbyshire Lad

Oakey-Pokey Nettle Day

According to the history books, sprigs of oak were worn to mark the restoration of Charles II on 29th May 1660. Since that year, 29th May became known as oak- apple day and many people wore oak apples or oak leaves to commemorate Charles II having hid in an oak tree in 1651 to escape the soldiers of Oliver Cromwell. This followed the Royalist defeat at the battle of Worcester. Although this old custom seems to have died out, many people still wore oak apples or leaves in the nineteen twenties, particularly school children.

I am not sure how nettles became part of the act. Probably it was a local variation of the old custom, but I do know that its observance provided the boys with a bit of fun in the days when entertainment was not "laid on ", as it is today. Self-appointed enforcement officers in the form of small boys armed with nettles patrolled the village and threatened to sting anyone not wearing oak apples or leaves. At least, that was the general idea. It did not always work out happily, as certain individuals failed to cooperate and seemed to object to being stung.

A few, who had little knowledge of history, cared little for old customs and possessed no sense of humour, were apt to get a bit "shirty" and threatened the public spirited officers with a clip round the ear. Consequently, truculent looking individuals were given a wide berth and sadly (but prudently) only grown-ups known to be of tolerant nature, smaller boys and some girls were persuaded to wear oak leaves or be stung. Gathering nettles and carrying them about inevitably resulted in the enforcement officers themselves getting stung. In fact, if there was nobody else to sting, they stung each other.

At the end of the day this loyal and gallant band arrived home with bumps all over their arms, legs and faces. A resolution not to take up this important duty in future was forgotten during the ensuing year and the next oak apple day was observed in the same way and with the same painful results.

The custom of stinging anyone not wearing the traditional commemorative emblem on Oakey-Pokey Nettle Day continued until the noble enforcement officers grew older and learned more sense, thus realising that less painful forms of entertainment were available.

Wildlife in our Garden

There have been two surprises for us this month: the appearance of some redpolls and finding an antler in the garden, down near the stream.

The antler was just lying there, in a bit of long grass under a sumac tree (coincidentally, also known as the Stag's Horn Sumac). It seems quite large to us, actually 20 inches (50 cm) long with 4 main branches and a few little knobs on it. It is quite intact with no marks of any chewing by any predator. We assume it is from a roe or fallow stag. We would love to know how it got there. Again we assume a stag was passing through the garden when it just happened to drop off! Is that what happens, or do they have to rub it against a tree when the time comes to grow new ones? We found no sign of rubbing. It also raises the question of why we don't see them often when we're out on walks, just lying about? If some animal or person brought it in, why would they? Unless of course, someone brought it in as a hoax and are now reading this, chuckling at our expense!



The other surprise, the redpolls, three of them, appeared on the seed feeder on 20th April. They stayed around for a couple of hours, returning to the feeder frequently. We have not seen them since. Our books say they are resident, here and in Scandinavia, but they are not often seen on our garden feeders. Perhaps the cold north wind we have had for much of April has had something to do with it.

Earlier in the month a pied wagtail appeared for several days running, always walking about on the same bit of lawn, the bit where the bees I described last month were flying round. I never saw it catch one, but I can't help thinking it was drawn there by their movements. Also earlier in April the blackcaps were singing regularly around the garden, but they have gone quiet again since we've had the cold wind. We have got a pair of greenfinches and a pair of goldfinches feeding regularly from the mixed seeds now. The latter have so far completely ignored the nyjer feeder! The robin's eggs in the potting shed have hatched and a robin is going in regularly with food. So far, so good. On 4th May we spotted, for the first time this year, some swallows flying over the garden (but they're always later here than in other places near us) and a spotted flycatcher. Also on the same day blackcaps began to sing again; all these in spite of a continuing cold north wind.

As far as mammals are concerned, the moles have gone underground. We spotted a full sized hedgehog wandering about in broad daylight on 26th April, but it soon disappeared into the hedge. The squirrels continue to pester the cock peasant, one running up to it and giving it a sharp push on the chest. The

pheasant remains dignified at first, appearing to ignore the insult, but then haughtily struts off and finds a quieter place to feed. **John Oubridge, 3 May 2021**

Garden Notes

I am sure that we are no different from many couples; when it comes to practical DIY tasks in the garden, I am of the opinion that if a job is worth doing it is worth doing well, whereas my husband tends to feel that if something is performing its assigned role then it doesn't really matter too much what it looks like. Sound familiar?

With a new canine addition to the household I have become even more anxious that our precious little poppets remain safely in the garden and don't have any opportunity to escape to go off on an adventure together. They have easy access to the front and side gates and although couriers are generally very careful, just occasionally a gate is left open. There is that sudden heart-stopping moment when I notice and rush round trying to locate the dogs. The solution was to erect a low fence across the garden to separate the front garden from the side and back. We erected a temporary wibbly wobbly fence of chicken wire with a gate borrowed from the puppy pen. It is not beautiful, but it has given me peace of mind, so much so that we have decided to make it a permanent feature, replacing the chicken wire with something more attractive.



(Editor's edition of possible fencing?!)

We investigated various fences, looking into both split chestnut paling and metal railings. The chestnut palings are beautiful if a little expensive but the main problem was the three-month waiting period. We have opted for metal railings instead. We have replaced the puppy pen gate with a simple black metal arch with double gates and flanked by plain metal trellis with gothic arched tops. Down at the local garden centre we bought panels of metal railings – very smart, easy to install and almost perfect. I say almost perfect because each panel, although otherwise plain, has the additional decoration of three fleur de lys. Just as we were about to install them, much to my husband's dismay, I had the collywobbles. "They are just not right. I know they will do the job, but I think I might grow to hate them." Groans from my lovely long-suffering husband.

We started our search again. Within a couple of minutes searching on-line I located railings in Lincolnshire that were the same make as our Gothic arched trellis panels and matched exactly. The fleur de lys panels are going back to Millbrook garden centre tomorrow (they are very obliging) and the replacement panels are due for delivery in the next day or two. That's better. Job done. **Julie Davies**

Chuckle Corner

A few more strange quiz answers:

Name a game you can play in the bath? Scuba diving.

How many wheels are there on a unicycle? Three.

Name something you wash more than once a day. Socks.

Surprising facts to be found in the bible

Which king in the bible was hard to stab as he was so obese, and what did his servants think he was doing in his closet?

What happened to the small boys who jeered at Elisha for being bald?

(Answers next month)

Two engineers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking at its top. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing "We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said John, "but we don't have a ladder." The woman took a spanner from her handbag, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her handbag, measured the flagpole, announced, "6.5 metres," and walked away. One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both of these engineers have since quit their engineering jobs and have been elected to Parliament.

An epitaph from a tombstone in Cornwall:

*In this here grave ye see before yee
Lyes berried up a desmal story
A YOUNG MAIDEN
She was crossed in love
And token to the realms above
But he that crossed her
I should say
Deserves to go t'other way.*

Limericks

And let me the canakin clink, clink;

And let me the canakin clink

A soldier's a man;

A life's but a span;

*Why, then, let a soldier drink. **Shakespeare** (canakin-drinking can)*

*There was a young lady named Alice
Who was known to have peed in a chalice.
'Twas the common belief
It was done for relief,
And not out of protestant malice. Anon*

A surprising road notice in a South African Game Park?

Elephants

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is holding an outdoor plant sale on Saturday 5th June 10 - 12 in the garden of the Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall. Cash only. Any further details please call 01873 890881 - **Christine Williams**, Chair

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 please look out for details in our newsletter or by email which you can receive by logging in to our website.

HEREFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

Hereford Civic Society is concerned about all aspects of the built environment and the civil society which lives here.

We liaise with Hereford City Council and Herefordshire Council on relevant matters and reviews all planning applications within the City.

We have a non-voting seat on the City Council Planning Committee and we also submit our own comments via the excellent Herefordshire Council website.

Talks and events are advertised through the Society's website and this magazine.

<https://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk/about-the-society>

Hereford Civic Society continues to operate virtually!

www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk especially commenting on latest reports about housing design; and worries about loss of democracy with the suspension of the planning committee.

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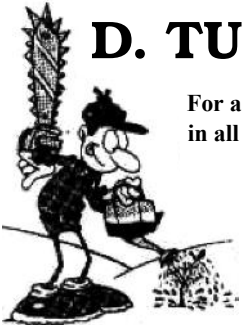
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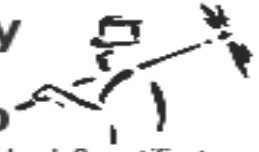
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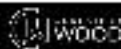
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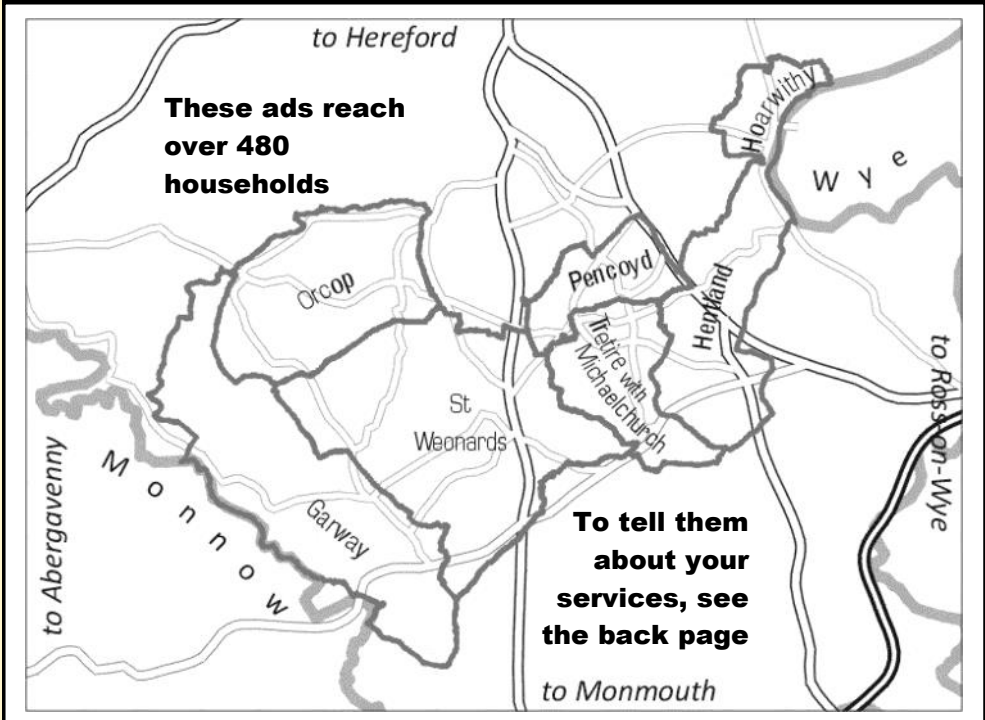


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