

# PARISH NEWS

OF

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

JANUARY 2022



PAT MACRAE

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## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
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	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	Jude Loveridge.....	01981 241614
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	01981 580195
St Weonards Pre-school	Maggie Evans .....	07855 550108
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	.....	hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones.....	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan.....	01981 580215
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	.....	0345 2020144
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 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 **12<sup>th</sup> of the month**:

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

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

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

<b>Garway:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	01981 251887
<b>Orcop:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org  Parish council website <a href="http://www.orcop.wordpress.com">www.orcop.wordpress.com</a>	01981 251887
<b>St Weonards:</b>	Mrs Kate Hughes Meadow View, St Weonards HR2 8QS clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 580498 07967 352903
<b>Llanwarne:</b>	Mark Hearne clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 251887
<b>Ballingham, Bolstone &amp; Hentland:</b>	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

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# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Revd Frances Phillips  
Associate Priest of the St Weonards Group of churches  
New House  
Garway Hill  
Herefordshire  
HR2 8EZ  
01981 240032  
[franjphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franjphillips@gmail.com)

Dear Readers

I find the programme 'Saving Lives at Sea' compulsive viewing on the TV. I am overflowing with admiration for those men and women of the RNLI who are prepared to drop what they are doing at a second's notice, and rush out into dangerous conditions to help rescue other people who have got into difficulties. Their courage is amazing: I know it is something I couldn't do. They deserve to feel very proud of themselves.

The volunteering these men and women do has quite a glamorous side to it - carrying a bleep, having all that special gear to struggle into, fast boats, and huge praise and gratitude from those they have rescued. But for many of the volunteers who keep our society ticking over from day to day, there is a lot less glamour, a lot less recognition. I am thinking about all our local volunteers: members of parish hall committees, parent-teacher associations, parish councils, school governors, church councils, churchwardens, 'spice girls', volunteers for charity shops and the hospice, and people who organise and run day centres and activity groups.

The list is just about endless - I am sure you can think of many more, perhaps some that you are involved in yourself. Hopefully all these people gain from what they do, and feel fulfilled and rewarded: they should do, because it is they who really keep our society working; without them, we would each just be living on our own little desert island, losing all the links and connections which bind us together into a proper community.

So - if you are a volunteer yourself, well done, and thank you! And if volunteering is not something which you are able to do, don't forget to give those that do a pat on the back!

A very happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Frances

### January Benefice Service

Our January benefice service is at 10am on Sunday January 2nd 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](mailto:franjphillips@gmail.com)

Come and celebrate the New Year!

**Frances**



## PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



January 4th Carolyn Trew 01600 750227

**Beware a new Scam:** A phone call is made alleging the caller is from the Crime Prevention section of the local police offering burglar alarms.

They may have your name and sound authentic.

***They are not legitimate! Put the phone down.***

Once they have access to your home, they burgle...  
please alert any older neighbours.



## January Service Rota

2 January	10.00 am	Zoom Benefice - Family Communion
9 January	10.00 am	St Weonards - All Age Service
	11.00 am	Orcop - Holy Communion
16 January	10.00 am	St Weonards - Family Holy Communion & Baptism
	10.00 am	Hoarwithy - Holy Communion
23 January	09.15 am	Hentland - Holy Communion
	06.30 pm	Tretire – Evening Service
30 January	10.00 am	Zoom Benefice Family Communion
6 Feb	10.30am	Queen’s Jubilee Celebration Service at Llanwarne Church including choir singing ‘Zadok the Priest’.

To join choir, please contact Richard Mynors on 01981 580 208 or [fionamynors@btinternet.com](mailto:fionamynors@btinternet.com)

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: [franiphillips@gmail.com](mailto:franiphillips@gmail.com)

Iona-style service on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: [peter@pember.plus.com](mailto:peter@pember.plus.com)

Evening prayer at 6.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: [elizabethamalcolm@outlook.com](mailto:elizabethamalcolm@outlook.com)

### **Garway Hill Methodist Chapel**

**Sunday 9th January 3pm Rev Paul Arnold (Holy Communion)**

**Sunday 23rd January 3pm Mr A Williams**

**For any changes please check the benefice website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)**



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# VILLAGE PAGES

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## ST WEONARDS

**Join us at the Christmas Services at St Weonards in December**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service

11.00pm Midnight Communion.



We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Richard to celebrate communion for us. The church will be well ventilated, and adults are asked to wear masks in line with national guidelines.

Many thanks to Gillie and her team for making the church look so wonderful for this festival time. Thanks also to Anna Williams for the Christmas tree, and we were glad to welcome St Weonards School with Anna to visit the church to see the crib and the advent wreath. We are most grateful to Clare Gray for the loan of the beautiful crib figures which have been carved by local people during workshops at her home.

The carol service was well attended, and it was wonderful to have a large choir to lead our singing.

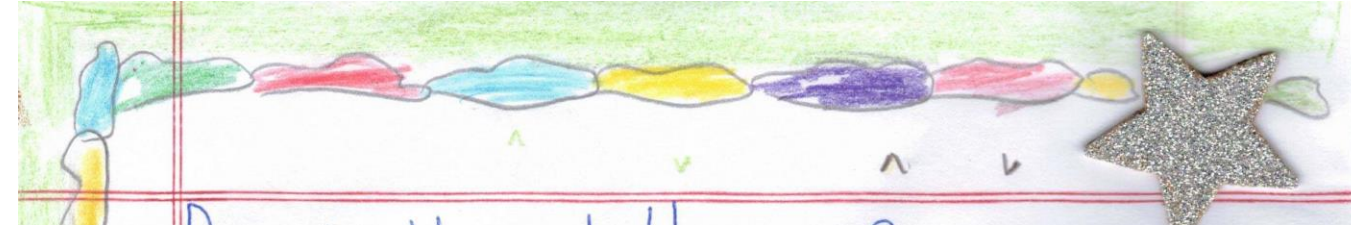
On 16th January, St Weonards will be hosting the benefice family communion and baptism for Charlotte Nicholls at on 10.00am. Come and join us in welcoming her and the Nicholls family into our church community.

We hope that everyone has an excellent, safe Christmas with family and friends. **Richard Mynors**

### **St Weonards Women's Fellowship**

We have supported the Jenga charity in Uganda for some ten years and have helped several girls complete their education. At present we are supporting Amina and Miria and it was lovely to know that, though the schools have been closed, Jenga has used our contribution to feed the families of the girls and have supported teachers to go out to the village and help all in need. If anyone in the Group would like to help with the support, please contact **Gillie** on 580203.





Dear St Leonards Womens Group.

It has been a year since I have last written. How are you and your family? How is everything in your country? I hope that things have opened up a little more since last year. I <sup>Pray</sup> ~~hope~~ that you continue to be safe.


In Uganda in June we experienced a second wave of COVID-19 and the country was in lock down once more. Many restrictions were put in place and schools have remained closed. The Government has said that they will ~~and~~ reopen until January 2022.

I was in the middle of ~~senior~~ <sup>year</sup> three when schools were closed. During lock down I ~~been~~ <sup>have</sup> staying with my family. We have been busy selling <sup>clothes</sup> ~~clothes~~ in markets.

In Uganda we are in the middle of rainy season and many people have been planting crops. We hope that this harvest will be better than the crops from earlier in the year.

I want to thank you for your continued support of my schooling and ~~hope~~ <sup>pray</sup> that God will ~~be~~ <sup>up</sup> bless you for your kindness to me. I would like to finish by wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and blessed New year.

Best wishes from  
MUZAKI MIRIA



## St Weonards Academy School News

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and very best wishes from us all here for the New Year. We are excited to see what 2022 will bring for the village and school.

The children at St Weonards have enjoyed filming their Christmas Nativity to share with parents at home, a wonderful Christmas Lunch cooked on site by local chef Emma Roberts and team, Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children and a warm and comfy afternoon on board The Polar Express! (Well not actually on a real train but a magical afternoon watching this Christmas classic).

We also visited St Weonards Church, with thanks to the Mynors family for turning the heating on and enabling the children to enjoy music from the organ. We even sang a lovely Christmas carol. The children haven't had the opportunity to visit the church for a while so this was a very welcome visit and fantastic to see our community coming together. Maybe next year we can invite the public! With thanks also, to Mrs Gillie Hallowell for our festive treat.

The PTFA at St Weonards have been working hard with the Christmas Raffle. We are extremely grateful to local businesses and residents that supported the school by buying and selling raffle tickets. A fantastic amount was raised £473, thank you very much. Plans are in place for a Valentines Bingo at St Weonards Village Hall on Friday 11th February. We will share more information in the New Year.

Now onto 2022 and the opening of Shining Stars Pre-School. We have had a fantastic response to the opening and look forward to welcoming our Pre-School children this month. Please do encourage anyone looking for childcare from the age of 2 to get in touch and come and visit our wonderful setting.

Please do get in touch with me, **Mrs Anna Williams**, Office Administrator, with any queries regarding the school and pre-school. Tel: 01981 580352 Email: [admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk](mailto:admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk)

## GARWAY

### Garway Hill Methodist Chapel

As with all places of worship, it was another strange year for our Methodist Chapel. We reopened our doors in May after many long months of lock down. Not only was it a shame that we couldn't hold any services, but it really doesn't do an old building any good when it's closed up and not in use. It had all started to look very forlorn, a bit like a lot of us felt! Financially as well it has been a struggle. Most churches and chapels rely on the generosity of their congregation to finance the general running of the place and to pay their contributions to the Methodist Circuit. Without regular services it has been difficult. Sadly, in the effort to save money, we have had to drastically reduce grass cutting and put any maintenance on hold, which earlier last year didn't aid the general look of the property.

It has not all been doom and gloom though. Much of our chapel yard is quite steep and dangerous to walk on when wet, but a little long grass near the entrance attracted the insects and the bees and was pretty to see. Quite often I would visit to find that some kind person had strimmed around a few of the graves to make it safer to walk, and a few weeks later another area was cleared. To conserve funds, we only had the grass professionally cut twice last year which was an onerous task for Mark and Scott Preece – the grass being knee high each time!

We were lucky that for the majority of the services that did take place, it was mild enough to have the door open for adequate ventilation, although I think we are all getting used to wrapping up warmly. Regrettably, a few of our congregation have been unable to return to services due to health reasons, but we have been able to welcome our friends from Ewyas Harold, whose chapel sadly closed its doors in 2019. We made the decision early on to forego the Harvest Festival and Carol Services last year, both meaningful services in our chapel and also very popular with the local community. It was a difficult decision but felt that we couldn't keep everybody safe in such a small space.

The chapel is now feeling loved again, a good clean and regular services was all that was needed. But we do have some changes! We have a new minister, the Revd Paul Arnold, who joined us in September after we said goodbye to Revd Jon Chesworth and his wife Revd Frances Biseker. We also have new seating. The chapel already had a mixture of pews and comfy chairs, and when, following the closure of Ewyas Harold chapel, we were offered a number of chairs

for free, it seemed the right step to take. The remainder of the pews have been sold (thank you for the purchasers for gift aiding) and the money will go towards much needed window repairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for voluntary kindness over the past year. Thank you to the kind person who strims occasionally in the chapel yard (whoever you are). Thank you to Mark and Scott Preece who cut the internal hedge of our chapel Yard. Thank you to Harry and David Sayce and family, who not only 'keep an eye' on the chapel, but annually cut the exterior hedge and last year mowed the roadside grass as well. There is a lot to be thankful for.

Here's hoping for a better year and that we will be able to hold more celebratory services. The dates of the services are always displayed on the notice board or in the Parish News for anyone that is interested. Everyone is welcome to join us, but if you would rather just rest your feet when you are out for a walk, there is a comfortable bench at the side of the chapel in memory of my Mum, Gwyneth Smith. The view is beautiful.

***Ruth Maskell***

#### **Garway Primary School and Pre-school**

The school and pre-school have been busy places in December! Year 6 wrote some moving poems connected to Remembrance which we have permission to publish. All the pupils enjoyed so many wonderful Christmas activities, from walks round the village to see the decorated windows, Christmas lunch to carols round the tree and the nativity play. Huge thanks are due to Miss Jones and her team for coping with the ever-changing guidance around covid while maintaining the seasonal joy for the pupils. We wish all those connected to the school community a happy Christmas and special time with their families. ***Fiona Mynors***



## Dead City

by Sid

Last night I saw the city raging,  
Great flames of anger crackled and engulfed everything,  
Groping for the planes,  
The destroyers and havoc wreckers.

Sharp tears flooded down the faces of houses  
And screams echoed around,  
While engines roared like furious bulls  
And bombs boomed.

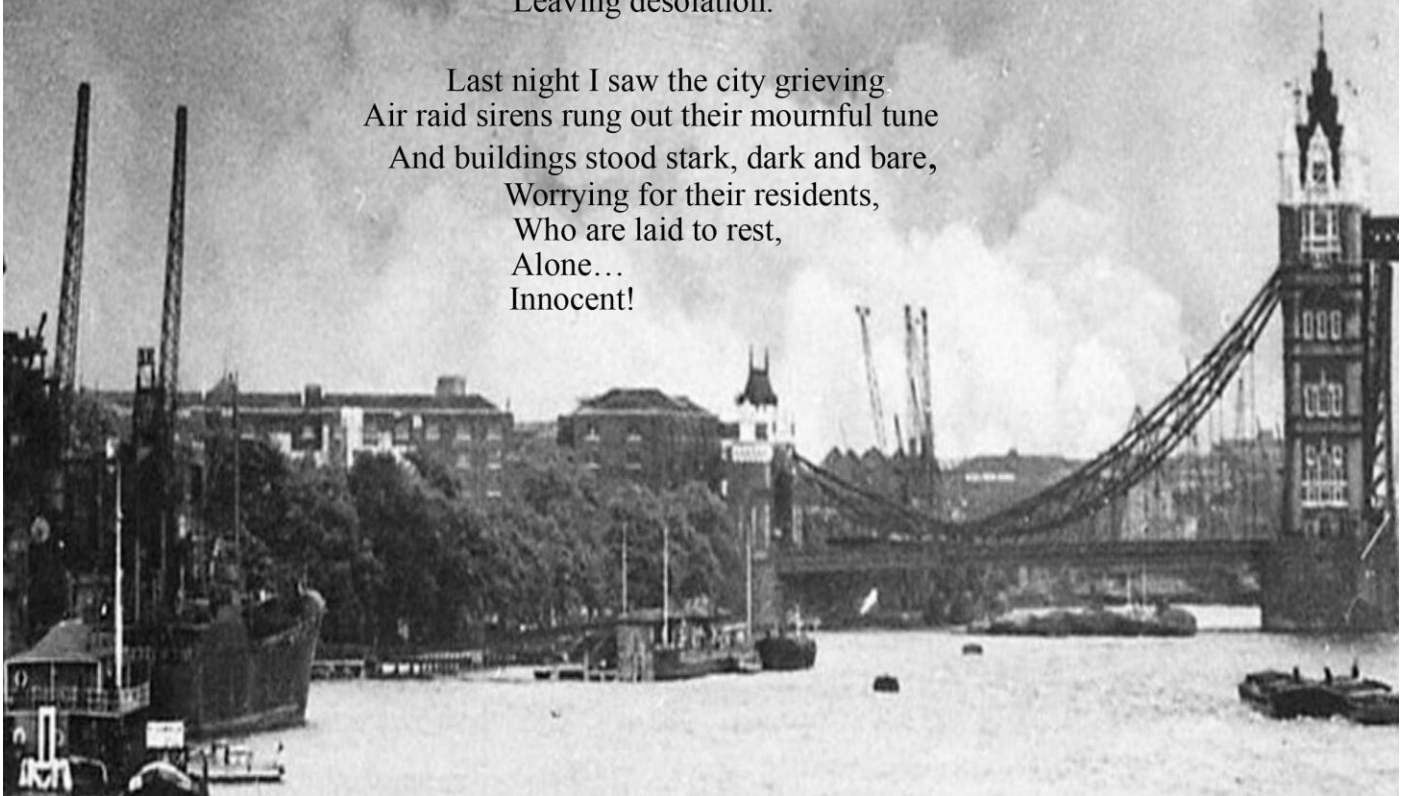
Demolished houses are nothing more than rubble,  
Heaped alongside the roads,  
Covering ruined gardens.

Smoke spiraled in the air,  
Glaring at the people on the streets,  
Like the wardens.

Despair loomed in the air,  
And choked all happiness and hope.

Death scythed through the city,  
Snatching souls,  
Robbing lives,  
And running off,  
Leaving desolation.

Last night I saw the city grieving  
Air raid sirens rung out their mournful tune  
And buildings stood stark, dark and bare,  
Worrying for their residents,  
Who are laid to rest,  
Alone...  
Innocent!



## Last night I saw the city dying,

**By Donald**

Last night I saw the city dying,  
Houses falling,  
People screaming,  
Smoke and fire weave its way through a mass of pits and rubble.

Last night I saw the city cowering,  
It somehow vanished as blackouts appeared;  
People rush to underground stations,  
Howling at the loss of their homes.

Last night I saw the city diminish,  
Trees like bats stood bare in the battle,  
Planes spread their arms up high in the sky,  
As blocks pour rubble into suburbs below.

Last night I saw the city resisting,  
Sirens wailed like a new violinist,  
Guns fired gallantly up into the night,  
Luftwaffe crashed,  
As the city lashed out.

This morning I see the city healing,  
Fire engines tear from alley to avenue,  
Dampening the city's domain.





**WHEN THEY CAME FOR US**

*When I look out of my window, **DESTRUCTION. DESPAIR. DESOLATE;**  
The city mourning for it's loss, **SORROW. SHAME. SOLEMN.***

*When I smell the air, I smell, **DEATH. DARKNESS. DEPRESSION;**  
Fire tangoin around on a stage of bleakness, **FAIRNESS. FREEDOM.**  
**FIGHTING***

*When I listen hard, I hear, **VICTORY FROM AFAR. VALIANT. VANDALISM;**  
A city caught up in anger, **HURT. WOUNDED. PAIN.***

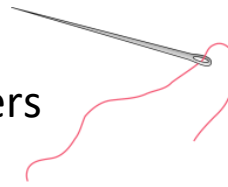
*When I reach out to touch it I feel, **HEAT. HOPE. HATRED;**  
The city finally fighting back, **ANGER. FURY. A WRITHING BEAST.***

*When I taste the air, **SMOKE SMILING. SILENCE OF NOTHINGNESS. SHELL -**  
**TERS DENTED AND BRUISED;***

*The world at war, **EARTH EXPLODING. ENGINES CALLING. EERIE GLOWS**  
**CREEPING.***

**When I go to bed, I look out of my window and the city falls  
asleep with me.**

# Garway Stitchers



This busy group plan to meet on January 12th and 26<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Come and see the amazing progress and join in as well.

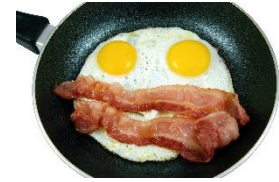
You are invited to

## **A Big Breakfast Garway Community Centre Sunday 2nd January 2022**

From 10 am-2 pm or when eggs and bacon run out!

£10.00 Adult (full Garway Experience!) Child under 16 £5.00 Under 5s free

Please come and join us for a good fry-up (or just muesli if you have indulged enough over Christmas). All money raised will be sent to MSF, Afghanistan to help (in a very small way) those poor people in desperate need.



## **@GARWAY**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of January @GARWAY is doing something different. Instead of a live music event we have a film, "GREED" the rock opera. This film began life in 2017 and when it was finished it gathered a number of accolades from several different film festivals across Europe and America. It tells the story of one man who owns a small town and indirectly the people who live there and as long as they have their phones, Netflix and takeaways they're happy, until along comes somebody who wants to change the situation.

It was shown to a couple of small tester audiences and then just before it gained general release, lockdown happened. Now, we are pleased that @GARWAY has been chosen to host the first post lockdown showing of this film which will be followed by a Q&A with the director and some of the cast. A notable first for Garway and because this is a small showing admission is just £5. The film will be shown at 8pm with the doors open at 7.30. The soundtrack of the film will be available for sale on the night.

**Graham Bevan**



## **FLICKS IN THE STICKS GARWAY**

**Tuesday January 11th 7.30pm**

**BLINDED BY THE LIGHT**

**Garway Hall, £5.00.**

We thought an out-and-out feelgood film would be just the thing to start 2022 and BLINDED BY THE LIGHT is just that. Based on the memoirs of journalist Sarfraz Mansoor, it's the story of Javed, a young British-Pakistani being brought up in Luton in the Thatcherite 80s. He is struggling to fit in at college and to walk the fine line between keeping his traditional family happy, (no girls) and carving his own future (girls and the hope of becoming a writer). His only form of escape are the lyrics he writes for his friend's New Wave Band - until he borrows a cassette (remember those?) full of Bruce Springsteen hits and through the music, finds a way to stand up for himself and carve his own way in the world. Needless to say, it's the anthems of the Boss which makes this film such a joy and shows the power of music to lift people out of the humdrum and guide their lives. It's also very, very funny. As usual, we'll be offering our delicious refreshments in the interval. Blinded by the Light is a glorious film; a really good way to begin 2022. If you can, reserve a seat by emailing [clarea.hollowash@gmail.com](mailto:clarea.hollowash@gmail.com).

You can find more information and a trailer on [www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks](https://www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks)

And coming next month – an edge of your seat crime thriller from Romania – The Whistlers.



## 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.

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January – 7.30pm, Garway Community Hall**

### Tim Hoverd

Tim Hoverd, one of our favourite speakers and Herefordshire County Council's Archaeological Projects Manager, reveals the contents of **Herefordshire's Viking Hoard – Present-Day Pillaging**. The latest on the story of the finding, theft and partial recovery of stolen Viking-era artefacts of gold and silver found in Herefordshire. Tim reveals the contents of the hoard, its place in history and gives us a glimpse of the complex investigations taking place to recover it and punish those responsible for its theft.

Garway Heritage members free – Visitors very welcome at a £5 per person charge

Refreshments will be served and we will be abiding by latest government Covid advice and regulations.

**Lockdown – An anthology of newsletters** produced by Garway Heritage Group during Covid lockdowns will be available for sale at £10 per copy at St Weonards Shop or Broad Oak Garage or contact us at [www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk](http://www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk) GHGmembership@btinternet.com.

## ORCOP

### ORCOP NEWS: JANUARY 2022

As we write this, arrangements are in hand for the Community Carols and Christmas Day service, both complicated by the arrival of Omicron. We are aiming for both to be “super-spreaders”, of comfort and joy, not covid. Current plans are for both to go ahead with strict precautions. Otherwise, not a lot to report as Christmas rapidly draws nigh.

As we near the end of another year, we wish to heartily thank all those who have kept Orcop Church alive in these challenging times. To the PCC, priests, cleaners, flower arrangers, readers and all those who have turned up at services with words of support and encouragement: **THANK YOU!**

We wish all of our readers, their families and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year, in the hope that it will prove to be the year in which Covid was brought finally under control.

**Margaret Fletcher**, Churchwarden

#### Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update December 2021

After the public consultation period during December/January we will take on board your comments (which need to be posted/emailed or put in the collection boxes by 31st January), and prepare another, revised version of the Plan for submission to Herefordshire Council. The Plan then has to go through a number of checks, including an independent Examination, before it is approved for adoption. The final stage is a referendum – a majority of those who vote need to agree with the Plan for it to be finalised and come into use. It will then become the formal starting point for decisions on planning applications in the parish, together with the complementary policies in Herefordshire Council's Local Plan.

For further information please contact Mark Hearne, Orcop Parish Clerk, tel 01981 251887  
clerk@orcopparishcouncil.org



**Flowers and Cleaning Rota:**

**January 1st and 8th**

**Mrs. L. Wilkinson**



## OWLS - We look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

There will not be a community lunch in January. *Jane Rigler.*

Many thanks to those who supported the Pudding Tasting Evening in November, to all those who made puddings and provided draw prizes £250 was made for Church funds.

On 4th December we held a successful Christmas Bazaar and made £800 for Hall Funds, special thanks to those who provided goods and supported the event. *Julia Garlick*

## TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

The second half of November made up for the lack of falling leaves in the first half, and now we are just into December, it doesn't seem to make much difference however many leaves one rakes up and puts on the compost, the next day there seem to be just as many! Christmas preparations of all kinds fill the diary, but on November 28th we were very fortunate to have Rev Mark Johnson come to lead an Advent Evening Prayer in Pencoyd church, so that our minds could focus for a short while on a less worldly approach to Christmas and sing some familiar Advent hymns.



In our rehearsals with The Singing Tree, the singing group run by Hilary Smallwood to which John and I belong, we have been practising some beautiful unusual carols ready for the Village Christmas at Garway Hall. But for the villagers of Pencoyd and Tretire, we have more traditional carols in store for the evening of December 19th, when once again we will gather around firepits at Pencoyd Manor, thanks to the kind invitation of Tom and Sarah Vaughan. The Christmas story will be told, and illustrated by village families, and we can all join in the singing of traditional Christmas Carols, and then be refreshed with mulled wine and mince pies.

On Christmas Day, Rev Brian Phillips, a retired priest from Ross is kindly coming to celebrate Holy Communion at Pencoyd at 11.00 am.

On the evening of Monday 6th Dec, members of the various Benefices in the Ross deanery met in St Mary's Ross to hear Bishop Richard talk about the future of our churches. But first, he got us into groups, all looking at some questions on our feelings about our churches' future, rather similar to those we looked at with the Rural Dean back in October. Not surprisingly, our thoughts had not changed a great deal in that time! We had some trouble finding things that we had felt encouraged about over the last year or so, but a number of people did express encouragement at the increased numbers of people attending the Zoom services, especially people who were not regular church goers, and also those unable to leave home because of poor health or frailty.

The two most common anxieties expressed by people about the long term future of our churches were firstly, the large proportion of church members, and PCC members who were in their 70's and 80's and the lack of younger and fitter people to help maintain the church buildings and assist in the running of church life. Secondly, the lack of money now being raised in parishes, making it more difficult to find sufficient funds to pay the parish share to the diocese. This is a fund to which all parishes need to contribute, as it is what the diocese uses to pay our clergy's salaries.

Sadly, those of us near the back of the church found it really difficult to hear what the bishop was saying, but we had the sense that he was listening to people's concerns, and would be looking for ways in which the diocese could help, especially with the small rural parishes such as ours.

We are so pleased to hear that Linda Miles has returned home from hospital after her surgery and is being cared for by her sons. She wishes to thank all those who have kindly sent messages to her and prayed for her during her illness and hospital stay, and asks for you to continue to do so while she moves into the next stage of recovery, staying with her son, Mark. It was good that she was able to join in the Zoom service this month.

Sadly, the news of Llewellyn Davies is not so good as he has to return for further surgery. We are so sorry that you have had such a rough time Llewellyn, and I am sure that there are many villagers who will be wishing you well and hoping that this further surgery is a success.

Hopefully, you will receive your copy of this magazine in time for me to wish you all a very joyous Christmas, and health and happiness in the New Year. May I also remind you that your Magazine distributor will be calling before long, to collect your subscription for 2022's Parish News! **Meg Oubridge**

## HOARWITHY

**At LAST!** It has taken a while, but we have now purchased Cedar Rise, The Bungalow next to the church. Now the hard work begins to create disabled access to the church which will enable more people to enjoy the church. We will also be looking at obtaining grants for work on the church to make it the Community Hub which the village needs. We very much appreciate your prayers. **Peter and Jeff**

### Book Review

#### ***The Tent, The Bucket and Me, by Emma Kennedy***

If you want to blow away the post-Christmas blues, look no further than this book. Billed as “My family’s disastrous attempts to go camping in the 70s”, I had expected a mildly amusing blow-by-blow account of rain, wind, storms and flood, but was delighted to find so much more. Not only is this book very funny indeed, but it is fluently written with delightful observations about human nature dropped casually in here and there. Emma is about 3, only child of Tony and Brenda, when the saga begins.

This book also appealed to me because, as a child, my own family used to set off for 3 weeks’ camping in Europe every summer. My friends envied me; but little did they know that my poor parents were on the verge of divorce by the time we reached the corner of our street, and the whole jamboree was a nightmare. My mother used to fill the boot with sanitary towels, convinced that no such artefacts of civilization would be found across the water. In consequence everything else needed to be stashed on the roof in my father’s home-made, black-painted wooden roof box – dubbed the Coffin by us children – which, having no compartments, always finished up as a casserole of knives, forks, pants, socks, salt and pepper, flannels, combs, toilet rolls (so many!) – in short, all the requisites for a family of five to live for 3 weeks - but never, never the tent pegs which eluded capture at every stop. What fun! – please note a certain irony here.

As well as hilarious anecdotes coming thick and fast, there are delightful descriptions of father Tony’s large, close-knit Welsh family. Grandma (Mam) was of particular interest to me as she grabbed a loaf of bread and “shoved it under her armpit” – just as my own Grandma used to do when slicing. I used to watch, utterly entranced. I had thought I had a monopoly on grandmothers who risked slivers of voluminous embonpoint in the sandwiches, but apparently not.

And cockles being served in pint mugs took me back to cycling to the cockle sheds at Leigh-on-Sea – those were the days when you could be let loose to cycle miles when you were small.

I will treat you to a few gems from this book:

Little Emma is about to take her turn on the bucket, Mam, Mother and Father having previously availed themselves of it in turn, according to the family pecking order. *“My 3 year old’s body was smaller than the bucket’s circumference and the next thing I knew, I was concertinaed, knees thrown up against my chest and I was sinking, slowly, towards two generations of excretions.”* It does not end well. There is quite a lot in this book about encounters with primitive sanitary facilities – even though this is Wales and not France, to which country we all know that civilized sanitation arrived somewhat late. It even mentions the loos in a second-hand bookshop in Ross-on-Wye.

*“For my mother, going on holiday was a travel round the great bowls of Britain. It was a mystery that such a tiny woman could generate such massive amounts of urine...”*

And she has an acute eye for marital interactions. Watching her father trying to mend a broken-down wreck of a car enroute to Wales and blustering loudly [*“Brenda, I can do this. Let me get on with it”*], she carefully watches her mother: *“Even though my experience of the mystery of mothers was a short one, something primeval told me that a mother who’s gone silent is as dangerous as a coiled snake.”*

This book will make you smile – and no doubt bring back memories for many, as it did for me – although our escapades were in the 50s. Definitely worth a read. **Hilary Smallwood**

## Wildlife in our Garden



Now the feeding station is buzzing again (or should I say fluttering?) since we've had a few cold nights and that cold north wind started blowing in late November. Every day about four pairs of blue tits and a pair of great tits visit the nut and seed feeders, and four pairs of chaffinches are always hopping around the low wall. One of them may be "Scruff", but we're not quite sure because he is now so nearly normal in appearance. The resident robin has become less vigilant about chasing them off, but sometimes a family of assertive house sparrows push their way into the party. Occasional visitors are a male greater spotted woodpecker on the nuts, and a pair of gold finches on the seeds. Dunnocks seem to be keeping out of the way, hiding away under the hedge. Sometimes we see a wren fluttering around the flowerpots below the wall. Most days a pair of jays come and pick at whatever they can find. Getting nuts out of the feeder is difficult for them because it is a sprung one that closes when the weight of a squirrel is on it, but the jays are a bit lighter and can just get their bills into the narrow crack left when they perch there.

There are three squirrels, two healthy ones with bushy tails and the one we now call Scratty. I wrote about him or her last month, with no hair on the tail and an apparently damaged hind leg. Some short hair has now grown on its tail, and it runs more confidently, but still not as a squirrel should. It seems to have paralysed tail muscles, whether due to damage to the nerves or direct to the muscle I cannot tell. I suspect its tail, and perhaps pelvis, was run over by a car though I'm not sure why that would make the fur drop off. Anyway, the result is that it cannot lift its tail up over its back, but drags it behind. It seems to be able to climb, at least up the lower part of the trunk of a birch tree, but I suspect, with such a flaccid tail, it would have very poor balance and steering when running along a narrow branch or jumping from branch to branch. We wonder whether it spends its nights on the ground instead of up in a tree. It gathers seeds fallen onto the ground from our seed feeder and even chases other squirrels away from this prime position.



I did not mention the male pheasant, now known as Percy, who has started appearing most days to see what seeds are left. We think he is the same one who came last winter; only, instead of standing up to the squirrels, he allows them to chase him off. He is still quite tolerant of our presence however. Pheasants of course, are bred to be shot. As Simon Barnes observes in his delightfully entertaining book, *A Bad Birdwatcher's Companion*, "Never can a creature have survived so well because of its ability to die."

If you're still looking for a (late) Christmas present for someone, this book or his other, *How to be a Bad Birdwatcher*, I would thoroughly recommend. **John Oubridge**

## Garden Notes

We have been very fortunate in this household and have somehow managed to stay fit and well and, so far, have not had to self-isolate due to Covid. The only things that have gone into isolation here are two new box balls that my husband bought me as an early Christmas present. I love topiary in all its forms and our many box balls are my pride and joy. The new plants are isolating in our small back garden because, whisper it, we have just discovered the dreaded box blight in some of the established plants.

When I moved here over eleven years ago, the only plants that moved with me were my collection of topiary balls. They were very small then, but now that they are fourteen years old, they are an important and distinctive feature of the garden, especially in winter. It was heartbreaking to discover the sudden loss of leaves and the bare stems just a few weeks ago. They were all grown from tiny cuttings bought for a pound or two from Lidl and B&Q. We have twenty of varying sizes, the largest now 750mm in diameter. I lost an old hedge to blight around ten years ago but fortunately all the box balls remained healthy until this recent outbreak.



The RHS website has lots of useful information, some of it encouraging, some not. On a positive note, roots are unaffected by blight but if you cut a box ball down to a stump, you ain't got a ball no more! Discouragingly, the spores stay viable for six years and it strikes me that it is just about impossible to make sure all the diseased leaves have been



gathered up and then burned or binned. Equally discouraging is that the blight is bound to have progressed farther than is obvious, so we must cut out far more than just the visibly infected stems. Whatever we do, the result will be some very strange shapes and a few stumps.

It may be that I have been asking for trouble by planting some of them in locations where they stay damp too long after rain; I may have planted my summer flowers too close and prevented air circulating around them; and they may have been trimmed too late in the year. The advice is to trim them just once a year early in the season – on a dry day and definitely not when they are damp from rain - so that new growth has time to harden and become less vulnerable to fungal infection. I don't like using chemicals in the garden, but spraying them with fungicide before **and** after trimming helps too and disinfecting tools between trimming each plant, something I know we forget to do. Feeding in spring with a general fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone or with a box feed will help, but avoid too much nitrogen which will result in excessively lush growth ideal for fungal development.

Every time I look at the box balls I get upset all over again but I do know that I can't 'bury my head in the sand and hope it goes away' and that I need to act fast if I don't want to lose the lot. If they fail to recover, I will look at alternatives such as yew, pittosporum or euonymus.



On a more positive note I have been buying more ferns, such undemanding plants which add interesting leaf shapes, texture and green foliage to the garden. Ferns love this garden and they suit its many shady corners. They just need a bit of a tidy up in early spring and look great surrounded by the primroses, Welsh poppies and forget-me-nots that I allow to self-seed in between. It may be that as the trees and shrubs grow larger and create more and more shade, I will have to let the box balls go and replace them with ferns. **Julie Davies**

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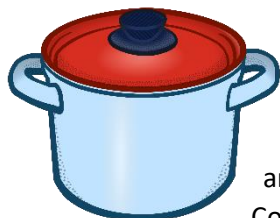
I have come to the conclusion that a necessary life skill of living in the country with narrow lanes, is being able to reverse a car efficiently. Not only this, but knowing where the nearest gateways are is so helpful, and how to avoid driving backwards into a ditch is even better! While I am happy to reverse when a large farm vehicle looms large, I get quite irritated, actually quite cross, when a car which has just passed a gateway refuses to back, forcing me to reverse a long way. Perhaps this is a feature of increasing 'maturity'! Turning to look backwards is no longer an option, but I have really perfected the 'backing using the one wing mirror' method. That is in an automatic small car. I hate doing it in the bigger ancient 4 x 4 that we need for my husband to take his large double bass to rehearsals! I find it all too easy in this to find a ditch, particularly if backing downhill. Going daily from St Weonards to Garway School to collect a grandchild, I used to meet a surprising number of people who simply seemed unable to reverse. It was easier to reverse, even if irritating. On one occasion an even more 'mature' person than me got stuck and I offered to drive her car off the verge and she was so grateful. I suggested that she might be better to go via Broad Oak and she agreed.

Of course, one cure for needing to back is when the local road has so many potholes, no one risks driving up it. This is a win-win situation...or perhaps not?! **Fiona Mynors**

# Chuckle Corner

Extract from a cookery book from a Wiltshire village cookbook of 1980 with recipes to raise funds for church restoration.

## Vicarage Cold Pot



Take one vicar (not too stale)  
Mix with one wife, marinated in paint and wallpaper.  
Season with two sons, to add spice and variety.  
Stir together and place in one large, draughty vicarage with a sprinkling of mice (church type) and a teaspoonful of friendly ghosts.  
Cook for any length of time and enjoy the result throughout the year.

Notice on the wall of a public lavatory in Petworth.

***Gentlemen. Slippery when wet.***

From the 'Chichester Observer' court round up: Michael M was given a two week prison sentence ...after admitting breaching a criminal behaviour order by sitting within two metres of a fire exit in Bognor Regis.

Mr C. Glue 67 is fined for 'abusive words', (just sticking to his story perhaps?)

### **Is Hell Exothermic or Endothermic?** (Thanks to Les Phillips for this)

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid-term:

"Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Support your answer with a proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So, we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added. This gives two possibilities.

- 1) If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
- 2) Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So, which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms. Therese Banyan during my Freshman year that "It will be a cold night in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then (2) cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic.

This student got the only A.



At a recent performance of the *Messiah* in the cathedral, the new Dean Sarah Brown commented that the words and tunes from the oratorio were so well-known, even if people did not know of the bible context. In her previous work, she read the relevant sections from Isaiah to a youth group. They were not impressed. As one lad put it, 'Not very original is it? It's all taken from Handel.'



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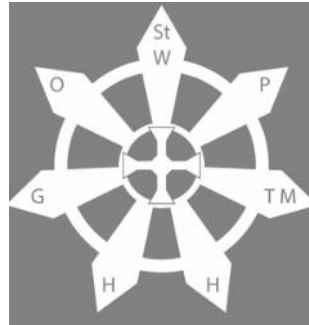
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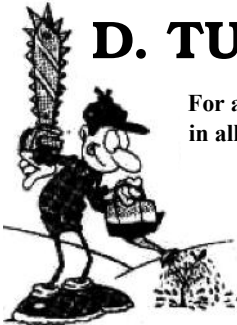
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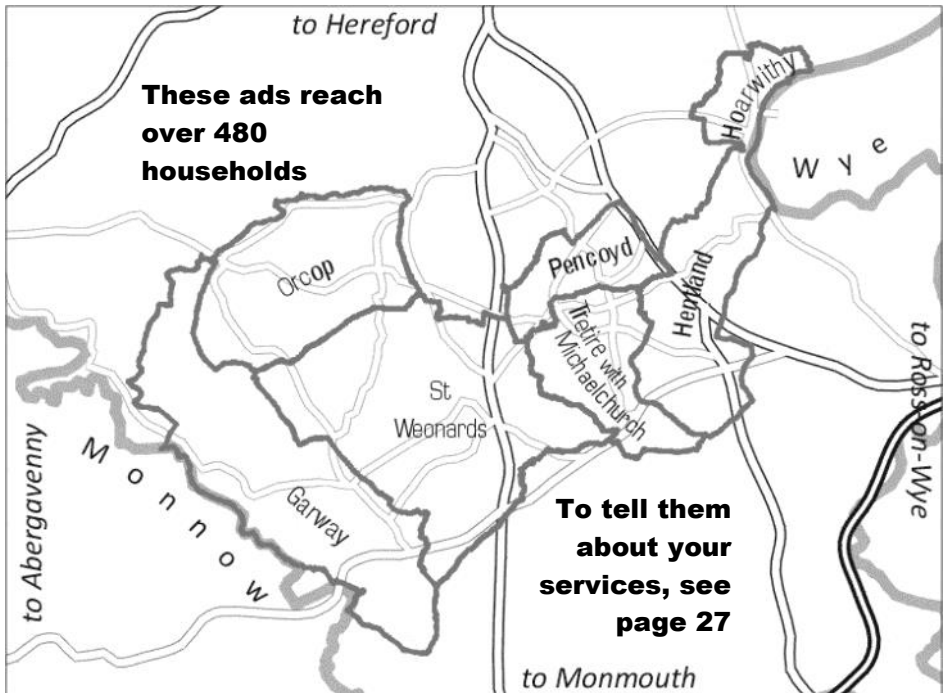
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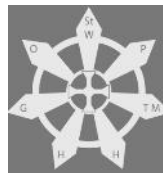
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