

PARISH NEWS

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

MARCH 2023



ILLUSTRATION BY NEIL BUICK

QUOTATION FROM "IN PRAISE OF WALKING" BY THOMAS A. CLARK.

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CONTACTS IN THE ST WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

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Orcop	Margaret Fletcher	01981 540790
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Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
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Hentland	Mr Robin Symonds	01989 730439

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Youth Group, Tearfund	Mrs Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Julia Garlick	01981 580515
St. Weonards Hall	Anna Williams	07779006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams	01981 580352
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@Garway	Graham Bevan	01981 580215
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Much Dewchurch		
Gardening Club	Linda Ashton	01981 540804
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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 116 123 free calls
0330 094 5717 local call rates
apply or email
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 you 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 **5th of the month:**

Magazine Editor	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
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Tretire/Pencoyd:	Mrs Meg Oubridge	01981 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

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St. Weonards:	Mark Hearne clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 251887
Llanwarne:	Mark Hearne clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	01981 251887
Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

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

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Rural Dean: Rev Sean Semple

Rector of Ross on Wye

01989 562175

Please see St Mary's Ross website for more details or contact your churchwarden.

Letter from Venerable Fiona Gibson Archdeacon of Ludlow

One of the most moving services I have ever attended took place on Ash Wednesday 2009, in Westminster Abbey. I was an ordinand, in training for ministry, and was on placement at the Abbey. As the choir sang the achingly beautiful setting of Psalm 51 "Miserere mei, Deus" (Have mercy on me, God) by Allegri, complete with perfectly piercing top C from the chorister given the solo that year, we all went forward.

The Dean said the solemn words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return," as he marked my forehead with the sign of the cross, using ashes from the previous year's palm crosses.

It was a new experience to me, as the imposition of ashes hadn't been part of the tradition I'd known up to then. I confess I was overwhelmed - by the depth of my human sinfulness, the depth of God's mercy, and the depth of the love of Christ in going to the cross for the sin of the world, including mine.

Far from being frightening, or leading me to despair, those words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust, you will return," seemed in that moment to be strangely comforting. They reminded me of words from Psalm 39, where the Psalmist says to God, "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is." We, humans, are frail and fragile creatures of the creator – a truth we don't always recognise or accept. To dwell on that truth during Lent, holding it together with the equal and opposite truth that we are, as the title of a book says, "**Beloved** Dust" seems to me a good spiritual discipline for these 40 days.

For by the grace of God in Christ, we are both fragile *and* strong, mortal *and* immortal. We are dust, and to dust, we will return, yes. But that's not the end of the story, for from dust we shall rise, clothed with life and immortality, to live with God eternally.

As we move through Lent together, I invite you to take time to meditate on these paradoxical truths: that we are creatures, limited, finite, and weak, *and* that we are held in the hands of an unlimited, infinite, and strong God; that our time in this life is brief, *and* that our time with God in the world to come is eternal; that we are as humans deeply flawed, *and* we are deeply loved – and that in the cross with which we are marked in baptism, and may be marked on Ash Wednesday, all of that comes together.

Archdeacon Fiona Gibson

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



28th March Christine Davies 01981 580129

Magazine News

Please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs.

Subs for 2023 should have been paid please. £7.00. Please pay via BACS transfer if possible.

St. Weonards Group Magazine Sort Code:20-00-85 Account No. 70786276.

Please advise your distributor if you have paid in this way.

You can pay by cash or cheque given to your distributor. Cheques to **St. Weonards Group Magazine.**

Magazine grants have been made to: St Weonards Benefice Parishes. Dore Community Transport. Garway School. Garway Youth Group. Orcop Warm Space

SERVICE ROTA FOR MARCH

Sunday 5th	10.00a.m	Benefice Communion Orcop
Sunday 12 th	10.00a.m	St Weonards All Age Service
Sunday 19th Mothering Sunday	10.00am	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	9.15 a.m 10.00am 6.30pm	Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards, All Age Service Tretire, Evening Prayer

Sunday 2nd April, PALM SUNDAY WALK

10/10.15am from Pencoyd to Llanwarne for Holy Communion at 11.00

3.00pm Pax Service Hentland

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the relevant church warden. 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:

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 12th March 3pm

Revd. Paul Arnold

Sunday 26th March 3pm

Mr Wilf Prosser

Benefice Communion Service Sunday March 5th 10.00am

The only service in our parishes on Sunday March 12th will be at Orcop Church. All are welcome. Bishop Anthony Priddis is taking the service and it is hoped to gather a choir for the occasion. If you would like to sing, please contact Richard Mynors on 01981 580 208 or fionamynors@btinternet.com.

Village Pages

ST WEONARDS

The benefice Candlemas service at Tretire was an excellent occasion with Bishop David encouraging us to keep our minds on the light of Christ. The choir helped support our singing and their anthem encouraged us to reflect on the light in our own lives. The candles we lit and carried round the church gave us a visible sign of hope as well as the usual excitement of getting them alight! It also gave us the opportunity to congratulate Bishop David on his birthday which falls at this time of year!

Bishop David is so busy for us at the moment, and we are so grateful for his help. He came to confirm Thomas, a member of our All Age congregation. It was lovely to be able to welcome Thomas and his family and friends to his special day.

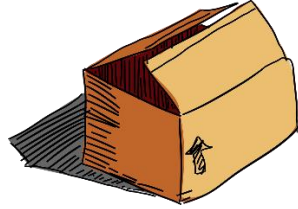
On the Wednesday 15th March, we hope to be showing vicar candidates round our parish. All are invited to the village hall for a cup of tea at 3.50 to 4.30pm for a brief opportunity to meet them. Any feedback would be welcome to churchwardens that evening, as formal interviews take place on Thursday 16th. Do come! Although we hope to appoint a new vicar, it is possible that if the right candidate does not come forward, no one will be appointed and we will look again.

Lent Lunch on Wednesday 5th April 12.00 to 2.00pm at Treago HR2 8QB. This is a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese. Donations for Hereford Food Bank.

Do put in your diary Sunday 16th April for the Big Breakfast in the village hall. No doubt Anna Williams and her team will prepare a feast for us!

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

Hereford Food Bank



We are still collecting items in church for the Food Bank. Many thanks to those who have contributed so far. The Food Bank provides emergency food parcels throughout Hereford and surrounding areas. They are at 41 Monkmoor St, Hereford HR1 2DX. 01432 607011

They are always in need of tinned meat and hygiene products

Please help if you can. **Fiona Mynors**

GARWAY



March 7th 10.15am Garway Coffee at the Community Hall

Spring will be heading our way ... so hopefully there will be daffodils to enjoy, along with coffee/tea, cake, good company and Post Office and library.

Feel free to stay on for



Garway Lent Lunch

12 noon - 2pm

Yummy soups and homemade bread.

The pupils from Garway School will join us once again to serve at table.

All welcome

Garway Stitchers



Garway stitching group meets once a fortnight on Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30.

7th and 21st March. We are working on a series of community embroidery panels depicting life in Garway.

All are welcome to join us and add your own piece to the panels or bring your own project if you prefer.

For more details, contact **Tracy** 01981 580263.



TUESDAY MARCH 14th
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS

You might think, from its title, that this film is full of treacly, girly niceness. And yes, there is a lot of sheer uplifting goodness in it. But it turns out, it's so much more than that, as nearly all the hard-bitten film critics out there agreed. Lesley Manville stars as a working-class post-war widow who falls in love with a Dior dress that is way beyond her means. But, for her, it's more than a posh frock, it's hope, escape, self-realisation and adventure. She scrimps together enough cash and heads for the Dior atelier in Paris. Here she encounters the frosty, snobbish Claudine Colbert, *directrice* of the famous couture house, played by the legendary French actress Isabelle Huppert. Madame is determined to fend off anyone who risks sullyng its image or offending Dior's high-class clientele. But Ada from London has a lot more to her than a cockney accent and a fanciful dream, as the House of Dior and its acolytes are about to find out.

This is a film that carefully and cleverly shows niceness needn't equal slush. It will send you away with little sequins of happiness hanging on your winter coats, (and which one of us doesn't need that, these days?). It also offers a glorious trawl through a real-life couture house i.e. it's got dresses to die for. As usual, we'll be offering our very own couture cakes, designer coffees, and high-class teas and wines. And those dressed up all fancy get a free slice of cake. Follow us too on [facebook.com/Garway Flicks](https://www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks).

BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL
at Garway Hall March 3rd & March 10th.

The UK's biggest rural film festival comes to Herefordshire again this year and Garway Hall will be hosting two much-lauded films.

AFTERSUN on Friday March 3rd at 7.30pm £5.50.

Winner of 6 British Independent Films Awards 2022. We are so delighted to bring this profoundly affecting film to Garway, not least because its cinematographer, Greg Oke, was brought up in our

village. Greg, who now lives in Berlin, will be introducing the film and will be answering questions afterwards. **AFTERSUN** is a profoundly affecting exploration of the relationship between a young father and his eleven-year-old daughter as they share a rare holiday together in Turkey. All seems wonderful under the Mediterranean sun until cracks begin to show in their relationship and in Calum the father's life. It's a film about making memories, longing and loss and is an astounding debut from director Charlotte Wells.

UTAMA on Friday March 10th at 7.30pm £5.50.

This is a film of dazzling visual power and poignancy, which tells the story of a couple who work on the land in a remote, uncompromising area of Bolivia. When a long drought threatens their way of life, Virginio and Sisa have to decide whether to continue or move to an easier life in the city. But Virginio is stubborn and insists that his way of life is bred into him and is not to be forsaken, despite expediency, family pressures, and climate change.

The two main actors in this film had never performed before which has resulted in a film of great honesty and integrity where every frame breathes meaning and beauty.

Tickets on the door or book in advance for both at www.borderlinesfilmfestival.co.uk

Refreshments aplenty as ever at Garway, including wine, teas, coffees and our delicious home-baked cakes.

Green Garway Book Group



In January we held our first Green Garway Book Group and the first book to be discussed was *I Bought a Mountain* by Thomas Firbank. A best-selling classic and pioneer of nature writing, this is the autobiography of Thomas Firbank, a Canadian who decided, aged just 21, to buy himself a hillside farm in Snowdonia the 1930's. He initially knew nothing about farming but managed to ingratiate himself with the local farmers. With his indomitable wife Esme and her great ideas, and the support of the local farming community, they overcame some pretty massive challenges and, on the whole, made a success of their farm.

This is a thrilling tale of adversity and triumph, in an extremely inhospitable environment, told in a very direct and sometimes humorous style. It is very much a book of its time though with some cringy stereotyping and some of us found it a bit too much of a sheep farming manual.

Our overall rating was 3/5.

If you're interested in joining the book group you can either join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489872936450081> or send an email

to greengarwaybg@gmail.com. We read books about the outdoor world, nature, social issues, travel, fiction and non-fiction. Everyone is welcome.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month in the Garway Moon.

Future meetings:

Mon 13 March – *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

Mon 17 April – *Field Work* by Bella Bathurst (This is different to avoid to avoid Easter Monday and also to enable the author herself, Bella Bathurst to come along and join us in the chat about her book.

Julie Hudson



Saturday 18th March 8.00pm

This month sees the return of “*The Offshoots*”. They played a storming set when they were last here and we have happily bowed to the requests for them to come back. An offshoot of the *Blues Brothers Showband* you can expect a mix of rock, pop, blues, soul and even some country covers, all played the way they should be played. As usual, it's the band on stage at 8 o'clock, with a full bar. Admission £12 for adults with under 18's £6 on the door or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway. If you missed them last time, make sure you don't miss them this time.

Then on Saturday 15th April we have the long-awaited return of the fantastic “*Roving Crows*”. The Crows are renowned for their strong lead vocals coupled with four-part harmonies, guitar, fiddle, bass and drums. They have cultivated a singular arresting sound that pushes the boundaries of the Celtic Folk genre. This band plays with genuine passion, energy, and soul.

Nothing in May because of the Coronation, but June sees a real coup for us, we have secured “*The James Oliver Band*”. James is a guitar maestro who plays a complete range of styles, he is currently on a short tour of Sweden and later in the year he will be touring America, so catch him while you can.

Graham Bevan

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

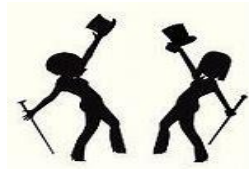
Tuesday 21st March 7.30pm

Garway Community Hall; light refreshments are served. Free to GHG members and £5 for visitors, who are very welcome!

Hay Castle – brought back to life!

Mari Fforde provides a lively update on the castle's restoration work. Hay Castle Trust and a Lottery Grant came to the rescue of the castle which was in a state of sad disrepair.

THE GREAT 'AVE A GO VARIETY SHOW!



All welcome to come and “do a turn” (10 minutes maximum)

Song, dance, stand-up (or sit down) comedy, magic, or anything else that takes your fancy.

All acts considered!

If you would like to participate, please come to the planning meeting to be held in Garway Community Hall on Sunday 5th March at 4.30pm

Performances will be on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April at 7.30 pm in Garway Hall.

Details will be confirmed in the April Magazine.

Date for the diary: 23rd June Friends of Garway Church are hosting a Midsummer Medieval Fayre on Garway Common. If you have any skills/products you could offer, or know of anyone locally who would enjoy taking a stall or helping on the day, please contact Lesley on whizzo1@btinternet.com

ORCOP

The process for appointing a new vicar is well underway and the post is currently being advertised in the Church Times. The churchwardens of the parish churches of the St Weonards Benefice will meet to consider the responses to the advert in late February and early March. In mid-March, shortlisted candidates will visit the Benefice for “orientation” and an interview. It is hoped that the new incumbent might be in place by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, there will be a Benefice service at Orcop on Sunday 5th March, to be led by Bishop Anthony Priddis (former Bishop of Hereford).

Jane Rigler is kindly hosting the Orcop Lent Lunch on 29th March, advertised separately. Please support this if you can, especially as the proceeds will go to those in desperate need in Ukraine.

Looking ahead, there will not be an Easter service in Orcop this year and those wishing to celebrate Easter are urged to go to St. Weonards at 10.00am when Bishop David Thomson will be celebrating communion. The monthly Orcop communion service, at 11am on the second Sunday, will resume from May. Bishop Anthony and the Revd, Crispin Pemberton have kindly agreed to take these services until further notice and you are urged to support them as we strive to keep the church alive until such time as we have our own vicar.

It is worthy of mention here that, despite our being without a vicar, we are nevertheless paying towards our annual Parish Share for the ministry of the church in our benefice amounting to £3500 for 2023.

There are a number of important events coming up in April. These will be advertised in next month's magazine, but they are mentioned here by way of early warning.

Firstly, the annual *Churchyard Bingo* will be held on 21st April.

Secondly, we are planning a Spring poetry and cello recital in April, on a date to be advised. Thirdly the Garway “Ave a Go Panto” team is planning a variety show in April, in which Orcop will be well represented. Finally, we are thinking about the annual Orcop Fete, traditionally held on the August Bank Holiday Monday (28th this year). Maybe we should do something different this year?

Please let us have your views and suggestions!

Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs A Morris

ORCOP LENT LUNCH WEDNESDAY 29th March 12.00 to 2.00pm



Bracken House HR2 8HD

By kind invitation of Jane Rigler

We are assured of humble (but excellent) victuals and a very worthy cause (UKRAINE).

We hope you can come. If you intend to do so, please advise Jane on 01981 241310.

Orcop? ... God Help Us!

We moved to Orcop in 2016, from 'Off' (Gloucestershire), attracted by the beauty, remoteness and 1970s traffic volume. (We hadn't experienced the Hereford bridge then though). Now we come to move, looking back, it's the community and the people we'll miss and remember most of all.

We rented near Leominster for a year and when we bought Pear Tree Barn in Orcop, people recited '*Orcop God Help Us*'. Not an auspicious start. Was there, perhaps, something that hadn't shown up on the searches?!

We needn't have worried. So many delightful, kind, fun, talented people popped up, a number of whom have become lifelong friends. It's been a joy to get to know the wonderful people in the farming community, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Often, when I was walking the lanes, they'd stop their tractors for a chat. Set high up in their cabins, I'm looking up to them in both senses. How do they do it?

Then there are the local artists, writers, actors, poets, musicians, storytellers, potters, painters, wood and metal workers, cider makers, choreographers, family makers of all sorts etc. I could go on. All abound in the little realm that is Orcop. We'd found 'our tribe'.

Being a musician, I was delighted to find like-minded people who enjoy the finer things of life, such as progressive rock and panto. Soon I would be in two bands, a choir and a panto. Metal, Mozart and cross-dressing Mayhem get on just fine! My four children got a shock when I came on as 'Mystic Meg', sporting a very ample bosom.

Playing keyboard with Danny and the Daleks at the last gig in the old hall and the first in the new Garway Hall was an honour, and these were among the best nights of my life. Check it out on Youtube!

Memorable also was the Orcop church post-lockdown concert. It was emotional and a joy to share a stage with fellow artists whose talent levels I can only aspire to. I loved singing such a wide variety of pieces along with my friends in The Singing Tree choir, often at the inspiring Archenfield Arts festival. Thank you 'Twigs'!

It was an honour to deliver much needed medicines locally, throughout lockdown, under the auspices of the OWL good neighbour scheme. I drove out onto empty streets with a letter to show

to anyone who might question what I was up to. A welcome taste of freedom. (Do consider donating a little time or money to this much needed local resource.)

Jude, my wife, found like-minded crafty folk too, with whom to spend precious time, and was a stalwart of the Orcop Parish Hall committee. She also enjoyed being part of the team running *Flicks in the Sticks*. Their shows are always worth a visit. Also, we will miss *Garway Live* and gratefully remember all the work they put in unselfishly. As we look back, Jude and I reflect on happy years spent among you, soured only by my diagnosis of Parkinsons in 2021, which has prompted our moving to be nearer family and in a single storey dwelling in N. Somerset.

The diagnosis has also prompted me to finally finish a music album (CD) which I thoroughly expect all of you to purchase (details in a future edition!) I know where you live.....

Thank you for your friendship and support as we take our next step along this road of life. We wish you all the best of health and happiness.

Rik & Jude Loveridge

Orcop Parish Hall

Warm Space at Orcop Parish Hall with Coffee & Cakes in collaboration with OWLS

Every Thursday morning 10.30 – 12.30

Transport by arrangement - call Gill or Tim Bannerman 01981 580685



March: Seed and Plant swop, look out for more details

How nice to have some feedback!

My sincere thanks to Ian Holdsworth for his well-informed and valuable comments on my “Chicken Gun” story, which are reproduced below with his permission:

First, it was BAC (Filton) that built said gun – not Rolls Royce. The gun was specifically built to test Concorde windscreens.

The gun was a length of steel pipe with a flange at one end. Chicken (4lb) was inserted at flange end. Large air tank was bolted to said flange with a sheet of ½ inch Perspex between them. Air tank was pumped up to pressure. 0.22 rifle built into air tank shattered Perspex to ‘fire’ the gun. I seem to remember that max velocity claimed for the chicken was of the order of 400 knots. On impact the chicken spread itself over the surrounding area in a very thin layer.

How do I know? I was one of the apprentices occasionally sent to the butcher’s shop opposite the Filton site main gate to get the chickens!

The rumoured American activities were just that – a rumour.

Having flown in Concorde, I wish to record thanks to Ian and BAC (Filton) for their diligent research to safeguard passengers (and crew) against bird-strikes! ***Peter Garratt***

ORCOP PARISH HALL

SPRING MARKET

18th March 10 - 12

WITH

SEED & PLANT EXCHANGE

Swap seeds, seedlings, cuttings, root divisions, plants, pots, tools, books, magazines and gardening enthusiasm

(all donations are welcome)

OTHER STALLS TO INCLUDE

Refurbished tools and curios

Baskets - with basket-making demo

Organic sourdough bread

Home-made cakes and Produce

Gifts

REFRESHMENTS

If you would like to book a table please contact petamary@hotmail.co.uk
or, gill.bannerman@outlook.com

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

At the beginning of February, the Benefice service was held at St Mary's Tretire on Sunday 5th, when we celebrated the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple. In Jewish times, a new baby was brought to the temple in Jerusalem to be blessed, when the official forty Days of Purification of the mother had been completed. In the Catholic tradition, this day is also known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary.

When Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem, St Luke's gospel tells us that Simeon took the child in his arms. He recognised him as the Messiah and said the now familiar words of what has come to be known as the Nunc Dimittis which predicts that Jesus will be "a light to lighten the Gentiles", which is the origin of the other name for this Sunday, Candlemas.

The retired Bishop David Thomson very kindly came to lead this service, and it happened to fall near his birthday, so that was another reason for decorating the chancel with candles! He commented on the lovely flowers bringing additional light to the church on such a sunny day.

So the theme running through the service was "Jesus the light of the world."

Richard Mynors kindly played the organ and brought with him the benefice choir. They sang an anthem, *In a world where people walk in darkness* after which, everyone was given a lighted candle to carry to the font at the back of the church, and the choir sang *Simeon's Song*.

Snowdrops are known as Candlemas Bells because they are often blooming at this time of year, and some recognise them as symbols of hope. People arriving for this service will surely have felt welcomed by the wonderful display of snowdrops in Tretire churchyard.

The season of Lent begins on February 22nd and some of the parishes are again holding Lent Lunches. Traditionally, this is a frugal lunch of soup, bread and cheese, at which anyone in the benefice is made welcome, and donations are requested for a charity chosen by the parish.

Lent Lunch details below. Our PCC. chose for donations to be given to Ross for Ukraine. This is not a Registered Charity, but a private organisation headed up by Katie Fowler, which collect donations and regularly drive them to destinations in Ukraine where they are most needed. Our donations will be taken over later in March.

John and I visited Katie in her shop, KTS Crafts at the bottom of Eddie Cross Street in Ross, where we learned a lot more about conditions in Ukraine, and the needs of the people.

Please find below the list of things most needed. Many people are living with little or no power much of the time, and have a great need for torches, batteries, and candles.

Listening to Katie , and Alina, a Ukrainian woman who works in the shop with her, really gave us a deeper insight into how life is for the people of Ukraine who remain in the country. We may all be feeling the pinch in this country, but we are so fortunate compared with the Ukrainians remaining in their stricken country. So we look forward to seeing you at our Lent Lunch at Michaelchurch, and *please bring* much needed items for Ukraine.

DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE.

Most urgent

Torches. Batteries. Candles (for use when power is lost).

Ladies sanitary products (especially pads which can also be used in soldier's boots against cold and damp).

Paracetamol. Ibuprofen.

Other Requirements

Cereal bars.	Dried Baby food.	Packet porridges .	Roll on deodorants
Cup a soup.	Nappies.	Malt loaves.	Dry shampoo
Nuts.	Baby food (no jars).	Dried fruit.	Wet wipes
Tinned soups.	Sudocrem.	Energy bars.	Soap
Tinned spaghetti	Bags of sweets.	Tinned meats.	Toothpaste
Tinned tomatoes.	Snacks	Hot dog sausages.	Toothbrushes
Meatballs.	Milk powder.	Dog food/ cat food.	Burn dressings
Lentils.	Rice.	Packet noodles.	Insoles and footcare

Margaret Oubridge

Saturday 11 March 2023

From 12.30pm – 2.30pm



Please come along for a simple Saturday Lunch of Soup & Salad/Cheese

At Michaelchurch Cottage, Michaelchurch, HR2 8LD

(very kindly hosted by Elizabeth Malcolm)

You are invited to bring contributions for the next delivery of goods to war-torn Ukraine and we hope to have a person with us who has travelled there who can talk to you about the trips to deliver these much-needed goods.

Use this link to see what contributions are needed: www.rossforukraine.co.uk/donate.html

If you are unable to attend, please give your contribution to Elizabeth Malcolm or leave at one of our churches.

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Services this month

Sunday 19th March Hoarwithy 10.00am Holy Communion Bishop David Thompson

Sunday 26th March Hentland 9.15am Holy Communion

Lent Lunch

Wednesday 22nd March 12.00-2.00pm



Upper Barn Hoarwithy HR2 6QE

Courtesy of Sarah and Jeff Goulding.

The annual Pax Service at Hentland will be Evensong at 3pm, on Palm Sunday 2nd April followed by the traditional distribution of Pax Cakes with the shaking of hands and exchange of the greeting 'Peace and Good Neighbourhood'. Before the service we gather at the lych gate and proceed into church singing 'Ride on, ride on in Majesty', accompanied by a trumpet, pausing to face the churchyard cross for a prayer. The Reverend Tiffany Jackson will be preaching.

Wildlife in our Garden

Another (apparently) quiet month in the garden has passed. The birds coming to our feeding stations are much as before. The only event that was a bit different was the brief visit of a family of long-tailed tits on January 24th.



They had a quick feast from the seeds on the wall and then they were off again. It is noticeable how much busier the bird life is on cold mornings than mild ones like today. This is consistent with what we are told by wildlife experts, that birds need to take in enough food during daylight to supply enough energy to keep their bodies warm for 24 hours. This can be very difficult for them on short, cold days and nights when there is not much food about, unless they are fed by humans.

I wonder how many people reading this take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch? We did once again. I always wonder why they have it at such a quiet time of year (quiet for bird numbers I mean). I suppose they're most interested in the residents. Our list was topped by house sparrows and chaffinches (5 of each), with blackbirds and blue tits second (4 of each), a bit different from the national count in which, although house sparrows and blue tits were the top two, next were starlings and woodpigeons. We never see a starling but their chaffinches (our top) didn't even feature in the top 10!

There are very few insects about. I was delighted to hear, then see, quite a large number of honey bees feeding from the winter honeysuckle this morning. I had not realised it was mild enough. Also, on previous years I have seen bumble bees well before any honey bees. I suppose they are opportunistically getting in a quick boost before the cold weather comes back and they have to retreat back to their winter quarters again.

But generally it feels as though nature is having a good sleep, much of it underground, biding its time, and this in spite of the reassuring appearance of daffodils and snowdrops along the side of the stream and golden aconites under the magnolia. I hope to have more to tell you about when spring really arrives!

John Oubridge 3rd February 2023

Book Review

***The Man Who Died Twice*, by Richard Osman**

The Man Who Died Twice is the sequel to Osman's first book, *The Thursday Murder Club*, which became an instant bestseller – and with good reason.

Four residents of an old age facility form an unlikely alliance that solidifies into friendship and fierce loyalty in the course of their membership of the Thursday Murder Club. Eschewing the jigsaw room and sedate teas, they create their unlikely club with the purpose of adding some spice to their lives.

Elizabeth, ex-secret service, has a sharp intellect and a hard exterior, which appears to be oblivious to the trail of dead bodies that litter their lives, but has a gentle side, caring lovingly for her husband Stephen as he lapses further into dementia. Joyce, a former nurse, is nearer to the stereotypical elderly middle-class woman, but her interest is piqued by the dangers of the club's activities, and she embraces every new experience with a naïve relish. Ron, a former trade union activist, is a fighter and solving murders fills the

gap left by his militancy. Gentle Ibrahim, a retired psychiatrist, forms a thoughtful backdrop to the other three.

Donna and Chris are two police officers who, against their better judgement, find themselves sucked inexorably into the club's activities, as Elizabeth proves to be a better crime-solver than they; and the club members willingness to engage in risky illegal stratagems gets the job done and forces Donna and Chris to turn a blind eye.

Drifting in and out of the narrative is handsome, muscly East European Bogdan, ostensibly a handyman but in reality, a hitman with a heart. All the female characters swoon before his taciturn charm.

Add in a complex plot and you have a splendid novel, a page-turner. But there is more to it than that. Here we have wit and humour thrown in at every turn; pithy but insightful dialogue with throw-away laughs, and, above all, a real grasp of what it is to get older: the pathos of the loss of physical abilities; the desperation to wring every tiny drop of excitement from the time you have left.

"It is fine to say, 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.' It is admirable. But it no longer applies when you're eighty. When you are eighty, whatever doesn't kill you just ushers you through the next door, and the next door and the next, and all of these doors lock behind you."

What could be more exciting than chasing the whereabouts of a cache of diamonds worth £20 million and pursuing a murderer? The friends cannot resist.

The juxtaposition of old people pottering about with the usual preoccupations, and the cutthroat world of crime and espionage is inherently funny, and Osman milks every drop of this humour, and misses no opportunity to insert dry comments on modern day society.

This is a very entertaining book to be highly recommended. Incidentally, I listened to it as an audiobook on my smartphone, having downloaded it via the Borrow Box app, which allows you free access to both audiobooks and ebooks, provided that you have a membership of your local library. I am hooked! I can read while preparing lunch!

Hilary Smallwood

(Editor's comment. As Hilary states this is an excellent, amusing read! I look forward to more of them!)

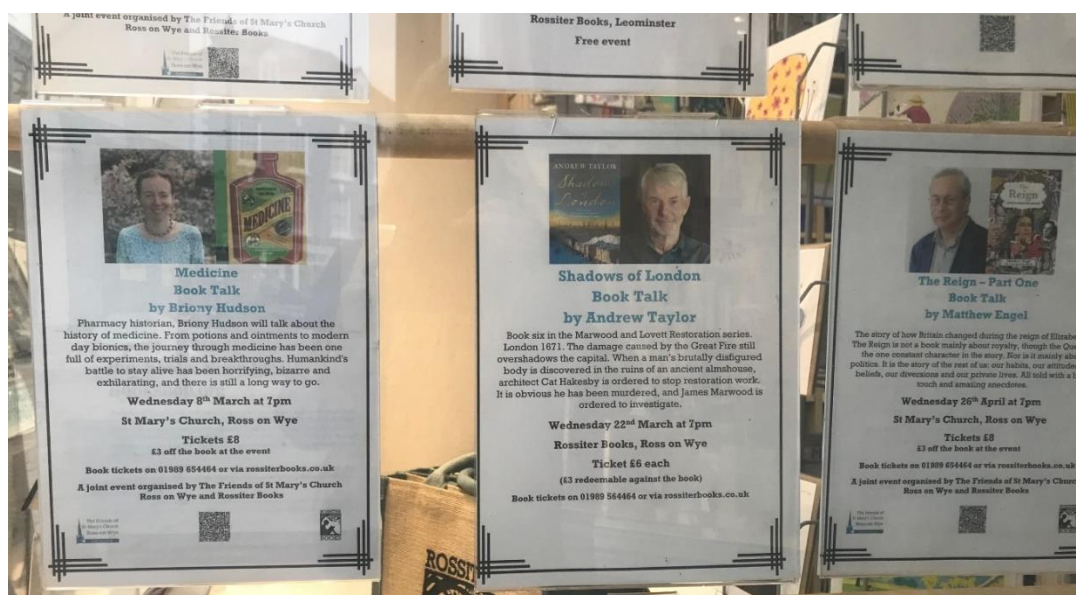
A Peek in the Bookshop

In preparing for this piece I had a quick look at what's been selling well over the last few weeks, and I was surprised to see that *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy that was shown on TV over Christmas has had a revival, outselling Spare. It also seems that everyone had an air-fryer for Christmas as in our top sellers for January was the *Air-Fryer Cookbook* by Jenny Tschiesche.

There is some great new adult fiction due for publication shortly. Margaret Atwood's *Old Babes in the Wood* is a collection of fifteen short stories with an eclectic cast and if you prefer a longer read, following on from the award winning *The Luminaries*, Eleanor Catton's *Birnam Wood* is a psychological thriller about a guerrilla gardening group.

For the younger readers, the TV show Bluey seems to have taken over in popularity from Peppa Pig and a new book called *Bluey: Baby Race* is out at the beginning of March. A great new series called *Wildsmith* by Liz Flanagan looks perfect for the 5–8-year age group interested in fantasy, nature and witches and for the slightly older children, *The Nowhere Thief* by Alice M. Ross is an adventure story across parallel worlds that sounds thrilling.

Our author events seem to be picking up momentum too. If you want to receive a weekly newsletter from Rossiter Books highlighting our upcoming events and featuring book reviews from all our booksellers, please subscribe on our website at www.rossiterbooks.co.uk



Hope to see you in store soon. **Julie Hudson**, Bookseller at Rossiter Books

Garden Notes

Twelve years ago, I acquired my father's diaries, which contain detailed daily entries of nearly fifty years of his life, written in 2H pencil in minuscule script. I couldn't bear to dispose of them until I had worked my way through every entry – after all, they contain my own history too. This winter, I finally started to select the most interesting nuggets and transfer them to the computer with a view to finally clearing a space in the cupboard. Amongst the tedious descriptions of his work as a university lecturer are all the details of the garden of our childhood home and the plants that he grew.

Our house was an interwar Tudorbethan semi with a typical suburban garden; it is only now, reading these diary entries, that I realise just how typical it was. A student of mid-20th garden design would be enthralled.

Here is the immaculate front garden with the small square lawn, surrounded by narrow beds of stiff rose bushes, a tall narrow flowering cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Amanogawa') and next to the gate, a beautiful red peony. Between the bay window and the front door with its stained-glass windows is a Nelly Moser clematis. The back garden is just as you might imagine. Metal Crittal French windows in the sitting room open onto concrete paving slabs, and a small rectangular lawn is edged by a border containing a mountain ash, lilac, forsythia and witch hazel all underplanted with Rose of Sharon. Beyond the lawn a mass of pink and white heathers, a potentilla (Elizabeth), azalea (Hotspur) and a pieris. Alongside the garage are more roses and *Clematis armandii*; behind the garage, concrete coal bunkers and mop head hydrangeas. Dad's notes were so detailed that I know the names of all the roses he planted (28 in total), where he planted them and where he bought them. They included Peace (of course), Super Star, Ena Harkness, Queen Elizabeth, Iceberg, climbing roses Danse de Feu and Maigold and many others which no longer seem to be available. A very straight line of concrete paving slabs ran all the way down the garden.

Beyond the shrubs was the vegetable plot – potatoes, cauliflowers, purple sprouting, sprouts, carrots, parsnips, onions, leeks, Swiss chard, runner beans and more unusual vegetables such as asparagus, salsify and scorzonera. Unusually for the 60s, Dad grew sweetcorn, which he had developed a taste for while working in Vancouver. He also grew globe artichokes which were an annual treat for our Sunday tea. For

reasons only known to Dad, he also grew horseradish. Much as I love Colman's horseradish sauce on my roast beef, I don't recommend growing your own - we tried using it once, and only the once...

Beyond the vegetable plot were rhubarb, gooseberries, blackcurrants, strawberries, Laxton Superb apples and Conference pear trees. He grew some of the apples as oblique cordons trained at 45° on the fence and the rest were vertical cordons so that he could cram in as many trees as possible. Beyond the fruit was a row of Christmas trees grown from seed. Every year Dad would dig up the best-shaped Christmas tree and pot it up for the sitting room – and then replant it in January. Occasionally he would dig them up to sever the tap root and replant them, presumably to ensure that he would always be able to squeeze them into a pot. At the very end of the garden were three small sheds and the compost heap.

Dad only used hand tools in the garden. The lawn was mown with a Ransomes hand-pushed mower - such an evocative sound – and shrubs were trimmed with hand shears. Back then we weren't as aware of green issues, so everything was dusted or sprayed for this and that. Dad was never one to follow fashion, so (fortunately) there was no rockery, no crazy paving and no gnomes! However, in the plants that he grew he was definitely following fashion. The roses were surrounded by bare earth (something I would never do in my own garden) and there were no perennials. Every year he sowed seeds and planted out annuals which were dug up again in autumn. The list is so typical of the 60s and 70s: sweet peas, snapdragons, pansies, begonias, lobelia, alyssum, iberis, busy lizzies, carnations, and mesembryanthemums (by far my favourite with their pretty starry flowers and strange fleshy leaves). Every year he ordered chrysanthemums from Woolmans, yellow and bronze, to provide Mum with flowers for the house.

Looking back, I find it extraordinary how productive that garden was, whilst still having room for trees, shrubs, flowers and a lawn for our deckchairs. Dad kept it immaculately tidy and although my own garden here is very different, it worked extremely well for our needs.

Julie Davies

Chuckle Corner

What goes tick, tick, woof, woof? A watchdog!

What do cows use in their text messages? E-moo-jis!

How do hair stylists speed up their job? They take short cuts!

Curious house names

Thisdo

Truants

Homeleigh

Branston

Wetwang House

Penniless

Windy Bottom

News from Hereford Cathedral

Toddler Group: Mondays in term time, 9.30–10.30 am. Calling all toddlers and their grown-ups! Join us each Monday morning to play and pray in Hereford Cathedral. Listen to a Bible story, take part in a craft activity and have fun in our weekly drop-in. Come along to meet other families, make new friends and discover the cathedral. **Toddler Group is free but donations are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. The group is for Toddlers between the ages of 1-3.**

8th March: An immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and John William's most iconic music with a live chamber orchestra in the enchanting candle-lit setting of Hereford Cathedral. For tickets see website.

There will be two concerts on Wednesday 8 March 2023:

Early Concert: Doors Open 17:30. Start Time 18:15. End Time 19:30

Late Concert: Doors Open 20:00 Start Time 20:30 End Time 21:45

11th March 3.15pm. Afternoon Music. Everyone is welcome to join us for a short concert of beautiful music played on the Father Willis organ. *Afternoon Music* takes place at 3.15 pm on selected Saturdays during the year. Why not combine your visit with a cup of tea and cake in the Cathedral Café? Admission is free with a retiring collection.



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General enquiries: wearefarmingminds@gmail.com We are Farming Minds

A registered charity has been set up by farmers for farmers to tackle mental health in the farming community within Herefordshire.

How can we help? 24 Hour Helpline:

We run a **FREE 24 hour helpline 7 days a week** for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

Counselling:

We provide **fully funded counselling to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community** who may be in emotional distress.

Training:

We offer **FREE mental health awareness training** to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

Social Events:

We run a series of **FREE social events throughout the year** to break the isolation often felt by the farming

community in Herefordshire.

March Dates for the diary:

- 3 Borderlines Festival Film, Aftersun.
- 5 Benefice Communion Orcop
- 7 Garway Coffee morning followed by Lent Lunch
- 10 Borderline Film Festival, Garway – Utama.
- 11 Lent Lunch Tretire
- 13 Garway Green Book Club
- 14 Garway Flicks in the Sticks – Mrs Harris Goes to Paris
- 15 Tea for vicar candidates in St Weonards Village Hall 3.50
- 18 Garway Live
- 18 Orcop Spring Market
- 21 Garway Heritage Group
- 22 Lent Lunch Hoarwithy
- 29 Orcop Lent Lunch

Future events for your diary

April

- 5 Lent Lunch St Weonards
- 16 St Weonards Big Breakfast
- 17 Garway Green Book Club
- 21 Orcop Churchyard Bingo
- 20 May Archenfield Arts at Garway Church
- 11 June St Weonards Fete
- 23 June Garway Midsummer Medieval Fayre
- 13 July Opera Arias at Treago
- 21 and 22 October Open Aboretum, Netherton Pencoyd

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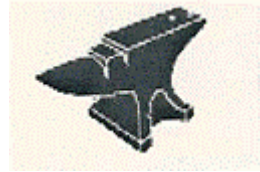
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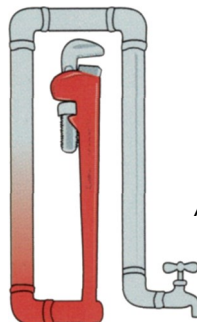


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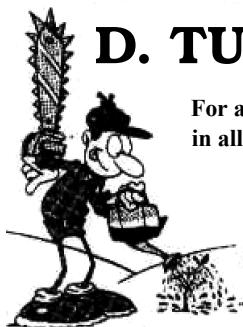
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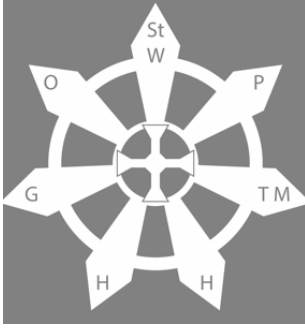
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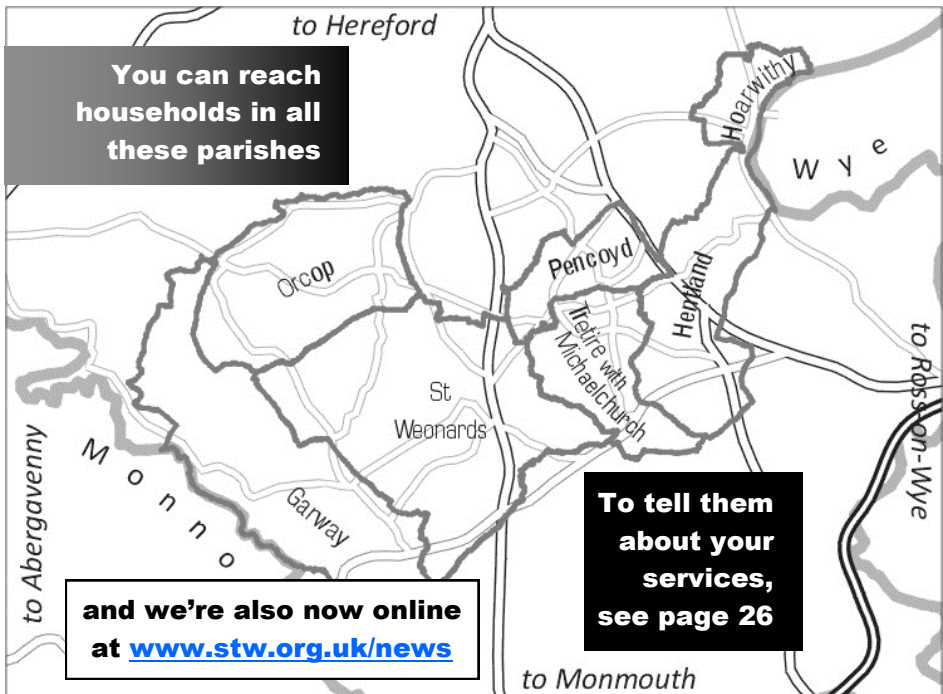
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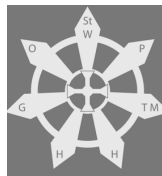
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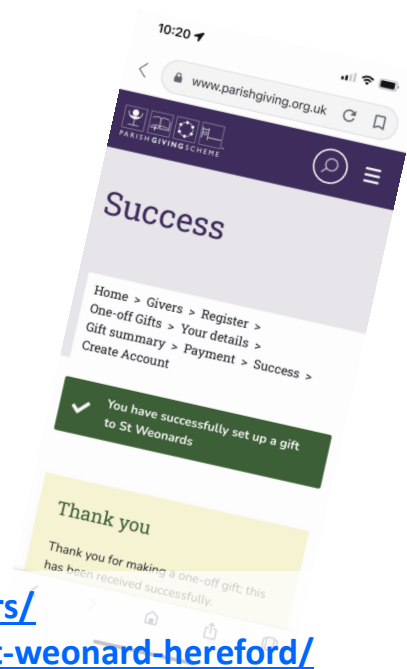
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