

# PARISH NEWS

OF

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

AUGUST 2023



ILLUSTRATION FROM "HAYMAKING IN THE RAIN",

BY IVOR BROLLY-DRIBBLE

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Garway	Vacant	
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Group Choir	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
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St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	07779 006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams.....	01981 580352
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....	01600 614012
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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 Davies david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk  
07931 733336  
15 Hever Road, Lower Bullingham, Hereford HR2 6EW

## MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by the **5<sup>th</sup> of the month**:

<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
<b>Garway:</b>	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)

## 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>	Mark Hearne clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	01981 251887
<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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**Samaritans** National Helpline ..... 08457 909090  
Hereford ..... 116 123 free calls  
..... 0330 094 5717 local call rates apply 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](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

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



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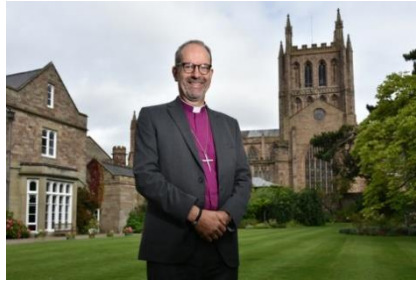
# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

Please contact your churchwarden for information on services, baptisms or weddings.

### Letter from Bishop Richard



Dear Friends,

June marked the 25th anniversary of Refugee Week (19 – 25<sup>th</sup> June). People were invited to celebrate what compassion looks like in action, so I was proud to support the launch of a fundraising campaign, set up by our Diocesan Mothers Union. They are supporting those who are seeking asylum who are currently housed at The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford. They are raising cash to offer each person the dignity of choosing basic clothing items.

Asylum Seekers are the real face of refugees in our midst – ‘the stranger.’ They flee their countries of origin often in fear, searching for something better, the freedom to live and eventually contribute through work. They find themselves in a strange place, reliant on the mercy and generosity of others – us.

I was reminded how vulnerable we are when we rely on the generosity of others during my recent visit to Nuremberg. The kindness and generosity of my hosts were gratefully received, and I am thankful for our strong links of friendship with the German diocese of Nuremberg which have stood the test of time for over 30 years. I was there, visiting the Evangelical Lutheran Churches biennial Kirchentag. Despite being post-Brexit, I was warmly welcomed, and Bishop Elizabeth and her husband made our stay easy. Even with our different languages, cultures and histories, we are genuinely brothers and sisters through our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

It is a healthy part of Christian discipleship to get out of our comfort zone. To be in Germany, a country I am not that familiar with, forced a certain dependence. My hosts gave me accommodation, fed me and provided a huge amount of inside information to help enrich my stay. There is a rich tradition of such Christian hospitality going back to the earliest times, particularly to foreigners and strangers.

In Deuteronomy 10 we read, “the great God mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you, yourself were foreigners in Egypt.”

We have an opportunity to offer such hospitality to people who have arrived in our midst and live out the commandment in Deuteronomy 10. The writer of Deuteronomy doesn’t speculate on whether the foreigners were smuggled into Israel slung under a camel. The sole criterion to help was the need.

I am very proud of our Diocesan Mothers Union who are seeking to provide support to our refugee friends. You can still give to the clothing appeal by arranging a retiring collection at a service and donating the proceeds online or if you can donate directly, please give what you can. [All the details are on the website.](#) Please be generous.

**+Richard**

**DON'T FORGET !**

**LAMMAS SERVICE SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 10.00am**

**Come and join us at Treessey Barns HR2 8NA**

This service celebrates the beginning of harvest and the fruits of the earth, sometimes called  
Loaf Sunday

**Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am Benefice Family Communion  
St Weonards Church**

This is the only service in our parishes on that day. Come and join us!

**!!! Magazine News !!!**

*Please send WORD documents as our software  
cannot copy PDFs. Please keep fonts and  
presentation as simple as possible!*

**PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION**



**15<sup>th</sup> August Tony Phillips 07971 550859**

# SERVICE ROTA

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	St Weonards Benefice Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00 am	Orcop Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	Hoarwithy Communion
	6.30 pm	Pencoyd, Evening Prayer
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	9.15 am	Hentland, Holy Communion
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	10.00 am	Orcop Benefice Communion
	3.00 pm	Llanwarne Plough Blessing

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

*Some of you will notice that the monthly Evening Service alternating between St Mary's Tretire and St Denys Pencoyd has moved! We are now scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. This means the early birds in our benefice can opt to attend Hoarwithy at 10.00 am and those who enjoy the opportunity to wind down at the end of a weekend, with some prayers, hymns, and readings are very welcome at T or P.*

## Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	3.00 pm	Adrian Williams
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	3.00 pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold (Holy Communion)

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# VILLAGE PAGES

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## ST WEONARDS

Despite a rather damp day, Ron Evans and friends generously brought their vintage tractors and engines to support the Open Garden at Treago. At the end we enjoyed a wonderful drive past!



The tea was as usual wonderful with so many delicious cakes and biscuits. Many thanks to all those involved and those who came to support this event who helped to raise over £1100 towards the ministry of the church in our parish and beyond.

We are most grateful to Rev Rob North who led our All Age Communion service. A special comment must be made about Edward Morris who took the part of a heavily laden young person with an overfilled rucksack, in a short drama, to illustrate the reading from Matthew's gospel, *Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.* We had time to reflect on our worries, and as usual after the service we shared some of our joys and concerns as we ate cake!

We are looking forward to the Lammas Service at Treessey Barns HR2 8NA at 10.00am on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Do come and take part in this simple service to celebrate the beginning of harvest.

As a church we try to follow Jesus' model of generosity by giving away 10% of our income: each year we aim to support a person or charity locally, nationally and globally. We are currently supporting leadership and agricultural training in Uganda; a young leader in a youth centre in the UK; and here in Herefordshire, we are giving and praying for the work of *We Are Farming Minds*, founded by Sam and Emily Stables from Kingsthorpe. If you've not come across them before, please do have a look at their website: <https://www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk/>

Parishes are asked by the Hereford diocese to contribute annually to what is called the Parish Share/Offer. While part of this money goes towards the work of priests in the diocese, it also supports training for ordinands, those who will in the future serve as priests.

### Training for Church Ministry



As many of you know, our daughter Alex Mynors Herbert, who usually leads our All Age Services, is training for ordination. But people often ask what that means! She writes –

"I'm training part-time, so that means three years of study alongside my teaching job at Whitecross School in Hereford. I go to evening classes in Ludlow each Wednesday, and then drive across to Cuddesdon College, Oxford for a couple of weekends each term (thankfully I share lifts with another ordinand from Craswall, and we can talk everything over in the car!)

Ludlow is great, as we are taught with people training as lay readers, as well as other ordinands, and we're from all across Hereford Diocese, so we can share ideas about rural churches and communities. We also have people who just come along for that module, if it's something they're interested in - they don't have to do the reading or essays if they don't want to, whereas I definitely do!

If all goes ok, I will finish studying and be ordained deacon (a kind of 'assistant priest') in 2025, and start working alongside an experienced vicar, before being ordained priest in 2026. Whether I stay teaching part-time, and serve the church locally part-time as a volunteer, as Frances did, or work full-time in a group of parishes, I don't know yet, but I imagine God has a plan!

I'm loving the studying and thinking, and hope what I'm learning will equip me well to serve God and people in the years ahead - thank you to all those of you who have encouraged me and continue to pray for me."

**Richard Mynors, churchwarden.**

### **Treago Farm Tractor Run**

At 9:00am Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 64 tractors gathered at Treago Farm to take part in a road run in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance. The sun was shining, and it was a glorious sight to see the tractors ranging from vintage to modern day, set off on the first leg. They went through various villages including St Weonards, Tretire, Llangarron, Welsh Newton, Broad Oak, finally stopping at Beechlands, Garway for a BBQ, Kelsmor ice cream and more tea and cakes before setting off again.

The second leg took the tractors through Garway and Orcop before returning to Treago Farm about 4:30pm.

The weather wasn't always kind, but the sun shone in between, plenty of people came out to wave us on and it was a great day out.

There are so many people I would like to thank for their help and support:

Firstly, a big thankyou to everyone who made cakes, to Sharon Thomas & Margaret Morris for keeping the tea flowing, to Marion and Merriel, my nieces who travelled from Brecon to BBQ burgers and sausages and Christine Davies for selling many, many draw tickets.

A very big thank you to James Hughes, Pengethley Farm Shop, who generously donated the burgers and sausages which were delicious.

I'd also like to thank Ashley Thomas for his support, Paul, Bev and Claire for helping me organise everything over the last several weeks, to Phil Evans and my granddaughter Ella who dealt with the paperwork and went ahead in the escort vehicle. Also to Jonathan and Becky for setting up the barn for the lunch stop along with Bev and Paul for the use of the barn.

Thank you to everyone who brought their tractors along to join us. Tractors came from all over the county and further afield like Bridgnorth, Brecon, Malvern and Caldicot. There were three generations of my family participating including my son Paul, granddaughter Niamh and nephew Lewis.

Finally, thanks to all who donated draw prizes and money, not only my neighbours but also local companies such as Wormelow Garage, Now Storage, Wye Valley Metals, Pallisers of Hereford, RM Jones, Broad Oak Garage, Advanced Joinery and St Weonards Shop.

I'm very proud to be able donate over £2,000 to the Midlands Air Ambulance and hope to make this an annual event.

**Ron Evans**

### **Clifton Meadows**

*Clifton Meadows View Home* is now open to view. The garden is thoughtfully designed by Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner Peter Dowle and his team at *Leaf Creative*.

Open Friday to Sunday 10am - 4pm, and Monday to Thursday by appointment only. You just need to call our sales adviser Trevena on 01594 543354, or email us at [stweonards@freemanhomes.co.uk](mailto:stweonards@freemanhomes.co.uk)

# GARWAY

## Garway Stitchers



Join us for a friendly morning, once a fortnight, to stitch together. Garway Stitchers meets every other Wednesday from 10.30 – 12.30. Our dates this month are 9th and 23rd August.

By the time you read this we will have hopefully put our first panel on display at the community centre. Please do drop in and see the marvellous work that our friends and neighbours have done.

You are also welcome to drop in for a chat and a cuppa, or maybe even a bit of stitching. As always you are welcome to bring a project of your own, it doesn't have to be embroidery, bring along your knitting/wool crafts or any needlework that can be done by hand!

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

## Garway School and Pre-school

Pupils enjoyed so many end of term activities it is hard to list them all! However special mention must be made of the wonderful performance of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*. So much effort on the part of everyone is involved and the audiences loved it. Well done!

New families to the school visited to experience something of the special atmosphere of the school. As always, it is sad to see the Year 6 leave, but we know that they leave full of confidence for the excitement ahead at their senior schools.

We wish everyone an excellent break over the summer.

**Fiona Mynors**



## **Garway Primary School and Preschool**

are seeking a

### **NEW GOVERNOR**

**to join the board of this thriving village school in September.**

There are no specific qualifications for the role, but we would especially welcome expressions of interest from those from a legal/educational/accountancy background.

Garway Primary School is a happy school that offers a very broad education in a lovely setting. The school is known for its performance opportunities, Forest Schools and sport, in addition to the core academic learning.

It is a fun place to be, and joining the board would give you the opportunity to be involved in maintaining the school's success into the future.

If you would like to have an informal chat about this, please phone on  
01600 614012 Hilary Smallwood

On July 21<sup>st</sup> Garway School said goodbye to Fiona Mynors, who has served on the governing board for many years, latterly as Vice Chair. Fiona is taking a well-earned retirement from the role to which she gave so much. Her extensive experience of education and her dedication to the school will be greatly missed by all and we say goodbye with heartfelt thanks and many good wishes for the future.

***Hilary Smallwood***



**Garway Coffee Morning  
August 1<sup>st</sup> 10.15 am  
in Garway Hall  
Post Office and free library  
and of course lots of cake, coffee/tea,  
and good company  
Everyone welcome, including the children on holiday  
from school.  
We look forward to seeing you there.**



### **Green Garway Book Group**

What a pleasant, cosy evening chatting about the 1930s classic *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons.

Half of us had read this before and agreed that it definitely improves with age and reading. We loved the ridiculous names (Ada Doom, Adam Lambsbreath, Mr Mybug etc and the cows Graceless, Pointless, Feckless and Aimless and especially Big Business the bull!). None of us could quite work out the layout of the farm despite the lengthy description, but everything was neatly tidied up, people were married off and Flora Poste sorted everything out to her satisfaction.

It's silly, it's ridiculous in places but it is a comforting, warm, easy read. With classic phrases like "sheer flapdoodle" and "seeing something nasty in the woodshed", cow parts falling off and an 80-year-old grandmother dressed in leather flying off to Paris, what's not to love?

4.5/5 read.

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](mailto: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. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Mon 14 Aug - Humankind by Rutger Bregmen

Mon 11 Sep - The Lost Rainforests of Britain by Guy Shrubsole

**Julie Hudson**

**Garway Fun Day 26th August 2023 1pm**

**Something for all the family!**



**Live music .... Teas and ice creams Good grub at the BBQ and bar**



**FUN DOG SHOW**

**Fancy dress. Maypole dancing, Books, plants, children's clothes  
Children's activities, sand pit, arts and crafts, Story-telling. Grand draw. Vintage  
tractors .... Rounders. Competition tent. Open mic.**

**Craft stalls—book a table @ £10**

**As well as all the usual attractions, this year there will be a .....**

**PLANTED CONTAINER COMPETITION**

**get planting in an unusual container, teapot, wheelbarrow, chamber pot,  
whatever fires your imagination!**

**Garway Village Hall**

Following the June AGM, Garway Village Hall now has a new group of 15 local trustees who are committed to making this splendid building a central part of the community, where people can book with ease at reasonable rates and feel free to share their views and ideas. There is a spacious hall with a curtained stage and lighting/sound systems, a café area with bar, a fully equipped kitchen, and a treatment room.

Currently there is a wide range of regular activities available: Tuesday coffee mornings and community hub, Yoga, Legs Bums and Tums, Spanish lessons, The Singing Tree (all-comers free community choir), Garway Heritage Group, Flicks in the Sticks, Garway Live (regular live music events), Barre class, quilting, sewing, craft, Tuesday morning Post Office, honesty library, Pilates, therapies.

The hall is available for private hires for functions – weddings, parties, and wakes – at sensible rates.

This is a characterful spacious building with superb facilities, so please feel free to contact us for a chat about your event needs.

Enquiries currently to: [hires@garwayhall.org](mailto:hires@garwayhall.org)

**THE MEDIEVAL FAYRE - JUNE 24TH 2023**

A big thank you to all who came and supported our Medieval Fayre in aid of Garway Church on June 24th.

We raised £1000 to go towards replacing the stone tiles on the Church Tower.

Thanks also must go to The Spice Girls and Friends of Garway Church who did so much to make the day a success.

Also, the stall holders and craft displays did much to add to the atmosphere.

The Black Bird Company of Templars improved our knowledge of Templar Times in Garway. The History of Garway Church and evidence of the archaeological dig were on display. This will be exhibited in the South Chapel of the Church if you missed it.

The Blackthorn Morrismen brought the event to a very merry conclusion with some very energetic dancing and singing. Many of us joined them to dance around the Maypole.

**Lesley Whistance**

## ORCOP

I wonder how many readers have looked at the visitors' book in Orcop Church? There is a steady flow of visitors over the year, especially in summer. This year there were 18 in May and June. Some are local, some from other parts of the UK, and a surprising number from overseas. Recently we have welcomed people from the USA, Canada, Holland, Australia, and New Zealand. Their comments are invariably very positive, for example: "Never seen a church like this in England. Very Beautiful" (Dutch)

"What a joy to stumble across!" (Australian) "Wonderful!" (New Zealand)

Others comment favourably on the flowers, the cleanliness and the fact that the church is always open. These comments are a credit to those who clean the church, arrange the flowers and maintain the churchyard, and they demonstrate the importance of maintaining the fabric of our wonderful historic church and raising the necessary funds to do so.

A number of readers will have visited the garden of Betty Lovering, which was opened under the National Gardens Scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Betty and Charmaine have worked over many years to create a most beautiful garden, which was much admired by the many visitors. Betty and Charmaine have generously donated the proceeds of the tea and cake sales, amounting to £200, to the Orcop Churchyard Fund. The PCC wish to record their sincere thanks.

Looking ahead, the traditional Summer Bank Holiday Fete will have a different look this year, with new attractions to freshen-up the time-honoured formula. **Hope to see you there!**

Further important fund-raising events are planned for the Autumn, of which more in the September and October issues.

**Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden**

**Flower and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. W. Dudfield**

### Orcop Parish Hall

Craft Workshops

We shall be hosting a series of workshops over the coming months -

Basket Making, Pewter Casting, Felting and Weaving are a few we have lined up so far

Dates and costs are still to be confirmed, but if you might be interested, or would like more info, please email: [gill.bannerman@outlook.com](mailto:gill.bannerman@outlook.com)

**Sunday 13th August OWL GOOD NEIGHBOURS afternoon tea from 2.30pm**

BRACKEN HOUSE Orcop HR2 8HD

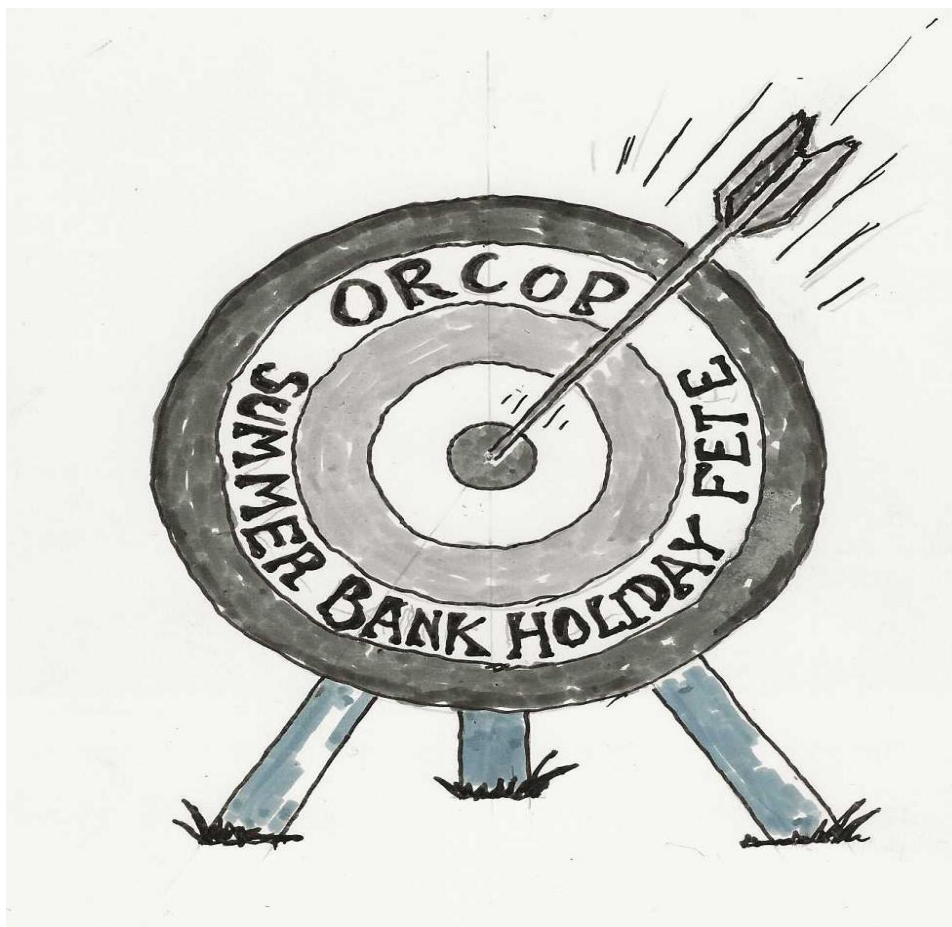
Come and enjoy homemade cakes and a spectacular view.

Free entry and parking, donations for refreshments.

All welcome. More info 01981 241310

Date for the diary: Orcop Parish Hall **Saturday 7th October 2–5pm** Apple Pressing & Autumn Market  
Would you like us to turn your apples into juice? Bring your clean, undamaged apples along and we can press them for you. More details in the next issue.

## **SAME DATE -DIFFERENT FETE!**



**MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST : 3-5pm**

**Not to be missed, with a range of new attractions to enliven this traditional event, including Archery and Circle Dancing, alongside old favourites such as afternoon teas, cakes, ice creams, the quiz, and, of course, a raffle.**

*Quiz sheets available in advance from Julia or Christine Garlick*

## **TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD**

Already we are into July, so halfway through the year, and school holidays will be with us in a very few weeks, which usually means rainy days! We had such a beautifully hot and sunny May and June, so it is probably unreasonable to want more; after all, this is England...today it has rained more or less all day, and my reaction is of great relief, as I won't have to water the garden this evening.

We were very fortunate with a fine evening for our service at Michaelchurch, which was well attended. Rev Brian Phillips kindly led the service for us and talked to us about Angels; very apt for a church dedicated to St Michael and all angels. At the end of the service, a small group of singers sang a little chant of some words from Chap 14 of St John's Gospel; " My peace I give you...trouble not your hearts. My peace I leave you, do not be afraid", by way of a blessing, before we gathered for a glass of wine and some nibbles, and time to chat to each other.

This weekend saw the Tennis Tournament at Pencoyd, so I was granted special dispensation from our editor, for a delayed deadline for copy for the Parish News so I can report to you on it.

This was the inspiration of Christine Snell who masterminded the event and organised all the logistics. A total of nine couples applied to take part, and partners were drawn from a hat by Christine, and a programme of the heats was sent to all participants.

It was very fortunate that they were held in the morning which was beautifully warm and sunny.; some couples played on the hard court at Michaelchurch House, kindly offered by Edmund and Alex Inkin, and some couples played on the court at Pencoyd Court Farm, made available by Anthony and Christine Snell. There was a small band of spectators for each court, and it was a delightful way to while away a warm sunny morning.

The semi-finals were held in the afternoon on the grass court at The Hall, Pencoyd, home of David and Paula Snow, who also very kindly made their home and garden available for Cream Teas. Unfortunately, the first of the semi-finals was interrupted by a thunderstorm and torrential rain which sent all spectators running for shelter under nearby trees. The players battled on, but the rain did eventually stop play, and everyone went to the house and had their cream teas earlier than expected! The rain showed no sign of abating for some considerable time, but it did allow a fair number of people to listen to the cricket commentary on the radio, and heard England make their last three runs to win the test match!

Play on grass was clearly no longer an option, so eventually, the semi-finals were relocated to the Snell's hard court and a group of the players' supporters followed them to Pencoyd Court Farm, where they cheered on the final 2 couples, and witnessed the presentation of a cup to the victors, David Snow and Alex Inkin.

It was most unfortunate that the afternoon's weather rather put punters off returning to the Hall for tea, but at least no tablecloths had been spread on the tables in the garden! A gazebo had been erected over the main tea table, and Rosemary Evans continued to hold the raffle there against all the odds; and at least the plant stall didn't come to any harm, though the stall holders did get rather wet!

Our PCC members did a magnificent job serving teas, and washing up all afternoon, but I fear at this stage (I'm writing this on the following day) it is too early to say what funds have been raised for Tretire and Pencoyd churches.

We are most grateful to David and Paula for generously lending us their home and all facilities for this event, and for Tina Snow making herself available to the helpers, in the absence of Paula.

Congratulations to David for winning the tournament with Alex, in spite of making himself and his home available to us all for this very enjoyable event.

**Margaret Oubridge** on behalf of our PCC.

### **Wildlife in our Garden**

In June we stopped putting out seeds and nuts regularly for the birds. We think there should be enough food for them elsewhere. It does mean we see fewer birds now, but we are more aware of their singing, coming from their hidden places amongst the leaves.

It has been a bit like a classical music concerto, with one song dominating the melody while all the rest perform their own parts in the background. But unlike a classical concerto, it is not always the same soloist. Different species seem to take it in turns. After the first summer migrants arrived it was the chiff-chaff announcing its arrival, then two song thrushes took over for about two weeks, then some black birds; finally black-caps have been the loudest for about three weeks. In winter it is nearly always the robin of whom we are most aware, but now he forms part of the background along with chaffinches, tits, wrens and dunnocks. Most years I'm very aware of great tits early in the summer when they loudly proclaim "teacher, teacher" from a high perch, but not this year.

The insects have given us no great surprises recently. There were may-fly in May and plenty of damsel-flies since then. In our garden we expect dragon-flies later in the year, though I have already seen them near water in other places. There are the usual large white butterflies about and red admirals. There are commas around now too, though I haven't seen many tortoiseshell or peacock butterflies yet. For a few years now we have seen humming-bird hawk moths, especially on warmer days, behaving just like tiny humming-birds and skipping from flower to flower with their long tongues. It is not something I remember from younger days, so I wonder whether they have become more common in this country. As I have reported before, we have many



bumble bees and hover-flies, but very few honey bees these days. We know that nationally they are in decline, so I suppose we have the honey producers with their hives to thank for keeping them going.

We have seen little piles of poo in various places in the garden, such as might be left by a small dog. I thought it meant we were hosting more hedgehogs, so I set up a night camera to observe, but to my surprise, the next day it revealed a fox cub sniffing around the area, and he or she was back the next night too. Since the rain has come back the moles have been very active tunnelling under and through the lawn. We still have a colony of bats in our roof and I have at last got round to counting them coming out on warm June evenings. The last time I did this I counted 113 emerging between 9.30 and 10.30 pm, but I cannot be sure this is accurate as I may have gone out a bit too late to see the early ones.

**John Oubridge**

## Book Review

### ***Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson**

Pure Atkinson, this novel transports us to 1920s London, to the drug and drink filled nightclubs and to the streets of the criminal underworld. It is Dickens for a new era, brimming with larger-than-life characters (rather a lot of them) and seasoned with Atkinson's casual wit and cynical charm.

As the novel opens Nellie Coker is greeted by crowds on her release from a six-month prison term for breach of the licensing laws. Middle-aged Nellie, separated from her husband and mother of a brood of financially privileged adult children, presides over a lucrative string of jazz-age nightclubs, frequented by many of the great and good, who can rely on Nellie's discretion at all times and in all circumstances. Skating around the edges of the law, Nellie and her family milk the aristocracy for all they are worth.

Loosely based on real-life Kate Meyrick, the 1920s "Queen of the Soho night club scene", Nellie's first stroke of luck is the death of her landlady whose handbag she has the wit to investigate before phoning the police. The astonishing contents fund her future and set in train her empire.

Woven into the plot are members of the Metropolitan Police (both upright and corrupt, and not averse to Nellie's back-handers); a young librarian Gwendolen Kelling from "up north" who comes to London in search of two stage-struck runaway girls, Freda and Florence; and a whole varied cast of thieves and rogues.

The character of Gwendolen is central to the story. Only daughter of a northern widow who, after her two sons die in the Great War, ties Gwendolen to a financially straitened life of doing her bidding. It is only on her death that Gwendolen discovers the true extent of her fortune, freeing her to spread her wings. Gwendolen is fresh from her bereavements and from the horrors of nursing at the front: *"one grief after another—her brothers, Father, the money, not to mention the war itself—had taken its toll on her and she had allowed herself to be worn down on the grindstone of Mother."*

*"Everyone she worked alongside in France had been insatiable letter-writers and resolute diary-keepers, but Gwendolen had felt no urge to chronicle, no desire for an aide-mémoire. Life was for absorbing, not recording. And in the end, it was all just paper that someone would have to dispose of after you were gone. Perhaps, after all, one's purpose in this world was to be forgotten, not remembered."*

There is true horror within these pages – the death hole in the Thames where bodies regularly wash up, shootings in night clubs, and innocent girls drawn into prostitution.

Unless you have read Atkinson before, it is hard to describe the way in which acts of ruthlessness are written with such brio that the reader almost glosses over them; but alongside this there is also sympathy and sensitivity in the masterly way she paints her characters. She is mistress of the throw-away line:

*"Lying came easily to Niven, he thought of it as a means of protecting the truth."*

*"Life was all just coming and going, wasn't it? And then eventually it was just going."*

Underneath it all Atkinson, as always, projects a sense of the random nature of life, of its pointlessness – it is as if she stands back from life and watches it with her acutely cynical eye.

**Hilary Smallwood**



## Garden Notes

I have been finding it more and more difficult to find a peat-free potting compost that I like and am considering mixing my own. I have never coped with coir-based composts as I struggle with the watering; shrubs that I have bought that have been grown in coir invariably die when I plant them in the garden. Other composts are poor quality, containing twigs, large chunks of uncomposted bark, stones and plastic. Potting compost is not cheap and I find it frustrating that manufacturers rarely list the ingredients on the bag. This year I mistakenly bought a bag that must have been nearly 100% peat – I felt suitably guilty and very annoyed that there was nothing on the bag to say it contained peat. There are numerous recipes on the internet depending on what the compost is to be used for and what ingredients are available. The Gardeners World website tells us that Monty Don recommends a mix of three parts coir, one part sieved garden compost, one part sieved loam and one part sharp sand, perlite or horticultural grit. Other recipes use different proportions of these ingredients, or are based on a combination of loam, garden compost/leaf mould/composted bark, and sharp sand. Some add fertiliser; some add lime.

Part of my frustration is because in a previous life I worked for a compost manufacturer for five years. We made a range of composts – seed, general purpose, ericaceous, aquatic and a peat-free compost. We also supplied specialist nurseries for whom we made compost to their own recipes. It was such excellent compost that our clients included Wisley, Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, Windsor Castle, National Trust gardens such as Hidcote - a reflection of the fantastic quality of our products. The company was sold when the owners reached retirement age and now no longer exists – hence my constant search to find a compost I like as much.

I expect it will be a matter of trial and error, but I will start with a mixture of loam (I have a lovely pile of turves rotting down in a corner of the garden), my home-made garden compost (I have a plentiful supply), sharp sand and vermiculite (to improve drainage and to make it lighter) and fertiliser. I will have to experiment with the proportions, and I might even try including a little coir. Even if I have to buy some of the ingredients it will work out cheaper and ultimately, I might create a compost that I like. I will still buy seed compost though as my home-produced ingredients are not sterile – and are full of weed seeds!

Well, that was all very boring. On a more exciting note, I have a birthday soon. My idea of a birthday treat is not a celebratory meal or a boozy evening in the pub, but to visit a garden centre. In my single days, having no-one to celebrate with, I would plan a tour of the county (Oxfordshire back then) visiting all my favourite garden centres: morning coffee at the first, lunch at the next, afternoon tea at the last. I enjoyed it hugely and although I didn't necessarily buy anything, I had a lovely tootle around the countryside through villages I hadn't visited before, I didn't have to do any cooking or washing up and I could have a lovely browse around all the beautiful plants and gardening paraphernalia. My idea of a good day out!

**Julie Davies**

## A Peek in the Bookshop

Here's a preview of some new books being published soon – do get in touch with us if you'd like to reserve any and I'm happy to deliver locally to Garway.

### **New Fiction – *The Revels* by Stacey Thomas**

England, 1645. After his half-brother dies, aspiring playwright Nicholas Pearce is apprenticed to Judge William Percival, an infamous former witch-hunter who is under pressure to resume his old profession.

In a country torn apart by civil war, with escalating tensions between Catholics and Protestants, Royalists and Roundheads, and rumours of witchcraft, Nicholas hides a secret: the dead sing. He hears their secrets, but will he find the courage to speak up to save innocent lives, even if it means putting himself in great danger?

A spellbinding debut novel perfect for fans of Stacey Halls, Laura Purcell and Bridget Collins.

### **New Non-Fiction – *Ootlin* by Jenni Fagan**

Jenni was in care from the day she was born and by the age of seven had lived in fourteen different homes. This is her journey through the care system told in this very powerful and compelling autobiography. A must for anyone who admired Lemm Sissay's 'My Name is Why'.

### **New Teenage – *Secret Sister* by Sophie McKenzie**

An edge-of-your-seat thriller for 12+ readers. Asha has spent her life on an island community built on the principle of truth. But she discovers she has been lied to about something huge – a secret sister called Willow. Willow has always believed her twin sister died years ago so when she receives a message in the middle of the night from a girl claiming to be Asha, she doesn't know what to think. Can they piece together the truth about their pasts and find their way back to each other?

If you'd like to be kept informed of upcoming events and read short reviews of books the Rossiter book sellers have been enjoying, why not subscribe to our weekly newsletter by clicking on 'Subscribe to Mailing List' at [www.rossiterbooks.co.uk](http://www.rossiterbooks.co.uk)

All books and tickets for events are available through Rossiter Books. Hope to see you in store soon!

**Julie Hudson, Bookseller at Rossiter Books**

# Chuckle Corner

Describe yourself in three words - Lazy

"I'm sorry" and "I apologise" mean the same thing, unless you're at a funeral

Research shows that 6 out of 7 dwarves aren't Happy

I stand corrected, said the man in the orthopaedic shoes

**conjunctivitis.com** Now there's a site for sore eyes

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines

A plateau is the highest form of flattery

I called my lawyer and said "Can I ask you two questions?" Of course, he said, "What's the second question?"

The past, the present and the future were having an argument. It was tense.

In Bradford on Avon in the road which is single track because there are always cars parked down one side, as sign says: *Give way to traffic*. What can this mean?

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**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.

Our next FREE over 50's farmers social meet will be held on Friday July 28th from 12pm. Kindly hosted by S&A Produce, Brierley Court Farm, Brierley, Leominster HR6 0NU.

Please note - **DO NOT DRIVE INTO/THROUGH BRIERLEY VILLAGE** off the B4361 - if coming from the south, take the next left after the turn for Brierley - if coming from the north, take the right turn just before the turn for Brierley.

Fingers crossed for good weather so we can enjoy a buffet style lunch by the lake! This is a large site so there will be quite a bit of walking. Anyone who might struggle with the walking can follow the tour of the site on the bus.

The bus will be available for anyone that needs a lift. We can pick you up and take you home afterwards. Please let us know asap as spaces are limited.

**Please let us know of any dietary requirements when you book.**

To book your place, email [wearefarmingminds@gmail.com](mailto:wearefarmingminds@gmail.com) or call 07968 592475 / 07506 567500.

Hope to see you then! **Kerry McGavin**



## Volunteer With The Cart Shed Charity

### Come and join our volunteer team!

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to learn new skills, meet a wide range of people and do something interesting and rewarding in your free time?

If the answer is yes, then come and join The Cart Shed Charity's volunteer team who support our occupational therapists, mental health practitioners and tutors.

The Cart Shed is based on a farm in north Herefordshire. We work outdoors using enriching and engaging woodland and horticultural activities to empower adults and young people to learn to self-manage their mental and physical health in a sustainable way.

We have opportunities available for you to become:

A woodland cook - making delicious soup on our outdoor stoves.

A driver - transporting our participants to and from us in our minibuses.

A horticulture volunteer - helping take care of our produce in our polytunnels.

A green woodworking, willow weaving or crafting volunteer – support our tutors and participants with the skills you have in these areas.

Find out more and apply here: <https://www.thecartshed.co.uk/volunteer>

**Sara Coleridge**

## Hereford Cathedral Events August

### **Gospel of Luke with Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer Tues 1, 8, 15, 22 August, 10.30am – 12noon**

A series of lectures on the Gospel of Luke in the cathedral barn. Each lecture will end with a fifteen minute meditation. Please bring a Bible, if possible, the NRSV translation. **Book your space via the cathedral website or call 01432 374 225 – there is a suggested donation of £5 per session**

### **1.15pm Lunchtime Organ Recitals free with retiring collections:**

Tues 1 – Timothy Ravalde

Tues 8 - Douglas Tang

Tues 15 - Jonathan Allsopp

Tues 22– Timothy Parsons

Tues 29 David Henning

### **Sat 12, 10.30am - 3.30pm Climbing Mountains – a retreat with Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer**

The Christian faith leads us on a journey: sometimes taking us through smooth paths and shady woodlands but sometimes taking us through rough places where the going is hard and requiring us to climb incredible difficult mountains which tax our strength and lead us into new and frightening territory. Our retreat may help us to face the journey, the equipment we might require and the strategies that may help to sustain us. Coffee and

tea will be provided. Please bring a Bible with you. **Please book your space via the cathedral website or call 01432 374 225 – there is a suggested donation of £5**

**Creative Cloisters: Mon 14, 10am - 2.30pm** The cathedral is opening up the Cloisters to artists to experience the space and create work in response to this very beautiful location. Attendees will have full access to the Cloisters, College Hall and Canon's Garden which leads down to the River Wye.

**Tickets £15 to include a sandwich lunch and tea or coffee. Booking via the cathedral website.**

**Wed 16 – Mon 21, we will be sharing a programme of teaching, creativity and discovery on the Cathedral Close! We will be hosting several days of activities and events for everyone to join in with...**

**Wed 16, 10am. Flow Yoga with Krista Passberger:** A wholesome approach to Yoga, suitable for those who have practised Yoga before and to try for the first time. £11, book in advance via the cathedral website.

**Wed 16, 11.30am. Mindfulness with Krista Passberger:** A nice slow paced, relaxation and mindfulness-based class. Suitable for those who have practised Yoga or Mindfulness before and to try for the first time. Tickets £11, please book in advance via the cathedral website.

**Wed 16, 4pm. Katharine Hill - Parenting in the Digital Age.** While technology threw us a life line during the pandemic, it has many dangers. Come along to this talk and gain wisdom, practical help and renewed confidence not only in keeping your children safe, but also making the most of all the digital age has to offer. Katharine Hill is the UK director of *Care for the Family*. She is a well-known speaker, author and broadcaster and regularly presents marriage and parenting events across the country. Book your free ticket via the cathedral website

**Wed 16, 6.30pm Revd Steve Hollinghurst - Christianity: environmental hope or environmental problem?**

We live in age of climate anxiety in which sometimes hope for the future of our planet can be in short supply. Some think the planet would be fine if it were rid of the humans who keep damaging it. In the late 60's Lynn White Jr, in a much-cited article, blamed Christian attitudes in western culture for our lack of concern for creation. So, what might Christianity have to offer our environmental crisis? Is there hope for us and our planet? A talk for anyone who cares about us, our environment and is looking for hope.

**Please book your free ticket via the cathedral website**

**Thurs 17, 10am – 3pm Cathedral Discovery Day** Learn more about Hereford Cathedral and meet members of the community in this relaxed and informal drop in event. Take part in fun activities with our education team, have a go on the Broderers' Big Stitch Stall and watch our stonemason at work. Find yourself on a life-size Mappa Mundi and meet our library & archives team to find out more about the Mappa, Chained Library & outstanding archival collection from the medieval period onward. Take part in a Cathedral Close tour, or Garden Tour and buy something from the gardeners' plant stall! **This event is free to attend, no pre-booking required.**

**Fri 18, 10am – 12.30pm Community Coffee Morning** Why not come along to the Cathedral Close for our Community Coffee Morning? Pull up a chair and have a chat over a cuppa, bring a friend or come and find someone new to talk to – everyone is welcome. Tea and coffee will be provided free of charge by the Cathedral Café team, with a range of tasty homemade cakes and baked goods available to purchase.

**This event is free to attend, no pre-booking required.**

**Fri 18, 6pm Play in a Day: Sharing The Parables!** Come along and cheer on our budding thespians as they take to the stage with their creative interpretation of The Parables. A relaxed, fun theatrical sharing of the parable stories, suitable for all, in the round in our marquee on the Cathedral Close. **Tickets cost £5 for adults and children (aged 16 and under) go free – please book in advance via the cathedral website.**

**Saturday Spectacular 19. 11am – 5pm** Join us for a spectacular Saturday of fun for all of the family! As well as children's activities and a craft fair, selling beautiful gifts and products from local makers, Hereford BID will be bringing their dinosaur themed fun to the Cathedral Close. Live performances all day from local musicians on the Cathedral and Hereford City Life stages. Headliners include *Whiskey River*, *Cider City Jazz and Vocalise*. Enjoy tasty food and ice cream from local vendors, plus refreshments from the licensed bar. Bring along friends and family and enjoy a lively Saturday on Hereford Cathedral Close.

**Sun 20, 5pm Tricks & Laughs starring Steve Legg** A night of tricks and laughter for all ages! Comedian and magician Steve is back with a special selection of his very best tricks along with some brand-new material for a night of laughs and hilarious moments to celebrate 35 years on the road. This event is suitable for ages 5 - 105! **Tickets £8 for adults and £5 for children – please book in advance via the cathedral website.**

**Mon 21 11am – 3pm Messy Church Goes Outside!** Come and take part in a day of creative fun this summer holiday! Messy Church is church for all of the family, from toddlers to grandparents. Join us in the marquee for a day of Christ-centred crafts and activities for all ages based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. **Messy Church is a free drop-in event with no pre-booking required, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

**Sat 26, 10am – 3.30pm Open Gardens** Visitors can explore the Chapter House Garden, Cloister Garden, Canons' Garden, Dean's Garden and the Bishop's Garden at their leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides on hand to answer any questions. This is a self-led event where you are welcome to enjoy the peaceful and beautiful gardens at your own pace. **Tickets £6 via the cathedral website.**

**Find out more about Cathedral on the Close here: [www.herefordcathedral.org/news/cathedral-on-the-close](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/news/cathedral-on-the-close)**

## DIARY DATES

### JULY

30 Lammas Service Sunday

### AUGUST

1 Garway Coffee Morning  
6 Benefice Family Communion, St Weonards Church  
9 Garway Stitchers  
13 OWL Good Neighbours afternoon tea  
14 Green Garway Book Group  
23 Garway Stitchers  
26 Garway Fun Day  
28 Orcop Summer Bank Holiday Fete

### SEPTEMBER

11 Green Garway Book Group  
23 Talk at Hentland on the organ  
25 Training session Defibrillator

### OCTOBER

7 Orcop Parish Hall Apple Pressing & Autumn Market  
21 & 22 October Open Arboretum, Netherton Pencoyd

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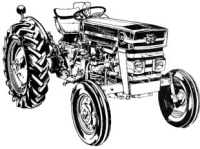
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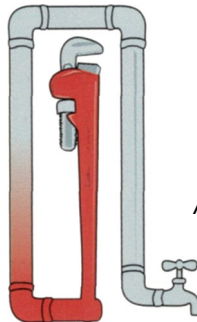


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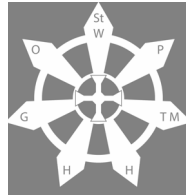
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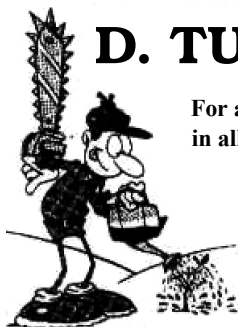
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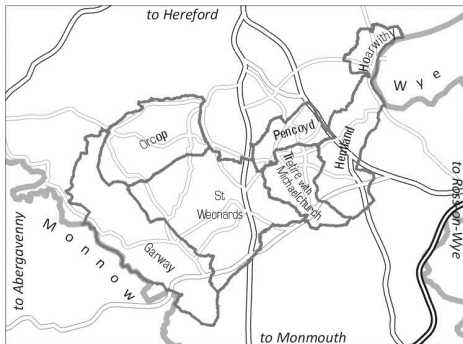
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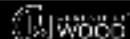
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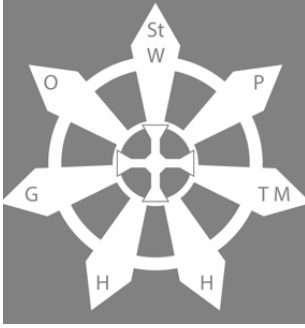
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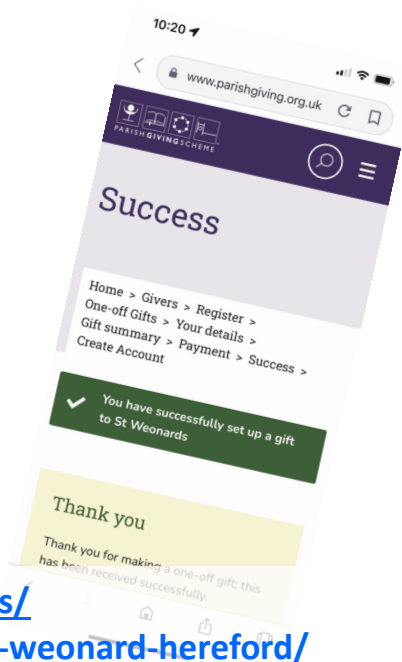
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