# P&RISH NEWS

OF

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

# DECEMBER 2023

'IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD'

BY PAT MACRAE

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heav'n's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hov'ring wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing. Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring; Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife And hear the angels sing.

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

Samaritans	National Helpline	
	Hereford	116 123 free calls
		0330 094 5717 local call rates apply
		jo@samaritans.org
HOPEline UK (Preven	tion of Young Suicide)	0870 170400001978 367333

#### Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South local policing teams

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Kirsty O'Brien, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Hayley Cohen and PCSO Christopher Yarwood.

How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk www.westmercia.police.uk

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

# PARISH NEWS

# THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

For enquiries on baptisms, funerals and weddings please contact the Rural Dean: Rev. Sheila Anthony, <u>sheila@saintintraining.co.uk</u>, 07775588716 and your churchwarden.

#### **Bishop's letter**

Dear friends,

In court, juries will be suspicious if all the witnesses come up with the same story. Their role is to weigh up accounts to discern where the truth lies. In most situations it's remarkable how diverse people's perceptions of events can be. Such variation adds to the credibility of a story. This is especially true of the Christmas story in the Bible. The events are examined from a variety of angles. Diverse witnesses provided the source material for the gospel writers to distil their accounts. We have an angle from kings, shepherds, and theologians, keen to analyse things in the light of what God had already said through prophets hundreds of years previously. In the centre of the story is Mary, the young peasant girl in her teens, who finds herself inexplicably pregnant.

Her response is the exemplar of what it is to be a follower of Jesus. The angel tells her what is about to happen, with only the sketchiest discussion of the personal implications. Her response is, "May it be unto me as you have said." Confronted with the reality of God, her answer is, "Yes, now what is the question?" She is in a long line of heroes of faith who exemplify unconditional obedience. Isaiah, confronted with a vision of God said, "Here am I, send me." The disciples required just a word from Jesus to leave everything and follow him. St. Paul was struck blind on the road to Damascus and meekly waited for what God was to tell him he must do.

We are coming to the end of our year of prayer in the diocese and moving to the year of faith. As we begin that journey together, Mary's, "Yes, now what is the question?" is a good place to start. The gospel was described by Rowan Williams as news not advice. The events of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection stand at the turning point of history, inviting us to respond with our own unconditional, "Yes!"

#### +Richard

# SERVICE ROTA

#### For any changes, please check the benefice website www.stw.org.uk

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	10.00 am	Garway, Benefice Advent Holy Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am 3.00 pm	Orcop, Holy Communion Hoarwithy, Carol Service
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	3.00 pm 6.30 pm	Hentland, Carol Service Pencoyd, Evening Service with carols
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30 pm	Hoarwithy, Ross Folk Choir
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00 pm	St Weonards, Carol Service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.15 pm 11.00 pm 11.00 pm	St Weonards, Family Crib Service St Weonards, Midnight Communion Hoarwithy, Midnight Communion
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am	Pencoyd, Holy Communion

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Rural Dean: Rev. Sheila Anthony, <u>sheila@saintintraining.co.uk</u> 07775588716 and the relevant churchwarden.

#### Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Service Sunday 10th December 3 pm

#### Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Benefice Advent Communion Garway Church Come and meet the bishop's chaplain Rev Nicol Kinrade

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

#### Praying for our communities and the wider world

Come along to pray for each other, our communities, and the wider world on the first Tuesday evening each month, at Treago, St.Weonards HR2 8QB 8-9pm. Just turn up - everyone is welcome. Any questions, get in touch with Alex on 07890160632.

Tuesday December 5th

#### **PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION**



5<sup>th</sup> December Carolyn Trew 01600 750227



# VILLAGE PAGES

# ST WEONARDS

November proved to be quite a busy month. The benefice communion at Hoarwithy, led by Rev Nicholas Lowton, was celebrated with a choir of about fifteen, and the congregation, all singing their hearts out in the wonderful acoustic of St Catherine's! Nicholas helped us to reflect on why someone might be regarded as a saint, emphasising that they were ordinary people, but ones who had been able to reflect on their own actions in an honest way.

If you have not visited this extraordinary church recently, you might be pleased to find the access easier. The steep path now has some rubber matting filled with sand, which seems to even out the steps in a most helpful way.

The Rev Mark Melluish came to our All Age celebration to help us with an Agape service- a shared meal. He reminded us of the frequent occasions in the bible when Jesus shared meals with people and had discussions about serious matters. We thought about the feeding of the five thousand, (noted as men, but there would have been many, many more with women and children) and the last meal with Jesus and his disciples. Mark encouraged us to think of the communion as the breaking of bread and drinking of wine like a family meal, with all included, sharing time together, remembering Jesus and talking.

We gather a choir together for the benefice communion on the first Sunday of the month, and we welcome any people who enjoy singing. We usually have one rehearsal in advance and a run through on the day, just before the service. We shall be preparing a couple of items to sing at the Advent service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Garway Church. The Rev Nicol Kinrade, the bishop's chaplain is leading this service for us.

We shall also be preparing for the carol service on Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals for this are at the Dower House, Treago at 7.00pm : Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Do join us- all welcome.

As I write the preparations for Fay's Bingo are advancing. It's a busy happy occasion when funds are raised for the maintenance of the churchyard. We are most grateful to all who organise this and those who support it. The funds ensure that our churchyard can be so well maintained by Tracy Knights.

It was good to welcome a large number of the Bowen family to church for the baptism of Lily.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas services:

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm Carol Service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.15 Crib Service, particularly for families

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.00pm Midnight Communion led by Dr Bishop David Thomson *Richard Mynors, churchwarden.* 

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Advance Notice: Coffee morning Thursday 12th January 10 am - 12 pm

#### St. Weonards Village Hall Committee

All people interested in the future of the village hall are invited to an open meeting on Monday, 15th January, 2024 at 7.30 pm At St. Weonards Village Hall All welcome.



# GARWAY

We are sad to report the death of Ernest Francis. We will be welcoming the family to Garway Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December for Ernest's funeral at 2pm. Our condolences go to the family and friends of this long standing and much liked member of our community.

St Micheal's Garway will host again the Benefice Communion Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am. This will also be our Advent service, where we celebrate the beginning of Advent and light the first Advent candle. We welcome the Bishop's Chaplain, The Rev'd Nichol Kinrade, who will be taking the service. All are welcome to come and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with us and join us for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

Huge thanks go to *The Friends of Garway Church*, who are working hard to raise funds for the repairs to the church tower. There is a lot to consider before work can even begin, and a great deal of time and effort has been put into this project already. I am sad to say that Garway Church has been put on the "at risk" register and we are needing to raise £75,000 for replacement of tiles that have slipped from the tower roof. There is also weather damage to the stonework where the mortar is crumbling. This needs repointing to prevent more serious damage.

Our thanks also go to the ever busy *Spice Girls*, and volunteers for their care of the church and church yard. Keeping it looking clean and welcoming to our visitors.

#### Tracy Somerville, churchwarden



can be done by hand!

For more details, contact *Tracy* 01981 580263.

#### Garway School and pre-school

At the end of the half term, all the Garway pupils presented a wonderful afternoon of singing and recorder and ocarina playing to parents and the community to celebrate autumn. Everyone was involved from the tiniest tots to the Year 6 pupils. It is so heartening to see how they all embrace music as an integral part of their school lives. They will be performing again on December 8<sup>th</sup> when the school choir will be starring at the Village Christmas – 5pm in the village hall – not to be missed!

#### Hilary Smallwood

#### GARWAY HILL METHODIST CHAPEL Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 3pm

Celebrate Advent with a special family friendly service of Christmas Carols. The service will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

Please come and join us to celebrate this special time of year.

Everyone welcome, whatever your denomination.



#### GARWAY VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER FRIDAY 8™ AT 5PM IN

GARWAY VILLAGE HALL

Join us once again for this celebration of the start of the Christmas season. Uplifting singing from our wonderful school choir and the Singing Tree Mince pies and punch/squash Children's Christingle procession All welcome – free entry

#### **Garway Coffee Morning**

December 5<sup>th</sup> 10.15am in Garway Village Hall

Post Office, library, coffee/tea and cake.

Expect a Christmas theme!







#### Garway Village Hall

Do you enjoy ping pong? Would you like to join with a group of others to play? Garway hall has two table tennis tables and a group gets together on Thursday evenings to play. £2 a session. If you would like to join in, contact Cecibel on <u>cecibelegan@gmail.com</u>

#### STORYTELLING

#### Garway Village Hall Saturday 9th December 2 – 4.00pm

Austin Keenan has restarted his monthly Storytelling Sessions. They will happen on the second Saturday of the month. These sessions will be for adults and attention will be given to those who express an interest in learning to tell stories themselves. We're all latent storytellers!

Naturally, children will be welcome on the understanding that they will be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their wellbeing - if they get bored, please take them out!

Refreshments will be available. Austin Keenan



#### TUESDAY DECEMBER 12TH 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00 THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS<sub>PG</sub>

Everyone is invited to the Flicks Christmas film which we've chosen to send everyone home feeling wonderfully festive. THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS tells the story of how Charles Dickens came to write his bestseller, A Christmas Carol, despite warnings from his publisher that Christmas stories wouldn't sell. With threGod e unsuccessful novels behind him, Dickens needs to raise money to support his own struggling family. He starts writing like a man possessed - which he almost is, as the author starts to interact with his own imagined characters. Less than benevolent to those close to him and confronted with his own bad behaviour by his wife, Dickens is also being tormented by the phantom of the dour miser, Scrooge who hangs over his shoulder telling him everything he writes is worthless. A wonderful cast brings Dickens's own story, plus his famous novella, to life. Christopher Plummer is a scenestealing Scrooge, Jonathan Pryce plays Dickens's charming but feckless father, Miriam Margolyes is Mrs Fisk, the housekeeper and Simon Callow plays Dickens's grumpy illustrator. Dan Stevens easily embodies the 31 year old Dickens, haunted by a difficult childhood and his present lack of success. If all this isn't enough to convince you it's well and truly the festive season, it's a Flicks tradition to offer free mulled wine and mince pies at our Christmas show. In the interval you can also indulge in delicious coffees, teas, wines and a table groaning with delicious home baked cakes. Absolutely no humbug. Come all ye and enjoy!! www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

#### **Garway Christmas Windows**

On the afternoon of Monday 18th December the children of Garway School will make their annual walk round the village to admire the Christmas windows. So, please do decorate your windows and light them up after 1pm ready for the children to enjoy. We will then walk up to the common for carols and hot chocolate. Everyone welcome!

#### GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS PARTY AND QUIZ

Questions and puzzles set by Mike Brewer. Bring and share Christmas Treats Talks every third Tuesday of the month from September through April. Meetings are held at 7.30pm in Garway Village Hall at HR2 8RQ ///famed.grows.tolerable

Membership costs £12 per annum which entitles you to free entry to meetings and other member events. Alternatively, come as a visitor for £6 per meeting.

#### MOROCCAN EARTHQUAKE

When the High Atlas was struck by an earthquake in the early hours of 8 September, everyone's thoughts turned to the unimaginable distress caused, particularly for those living near the epicentre. 'Education for All Morocco' is a charity created in 2007 to provide boarding houses to support girls who want to continue their education beyond primary level. Up to 83% of Moroccan women are illiterate, but an educated girl can educate a whole community. By September 2023 the houses had a capacity for nearly 200 girls providing board and lodging, pastoral care, and study support. An average of 90% pass rate and 50 girls enrolled in university is testimony to its success. Sadly, the houses were badly affected by the earthquake and a fundraising appeal to rebuild them and support the girls was launched.

Early in September, £800 was raised at a Garway Live event which stimulated interest in the cause. At the 'Moroccan Feast' on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October a further £6,000 was raised and sent to the charity. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the events in so many ways. The list of skills and time employed and willingly given is long - from technical, electrical, artistic, logistics, donating auction and raffle prizes, food, bar and shopping, preparation, serving and clearing up, and, most importantly, buying tickets! It's a great cause and your support is much appreciated.

#### Chris Davies and Liz Lloyd

#### **Green Garway Book Group**

Here's a review of the latest book we read. Haven by Emma Donaghue

I thoroughly enjoyed this book when I read it but unfortunately the rest of the group weren't so keen:

Firstly, the positives - everyone agreed that the descriptions of 7th century monastic life , the journey to the island, the brutal struggle for survival and the wildlife of the craggy outpost were amazing.

However,....I think it is safe to say the book was not universally enjoyed with scores dipping to 2 or 3 out of 10. We struggled to relate to the blind obedience to a clearly mad religious leader ("I wanted to push him off a cliff!"), the lack of much happening, the lack of any humanity or compassion and the terrible impact on the wildlife, all in the name of God. Finally the ending was considered ridiculous by those that had got that far, with a feeling of "is that it?" Rating 2.5/5

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

<u>greengarwaybg@gmail.com</u>. 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 11 Dec - Village Christmas by Laurie Lee - Christmas Special! Mon 8 Jan - Winter by Ali Smith



# ORCOP

#### **ORCOP NEWS: December 2023**

It is difficult to believe that 2023 is almost over. It has been another challenging year in the absence of a vicar, and I should like to thank all those who have enabled us to keep the ship afloat. Special thanks go to Bishop Anthony Priddis and the Revd. Crispen Pemberton, who have taken our second Sunday communion services in alternate months. We have been privileged indeed to enjoy the ministry of such wise and distinguished clergy. The flower arrangers and cleaners also deserve special mention. We have many visitors to the church, especially over the summer months, and many leave complimentary comments in the visitors book as to the diligent manner in which the church is maintained. There remains uncertainty regarding a new incumbent. There may be further news in the New Year.

As I write the churchyard wall is being rebuilt where it has collapsed into the field below. We are very grateful to Hereford Historic Churches Trust and the Benefact Trust for substantial grant funding that has enabled this work to go ahead.

Let us all hope and pray that 2024 sees a cessation of hostilities in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, the Sudan and other nations that have suffered the ravages of war over the past year.

There will be a second Sunday communion service on December 10th, but there will not be an Orcop service on Christmas day. However, **please come**, if you can, to Orcop Community Carols, at 3pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. This will be an informal celebration of Christmas, suitable for all ages.

In conclusion, I wish all Orcopians a happy and peaceful Christmas. *Margaret Fletcher,* Churchwarden

#### Orcop Village Hall Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 2:00pm.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies, as well as the traditional raffle, chocolate tombola, homemade cakes, preserves, crafts, gifts, books and vintage tools.

Stalls are available, if you would like to book a table please contact: Gill Bannerman: gill.bannerman@outlook.com or Peta Long: petamary@hotmail.co.uk

**Coffee Mornings:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This is a continuation of the warm space coffee mornings held throughout the winter. It's an informal social gathering to have a cuppa, a slice of cake, and a chat. Everyone is most welcome to come along. *Peta Long* 

#### **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

<u>Advance notice</u>: Jumble sale on Saturday 10th February. Having a clear out? We'd be glad of your surplus. You can bring the items down on the morning of Saturday 10th. More details to come.

Orcop God Help Us By Tim Bannerman 6.1.2012

The brook runs through us Like a thread of thought, Like a fine wire filled With an electrical charge, Connecting us to a core Of ageless energy, which Flickers its tongue and sings The same song in our ear. Its voice has always sung However faint, however strong, Since the first flow forged The simplest way down Where the valley falls away.

Orcop God Help Us, the name Those born and bred here Give this velvet bowl, this Wooded hull within which Creatures, crops and oak, Ash, hawthorn, alder thrive As if held in the hand. A God-like handheld open To receive good things and To release those things which Wish to take new form, like Angels or the kind of life You find in dreams when Walking in the woods or with Your back against a tree which Takes your soul into its sap And, looking up, you find The lightness of new leaf Set into a seraphic sky.

# TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

October has been another very mild month, but with more than its fair share of rain. So we considered ourselves lucky that it didn't rain throughout the weekend of the Netherton Arboretum open day. Saturday was the wettest day, and there was a cool wind, so with Sunday forecast to be a better day, it is not surprising that more people turned up then. But we still had a steady stream of people coming to the Pop-up Cafe on Saturday afternoon, though very few in the morning.

The guided tours led either by Linda Miles, or her son Mark, lasted about an hour, so the participants were ready for a hot soup and a roll afterwards, which gave the cafe staff plenty to do! It was interesting meeting people from many different places, several of them specialists in growing Acers. Many visitors had come on previous years to Linda's open days and were eager to see how the arboretum had developed and enjoy the changing colours.

Although entrance to the event was free, the donations given and the takings from the Pop-up Cafe totalled around £2000.00. We are most grateful to Linda for generously holding this event in aid of Tretire and Pencoyd churches who has asked me to thank, in turn, all those who attended and donated such a generous amount.

So now thoughts are already turning towards Christmas; though to look at our garden, you could be forgiven for thinking it was still early Autumn, as the absence of any substantial frost has meant that many of the flowers such Dahlias, Penstemon, even Delphiniums, Californian Poppies and Snapdragons are still flowering profusely. Alongside them many other plants like the Hydrangeas, the Acers and the Spindle Tree are taking on their Autumn colours, and on the days when the sun shines as it is doing today, the garden is full of colour.

As well as the service at Pencoyd on Christmas morning, it is hoped that we will gather for singing carols and hearing the Christmas Story in someone's grounds, as we have done on previous years. Any ideas for a secular community Christmas event would be welcomed by Elizabeth and our PCC.

#### Margaret Oubridge

# HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Pop-up Café \* with local arts \$ crafts \* hArt artists At St. Catherine's Hoarwithy on Sat & Sun Nov 25/26+4 Dec 2/3rd 11am - 4pm

Sent by Antonia Cuthbert



#### Wildlife in our Garden

As I write, the weather is relatively mild, and we don't seem to have had a proper autumn yet. Most trees still have green leaves. Our Acers however, did turn yellow, red or gold, fairly briefly, before finally shedding their leaves. There has been a huge amount of rain which presumably, with the absence of any frost, helps trees to continue with photosynthesis for a bit longer.

Some insects still appear from time to time around the middle of the day. We still have one active mole. I think there is some food available for birds in the wild, but it must be getting scarcer; our bird feeders are now quite popular. Every day we see tits, chaffinches, sparrows, robins, blackbirds, dunnocks, a pair of collar doves and "Percy" the cock pheasant. There were a pair of goldfinches at the seeds on two days recently, and a female greater spotted woodpecker visits the peanuts with increasing frequency.

In some bird species the male and female are easy to tell apart. Usually the differences are obvious, but they have similarities too. For example, the male chaffinch is very much more colourful than the female, but they both have a white bar across each wing. The male greater spotted woodpecker has a tell-tale red spot at the back of his head, but otherwise he looks the same as the female. In some species the differences are so great, for example in the pheasant, that if you were seeing one of each for the first time you might think they were of quite different species.

But what about those described in bird books as "Both sexes look alike."? Clearly amateur bird watchers are not expected to be able to tell the difference. So how do the experts do it, without actually killing and dissecting them? I notice how often television presenters of wildlife programmes confidently tell us, for example, "The male is now returning to the nest with an offering of some small rodent.....Now they have swapped roles and it's the female's turn to go off to find food." I don't think it's likely that the presenters would know without their team of experts behind the scenes doing a lot of research for them. So how do those experts do it? No-one ever tells us that!

If any of my readers have any information in answer to this tantalising mystery, which they would be willing to impart without giving away any closely guarded trade secrets of course, please would they write something for the magazine, however brief. I'm sure many amateur bird enthusiasts would be really interested. Of course, if they would really rather not write about it, just let me know instead.

#### John Oubridge

#### **Book Review**

#### Twas the Nightshift Before Christmas by Adam Kay

Adam Kay – well known former gynaecology registrar turned author/comedian – has produced in his short second book a catalogue of Christmases on duty described in detail that is both hilarious and distressing. As Kay says: "In my first book, 'This is Going to Hurt', the most common reasons for entries being omitted included 'too disgusting' or 'too Christmassy'. Here I make amends for both." There are no holds barred when it comes to the medical details, from the life-threatening gory effects of deliveries gone wrong, to the challenge of breaking bad news. Leaning in to express sympathy with the relatives of a dying woman, he accidentally presses the red nose of his Rudolph tie, only to trigger an unstoppable tinny rendition of the relevant Christmas song!

The chuckles come thick and fast: "Full marks to the anaesthetist wearing a badge that says, 'He sees you when you are sleeping, he knows when you are awake."

And I especially like the woman subjected to Johnny Mathis during a forceps delivery who yelled at the radio: *"No, Johnny. That is not what happens when a child is born."* 

The reader will feel the palpable exasperation of staff crushed by the latest new initiative from hospital bosses and *"evil"* health secretaries. At one point, theatre staff are required to obtain their "scrubs" via a dispensing machine using a card which is valid for three days, resulting in them having to play the system by stockpiling them on clinic/non-theatre days. Intelligent professionals should not be having to devise strategies for getting basic supplies.

Kay left the medical profession for many reasons: the underfunding, the cumbersome systems, the heartless hierarchy and absence of support – but mostly it seems because he simply cared too much and ran out of ways to steel himself against the relentless litany of human misery coupled with bureaucratic ineptitude.

It is sad that a clinician with compassion to spare is forced to leave in order to retain his sanity. Would it be too much to hope that our NHS could find a way of keeping those such as Kay? – that medical training and employment conditions could allow clinicians to practice with humanity without sacrificing their mental health?

Kay is a very good writer – fluent and witty and always compassionate and thoughtful underneath the graphic detail and ripe language.

#### Hilary Smallwood

Editor's comment: Don't worry if you were looking for the wonderful Garden Notes that Julie Davies writes for us. She is busy preparing something special for January, so we look forward to that!

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A Peek in the Bookshop

Well the shop sure is full at the moment, bursting at the seams with all kinds of pre-Christmas delights. There are new biographies for Barbara Streisand, Britney Spears and Stuart Broad. Michael Palin's *Great Uncle Harry* is selling well for us, as is Philippa Gregory's non-fiction Normal Women and Shakespeare, and *The Man who Pays the Rent* by Judi Dench.

On the Christmas table, you'll find an abundance of Christmas crime from the likes of Janice Hallett and Celia Fremlin, the usual array of annuals like Private Eye, Matt and Giles cartoons and some seasonally adjusted poems from the great modern poet Brian Bilston.

There are some fabulous books for children too. A range of clothbound editions of children's classics arrived recently, along with beautifully illustrated picture books of The Nutcracker and Michael Rosen's *The Big Dreaming*. Children who enjoy mysteries may like M.G. Leonard's *The Ice Children* too.

I'm happy to deliver any books to Garway so do get in touch by phone or email – <u>www.rossiterbooks.co.uk</u> Hope to see you in the shop soon! *Julie*, Bookseller at Rossiter Books



While trying on a pair of trousers in a shop changing room, I was somewhat baffled by this notice.

PLEASE DO NOT UNWRAP GARMENTS ASK FOR SIZE TO TRY ON.

Should I stop trying on the garment the shop assistant had hung up for me in the tiny room? Where were the garments to unwrap? Anyway, I didn't buy the trousers!

#### SANTA'S BUMPER SACK OF FESTIVE CHUCKLES FROM PETER GARRATT:

WORD	REARRANGE THE LETTERS	
DORMITORY	DIRTY ROOM	
PRESBYTERIAN	BEST IN PRAYER	
ASTRONOMER	MOON STARER	
DESPERATION	A ROPE ENDS IT	
THE EYES	THEY SEE	
GEORGE BUSH	HE BUGS GORE	
THE MORSE CODE	HERE COME DOTS	
SLOT MACHINES	CASH LOST IN ME	
ANIMOSITY	IS NO AMITY	
ELECTION RESULTS	LIES LET'S RECOUNT	
MOTHER IN LAW	WOMAN HITLER	
SNOOZE ALARMS	ALAS NO MORE Z'S	
A DECIMAL POINT	IM A DOT IN PLACE	
THE EARTHQUAKES	THAT QUEER SHAKE	
ELEVEN PLUS TWO	TWELVE PLUS ONE	

#### **GLORIOUS INSULTS FROM ANOTHER ERA:**

- 1. She said, "If you were my husband, I would have given you poison" and he said, "If I were your husband, I would drink it!" (Exchange between Winston Churchill and Lady Astor).
- 2. "Sir, you will either die on the gallows, or of some unspeakable disease." Disraeli responds: "That depends, Sir, on whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."
- 3. "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." (Churchill)
- 4. "A modest little person, with much to be modest about." (Churchill)
- 5. " I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." (Clarence Darrow)
- 6. "He has never been known to use a word that might send the reader to a dictionary." (William Faulkner- about Ernest Hemingway)

- 7. "Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" (Ernest Hemingway-about William Faulkner)
- 8. "Thank you for sending me a copy of the book. I shall waste no time in reading it." (Moses Hadas)
- 9. "He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I know." (Abraham Lincoln)
- 10. "I didn't attend the funeral but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." (Mark Twain)
- 11. "He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends." (Oscar Wilde)

#### Hereford Cathedral Events

#### **EXHIBITIONS: Laden with Fruit**

#### ->Saturday 30 December Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm

Laden with Fruit showcases literal and symbolic fruits in the cathedral's collections using items including the Victorian Herefordshire Pomona and 15th century cyder Bible. The exhibition also features new artwork by Jeanette McCulloch and the Ledbury-based BookArt Club inspired by botanical illustrations in the Cathedral's collections.

# This exhibition is on display in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library Exhibition - normal admission charges apply.

**Toddler Group. Mondays in term time, 9.30am** Calling all toddlers and their grown ups - join us 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. Suitable for toddlers between the ages of 1-3 years.

# Toddler Group is free to attend but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

#### Christmas Sparkle Organ Concert Saturday 2 December, 1.15 pm

Lunchtime organ recital of Advent and Christmas favourites given by Peter Dyke, with large screen projection. Admission is free with a retiring collection in support of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

#### Advent Study Retreat: The Prophets Monday 4 - Friday 8 December, 10.30 am - 4 pm

Join The Right Revd Donald Allister exploring some of the prophets in preparation for Advent. This event is free to attend; advance booking is required via the cathedral website.

#### Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music By Candlelight Wednesday 6 December, 7.30 pm

In the stillness of a church, where candles glow... comes the luminous sound of a choir in quiet harmony. The singers will envelop you with a spellbinding sequence of seasonal favourites, little-known gems and inspirational new music. Tickets: from The Courtyard Box Office via courtyard.org.uk or 01432 340555.

**Seasonal Selections Friday 8 December, 4.30 pm** The Cathedral Librarian has selected a range of items from the 12th century to the 20th which tell the story of the Advent season. A rare opportunity to see historic items from the Chained Library, cathedral archives and All Saints Library up close in the Reading Room, followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral Café. Tickets: £15 and from the cathedral website.

Hereford Choral Society: Handel's Messiah Saturday 9 December, 7.30 pm A special candlelit performance by Hereford Choral Society with Marches Baroque. herefordchoralsociety.org/tickets.

#### St Michael's Hospice 'Light Up a Life' Service Sunday 10 December, 5.30 pm

Everyone welcome. Please visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk for more information.

**ABF Soldiers' Charity Christmas Concert Wed 13 Dec, 7 pm** ABF's annual Christmas concert returns in all its glory, with school choirs and bands. Tickets: The Courtyard Box Office via courtyard.org.uk or 01432 340555.

Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair Sat 16 Dec, 9.30 am - 4 pm Join us for our annual Christmas Fair with over forty stalls selling a range of festive gifts. Admission free, collection to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. Please join us in the Cathedral Close at 12 noon for carol singing.

**Bereavement Café Wed 20 Dec, 2.30pm – 4pm** Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal and friendly gathering for those who have been bereaved, recently or long ago. Join us in College Hall on the third Wednesday of the month from 2.30 - 4pm for coffee, cake and conversation. Run by volunteers, this is a welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

**Christmas Lego Club Wed 20 Dec, 3.30 – 4.30pm** Test your skills at creating crazy constructions with a Christmas twist! Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the South Transept. Spaces are limited so book your free ticket via the cathedral website.

#### Festival Of Lessons and Carols Friday 22 & Saturday 23 December, 7 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Festival of Lessons & Carols. Admission by ticket only; to apply for free ticket, collect an application form from cathedral office or download from the cathedral website.

#### 'Feel Good for Life'

This month sees the launch of 'Feel Good for Life' at Hereford Leisure Centre - a series of physical and social activities for people living with dementia, loneliness and depression.

The following sessions will run on Thursdays between 11.30am and 1.15pm:

14th December, 11th and 18<sup>th</sup> January

The sessions will comprise 45 minutes of light physical activity (seated exercise and the option to use the Toning Suite, which will be closed for our exclusive use) followed by social/reminiscence activities such as arts, crafts, quizzes and games over lots of tea, coffee and biscuits. We are asking people to complete a registration form ahead of their first session and that can be found online, here <u>https://haloleisure.org.uk/feelgoodforlife/</u>

Sessions will be priced at just £2.50 and carers are invited to join in for free. For further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch. *Philippa Loftus* Customer Service / Exercise Professional 01432 278178 | www.haloleisure.org.uk Hereford Leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford HR4 9UD

#### **December Dates for the diary**

- 1-3 Kathy Priddis Pottery & Fine Art Christmas Charity Weekend
- 2/3 Hoarwithy Pop-up Café
- 2 Orcop Village Hall Annual Christmas Bazaar
- 3 Benefice Advent Communion
- 4 Magazine copy date!
- 5 Carol Service rehearsal
- 5 Praying for our communities and the wider world
- 5 **Prescription collection**
- 5 Garway Coffee Morning
- 8 Garway Village Christmas
- 8-10 Kathy Priddis Pottery & Fine Art Christmas Charity Weekend
- 9 Storytelling, Garway Village Hall
- **10** Garway Hill Methodist Chapel family friendly service of Christmas Carols
- 11 Green Garway Book Group
- 12 Christmas coffee morning, St Weonards Village Hall
- 12 Flicks in the Sticks
- 13 Garway Stitchers
- 14 Carol Service rehearsal
- 14 'Feel Good for Life'
- 14 Orcop Village Hall Coffee Morning
- 15 St. Weonards Village Hall Committee
- 18 Garway Christmas Windows
- 19 Garway Heritage Group Christmas Party and Quiz
- 20 St Weonards Carol Service
- 22 Carols on Garway Common
- 23 Orcop Community Carols
- 24 St Weonards Crib Service
- 24 St Weonards Midnight Communion
- 31 Garway Village Hall New Year's Eve Party

Future events for your diary

#### January

- 8 Green Garway Book Group
- 11 'Feel Good for Life'
- 12 Coffee morning
- 18 'Feel Good for Life'

#### February

10 Jumble Sale, Orcop

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