

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

MARCH 2024



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CONTACTS IN THE ST WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors	01981 580208
	Anna Williams	07779 006994
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher	01981 540790
Garway	Tracy Somerville	01981 580263
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
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Group Choir	Sir Richard Mynors	01981 580208
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Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
St. Weonards Hall	Anna Williams	07779006994
St Weonards Pre-school	Anna Williams	01981 580352
Singing Tree choir	Hilary Smallwood	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings		hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones	01600 750273
@Garway	Graham Bevan	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
Much Dewchurch		
Gardening Club	Linda Ashton	01981 540804
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Rigler	07940 030 8696
Dore CommunityTransport		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

Samaritans	National Helpline Hereford	08457 909090 116 123 free calls 0330 094 5717 local call rates apply or email jo@samaritans.org
HOPEline UK (Prevention of Young Suicide)		0870 1704000 01978 367333

West Mercia Police

Safer Neighbourhood Officers: PC 21260 Martin Gillett 07970 544262,
PC 21349 Chris Yarwood 07773 042896, PC 21847 Jenny Rees 07929 783693, PC 21946 Jack Davies
07971 051386.

Police Community Support Officers: PCSO 6324 Carol Marsh 07890 524667, PCSO 40259 Hayley
Warne 07773 052560, PCSO 40272 Lewis Thomas 07773 051508, PCSO 40559 Tally Hunt 07773
054156.

Only call 999 when a crime is in progress or a life is in danger. Call 101 otherwise.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative
by the **10th of the month:**

Magazine Editor	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
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Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher 3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	01981 540790
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Mrs Meg Oubridge Tretire Smithy	01981 580233
St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig 8 Mount Way St Weonards	01981 580433

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Contact HALC (temporary contact) lynda@halchereford.gov.uk Parish council website www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk
Orcop:	Neil Barrington 07380 132702. clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk Parish council website www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk
St. Weonards:	clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org Parish Council website www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie 07581 353103 clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk Parish council website www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk

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

PARISH NEWS

THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

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

Letter from Bishop Richard

I have just read the Rule of St. Benedict, to my shame for the first time. It is a monastic rule from the 6th century that sets out the disciplines and structures for the effective running of a monastery. The rules of poverty, chastity and obedience are highly restrictive; the punishments for violations severe; the lifestyle highly demanding. Praying at set offices eight times a day (including at two o'clock in the morning) meant that the monk would rarely get more than few hours of unbroken sleep. Central heating was for wimps and the diet uninspiring. Although eased in later centuries, it has been the basis for the monastic tradition in Western Europe ever since. It's not the sort of discipline that works in everyday life, but that doesn't mean it has no value. It is designed to foster Christian virtues of humility, and obedience (albeit expressed through submission to the Abbot), and a growing Christlikeness.

Most of March will be the season of Lent, when we Christians have traditionally given up things that give us pleasure to focus on our spiritual journey. As our world has changed, it seems increasingly anachronistic. Our culture screams at us from the lifestyle sections that the way to real fulfilment is getting what you really desire. The idea that giving something up might be good for you, other than as a grudging acknowledgement of post-Christmas weight gain, is anathema. Consumerism works by creating desire and then offering to fulfil it. But our strongest desires are not necessarily our deepest ones. Giving things up or fasting can get us in touch with these deeper desires that only God can satisfy. There is evidence that restricting calories by intermittent fasting or turning our mobiles off is actually good for us physically and psychologically. A good Lent can be like leaving the Christmas presents unopened under the tree until Christmas day. There is a joy in the opening that is enhanced by the waiting. So, as well as helping us grow closer to God, our Lenten restraint can amplify the joy of Christ risen when we get to that glorious Easter celebration. I once gave up tea and coffee for Lent and had my first large cup on Easter morning. Before I knew it, I'd done three services and built a compost heap! Lent can be spiritual dynamite.

+Richard

Hot air ballooning

by Rev Sheila Anthony, Rural Dean



People often ask me how I got into the hobby of hot air ballooning. It was over 50 years ago when I saw a balloon flying in the skies of Nottingham in 1969. I had just passed my driving test so set off to follow it. I met the pilot Wing Commander Gerry Turnbull and from that time spent virtually every weekend, travelling over the country to crew for him both in gas and hot air ballooning. I was totally smitten, but it took two years of crewing before I managed to get a flight. I flew with Don Cameron, but it wasn't the best because it was a murky, grey day in Newcastle. Some of you may have heard of Don as he is a well-known balloon manufacturer in Bristol.

Hot air ballooning wasn't quite so sophisticated as it is now. We didn't have fans to blow cold air into the envelope; we had to flap – quite hard work! The burners weren't powerful either, and so someone had to go into the envelope holding up the fabric often with the help of a brush. The hapless individual was called *Cremation Charlie*, and it wasn't unusual for them to lose their eyebrows. We didn't have mobile phones so we needed a link at home so the pilot could phone in to give their landing site to help the chase crew locate them.

Many years later, we have fans to inflate the envelope, powerful burners, mobile phones and iPads for our maps. Much more sophisticated, but the end result is still the most beautiful experience.

It's an amazing sport and I am privileged to have flown over the Alps from Switzerland into Italy at 22,000 ft – it was incredible. I have also flown in Europe, Dubai, Oman and Chile – my favourite though is Italy where I go to a festival every year. You may see me more locally though - look out for a yellow, green and blue hot air balloon called Borne Again.

Rev. Sheila Anthony

Editor's comment: Perhaps we should do a series of unusual hobbies? Please let me know of anyone who does something rather different!

SERVICE ROTA FOR MARCH

Sunday 3 rd March	10.00am	Pencoyd, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th March	10.00am 11.00am	St Weonards, All Age Communion Orcop, Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	6.30pm	Tretire, Evening Prayer
Sunday 24 th Palm Sunday	10.0am 11.00am 3.00pm	Pencoyd, blessing of palms- walk to Llanwarne service. Hentland, Pax service
Friday 29 th Good Friday	2.00pm	St Weonards, Last Hour
Sunday 31 st March Easter Sunday	9.15am 10.00am 10.00am	Tretire, Holy Communion Hoarwithy, Holy Communion St Weonards, Holy Communion

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Rural Dean:
Rev. Sheila Anthony, Sheila Anthony randaruraldean@gmail.com 07775588716 and the relevant churchwarden.

March Service Times for Garway Hill Methodist Chapel

Sunday 10th March 3pm

Rev'd Paul Arnold - Holy Communion

Sunday 24th March 3pm

Mr Wilf Prosser

Lent Group

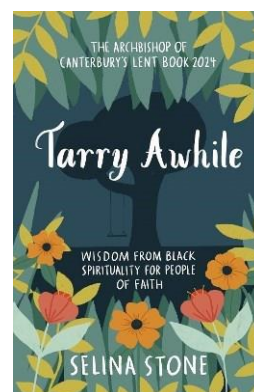
Rev Mark Johnson is running a Lent Group which will meet at Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30 a.m. on the Fridays in Lent (also via Zoom). Finish at 12.00 noon.

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Studying "*Tarry Awhile*" by Selina Stone, which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2024.

Contact Rev Mark on 07882410759 or revmark100@yahoo.co.uk

Zoom Meeting: ID 823 8926 7180 Passcode 701179



**Sunday March 3rd March 10.00am Benefice Communion
Pencoyd Church**

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.

Lent Lunches

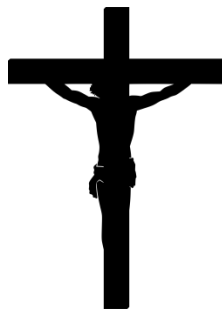
During Lent we have simple lunches from 12.00 to 2.00pm to raise funds for different charities.

Wednesday 28th February, The Dower House, Treago, St Weonards HR2 8QB

Tuesday 5th March, Garway Community Hall

Wednesday 20th March, The Granary, Saddlebow Common, Orcop. HR2 8HD

The Hereford Passion Play



Friday 8th & Saturday 9th March, 7.30 pm

This is an exciting and special opportunity to see a Passion Play which will share the story of Jesus' final days, using words, music and action to tell the events of that fateful week as he approached His death. It is directed by the cathedral's Canon Chancellor, James Pacey who was a theatre director before his ordination.

The production will feature members of the Hereford Cathedral community, including the Rev Nicholas Lowton, and is to be performed in the cathedral nave.

Tickets £8 per adult and £6 per child available from the cathedral website and Cathedral Shop (01432 374 210). Supported by The Friends of Hereford Cathedral and the Passion Play Trust

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



26th March Christine Davies 01981 580129

Magazine News

Please send WORD documents as our software cannot copy PDFs. Please keep fonts and presentation as simple as possible! Flyers in wonderful colour really do not work! Articles of general interest are always welcome. Let the inner writer in you flourish!

Small grants

As usual at this time of year we review our annual financial situation and share our profits in small grants to community organisations. This year the recipients are:
Garway School. Garway Youth Group. Dore Community Transport, Archenfield Arts, Garway Stitchers.

Village Pages

ST WEONARDS

As I write, we are preparing for the season of Lent. Our Palm Sunday walk on Sunday 24th March starts at Pencoyd Church at 10.00am with the blessing of palms. We then walk to Llanwarne Church for a service. Do get in touch if you would like a lift one way. It is not a long walk, and it gives us a chance to share time with others across the benefice, reminding us of Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem.

We are delighted that Canon Julian Reindorp, a retired priest from Richmond London is coming to lead our Last Hour Service of prayer and reflection on Good Friday at 2.00pm. He is also taking our Easter Communion at 10.00am on Easter Day. Do join us to celebrate.

We are holding a simple soup and cheese Lent Lunch at the Dower House, Treago on Wednesday 28th February from 12.00 to 2.00pm. HR2 8QB. Do come and enjoy some company and make a cash or cheque donation to the Hereford Food Bank.

In January, the Parochial Church Council met in church. The main item on the agenda was to discuss an exciting new project to update the Audio Video provision to support the church's future ministry. At the moment the AV equipment in church is not adequate for its efficient use. As many people know, we livestream our bi-monthly services and this has become really challenging. When we try to include any video material, the system can fail, and the loop for those with hearing difficulties is getting old and inefficient. Stephen Herbert has taken a great deal of trouble to investigate the best way forward with this project. Supported by Peter Hallewell and Richard Day, they met representatives of *Distributed Sound and Video Ltd*. This company specialises in working with churches and is used to dealing with the complications of appropriate permissions in The Church of England. One of the main aims for any system is that it should be really simple and useable by any competent person.

We hope to complete the audio work before our new vicar arrives in early July as we have the appropriate permission for that. However, the whole AV system is expensive, and we will need to undertake ambitious fund-raising for this. While these plans for the future are exciting, we shall not neglect the ongoing essential maintenance of our church. We are most grateful to all those who support the church financially on a regular basis so that we can plan for the future.

After many, many years of service on the PCC and on a number of occasions as churchwarden, Gillie Hallewell has decided to step down. We thank her for her huge commitment to the work of the church in our parish, and look forward to seeing her as usual in church.

More exciting news is that the *Life Link Chaplain* should be appointed soon in preparation for starting work with John Kyrle School and primary schools in the summer term. This is a new role, supported by the diocese, our parish and others across the deanery, to work with young people from primary to senior school.

Looking ahead, book the date of Sunday 2nd June will be the church fete and open garden at Treago. Jim Poyner and friends will be bringing his stationary engines again, and we hope to have some vintage cars on display.

The magical opera *The Magic Flute* will be performed on June 7th by the *Wild Arts* company who were such a success last year. Tickets are limited to 180 so book soon if you want to come through the *Wild Arts* website.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden.

Village Hall coffee and cake morning 10.00 to 12.00am

Thursday March 14th

A warm welcome is assured. Just turn up!

All Ages

Gwyneth Williams

Date for the diary: St Weonards Village Hall Breakfast, Sunday 14th April, from 9.30- 12.30. All are welcome. Please come along for breakfast and a chat.

GARWAY

Garway Church

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of **Joan Thomas**. Joan was well known in Garway as an active member of the community. Her life in Garway, saw her, amongst other roles, serving for a number of years as chair of Garway Parish Council. She also gave her time as President of the Woman's Institute for Garway, representing the village at the WI's AGMs at the Royal Albert Hall.

History was always important to Joan. In later years she helped found the Garway Heritage Group where her many skills and love of the area, were put to exceptional use. This resulted in the publication of several books on local history, and the story of the people and places of the region.

Joan was a huge believer in preserving the knowledge of our ancient places and was active in raising awareness of Garway Church. She was instrumental in engaging the services of the Church Recorders who have spent many months documenting the features and artefacts of Garway church. This was to be presented as a bound volume, but sadly, she passed away before its completion.

Joan will be missed by many in the community, and our deepest sympathy goes to Brian, her husband of thirty years, and to Joan's daughters Margaret and Annie.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

Friends of Garway Church

The *Friends of Garway Church* aim to keep our wonderful historic church looking welcoming for the many visitors it receives. The churchyard and the inside of the church both need tidying, cleaning and maintenance to achieve this.

Volunteers are needed to clean inside the church and keep a regular display of flowers to welcome our visitors. If you would like to join our flower/cleaning rota, please contact Lesley at the address below.

We have exciting plans for the churchyard and having sought advice plan to make the area surrounding the church more welcoming to visitors and at the same time increase the biodiversity of the area. This will involve a more managed approach.

There is a rota of volunteers who currently mow the paths around the churchyard in the growing season, this will continue.

In addition, the North Bank will be strimmed three times a year in June, July and September and the South Bank strimmed monthly between March and October.

The Healing Garden is maintained by Maggie Tucker who is asking for volunteers to help as this area does need regular attention.

If after reading this you would like to share your ideas, volunteer for cleaning, flowers, mowing, strimming or gardening, please contact Lesley Whistance on [07854412727](tel:07854412727). We'd love to hear from you.

Sue Thomas

Garway Stickers



Our dates for March are 6th and 20th from 10.30 – 12.30. Our next two panels are progressing well. The Garway Common is our second panel, and we are busy bringing all the stitched elements together. As I write there are lots of three-dimensional leaves being stitched that represent some of the trees to be found around the common. We are stitching Oak, Elm, Horse Chestnut, and Hawthorn leaves. These will form a border around the edges of the panel, which features some of the activities that take place there, and the wildlife that inhabits various parts of the common land.

As always you are welcome to join us, why not add your own stitched leaf to the panel? There is plenty of help on hand to guide you.

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

Garway Spice Girls invite you to the March 5th Coffee morning and Lent Lunch

Garway Village Hall, 10.15 onwards.

Library and Post Office and delicious cakes

..... stay on for warming soups and fresh rolls too.



Includes a visit from miniaturist Katie Tetley from **Shire Miniatures**
There might be the chance to have a go with a paintbrush too!



TUESDAY MARCH 12TH
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
PAST LIVES

Definitely one of the best films of 2023 and a remarkable directing debut from Canadian/Korean film-maker, Celine Song. *Past Lives* is about what happens when two people re-connect after twenty years, having lived half a world apart. At twelve years old, Na-young and Hae-sung form a deep connection which is severed when Na-Young moves from Korea to Canada. Their lives diverge, Na-young becoming a budding author while Hae-sung battles through military service in Korea and studies to become an engineer.

In their twenties they connect again through social media and their bond comes vividly alive. Were they really always fated to be together? Had they made wrong choices? Or was this new awakening a romantic illusion? When Hae-sung comes to New York after a failed relationship, he finds his old love deeply embedded in a new culture and happily married to writer, Arthur.

But this film avoids cliché and romantic tropes. It says a lot with silence where the audience is left to experience the complicated emotions of all three protagonists. Ultimately, it's about paths not travelled, cultural divides and a bittersweet nostalgia for a deep relationship which could, perhaps, have been more. Brilliant performances and wonderful cinematography combine to make this a truly memorable film. And, as ever, we'll be offering wines, teas, coffees and cakes before the film and during the interval. More information on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

Britain's biggest rural film festival comes to Garway Hall with two unmissable films.

Admission £5.50.

Refreshments served before the films and during intervals: cakes, wines, teas, coffees, soft drinks.



Friday March 1st, 7.30pm. On the opening night of the festival we will be showing ***TYPIST, ARTIST, PIRATE, KING***

Director Carol Morley's imagining of British artist Audrey Amiss tricking her frazzled social worker into making a wayward road trip with her to her native Sunderland. The real life Amiss studied at the Royal Academy in the 1950s but never finished her studies due to mental illness. However, she spent every day of her life making art – paintings, drawing, jottings, collages using junk mail and bits of magazine so that when she died in 2013 a vast, unknown eccentric oeuvre was found. Going through Amiss's work, Carol Morley found the artist's passport in which she declared her occupation to be Typist, Artist, Pirate, King. This is an affectionate, often riotous portrait of an artist who slipped notice during her lifetime and contains two wonderful performances by Monica Dolan and Kelly MacDonald.

Friday March 8th 7.30pm. Our second Borderlines film is ***TOTEM***, from Mexican director, Lila Aviles. Sol is a seven-year-old girl picking up bits of conversation and behaviours in her family that tell her the world, as she knows it, is about to end. Her father is ill with cancer and there are preparations afoot to give him a final birthday party. The film is remarkable for the way it sees ongoing events through the partial understanding of a child. Never sentimental, it brilliantly juxtaposes the sadness of life with humour and hilarity: for example, a medium, brought to the house to cleanse it spiritually casually informs the family that she also sells Tupperware. Naturalistically shot, and brimming with a menagerie of animals, the film places one human family within the natural cycle of beauty, life and death. More information and advance tickets www.borderlinesfilmfestival.co.uk

Green Garway Book Group

We are discussing ***Ravenous*** by Henry Dimbleby in February but at time of writing unfortunately we haven't yet met! Fear not, I have already read it so you can read my own opinion of this book instead!

Why Our Appetite is Killing Us and the Planet, and What We Can Do About It.

In 2019 Henry Dimbleby, at the time lead non-exec director at DEFRA, was commissioned by the government to write a national food strategy for the UK. He presented his findings to the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Committee in 2022 and this book is a version of that report that is informative and accessible for public consumption. It deals with the whole of our food system from field to fork, and makes valid and sensible recommendations about what changes are essential to ensure our food security for the future.

There are a few points that left me with an aftertaste of frustration and despair. Many of the recommendations made have yet to be implemented and because they contradict our current economic structures of profit over good, it is no wonder we are left confused as consumers as to what is best for us and the planet.

Our food system predominantly prioritises quantity over quality to maximise profit for the food manufacturers and supermarkets, encouraging us to buy more than we need. This leads directly to food waste that at the same time we are offering initiatives to combat.

Our unwitting temptation to the cheaper, healthier ultra-processed foods has also led to over 25% of adults and children in the UK considered obese (compared to under 15% in 1992). Instead of prevention and taking action on the production techniques that must have some causal link to this massive increase, we have a broken window fallacy of creating more drugs and costly NHS procedures to deal with the outcome.

The government can, and crucially needs to intervene. Some leaders of food companies have been asking for government intervention as they recognise the damage that they are causing with their products but in order to change for the better, regulation is needed to make it a level playing field.

Also urgent is much better education in our schools about food and eating healthily. When school may be the only place for learning about this for some children, we are letting them down as the provision of it currently is ineffective and more of an afterthought. The curriculum means that children need to choose food tech as a GCSE option rather than it being an essential skill. In my opinion, health should be given the same gravitas as the core subjects.

I thoroughly recommend this book to anyone interested in our beleaguered food system and wanting to understand more about its failings and what could and should be done to improve it.

If you're interested in coming along to the next book group please join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489872936450081> or send an email to greengarwaybg@gmail.com. We read books about the outdoor world, nature, social issues, travel, fiction and non-fiction. Everyone is welcome.

Mon 11 Mar: **Little Wing by Freya North** (fiction)

Mon 8 Apr: **The Arbornaut by Meg Lowman** (nonfiction)

Julie Hudson

Date for the diary: Friday 24th May 7.30pm The Garway Piano Trio, The Bishop's Palace, Hereford

ORCOP

It was Orcop's turn to host the monthly Benefice Service in February. Held on February 4th, the service was blessed with mild, dry weather and was well attended with the benefice choir.

Unlike last year, this February is living up to its reputation as a very wet month, with nearly 60mm of rain in the first 10 days. We are fortunate in having few properties in Orcop that are at risk of flooding. It remains to be seen whether the remainder of the month will produce any snow.

Otherwise, there is little to report as we await the arrival of the warmer weather and that of our new vicar in July!

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden



Your Magazine Needs You!

We need one or two more distributors to deliver magazines each month in the Orcop Hill area. It is a pleasant job, depending on the weather of course, providing a couple of hours of exercise (if done on foot or bicycle!) with numerous opportunities on the way to chat with subscribers.

If you are interested, please email me: garratt_peter@hotmail.com or ring on **01981 580418**.

Peter Garratt

Flower and Cleaning Rota: Mrs A Morris

Date for the diary: Churchyard Bingo Friday 19th April at Orcop Village Hall. Donations of prizes/ cakes please contact Julia Garlick 01981 580515 or Margaret Fletcher 01981 540790.

OWL COMMUNITY LUNCH Wednesday 6th March 12.30 for 1.00pm

Owl have successfully held the first community lunch of the year. These are held on the first Wednesday of the month in Orcop Parish Hall.

Two course meal with hot and cold drinks £8.00. But we plan to increase the cost in May.
If you have special dietary issues please ring to let us know

All are welcome to join us.

01981 241310 **Jane Lockhart**

FAST FIBRE BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY FOR ORCOP HILL

Many Orcop Hill residents will have received a letter from Openreach inviting them to sign-up for a scheme that could provide them with broadband speeds of up to 1Gbps (1000 Megabytes per second).

The scheme covers the area served by the Wormelow telephone exchange, mainly Little Birch, Much Birch and Much Dewchurch. However, it also includes the northern part of the parish of Orcop, including Orcop Hill. If you are eligible, you should already have received a letter from Openreach.

We suggest you read this letter carefully as it is an important one-off opportunity to access very fast broadband. It may not suit everyone. Some may not want internet access at all, and others may be happy with the connection they already have.

If you do wish to take advantage of this offer, please follow the instructions in the letter and do not delay as the deadline for receipt of pledges is 31st March 2024.

You can access more information at:

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fibre-community-partnership/connect-my-community>

ORCOP PARISH COUNCIL

Orcop Hall

Coffee Mornings/warm space will continue to be held *every* Thursday on a weekly basis until March. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Date for your diary: Orcop Village Hall are holding a quiz night on Friday 5th April at 7:00pm. Teams of up to 6 people.

Peta Long

Orcop Hall Craft Workshops

Basket Weaving with Frances Keenan ♦ Friday 1st or 15th March ♦ 9.30 – 5 ♦ cost £60

Learn how to weave a useful and beautiful round, willow basket – with, or without, a handle.

Felting with Mandy Nash ♦ Saturday 13th April ♦ 10 - 4.30 ♦ cost £55

Learn how to convert fluffy wool fleece into a hardwearing and functional bag. All materials and equipment will be provided but students need to bring at least two old towels and a plastic bag to carry their work home.

**Weaving – 2 days with Carey Godwin ♦ Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th May
10 – 4 each day ♦ course fee £100 ♦ (£95 if booked before 20th April)**

Each participant will learn how to set up a Rigid Heddle Loom and weave a scarf length piece of fabric to take home. All materials and equipment will be provided and are included in the course fee.

To book, or for more info - contact Gill Bannerman – gill.bannerman@outlook.com

ANOTHER SKIRRID?

Amongst my Christmas presents was a wonderful map of Herefordshire. The packaging indicated it dated from 1760, but I believe it is much earlier, because it records various information and events dating from the 16th century, with no reference to later information. Amongst the events recorded is the rather alarming story, transcribed below, of what appears to be a major geological movement on a fault or fissure in 1576. Most readers will be familiar with the fissure that opened up in the Skirrid Mountain. Legend has it that this fissure opened on the birth, or crucifixion, of Jesus Christ, but its date seems uncertain. The event recorded below looks similar and perhaps both were triggered, more or less simultaneously, by a minor earthquake. The location of Marcley Hill appears to be between Putley and Woolhope.

If any readers can throw further light on this, I should be pleased to hear from them. (garratt_peter@hotmail.com)

“Marcley Hill in the year 1576, after shaking and roaring for the space of three days, to the great horror, fright and astonishment of the neighbouring inhabitants, began to move about 6 a clock on Sunday evening and continued moving or walking till 2 a clock on Monday morning. It then stood still and moved no more. It carried along with it the trees that grew upon it and the sheepfolds and flocks of sheep grazing on it. In the place from whence it removed, it left a gap of 400 foot wide and 320 foot long. The whole spot whereon the Hill stood contained about 20 acres. It overthrew Kinnaston Chapel, that stood in its way, removed an yew tree growing in the Chapel yard, from the West to East throwing down with violence and overturning the causeys, trees and houses that stood in the way of its progress.”

Peter Garratt

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

Since our last issue of the magazine, as many of you will now know, a new Vicar has been appointed to our Benefice. Her name is Angie Kately, and she is presently completing her training as a priest in the Abbey Dore Benefice.

Rosemary Evans and I met her at Tretire Church, after John had picked her up from St Weonards, before which she had visited Orcop and Garway parishes. We then drove her to Michaelchurch, then on to Pencoyd, where she was greeted by Tom Vaughan. We then drove her to Hoarwithy to meet Peter Pember, and Phil Watkins who were going to show her round Hoarwithy and Hentland churches. In this way she had a complete picture of our Benefice churches and met quite a number of parishioners during her visit.

We found her to be a very warm and friendly person, full of enthusiasm for our churches, and asking a lot of pertinent questions about life in our parishes. She was very open to responding to our questions of her. So we are delighted that the post was offered to her by the diocese, and that she so enthusiastically accepted.

Angie will come to our Benefice in July, and the service for her licensing will be at St Weonards church on July 1st at 7.00pm.

On Sunday 24th March, we shall be celebrating Palm Sunday with our traditional walk from Pencoyd to Llanwarne, led by Rev Mark Johnson. We begin with a very short service in Pencoyd Church at 10.00 am, with the blessing of the palm crosses, which will be handed out to all who would like one.

The walk ends at Llanwarne church, where there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11.00 am. You, and your dogs are very much welcomed to join in this walk.

Margaret Oubridge

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Storm Damage St. Catherine's



The storm on the night of 22nd January took out one of the pillars in the Cloister of St Catherine's. I immediately closed cloister and church until Harvey from our Architect came on 31st January and inspected it and said it was safe to reopen pending a closer look at all the pillars. Our thanks to Nik Le Ray for putting a prop in to prevent further damage.

The church is now open as normal!

Peter Pember, Churchwarden

Pax Service St Dubricious, Hentland

The annual Pax Service will take place at 3pm at St Dubricius on Palm Sunday 24th March. As usual, having taken our seats in church, we go out to gather at the lychgate to process into church singing *Ride on! Ride on in Majesty*, pausing to pray to the churchyard cross halfway, before moving back to our places in church. We have in the past then held a service of Evensong, but this year we have the fine choir in *The Church Singers* under the leadership of John Eden who are going to sing the choral numbers in John Stainer's *Crucifixion*. Several of these are hymns which we all know so we shall join the choir to sing them. At the end of the service, the Pax cakes will be distributed from the altar steps, with the traditional greeting 'Peace and Good Neighbourhood!'. **Robin Symonds**

Date for the diary: Saturday June 15th Concert with the Musical and Amicable Society.

Wildlife in the garden

Did you take part in RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch this year? We did once again, but perhaps more as a duty for the benefit of science and wildlife than for our own reward, as it followed exactly the same format as previous years. Also our own birdlife does not seem to have changed much during the years I have been writing about it.



Along with the national findings and the rest of Herefordshire, house sparrows were our most numerous birds with 7. Although nationally, and in the county blue tits were next most numerous, on the day we did

our count, in our garden it was chaffinches which came second with 6. Blue tits only came in third equal with great tits and great spotted woodpeckers (2 of each). This is not what we had expected, because most days we see many more blue tits and could not be confident that the woodpeckers would show up at all.

We are always disappointed when some rarer birds which we may have seen occasionally during the winter do not appear on the day chosen for the survey and we are not able to include them in our results. We have to remind ourselves that the results are compiled by a computer which has no interest in individual gardens and certainly none at all in what has turned up in our particular patch, however fascinating it may be to us! We find it hard to remember that for science, large numbers are more significant than small ones. In this case, the larger the numbers of households taking part, the more useful are the results of the survey. What we find here on any one day is of very little significance, until it is put together with the findings of hundreds of other participants, when all the oddities and blips get evened out by the statistics.

I promised to keep reporting on the squirrels. The only thing we have noticed is that it is always the same two who visit us now and usually both together. We feel fairly sure that they are a breeding pair, or at least about to be.

Have you heard about the Archenfield Community Environment Group, based at Llangrove? I think they are a fairly new organisation, with an interest in all things to do with biodiversity, our changing climate and energy use. They hold a variety of events, usually in Llangrove Village Hall, including talks, discussions, wildlife walks, litter picking and a repair cafe. I am hoping to get to a talk about our local mammals on the 22nd February at 7 pm. Newcomers are always welcome and they are very friendly. Here is their website: <http://llangrove.org.uk/files/ACEG-Newsletter-Nov-21.pdf>.

John Oubridge, 9th February 2024.

Garden Notes

When I cut down the old lilac tree in November and dug up the roots, I unearthed various bulbs. I sorted them into piles for replanting – bluebells, narcissi, a few snowdrops. There were always a few winter aconites under the lilac tree, but I wasn't entirely sure what the bulbs looked like. I particularly wanted to rescue them as their bright yellow flowers are such a cheerful sight in January, flowering even before the snowdrops. I can recognise a bluebell bulb, tulips etc. but I wasn't sure what the others in the pile were. I potted them all up hoping some might be winter aconites. Four pots turned out to be aconites. As for the rest of them - oh, the disappointment - it seems that I have 17 pots of cuckoo pint...



Needless to say I will not be replanting those. Winter aconites are happiest where they get winter sun and summer shade and as I have several areas like this here, I have ordered a few more to cheer up January and February. Like snowdrops, they are happiest and suffer less stress if they are planted in the green - the bulbs are small and dry out too much if stored.

I was looking through some old photographs the other day and came across this picture of some flowers I grew some thirty years ago. They were so dainty and pretty that I fancied growing them again, perhaps around the edge of my summer pots. They are tiny, in cream, yellow, orange and rose, all with a yellow eye at the centre. But could I remember their name? My friend identified them as *Leptosiphon androsaceus* (syn. *Linanthus androsaceus*) or False babystars. The seeds are very difficult to find but I have found someone on Ebay, of all places, who can supply them.



I have been browsing the seed catalogues looking for flowers for my summer pots. I am tempted to try *Ptilotus exaltatus* which grows 12-15" tall and has silvery-green foliage and 3-4" feathery bottle brush flowers. Variety 'Matilda' is a soft rosy-lilac; 'Joey' starts out silver and changes to neon pink at the tips.

Back in November our dogs found a baby hedgehog wandering around the garden. We weighed him and found he was far too small to hibernate and survive the winter – only 270g. We created a des res for him in an old pet cage complete with a cosy bedroom and a supply of bedding materials. He has nightly meals of hedgehog kibble and kitten food (higher in protein than the cat food normally recommended) and he is thriving. We had his droppings analysed and the vet gave him a wormer to deal with the inevitable worms that he had. We weigh him regularly and he has nearly doubled in size. We are looking forward to releasing him in the garden in late March/ early April when he should be a big bruiser of 700-800g. **Julie Davies**

A Peek in the Bookshop



We've got a number of exciting author events in the shop coming up. Do check out our website to find out what's coming up. One that's getting much media attention is **Chantal Lyons** for her book ***Groundbreakers: The Return of Britain's Wild Boar*** and we're delighted that Chantal is coming to our Ross shop on 7th March. In *Groundbreakers*, Chantal Lyons moves to the boar's stronghold of the Forest of Dean to get up close and personal with this complex, intelligent and quirky species, and she meets with people across Britain and beyond who celebrate their presence – or want them gone.

We're looking forward to **Christian Lewis's** follow up to *Finding Hildasay* - ***Hildasay and Home***. Chris recounts his journey home to Swansea with almost half a million pounds raised and reflects beautifully on all that he's learned and the family he's found for himself along the way.

The book I'm most excited about is ***The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese**, out in paperback in March. I thoroughly enjoyed *Cutting for Stone* and there has been much praise for this long awaited second novel. "A shimmering evocation of a lost India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the hardships undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today."

And one for the younger readers: We often get asked by children for **Erin Hunter's** series *Warriors* – adventurous tales from the feral cat world. Fans may be excited to know that a graphic novel version of ***Warriors: The Rise of Scourge*** will soon be available.

Hope to see you in the shop soon.

Julie, Bookseller at Rossiter Books www.rossiterbooks.co.uk



Our next FREE **Mental Health Awareness Workshop** will be on **Wednesday March 13th** at Services for Independent Living, Leominster Enterprise Park, 1 Owen Way, Leominster HR6 0LA.

This workshop is open to anyone living or working in/with the farming community in Herefordshire. You can choose from either a morning session or afternoon:

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Book Review

***Heartbreak Hotel* by Deborah Moggach**

Moggach, who authored the novel that spawned the highly successful film *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, returns in this novel to the hotel theme, a setting ripe for character cameos and relationship opportunities.

71-year-old much-married/divorced Buffy, a mediocre retired actor, is unexpectedly bequeathed a large run-down B&B in a small Welsh border town by a former lover. On his own, and jaded by his rackets London life, he decides to decamp there and try and make a go of it. Assorted offspring and step-offspring roll up to help him move in. The building is in a state of decay with mushrooms growing on the wainscoting, Bakelite light switches and an overgrown garden.

Myrtle House attracts a wide selection of slightly shop-soiled, down-at heel customers who roll up, unwittingly seduced by a website that promises courses for the newly single. In the main they are simply after a new partner, but feign interest in the lack-lustre, somewhat cobbled together “courses”, some of which, like the gardening course, are designed by Buffy to get long overdue jobs done.

During his hilarious “*How to talk to Women*” course he finds himself seated at a café table with one of the female guests, where they sink knee-deep in an indulgent grumpy old man/woman conversation where they exchange dislikes in quickfire succession:

*“People who drink tea with a bag hanging off the edge on a string, people who say five and twenty past 12 instead of 12.25, people who say 24/7, people who glug from water bottles in the streets, joggers, people who say “Love you” when they are finishing a mobile phone call, people having any sort of conversation on their b****y mobile, car stickers saying “Keep your distance – baby on board”, dachshunds (their legs are too short)”*

They fire particular venom at the elderly, in spite of being in that category themselves: *“elderly couples holding hands, striding along with ordnance survey maps, living forever hoovering up their children’s inheritance, going on cycling holidays together, being each other’s b****y best friend. I think they should*

be culled, they've had their fun, it's time for them to go – there should be trained marksmen stationed at National Trust properties ready to shoot....”

This is a thoroughly enjoyable book, steeped in casual wit, whilst also gently sympathetic to the minefield of human relationships and the sad process of ageing and becoming irrelevant. *“How did I get so old? It seems like only last week I was packing my school satchel.”* But it is a fun read with lots of jokes from city dwellers about country life: Village Mobility Scooter Formation Trophy Team; Museum of Sheep Droppings.

Oh – and there are Herefordshire references which might interest local readers.

Hilary Smallwood

Saint of the Month

Editor's comment: Over the years various people send in articles of general interest. A Lay Reader from Sussex has sent me some information on well-known saints.



The saint most people associate with March is, of course, St Patrick, whose feast day is on 17th. He was born in Cumbria in Roman Britain. His father was a deacon from a Roman family of high social standing, and his mother was a close relative of Saint Martin of Tours.

When he was 16 years old, Patrick was captured by pirates who took him to Ireland, where he was sold into slavery. His job was to tend sheep for a high priest of Druidism, and Patrick came to view his enslavement as a test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer, and in a vision, he saw the children of pagan Ireland reaching out their hands to him. He grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

Around 408 AD, Patrick had a dream in which a voice promised him he would find his way home to Britain. He convinced some sailors to let him board their ship, and after three days of sailing he and the crew abandoned the vessel in France. After Patrick was reunited with his family, he studied at Auxerre in France, and was ordained a deacon. But he never lost sight of his vision, and when he was ordained a bishop, the Pope sent him to Ireland to spread the gospel to non-believers and to support the small community of Christians already living there.

Upon his arrival Patrick was met with resistance, but he managed to spread Christian teachings far and wide, through his preaching and writing, and by countless baptisms. He incorporated pagan rituals into church practices, and he created the Celtic cross (see above) by combining a native sun-worshipping symbol with the Christian cross. He died in about 461 AD.

Many legends have been associated with his life, including how he expelled all the snakes from Ireland and that he explained the Holy Trinity using a three-leaved shamrock. And every year, on March 17th, Irish people throughout the world remember the man they call *'the Apostle of Ireland'*.

+++++

Date for your diary: **Spring Plant Fair 24th April 2024** 10.30am– 4.00pm BROXWOOD COURT nr Pembridge HR6 9JJ **A special day for gardeners!** All proceeds to The Cart Shed Charity www.thecartshed.co.uk Tel: 01544 318 231 (Reg Charity no 1167802)

Chuckle Corner

Editor's comment: I'm afraid I could not resist the weather jokes as I write when the rain is pouring and the ground saturated! We always welcome any contributions to this section.

What's the difference between a British summer and a teapot? **The teapot stays hotter for longer!**

What do you call a sunny day in Herefordshire? **A miracle!**

What's the only thing that can make British people stop talking about the weather? **The end of the world!**

What did one raindrop say to the other? **Two's company, three's a cloud!**

And from Peter Garratt

I refused to believe my road worker father was stealing from his job, but, when I got home, the signs were all there.

Whiteboards are remarkable.

I was at an ATM and this old lady asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her over.

People say I am condescending. That means I talk down to people.

March Dates for the diary

1 Lent Study Group
1 Borderlines Film Festival
1 Orcop Basket Weaving
3 Pencoyd Benefice Communion
5 Garway Coffee Morning and Lent Lunch
6 Garway Stitching
6 Orcop Owl Community Lunch
8 Lent Group
8 Borderlines Film Festival
11 Garway Green Book Club
12 Flicks in the Sticks
13 Farming Minds Workshop
14 St Weonards Coffee morning
15 Lent Group
15 Orcop Basket Weaving
20 Lent Lunch Orcop
20 Garway Stitching
22 Lent Group
24 Pencoyd Palm Sunday Walk
24 Hentland Pax Service

Future events for your diary:

April 5 Orcop Quiz April 8 Garway Green Book Club
April 13 Orcop Felting
April 14. St Weonards Breakfast
April 19th Orcop Bingo
April 24 Cart Shed Plant Sale
My 18 & 19th Orcop Weaving
May 24 The Garway Piano Trio at the bishop's palace.
June 2 St Weonards Church Fete
June 7 *Magic Flute* Treago, St Weonards
June 15 Hentland Concer

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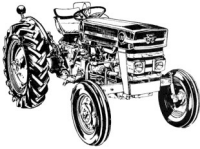
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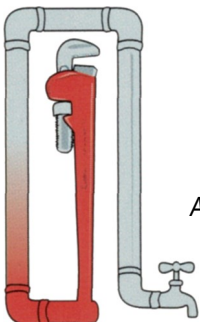
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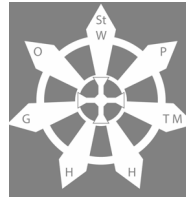


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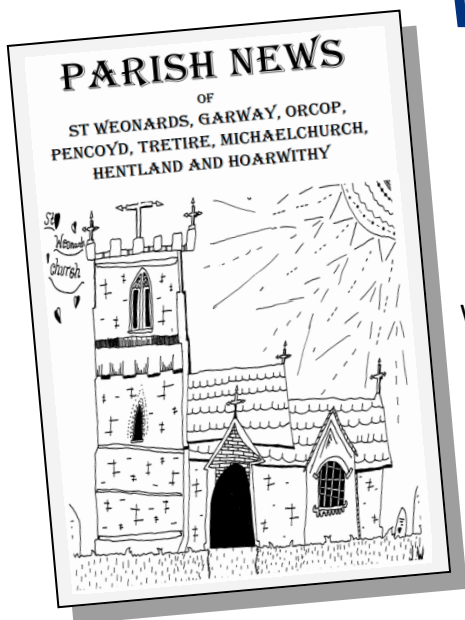
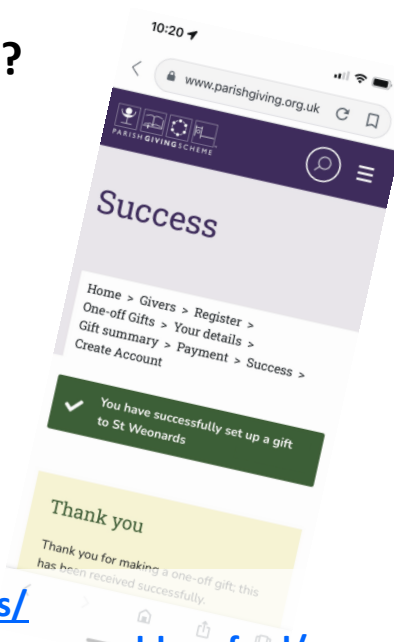
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Electricians	2,5,15	Pre-school/Toddler	4,21
Entertainment	26,27	Property maintenance.....	14,16
Estate Agents	18	Psychotherapy	22
Farm shop	11	Pubs	26
Firewood.....	17	Renewable Energy	24
Firewood processing	25	Roofing	10,14
Flooring.....	3	Septic Tank emptying	6
Florist.....	15	Shepherding services	12
Foot care	7	Singing.....	1,16,19
Fruit juice	17	Skip Hire, recycling etc	6
Funeral services	1,19	Small bale hay	17
Garden Design	23	Sports Therapy	12
Gardening Services	10	Tools wanted	11
Groundwork	9,13	Tree services	10,12,15
Guttering.....	14,16	Window fitting	14,16
		Window cleaning.....	15
		Village Halls & Community Centres	3,10,12
		Yoga	11