

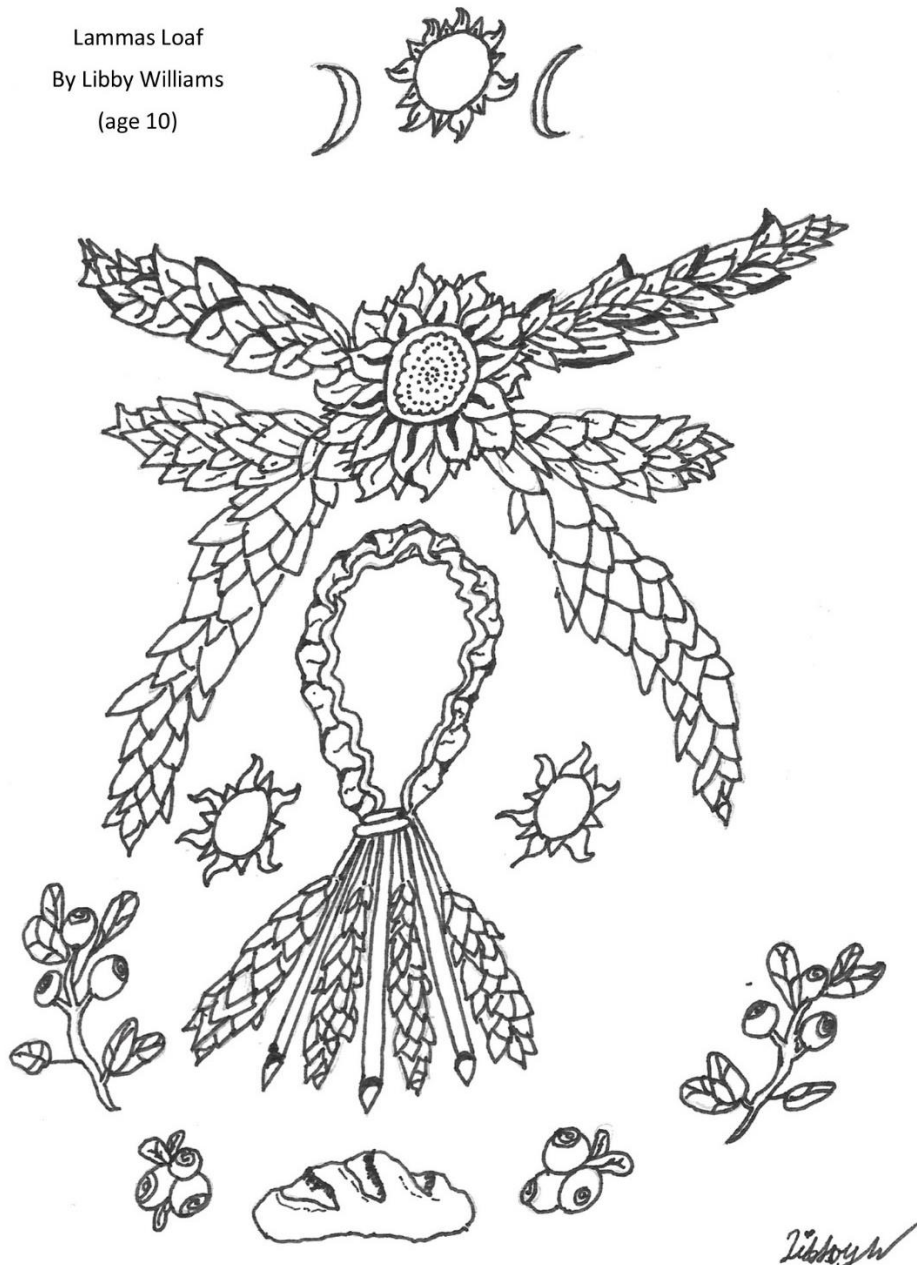
PARISH NEWS

OF

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Lammas Loaf
By Libby Williams
(age 10)



'LAMMAS LOAF' BY LIBBY WILLIAMS (AGE 10)

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CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

Vicar

Rev Angie Kateley 01981 345044
revangiekateley@gmail.com
Rest day: Tuesday

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
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember	01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding	01432 840492
Hentland	Valerie Lilwall	07775 611128
	Phil Watkins	07831 317904

Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors	01981 580208
Group Choir	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
Bellringing	Peter Hallewell	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris.....	07932 068363
Youth Group, Tear Fund	Fay Rowlands	01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings	Julia Garlickenquiries@orcopparishhall.org	01981 580515
St Weonards Hall Booking	Anna Williams.....	07779 006994
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
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 **10th of the month**:

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

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	Mark Hearne	01981 251887
	clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	
	Website: www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	
Orcop:	Neil Barrington	07380 132702
	clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk	
	Website: www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk	
St Weonards:	clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.org	
	Website: www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Llanwarne:	Neil Barrington	07380 132702
	clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie	07581 353103
	clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	
	Website: www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	

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

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

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.

How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime.
herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.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 wedding please contact the Vicar:
Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 01981 345044 **Rest day: Tuesday.**

Vicar's Letter

Okay, so hands up if you can't believe it's September already... how are we here already?! September is a month laden with anticipation, hope and nervous expectation for many of us. New school shoes and slightly-too-big new uniform perhaps; the thrill of going up a year or the worry of starting big school. Maybe starting out on a much more focused pathway at college or leaving home for the first time to start university. For you farmers, busy as bees and praying for good weather, so that all may be safely gathered in. When I was a girl, September always meant looking forward to the fair arriving in town, with its lights and music, wonderful smells and frisson of danger.

For the longest time, autumn was my favourite season, with each year refusing to grow old quietly and demurely, but instead, like an outrageous great aunt or magnificent drag act, parading itself with flair and drama and sass. Just as the farmers are heaving on their muddy wellies, and the school kids are proudly sporting their new togs, so in September the autumn is strapping on its thigh high boots and getting ready to party. Glorious!

As the season changes around us, the world is changing around us too, endlessly throwing up new things to wonder at and new things to fear. Likewise, we are all steadily changing (the inevitability of change is one thing that forever stays the same). For Christians, in the swirls and twirls of life, God is our constant and yet always full of surprises. If God has never surprised you, it's possible you might not have been paying enough attention!

Whatever it is that sassy September will bring you, whatever fairground ride life resembles for you now (dodgems, rollercoaster, big wheel, teacups, merry-go-round, ghost train?), I pray that you will know some measure of the peace of God's constant love for you, and some thrilling surprise at the joys this beautiful season can hold. For all school kids, students, teachers and school staff, all those busy working our farms and orchards, to all fairground workers, drag acts and outrageous great aunts, I pray God's blessing over you, with love.

Rev Angie x

SERVICE ROTA

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

Sunday 1 st September	10.00am	Orcop, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th September	11.00am	St Weonards, All Age and baptism
Sunday 15 th September	9.30am 6.00pm	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion Tretire, Evening Worship
Sunday 22 nd September	9.15am	Hentland, Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th September	10.00am 4.00pm	Pencoyd Harvest Service Garway Harvest Service
Friday 4 th October	6.30pm	Orcop Harvest Service
Sunday 6 th October	10.00am	St Weonards, Benefice Holy Communion

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Vicar:
Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 01981 345044 *Rest Day Tuesday*

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel

Sunday 22nd September 3pm - Rev Paul Arnold - HARVEST FESTIVAL

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



10th September Christine Davies 01981 580129



VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

One of the benefits of lockdown is the way that we learned to use new technologies for communication. In St Weonards Church we have internet and audio facilities. We are most grateful to Stephen Herbert who has taken a great deal of time and trouble to get these organised, and as explained before we have further exciting plans to upgrade our equipment. Because of this we are able to livestream our services to enable anyone who cannot attend in person to join in.

So we found ourselves attending the July All Age communion from our holiday hotel room, singing and praying with everyone! Despite being holiday time, the church was filled with families, and it was so good to see new people being welcomed.

on September 8th at our All Age Communion at 11.00am we will be welcoming the Thornley family for the baptism of Nancy. Do come and help us celebrate this special occasion.

As we are privileged to have our own vicar, Angie will be taking the majority of the services across our parishes. We therefore need to be flexible to give her time to share time with people before and after services, and enable her to travel safely from one church to another. Most of our services will be at 9.30am, although this may alter from time to time, and we need to begin promptly so Angie can get her next service!

All service times are published in the parish magazine and on the parish website www.stw.org.uk so it is worth checking when you plan to come to church.

At our All Age service with the theme, 'Run a good race', we were delighted to hear about the amazing success of Matilda Hodgkins Byrne who won a bronze medal in the rowing double sculls in Paris. Catherine, her mother, who lives at the Nest in St Weonards, from where Matilda started her rowing, told us about the tenacity that was required to achieve such success, particularly after giving birth to Freddie! Congratulations to Matilda. It seems astonishing that St Weonards should be home to an Olympian, but it might happen again as Gillie Hallewell's grandson Rowan is also training in rowing for the Olympics!

A date for your diary is our harvest celebration on the evening of Friday 25th October at 6.00pm followed by *bring and share* supper in the hall.

Richard Mynors Churchwarden

St Weonards Academy and Shining Stars Pre-School

I must apologise, as it has been a while since we have remembered to write an update for the Parish News, something I will work on going into the new academic year!

We have had a very busy time at St Weonards, since opening the Autism base last September. The Octopus Class, families and pupils have fully embraced being part of the St Weonards Academy community.

Numbers at school and within the pre-school are doing well and we welcome anyone who would like to come and view the school and pre-school to get in touch. We offer a very unique flexi-school programme alongside attending full-time attendance. This is of interest to many families wishing to home educate while incorporating core subjects in a school environment. Please do get in touch if this might be of interest.

The PTFA organised a wonderful summer fete and were delighted with the support we received from the local community as well as our school community. We are also working towards a celebratory 50 years' fete in 2025 as we believe the current school building was built in 1975. If any locals have any information please do get in touch as we would love to hear from past pupils, teachers, staff, governors, etc.

School starts on Wednesday 4th September for all pupils. We are looking forward to the next academic year. If you would like further information about our wonderful school please contact **Anna Williams**, School Administrator, 01981 580352 or email admin@sw.hmfa.org.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning

St Weonards Village Hall

Thursday 12th September 10 to 12



Come and enjoy Coffee and homemade cake and a raffle to support a very worthwhile cause.

All ages welcome to meet friends old and new. **Pam Craig**

GARWAY

I would like to say a huge thank you for everyone who came to support Angie at her first service in Garway with us.

It really was a special occasion. The sun was shining, and the church looked beautiful and welcoming. As Angie greeted members of the community, a warm and friendly atmosphere was building. Some people had brought their pets for a blessing during the service.

It was a truly joyous occasion and during the blessing Anna Martin-Williams' daughter, Libby, helped to bless the animals with water. We had dogs of all shapes and sizes; and two guineapigs.

The benefice choir, led by Richard Mynors sang a beautiful anthem, and at the end of the service, we all went outside, to be led once again by Richard, in singing our final hymn "Who put the colours in the rainbow" where Angie then gave the final blessing. We all enjoyed tea and cake in the sunshine.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the service, and to all who came. You helped to make it a really memorable morning.

We are now planning our Harvest Festival service. Do put 29th of September in your diaries. We have very generously been invited by Bill and Cheryl Sparey to hold our harvest supper at their wonderful "wedding barn" at Demesne Farm. The Harvest service will be at 4pm, followed by supper in the barn.

I am sure this will prove to be another lovely gathering.

Tracy Somerville Churchwarden

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel
Sunday 22nd September 3pm
Harvest Festival

Followed by refreshments
Please join us for the
All welcome!

Garway Village Hall Coffee Morning
Tuesday 3rd September 10.15am onwards



Coffee/tea/squash, homemade cake
Post Office and library.
A warm welcome and good company

Garway Village Hall

We've got a busy programme of events at Garway Village Hall in the autumn and some new classes for you to try. Here's a list of what's going on.

WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Mondays and Fridays 9.15am | - | Barre Class with Jody |
| NEW Mondays 1.30pm | - | Silver Swans adult ballet class (starts 9 Sept) |
| Tuesdays 9.15am | - | Pilates with Vikki |
| Tuesdays 10am | - | Coffee Morning |
| Tuesdays 10am | - | Outreach Post Office |
| Wednesdays (alternate) | - | Story Stitchers (starts 4 Sept) |
| Wednesdays 7pm | - | Legs, Bums & Tums with Vikki |
| Thursdays 9.15am | - | Yoga with Vikki |
| Thursdays 5.30pm | - | Table tennis - £2 per player |
| NEW Thursdays 7pm | - | <i>QiGong with Caroline</i> |
| Monday 2 Sept 1pm | - | Garway Crafters |
| Saturday 7 Sept 7.30pm | - | Garway Live Presents: Mansel Davies |
| Tuesday 10 Sept 7.30pm | - | Flicks in the Sticks: The Old Oak |
| Tuesday 17 Sept 7pm | - | Garway Heritage Group Talk on Plas Gunter House |
| Monday 23 Sept 7.30pm | - | Garway Village Hall AGM |
| Saturday 28 Sept 10am | - | Wise Woman Retreat with Sally Anne Saint |

After the great success of our village Christmas fair last year please put **Sunday 17 November** in your diaries for this year. If you're interested in having a stall at the event please contact us by email at Christmasatgarway@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.garwayhall.org to find out more and you can subscribe to our mailing list there too.

Green Garway Book Group
***The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt**

Yes, yes the 'green' link is tenuous but this was suggested as our August read by one of our members. This is a review in advance of our meeting so these are just my thoughts three quarters of the way through - it is a mighty tome at over 800 pages but it has been a very enjoyable read and I'm glad to have finally (nearly) read it.

It follows the story of young Theo, who devastatingly lost his beloved mother in a bomb blast at a museum they were visiting and how life pans out for him having decided to pocket a famous painting that was on display there at the time.

He is rescued by various inappropriate adults and his life certainly goes off the rails for periods until he finds relative sanctuary with an antique furniture restorer.

It has echoes of *Demon Copperhead* about it and has some great descriptions of the characters in his life.

I'm giving it 3.5/5 so far.

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 and you can dip in and out as necessary.

Monday 9 Sept - Divide: *The Relationship Crisis Between Town and Country* by Anna Jones (non-fiction)

Monday 14 Oct - *Grey Bees* by Andrey Kurkov (fiction)

Monday 11 Nov - *Wasteland* by Oliver-Franklin Wallis (non-fiction)

Monday 9 Dec - *Dark Matter - A Ghost Story* by Michelle Paver (fiction)

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP
Tuesday 17th September
Garway Hall, 7.30pm

Plas Gunter Mansion: the place and its people

Our new season of talks kicks off with a presentation by Dr Gill Wakley, a trustee of the Plas Gunter Mansion Trust, who will be talking about a 17th century house in the centre of Abergavenny. A hidden chapel, illegal Catholic masses, persecution and martyrdom... Plas Gunter Mansion was no ordinary house. Come along and find out about the history of this hidden gem and its current restoration.

All are welcome - it's a great opportunity to learn about our local area and for a friendly chat; we will, of course, be serving delicious cakes, tea, coffee and wine. Free to Garway Heritage Group members (annual subscriptions are now due - £15 per person), or £8 for guests.

Dates for you diary: 15 Oct - When Scientists came to Malvern: a history of Malvern Radar Establishment.
19 Nov - Apples and People: the apple's travels around the world and Herefordshire's importance in its global story.

17 Dec - Christmas Quiz: our popular Christmas celebration with quiz maestro Mike Brewer.

www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

ORCOP

The Revd. Angie took her first Orcop service on July 14th. She was faced with a difficult text, namely the one about the head of John the Baptist ending up on a plate. She managed to draw some very stimulating reflections from this gruesome tale, and we have no doubt that her second service (tomorrow) will be equally stimulating, but hopefully less gruesome.

Orcop Hill is currently virtually cut off by road closures. Whilst this is frustrating, it is the price we have to pay to say goodbye to the potholes, so perhaps we should not complain about the short-term inconvenience.

Glorious weather again and many are busy with a second round of haymaking.

Could this be down to the Revd. Angie's intervention on our behalf?

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flower and cleaning rota: Mrs. M. Fletcher

Diary date: Orcop Harvest Festival & Supper. Friday 4th October, 6.30pm followed by supper. More details to follow.

The members of Orcop Baptist Chapel would like to say a very big thank you to Vron, Richard and Vic and all the family for their kind donation of £240 which was collected in memory of George.

Orcop Fete in the Parish Hall

Monday August 26th 2024 3.00 pm

Stalls including cakes and preserves, pictures, plants and produce, bric-a-brac, books, tombola, games skittles, raffles, ice creams, refreshments and more

Pre fete quiz sheets available

Contact Julia Garlick Tel 01981 580515

Tables welcome

Free Admission, Ample parking, disabled access

Everyone welcome

Orcop Village Hall Coffee Mornings

continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month – 10.30-12.30

do come and join us   you'd be welcome

September 19th; October 17th; November 21st

Orcop Village Hall
APPLE PRESSING & AUTUMN MARKET
with BBQ

Saturday 12th October 12 – 4pm

This was so popular last year – we thought we'd do it again!

*Bring your clean, undamaged apples, and a clean empty bottle or two,
and we will turn your apples into juice.*

Please note: 2K of apples will produce about 1L of juice. In order to have a sufficient quantity of apples for the press, yours are likely to be blended with others.

The juice will need to be drunk within a few days, if kept in the fridge - or you could freeze it, pasteurise it, or even turn it into cider.

There is no charge for this service, but donations to the hall funds would be welcome!

We'll also have our regular stalls:

Cakes, Produce & Preserves. Plants & Seeds, Cards, Crafts, Curios & Books,
Award-Winning Hollow Ash Cider & Juice
Raffle & Refreshments

Growers, Makers, Stall Holders welcome –

To book a table or for more info please contact:-

petamary@hotmail.co.uk or, gill.bannerman@outlook.com

**AN ORCOP REFLECTION
ON THE GENERAL ELECTION**

Oh Good!
We've had a general election
At last we have made a proper selection
Of a party that might plant the seeds
Of what the country wants and needs
But what of little Orcop's position?
No matter who's in opposition
Turn off the tele and instead
Ruminate on how we're fed.
Of course, this rural rumination

Will not serve to save the nation.
But a bit of honest toil
Tilling and hoeing the Orcop soil
Wherever our voting intentions led
Will keep us busy and well fed
And whether it's dry or whether it's wet
Might wean us off the internet.

Peter Garratt

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

August was as usual a very quiet month in Tretire and Pencoyd with just one service of Evening Prayer in Pencoyd on August 18th at the new time of 6.00 pm, and led for us by Rev Angie.

Life will become busier for our villages in September:.....

On September 15th at 6.00pm, in St Mary's Church Tretire, we will once again welcome the choir of St Mary's Ross, who sang in Pencoyd Church in April. John and I were away on this occasion, so we are delighted to get another chance to hear this excellent choir singing Evensong for us at Tretire Church. If you, like us, missed this treat, do come along and join us at Tretire.

Not long after that we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival, at Pencoyd Church. The date for the service will be Sunday September 29th, the time still to be arranged.

But, as a change from previous years, the social event will take the form of Harvest Drinks and a Prize Draw. This will take place a couple of days before the service, on Friday 27th September from 6.00 till 8.00 pm at Michaelchurch Cottage, home of Elizabeth Malcom, our churchwarden. There will be a produce and plant stall, and donations to Elizabeth for sale will be very welcome: plant cuttings or divisions; garden produce, packets and tins of food all gratefully received.

Entry will be £10.00 which includes a glass of wine (donation for a second glass) and delicious canapes provided by our PCC. Raffle will be £5.00 a strip for numerous prizes. Any donations of prizes very gratefully received by Elizabeth.

This promises to be a very enjoyable occasion, so do put the date in your diary NOW!

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27th at 6.00 pm. MICHAELCHURCH COTTAGE.

The next social event will be on Wednesday November. 13th at 6.30pm, which will be THE PUB QUIZ. at The Red Lion Peterstow. Further details of this will be in the October Magazine, but get the date in your diary now.

In the meantime, I hope you have all had a happy summer and we look forward to seeing you at Tretire in September.

Margaret Oubridge

HARVEST DRINKS AND PRIZE DRAW

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27th

6 - 8 pm

MICHAELCHURCH COTTAGE HR2 8LD



Tickets £10 00 for glass of wine and assorted canapes

Elizabeth Malcolms elizabethAmalcolm@outlook.com

Tel. 07710380862

Produce and Plant stall.

Proceeds to Tretire and Pencoyd churches.

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Wildlife Safari

On Saturday 20th July about 30 intrepid youngsters went “on Safari” in Hoarwithy Churchyards. They came from all around including Hereford and had a terrific time finding bugs etc. Thanks to Hannah Vernon and all those involved in organising this.

Candlelit Supper

The Friends of Hoarwithy hosted a candlelit supper in the cloisters of St. Catherine’s Church. The menu was superb, and everyone enjoyed the evening which raised an amazing £1800,00 for St. Michael’s Hospice. Thanks to Lou and her team, not forgetting Nik’s Chandeliers. An excellent evening.



Afternoon Teas in the Cloisters

Sunday 21st July saw Chris and her team put on the first *Afternoon Teas* in the cloisters this year which was enjoyed by all and raised £176.50 for church restoration. Thank you all.

Don’t forget hArt and Popup Café 7-15th September 11.00am to 5.00pm each day.

On the 15th September we are having an open-air communion in the cloister with an artistic theme. 10.00am as usual, come and join us!

Peter Pember Churchwarden

h.Art - Herefordshire art week Saturday 7 - Sunday 15 September 2024

h.Art is a not to be missed early autumn treat involving 471 artists across 134 venues in Herefordshire. It offers nine days of joyful inspiration, unique finds and the chance to buy direct from the creator or even get creative yourself at one of the many workshops taking place across the county.

We are lucky enough to not have to travel out of the parish to see the stunning work of the EclectiV group of artists exhibiting at 2 Southwell Close in Broad Oak. They are also hosting workshops throughout the week in life drawing, silver ring making and clay sculpture. Expect to see ceramics, jewellery, metal work, mixed media, wood craft, forged work, glass work, lamp shades, paper sculpture, soft sculpture and paintings.

Artists showing their work are:

Tracy Caldah, Sophia Hunt, Jade Kondal, OldenDaisy (Scott Baldock & Julie Hudson), Angela Ravenhill, Tracy Somerville, Stuart Taylor and Rew Wood.

Do try and visit and bring friends and families to support your local artists.

Full listings can be found at h-art.org.uk

Julie Hudson

Wildlife in our Garden

This month I have more to say about birds than other animals. Firstly, although earlier in the year tits, sparrows and chaffinches were seen every day, the tits and chaffinches are now mostly heard, not seen. This is no doubt because we have stopped putting out food for them either on the wall or in feeders. They have been replaced by the blackbirds and robins who seem to find plenty to eat on the lawn or in the trees right by our house where we can watch them. The blackcaps and chiff-chaffs which we heard frequently earlier in the year are now silent, and even the song thrushes who were very audible in early July, are now, at the beginning of August, also silent.

Now I must confess to a most unfortunate episode. There is an extractor fan in the kitchen which has a duct to the outside. The expelled air exits through a plastic vent with two flaps which lift up as the air comes out. One of the flaps had broken off some months ago. When the other also broke off, I decided the vent should be replaced with a new one. When I started to remove the old one, I notice a lot of moss and sticks and bits of grass in the duct which I assumed had been blown in by the wind. As I started to remove these, I found more and more further in, until suddenly I realised I was removing a bird's nest, old I thought and hoped. Just as it seemed to be about clear, to my horror I found a small bird, apparently not far off fledging. I did my best to put it and the nest back, but made rather a mess of it. Then I noticed a female sparrow watching from a nearby bush. When I removed myself and the steps I'd been using, the mother flew to the vent, looked puzzled but didn't go inside. I decided that further intervention would only make matters worse and the only thing to do was to leave the birds to themselves while we went off on a week's holiday.

A few days after we got back, I watched the vent for a good 15 minutes from a discreet distance. No bird came or went, so I concluded that the nest had been abandoned and the fledgeling flown or dead. I then made a further attempt to clear the duct which seemed to be going well. Just as I thought I had finished and it was about clear, a small bird suddenly flew out over my shoulder, giving me a start. Then I found I had tipped out 3 or 4 grey speckled eggs, which had smashed onto the floor. Shaken, I cleared up the mess, and finally installed the new vent.

I really feel very bad about this act of destruction, however unintentional. I can only try to excuse myself by recognising my lack of knowledge and experience. I am surprised and amazed by the little bird's perseverance in going on to try and produce another brood when its first nest had been virtually destroyed. I wonder whether it will try yet again in another place. I try to comfort myself with the thought that house sparrows seem to be numerous around these parts, even if they're not doing so well in other parts of the country.



Oh, by the way, the harmless little bunny rabbits I mentioned last time have now discovered that our vegetables are very tasty after all and are working their way through them. Perhaps I should consider it nature's pay back!

John Oubridge, 8th August 2024.

Book Review

***The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*, by John Boyne**

Bruno is a 9-year-old boy living in comfortable circumstances in Berlin with his parents and 12 year old sister Gretel at the time of the Second World War. His father is posted to Auschwitz to become commandant and the whole family decamps there, much to the disappointment of the children who have to leave their friends, their grandparents and their easy life.

Bruno is lonely and bored, devoid of playmates and places to visit, and wanders off to the wire fence, beyond which he knows that there are people identically dressed in striped outfits – he has seen this from his bedroom window.

It is necessary to suspend belief somewhat as it seems Bruno has no idea what Auschwitz is, who the people on the other side of the wire fence are and what is happening there; and he is able to meet up with a Jewish boy Shmuel and strike up a friendship from the other side of the wire. He mistakes the word Führer for Fury and believes the place they are living to be called Outwith, both carefully selected and apt misapprehensions. Boyne argues that most people the world over had no idea what was happening there. He sees it as credible that Bruno and ordinary German citizens would have been equally ignorant. Juxtaposing an “extreme of evil”, in the form of the Holocaust with an “extreme of innocence” in the person of Bruno is central to the book.

The novel has come in for much praise and much angry criticism. Boyne describes his story as a “fable” and is adamant that it is not intended as a historical document nor a simple work of fiction. Critics point out the very obvious factual flaws: the idea that Shmuel might have been able to get away to engage in conversations with Bruno makes no sense; and crawling under the electrified fence has no credibility. They argue that the Holocaust should not be the stuff of fable and that Boyne’s book does a disservice to Holocaust education. But the inconsistencies are so transparent that we are invited to look beyond them and see them as a vehicle for an emotionally-charged message.

The ending of the book is profoundly sad.

Who is the book aimed at? It is certainly not an adult book – the narrative is moving, but the messages are too obvious to satisfy an adult reader. But it is certainly not a children’s book – it is necessary to be “in the know” in order for the narrative to have any meaning, and do we really want our children to be confronted with such a prime example of inhumanity? So, maybe young adults; but the brightest of these will see the flaws and perhaps be tempted to dismiss the message, what Boyne calls the “moral centre of the book.”

“And who decided which people wore striped pyjamas and which people wore the uniforms?”

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

We might have complained bitterly about the weather this spring and summer but, generally, the plants in this garden have loved all that rain. The shrubs and ferns especially have put on the most phenomenal growth and our paths have become quite narrow due to the lush planting.

Ten years ago, I planted the pretty miniature rambling rose ‘Open Arms’, not against a wall but in a border so that its stems could arch up and over the other planting (it only grows six to ten feet high). At its base I planted *Clematis x triternata* ‘Rubromarginata’. Every year I have had the delightful combination of clusters of peachy-pink roses mixed with the starry purple and white flowers of the clematis and very delightful they have been too. This year the clematis has gone berserk; somewhere underneath the huge mound of foliage and pretty scented flowers is my poor rose. It is not only the rose that has been smothered but also ferns, *Viola cornuta* and Welsh poppies, half the border really. It is partly my own fault because, being busy building the greenhouse, I forgot to prune back last year’s growth in the spring. As this clematis flowers on growth made the same year, next spring I will cut it hard back to almost ground level.

Back in June I wrote about some unidentified seeds that I had sown. They turned out to be the lovely *Nicotiana*



langsдорffii which pleased me greatly as I love its dainty lime green tubular flowers. I grew so many plants that I was able to plant them all around the garden wherever there was a gap and, in doing so, inadvertently discovered the best plants to combine them with. They look fabulous with the vibrant pink flowers of annual lavatera, *Malva trimestris*. They look good with the dangling red tassels of *Amaranthus caudatus*. They are tall growers, up to four feet, but being ‘see-through’ they also look good mixed with the purplish-pink bottle-brush flowers of *Liatris spicata*. I will be saving seed from them again this year but this time I will remember to label the envelope! I will also be saving seed from my rusty foxglove, *Digitalis ferruginea*, which,

with its interesting orange-brown flowers, is one of my favourite foxgloves. They seem to have done even better than usual this year with many side shoots to prolong the flowering.

Julie Davies

MORE ON SWIFTS

Thanks go to Regina Brymer for drawing attention to an article about swifts that appeared in the “Daily Mirror” on 28th July. Here is an edited extract from that article, which seems an ideal follow up to the article on swifts that appeared in the August issue:



In the Kent seaside town of Broadstairs, much wild screaming was heard on a recent balmy evening. This was not a riot or an all-night rave, but the sounds of hundreds of swifts, known as “screaming parties” swooping through the air to feed on insects.

This distinctive sound is a result of Kent’s first artificial swift colony at Broadstairs College after it teamed up with Thanet’s Wildlife Conservation and the RSPB to install 21 nest cavities at the top of the 15m-high building. Sleeping, eating, bathing and even mating on the wing (while flying), swifts rarely touch the ground. They are also the fastest birds in level flight, with an impressive top speed of 69mph.

Every May they arrive from Africa – a migration of 3,400 miles which they undertake twice a year, stopping off to refuel in places like Portugal and France. They stop to raise their young, pairing with the same mate and return to the same site each year for nest renovation before laying and incubating their eggs.

They like to live in houses and churches, squeezing through tiny gaps to nest inside roofs. But while old buildings are demolished, swift nest sites are fast disappearing. And along with the decline of insects, habitat loss, and climate change – extreme weather affects breeding and migration – it is thought almost 60% of UK swifts have disappeared in the last 25 years.

The species was also added to the red list in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report, the highest conservation priority, and swifts need help. Adding a swift box to an existing house or a swift brick in any kind of new build could give them a place to rest and raise a family. Ideally, swift boxes face north/northeast.

Dr Rob Stoneman, director of landscape recovery at Wildlife Trusts, said: “Swifts, swallows and martins are some of our most iconic breeding birds. Sadly, these birds are in decline. With a bit of diversity and structure, a garden can become a haven, providing nesting sites, shelter and food.”

You can also record any nests near you at swiftmapper.org.uk and if there is a new development in your area, make sure plans include a ratio of one integrated universal brick per dwelling. More work is needed to ensure this species and its delightful sound doesn’t disappear from our summer skies.

Peter Garratt

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A Peek in the Bookshop



September is another busy month in the publishing world and here's a quick run through of some new titles we expect to be popular with our customers.

Let's start with **Richard Osman's *We Solve Murders***. Moving away from the Thursday Murder Club gang, this new series introduces a father and daughter-in-law detective duo investigating a dead body, a bag of money and a involves a breakneck race around the world.

***Precipice* by Robert Harris** is a new thriller set just before the First World War where sexual intrigue at the top level of government becomes a matter of national security. Harris at his best, interweaving fact and fiction.

The ever popular **Matt Haig** does not disappoint with ***The Life Impossible***. A story of hope and the life-changing power of a new beginning, retired maths teacher Grace Winters sets off for Ibiza having been left a run-down house on the island by a long lost friend and searches for answers about her friend's life and how it ended.

Rick Stein is back with ***Food Stories***, a celebration of the best of British food and the way we eat now, and he will be joining us at The Savoy in Monmouth on **25 September** to chat about his book.

When three separate people recommend a book to you it becomes one of those books you have to add to the 'to read' list. ***Wild Service: Why Nature Needs You*** is that book. Although it was published earlier this year, we're delighted to be hosting an event on **4 September** in Ross with writer **Jon Moses**, folk singer and conservationist **Sam Lee**, Chair of Friends of the Wye **Nicola Cutcher** and **Chantal Lyons** author of ***Groundbreakers***. Join us for an evening of discussion and music.

For the children, **Adam Kay** makes his debut in fiction with ***Dexter Procter the 10-Year Old Doctor***. Aimed at the 8–12-year-old. This is full of big laughs that kids will thoroughly enjoy and learn something too.

If your children enjoyed the Treehouse series, they will love **Andy Griffiths's** new book ***Adventures Unlimited: The Land of Lost Things***. This is the first of a new series and aimed at the 7–11-year-olds.

Hope to see you in the shop soon.

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

GROSMONT MARKET IS BACK!!!

The pandemic did for it, but, due to popular demand, Grosmont's wonderful, quarterly market run by local young mums is back starting on Saturday September 7th. In the nave of St Nicholas's Church, this is a go-to, buzzy, colourful event. It has excellent stalls selling a variety of goods and foods plus a great café where you can enjoy a breakfast sausage or coffee and cakes and while away a very pleasant morning over newspapers, often with live music. Open from 10a.m.

For more info, or if you would like to book a stall for future markets, contact grosmontmarket@hotmail.com

Diary of the Revd William Poole, The: Perpetual curate of the parish of Hentland & Hoarwithy

Introduced and edited by Frances Phillips.

Towards the end of 2021 a Victorian diary, quarter-bound and with marbled boards, was donated to a charity shop in York. Among the handwritten entries, the words 'Hentland and Hoarwithy' were noted, enquiries made and the diary returned to the minister of the Herefordshire parish of that name. Covering the years 1857–62, the diary was identified as belonging to the Reverend William Poole – the wealthy curate responsible for transforming Hoarwithy's chapel of ease from 'an ugly brick building' into one of the county's loveliest and most surprising churches.

Beautifully written, the entries range from the small-scale dramas of Poole's domestic life and parish work, to revealing insights into political, social and world events. With the privacy afforded by the diary, he writes with candour and feeling, often berating himself or railing against others for perceived failings. But if the diary appears to confirm the reputation of Poole as difficult and irascible, it also betrays the humanity and sensitivity of a complex man.

Featuring a brief biography of Reverend Poole alongside the transcribed and edited entries, this book offers a fascinating contemporary view of nineteenth-century life as a rural curate.

Revd Dr Frances Phillips, MBChB DA, FdA (ministry) is retired associate minister of the St Weonards Benefice, which includes the parish of Hentland and Hoarwithy.

Some people may remember Frances talking about this diary which she received when working in our parishes. She spent many hours editing the diary, and this attractive bound book with beautiful illustrations by our own local artist Tracy Somerville is now available to buy from Logaston Press for £10 or from Frances herself. Editor

Chuckle Corner

Motivational Reflections

We've all seen some very highly motivated athletes competing in the Paris Olympics. Here are a few tips on motivation for the rest of us:

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, as I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me alone, for heaven's sake!
2. The darkest hour is just before dawn, so, if you are going to steal your neighbour's newspaper, that's the time to do it. (I am not suggesting you should, of course).
3. Always remember you are unique, just like everyone else.
4. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
5. Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticise them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
6. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.
7. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Peter Garratt

Dates for the diary:

August

26 Orcop Fete

September

2 Garway Crafters
3 Garway Village Hall Coffee Morning
4 Women What Farm Beauty Event
4 Jon Moses writer event at Rossiter Books
4 School start for St Weonards Academy and Shining Stars Pre-School
7 Grosmont Market
7 Garway Love Presents: Mansel Davies
7-15 h.Art
8 St Weonards All Age Communion and baptism of Nancy Thornley
9 Green Garway Book Group: Divide: The Relationship Crisis Between Town and Country by Anna Jones (non-fiction)
10 Flicks in the Sticks: The Old Oak
10 Prescription collection
12 Macmillan Coffee Morning, St Weonards Village Hall
15 St Mary's Ross choir at St Mary's Church Tretire
15 Open air communion, St Catherine's
17 Garway Heritage Group Talk on Plas Gunter House
19 Orcop Village Hall Coffee Morning
22 Garway Hill Methodist Chapel Harvest Festival
23 Garway Village Hall AGM
25 Rick Stein, Food Stories at The Savoy
27 Tretire Harvest Drinks and Prize Draw
28 Wise Woman Retreat with Sally Anne Saint
29 Pencoyd Harvest Festival

October

4 Orcop Harvest Festival & Supper
12 Orcop Village Hall Apple Pressing and Autumn Market with BBQ
14 Green Garway Book Group: Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov (fiction)
15 Garway Heritage Group: When Scientists came to Malvern: a history of Malvern Radar Establishment
17 Orcop Village Hall Coffee Morning
25 St Weonards harvest celebration and bring and share supper

November

11 Green Garway Book Group: Wasteland by Oliver-Franklin Wallis (non-fiction)
13 Red Lion pub quiz
17 Garway Village Christmas Fair
19 Garway Heritage Group: Apples and People
21 Orcop Village Hall Coffee Morning

December

9 Green Garway Book Group: Dark Matter - A Ghost Story by Michelle Paver (fiction)
17 Garway Heritage Group: Christmas Quiz

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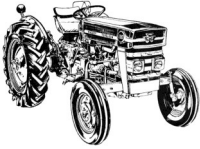
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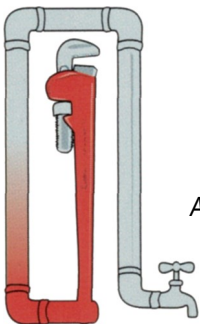
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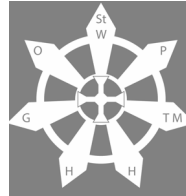
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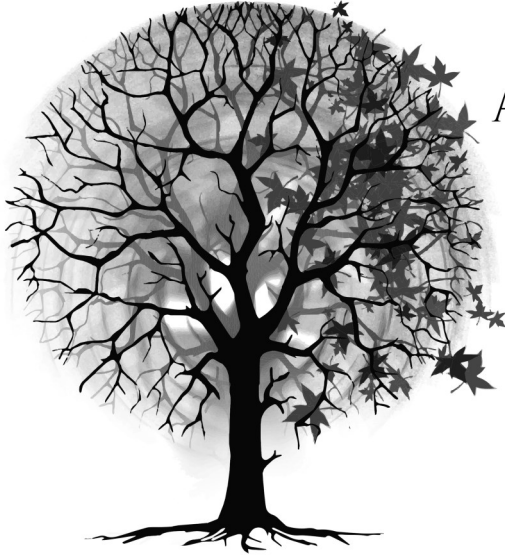
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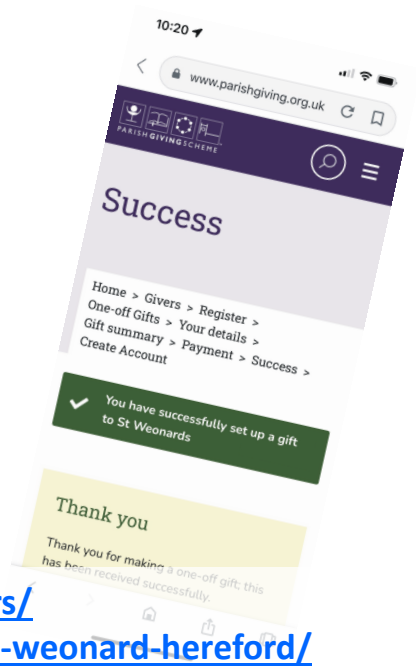
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WIDOW CLIQUOT (15) Sun 15 - Thur 19 Sept

FIREBRAND (15) Fri 27 Sept - Wed 2 Oct

OZI: The Voice of the Forest (pg) Sat 28 & Sun 29 Sept

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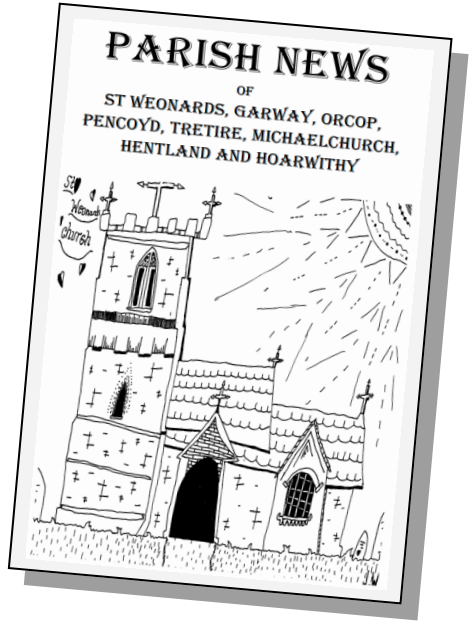
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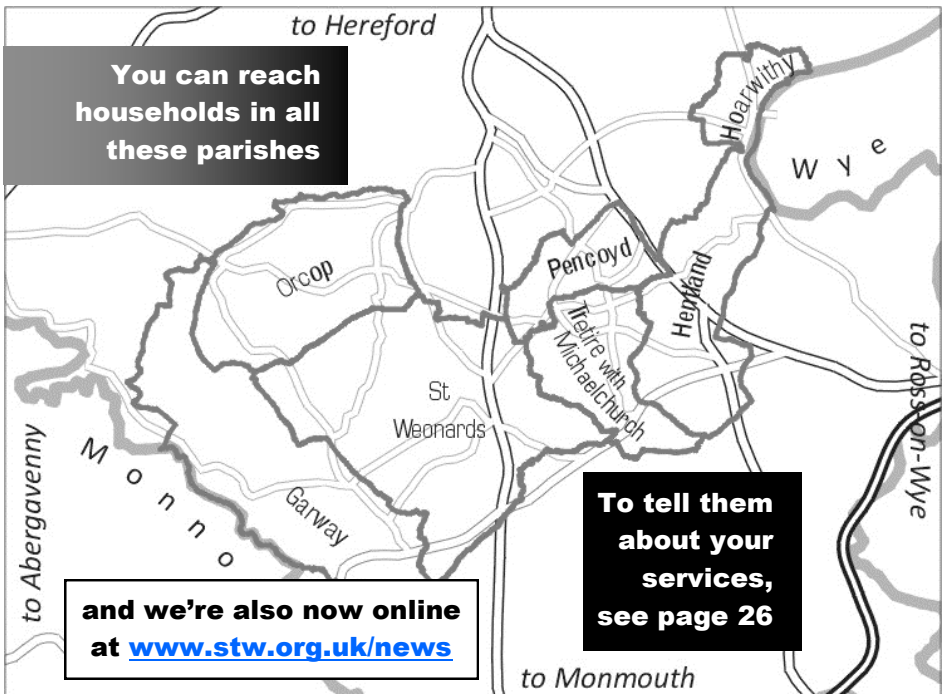
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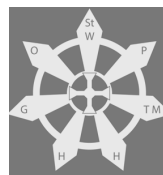
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