# PARISH NEWS

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

## DECEMBER 2024





Alas, the new electric sleigh is out of juice and in the hay Santa's keen to avoid pollution, so has come up with a hybrid solution: Rudolph, with his friend, a horse, will come and pull it out of course!



BY PETER GARRATT

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### **CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES**

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St. Weonards	Richard Mynors	
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
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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 Live	Graham Bevan	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Lockhart	01981 241310
Dore Community Transport		0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website		www.stw.org.uk
HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILL	ORS	
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#### **MAGAZINE CONTACTS**

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by 5th of the month:

Magazine Editor:Fiona Mynors01981 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**

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Website: www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk

clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk

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clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk

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clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk

& Hentland: clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk

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

Hereford......116 123 free calls

0330 094 5717 local call rates apply

jo@samaritans.org

#### **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. Otherwise call 101.

# PARISH NEWS

### THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

#### Vicar's Letter

What a strange time of year this is. Darker, colder, harder. And brimming with mystery and weird hope. Advent serves as a kind of long dawn, leading us towards the disarming light of a vulnerable, sweet, refugee baby who is God with us, kingdom come, Emmanuel. Little Jesus: glorious, outrageous disrupter.

In the sometimes troubling and overwhelming personal circumstances of our days and nights, in the pervasively unbalanced state of our world, the magic of this time of year invites us for a moment to suspend business as usual. We raise our heads from normal life and see something beyond the soulless powers and systems we all must operate within. God is here with us. Hope becomes a peaceful, resolute protest.

Enjoy the twinkly lights and sparkles in all their loveliness: they symbolise that stubborn, determined Christmas hope, shining out joy in the murky darkness, representing a love that knows no bounds, encompassing us all. The little baby Jesus from your nativity scene is offering every one of us a peace that runs deeper.

Peace be with you this Christmas time.

With love and prayers,

Rev Angie x

## SERVICE ROTA

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

Sunday 1st December	10.00am	Hentland Benefice Advent Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am 11.15am	St Weonards All Age Communion Orcop Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am 3.00pm	Hoarwithy Carol Service Hentland Carol Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	3.00pm 6.00pm	Garway Blue Christmas Service St Weonards Carol Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	3.00pm 10.00pm 11.00pm	St Weonards Crib Service for families with young children Hoarwithy Bethlehem Communion Service St Weonards Midnight Communion Service
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	9.15am 11.00am	Tretire Holy Communion Orcop Service of Celebration
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany	10.00am	Tretire Benefice 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 Church: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Mr Nigel Gibbon Sunday 22nd December 3pm Mr Adrian Williams CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Benefice Advent Communion at Hentland Church

10.00am

Come and celebrate the beginning of Advent

#### St. Weonards Benefice Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7-8pm We meet each month to pray for each other, our local communities, and the wider world.

Please contact Alex on 07890 160632 or Rev Angie 01981 345044

### A Blue Christmas Service at Garway Church Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 3.00pm

See details at Garway Church

#### PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



3rd December Liz Lloyd 01981 580002

31st December Tony Philips 07971 550859

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE 5TH DECEMBER

Please send in by 6 pm

#### Magazine grants and global communication!

As the year comes to a close, the Magazine Committee reviews the finances of the magazine. We have again made a profit, mainly thanks to our advertisers, and have funds to distribute to local charities. These are small grants such as for the Garway Youth Group or Archenfield Arts. Please apply to Peter Garratt giving details of what you would like to do with the grant.

Many thanks to the Magazine Committee, especially Peter Garratt our treasurer, for their time to support this community venture. We are sad to say farewell to Margaret Oubridge and Kathy Handby and thank them for their contributions. We would welcome some new members. The commitment is two meetings a year. Do get in touch if you can help us.

If you enjoy reading the magazine, please answer the call to replace some of our writers who are retiring. They have been so much valued by us all. Let the inner writer in you break out, please!!

Preparing the magazine to go to our typists takes a day to two. Please send in copy before 6.00pm or it may be omitted as I go a bit square eyed after a day on the computer!

One of our typists, Ruth Davis, is now living in the USA. When she told me she was leaving, I was dismayed. However, she reassured me that she would continue to support us. So this edition will have been to Boston, Mass. in the USA and back! Astonishing that our world is now so small!

**Fiona Mynors** Editor

# VILLAGE PAGES

## ST WEONARDS

Our harvest celebrations were busy, joyful occasions with a full church for the service. As always, we are indebted to Gillie and the flower ladies for decorating the church so beautifully to lift our spirits in this rather gloomy autumn weather!

Members of the Welsh Newton Young Farmers played an important part in the service. Younger members showed us farm produce from our local community as Gareth Watkins explained about how it was produced and where sold. It was surprising how the produce went to such varied places across the country. We also heard about the many activities in which the members are involved from cooking, public speaking quizzes and animal rearing skills. We are so grateful that the Young Farmers came to join us.

The parish regularly financially supports a vital local charity *Our Farming Minds*. We were so pleased that Sam and Emily Stables could come and give us more details about their important work. Sam spoke movingly of his own challenges with mental health, and how much he valued having someone with whom he could share his problems. This is particularly true for those working in isolation on farms. He urged everyone listening not to bottle up their problems, but to reach out and speak to someone. The charity offers a listening ear as well as counselling. A wonderful total of £645.58 was collected for the charity as the proceeds from the service and the supper.

Members of our regular congregation generously provided an astonishing choice of casseroles and puddings for the harvest supper. Many, many thanks to all who contributed to the supper with food, serving and clearing up.

As part of our harvest celebrations we collect non-perishable foods which go to the Hereford Food Bank. This year we were able to take five bags of goods which will help those who are struggling to feed their families. (Please see below for an additional request for Christmas goods)

Our All Age service for Remembrance Sunday gave us time to remember and reflect on those who have made sacrifices for us all, as well as people important to us who have died. The wonderful poppy display gave us a wonderful backdrop to this special day.

Looking forward to Christmas celebrations we have plenty going on in church. All are welcome.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Carol Service 6.00pm** followed by mulled wine and minced pies. Readings interspersed with carols remind us of the story of Jesus's birth. The choir will be singing. If anyone would like to join the choir to sing carols do get in touch. All are welcome. (Contact details at the beginning of the magazine)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Crib Service 3.00pm for families with young children.** A re-telling of the Christmas story for young children and some special refreshments make this an ideal preparation for the excitement of this special festival.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Midnight Communion 11.00pm. A wonderful service to celebrate Christ's birth.

# Exciting developments for St Weonards Church St Weonards Church Audio-Visual project – Phase 2 2024/25

We are indebted to our treasurer, Stephen Herbert, for the huge amount of time, trouble and expertise he has devoted to this project. This has included seeking out the best companies for the work, gaining grants and negotiating the complex church permission for changes to a Grade 1 listed building. Many thanks Stephen.

 The church's audio equipment dates from 1980s/90s and does not offer the capabilities we need for the future. For the last 12 years, All Age services have relied on personal home equipment, requiring set-up / removal on each occasion. The current analogue to digital audio conversion does not provide reliable sound or video output for streaming services.

#### What we have done so far:

Audio upgrade: loudspeakers, microphones, system control

#### What we want to do in the future:

- Visual solution: projection screen, projector, controls, laptop, plus foldback monitor for service leader in chancel.
- Streaming solution: camera, streaming box, microphones.

#### What will this achieve?

- Offer much clearer on-screen presentation of orders of service
- Screen video or film clips to illustrate sermons or reflections
- Live-stream in a more professional yet simple-to-operate way to those who currently join St Weonards services on Zoom
- Offer wedding couples the option of a recording of their service
- Show photos of loved ones before a funeral or memorial service
- Enhance educational visits by primary school children
- Provide the wider St Weonards community with an attractive place to hold an event requiring slides and/or music (something like Flicks in the Sticks in the summer months?)

We have raised £12,000 so far and for the final push we need £12,500. Can you help us?

For more information about this exciting development do look at the St Weonards Benefice Website or send donations to <a href="https://givealittle.co/c/4DmNupZ167xmqGzB7SqS8V">https://givealittle.co/c/4DmNupZ167xmqGzB7SqS8V</a>

Best wishes for Christmas to all.

#### Richard Mynors, churchwarden

#### **Christmas Food Bank Request**

Please consider bringing a Christmassy non-perishable item as soon as possible to St Weonards church for the Hereford Food Bank. The volunteers try to include such an item in each bag in the run up to Christmas.

#### **Fiona Mynors**

# Don't forget St Weonards Village Hall. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November Fay's Churchyard prize and hamper bingo



Doors open at 6.30pm.

Eyes down at 7.30. Refreshments and raffle.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 7.00pm St Weonards Village Hall



Christmas Floral Arranging Demonstration - local florists

£5

llanwarneladies@gmail.com

Isobelle Bevan

### **Coffee Morning Thursday 12th December**

St Weonards Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00am

Enjoy coffee and some homemade cake.

Meet old friends and make new ones. Just turn up

All welcome.



#### The Shepherds Play is back! St. Weonards Church Saturday December 21 at 3pm

Following its success in Orcop church in 2022 The Shepherds Play will be performed this year

With its origins in the Middle Ages in the Austrian village of Oberufer, the play is a take on the Nativity story that is both humorous and profound.

It is suitable for young and old alike.

#### Free entry

Donations to St Weonards Church and a charity to be specified

#### **Welsh Newton YFC**

On 22nd September Welsh Newton YFC competed at the HFYFC ploughing match which was held at Elvastone Farm, Harewood End. The day consisted of ploughing classes, flowers, needlework, cookery, photography, dancing and other fun competitions. The result was a win for the club. The event was followed by a very successful club barbeque which was open to parents and members.

On 26th September we held a new members evening at St Weonards Village Hall. This was a successful evening with 14 new faces attending, we hope they will return for further events.

We hold our meetings every other Thursday at St Weonards Village Hall. If you would like to join Welsh Newton YFC or find out more about what we do please contact our Chairman *Tom Garlick* tel 07580 318723



#### **Garway Church**

#### **Repairs to The Church Tower and Tower Roof**

As I write this, we are now pleased to say that the repairs to the church tower and roof are now complete, and the church is once again open.

Please be careful when walking up the church drive, as there has been a lot of heavy work traffic and the surface of the drive will need to be levelled. Otherwise, please come and enjoy your church.

# 22<sup>nd</sup> December 3.00pm A Blue Christmas Service at Garway Church

We have been thinking that this year it would be good to allow space around all the busy-ness and festivities at Christmas time, for a quiet time of reflection. This will be particularly important for people who find Christmas difficult to manage. It offers an alternative service of comfort and light, inviting people to find peace in the care of God's love. Even if you do enjoy all the preparations and anticipation of Christmas, sometimes we need to take a break and find a place to rest.

Everyone is welcome. You might like to bring a blanket for extra warmth and comfort, and to help warm us through, hot drinks will be served at the beginning of the service.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas.

Tracy Somerville, Churchwarden

**Garway Stitchers** 



Our dates for December are 27th November and 11th December 10.30 - 12.30. 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. Don't forget to look at the panel which is displayed just by the bar of the Community Hall. For more details, contact *Tracy* 01981 580263

#### **Christmas in Garway**



December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Coffee Morning, Garway Village Hall

Christmas crafts and fun

Friday 6th, 5pm Village Christmas, Garway Village Hall

Garway School Choir and Singing Tree

Christingle procession, mince pies and drinks. All welcome! - free entry

**Saturday 7th, 11am** Come to help decorate Garway Church, sing some carols.

Mince pies, mulled wine

Mon 16th from 9.30am Garway School Village Walk. Decorate your windows and houses to light

them up for the children to see! Join the children on the common at 10.30am

for carols and hot chocolate - bring a mug!

Friday 20th, 5pm Journey to the manger. Meet on the common for the procession to the village hall

to see the live nativity. Bring the children dressed to join the scene! - as shepherds,

wise men, angels or Mary and Joseph. Meet the donkey ... and Santa!

Refreshments. A chance to sing your hearts out and welcome Christmas in style!

Watch facebook for wet weather announcements



After last month's wonderful evening of Parisian Café Jazz with "Afternoon in Paris" we are changing the genre again. This month we have another returning band, the "Soul Strutters" who excited the audience last time with their keyboard led mix of soul, funk and blues. So put Saturday the 7th in your December entertainment plans. This is going to be our Christmas Party, as well as a great evening's musical entertainment, Chris will provide us with some wonderful festive eats. The profits will go to a local charity, and there will also be mince pies and mulled wine plus the usual full bar. Admission is still £12 or £6 if you are lucky enough to be under 18. Doors open at 7.30 with the band on stage at 8pm. Tickets in advance from <a href="https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/garwaylive">www.ticketsource.co.uk/garwaylive</a> We look forward to seeing you again for our last fling of the year. On behalf of all members of the Garway Live committee I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, when we will be back with more varied and wonderful entertainments. *Graham Bevan* 



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

Wasteland by Oliver Franklin-Wallis

This is a fascinating and in-depth investigation into the world of waste. It is one of those books that you need to keep notes on, there is so much information to take in. It's written very well, and we found it really interesting and eye-opening and have changed some of our behaviours as a result of what we have read.

The big takeaway is the obvious fact that the only real way to reduce waste is to stop buying so much stuff and even as consumers if we think we're doing the best thing, there are too many considerations for us to weigh up, most of which happen further up the production line.

The scariest chapter was on nuclear waste and the ticking time bomb that it is. Rating: 4/5

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.

Next Group: Monday 9 Dec - Dark Matter - A Ghost Story by Michelle Paver (fiction)



Some dates in your diary for special things going on at Garway Village Hall in the next few weeks

Sunday 1 & 15 Dec 6pm - Swing Dance Practice Hour

Friday 6 Dec 5pm - Village Christmas

Saturday 7 Dec 8pm - Garway Live Christmas Party: Soul Strutters

Tuesday 10 Dec 7.30pm - Flicks in the Sticks: The Holdovers

Tuesday 17 Dec 7.30pm - Garway Heritage Group Christmas Quiz Night

Thursday 19 Dec 7.30pm - Candlelit Yoga

Visit our website at <a href="www.garwayhall.org">www.garwayhall.org</a> to find out more and you can subscribe to our mailing list there too.



TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER
7.30pm
GARWAY HALL
£5.00
THE HOLDOVERS

It's the Christmas break in an elite New England Academy. Angus, an abrasive and difficult pupil has been promised a Christmas on St Kitts with his mother and her new boyfriend. At the last minute, he's told he's not wanted.

Paul, a monumentally cantankerous teacher with a tongue which revels in sarcasm, is given the job of looking after pupils like Angus who have nowhere to go for the holidays and Mary, the recently bereaved school cook, finds herself making up this left-out trio of deeply hurt individuals. With brilliant performances from Paul Giamatti as the acid-tongued prof and Da'Vine Joy Randolph as a mother sitting on a silent weight of grief, (she won an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA for this role), The HOLDOVERS is not just a film; it's an absolute masterpiece, a heartwarming experience that unfolds with tenderness, depth, and an abundance of emotions. And, as usual, our Christmas film comes with complimentary mulled wine and mince pies, - plus cakes, coffees, teas and wine before the film and during the convivial interval. We can't promise snow. except on the screen, but you will feel well and truly Christmassed up by the time you go home...

**FOR YOUR DIARY** – January 14<sup>th</sup> Wicked Little Letters. Who's writing poison pen, foul-mouthed missives in this genteel British seaside town? Olivia Colman and Jesse Buckley are a joy to watch in one of the highest rated films from this year's Borderlines Film Festival.

More details every month in the Parish Magazine and on facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

#### **GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP**

#### Tuesday 17th December Garway Village Hall, 7.30pm Christmas Quiz

Join us on Tuesday 17th December, at Garway Village Hall, for our annual Christmas Quiz presided over by everyone's favourite quizmaster, Mike Brewer. We don't know what type of questions they will be, but they are not exclusively about local history (and last year the Heritage Committee team certainly didn't win!).

Bring along a plate of nibbles to share and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine - it's bound to be a convivial evening. Donations are welcomed for our quizmaster's chosen charity: Air Ambulance.

**Dates for you diary:** 21st January 2025 - The Mormons of Garway: a little-known aspect of Garway's history presented by Lesley Whistance.

18th February 2025 - The Stolen Lands: a social history of the Gwent Levels presented by Marsha O'Mahoney.

18th March 2025 - The Huntley Film Archive presented by Robert Dewar

15th April 2025 - Family Diaries presented by Tim Bannerman www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

### **ORCOP**

The poetry and cello recital, "Last Blaze of Summer", on 26<sup>th</sup> October was much enjoyed by all present and we thank David Donaldson and Joris Boon (cello) for all the work they put in to ensure it would be a success, as well as those who provided the excellent food and drink afterwards. (To call the food "nibbles" would be a serious understatement!)

As I write this, it is dark and gloomy, as it has been for the past week or so. Better, perhaps than the torrential rain in October, and we are promised sunshine next week, then we can look forward to Christmas.

We have the usual second Sunday communion service on  $8^{th}$  December at 11.15am, Community Carols in the Parish Hall (with mulled wine and mince pies) on the  $14^{th}$  at 3.00pm and a short service (no communion) in the church at 11.00am on Christmas Morning.

From January 2025 we will have a revised service schedule, of which there will be details in the January magazine.

As the year draws to a close, it is a good time to thank all those who have worked hard to keep the church in fine fettle. The cleaners and flower arrangers have done a grand job and, as ever, we are grateful to Guy and Mary Thomas for providing parking.

Finally, of course, we must thank Angie for bringing to Orcop renewed inspiration, enthusiasm and a welcome dose of jollity.

WE WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A PEACEFUL AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

#### Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

**Flowers and cleaning rota:** Flowers and Cleaning rota: Rosie Wilson (Christmas decorations (all) by 8<sup>th</sup> December please).

#### **Special Uganda Trip**

We are going to Uganda at the end of January 2025 to volunteer at Fountain of Peace Children's Home. It is a home for abandoned babies and currently looks after 84 children who are aged between 2 months and 12 years. It is a very special place. www.fountainofpeace.net

I am collecting single bed sheets and towels (second-hand in good condition is great) so if anyone has any spare, I would be very grateful to take them.

Any pyjamas for 1–3-year-olds, toys, games, stationary, exercise books, maths sets and an abacus would be wonderful.

Thank you!

Neil, Sarah (Hope) and Evie Griffiths. Old Hall Farm, Orcop 01981 580371

#### **Owl Good Neighbours Community Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 4th December in Orcop Parish Hall.

The cost of the festive meal will be £15. It will include a two course traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings and a Christmas drink. We will be entertained by the Garway school Choir and there will be a raffle. The doors open at 12.30 and we plan to eat at 1pm.

All are welcome to come and join in the fun but if you plan to do so can you please let me know so that I get the catering right. Ring 01981 241310 or <a href="mailto:jane51lockhart@gmail.com">jane51lockhart@gmail.com</a>

There will not be a lunch in January and the community lunches will restart in February 2025 on Wednesday the 5th. *Jane Lockhart* 

# Orcop Village Hall Christmas Bazaar Saturday 30th of November from 2 pm.



Expect the usual festive stalls, to include crafts, home-made cakes and preserves and a raffle:

Mince pies, mulled wine, children's Christmas craft corner and games.

Hope to see you there.

Growers, makers, stall holders welcome –

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

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

Orcop Village Hall Management committee would like to thank the parish for their support at all of the Hall events this year and look forward to seeing you in 2025. We'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Peta and Gill* 

**Date for your diary**: Orcop Village Hall Valentine Quiz Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, details nearer the time.

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 3pm

#### **Garway Hill Methodist Chapel in Orcop**

Carol Service
Followed by seasonal refreshments
Everyone welcome!

# TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

On Sunday November 23rd, it was the turn of Pencoyd Church to host the Benefice Service. This usually takes the form of a communion service, but as it was All Souls' Day, people from throughout the Benefice were invited to a quiet reflective service in the afternoon, led by our vicar, Rev Angie Kately, to remember friends and relatives who have died. Angie took as her theme for the service, Fallen Leaves. As people arrived, they were invited to select a leaf out of a wonderful basket of leaves gathered from Linda Miles' arboretum. During her reflection, Angie invited us to think of ourselves, and of those people we had come to remember, as beautiful leaves- all different, - sometimes bearing the marks and scars of life- but with their beauty still remaining. "These leaves, "she reminded us, "have fulfilled their purpose, they have done their work"

We were then invited to take our leaf and lay it beside the Cross, the symbol of Life Eternal, before lighting a candle for those we had come to remember.

After all the candles had been lit, Angie spoke for us all with the words,

"God of light and love, as these candles shine in remembrance, we hold those we have loved before you today.". And then read out all the names to be remembered.

It was a very simple yet profound service with a period of quiet and peaceful silence, after the blessing.

Refreshments were served at the end of the service, and it felt good to share this special time with people from all over the benefice.

May I remind readers from Tretire and Pencoyd that we will need someone to take on the writing of a little news article for this magazine each month after I have left the parish. We will also need someone to distribute the 24 or so copies after publication each month. This entails collecting the completed magazines from St Weonards church on the designated day and delivering them in and around Tretire, and collecting the annual subscription from each household in January each year.

Sue Snell kindly delivers the copies to households in Pencoyd.

If you feel you could do either of these monthly. I would be delighted to hear from you. It would be so sad if our parishes missed out on reading about events in our villages, and indeed if they missed out on receiving a monthly copy of this informative and interesting little magazine.

So please give this some thought.

#### **Margaret Oubridge**

Editor: Many thanks to Margaret for her regular contributions. Please offer to take over for T and P.

#### **Parish Plea**

I knew it would happen. It was just a question of when. In the October issue of the Parish News you will have read that Margaret and John Oubridge have finally taken the right decision to seek to move to a sensibly sized house, on one floor in a village with shop, pub, hall and friends in walking/buggy distance.

As I pray that they should find the house they want as soon as possible, I regret to say, a little bit of me hopes it will not be too soon.

Their departure will be devastating to me, and to the parish. Their dedication is such that I can say that without them I am fairly sure one of our churches would be on the brink of closure. Without them there would be no music in either church. Without them Tretire and Pencoyd would be just another pair of little hollowed out buildings, demanding services and giving back nothing.

So here we are. On the brink of quite a big change. It is the readers of this magazine, the inhabitants of our parish who must decide.

In my opinion the Church of England is now an enormous corporate entity. Like every business it must now comply – with financial regulations, with health and safety, with insurance, building safety, safeguarding, and just to spice things up, they use long-lost Latin words to describe all this standard corporate management. Planning permission is called a Faculty. Building inspection is called a Quinquennial. We are part of a group of churches called a Benefice.

But it is also our community. We have no social halls, but we do have churches, ready-made centres. All they are waiting for are your ideas of how to use them. Repair cafes, singing groups, reading groups, celebrations of births, weddings and lives well lived, or even some celebrations of faith.

To keep this going they need friends. Cleaning the church is quicker, easier and quite fun for half an hour with a group of people, planning the next fundraiser is about imagining what our friends would enjoy, having fun in church is about participation. The way you read a passage, the songs you like to sing, the support you want and the prayers that matter to you.

If you have ideas to explore, a little of your time to spare in admin, mowing, hedge clipping, painting, cleaning, running a group or finding an expert to do these things then please let me know.

Without you, and a little tiny bit of commitment St Denys Pencoyd and St Mary's Tretire will crumble.

So please call me or email: 01989 730 201 elizabethAmalcolm@outlook.com

-0-0-0-

A small and committed group of people have helped over the years, please join me in thanking them and be aware many these will not be able to continue with us next year:

Sue Snell – for polishing and cleaning St Denys, Pencoyd.

Linda Miles – for making sure there are flowers in St Denys, Pencoyd; clean alter cloths; water for the hedgehogs; that the churchyard is mown; that the wall is repaired.

Kathy Handby – for keeping the accounts so we know exactly where we are financially. A huge advantage over many other churches

Mary Walton – for quizzes, suppers and always being there to read a passage, welcome visitors, and join the gleam-team chasing spiders in St Mary's Tretire.

Rosemary and Mark Evans – our past treasurer and Gift Aid administrator, central member of gleam team, and church yard management in Tretire.

Chris Snell – for flower rota and tennis tournament.

David Snow – chef and team support.

Sarah Vauqhan – for hosting carols, fantastic flowers and supporting the PCC.

James DLB – hedge management

Angie – our vicar for joining us, preparing services and giggling through it all.

Congregations – for turning up and taking part. Keep on coming, do some more and have a wonderful 2025.

Elizabeth Malcolm Churchwarden

### HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

#### Sunday 1st December at 10am at St Dubricius Church, Hentland.

#### **Benefice Advent Communion**

We look forward to welcoming everyone, and later in the month the carol service which takes place on Sunday 15th December at 3pm followed by sherry and mince pies.

#### Valerie Lilwall, Churchwarden

#### St. Catherine's Church Hoarwithy

30th November and 1st December



hArt Christmas Market and Pop-up Café

17th December 7.30pm

Ross Folk Choir

#### **Harvest Thanksgiving at Hentland**

The annual harvest service took place at St Dubricius on Sunday 27th October. Being half term, there were a few people missing, but there was still a good attendance of 34, including 2 children. A large turnout of Symondses, ranging from 18 months to 86 years attended.

This was the Revd Angie's third service in our church since she arrived in our benefice, and she has endeared herself to us as our leader and friend. Her sermon linked the two readings making them relevant to our lives today. The gospel was that well-known passage from The Sermon on the Mount ('Consider the lilies in the fields.') and the other was from the writing of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1171). It was good to see our friend the Revd Ben Bentham, who had kept life going in our church through the challenging times of our two-year vacancy. David our organist played two splendid voluntaries.

After the service, most of us repaired to James and Jil Jay's to whom we are indebted to for opening up their lovely house year after year, for the harvest lunch where we were joined by other friends from the parish. The ladies of the parish had prepared five-star Shepherd's Pie with pavlova to follow. The pavlova was so popular, but Mary Berry's apple cake proved an excellent alternative! *Robin Symonds* 

#### **Country Bus continued**

Last month we had details of the delightful 413 bus service. This month it's the turn of 812 bus, schooldays only- Broad Oak (dep 7 10) to Wormelow, connecting with 66 Monmouth Hereford bus (arr 8 15), thus being even more inconvenient, albeit quicker, than the 413 for a Hereford journey.

At this time of year this ghost bus runs during the hours of darkness, so is even more scary than the 413, as stopping the bus on the lanes relies on driver Jack seeing you in the bus headlights. Wear a high viz! Fares are £1.25 single on the 812 and a day ticket for the 66 is £3.40.

You might well conclude that the 812 service is so awkward as to be virtually unusable, but it does sometimes happen to be handy if you plan ahead a bit (on a school day). Members of this household use this bus to connect with the earlyish train service towards Ludlow and other points North.

Any use of a bus service into Hereford saves your road-rage temper, parking time and money as well as petrol costs, so the 33 and 66 buses are usable as a park and ride opportunity if you drive to Wormelow, Much Birch or St Weonards to catch them.

Good luck with hunting down a suitable service! And see you on some bus some time, while they still run.

#### **David Macrae**

Editor: Sadly we are unable to publish the timetables that David sent us as they would fill up too much of the magazine!

#### Wildlife in our Garden

Looking back over October, perhaps the most notable feature is the large amount of rain we've had. Can it be a record? Finally things have settled down and I've recorded no rain since 28<sup>th</sup>. The rain may partially account for the small numbers of insects we've seen. Exceptions have been one comma butterfly and one hornet on 11<sup>th</sup>. The hornet was well stuck into a fallen apple, devouring it furiously.

Since we put up seed and nut feeders again, about 20<sup>th</sup> October, birds have been trickling back in small numbers, the usual ones for this time of year, great and blue tits, greater spotted woodpecker, chaffinches and house sparrows. On the ground we have seen collar doves, a jay, the occasional dunnock and a tree-creeper.

The squirrels are back of course, finding plenty of nuts under the hazel tree. One of them is browner (or redder?) than the others. He or she is very plump and sleek. It has a brown head, a brown back, is brown from the wrists down to the hands and from the ankles down to the feet. Its tail is grey with a dark grey band near the end and a light grey tip. We had a similar one last year, I remember, and it may be the same one.



The biggest surprise we had was, on 16<sup>th</sup>, a large Fallow stag with a magnificent pair of antlers. He was very close to the house. Margaret spotted him out of a window, by the seed feeder, apparently trying to eat some seeds out of it. Then we both saw him as he wandered off behind some shrubbery towards the stream. Margaret tried to follow him at a distance and spotted him on the far side of the stream, wandering up the field, but we don't know whether he jumped over it, waded or used the bridge.

Looking back at my records, I see I have been writing these articles for just over four years. I suspect they are falling into a pattern and perhaps becoming rather repetitive, maybe even tedious. Therefore this one, which will appear in December's issue, will be my last. I have mixed feelings about retiring. By and large it

has been an enjoyable task for me, good to have a regular commitment, but sometimes a challenge when not much seems to be worth commenting on.

The most depressing thing, though, is the first-hand observation and awareness that nearly every species I know has declined in numbers, even in those four short years. Optimistically, I thought letting our one acre field rewild itself would boost some species here, but that has not happened as far as I can tell. I suppose the national trend is too powerful for such a small area to change anything. Nationally, there are many organisations heroically trying to reverse the decline. We give them what support we can with membership, subscriptions and by signing their petitions. I hope and pray they will eventually succeed.

One morning recently I awoke to a cloudy, windless morning. Normally I see out of our bedroom window some birds flying across or hear some birdsong, or some wind or rain falling, but there was only the silent grey. I was reminded of the song popular in the 60s, "Where have all the flowers gone? Long time passing". It has been a long time since then, but I could easily believe its prophetic words had finally come true. Well, they haven't quite yet, but now I can see that they're not actually impossible as most of us thought in the 60s. That morning I could easily see that they're not impossible at all. I realised just how lonely I would feel with no plants or animals anywhere in the world.

I hope some of you have found interest in the commentaries I have been submitting over the past four years. I have no idea what our editor might have in store for you, something similar or something very different, or who will write it. Whoever they are, I wish them, yourselves and all our wildlife, well in the future.

John Oubridge, 7th November 2024.

Editor: We shall miss this so much John and we hope someone might write for us on what they see outside their homes.

#### **Book Review**

#### Still Life by Sarah Winman



This is a delightful book. It is about people in all their variety, and their relationships over time and distance: gay, straight, old, young, intergenerational, loving and growing, waxing and waning. It is about loyalty. And tolerance. And music. And delicious food. And art. And community - from the feisty, chopsy East End of London, to the mellow warmth of a Tuscan village. It is about family in all its guises.

Central to the book is the quirky unit of Ulysses (whom we first meet as a young East End soldier billeted in Tuscany during the second world war), Cress (an older London man, given to philosophizing) and Alys, known as The Kid, (the daughter of Ulysses' ex-wife

Peg) – oh, and a talking parrot called Claude who sings show tunes. These unrelated individuals live together in a Tuscan village, in the property bequeathed to Ulysses by a wartime acquaintance whose life he saved. They love and support each other, functioning as a close-knit family, helping each other navigate the challenging uphills of first and last love, of loss and the passing of time.

In 1944, as a young soldier sheltering from the bombs in a Florence wine cellar, Ulysses has a chance encounter with Elizabeth Skinner, a sexagenarian art historian/spy, who was in Tuscany to rescue the priceless works of art. The spark that is ignited between them by her erudition and talk of truth and beauty transforms Ulysses' life and stays with him on his return to London to the pub where all his friends are to be found. Unbeknownst to the pair, they skate around each other in time and place as the years pass, but that spark does not die. Neither forgets the other.

"Beautiful art opens our eyes to the beauty of the world, Ulysses. It repositions our sight and judgement. Captures forever that which is fleeting."

This uplifting book radiates joy and warmth and a sense of hope. The Tuscan hills are evoked in all their glory, as the slightly batty, but profound, story rattles along, spanning the years 1901 to 1979 and following the lives of this motley crew of misfits.

"I've lived under the fickle movement of planetary adventure. I've encountered long dark nights when the sirens sound. But the moment stars align, and the shift of sweet wind greets you of a morning, this is when mystery becomes knowing and fortune becomes love—"

Definitely a good read – a very good one.

#### **Hilary Smallwood**

#### **Garden Notes**

Having no change for the car park in town, I parked at the skateboard park and walked the short distance to Monnow Street for my appointment at the opticians. Amongst all the fallen leaves on the pavement, I spotted several from a *Ginkgo biloba* tree (nothing wrong with my eyesight). I just had to stop and pocket a couple and try to spot the tree. I assume that it would have been planted as part of the tree collection in the parkland garden at Drybridge House (now Bridges) in Victorian times.



The Ginkgo is the sole survivor of an ancient group of trees that date back to the time of the dinosaurs. Fossils from 200 million years ago are almost identical to the leaves of today's trees and Ginkgo is often referred to as a living fossil. In evolutionary terms, the Ginkgo is the only living connection between ferns and conifers. Although it is now grown all over the world, in the wild it is on the verge of extinction due to deforestation and logging, and populations are confined to one mountain in Zhejiang, south-east China. It is regarded as a sacred tree in the East and often grown outside Buddhist temples, where there are specimens over 1000 years old. There is no other tree with a leaf that looks like this one. They evolved

from needle-like leaves into this distinctive fan shape with parallel veins. They often have two lobes, hence *biloba*, although younger leaves can be deeply lobed, and the leaves of mature trees may be unlobed. One of the reasons they can live so long is because they produce chemicals such as antioxidants, antimicrobials and plant hormones which protect them against drought and pathogens.

I find it quite extraordinary that we can grow and admire a species that has survived such an immense amount of time; a tree, whose leaves and fruit would have been munched by Diplodocus, who of course became extinct 145 million years ago in the late Jurassic period – quite mind-boggling! There are many reasons to grow it – it is beautiful, it is hardy, tolerant of pollution (in America it is grown as a street tree) and is impervious to attacks from insects and diseases. It will grow almost anywhere, although it prefers acidic, moist and sandy soil. Six specimens survived the bombing of Hiroshima and were the first trees to produce leaves again. The beautiful leaves turn vivid yellow in autumn. This morning I spotted one in a garden in Crossways at the bottom of Lint Hill which was looking quite stunning. Every leaf was an identical golden yellow which really brightened up a very gloomy day. The Ginkgo forms the scars where the leaves are attached all at the same time, which means that all the leaves drop at once – only one session of raking up!

It would be too big to grow in this garden as ultimately it could reach 40m. If you want to grow one, choose a male tree as the fruit produced by the female has a ghastly smell when it ripens and rots. There is one variety that I could possibly grow – *Ginkgo biloba* 'Mariken' grows to only 2m x 2m in 20 years and could even be grown in a pot. 'Saratoga' is a slow-growing variety that could also be grown in a pot. Alternatively, I could always persuade my husband to add to his bonsai collection and grow a really tiny one.

Failing that, I can always admire the Ginkgo trees that are growing nearby. There is one of the largest specimens in the UK at Kinnersley Castle, Herefordshire - they harvest the leaves for herbal pharmaceuticals. There is one at Whitfield, Wormbridge and there is an entire avenue in Bute Park, Cardiff.

#### Julie Davies

Editor: I must own up to the joy of having three Ginkgo trees in the gardens here at Treago planted by my husband's uncle who planted many wonderful exotic trees. They glow in the autumn gloom. Come and see them at our Open Garden in June.

#### Small ads:

Purchased earlier this year but no longer required. Generally for sale elsewhere at a minimum of £15 per bag. For Sale -  $10 \times 20 \text{ kg}$  bags of Taybrite Smokeless Ovoid Coal - £100 (Can deliver locally to Garway Hill area). Call -  $01981 \times 240730 \text{ Mark Russell}$ 

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#### A Peek in the Bookshop



This is going to be a full-on Christmas special with a quick run through of some of the rather lovely looking festive delights that we have available to buy in all our stores.

There is definitely a cosy crime, murder theme in the air with paperback titles like The *Christmas Jigsaw Murders, Murder in Advent, Murder by Candlelight, Murder Most Festive* and *Murder Under the Mistletoe*. Who knew yuletide was so dangerous.

We still have signed copies of the fabulous *The Beefy Boys* recipe book and very beautiful, sprayed edge and signed editions of **Chloe Dalton's** wonderful book called *Raising Hare* which tells her story of how a hare came to live with her during the pandemic and continued to visit her daily.

For fans of the TV show Taskmaster, *An Absolute Casserole* would make a perfect gift, full of interesting facts and amusing anecdotes about each of the series.

**Bob the Robin:** A Love Letter to Britain's Favourite Bird by Tony Putman is a perfect stocking filler, as is the new dark and comic story from Alan Bennett called *Killing Time*, set in a home for the elderly.

But Christmas is about the children moving onto what's on offer to our younger readers. A rival to the classic *The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg, *Letters from the North Pole* by Annie Atkins and Fia Tobing is a cleverly crafted and interactive book with pull out letters and blueprints that Santa Claus has written to children showing his design plans for gifts.

Celebrating 80 years of **Astrid Lindgren's Pippi Longstocking, Meet the Strongest Girl in the World** is an empowering book packed with extracts and activities to help your child achieve their best life.

If you've not spotted them before, at £8.99 our range of Wordsworth Collector's Editions make perfect gifts for the children in your life with classics like *The Jungle Book, Peter Pan, Treasure Island and Anne of Green Gables.* 

Hope to see you in the shop soon. Julie, Bookseller at Rossiter Books www.rossiterbooks.co.uk



Peter Garratt generously supplies us with jokes for our amusement. This month we start with an unlikely story, and this is followed with some engineering jokes. We feel that we can publish these without offence to engineers as Peter is one himself. More to follow next month. Don't miss them! Editor

#### A TALE OF FIVE AMERICAN LADIES

Sitting on the side of a highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a police officer sees a car puttering along at 22 mph. So, he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he finds five elderly ladies, two in the front seats and three in the back, all wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was keeping exactly to the speed limit, as I always do. What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am", the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving so slowly is a danger to other road users".

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly, 22mph", replied the driver, rather proudly.

The police officer, trying to stifle a chuckle, explained that 22 is the highway number, not the speed limit. A little embarrassed, the driver grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before you go, Ma'am, is everyone in this car, OK?" the officer asks, "These ladies seem awfully shaken and they haven't made a peep since you stopped".

"Oh, they'll be alright in a minute officer. We have just come off Highway 189".

Engineers are not noted for their sparkling sense of humour. By way of illustration, here is an engineer joke. There are many more, but these are excluded because they are either too coarse or too corny for this esteemed publication. You will probably find that one is quite enough anyway but more next month!

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple, but with extremely limited memory: Just 1 byte. Then everything crashed.

# Hereford Cathedral Events December

Many more on their website

#### Hereford Choral Society - Handel Messiah by Candlelight Saturday 7 December - 7.30 pm

To book your ticket, please visit the Hereford Choral Society website: https://herefordchoralsociety.org/DecemberConcert.php

#### ABF The Soldier's Charity Christmas Concert Wednesday 11 December - 7 pm

Tickets are available from The Courtyard Box Office via courtyard.org.uk or 01432 340555.

#### Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair Saturday 14 December, 9.30 am - 4 pm

#### Bereavement Café Wednesday 18 December, 2.30 pm - 4 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal and friendly gathering for those who have been bereaved, recently or long ago. Run by volunteers, this is a welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

#### Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday 22 December & Monday 23 December - 7 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for our festival of Lessons & Carols. Admission by ticket only: apply for your free tickets- collect an application form from the Cathedral Office or download from the cathedral website.

#### Dates for the diary:

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 27 Garway Stitchers
- 29 Fay's Churchyard prize and hamper bingo, St Weonards Village Hall
- 30 Orcop Village Hall Christmas Bazaar; Hoarwithy hArt Christmas Market and Pop-up Cafe

#### **DECEMBER**

- Hoarwithy hArt Christmas Market and Pop-up Café; Garway Swing Dance Practice Hour; Hentland Benefice Advent Communion
- 2 Christmas Floral Arranging Demonstration, St Weonards Village Hall
- 3 Prescription Collection; Garway Coffee Morning
- 4 Owl Good Neighbours Community Christmas Lunch
- 5 Magazine copy deadline
- 6 Garway Village Christmas
- 7 Hereford Choral Society Handel Messiah by Candlelight; Garway Church decorating; Garway LIVE! Christmas Party: Soul Strutters
- 8 St Weonards All Age Communion; Orcop Communion; Garway Hill Methodist Church service
- 9 St Weonards Benefice Monthly Prayer Meeting; Green Garway Book Group
- 10 Flicks in the Sticks: The Holdovers
- 11 Hereford Cathedral Events: ABF The Soldier's Charity Christmas Concert; Garway Stitchers
- 12 Coffee morning, St Weonards Village Hall
- 14 Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair; Orcop Community Carols
- 15 Garway Swing Dance Practice Hour; Hoarwithy Carol Service; Hentland Carol Service
- 16 Garway School Village Walk
- 17 Garway Heritage Group Christmas Quiz Night; Ross Folk Choir, St Catherine's Church Hoarwithy
- 18 Hereford Cathedral Bereavement Café
- 19 Garway Candlelit Yoga
- 20 Garway Journey to the manger
- 21 The Shepherds Play, St Weonards Church
- Hereford Cathedral Festival of Lessons and Carols; Garway Blue Christmas Service; St Weonards Carol Service; Garway Hill Methodist Church Carol Service
- 23 Hereford Cathedral Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 24 St Weonards Crib Service for families with young children; Hoarwithy Bethlehem Communion Service; St Weonards Midnight Communion Service
- 25 Tretire Holy Communion; Orcop Service of Celebration
- 31 Prescription Collection

#### JANUARY 2025

- 5 Tretire Benefice Communion
- 14 Flicks in the Sticks: Wicked Little Letters
- 21 Garway Heritage Group: The Mormons of Garway

#### FEBRUARY 2025

- 5 Owl Good Neighbours community lunch
- 15 Orcop Village Hall Valentine Quiz
- 18 Garway Heritage Group: The Stolen Lands

#### **MARCH 2025**

18 Garway Heritage Group: The Huntley Film Archive

#### **APRIL 2025**

15 Garway Heritage Group: Family Diaries

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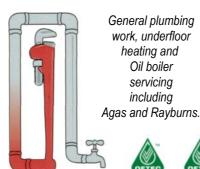


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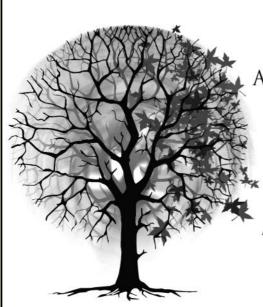
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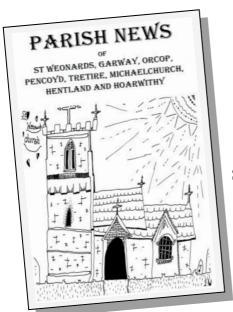
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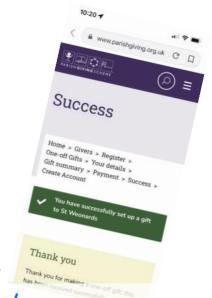
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