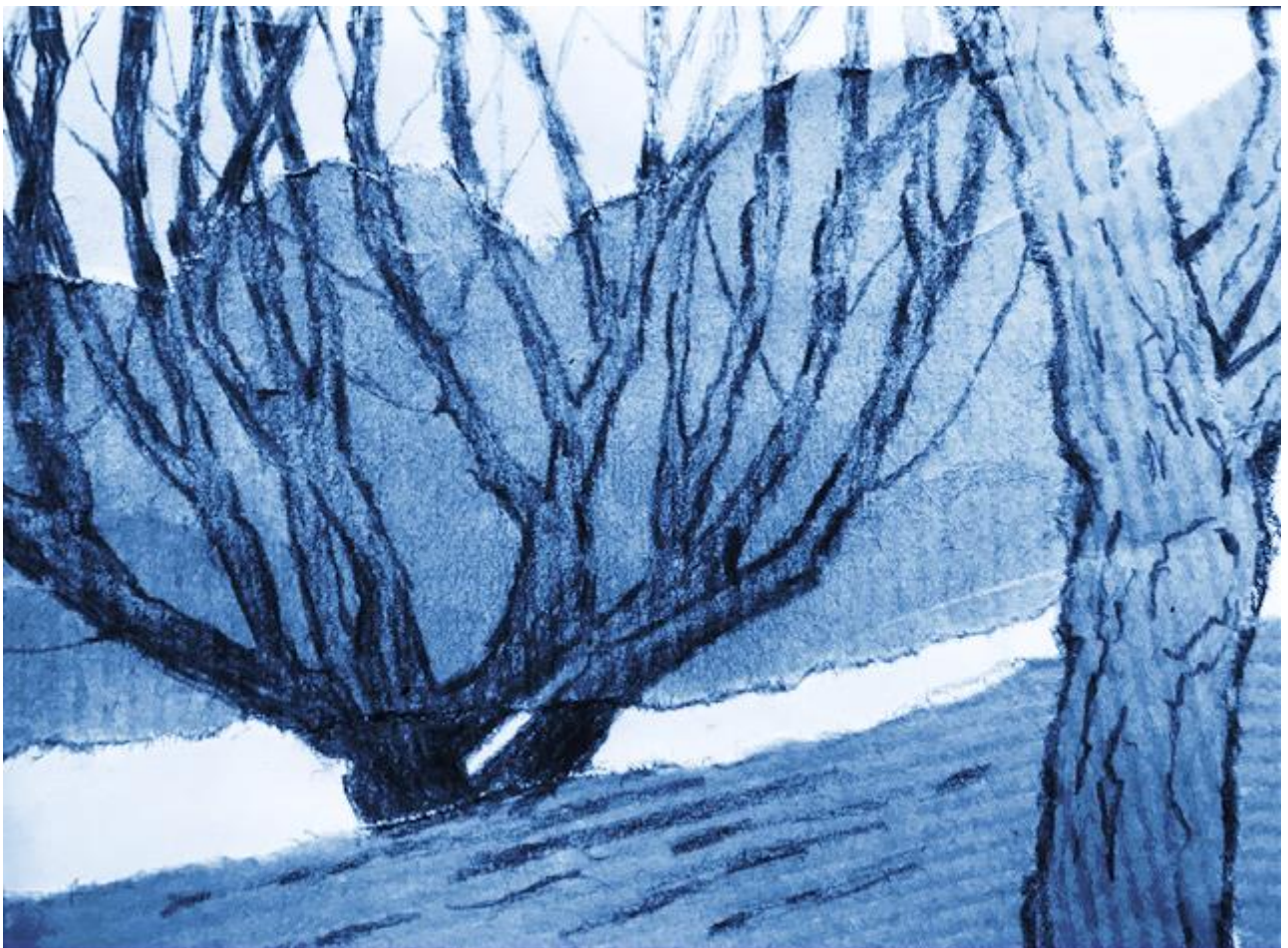


PARISH NEWS

OF

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

JANUARY 2025



Dogwood in Winter by Pat Macrae

CONTENTS

Page	
3	Contacts in the Parishes. Local contacts and Herefordshire Councillors
4	Magazine Contacts and Parish Council Contacts – Samaritan contacts
5	Letter from the Vicar
6	Service rota/ Notice for the Benefice Communion service
7	Prescription rota/ Magazine news and grants/ Village pages – St Weonards
8	St Weonards News/ Public footpath Treago
9	Coffee mornings, St Weonards/ The Shepherds' Play/ Short Mat Bowls
10	Dogless after 63 years/ Garway News – Church news
11	Garway Church news/ A Thank-you/ Garway Stitchers/ Coffee morning
12	Flicks in the Sticks/ Garway Hill Methodist Chapel News
13	Chapel news continued/ Garway Green Book Club
14	Garway Heritage Group/ Orcop News
15	Orcop Coffee morning/ Uganda Appeal/ Orcop Village Hall notice/ Craft workshops
16	Flooding in Orcop – a Gentle Reminder/ OWL lunches/ Garway Hill Chapel Carols
17	Tretire and Pencoyd News/ Wanted for Tretire and Pencoyd
18	Hentland and Hoarwithy News/ Book Review
19	Book review continued/ Garden Notes
20	Garden Notes/ Bookshop Quiz
21	Dementia Matters Memory Cafes/ Chuckle Corner
22	Chuckle Corner/ Hereford Cathedral Events/ Saint of the Month
23	Saint of the Month/ Diary Dates.

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 Hallowell 01981 580203
Youth Group, Tear Fund Fay Rowlands 01600 750242
Orcop Hall Bookings Julia Garlick enquiries@orcopparishhall.org 01981 580515
St Weonards Hall Booking Anna Williams 07779 006994
St Weonards Pre-school Anna Williams 01981 580352
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Garway Hall Bookings [hires@garwayhall.org](mailto: 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 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..... Windy Ridge, Garway	01600 750454
Hentland/Hoarwithy:	Mr and Mrs Pember..... One Eleven, Hoarwithy	01432 840254
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:	clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk Website: www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	
Orcop:	Neil Barrington..... clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk	07380 132702
St Weonards:	Neil Barrington..... clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk	07380 132702
Llanwarne:	Neil Barrington..... clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	07380 132702
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

I have a huge problem with diaries. I just love them. I get so excited by the potential of a new diary. But every year, and it's getting worse, I become terribly indecisive. I need an A5 page-a-day diary because I'm so busy doing busy things. On the other hand, what I really need is a smaller week-to-view diary that can fit neatly into my bag and take everywhere with me. Now I'm a vicar there's the added complication of whether or not I should get a big vicar diary full of important churchy information which I will probably never look at. The biggest revolution in this whole date recording saga has been the introduction of diary apps on my phone. I've been using one for a few years, I love it, it's so easy and pretty and colourful, but it's not like having a lovely book you can write in. So, as I start this new year, I have two diary apps and three diary books, and I need to make a decision!

Our global markets and capitalist systems mean that consumer choice is revered. The plethora of diary choices for indecisive vicars is the least of it. Decision anxiety is a huge 21st century problem, along with drastically reduced levels of satisfaction and contentment. I'm a firm believer in choice, but too much of it isn't necessarily a good thing. Pottering around the town window-shopping has morphed into hours lost down the rabbit hole of online browsing. And if you do venture out to the high street and fancy meeting up with a friend for a coffee, you find yourself having to make fifty decisions just to get your hot drink.

Our lives are complicated. I'm rubbish with new year resolutions, but I do want to try simplifying things a bit this year, to hone a more contented, grateful heart. It's going to require some discipline, not my strongest quality, but I think it could be worthwhile to work out what are my simple pleasures, like an afternoon spent with a comfy chair, a cup of tea, a lovely view and a good book. Time with friends, time to ponder and to dream, time in God's company. I wonder what your hopes are for the coming year. Whatever comes, my love and prayers are with you for good health and every good blessing. May the spirit of peace bring peace to your heart.

Rev Angie x

SERVICE ROTA FOR JANUARY

Sunday 5 th January Epiphany	10.00am	Tretire Benefice Communion
Sunday 12 th January	9.30am 11.15am	St Weonards All Age Communion Garway
Sunday 19 th January	10.00am 18.00pm	Hoarwithy Holy Communion Pencoyd Evening Service
Sunday 26 th January	9.15am 9.30am 11.15am	Hentland Holy Communion St Weonards All Age Worship Orcop Holy Communion
Sunday 2 nd February	10.00am	Hoarwithy Benefice Communion

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

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funeral services, please contact the Vicar:

Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 1981 345044 Rest *Day Tuesday*

Garway Hill Methodist Church:

January 12th 3.00pm

January 26th 3.00pm

Sunday 5th January

Benefice Communion at Tretire Church

10.00am

Come and celebrate the Epiphany

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



28th January Lawrence 01981 580548

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE January 10th

Please send in by

6.00pm

Magazine grants

Don't forget about the magazine grants. Please apply to Peter Garratt asap giving details of what you would like to do with the grant.

Fiona Mynors Editor

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

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

Sunday 22nd 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. We are so pleased that some new members have joined us to swell our ranks!

Tuesday 24th December Crib Service 3.30 for 4.00pm 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 24th December Midnight Communion 11.00pm. A wonderful service to celebrate Christ's birth.

We are so grateful to all those involved in organising and attending Faye's bingo event in aid of the upkeep of the churchyard. This year it raised an amazing £1450.94! This money is kept in a restricted fund, only to be used for the churchyard. This is evident in the parish accounts which are maintained by our treasurer, Stephen Herbert.

As a parish we benefit from Stephen's expertise as a professional accountant. He worked for international companies before moving to St Weonards. As the finance director for the Hereford Diocese, he has significant experience of working with charities large and small. As required by the Charity Commission, our accounts are audited annually by an independent professional accountant. They are always available for anyone to scrutinise on the benefice website www.stw.org.uk. We are most grateful for the time and effort that Stephen commits to being our treasurer to ensure that we are complying with all the appropriate requirements of a well-run charity.

As the New Year begins, it seems the right time to thank the army of volunteers who generously give of their time to help to keep our church life working well. The arrival of Angie, with her warmth and energy, has brought new life to our group of parishes. Thank you Angie.

Thanks to my co-churchwarden Anna Williams who shares the formal responsibility for our church, and to members of the Parochial Church Council for their support. As an extra in Anna's busy life, she and her family are chief suppliers of wonderful cakes! She is always supported by Christine and many others who help with refreshments.

The bell ringers, led by Peter Hallewell, joyfully welcome us to services! New members are always welcome. I am grateful to the choir for their voices and their commitment to enhancing our worship. Thanks also to Alex Herbert and my wife Fiona for preparing and leading the lay led All Age services and Stephen who manages our IT. Many people also help with prayers and readings. We must never forget Gillie Hallewell and her wonderful team of flower ladies who provide us with year-round decorations.

We are grateful to all who support the church financially through collections and regular giving so that we can pay our share for ministry in our parish. I do hope that I have not left anyone out. Thanks to all. Have an excellent Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden

Public Footpath through Treago Farm

I have written before about the public footpath through Treago Farm. It is open for all to use. Although the field has been cultivated, Ron and Paul Evans know that people will follow the route of the path, walking along the edge and from the corner across to the gate into the wood. We are keen for people to access Lady Wood, which was planted up with new trees a couple of years ago, to discourage deer from munching too many young saplings!

However, please keep your dogs on the lead through the farmyard and the field until you arrive in the wood. Happy walking!

Fiona Mynors

Coffee Morning

Thursday 9th January

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

Short Mat Bowls

Our short mat bowls club started in June this year thanks to the great support of the Herefordshire Short Mat Bowls Association who have loaned us sufficient equipment to play on two mats each week. We feel that it has been a very successful and enjoyable enterprise. We usually have a regular cohort of between 12 and 16 members each Wednesday evening, sufficient to allow four teams to play at one time. Club members are particularly grateful to Andy and Sue Powell for their enthusiasm and organisation in making the club such a success.

New members of all ages are always welcome; do not be concerned that you don't know what to do, most of us are complete novices to the sport. So, if you feel like a bit of exercise, social interaction and gentle competition, not to mention sampling Sue's cakes and coffee on a dark, winter Wednesday do come. We meet each week in St Weonards village hall. You never know, you might enjoy it!

David White

Dogless after sixty-three years!



In early September we decided that our lovely fifteen-year-old black labrador Gypsy had come to the end of her fruitful life, and we took the difficult decision to take her to the vet for the final time. Having been a labrador owner since my teenage years, I am not new to this difficult journey, but it was to be the last. We had decided that at our age having another dog was not a sensible option.

As an animal loving child living in a dilapidated vicarage in post war London, I always wanted a dog. Quite reasonably my parents refused, saying that it was not fair on the dog! Instead I talked to any dog, cat or large shire horse I met. For my confirmation I was given a budge. OK but not that much fun!

At thirteen, I was shocked to be told we were moving, and I had to leave my school. BUT I was to get a dog. Wow! Our next home, which went with dad's job, had a huge garden and was in the country. What sort of dog did I want? A German Shepherd of course. I had seen photos of my South African doctor grandfather with his two large dogs on the running boards of his car. I liked big dogs! Dad blanched. He was definitely not a doggy person. Tactfully my mother made that inevitable grown-up response, 'Well we'll have to see', but she assured me it would be my dog.

Luckily for my father, one of his churchwardens had a country home and a litter of yellow labradors. Would I like to choose one? It was fantastic! I chose my first little yellow month-old labrador bitch and called her Thadie after my grandmother's dog. I have had four Thadies since then. When she came home, she and I were inseparable. Even dad found her lovely, except when she occasionally took one of his ecclesiastical scarves and wafted it around the house!

Love me love my dog. Richard soon realised that was how it had to be, and much of our courting was done on long walks around the Surrey hills. Of course Thadie wore a collar of the bridesmaids' dress material when we married!

We changed to black labradors when all the girls wore navy uniforms, and the black hair never seemed so obvious as the yellow!

What now? Luckily, we have a 'daily boarder dog' Pickle, an affectionate cocker spaniel from Treago, who comes to us when everyone is at work or school. However after 63 years of dog ownership the rhythm of life does feel so different. No longer the imperative to be up and out at 8.00am, feeding time at 5.00pm, and the compulsory long walk during the day. When out, I still have to stop myself from thinking about a waggy welcome upon my return. I shan't miss the dog hairs on the carpet or the occasional *heap* of something nasty on the floor! But we do miss our lovely Gypsy. Dog owners will understand.

Fiona Mynors

GARWAY

Garway Church

We on the PCC are excited to tell you that Garway Church will now have a regular service. It will be a non-communion service led by our wonderful vicar, Rev Angie Kateley.

As from March, this will take place every 2nd Sunday at 11.15am, when we hope that the weather will be more spring like.

Until then, for January and February we will gather together in the warm and welcoming Garway Moon for a relaxed, informal time to chat with Angie and an opportunity to discuss what you would like future services to look like.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION

The residents of Garway would like to express their sincere thanks to all the volunteers, who throughout the year collect and deliver the prescription medication in 'The Garway Box' from Ewyas Harold Surgery. It is much appreciated.

Ruth Maskell

Garway Stitchers



Our dates for January are 8th and 22nd. We are changing the way we meet. This is because we have become a smaller group and no longer need the space afforded to us by the hall. We feel this could be used better by another group.

Our embroidery group will still meet once a fortnight, but our plan is to meet in each other's houses. The panels are still progressing, and we hope to have another one framed and hung in the hall very soon. If anyone would like to join our group, you would be very welcome, and we would love to have you. Please contact **Tracy Somerville** 01981 580263 if you would like to know more about the project.

Garway Coffee Morning

Beat the post-Christmas blues and come and join us in

Garway Village Hall

On Tuesday 7th January

at 10.30am

for teas, coffee, cake and good company – all welcome!



Some dates for your diary of special events happening at Garway Village Hall in January

Tuesday 7 Jan 10am	-	Garway SPICE Girls Coffee Morning
Saturday 11 Jan 2pm	-	Storytelling with Austin Keenan
Sunday 12 Jan 6pm	-	Swing Dance Practice Hour
Tuesday 14 Jan 10am	-	Talk Hub Wellbeing Health Advice
Tuesday 14 Jan 7.30pm	-	Flicks in the Sticks: Wicked Little Letters
Tuesday 21 Jan 7.30pm	-	Garway Heritage Group Talk: The Mormons in Garway

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



TUESDAY JANUARY 14TH
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
WICKED LITTLE LETTERS ®

The R rating for WICKED LITTLE LETTERS, (R in this instance could well mean rude), is due to some hilariously inventive profanities in the poison pen letters which rocked a small British seaside town in the 1920s.

Based on an actual event, Olivia Colman plays the buttoned-down middle-aged spinster, Edith, who falls out with her completely un-repressed, say-what-you-mean Irish neighbour, Rose, played by Jessie Buckley. When Edith and others in the town start to receive vicious missives in the post, the suspicion naturally falls on foul-mouthed Rose. The case becomes a national scandal and a trial ensues.

Timothy Spall plays the perfectly loathsome father who shuts his daughter Edith off from any form of independence and Anjana Vasan almost steals the film with her portrayal of the WPC who realises things in this genteel town may not be as they initially seem.

Comedy aside, the film also probes deeper into the misogyny of days following the Great War when the women who had kept Britain running for four years were expected to take up their restricted roles as good little wives and mothers again.

We'll be making some wicked little cakes, as you might expect, to accompany excellent wines, local apple juice, a range of teas and freshly brewed coffee, all on offer before the film and during the convivial interval. More details on facebook.com/GarwayFlicks

Corinne Westacott

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel

January has come around again, and I can't believe another year has gone by. My Mum used to say that the years go by faster as you grow older, and I'm now inclined to agree with her! Every year for our little chapel, I am also a little astounded that we are still open for worship and surviving, as with each passing year it gets a little harder.

2025 holds two major hurdles for us. The Methodist constitution now dictates that a chapel/church must have a minimum membership of 12. Fewer than this and we cannot continue to worship. As you can imagine our location does not lend itself to a huge footfall of people and our membership has sadly dwindled over the years to this worrisome figure. Additionally, as in many other institutions, finances are also a worry. Our assessments (payments to the Methodist Circuit) which are continually increasing now amount to £3400 a year. Not a huge amount compared to some of the churches in our area, but on top of the usual bills this is becoming insurmountable for just a handful of people. It would be such a shame to have to close the chapel, but it is not uncommon as at least one chapel is closing every month.

Twenty years ago there were, I believe, ten or eleven chapels in our circuit (chapels that the local minister is appointed to) and now we have two, Garway Hill and Madely. Our minister lives in Leominster and travels a huge number of miles to take our services and to visit anyone in our congregation who is in need of his services – quite a commitment. Realistically, I don't see a way forward at the moment, but God works in mysterious ways!

On a positive note, we have had a good year, and the chapel is looking spick and span! Some maintenance work has been done with necessary repairs to the chapel windows and some required electrical work inside. We have also had our Quinquennial - what a lovely word! (It's ecclesiastic terminology for a five year, mandatory, building inspection in case you are wondering!) The outcome of that was very positive – thank goodness.

We have had some lovely services, led by a variety of ministers, retired ministers, vicars, and lay preachers. As usual, in our farming community, the Harvest Festival was an important date on our calendar. It is so good to give thanks for all we have in our beautiful part of the country. As I write this, we are looking forward to our Carol Service the Sunday before Christmas – also a joyful occasion.

We are a friendly bunch and at our celebratory services there is always tea and coffee and plenty to eat! Of course, everyone is welcome to attend any service, whatever denomination, faith or no faith. Everybody is welcome. Our service times are 3pm every other Sunday (first service is January 12th) and can be found in the Parish News centre pages and on the chapel notice board. The chapel is kept locked during the week, but we would love people to visit. If anyone would like to have a look around give me a call on the number below. I will give you the key safe number or, if I am able, I will come and open up. The chapel yard is looking lovely and well cared for and is an interesting and peaceful place to visit. There is a bench just inside the gate to while away a moment or two and enjoy the beautiful view. If you are passing by, please feel free to use it.

Again, many thanks to a number of people who continue to support us. Many thanks to David Sayce and his family who have cut the grass throughout the year and trimmed the hedges. Not only has it kept the chapel looking tidy and loved, but it has also alleviated some of our financial strain. Thanks go to Peter Garratt who willingly year after year checks the finished chapel accounts – we are so grateful for your support, Peter. Also, to all of you that are unable to attend the chapel services but support us with donations – we are very thankful. And a word for Susan Rice who has for many weeks diligently searched through her deceased mother's, Doreen Ruck, historical notes, and found a hand drawn sketch of a plan of the graveyard. This was last seen about 25 years ago! Methodists have not been the best at keeping records in the past and as many of the graves don't have headstones, we were delighted with this find! Finally, thanks to everyone who have joined us in worship this past year - our visitors from the church, 'casual passerby's' and our friends from the Methodist and Baptist chapels in the Monmouth Circuit.

All the best for 2025 from me and the members of Garway Hill Methodist Chapel.

Ruth Maskell 07908 122478

Green Garway Book Club

***Dark Matter* - Michelle Paver**

This is a great choice for a winter's book club read. Right from the start there is a great sense of foreboding in this good old-fashioned ghost story, a bit like *Tales of the Unexpected* back in the day.

It's written as a journal set in the Arctic region in the 1930's and has all the clichés of a group of entitled young men going off on a jolly adventure but failing to heed the warnings of the locals. It's very much 'there's something in the woodshed'! It has undertones of schoolboy crushes and class differences, set against epic descriptions of the bleak Norwegian bay as the dark and its associated menacing forces and madness close in. It's definitely a magical and mystical worthwhile read.

Rating: 3.5/5

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.

Date for the diary:

13 January 2025: *Not The End of the World* by Hannah Ritchie - 'surprising facts, dangerous myths and hopeful solutions for our future on planet earth

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

**Tuesday 21st January
Garway Village Hall, 7.30pm**

The Mormons of Garway

Wilford Woodruff, an American missionary, brought the Mormon faith to Herefordshire. In 1841, he came to Little Garway Farm having walked from Monmouth in December snow. He received a warm welcome from the Morgan family. In his diary he particularly remembers the fireplace where he warmed himself and was given a good meal and a book to read. This was the first of many nights he stayed at Little Garway. Now Little Garway is on the Mormon trail and an annual pilgrimage by the descendants of the early converts is made here to see the fireplace. A bus load came on May 27th this year.

Lesley Whistance, of Little Garway Farm, and Sue Rice will present this little-known aspect of Garway history.

Everyone welcome: entry is free for GHG members or £8 for visitors. Light refreshments available - delicious cake, coffee and wine.

Dates for your diary:

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

Clare Adamson

ORCOP

The January Orcop News is always a challenge given the earlier copy deadline to facilitate distribution of the magazine before Christmas. Not a lot has happened since I last wrote for the December issue. However, it is important to record that the Royal British Legion act of remembrance on November 10th was well attended, with around 40 parishioners paying their respects to the fallen. The collection raised about £150 for the RBL.

As advised in the December issue, a new service rota will apply from January 2025, with the monthly Orcop communion service moving from the second to the fourth Sunday in the month and the timing changing from 11.00 to 11.15. Hence, the January service will be at **11.15 on Sunday 26th January**.

We end 2024 with a lot of clouds on the horizon, both international and domestic.

However, it is important to retain optimism as to what the New Year might bring. Let's hope at least for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East, harmonious relations with Donald Trump, China and Europe, and a fairer deal for our farmers. This is quite an ambitious shopping list, but all these are achievable given the full commitment of global leaders and domestic politicians to the arts of diplomacy, negotiation and realistic compromise, rather than resorting to confrontation, violence, destruction and disorder.

Wishing all our parishioners a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Mrs. L. Wilkinson

Orcop Village Hall

Warm Winter Coffee Mornings

will continue every Thursday morning – 10.30-12.30

through January, February and March

do come and join us  you'd be welcome

(Tim and Gill Bannerman – 01981 580685)

Items for Uganda

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

Orcop Village Hall

The committee would like to thank all the stall holders and shoppers who came along to the Christmas Bazaar. The atmosphere was very festive, we had some new traders and crafters this year and it was a busy afternoon. We had lots of local support and hope you all enjoyed the event. This year the hall took £700

On Saturday February 15th the Hall will be holding a Valentine Quiz from 7:30pm. It's £10 per person to take part in the quiz and enjoy a buffet supper. You can BYOB or tea and coffee will be available.

Come along in your teams, or just turn up and you can make up a team on the night.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Peta Long

Orcop Village Hall - Craft Workshops

We're planning to run some more small craft workshops this year.



Basket Weaving, Aluminium Jewellery making, Lino Printing, Felting, Pewter Casting, Heddle Loom Weaving and Fabric Printing – with an opportunity to brighten up tired clothes, are all possibilities.

Keep an eye open for dates in the next magazine, or get in touch.

Gill Bannerman – gill.bannerman@outlook.com

FLOODING ISSUES IN ORCOP HILL: A GENTLE REMINDER

In response to reports of flash-flooding of Orcop Hill properties, the Parish Council carried out an inspection on 1st December of the area concerned. This revealed that a number of the ditches, pipes and culverts that are intended to carry surface runoff were blocked by debris or otherwise in need of maintenance.

The random nature of development in Orcop Hill over hundreds of years has resulted in a complex arrangement of drainage facilities. Hence, a blockage adjacent to a specific property can often cause problems for the neighbouring dwellings.

Orcop Hill residents are reminded that the maintenance of ditches, pipes and culverts, including roadside ditches, is the legal responsibility of the property owner and not that of the Parish or County Council. The only exception relates to works specifically to drain the surface of the highway, which are the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

The regular inspection of drainage facilities and the clearance of silt, debris and blockages is, in most cases, a simple task and parishioners are urged to inspect regularly, especially after major rainfall events. We can expect such events increasingly frequently as a result of climate change. Failure to maintain the drainage pathways will result in flood risk, not only to your property, but also to those of your neighbours.

We recognise that some residents will be elderly and/or infirm and hence unable to attend to their riparian obligations. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the Parish Council which will do what it can to organise help.

PETER GARRATT

Editor: I hope you saw Peter's picture in the Hereford Times.

OWL COMMUNITY LUNCH

A very successful Christmas lunch was held on Wed 4th December in Orcop Parish Hall. A traditional meal with all the trimmings, stuffing, pigs in blankets, bread sauce, cranberry sauce, gravy was enjoyed by all there. Traditional Christmas pudding and sherry trifle completed the meal. Various wines and liquors added to the festivities.

The school choir from Garway came, all 24 of them, and two teachers in a very large coach. I don't know how they got through the narrow lanes! They sang Christmas carols and some songs of their own, one with hand movements that the audience very much enjoyed.

There is no community lunch in January the next one will be February 5th.

All are welcome to come along. No booking necessary except if you have specific dietary needs.

Any questions ring Jane 01981 241310. **Jane Lockhart**

Sunday 22nd December 3pm

Garway Hill Methodist Chapel in Orcop

Carol Service

Followed by seasonal refreshments

Everyone welcome!

TRETIRE AND PENCOYD

Looking out of my window this morning, it shouts “November” at me! It is gusting with hurricane Bert winds and raining nonstop, and our garden looks as if Hurricane Bert has visited it personally. We have had a new sewage treatment installed which required digging a hole with mechanical diggers, about ten by seven feet deep, eight feet wide, and the soil removed, heaped up all along the hedgerow. It will sit there until such time as it can be re buried in the existing old septic tank, once it has been broken up! So fairly disastrous! We know it is temporary, but it is hard to imagine our garden ever looking attractive again This is a worrying thought as we approach putting the property on the market!! This was work that had to be done whether we moved or stayed, but we were not prepared for the quagmire which has ensued!

November has been a quiet month, starting with a lovely service in Pencoyd Church on All Souls’s Day, with friends from other parishes in our benefice joining us. Our vicar, Angie had put together a very simple but reflective little service, based around “Fallen Leaves”. To illustrate this, John and I took our son and grandson who were staying with us round to Linda Miles’ Garden and gathered up lots of beautiful leaves from her Acer trees. The colours were so beautiful, and we had a glorious basketful. These were for people to pick one out when they arrived to use as an aid for their reflection, as they remembered loved ones during the service. After Angie’s thoughtful meditation, people were invited to lay their leaf by the cross on a table in front of the altar. They then lit a candle in memory of their loved one. We gathered for refreshments after the service, and people stayed and chatted for some while afterwards.

Next month it will be Tretire’s turn to host the benefice service, which will be the first in the New Year, an Epiphany communion service to take place at **10.00 am on January 5th**.

I see when I started writing this, it was a howling gale courtesy of Storm Bert, but this morning, the sun is shining and the sky is blue and a light wind is blowing my washing dry.

Yesterday, the stream had swollen right up, and water was halfway up the lawn. Today it has all gone down again, but there is a sea of mud in its place, and the bottom of the garden is still a quagmire! Work on the sewage plant has ground to a halt, and we can only pray for a drier spell next week so that the work can be completed, and our garden left to recover. At least it has all winter and early spring before people start arriving to look round!

Margaret Oubridge

WANTED.

Someone to write up news and forthcoming events in the villages of Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd for the monthly parish magazine., as from Spring 2025.

For further details, contact Margaret Oubridge at

oubridge@phonecoop.coop. Tel 01981580233.

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

hArt visited St Catherine's again along with the Pop-up Cafe provided by our cloister catering team, although this time, tables were in church because of the weather. An enjoyable time was had by all whether browsing the stalls or enjoying the delicious food.



Our thanks to all those who took part or visited and those who provided the muscle to move the pews etc.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed Our Community Carol Service followed by lunch at the pub, carols at the New Harp thanks to Katie and Simeon and the Ross Folk Choir. On Christmas Eve, do come at 10.00pm to the Bethlehem Midnight Communion with Bishop Richard Jackson.

This is Revd. Angie's first Christmas with us, and we wish to thank her for all she has done since becoming our Vicar.

We are hosting the Benefice Holy Communion on 2nd February at 10.00am which fits in nicely with the 121st Anniversary of our church's Dedication to St. Catherine on 23 February 1904. We'd love to see you there.

Peter Pember, churchwarden

Book Review

***Midwinter Break* by Bernard Maclaverty**

Northern Irish MacLaverty is a new author to me, but his enchanting gentle prose is a treat. In *Midwinter Break* he examines the marriage of Gerry and Stella, a retired architect and teacher respectively, who take themselves off on a short break to Amsterdam.

The couple have weathered the years of "The Troubles" and carry the scars: "Isn't it strange that Ireland's biggest export is a lesson in how to enjoy yourself. That and the car bomb", says Gerry with his characteristic cynicism.

Every small action, thought and detail are described with minute care, and, far from this being tedious, these build up a real understanding of who these two people are and how they come to be where they are. We are subtly introduced to all the detritus and shared habits of a lifetime, those things that draw them together and those that pull them apart. The midwinter break of the title is not just a holiday trip.

Stella is Catholic, and her faith is central to her life. She has arrived in Amsterdam and at a crossroads in her life. Does she want to remain a wife for what life remains, propping up the supposedly secret drinking habits of her skeptical husband? "The family is raised – the work's done. That can't be it, can it? There's 10 or 20 years left over, as it were."

Her ulterior motive in choosing Amsterdam is to examine the life of the 14th century Begijnhof, which was once a convent for a Catholic sect of women called the Begijntjes. Finding that they still exist, although in a somewhat different form, unbeknownst to Gerry, she takes herself off for a visit, and she is once again forced to confront the reality of her senior years – to learn that that there is no sanctuary for her there any more than there is at home. The limitations of old age and the flaws in human relationships await her wherever she is.

Will the shared intimacy of decades, the accumulated mundanities of a long life in each other's company be enough to hold them together? – will the shared physical limitations and anxieties of advancing age be sufficient glue? So different and yet so tied by their mutual memories and ingrained rituals they circle round one another – Stella seeking something more profound and Gerry looking on in puzzlement, clutching his bottle of whisky.

This is a brilliant piece of writing, both gentle and savage. **Hilary Smallwood**

Garden Notes

It is December 5th and there is not a lot happening in our garden. Storm Bert has been and gone, but the only damage was to the ferns which were battered flat. Because I have been planting a lot of shrubs over the last few years and many of those are evergreen, the garden looks remarkably green. We had some beautiful autumn colour from the forsythia, *Rosa rugosa*, *Fothergilla major* and the hostas. We have the tiniest spots of colour here and there, with a few primroses and a scattering of purple flowers on the aubrieta. I grew a dozen more aubrieta plants from seed this summer (very easy) and planted them in front of the dining room window to give a real punch of colour in the spring.

Not many years ago, I foolishly planted *Viburnum tinus* 'Gwenllian' near to the living room window. The label described it as having a dwarf habit. Either it was wrongly labelled or perhaps my idea of a dwarf *V. tinus* is different to the plant breeders. It very rapidly outgrew its spot. Rather than remove it completely, I have removed the lower branches up to shoulder height and created a small multi-stemmed tree. I am toying with cloud-pruning what's left but suspect I may be making a rod for my own back so should really leave well alone. (The pig is not real!)



There is a small unloved corner behind the summerhouse to which I have been giving some thought. I have visions of a tiny secret garden – something different to the rest. It looks a little sad right now, with the remains of a Weigela and a Spirea which both received a brutal pruning when a dead Buddleia and some brambles were removed. Two decaying fence panels need to be replaced, and a large pile of tarpaulin-clad turves, which by now will be lovely crumbly loam, need to be moved elsewhere or spread around the borders. I am imagining a mirror or two and some old piece of salvage – an old chair perhaps or a weathered piece of sculpture, some ferns and some rocks. I don't want it to look too staged though, not like those Chelsea show gardens that simply recreate a corner of the countryside. Lovely as they are, I don't see the point. I have the winter to think about it and fine tune my ideas and I will be able to spend a few happy

hours rooting about in the salvage yards looking for treasures.

Julie Davies

A Peek in the Bookshop

To round off the year, here's a little book quiz for you.

Can you work out the titles and authors of these top-selling books, all published this year, from the few letters given? Good luck!

- 1) __M__ by P_____ VE_____
- 2) Y__O__E by RE_____ F K_____
- 3) T__ T__ VOC_____ by __B _O_T_____
- 4) O__I_A_ by _A_A____A _A__E_
- 5) _AI___G H___ by C_____ D_____
- 6) _O_ _AK_ by A__ P__C_____
- 7) T__ S_____ by _E_ MA_K_____
- 8) _UT__R by A__K_ _UZ_____
- 9) _H_ _L_C_ O_ T_D_S by _AM__ R_B____S
- 10) __E G___SM___R by T__C_ _H_V___E_
- 11) _N_____ZZ_ by _A__Y _OO_____
- 12) W_ S_____ M_____ by RI_____ O_____
- 13) T__ B__F_ _O_S by T__ B__F_ _O_S
- 14) __E _OM__ by K____TI_ _A____H
- 15) __U _R_ _E_E by D__I_ _IC_O_____

Wishing you a happy and healthy festive period and hope to see you in the shop in 2025!

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

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Ross-on-Wye: Larruperz Centre First Tuesday every Month 11.30-13.30 (£5 per couple)

Ledbury: Community Hall First Friday every Month 10.30-12.00 (£2.50 per couple)

Peterchurch: Village Hall Third Friday every Month 10.30-12.30 (£2.50 per couple)

For more information please call: 01432 804480 or email charlotte.banks@dementiamattershere.org.uk

We hope to see you there soon!

We offer a host of other support services to those with a diagnosis and their families/ carers, so please do let me know if there is any way that we could be of help to any of those in your community.

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Chuckle Corner

Why did the chewing gum cross the road? Because it was stuck to the chicken.

What is an underground train full of professors called? A tube of smarties.

What is E.T. short for? Because he only has little legs.

More engineering jokes as promised thanks to Peter Garratt.

A wife asks her husband, an engineer, "Darling, can you please go to the shop and buy one pint of milk and if they have eggs, get a dozen!" Off he goes. Half an hour later, the husband returns with 12 pints of milk.

His wife stares at him and asks, "Why on earth did you get 12 pints of milk?" "Well... they had eggs," he replied.

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all of her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The first engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fitted."

Editor: When I took over as editor, June Griffiths gave me a copy of the last edition of the Ross and Archenfield Rural Deanery Magazine from December 1973 which cost threepence halfpenny! Our benefice was much as now, but without Garway, Hoarwithy and Hentland. Most of the magazine was taken up with the long lists of services at each church. However, what caught my eye for our group of parishes was the thought for Christmas. 'To enter the little door of the stable one must bow one's head very low...'

Hereford Cathedral Events January

The Nuremberg Chronicle Lecture hosted by The Friends of Hereford Cathedral

Wednesday 8 January – 11 am.

The Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer is kindly repeating her illustrated lecture on the Chained Library and its Treasures, in particular The Nuremberg Chronicle, a beautiful and innovative early printed book, of which we have two chained copies in our Library.

This lecture is ticketed, but free of charge to all. We particularly welcome anyone who may be interested in finding out more about the Friends of Hereford Cathedral. To book your place please email:

friends@herefordcathedral.org

Evening Hour: Sunday 12 January, 5.30 pm All are welcome to join us for this service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Bereavement Café Wednesday 15 January, 2.30pm – 4 pm Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal and friendly gathering for those who have been bereaved, recently or long ago. Join us in College Hall on the third Wednesday of the month from 2.30 - 4pm for coffee, cake and conversation. Run by volunteers, this is a welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

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Tickets cost £60 and can be purchased via the cathedral's website.

Saint of the Month

Editor: The magazine in January is always a slightly thin month for contributions, so we are including another article from a Lay Reader from Sussex.

We remember many saints in January, among them St Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris, St Agnes, (parts of whose head are held in two churches in Rome), St Canute (nephew of King Canute), and Thomas Aquinas, the great 13th-century theologian. We will return to the great feast day towards the end of the month, the Conversion of St Paul, later in the year, but also in January we remember two of Paul's companions, Timothy and Titus.

St. Timothy, born in Galatia in Asia Minor, was Paul's dearest disciple and his most steadfast associate. He was converted during the apostle's first missionary journey, and was baptized and later ordained to the priesthood by Paul. When Paul revisited Lystra, Timothy, though still very young (about twenty) joined him as a co-worker and companion. The young Galatian became Paul's missionary companion and his most

beloved spiritual son. He assisted the apostle in the establishment of all the major Christian communities and was entrusted with missions of highest importance. St. Paul showed his trust in him by consecrating him bishop of the great city of Ephesus. Of a kindly disposition, unselfish, prudent, zealous, he was a great consolation to Paul, particularly in the sufferings of his later years, and was with him during his first imprisonment in Rome. Timothy was stoned to death thirty years after St. Paul's martyrdom for having denounced the worship of the goddess Diana, but he is remembered today for the two Epistles bearing his name.

Titus, also a convert from paganism, was a fellow labourer of St. Paul on many apostolic missions. Paul's writings tell us that Titus rejoiced to discover what was good in others and drew the hearts of men by his wide and affectionate sympathy. Despite his pagan youth, he became one of St. Paul's most illustrious disciples. He accompanied the apostle on several of his missionary journeys and was entrusted with important missions. Finally he came with St. Paul to the island of Crete, where he was appointed bishop, a difficult charge because of the character of the inhabitants and the spread of erroneous doctrines on that island. Eventually Titus died a natural death at the age of 94, still unmarried. St. Paul left a worthy monument to Titus, his faithful disciple, in the beautiful pastoral letter which forms part of the New Testament.

Dates for the diary:

December

- 20 Journey to the Manger from Garway Common**
- 21 The Shepherds' Play at St Weonards**
- 22 Carol Service, St Weonards/ Carol Service Garway Hill Methodist Chapel**

January

- 2 Orcop Coffee Morning**
- 7 Garway Coffee Morning**
- 8 Garway Stitchers**
- 9 Coffee morning St Weonards/ Orcop Coffee morning**
- 11 Storytelling Garway Hall**
- 12 Swing Dance, Garway Hall**
- 13 Garway Green Book Club**
- 14 Garway Talk Hub, Garway Flicks in the Sticks**
- 16 Orcop Coffee morning**
- 21 Garway Heritage Group**
- 22 Garway Stitchers**
- 23 Orcop Coffee morning**
- 30 Orcop Coffee morning**

February

- 5 OWL community lunch**
- 15 Valentine's Quiz, Orcop**
- 18 Garway Heritage group**

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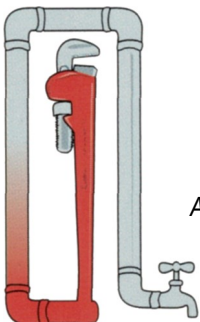
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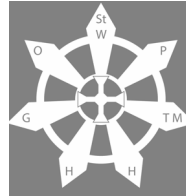
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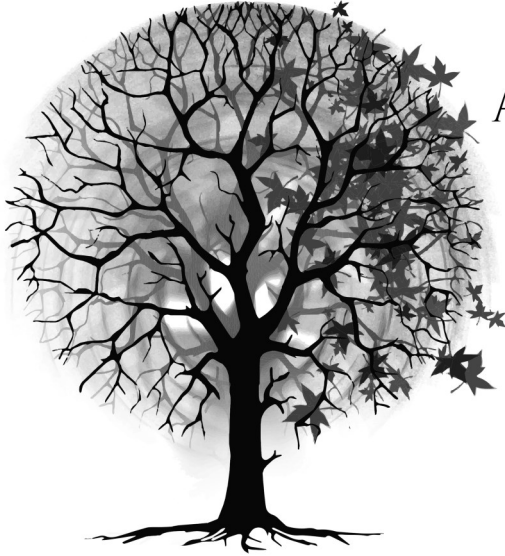
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Services Index on page 28
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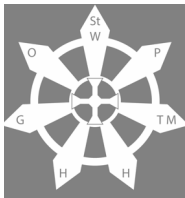
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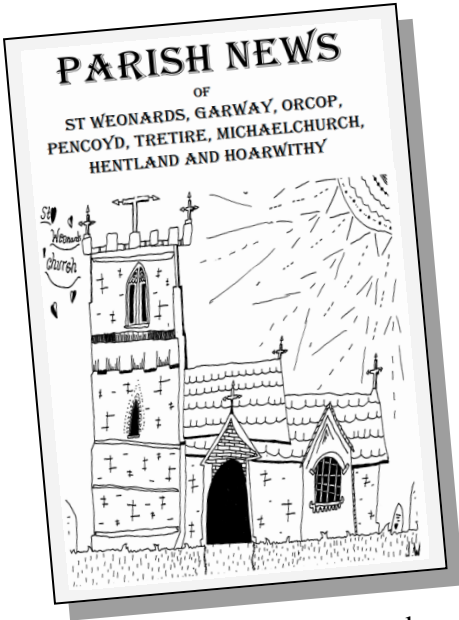
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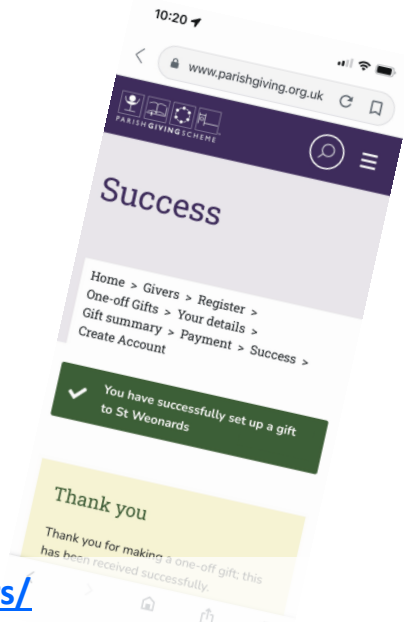
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Advertisers index

for Advertisers' Services index see p28

<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>	<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>
A & G Machinery Services	3	Eve Lomas Therapies.....	17
Aquassist	6	FarmFlock	12
Avalon Tree Surgery.....	13	Flora Designs	22
Barbara Garlick.....	15	Franklin Plumbing & Heating	2
Birches Bridge Club	4	Garway Hall & Community Centre.	12
Broad Oak Garage.....	8	Garway Pre-school.....	4
Certainlywood	17	Geolec Electrician Services.....	2
Cherished Funerals	17	Gerald Benjamin	
Chris Strange		(Electrical Services).....	15
(Building & Carpentry).....	10	Gleam Clean	15
Colin (Garden Maintenance).....	10	Golden Valley Construction	9
Creative Kinesiology	2	Golden Valley Funeral Services	1
Deborah Cronshaw.....	7	Golden Valley Tree Services	15
Dennis Walker & Son		Greenleaf Architecture.....	20
(Tree Services)	12		

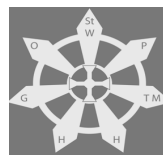
Continued overleaf ...

Advertisers index *(Continued)*

<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>	<u>Advertiser</u>	<u>page</u>
Hereford Coatings	13	P G M & Son	7
Hillman's Florist.....	15	P Muldowney & Sons	14
Hollow Ash	17	Parr Plumbing & Heating Services ...	4
Hollymore	22	Paul Ackerman (Carpenter).....	10
Home Choice Flooring	3	Pengethley Farm Shop.....	11
Howats Chimney Sweeps	21	Philip Partridge (Firewood processing).....	22
Inti Electrical Solutions	5	Pigsty Studio & Art Gallery	22
Iyengar Yoga.....	11	R K Soft Tissue Massage.....	18
J P Mower Services	16	Ross Vincent.....	1
James Robson (Building)	14	Sarah L Hope (Osteopath)	17
James Walter (Building Services)	9	Savoy Theatre.....	24
Jane Bovell (Singing Lessons)	16	Shining Stars Pre-school.....	20
Juliet Ablett Homeopathy	15	South Herefordshire Dowers	1
Kelsmor Dairy.....	6	St Weonards Village Hall.....	3
Kemble at Home	5	STS Chimney & Stove.....	2
Lara Payne Reflexology	17	Tolley Home Services	16
Llama Trekking.....	1	Town & Country Plastering & Decorating.....	11
Lynne Bradley (Piano Lessons)	15	Vivien Ray craniosacral therapy	1
N R Evans & Co	5	Webb Groundworks	9
Nails & Beauty.....	14	Wellington Consulting.....	7
New Harp Inn	23	Williams Dental Care.....	19
Nigel Payne (Tree Pruning).....	10	Wormelow Filling Station.....	8
Old Gore Farm	18	Wye Valley Group	6
Oldfield Forge.....	2		
Orcop Parish Hall	10		
Oven Wizards.....	22		
Owl Good Neighbour.....	18		

for Advertisers' Services index see p28

Notes



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Index of Advertisers' Services

Agas, heating & plumbing services	2,4,16	Guttering	14,16
Architectural services.....	20	Health	1,2,11,15,17,18
Art gallery & studio	22	Hedge cutting	10
Beauty treatments	14	Home / live-in care	5
Blacksmith	2	Ice Cream & Milk	6,11
Bookkeeping, accountants & office services	5,7	Kindling.....	11,17
Bridge Club.....	4	Llama Trekking	1
Builders & Construction	9,10,14,22	Machinery services	3,16
Car sales, servicing, MOT and repairs.....	8	Music theory lessons	16
Carpentry.....	9,10,14,22	Oven cleaning.....	21
Chimney Sweeps.....	2,16,21	Owl Community Support.....	18
Cleaning services	15	Painters & Decorators.....	1,9,14
Coatings	13	Pest Control services.....	7
Counselling.....	18	Piano lessons	15,16
Dental care	19	Plasterers & Damp-proofing ..	11
Dowsing.....	1	Pre-school/Toddler	4,20
Electricians	2,5,15	Property maintenance.....	14,16
Entertainment	23,24	Pubs	23
Farm shop	11	Roofing	10,14
Firewood.....	11,17	Septic Tank emptying	6
Firewood processing	22	Shepherding services	12
Flooring.....	3,14	Singing.....	16
Florist.....	15	Skip Hire, recycling etc	6
Foot care	7	Small bale hay	17
Fruit juice	17	Stonework & Brickwork	9,10,14
Funeral services	1,17	Tree services	10,12,13,15
Garden Design	21	Village Halls & Community Centres	3,10,12
Gardening Services	10	Window fitting	14,16
Groundwork	9	Window cleaning.....	15
		Yoga	11

for an advertisers' index see pages 26/7