

PARISH NEWS

OF

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

MARCH 2025



BLACKBIRD (TURDUS MERULA)

BY PAT MACRAE

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Rest day: Tuesday

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Garway	Tracy Somerville	01981 580263
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm	01989 730201
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	Jeff Goulding.....	01432 840492
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Garway Live	Graham Bevan	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson	01600 750465
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Lockhart.....	01981 241310
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St Weonards Group website	www.stw.org.uk

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward: Toni Fagan (Green) tonifagan@btinternet.com
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MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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Magazine Editor:	Fiona Mynors.....	01981 580208
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St. Weonards:	Mrs P Craig	01981 580433 8 Mount Way, St Weonards

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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

During a recent Q&A session with the younger classes at Garway Primary School, I was asked some insightful questions by the children. One of those questions has stayed with me: Have you ever seen God?

Probably the most truthful answer is that I don't know. What does God look like? Who knows! Some people – including me – have been heard to say that we see God in the face of every human being, or that we see God in the wonder of nature and scientific discovery. Probably both of those things hold a good amount of truth. One thing I do feel confident to say is that God is the author of love. So perhaps there is a comparison to be made with the wind. We don't see the wind, but we see what it does. When we witness or experience or practice compassion, kindness, forgiveness, grace, generosity, warmth, companionship, inclusion, justice, peace – all in their truest sense – then perhaps we see God.

With that in mind, let's embrace the wonder that is March. Nature starts to awaken – and so do we – from the Big Gloom of winter. We listen out for the beginnings of the dawn chorus. And it's time for the hard work of the big Spring Clean in our homes and gardens.

Easter is late this year so Lent starts in March. I've heard Lent described as an opportunity for an internal spring clean. Whether or not you are someone who does the whole 'giving something up or taking something up' thing in Lent, whether you're cleaning up your soul, your social media feeds or your fridge, I would like to offer a challenge.

In February, church met in the snug at the Garway Moon where we discussed and prayed for peace for the world, leaning into the wisdom and prayers of many different traditions and religions, all united in a strong desire for peace. Maybe what the world needs from everybody now it to make peace our higher intention. So my challenge is this: throughout Lent, whatever words you use, whatever actions you take up or resist, let them be for the purpose of peace.

Rev Angie x

SERVICE ROTA FOR MARCH

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

Sunday 2 nd March	10.00am	Garway Benefice Communion
Ash Wednesday 5 th March	7.00pm	St Weonards Compline
Sunday 9 th March	9.30am	St Weonards All Age Communion & baptism
Thursday 13 th March	7.00pm	Hentland Compline
Sunday 16 th March	10.00am 6.00pm	Hoarwithy Holy Communion Pencoyd Evening Service
Thursday 20 th March	7.00pm	Garway Compline
Sunday 23 rd March	9.15am 9.30am 11.15am	Hentland Holy Communion St Weonards All Age Worship Orcop Holy Communion
Thursday 27 th March	7.00pm	Hoarwithy Compline
Sunday 30 th March	10.00am	Tretire Mothering Sunday Communion

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

Garway Hill Methodist Church: Sunday 9th March 3pm - Rev'd Paul Arnold
Sunday 23rd March 3pm - Rev'd Sheila Macinally

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

Rev. Angie Kateley revangiekateley@gmail.com 01981 345044 *Rest Day Tuesday*

Sunday 2nd March

Benefice Communion at Garway Church

10.00am

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



25th March Chris Strange 07970614933

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE March 10th

Please send in by

6.00pm

Magazine Grants

Each year the profits, after costs from the sale and advertising revenue, from the magazine are distributed in small grants to community activities. This year grants have been made to St Weonards Benefice, Garway School, Archenfield Arts, Dore Community Transport, Garway Youth Group and Garway Story Stitchers.

We are grateful to all who support the magazine by its purchase, and the advertisers who ensure we cover costs and can make a profit. As editor, I am grateful to the magazine committee for their support, and particularly Peter Garratt our treasurer who ensures that we run our finances properly. About 420 magazines are distributed across our parishes and we are indebted to all those involved in collating and distributing it each month.

We always welcome copy particularly if you have an unusual hobby/activity and would share it with us. We have lost our wildlife slot so generously written by John Oubridge for many years. Is there anyone out there who could fill that slot for us? Please consider letting your inner writer out!

Fiona Mynors (editor)

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

Last month in all the excitement post-Christmas and New Year, I failed to mention the extremely successful *Shepherd's Play* which was performed in church in December. I am sorry for this omission. You can read a report below.

Despite the nasty damp weather we have been having for most of January and the beginning of February, the warmth of the worshipping community in our church has continued! If you haven't come to one of our services recently do come. It suits all ages, particularly families and our ages range from 4 to 85+! We also have regular attenders who join us online.

Each month our theme is linked to the church's year or a particular character from the bible. We sing an action song, traditional hymns and pray, and the interactive reflection gives us time to consider our faith in our everyday lives. A warm welcome awaits you and afterwards we benefit from a tradition of hot drinks and delicious cakes!

We are so sad that Andrew Lewis, a regular member of our congregation, is no longer with us. Over many years his health had been challenging. However, he was always cheerful and generous in helping with anything that needed doing for church or community events.

Andrew spent Christmas in hospital and moved to St Michael's hospice in the New Year, where his family were able to spend quality time together and to be with him at the end. As I write, we are looking forward to the memorial service for Andrew on 22nd February when we can celebrate his life. Our love and prayers go to the Christine and all the Lewis family.

Alex Herbert, who has been undertaking her training for ministry, will be ordained as a deacon in Hereford Cathedral on 5th July. After that she will begin her part-time curacy at St Peter and St James in Hereford. She will continue to teach at Whitecross School. Our prayers and good wishes are with her.

On Ash Wednesday 5th March at 7.00pm, St Weonards Church will celebrate the beginning of Lent with a compline service. Do come to enjoy this quiet reflective evening service at the start of the preparation for Easter.

The Annual Parochial St Weonards Church Meeting will take place in the church on Monday 24th March at 7.00pm. All those living in the parish and on the Electoral Roll are welcome.

Richard Mynors, churchwarden

Simple Lent Lunch

12th March 12-2.00pm

The Dower House HR2 8QB

Come and enjoy homemade soup, bread, cheese and time to catch up with friends. Donations for charity.

All welcome

Fiona Mynors

The Shepherds' Play

Christmas seems a long time ago now! But in the busy-ness leading up to it, we omitted to mention in last month's report, the performance of the *Shepherds' Play* (a modern adaptation of an Austrian Medieval Mystery play), in St Weonards Church on 21st December. It lasted just short of an hour and was a wonderful re-enactment of the story of the Nativity f

rom the Annunciation, the journey to Bethlehem, the Birth and the arrival of the Shepherds. It was told to musical accompaniment by a cast of 10 with much processing, vigorous Company and solo singing. It was an engaging mixture of drama and humour but overall played in deep reverence for the essential spirit of the Christmas story. It was very gratifying to hear the sustained applause at the end!

This is the play's second airing in the benefice (the first was two years ago to a packed congregation in Orcop). So looking forward, come September, if another church in the benefice would like to brighten up the year's festive season with it, please let Angie know and we'll see if the players can be reassembled! The collection raised £132.38 divided between Vennture Charity and St Weonards Church towards electricity costs.

David Donaldson

Coffee Morning

Thursday 13th March.

St Weonards Village Hall 10.00 until 12.00 am.

Enjoy coffee and some delicious homemade cake.

Meet old friends and make new ones. Just turn up.

All welcome.

Gwyneth Williams

GARWAY

Regular Service in Garway Church

Our regular service will now not begin on the second Sunday in March. Instead we will be having the Benefice service on the first Sunday - 2nd March at 10am. This service is where the five parishes in our Benefice come together to share worship. The service rotates around the churches, and March will be Garway's turn.

It is a lovely traditional service led by Angie and the benefice choir get together to sing, under the encouragement and expertise of Richard Mynors.

Refreshments are served after the service. Do come and help to grow the life of our church once again.

Our regular 11.15am service will now begin on the second Sunday in April.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

A date for your April calendar! Palm Sunday walk from Broad Oak to Garway, with stops at Broad Oak Methodist Chapel, Garway Baptist Chapel and Garway Church - finishing off back at Garway Baptist Chapel for tea and biscuits. Children and dogs most welcome!

Ruth Maskell

Garway Stitchers



This month's stitching dates are March 5th and 19th.

We are no longer meeting in Garway village hall, but we are still meeting, and to free up the space in the hall for other users we have decided to meet in each others' houses.

We are well into our fourth panel and as always you are welcome to join the group. We have stitchers who are complete beginners and some who are more skilled that can help anyone who would like it.

If you would like to know more, or would like to join us the next time we meet, and to find out where we are meeting, please do get in touch.

Tracy Somerville 01981 580263

Garway Coffee Morning

Tuesday 4th March 10am

Garway Village Hall

Cakes, beverages and of course pancakes for

Pancake Day!

And Heather from Great Trewen Dairy will be with us to talk about the milk vending machine at Oldfield Forge.



Thanks to everyone who came along to our first Friday night disco for a boogie - we'll plan another for later on in the year.

Meanwhile, there's lots of special things going on in the hall over the next few weeks in addition to the regular events and activities:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Friday 28 February 7.30pm | - | Borderlines Film Festival: My Favourite Cake |
| Saturday 1 March 7.30pm | - | Garway Live: The Soul Strutters |
| Tuesday 4 March 7.30pm | - | Borderlines Film Festival: How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies |
| Tuesday 11 March 7.30pm | - | Flicks in the Sticks - Asteroid City |
| Tuesday 18 March 7.30pm | - | Garway Heritage Group Talk - Huntley Film Archives |
| Friday 21 March 7.30pm | - | National Theatre Live: The Importance of Being Earnest |

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

Julie Hudson

Archenfield Arts Festival Day 2025

Saturday 10th May 10am – 5pm Garway Church

Join us to perform – sing, choirs, instrumental, poetry – and much more. All performers welcome
– all ages, all skills.

Come and share the things you enjoy with your community – applause guaranteed!

Or come along as audience for a day's entertainment.

Refreshments available

Contact Hilary: 07388038794

As part of 2025 expanded Festival: Sat 10 to 18th May. More details to come.

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

Tuesday 18th March, Garway Village Hall, 7.30pm

The Huntley Film Archive

Who would have thought that Ewyas Harold had two significant claims to fame? Its' castle was one of the first to be built in Britain and it is also home to one of the largest film archives in Europe. This month GHG welcomes director of the Huntley Film Archive, Robert Dewar. He will be talking about their vast and varied celluloid film collection, starting around 1895, documenting the places and people of the 20th century.

All are welcome - it's a great opportunity to learn about our local area and for a friendly chat; we will, of course, be serving delicious cakes, tea, coffee and wine. Entry free to Garway Heritage Group members or £8 for guests.

Clare Adamson

15th April 2025 - Family Diaries presented by Tim Bannerman

www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

The annual Borderlines Film Festival will be coming to Garway Hall again this year giving us a chance to see films which rarely make it to multiplexes.



FRIDAY 28th February – MY FAVOURITE CAKE. This Iranian film tells the story of Mahin, an elderly woman who decides that she wants to find romance again. She changes her routine in order to seek out a companionable man and finds Faramarz who has got into trouble with the regime by playing a musical instrument in a wedding band. Mahin offers to bake him her favourite cake and this intimate moment provokes a profound outpouring of everything they feel and have in common. A wonderful, brave film which led to the film makers' offices being raided by the Iranian authorities for its (gentle) assertion of things like the right not to wear the hijab; it is a privilege to show it.

TUESDAY March 4th – HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES. This film from Thailand broke box-office records in several countries across Asia in 2024. Amah is a prickly grandmother with grown-up children who mostly ignore her. When she is diagnosed with cancer they vie for position in order to inherit her house. Inspired, if that's the right word, by a cousin who looked after their wealthy paternal grandfather before he died and inherited his millions, Amah's grandson, M, decides to move in with her as her carer to give himself pole position in the inheritance wars. Unsentimental, spiky Amah is wary of his motives but, eventually both find themselves developing a bond beyond expectations. The film belies its overly comic title – it's a real tear-jerker which contains an amazing first film performance from 78 year old Usha Seankhum and was nominated for an international feature film Oscar.

DOORS OPEN FOR BOTH FILMS at 7pm – performance starts at 7.30pm. ADMISSION £5.50. You can book via the Borderlines box office – 01432 340555 or online at www.borderlinesfilmfestival.org. Alternatively, pay on the door.



**TUESDAY MARCH 11TH
7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00
ASTEROID CITY**

Set in a blazingly bright candy-coloured 1950s desert town famous for its enormous meteorite crater, Asteroid City is director Wes Anderson's first foray into sci-fi – although this is a laugh aloud send-up of films like Close Encounters and the 1953 classic, It Came from Outer Space. We're asked to witness the making of a play about an astronomy convention for Junior Stargazers, all brought to the location by their hopeless parents. They are staying in a retro-futuristic motel in which you can buy almost anything, including land, from a vending machine, with mushroom clouds erupting in the background with nonchalant regularity. The space cadets and their adults orbit one another with a perplexing degree of emotional cluelessness.

The arrival of a rather endearing alien, played by Jeff Goldblum, means the convention is put into military lock-down in order to study this invasion from another world. Under all the Kodak coloured comic slapstick is a coming-of-age drama which touches on the nature of grief and the need for love and, like the clear sky above Asteroid City, the film is chock full of stars: Tom Hanks, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, Margot Robbie, Adrian Brody, Willem Dafoe, Steve Carrell and, would you believe, Jarvis Cocker as a singing cowboy.

Wines, coffees, teas and the perennial icing on the cake for Garway Flick's film nights – um, loads of cakes, served before the film and during the interval. Follow us too on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks.

Corinne Westacott

Green Garway Book Club

***Not The End of the World* by Hannah Ritchie**

Everyone seemed to appreciate this optimistic view of the future of our planet. There are lots of facts and stats to absorb but the author does a very good job of myth-busting those doom and gloom headlines that are usually presented to us for heightened engagement.

The author presents many reasonable solutions to put the brakes on the road to destruction of the planet but there was some scepticism as to how readily they are likely to be adopted.

We have to have hope otherwise we may as well not bother, and this book will certainly challenge some of the things you thought to be true and make you think a bit more optimistically about where we're at.

3.5/5

Next book group: *Monday 10 March / The Wager* by David Grann - A page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth.

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 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. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Garway Moon snug.

Julie Hudson



After the problems caused by the storm producing a village blackout on the night that the “Soul Strutters” were due to perform, we hastily produced a quiz on the Sunday night, and we’d like to thank everybody who turned out and made a success out of a disaster.

After a short pause, we are back for another tremendous year of entertainment for you, starting on March 1st with the “Soul Strutters” who are back to perform what they were going to do in December with, of course, the bar and more of Chris’ delightful food. Doors open 7.30 p.m. with the band onstage at 8.00 p.m. Admission £12, under 18’s £6

This year we are bringing something new to the village. On Friday March 21st we are starting a run of National Theatre productions on the big screen. These screenings are produced by multiple camera positions recording during a live performance of the play in front of an audience, these are then edited to give you “the best seat in the house”. We will be turning the hall into a relaxed informal setting in which to sit and enjoy the performance, the bar will be open before and during the interval.

First performance is Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of being Earnest” starring three time “Olivier Award” winner Sharon D Clarke and Ncuti Gatwa (Doctor Who). This has received wonderful reviews and should make a terrific start to our collaboration with the National Theatre. Doors will be open at 7.00p.m. and the performance will start at 7.30 Admission is £10. There are a lot more exciting and different performances to look forward to as well.

Graham Bevan

Dates for your diary: Garway Lent lunch. in Garway Hall. Tuesday 1st April.

ORCOP

ORCOP NEWS: March 2025

It is a long time since Orcop News was dominated by condolences, but sadly, there are a number of deaths to report this month, perhaps due in part to the unremitting February gloom and damp.

We extend sincere condolences to the friends and families of Bob Leeson, Andrew Lewis and Andy Hoare. Bob was a former soldier, accomplished mechanic and distinguished bell-ringer and his wife, Barbara was for many years our Orcop organist and a senior figure in the Royal British Legion..

Andrew was a very active member of the St. Weonards congregation, and his memorial service is to be held in St. Weonards Church on 22nd February.

Andy Hoare, also a former soldier, was a skilled bugler, who played at the Orcop British Legion Act of Remembrance in November 2024 from his wheelchair. This was one of four performances on that day, sadly the last time his bugle was heard.

Whilst I was in the church recently, I had the opportunity to welcome visitors from London, who knew Francis Horovitz as a young woman in East London and had come to visit her final resting place. It is good to know that, 40 years after her death, her memory lives on in Orcop.

CPRE (Campaign for Protection of Rural England) is conducting periodic training sessions for “Citizen Science Volunteers” in the porch of our church, in the sampling and testing of the waters of the tributaries of the River Wye. Afterwards, the trainees are all given a guided tour of the church, where they find much history and inspiration. The signature of Winston Spencer Churchill seems to hold a particular fascination.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flowers and cleaning rota: Flowers and Cleaning Rota: Mr. A Morris

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)

Date for the diary: Friday 16th May - Orcop Churchyard Bingo

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus!

As this is the March issue, and St. David's Day is the first of March, it is appropriate for us to join our near western neighbours in its celebration.

Dewi Sant (St. David) is the only one of the UK's patron saints to have been born in his homeland. He died on 1st March 589 CE. Allegedly, he was born on a clifftop on the coast of Pembrokeshire during a storm. The elements celebrated his birth by delivering a bolt of lightning that split an enormous boulder in two. There is a holy well near his birthplace that is believed to have curative powers and remains a site of pilgrimage to this day.

He went on to establish a monastery at Glyn Rhosyn (now St. Davids) in Pembrokeshire, where the monks practised extreme self-discipline. David himself was an abstemious vegan who ate only leeks and drank only water. He enjoyed reading from scripture whilst submerged up to his neck in a freezing lake. *I cannot avoid the rather irreverent thought that this is second only to lying naked in a bed of nettles on a freezing night whilst reading the Book of Job, as related by the late Peter Cook in his E.L. Wisty monologue about spinach.*

He is reported to have performed miracles, including restoring a blind man's sight and bringing a dead boy back to life by splashing tears on his face. His missionary travels included the founding of a second monastery at Glastonbury and even took him to Jerusalem, whence he brought back a stone which is kept at St. Davids.

His deathbed words were famously uplifting: "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have seen me do". "Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd" (do the little things in life) remains an important part of his heritage in Wales today.

So we should all be wearing a daffodil and brandishing a leek on March 1st!

Peter Garratt

(With acknowledgement to "A Year of Living Curiously" by E. Foley and B.Coates)

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Good news - Chris and her team provided free refreshments at the Ross Folk Choir Concert in St. Catherine's on 17th December and received donations of £260.65 for Medecins Sans Frontieres. This was a marvellous response – well done.

Peter Pember, churchwarden

Book Review

You Are Here by David Nicholls

Author David Nicholls is best known for his love story *One Day* which charts a romance through the vehicle of twenty years of St Swithin's Days and is famous as a hit Netflix film. His latest novel, *You Are Here*, also a romance, is centred around a hike in the Lake District, with each chapter named after a section of the route.

Central character Michael, a 42-year-old geography teacher from York, is embarking on the cross-country walk in the aftermath of the breakdown of his marriage and the trauma of an attack in the street by thugs, which has left him emotionally fragile and on a gradual return from sick leave. He is painted as a pleasant but colourless character, unlikely to set the world on fire, but a man of genuine kindness and a good teacher who regards his pupils with tolerant affection. His fellow teacher and friend Cleo decides to join him on the walk and organises a small party to accompany him for the first few days: Marnie, a copy editor from London, Conrad, a pharmacist, and her teenage son. Two other potential walkers drop out before the start, thwarting Cleo's match-making plans.

Michael goes along with this with some reluctance, sensing some behind-the-scenes machinations in the mix, but his love of the wide-open spaces and his delight in expounding on the geographical features along the way see him capitulating to the arrangement.

Marnie too is smarting from a failed marriage, having reached the point where she feels that *"Three days of walking with strangers was the kind of potentially awful experience she needed" "Sometimes, she thought, it's easier to remain lonely than present the lonely person to the world, but she knew that this, too, was a trap, that unless she did something, the state might become permanent, like a stain soaking into wood. It was no good. She would have to go outside."*

Cleo's planned pairings did not include a Michael/Marnie link-up, but fate decrees that these two finish up as the only two walkers for the last few days of the trip. They tiptoe around each other, sharing both humour and sadness, slowly revealing their true personalities and opening chinks of light onto their pasts. Neither seems particularly enamoured of the other, and they jog along in an almost matey fashion. Predictably the emergence of something closer is fraught with misunderstandings and a reluctance by both to acknowledge the inevitable.

What keeps this novel from the fate of pure cheesiness are the witty asides on life and people – the city slickers, the caricatures of new walkers with their unbroken-in shiny boots and plastic map pockets, the fusty landladies in the B&Bs who push postcards under the doors of bedrooms to deter overnight visitors, and pubs where *"real-ale drinkers snored and farted."* And the gentle unfolding of the backstories of the central characters is well-handled.

In the end, this tale is about not sinking into mediocrity and letting life pass you by.

"You know that thing when you're watching a film that you're not really enjoying and the other person doesn't like it either, but you've paid for the rental, you're halfway through, you sort of want to know what happens and, besides, there's nothing else on. But really, you're just waiting for someone to say, "Can we stop this? I hate it." Some people sit like that for their whole lives together. Waiting for it to pick up, waiting for a good bit."

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

It is decision time. Several shrubs are no longer looking their best and I need to decide their fate. I have three stunning broom plants, one red (*Cytisus* 'Déwy'), one rust coloured and one a glorious apricot ('Apricot Gem'). They all put on a spectacular show in April and May, but each one of them is now leaning at 45° and smothering the adjacent plants. Broom are very shallow rooted, and with the ground being so wet this winter they have all lifted out of the ground and keeled over. I will be sad to see them go but will allow them to flower one last time before doing the dastardly deed. Broom are not expensive to buy and are fast-growing so I will happily buy more even though I know that they will inevitably suffer the same fate.

The Mexican orange blossom (*Choisya ternata*) also needs attention. It too has keeled over. There is a bit of theme going on here, but I don't think there is anything wrong with my planting technique. I don't know whether it has suffered the ravages of winter (snow, rain etc. weighing the branches down) or whether a certain flagpole might be involved ('Well, I might have just rested it on there temporarily'), but the main branches have split at the base and the only solution is to cut the whole shrub back to a stump. I can't do this with the broom as they won't grow from old wood, but I am confident that the *Choisya* will sprout again quite happily. With its beautiful glossy green leaves and scented flowers, it is a shrub I would always want in my garden.



It is always fun to sow a few annuals, and I have the ideal patch in front of the large greenhouse where I can experiment a bit. This year I will try various annual grasses in addition to the *Panicum* 'Frosted Explosion' that I grew two years ago. Perhaps some bunny tails – *Lagurus ovatus*, some quaking grass - *Briza media* (or *minor* or *maxima*) or some foxtail barley – *Hordeum jubatum*. I spotted a photograph of the perennial grass *Panicum virgatum* intermingled with Zinnias in mixed colours and it was so effective that I could try to achieve a similar effect with annual grasses. I remember growing some scarlet flax (*Linum grandiflorum*) in the first garden I ever had and being thrilled with its beautiful silky red flowers. I think this might look good with the grasses and the drooping green bells of *Nicotiana langsdorffii*, which is now such a firm favourite of mine. And if it doesn't work, there is always next year.

Julie Davies

Hereford Cathedral Events March

Between Heaven and Earth: Icon Paintings by Petro Birov and Christina Watson

Tuesday 25 March – Thursday 24 April An exhibition of icons written by Petro Birov and Christina Watson to bring the viewer closer to God and to the lives of the saints.

This exhibition to view in the South Transept during normal opening hours. No admission charge.

Cathedral Tours Monday to Saturday, 11.05 am & 2.15 pm Explore the rich history and treasures of the cathedral from its Saxon origins to the present day with our knowledgeable guides.

Tickets from the Shop (01432 374210) and cost £7.50 (Adult), £6 (Student) and £2 (Child aged 8 - 16).

Ex Cathedra - Latin American Baroque – Ritual 1631 Wednesday 12 March, 7 - 9 pm.

Singers, harp, guitar, bajón, strings, winds and percussion revel in this colourful music sung in Latin, Spanish, Nahuatl and Quechuan – the languages of the Aztecs and Incas – as Ex Cathedra explore this glorious fusion of musical styles from Africa, the Americas and Europe.

Tickets are available to purchase from The Courtyard Box Office, please call 01432 340 555.

Dean Sarah's 2025 Spring Lecture - Friends of Hereford Cathedral Thursday 13 March, 7 – 9 pm.

When Dean Sarah gave her previous lecture to the Friends, the event was a sell-out. College Hall was as full as fire regulations allow! Dean Sarah's 2025 Spring Lecture promises to be equally thrilling and challenging.

Please ensure that you secure your tickets in good time! **Wine/soft drinks/savouries are included: £11**

per member in advance (£15 guests / door). More information contact: friends@herefordcathedral.org

Afternoon Music Saturday 15 March, 3.15 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a short concert of beautiful music played on the Father Willis organ. Afternoon Music takes place from 3.15 - 3.40 pm on selected Saturdays during the year. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Bereavement Café Wednesday 19 March, 2.30pm – 4 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for an informal, 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, welcoming environment to share experiences and support.

Hereford Choral Society - Vivaldi's Gloria Saturday 22 March, 7.30 pm

Vivaldi's *Gloria*, his most famous choral piece, was composed in Venice for the choir of the *Ospedale della Pietà*, an orphanage for girls. It sets the text of the Gloria from the Latin mass in twelve short movements.

To book your ticket, please visit herefordchoralsociety.org

Cathedral Bible Drama Group Monday 24 March, 7pm

This will be a fun and relaxed group in the College Hall that will use drama games and techniques to explore Biblical stories and characters. All welcome (18+).

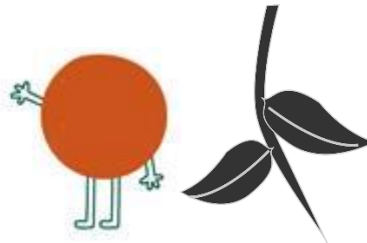
the Library (01432 374225) or email library@herefordcathedral.org

Scholars' Mass Tuesday 25 March, 12noon

Please join us for our music scholars' Mass in the Lady Chapel followed by a Lent lunch with musical entertainment in College Hall. The service is open to all, but there are limited places available for the lunch, for which a donation is invited. **To book your place in College Hall, please visit the website or contact the Cathedral Office (01432 374 200)**

Spring Open Gardens Friday 28 March, 10 am – 3.30 pm

Visitors can explore the gardens ahead of our open season in the summer months. Explore the historic Chapter House Garden, Cloister Garden, Canons' Garden, lower Dean's Garden and the beautiful Bishop's Garden at your own leisure, with our team of volunteer garden guides on hand in each garden to answer any questions. **Tickets: £7 for garden entry, can be purchased via the cathedral's website. Why not upgrade your ticket to include garden entry and afternoon tea and a glass of prosecco for £20?**



We are holding our Annual Spring Plant Fair again this year, on April 30th in aid of **The Cart Shed**. With more than 40 exhibitors (horticulturalists and those selling gardenalia) it's a highlight of the year and this year will be held at Garnons, with the opportunity of being able to enjoy the parkland and gardens as well as homemade refreshments.

Alex Fitzpatrick, Business Development Manager The Cart Shed

CHUCKLE CORNER

Try reading this aloud. Peter Garrat and David Macrae thought the translation of this French Medieval Poem might be amusing for readers of chuckle corner to read out loud. See if you agree.

"Polis poutre catalane
Polis poutre catalane
Polis poutre catalane
En la seve ti.
Sou quitte qu'etoffe a gain
Sou quitte qu'etoffe a gain
Sou quitte qu'etoffe a gain
Des vols gagne ou est."

Two clues

1. It's a joke
 2. It's a nursery rhyme.
- submissions of translation to our editor
answer next month in chuckle corner
all accents etc sadly omitted

David Macrae

If the weather in March is as grim as it is now (10th Feb), you might need half a dozen corny gags to cheer you up:

- The Grim Reaper came for me last night. I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death!
- My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70!! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper on the web.
- I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.
- I was driving this morning when I saw a parked RAC van. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself, that guy's heading for a breakdown.
- My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30am this morning. Can you believe that, 2.30am?! Luckily for him, I was still up playing my bagpipes.
- I bought some rocket salad yesterday, but it went off before I could eat it.

With my apologies to readers who might not find this primitive humour therapeutic.....

Peter Garratt

Dates for the diary:

MARCH

- 1 Garway Live!**
- 2 Benefice Communion Service**
- 3 Garway Coffee Morning/ Borderlines Film Festival at Garway Hall**
- 4 Garway Stitchers/St Weonards Ash Wednesday Service**
- 5 Orcop Coffee Morning**
- 10 Green Garway Book Club**
- 11 Flicks in the Sticks -Garway**
- 12 Lent Lunch St Weonards**
- 13 Coffee Morning, St Weonards/ Orcop Coffee Morning**
- 18 Garway Heritage Group**
- 19 Garway Stitchers**
- 20 Orcop Coffee Morning**
- 21 National Theatre Live at Garway Hall.**
- 27 Orcop Coffee Morning.**

APRIL

- 1 Garway Lent Lunch**
- 4 Orcop Coffee Morning**
- 8 Flicks in the Sticks, Garway**
- 13 Palm Sunday Walk**
- 15 Garway Heritage Group**
- 30 Plant Sale, The Cart Shed.**

MAY

- 10 Archenfield Arts**

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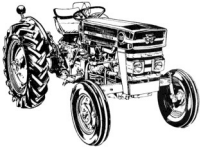
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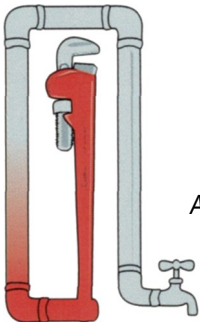
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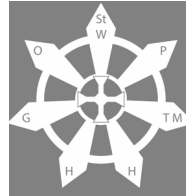
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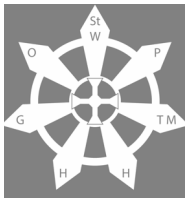
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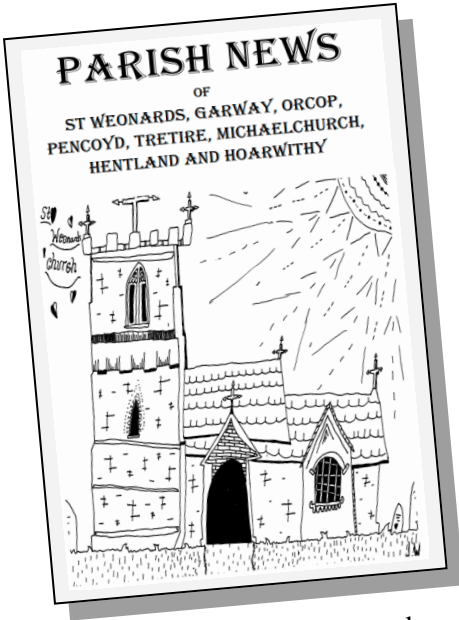
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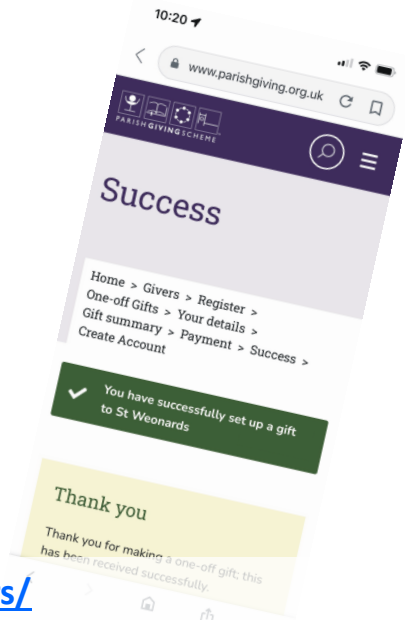
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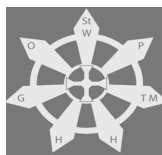
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