

#### OF

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

# **APRIL 2025**



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#### Vicar

## 

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#### Churchwardens

St. Weonards

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Tretire & Pencoyd Hoarwithy

Hentland

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

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Samaritans	National Helpline		08457 909090
	Hereford		116 123 free calls
			local call rates apply
			jo@samaritans.org
HOPEline IIK (Drevention of )	(oung Suioido)	0970 1704000	01070 267222

#### West Mercia Police

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

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

How to get in touch: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk www.westmercia.police.uk

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger. Otherwise call 101.

# PARISH NEWS

# THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

For enquiries on baptisms, funerals and wedding please contact the Vicar: Rev. Angie Kateley <u>revangiekateley@gmail.com</u> 01981 345044 **Rest day: Tuesday**.

#### Vicar's Letter

'When we see a beautiful object, a beautiful garden, or a beautiful flower, let us think that there we behold a ray of the infinite beauty of God'

#### - St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

Spring is the season of hope and of promise. Seeds, bulbs and buds all contain such exquisite possibility. Pretty spring flowers splash colour over our gardens and hedgerows, almost anywhere where there is a bit of soil.

#### "All the flowers of the tomorrows are in the seeds of today." — Indian Proverb

There is much to be gained from time spent in the contemplation of flowers. To meditate on the intricacies of a single bloom or spray is a practice well worth pursuing (dear little forget-me-nots are my favourite for this). All flowers have humble beginnings. We can learn from them about tenacity, about pushing on through the dark patches in search of light, about being comfortable in our own skin, about nurturing, about vulnerability not as a weakness but as a strength, about the nature of God.

# *"Flowers don't worry about how they're going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful." — Jim Carrey*

In this month of Easter, I would like to sing my praises for the infinite beauty of God reflected in each flower, and I would like to shout 'three cheers' for all those who adorn our churches with flowers, be they elegant arrangements or wildflowers in old jam jars. I sincerely thank you. To be able to gaze upon those blooms amidst all the words and motions of our church services gives me pause to take time to simply and intentionally be in God's presence.

At Orcop during snowdrop season I was delighted by a posy of snowdrops on the prayer desk where I sit. I could find in those little drops of loveliness all the loveliness of God and all that is good in the human heart. A jar of daffodils in Hentland's vestry smilingly invited me into a tender moment alone with God in preparation for leading worship. During the solemn season of Lent many churches remove flowers. Which means chocolate is not the only thing I'm looking forward to on Easter Sunday morning!

I wish you all a wonderful Easter when it comes: chocolate, flowers, fluffy bunnies, the lot. And I pray for you to have the opportunities to gaze and to wonder.

#### Rev Angie xxx

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

#### Benefice Communion at St Weonards Church

10.00am

# SERVICE ROTA

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00am	St Weonards Benefice Communion
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Orcop Compline
Palm Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	9.45 for 10.00am 1.00pm 3.00pm	Palm Sunday Walk Broad Oak to Garway Palm Sunday Walk Pencoyd to Hentland Hentland Pax Service
Maundy Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Garway Tenebrae Service
Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Noon to 3.00pm 2.00 to 3.00pm	Hoarwithy Prayer Vigil Tretire Stations of the Cross Service
Easter Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am 11.30am 3.00pm	St Weonards Communion Hoarwithy Communion Orcop Easter Celebration
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am 9.30am 11.15am	Hentland Holy Communion St Weonards All Age Worship Orcop Holy Communion
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00am	Pencoyd Benefice Communion VE Celebration

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





# VILLAGE PAGES

# ST WEONARDS

St Weonards Church was privileged to hold the memorial service for Andrew Lewis. This was a joyful, yet poignant celebration. Wonderful tributes from his family reminded us of his life and his many, many activities supporting his family and community events. In addition to the packed church of more than 300, it would have been hard to seat another person, more than 70 joined the celebration from the village hall where the service was live streamed.

To mark the beginning of Lent, Rev Angie led us in the short quiet contemplative service of compline. Doing a little research into the origins of this service, it was fascinating to see that it was first mentioned as part of the daily round of monastic prayers in about 375 AD! It derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' *(completorium)*. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. This service is also being held at our other parishes throughout Lent.

In early March we were pleased to welcome the Burton family for the baptism of their young daughters Grace and Olive. This was a joyful occasion. Rev Angie used the parable of the Lost Sheep to remind us of God's love for each person. The reading of the story was enhanced by Derick Hill vividly playing the part of the shepherd, and his 'lost sheep' *Baarbara* brought it all to life!

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am, St Weonards holds the monthly benefice communion. This is the only service that day and it gives us the opportunity to meet members of our other parishes.

As part of the preparation for Easter, the Palm Sunday Walk is being revived. Do come and join us for all or part of this. On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April we start from Broad Oak and walk to Garway Church stopping en route to share worship at Broad Oak Methodist Chapel and Garway Baptist Church. The Baptist Chapel have generously offered to provide refreshments at the end.

Please see the rota of services in the middle of the magazine for other ways in which to take part in Lenten preparation, leading to our Easter Day communion 9.30am.

At the APCM I will stand down as Churchwarden. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking my cowarden Anna Lewis, the PCC, and all those who have supported me in this role.

**Dates for the diary**: Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Garden Open with vintage tractors and cars. Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June Treago Castle Musical Evening with Ledbury Brass Band and Welsh national Eisteddfod winners Risca Male voice choir.

#### Richard Mynors, churchwarden

On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank Richard for all his work as churchwarden, as well as his organ playing and running of the benefice choir which greatly enhances our worship. I am also grateful for the way he has helped me in undertaking the role of churchwarden.

#### Anna Lewis, churchwarden

### Coffee Morning

#### Thursday 10th April.

St Weonards Village Hall 10.00 -12.00am.

Enjoy coffee and some homemade cake.

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

All welcome.

#### Gwyneth Williams



#### St. Weonards Short Mat Bowls Club



The club is looking for a cupboard in which to store our bowling woods at the Village Hall during the week. The space in the hall is large enough to take a cupboard of dimensions of 4-5ft x 2ft x 1.5-2ft (h x w x d), sufficient to hold about 50 bowling woods.

If anyone has such a cupboard which is surplus to their requirement, would you please contact *David White* on 07534459277.



#### **Garway Church**

#### Palm Sunday Walk 13<sup>th</sup> April 9.45 for 10.00am

How wonderful that we are now fully into spring, with the Easter season now with us.

We have been invited to join with the Baptists and Methodists for an ecumenical walk from Broad Oak crossroads to Garway church. This will commence from 'the triangle' at Broad Oak at 10am. There will be stops at Broad Oak Methodist Chapel, Garway Baptist Chapel and Garway Church, finishing back at Garway Baptist Chapel for tea and biscuits. Easy walking and total distance of about 2.5 miles but with the option of a car ride for those with mobility issues and a lift back to Broad Oak. Children and dogs most welcome!

Please do join us for this inclusive walk.

This will replace our 11.15 service, that would have normally happened on the second Sunday of the month. We will now begin this pattern in May

#### Tracy Somerville and Ruth Maskell

#### Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm

You are invited to spend a little time with us for a Tenebrae service in Garway church. This is a gentle reflective service which is held in candlelight. The candles are gradually extinguished one by one during the service, ending the service in darkness and silence.

#### Tracy Somerville, churchwarden







Firstly a big thank you to the trustees and members of the community who helped us resurface the loading bay a few weeks ago. Repairing the messy area has been on the list for a while, but finally a combination of available funds and free time enabled the work to be done. Thanks to everyone involved.

Coming up on Saturday 29 March we're looking forward to hosting Gaz Brookfield, number one in the UK folk chart, as part of his *Almost All Village Halls* 2025 tour. Tickets are still available through our website.

On Sunday 6 April from 11-3 we will be holding our first Village Spring Fair. Do come along and support our local makers and artists and bring your family and friends. It's sure to be a treat and as popular as our Christmas fairs have been.

Remember that we send out a monthly email newsletter so if you want to be in the know of what's going on, head to our website <u>www.garwayhall.org</u> and subscribe!

#### Julie Hudson

#### Archenfield Arts 2025 Celebration Week bringing arts and fun to the community! (Calling all performers- see below)

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 5pm Archenfield Arts Festival Day in Garway Church

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11.15am Celebration Service in Garway Church

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7pm Family Ceilidh in Garway Village Hall

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm Welsh folk harp recital with Delyth Jenkins in Garway Church

And throughout the week 11 – 18th May Exhibition of local artists in Garway Village Hall

Church Tours and Teas .... enjoy a stroll around the Church discovering its Templar and Hospitaller history or book a guided tour with tea afterwards at the Hall.

For a guided tour contact Pearl at fogc1180@gmail.com

Watch this space – and look on Facebook for further details – but get the dates in your diary!!

Archenfield Arts is a unique village festival dedicated to providing opportunities for the community

#### Contact Hilary: 07388 038794

(There will be a loo available at the church!)

#### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May All Day

# 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!

Contact Hilary: 07388038794

#### GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP Tuesday 15th April Garway Village Hall, 7.30pm

#### Peace for Evermore

Peace for Evermore is a journey through two diaries - one from the First World War, the other from the Second World War. They were written in the form of letters by Tim Bannerman's grandfather and father to their spouses, Tim's grandmother and mother. Each has a distinctive character and style as befits their differing eras and the individual qualities of the writers. Despite the odds, each author survived the traumas of war, and with them, their diaries. Tim takes us through them, including other relevant writings and recollections, beginning and ending with a local Herefordshire connection.

Tim lives in Orcop with his wife, Gill, and they make variously successful cider and perry from the orchard they planted on arrival back in 2012.

The evening will commence with a very brief (we promise!) AGM.

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.

GHG returns in September with another series of talks. **16th September -** Coningsby Hospital Museum, Hereford - illustrated talk by Peter Harris. <u>www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk</u>



#### TUESDAY APRIL 8TH 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00 SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE

"If you want to get on in this world, there are things you have to ignore". That is the advice, given by his wife, to Bill Furlong, a coal-merchant living with a boisterous gaggle of daughters in a small Irish town in the 1980s. And that

advice gets to the heart of this quiet, understated film, based on the wonderful novella by Clare Keegan.

The Catholic church looms large over the town, both physically and emotionally. The chilling Mother Superior, played by Emily Watson, preaches compassion and mercy and yet has a heart of cold stone. Bill, who has been brought up carrying his own kind of shame and guilt, discovers that the convent is running a Magdalene laundry, one of the cruel institutions which were set up by the church and the Irish state. Like other such laundries across Ireland, this convent is taking in young "fallen" women, imprisoning them and abusing them mercilessly in the name of holiness.

The town is full of sealed lips; unspoken things are allowed because the church is all powerful. But Bill is a man of conscience and, ultimately, he must speak out – Furlong, the quietest of men who rarely says a word.

You will see some brilliant acting here from Cillian Murphy who plays the coal-merchant. He does it with almost wordless skill. It's a film about how good people let bad things happen. And it's one which packs a

real emotional punch. Join us for wine, cakes, teas and coffee before the film and during the interval. You can follow us on <u>www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks</u>.

#### **Corinne Westacott**

#### **Green Garway Book Club**

#### Villager by Tom Cox

Tom Cox is better known for his non-fiction, so we were intrigued to read this novel. It features various voices from a village called Underhill in Devon, including the village itself. This is almost like a collection of short stories. We all felt it started well but perhaps started to unravel a bit by the end. There are many jumps forward and back in time, and underlying themes of anger at land ownership, music and village life. There is an excellent chapter featuring the village social media notice board which perfectly reflects the tone of many a small town, Facebook town or village group venting their fury into the ether. Rating: 3/5

Date for the diary: 14<sup>th</sup> April: *Perfect Golden Circle* by Benjamin Myers *Julie Hudson* 

#### Garway Village Hall (HR2 8RQ) Sunday 27th April 2025 @ 7:30pm

#### Jimmy Crowley & Eve Telford with storytelling by Austin Keenan

Jimmy Crowley has been at the heart of the Irish Folk scene for nearly 50 years. He has 14 albums to his credit. Eve Telford was born in Australia and is a singer, poet and writer of short stories. Recently Jimmy and Eve have produced an album of the Child Ballads, learnt for the most part from the Irish Travellers.

Both Jimmy and Eve will be playing their own compositions, as well as traditional material. The evening will have an interval, and in each half, Austin Keenan will tell an episode from the life of Lugh, the long handed, ancient hero of the De Danaans.

Seats must be booked by email: <u>austin@wyrdweb.com</u> or tel: 01600 750243 There will be a bucket for donations. Suggested amount £8.

#### Austin Keenan



What an interesting month we've just had, starting off with an excellent evening of great music with *the Soul Strutters*. This was the evening that we should have had at the end of last year but was abandoned because the village was plunged into darkness with the power cut. However, the band gave us a night of outstanding entertainment with lots of the audience saying how much they thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

In contrast, we finished the month with our new venture which we are running with the Hall Trustees when we had our first showing of the National Theatres *The Importance of being Earnest*. Hopefully there will be more to come.

This month we are working with Garway Croquet Club to raise some funds for the club. They are providing the band "U3" which features our own Jim Martin on bass. It should be an excellent evening. It's all happening on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 8.pm, doors open 7.30. Admission is £10 on the door and advance tickets are available from <u>www.ticketsource.co.uk/argarway</u> as usual. There will be the bar and Chris' food available too. Come and make a night of it and help the club raise some funds.

#### Graham Bevan





Garway Live Presents

# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day Party

# With Monmouth Big Band

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

7.30-11.00 pm

Garway Village Hall

# Tickets £15

Jive dancing workshop and vocal harmonies

Tickets available from Broad Oak Garage, St Weonards shop/Lucy Hoare https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/herefordshire/garwayvillage-hall

Dress: 1940s/uniform/tea dresses/landgirl etc (optional)

Hotdogs/burgers will be available (profits to go to Royal British Legion)



# ORCOP



As we look forward to celebrating Easter, a reminder that there will be a compline service at Orcop Church on 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm and also that there are to be no flowers in the church until Easter Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. On Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a short and informal Orcop service at 3pm.

It has been a relief to have had a couple of dry weeks to recover from the winter storms and even a few days of warm sunshine after the February gloom. We are now promised more cold conditions and perhaps a few wintry showers. Let's hope that proper spring weather returns before Easter.

#### Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

#### Flowers and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. W. Dudfield (no flowers until 19<sup>th</sup> please)

#### Uganda Visit

Thank you for all the supplies which we were kindly given to take to Fountain of Peace Children's Home in Kyenjojo in Uganda. They have all been given for use in the houses and their nursery and primary school.

FOP is a very happy and special place, providing a permanent home for abandoned babies. The children live in family houses of about nine, each with a mother and nanny. The babies stay in one large house and the toddlers live in another.

The children are wonderful - happy, settled, confident, full of life and thriving. They are very polite in the Ugandan way. The babies are beautiful. Another new baby had been rescued a week before we arrived, the change in him each day was surprisingly rapid. He filled out and lost his startled look. He will now have a bright future with stimulation, education and opportunities.

The staff are amazing and cope with very basic cooking and washing facilities to give the children stability and lots of care and love. Lots of fun and laughter too.

We were busy for a fortnight painting and decorating the nursery classrooms, putting up gutters, planting flower and vegetable gardens and Evie taught some mothers and nannies to sew using the treadle sewing machines which Neil repaired. They learnt to make patchwork quilts and school uniforms and loved it.

We were very sad to leave FOP, but had a fantastic experience on safari in Murchison Falls National Park. Uganda is a beautiful verdant country with red, dusty, productive soil. There is a huge amount of deep poverty but no shortage of food. Subsistence farmers grow bananas, coffee, cassava, sweet potatoes, millet, maize, chickens and goats on small plots to eat and sell. We saw several large-scale tea and sugar cane plantations too. There are many reminders of the colonial past and much Chinese investment, particularly in the roads and infrastructure. It is an interesting time in Ugandan history to visit.

Thank you for all your contributions, they really will make a big difference to the quality of life of the children at FOP.

#### Neil, Sarah and Evie Griffiths x

**Dates for the diary**: Join us for some fantastic community events at Orcop Village Hall this year!

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May Orcop Churchyard Bingo Doors open at 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. If anyone is able to provide cakes or a prize please contact Julia Garlick 01981 580515.
- Cheese and Wine Evening Coming up in June (exact date to be confirmed).
- Orcop Apple Pressing Festival Saturday, 11th October.
- Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, 29th November.

# TRETIRE AND PENCOYD

#### Palm Sunday Walk 13th April

Please join us for a Palm Sunday Walk on Sunday 13th April from Pencoyd Church to Hentland Church, where we will join in the Pax Service at 3pm.

Grown-ups, children and (well behaved) dogs are a very much encouraged.

Gather at Pencoyd Church from 12:45 to set off at 13.00hrs Our route will be Pencoyd to Michaelchurch to Gillow and across the A49 down to Hentland.

If you only want to walk one-way let us know so we can plan return transport.

See you then!!

#### Elizabeth Malcolm Churchwarden

#### Services

30<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am Tretire Mothering Sunday Service

18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday Pencoyd Stations of the Cross 2 to 3pm

1<sup>st</sup> May Pencoyd 10.00am Benefice Communion and celebration of VE Day

# HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

#### St. Catherine's Hoarwithy Good Friday

We are having a Prayer Vigil at St. Catherine's on Good Friday from Noon to 3.00pm. We look forward to seeing you - come when you can and stay as long as you feel led.

#### Palm Sunday Walk and Pax Service St Dubricius Hentland

Please join us for a Palm Sunday Walk on Sunday 13th April from Pencoyd Church to Hentland Church, where we will join in the Pax Service at 3pm. Grown-ups, children and (well behaved) dogs are a very much encouraged.

Gather at Pencoyd Church from 12:45 to set off at 13.00hrs Our route will be Pencoyd to Michaelchurch to Gillow and across the A49 down to Hentland. If you only want to walk one-way let us know so we can plan return transport.

See you then!!

The annual Pax Service will take place at St Dubricius on Palm Sunday 13th April at 3pm. As usual, having taken our seats in church we go out to gather at the lychgate to process into church singing Ride on! Ride on in Majesty, pausing to pray to the churchyard cross halfway, before moving back to our places in church.

At the end of the service the Pax cakes will be distributed from the Alter steps with the traditional greeting 'Peace and Good Neighbourhood.

Unfortunately the benefice choir is not available for our Palm Sunday service, therefore we are hoping to have a 'pop up choir' so if anyone is interested, please do get in touch with Phil of Val churchwardens for St Dubricius or David Phillips our organist.

Peter Pember, churchwarden

#### **Book Review**

#### A Perfect Explanation by Eleanor Anstruther

Author Eleanor Anstruther is a descendant of the dukes of Argyll, and granddaughter to Enid Campbell. For her debut novel, she sets out to trace the story of Enid's marriage to Douglas Anstruther during the interwar years. She fleshes out the bare bones of diaries, court and medical records to weave a fascinating semifictional account of this dysfunctional upper-class family. We see her as a downtrodden daughter to the overbearing Sybil, sister to Joan (a feisty lesbian) and mother to three children, Fagus, Finneta and Ian.

Enid's marriage is an act of rebellion that condemns her to the life of a society wife, and even more problematical, a mother. Her first child Fagus is born with hydrocephalus, and Enid is at a complete loss as to how to care for him in the context of the oppressive silence that prevails around his disability. In early childhood he falls down the stairs while on her watch and becomes both more seriously disabled and blind. Enid simply does not have the emotional resources to cope with either motherhood or marriage. She watches with envy and puzzlement as her sister Joan enjoys her cocktail-swigging life with her partner Pat, free of the obligation to produce a healthy heir.

Woven throughout the novel is the influence of the Christian Science movement, to which she had been attracted before her marriage and to which she escapes when the pressures of family life overwhelm her. And she sinks into what we would now describe as post-natal depression – so sensitively described in this book.

Anstruther's debut novel centres on a shocking truth from her family history: Enid sold her younger son lan to her sister for £500, following Enid's divorce and bitter custody battle.

The novel volleys between the 1920s and 1964, with Enid in a Hampstead nursing home before a prospective family reunion with her daughter and lan, whom she hasn't seen since she gave him up 25 years earlier. Here she ponders a "perfect explanation" for her life choices, some of which were outside her control.

#### Hilary Smallwood

#### Garden Notes

It is wonderful to be out in the garden again enjoying the sunshine and getting some jobs done. The hydrangeas have been dead headed, the roses pruned, dead stems of perennials cut down and the dead fern fronds removed. It doesn't take more than a few minutes in the garden before my spirits are lifted; there are no dismal news broadcasts, the birds are singing, the sun has some warmth in it, I am surrounded by dainty primroses and all's well with the world – well, my small world anyway.

Trimming the hydrangeas is one of the most satisfying jobs at this time of year. There are the varieties such as the mopheads which just require the old flower head to be snipped off right next to some lovely plump leaf buds, and the varieties like the paniculatas where you can go a bit crazy and cut off as much as you like. The more you cut off, the larger the flowers will be. If you only trim off a little, there will be more flowers, but they will be smaller. I like large flowers so cut mine down quite drastically. I have fifteen hydrangeas, so this task takes a little while but is immensely satisfying.

The winter aconites that I planted 'in-the-green' last spring were a no-show this year, which was disappointing, but I am not surprised. Aconites are notoriously difficult to get established which is why I ordered them 'in-the-green'. However, when they arrived, they had been sent out far too early; they had very small roots and the flowers were only just beginning to emerge, with no leaves at all. I am tempted to re-order some but from a different company and hope for better plants this time.

I planted *Rosa* 'Complicata' around 12 years ago. This is a very large shrub (this one was 12 feet across), which although it only flowers once a year has very beautiful single pink flowers about 5" across. I have enjoyed it for a few years but in recent years it has succumbed to black spot; for much of the summer it looks truly dreadful. If you can control the black spot, it would suit a wilder garden very well, but it is so large I have made the decision to remove it. It took a while to remove all the stems – I do resent being attacked by plants (it is very thorny) – but all I have left to do is remove the stump one day soon when I am feeling energetic.

My already ailing box balls (all 15 of them) are looking very sick after the winter. The day is looming when I will have to remove them, which, as some are over two feet in diameter, will totally change the look of the garden. I will miss them, so I am looking at alternatives and am considering using one of the Portuguese laurels - *Prunus lusitanica* 'Angustifolia'. It is such a lovely plant with its shiny dark green leaves and eye-catching red stems. Ready-trained topiary balls are prohibitively expensive but small untrained plants are reasonably priced, and as it is fast-growing I would soon achieve the effect I want. They would need trimming to shape twice a year but that would not be too onerous a task and I think they would be a very handsome addition to the garden.

#### Julie Davies

Editor: Each month the magazine copy is tidied up and put into Publisher ready for printing. Ruth does this for us every other month and this has continued despite a temporary move to Boston, Mass. She has kindly agreed to give us her impressions of life across the Pond!

#### Letter from America

One evening over dinner, back in July 2024, my husband Jonathan asked our 13-year-old son what he thought of us going to live in America for a few years. James answered him with immediate whooping and 'oh yeah'- followed by questions to me of "Will I be American? and "Can I call you Mom?" (no and no). And so we were all set for new adventures.

We've been living in Boston, Massachusetts for nearly six months and we LOVE it. Then again, we love Herefordshire too.



Boston is beautiful. It's a very green city, trees and parks everywhere. Everything is tidy and well looked after. We live in Roslindale, a residential neighbourhood next to the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, a lovely 281-acre space, which is part of The Emerald Necklace, a seven mile, 1,1000-acre chain of parks and waterways and all walkable. The architecture is wonderful; in the city there are modern buildings right next to old buildings which somehow enhances the best of both. The residential houses are mostly clapboard in wonderful colour combinations (I particularly like the blue) all with steps up to big, wide front porches.

Our neighbours are very friendly, but I wouldn't say any more or less so than our British neighbours. Generally, everyone is very polite, and I'm often called 'Ma'am' by shopkeepers, policemen etc. Oh and they do like to run here, joggers everywhere and in all weathers. Not just in the arboretum but alongside the frozen Charles River in Downtown Boston, on ice and snow, when the air is so cold it's hard to breathe, sometimes in shorts, crazy! Talking of crazy – Boston drivers...

Okay, so I knew they drive on the wrong side of the road, but I thought that would be the only challenge. I learnt to drive in London, so I thought I'd easily get to grips with driving the streets of Boston, silly me. They speed, not just a bit, a good twice the limit. No one takes any immediate notice of a red light. You are allowed to turn right at a red light here, unless there is a sign saying otherwise but no one stops for any red light unless they really have to as four lanes of oncoming traffic roar towards you. They have roundabouts here, called rotaries but there's no lane discipline, no indicating and very little clue as to who gives way (yields) to whom. Yes, there are a lot of shiny big cars driving about with big dents in them. And should you take more than a nano-second to get into gear when a traffic light turns green, someone will beep their horn at you. But it isn't an aggressive beep, it's more an impatient 'the light is green, let me help you notice we can go now'. One road rule I've never seen broken is the one about not passing a school bus with its lights flashing and stop sign on. And those buses stop whenever and wherever they want (and they really are all yellow).

But what about the weather? A very British question but Bostonians also talk about the weather all the time, they are New Englanders after all. 2024 was a drought year, the driest in 100 years (I know, all the rain was in Herefordshire). Autumn was warm and sunny and winter extremely cold - and sunny. It has snowed about 10 times. The snow is light and fluffy (no good for building snowmen!) and shovelling snow from the sidewalk outside your house (a legal obligation) is a great way to meet the neighbours and keep warm. Every day the sky has been clear and blue.



Temperatures have often been -14C to -16C but it's still so dry there is little or no frost to scrape off the windscreen in the mornings. No, we're not missing the grey skies of the UK.

Eating out – We haven't found a restaurant yet without LOTS of TV screens, all on loudly and showing different programmes, mostly sports. The food is delicious and the service is excellent though a bit different in that immediately you finish your plate it's whipped away. Huge portions of course, we've never yet made it through to pudding. It must be why everyone goes running.

Navigating my way round the supermarkets has been fascinating, there is all sorts of fresh produce I wouldn't know what to do with (aloe leaves?) and some totally unidentifiable without Google. There is so much processed food, which I leave on the shelf. And some things I just can't find, such as crème fraiche or full fat dairy yoghurt. Their sausages are not remotely related to the British banger, a lot are turkey or chicken and many contain cheese, in fact there is a lot of cheese in everything. The sandwiches are ENORMOUS. And the prices – a dozen large brown own-brand eggs are 8.49/£6.58, a box of cereal



\$6.49/£5.03, bottle of Head & Shoulders shampoo \$9.79 and these are the best prices I can find. The good news is the wine is good and comes in big 1.5L bottles for about \$7 and 1.75L Gordon's gin is \$22.99/£17.81.

I know the cost of living is exceptionally high here and living entirely on credit is the norm, I can *almost* understand why one would consider voting for a president promising to bring that down.

Living in Boston is definitely different from life in the UK but it's not really 'foreign'. I can't possibly say which is better, we still have spring and summer to experience and it's all so exciting still.

#### Ruth Davis

#### Hereford Cathedral Events

Advance notice: **Three Choirs Festival 26 July – 2 August in Hereford** Enjoy a superb selection of concerts which feature the festival's own choirs, internationally-recognised soloists, and the world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra. There is also plenty to do which doesn't need a ticket – pop into one of the cathedral rehearsals, meet with friends and enjoy a drink at the festival bar, listen to incredible performers on the community bandstand, or browse the beautiful items made by local designers in the festival marquee.

Why not come along and see for yourself why so many people come back to us year after year? Full programme <u>https://3choirs.org/hereford-2025</u> Tickets from 14 April. 3choirs.org / 01452 768928

St Matthew Passion: Tues 15 April, 7 pm Hereford Cathedral Choir with Marches Baroque and a renowned lineup of soloists, perform J S Bach's *St Matthew Passion. Doors open at 6.15 pm.* Tickets: £25 (Front Nave), £18 (Rear Nave) Reduced ticket £10 for those aged 25 and under in the rear nave of the cathedral. Buy tickets via the cathedral's website or by calling the shop (01432 374 210)

**Bereavement Café Wed 16 April, 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.

Easter Monday Organ Concert Monday 21 April, 1.15 pm Peter Dyke's popular Easter Monday concert performed on the cathedral's world-famous Willis organ. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

**Easter Messy Church Thursday 24 April – Noon – 2 pm** Come and take part in an afternoon of Easter fun, including stories, song, prayers and a selection of crafts and activities for all of the family to take part in. Join us at 12.30 pm for a light lunch.

**Cathedral Bible Drama Group Mon 28 April, 7 pm** This will be a fun and relaxed free group in the Old Chapel that will use drama games and techniques to explore Biblical stories and characters. All welcome (18+).

Lecture The Murder of Saint Ethelbert the King - Friends of Hereford Cathedral Wed 30 April, 7 pm The Murder of Saint Ethelbert the King: a cold case review in the light of new facts! Clifford Offer will draw upon the latest historical evidence to probe the circumstances surrounding the murder of King Ethelbert in 794. Wine/soft drinks/savouries are included: £11 per member in advance (£15 guests / door). For more information please email: friends@herefordcathedral.org



Hello everyone,

We are Farming Minds has a very busy year ahead of them, so we are looking for some volunteers to help us at our fundraisers, events or if you'd rather be behind the scenes we are also looking for more people to join us on the support line.

If you have some time to spare and want to make a difference, we'd love to have you on board!

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Please do get in contact if you are interested, we'd love to hear from you.

Natalie Assistant Project Manager M: 07951 871161 W: www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk

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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

The translation of the poem is the nursery rhyme as below; Polly put the kettle on Polly put the kettle on Polly put the kettle on We'll all have tea.

Suki take it off again Suki take it off again Suki take it off again They've all gone away.

Further poems are available only on request as most people find the joke wears very thin very quickly!

#### David Macrae

Editor: Congratulations to Lesley Whistance who spotted this one! I loved this seen on Monty Don's gardening programme in Northern Ireland.

Trespassers will be composted.

The last of the Christmas cracker jokes.

What did the grape do when it got stepped on? It let out a little wine.

What do sheep say at Christmas? Wool-tide Bleatings.

#### LADY OWNER IN GOOD CONDITION

Some readers may be growing tired of the monthly serving of corny jokes in Chuckle Corner, so this month I am serving up something a little different. I am indebted to Kevin Bennett, Editor of the monthly magazine of *The Daimler and Lanchester Owners Club*, for the following selection of adverts culled from classic car magazines and websites. These are reproduced exactly as they appeared and represent just a sample of the many unusual and often amusing adverts that his research has unearthed:

I believe these totally unique cars will only go up in value due to the fact that this vehicle is very unique.

Daimler 250V8 fuel tank good condition no leeks (from South Wales, of course)

My father does not require welding

For sale due to wife has new car and now sits on drive and needs a new home

Former lady owner requires attention

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A solid lady owner

Reson for sale to big for other half so would exchange smaller

This car is not conkers but very presentable, now needing repaint due to poor American primmer

Would look amassing in new paint. Needs peeping and painting. Relisted due to winning bidders cat walking on his laptop

Totally unique and not meny about now. It handles amazingly, where you want it to go will go no dount. The body had a bare metal resort it has also been fitted with an electric faith. (Angie, please note)

This car has no roof, no interior and no boot lid but is otherwise complete. Fitted with two brand new pumpers- very rare got them from the jugular spares day

There is loads of paper work for the car on wots been spend on it. Its in good condition with a good engine and new radicals

The last owner gave the car a respray, rechromed the bumpers, had the interior reupholstered and sorted out the electrics, but it is as original as the day it left the plant. NO SILLY OFFERS OR IDIOTS PLEASE.....

Peter Garratt

### Dates for the diary:

#### April

- 1 Garway April Coffee Morning
- 6 Benefice Communion at St Weonards Church; Garway Village Spring Fair
- 8 Flicks in the Sticks
- 10 Magazine copy date; St Weonards Coffee Morning; Orcop Church compline service
- 11 Garway LIVE! fundraiser
- 12 Garway School PSA Easter Egg Hunt
- 13 Palm Sunday Walk and Pax Service at St Dubricius Hentland
- 14 Green Garway Book Club Perfect Golden Circle by Benjamin Myers
- 15 Garway Heritage Group talk Peace for Evermore; St Matthew Passion, Hereford Cathedral
- 16 Bereavement Café, College Hall
- 17 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service in Garway Church
- 18 Good Friday Pencoyd Stations of the Cross; Good Friday Prayer Vigil and St Catherine's, Hoarwithy
- 20 Orcop Easter Sunday short and informal service
- 21 Easter Monday Organ Concert, Hereford Cathedral
- 22 Prescription collection
- 24 Easter Messy Church, Hereford Cathedral
- 27 Village Hall Breakfast; Garway Village Hall Irish Folk evening
- 28 Cathedral Bible Drama Group in the Old Chapel
- 30 Lecture The Murder of St Ethelbert, Hereford Cathedral

#### May

- 1 Archenfield Arts Festival Day; Pencoyd Benefice Communion and celebration of VE Day
- 9 Orcop Churchyard Bingo
- 10 May All Day
- 11 Celebration Service in Garway Church
- 16 Family Ceilidh
- 18 Welsh folk harp recital
- 11-18 Exhibition of local artists in Garway Village Hall

#### June

- Tbc Orcop Cheese and Wine Evening
- 8 Open Garden
- 13 Treago Castle Musical Evening

#### July

26 - 2 August Three Choirs Festival in Hereford

#### October

11 Orcop Apply Pressing Festival

#### November

29 Orcop Christmas Bazaar

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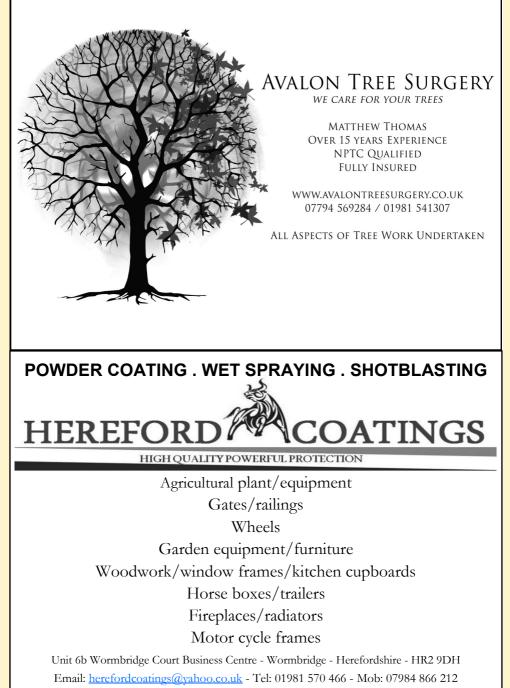
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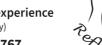
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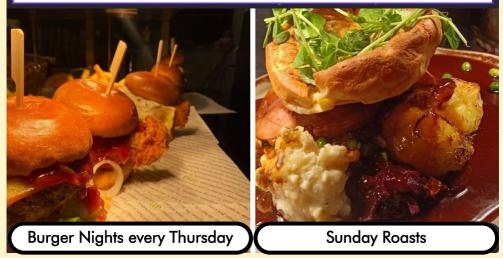


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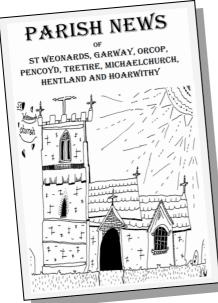
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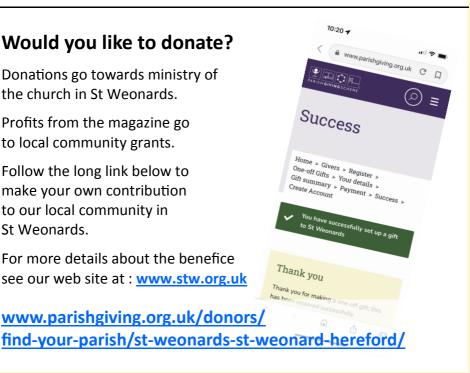
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