

# PARISH NEWS

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

JUNE 2025



**'twas hot in April and early May  
'twill soon be time to make the hay  
Will it be dry or will it be wet?  
We'll make the hay  
Whatever we get!**



BY PETER GARRATT

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## CONTACTS IN THE ST. WEONARDS GROUP OF PARISHES

### Vicar

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

### Churchwardens

St. Weonards	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
	Anna Williams.....	07779 006994
Orcop	Margaret Fletcher .....	01981 540790
Garway	Tracy Somerville .....	01981 580263
Tretire & Pencoyd	Elizabeth Malcolm .....	01989 730201
Hoarwithy	Peter Pember .....	01432 840254
	Jeff Goulding .....	01432 840492
Hentland	Valerie Lilwall .....	07775 611128
	Phil Watkins .....	07831 317904

### Local Contacts

Editor Parish Magazine	Fiona Mynors .....	01981 580208
Group Choir	Richard Mynors.....	01981 580208
Bellringing	Peter Hallewell .....	01981 580203
Royal British Legion	Bea Morris.....	07932 068363
Garway Youth Group	Mark Shipton.....	07986 324915
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
Singing Tree Choir	Hilary Smallwood .....	01600 614012
Garway Hall Bookings	.....	hires@garwayhall.org
Garway Pre-school	Julie Jones .....	01600 750273
Garway Live	Graham Bevan.....	01981 580215
Flicks in the Sticks	Claire Adamson .....	01600 750465
OWL Good Neighbours	Jane Lockhart .....	01981 241310
Dore Community Transport	.....	0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website	.....	www.stw.org.uk

### HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Birch Ward: Toni Fagan (Green) ..... [tonifagan@btinternet.com](mailto:tonifagan@btinternet.com)  
office hours 01981 540721

Dinedor Hill Ward: David Davies ..... [david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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 **10<sup>th</sup> of the month**:

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

Contributions by email to [archenfieldmag@btinternet.com](mailto:archenfieldmag@btinternet.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

<b>Garway:</b>	clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk Website: <a href="http://www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk">www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>Orcop:</b>	Neil Barrington ..... clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: <a href="http://www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07380 132702
<b>St Weonards:</b>	Neil Barrington ..... clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: <a href="http://www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07380 132702
<b>Llanwarne:</b>	Neil Barrington ..... clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	07380 132702
<b>Ballingham, Bolstone &amp; Hentland:</b>	Nicky Mackenzie ..... clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk Website: <a href="http://www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk">www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk</a>	07581 353103

## VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

<b>Samaritans</b>	National Helpline.....	08457 909090
	Hereford.....	116 123 free calls
		0330 094 5717 local call rates apply
		<a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>

**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](mailto:herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk) [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

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

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# PARISH NEWS

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## THE ARCHENFIELD GROUP

For enquiries on baptisms, funerals and wedding please contact the Vicar:  
Rev. Angie Kateley [revangiekateley@gmail.com](mailto:revangiekateley@gmail.com) 01981 345044 **Rest day: Tuesday.**

### Vicar's Letter

*'It was the third of June, another sleepy dusty Delta day...'*

'Ode to Billie Joe' by Bobbie Gentry is one of the few country songs I can sing from beginning to end in the shower. I love a song that tells a story, and this one does so hauntingly: a desperately sad story which leaves more questions unanswered than truths revealed. As a family sits around the dinner table chatting and gossiping, our narrator, the daughter in the family, slides unnoticed into a state of shock and grief at the nonchalantly delivered news that Billie Joe has died. For 58 years, people have mused and debated the lyrics' various allusions and dangling threads. Was it left deliberately ambiguous? I imagine so.

For a lot longer than that, people have mused and debated the meaning of almost every part of the Bible. Some people have staked their reputations, careers, even their lives, on the premise that their interpretation of a section, a sentence or a word is the right one. Such arguments have been used by many different groups to determine whether somebody is 'in' or 'out', saved or damned, loved or despised by God. So perhaps we should ask the same question: was the Bible left deliberately ambiguous?

The Christian Bible has been through many stages to get to the thing you read today. Initially passed on by the tradition of storytelling. It was then written down across centuries by many authors, then translated and compiled a few hundred years later by a bunch of chaps who argued passionately about what was deserving of inclusion. Eventually translated into almost every language in the world, in English alone there have been over 900 differing translations. Preachers, authors and theologians impart their interpretations. And then you read a passage and what it says to you might differ entirely from what it says to your neighbour. At every single stage, there has been nothing like universal agreement of what constitutes Biblical Truth.

I used to think I had to have all the answers, a lens through which everything I experienced could be viewed and made sense of, but nowadays I seek to live well within the ambiguity, reading with an open prayerful heart. Jesus speaks love: I despair when the Bible is used to diminish or exclude. If it isn't inspiring dynamic love, its meaning and credibility is lost. Ambiguous? Definitely. Full of rich wisdom and truth? Yup. Worth pondering? Absolutely!

**Rev Angie x**

## Would you like to explore Confirmation?

Confirmation is a special church service led by our Bishop  
in which a person confirms the promises that were made  
when they were baptised.

If you have been baptised and would like to consider taking this next step, I will be running sessions for young people and adults (as required) where we will think together about what it means to live your life as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Our Deanery confirmation service will be on

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** (venue & time TBC)

If you would like to know more, please contact

**Rev Angie Kateley**

[revangiekateley@gmail.com](mailto:revangiekateley@gmail.com)

01981 345044

## SERVICE ROTA

For any changes please check the benefice website [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	10.00am	Orcop, Benefice Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am 11.15am	St Weonards, All Age Communion Garway, Celtic Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am 6.00pm	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion Pencoyd Church, Evening Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.15am 9.30am 11.00am	Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards, All Age Worship Orcop, Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 6.00pm	Tretire, Quiet Holy Communion Michaelchurch, Evening service. drinks and social. HR2 8LD
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am	Hentland, Benefice Communion

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

**Garway Hill Methodist Church:** Sunday 22nd June Rev Paul Arnold Holy Communion

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Benefice Communion at Orcop Church**

**10.00am**

**PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION**



**June 17<sup>th</sup> Tony Phillips 07971 550859**

**!!! Magazine News !!!**

***COPY DATE June 10<sup>th</sup>***

***Please send in by 6.00pm***

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**VILLAGE PAGES**

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**ST WEONARDS**

**VE Day Celebrations at St Weonards**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, St Weonards Church, school and village hall came together to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. A massive thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, from the wonderful floral displays in St Weonards Church to the vintage games made by the school PTFA. The homemade refreshments in the village hall were delicious and the interest in tours of the Belfry at St Weonards Church amazing. Special thanks to Peter Hallewell for such enthusiasm and dedication to the upkeep of the belfry and for his teaching of all ages on the day to introduce the wonder of bell ringing.

Thanks also to everyone who came along and supported this community event. Special thanks to Pam and Phil Craig, Richard and Gwyneth Williams, Sue and Mike Evans, Peter & Gillie Hallewell, Poppy Keep, Richard and Sophie Gadd, Amanda Johnson, Carol Bevan, Angela Sayce, Ira Pugh.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Dibley Quiz Night at Garway Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start.**

Join our very own Geraldine and Alice (aka Rev. Angie and Anna Williams) for a Vicar of Dibley theme quiz night with one special Dibley Quiz round, in aid of Andrews Flying Angels for St Michaels Hospice, Hereford. In memory of Andrew Lewis, Rev. Angie, Anna and Lauren (Andrew's daughters) and a group of friends and family are taking to the sky in a memorial and fundraising Skydive on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Kicking off the fundraising mission for St Michaels Hospice before the Skydive itself is this Quiz to be held at Garway Village Hall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm for 7.30pm. £10 per person including Mrs Cropley Buffet. There will be a licensed bar and raffle. For further information contact Anna Williams 07779006994 or email [annamartinwilliams@outlook.com](mailto:annamartinwilliams@outlook.com)

**Anna Williams churchwarden**

April and May proved to be busy months for our parish. We had a packed church for our Easter Sunday communion as many local families returned for the festival. We were greeted by the joyful ringing of the bells led by Peter Hallewell and were glad to welcome people from other parishes who came to share this special occasion. Gillie and her flower team decorated the church beautifully as always, and she also generously provided Easter Eggs as well!

In preparation for the VE Day celebrations, written about above, Carole Day volunteered to repair the rather frayed British Legion flag hanging in church.



She wrote:

*As you can see from the pictures, the flag needed extensive work. It was covered with mildew (which is an allergy hazard) so it was carefully rinsed in a washing solution designed for silk and line dried. The original panels of the flag are made from silk which is a natural protein which has started to denature over time and break down, they will eventually disintegrate. The fringe, on the other hand, is quite robust and formed a good basis for the work:*

- *A few of the letters on the gold section were coming away from the base fabric and needed to be reattached with fabric glue*
- *Each panel was colour matched and recovered with taffeta lining fabric (the wording remains clearly readable through the gold section)*
- *The Union Jacks were reconstructed using taffeta lining fabric and red ribbons (only this part needed to be machine sewn)*
- *The bit that slides over the flagpole was also recovered*
- *The tassels were washed and the worn pieces of cord were trimmed off*
- *The exposed part of the flag pole was dull where the varnish had worn away, so it was lightly sanded down and given two coats of an oak coloured varnish*
- *All of the new panels have been hand stitched onto the original flag*

This really was a fantastic piece of work. Do take a look next time you are in church and many thanks to Carole for using her skills and time for this.

On Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>, in aid of the church, from 2.00pm we are looking forward to the Open Garden with vintage tractors and cars at Treago Castle. Jim Poyner is bringing his machines, and tractors and cars are coming from a variety of places. We are grateful to all those who have given prizes for the Grand Draw including local businesses. Tickets will be available on the day, at the shop and from members of the PCC. This is an excellent family event so don't miss it. All we need is a lovely sunny afternoon! Please see below for more details.

On Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>, Treago Castle hosts *Music in the Garden* featuring Ledbury Brass Band and Welsh Risca male voice choir, national Eisteddfod winners. Come and enjoy a picnic with friends while listening to popular tunes. Please see below for more details.

**Fiona Mynors** on behalf of the PCC.

## ST WEONARDS ACADEMY NEWS

If anyone would like more information about our setting and the wonderful educational opportunities we offer, please contact **Mrs Anna Williams**, School Administrative Assistant on 01981 580352 or email [admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk](mailto:admin@stweonards.hmfa.org.uk)

### Treago Castle Open Gardens

#### Vintage Tractors and Cars

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm



Formal rose garden, castle tours, wilderness wood trail, skittles, excellent teas, grand draw.

Entrance: £3 adults, children free.

Treago-signposted from St Weonards off the A466. HR2 8QB

Proceeds to St Weonards Church.

*Assistance dogs only*

## Treago Castle Music in the Garden



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June Gardens open 4.00pm. Performance starts 7.00pm**

Bring your friends, supper and chairs to sit around the garden to enjoy the brilliant Risca Male voice choir, national Eisteddford winners and Ledbury Brass Band.

Wide range of popular pieces to suit everyone!

**Tickets from the Hereford Historic Churches Trust website. £20 adults, children free.**

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/1518917>

Proceeds shared between HHCT and St Weonards Church

**Date for the diary.** Sunday 6th July 10am to 5pm. You are invited to walk around two gardens The Poplands (Astrid Knappe) and Harp Cottage (Brian Hurrell), HR2 8PL. Tea and homemade cakes. Plant stall. Proceeds: Orcop St Weonards Churches. £5 Kids under 13 free. Donations of cakes or help please contact Astrid at [assypoplands@gmail.com](mailto:assypoplands@gmail.com).

## GARWAY

### Garway Church

#### Our first regular service

We were so pleased to host the Archenfield Arts Event which is a wonderful opportunity for people in the community to demonstrate so many varied skills. In addition to this, it was decided that our first regular service in St. Michael's church on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, would be a celebratory service. This was to give thanks for the completion of works to the church tower and roof, and all the work that the Garway community have done to see this major repair work through to its conclusion. With special thanks to Martin Thomas and the Friends of Garway Church.

Another highlight of the service was the opening of the Wellbeing and Resource areas in the south chapel. This has been an ongoing project led by Lesley Whistance and Liz Butcher. It is a space to come and reflect, take a breather from life, and spend some time in the resource area, discovering things about Garway church and its community.

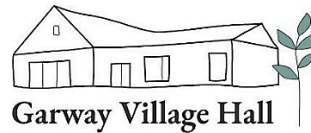
The church was beautifully decorated with seasonal wild and garden flowers, each window having its own theme, done by different groups within the parish. This was all expertly co-ordinated by Lesley. Many thanks to Lesley for making it a successful celebration of Garway life and the hope of new life for Garway Church

Our service on the 8<sup>th</sup> June (11.15am) will be another celebratory service, this time to mark the publication of the "Record of Garway Church". Over the last two years, Elizabeth Maggs and her team from The Ross Recorders, have been cataloguing and photographing every aspect of the church, the interior, exterior, the

church yard and all the properties held within the church. Many hours of investigation and research have gone into compiling this book.

We are really looking forward to Liz and her team joining us and presenting the *Record of Garway Church*. Please do come and meet Liz and her team.

**Tracy Somerville, churchwarden**



Thanks to everyone who came to lend a hand to spring clean the hall at the beginning of May - the hall is looking much smarter and cleaner now.

Now that all the joy of the VE Day celebrations and Archenfield Arts week has come to an end, we look forward to what's coming up at Garway Village Hall in June. In addition to all the regular activities, we have:

Saturday 14 June 10am - 4pm **Wise Woman Retreat - Weaving the Web**

Hosted by Sally Saint

Tickets available through website: [wisewomanguide.co.uk](http://wisewomanguide.co.uk)

Saturday 21 June **Templars Conference**

More info available on [www.garwayhall.org](http://www.garwayhall.org) website

Saturday 28 June **Garway Live Music Festival**

An afternoon and evening of live music, food and drinks. Tickets available through TicketSource

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 [www.garwayhall.org](http://www.garwayhall.org) and subscribe!

**Julie Hudson**

### **Garway Coffee Morning**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**in Garway Village Hall from 10am**

**Join us for teas and coffees and home-made cake.**

**Honesty library and new benches so you**

**can sit in the sun.**

**And Danny McAfee will be with us to talk about her jewellery-making**

### **Green Book Club**

***The Perfect Golden Circle* by Benjamin Myers**

Like the literary form of the TV series *The Detectorists*, *The Perfect Golden Circle* is a beautiful tale of male friendship, long summers in the English countryside and creating mysterious geometric corn circles that baffle the public as to their overnight appearance.

We remembered the crop circle phenomena of the 1980s and all the speculation about whether they were made by aliens as there was no other possible explanation.

However, although this book takes us through the process of how one may go about making a crop circle it is predominantly a book about two friends, bound together in their quest to 'fuel the myth and strive for beauty'. They are both damaged souls, Calvert seeks solace in the countryside as he recovers from PTSD and Redbone lives day to day from his van and the crop circles bring purpose to their lives.

A gentle, heart warming book and highly recommended. Rating: 4/5

9 June: *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara Kingsolver



## **GARWAY LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> from Noon till Late**

Summer's coming and so is the first Garway Live Music Festival. Those of you who are regular members of our audience will know that we only book exceptionally good bands and musicians, predictably this festival is no exception. We have not one, but five, acts to entertain you. "Tony Hopkins" will start the afternoon, a singer/guitarist who will provide a gentle opening to the show, followed by two equally good but very different bands, "The Rabble" and "Black Cat", and then the beautiful voice of "Onika Venus". The day comes to a climax with the return of the ever popular "Roving Crows".

To help you have the complete festival experience, minus the mud and tents, we have Hot and Cold Food Vendors, plus Sweet Treats and our usual bar, all of which can be enjoyed outside in the warm sunshine on the picnic tables. Come and enjoy some really good live music in our state-of-the-art Village Hall.

It all happens on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> from Noon till Late

This is a ticket only event priced at £25 per adult and £16 if you happen to be under 16. Tickets are available from St. Weonards shop and Broad Oak Garage, online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway) or contact [garwaylive@gmail.com](mailto:garwaylive@gmail.com) **Graham Bevan**

**Dates for the diary:** August 23<sup>rd</sup> on Garway Common, *Garway Fun Day*, All the usual attractions. Don't forget to plant your sunflower seeds now for the Tallest Sunflower Competition!

**From August 1<sup>st</sup>:** *Garway Funday Nearly New Boutique*. The Spice Girls will be holding the 'Garway Boutique' nearly new /good quality clothes stall again this year at the fun day. We would be grateful if local people could begin to think about what might be in their wardrobes that could be donated. We will be able to receive clothes/bags/shoes/jewellery/belts etc. from August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Julie Martin**

## **ORCOP**

### **Orcop Village Hall – Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday, 25th June 7:30 PM, being held in the Hall**

We warmly invite all members of the community to attend our Annual General Meeting. It's a great opportunity to hear about what's happening at the Hall, share your ideas, and get involved.

We're especially keen to welcome new members and would love to hear suggestions for events, classes, or other ways to keep the Hall vibrant and in use.

Your input can help shape the future of our community space—please join us!

**Peta Long**



**Betty Lovering and Charmaine**  
**Are pleased to invite you to their**  
2025 NGS open garden event  
28 and 29<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30 am to 4.30 pm  
At Well House, Garway Hill HR2 8RT  
Refreshments will be provided



**Dates for the diary:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August Orcop Fete in the village hall.

- Orcop Apple Pressing Festival – Saturday, 11th October.
- Annual Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, 29th November.

### **The Poachers with Elephants' Feet**



With the international media dominated by wars, geopolitics and natural disasters, we hear little of Zimbabwe, a beautiful country, richly endowed with natural resources and with the potential to be the bread-basket of Africa. The news that does reach us dwells on the political, economic and administrative chaos into which the country has descended over many years. The effects of this decline are felt most severely in the cities, especially in the capital, Harare.

Away from the urban areas, there is a different Zimbabwe, with vibrant and resourceful local communities remaining cheerful and positive despite the challenges posed by the political situation. Ecotourism plays an important part in maintaining this rural resilience, especially in and around the National Parks, which are managed by dedicated and highly skilled professionals, committed to sustaining the ecological abundance and diversity for which the country is well known.

The Parks Department appears to operate without significant government interference and the ZPGA (Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association) is an effective body whose guides and rangers operate to the highest standards, demanding broad, in-depth experience across all aspects of the rural ecosystem as well as knowledge of cultural traditions, music, dance and herbal medicine, the latter utilising an astonishing range of naturally occurring ingredients.

The animals of the National Parks have long suffered the effects of poaching. Despite international initiatives to ban the trade in ivory, rhino horn and other animal products, poaching has continued, using increasingly sophisticated and often cruel methods. The poachers are ruthless and will shoot to kill anyone who seeks to interfere with their operations. The response has been, until recently, uncompromising, with the Parks Department supported by heavily armed police and army units. Any poachers captured alive faced long-term imprisonment. However, a recent move to a more subtle strategy has proved successful: Under interrogation after capture, many poachers cited lack of employment opportunities as their reason for entering the illegal trade. So, instead of putting poachers in prison, they

were offered employment by the Parks Department on condition that they provided credible intelligence on the poaching gangs and their methods.

One such captive poacher turned informer revealed that, having killed an elephant and removed its tusks, the front feet of the animal would be cut-off, then dried and fashioned into “shoes”, in which the poachers would then go about their business leaving elephant, rather than human, footprints, thus fooling the expert trackers of the anti-poaching units. Although they were indeed leaving authentic elephant footprints, these were front foot only impressions, spaced according to the gait of a poacher, not an elephant. Hence, once alerted to this deception, the anti-poaching units were able to track and apprehend the criminals.

As a result of this intelligence-led approach, poaching is much reduced, to the extent that it is more or less under control. There are 55,000 elephants in the Hwange National Park.

**Peter Garratt**

## HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

We had a full Easter Programme at Hoarwithy and thanks to Revd. Angie and those involved for their tireless efforts. We started with the service of Compline and eleven of us sat in the sanctuary before the altar. A quiet contemplative time appreciated by all.

Thanks to Sarah Devereux we had an Easter Egg Hunt for Children in Hoarwithy Churchyard on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April which was much enjoyed.

The Prayer Vigil on Good Friday saw thirteen people coming and going – this was a first for us but I am sure will be repeated.

We had a 54% increase in attendance to 37 plus 3 children at our Easter Day Communion. Praise the Lord! The church was beautifully decorated and Sasha and his family brought some welcome Ukrainian additions to the Easter Garden.

At Hentland compline, nine people shared in a quiet contemplative time and thanks to David Phillips for his music.

Chris and her team will be serving Teas in the Cloister on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 3.00pm to 5.00pm

**Peter Pember** Churchwarden

A wonderful Pax Service was held at St Dubricius, Hentland on Palm Sunday. It was a glorious day with people having walked from Pencoyd to join the service.

Our organist David Phillips organised a ‘pop up’ choir and led several practices ahead of the service. The choir was a resounding success, and it was wonderful to see so many youngsters take part. We are indebted to David for his perseverance and patience with us, also to all the individuals who gave up their time to attend practices and sing on the day.

The service was very well attended, with it being the first of its kind for Angie. The service culminated with the distribution of pax cakes along with the greeting ‘peace and good neighbourhood’. There was a lovely convivial atmosphere with tea and coffee being served following the service so that people could mingle and chat.

**Save the date:** The *Musical and Amicable Society* will be presenting a concert at St Dubricius, Hentland on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July from 7pm to 9pm with Hannah Davey, Kate Fawcett, Henrik Persson and Martin Perkins. Tickets are £20 with light refreshment served during the interval.

Some of the music to be played in the programme will be by Handel: Gloria, Trio Sonata in G minor; and Vivaldi: Trio Sonata 'La Folia' , Motet, Nulla in mundo pax sincera. Please contact Val Lilwall on 077756 11128 [valeriejililwall@gmail.com](mailto:valeriejililwall@gmail.com) for further information or see website [www.amicables.co.uk](http://www.amicables.co.uk) for booking.

**Val Lilwall** churchwarden

## Book Review

### ***Brazzaville Beach* by William Boyd**

This book is about wars: the civil war in the African country where British primatologist Dr Hope Clearwater is working on a chimpanzee project; the war that rages between academic scientists to be the first to publish new information; and the battleground that was Hope's marriage.

Hope has arrived in Africa following the break-up of this marriage to mathematician John, who suffers a manic-depressive episode that destroys their union. Dealing ever in abstractions by profession, his slide from sanity to insanity is imperceptible but relentless.

Hope is researching the activities of a group of chimpanzees, and we are rather unsubtly invited to draw parallels with human behaviour – the backdrop of the civil war points up the sudden change in the studied group of chimps, as they randomly divide themselves into two factions (for no apparent reason) and begin perpetrating cruelties each upon the other. Hint: like the African tribes engaged in the civil war. Got it? .....

In the African chimp project, academic jealousies result in acts of chicanery and pure savagery. What matters most to some scientists: truth or academic kudos? Truth is the casualty during the course of this narrative.

Boyd makes occasional attempts to be philosophical, but none of those attempts have any profundity: "*What can I know? Nothing for sure. What ought I to do? Try not to hurt anyone. What may I hope for? For the best (but it won't make any difference).*" Well, thank you for that insight. ....

The crude parallels between human and chimp behaviour are thrust in the reader's face, whilst seeking no explanations or analysis. And the author's attempt to write in the voice of a woman is not a success, as male preoccupations filter in apace. This failure runs like a fault-line throughout the entire book.

William Boyd is an author of renown, but this novel left me cold.

**Hilary Smallwood**

## Garden Notes

Is it my imagination or has everything been flowering particularly well this spring? The primroses in the garden have been wonderful and now, the hawthorn trees on the common are completely smothered in blossom. In our own front garden our red hawthorn, *Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet' is looking so good that our neighbour requested cuttings. The rest of the garden is very colourful too with Mexican orange blossom, three different brooms, viburnum, and deutzia all in bloom. The pear blossom was good this year so I should get a good crop of pears to make up for the single solitary fruit that I harvested last year.

We escaped to the New Forest at the beginning of April so I delayed sowing any seeds until we returned – and then went a little crazy sowing every packet in my seed tin, even ones left over from previous years just to see if anything would germinate. Admittedly some were ancient so it will be a miracle if any of those show any signs of life. The large greenhouse is now full to bursting with seed trays, tiny pots of seedlings, tomato and pepper plants, colourful pelargoniums and begonias. We ordered black-eyed Susan plug plants to grow on the trellis at the front of the house, and we are looking forward to those arriving; they are somewhere in the postal system.

For fun we also ordered a bonus pack of plug plants without knowing what we would actually receive. For only £6.99 we received 36 teeny-tiny plug plants of verbena, cineraria, gazania, nicotiana and two varieties of petunia; potted up they are making impressively rapid growth. We will have enough plants for several large pots and for an old tin bath tub; £6.99 well-spent. This year the fence around the hen run is sporting four large half-baskets which, along with two old chimney pots either side the gate, will be planted with busy lizzies which we also bought as tiny plug plants.



Whilst enjoying our week in the New Forest, we visited Exbury Gardens which we enjoyed immensely. We were a week or two early for the main show of rhododendrons and azaleas, but there were some early flowering ones, camellias and magnolias. I fell in love with some trees planted in an arc around their plant sales area. These were *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer', which looked spectacular smothered in beautiful white pear blossom. All the trees were an identical conical shape. I spotted another dozen in a row outside a Hillier Garden centre which were looking equally stunning. Some people say they have an unpleasant fishy smell, but we didn't notice that at all. If we were lucky enough to own a house with a long drive, I would be tempted to grow an avenue of them.

I have started removing our very poorly box balls and carting them off to the tip. I have had them 19 years, growing them from pots of cuttings bought from Lidl and B&Q and I even moved house with them. I thought I would be distraught to see them go but this garden is so densely planted I can hardly tell where they were. Strangely, I almost feel glad to be rid of them – no more feeding and worrying about them and no more back-breaking pruning. What a relief!

**Julie Davies**

### 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 <https://3choirs.org/hereford-2025> Tickets from 14 April. 3choirs.org / 01452 768928

**Tower Tours.** On selected dates. Adventurous visitors can climb the 218 steps for fine views of the city and county of Herefordshire, and beyond. Tours may not take place if the weather is poor and may not be suitable for all visitors. Please contact the cathedral office if you are making a special journey. Tickets £10 adults, £5 for children under 16 and £8 for full-time students from the Cathedral Shop on the day.



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.

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

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# Chuckle Corner

*Editor: Checking back, this was included in the online edition of the mag but omitted from the printed version. Apologies to Peter and our readers.*

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. They 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 leaks*** (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***

***In a sexy red with macing valor charcoal trim this is a reel price winner***

***The oil light distinguishes immediately***

***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 primer***

***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***



## **Events and Free Exhibition at Leominster Priory 14 June – 14 July 2025 Celebrating 900 years of Leominster Priory 1125 – 2025**

An exhibition and events to explore Leominster's amazing history, including the the Priory as a place of pilgrimage, the Lost East End and its famous Ducking Stool. In a display about the Bayeux Tapestry, find out what the Priory's last abbess had to do with 1066 and all that!

An exciting events programme to include craft workshops, concerts, talks, walks, original community collaborations, school visits, and art works by local artists and students.

**Norman Churches Open Day on Saturday 21 June 10 am – 4 pm** including Yarpole, Eye, Orleton, Monkland, Ford, Hatfield, Pudleston, Bockleton, Leysters and Middleton-on-the-Hill. Rob Walker has produced a booklet *The Normans in and around Leominster* which features the open churches.

*Priory 900 is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, The Elmley Foundation, The Harley Charity, The Rowlands Trust, and The William A Cadbury Trust.*

**Find out more about the festival events at [www.prioryarts.org.uk](http://www.prioryarts.org.uk)**

## **Dates for the diary:**

### **June**

- 1** Benefice Communion at Orcop Church
- 3** Garway Coffee Morning and jewellery-making talk
- 8** Treago Castle, Open Garden with vintage cars and tractors
- 10** Magazine copy date
- 13** Treago Castle – Music in the garden with Ledbury Brass Band and Risca Male Voice Choir
- 14** Wise Woman Retreat - Weaving the Web
- 15** Teas in the Cloister
- 17** Prescription collection
- 18** Orcop Summer Coffee Morning
- 21** Templars Conference
- 21** Normas Churches open day
- 25** Orcop Village Hall – Annual General Meeting
- 28** Garway Live Music Festival

### **July**

- 6** Open Gardens, the Poplands and Harp Cottage
- 12** Vivaldi and Handel at St Dubricious, Hentland
- 16** Orcop Summer Coffee Morning
- 20** Teas in the Cloister

### **August**

- 1** Garway Boutique
- 17** Teas in the Cloister
- 20** Orcop Summer Coffee Morning
- 23** Garway Fun Day
- 25** Orcop Fete
- 26-2** Three Choirs Festival, Hereford

### **September**

- 17** Orcop Summer Coffee Morning

### **October**

- 5** Deanery confirmation service
- 11** Orcop Applie Pressing Festival

### **November**

- 29** Orcop Annual Christmas Bazaar

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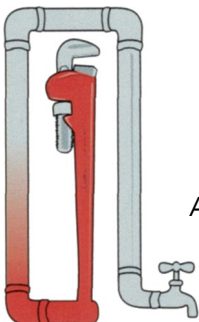
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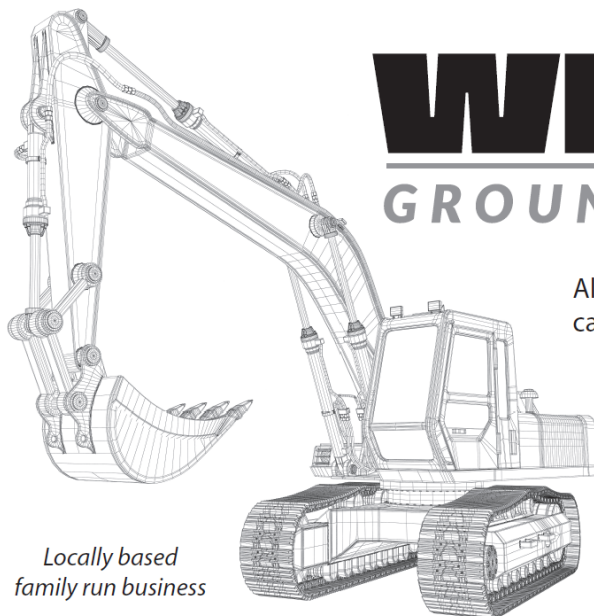
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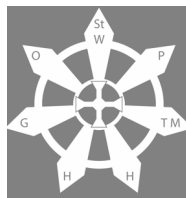
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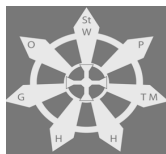
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