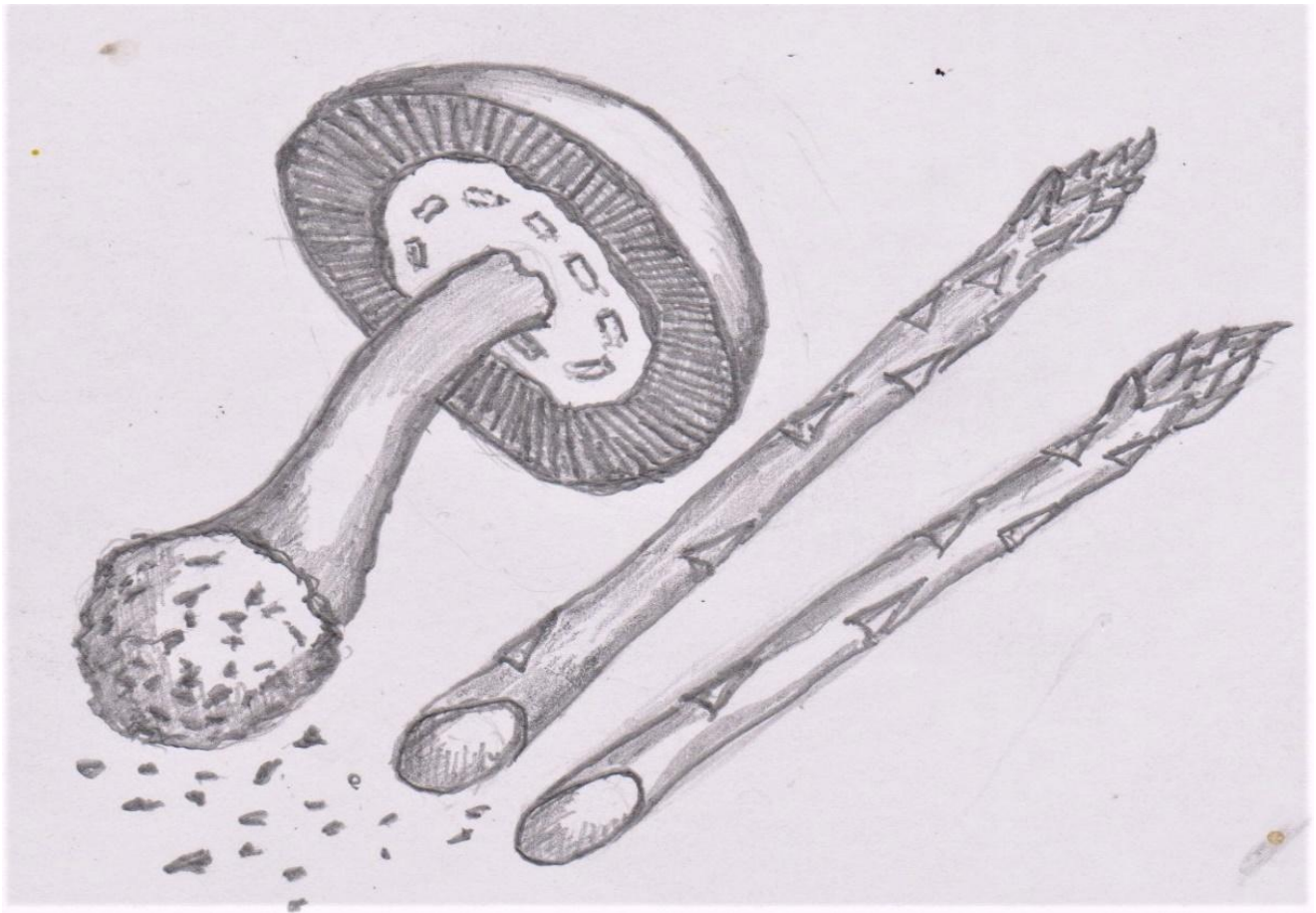


PARISH NEWS

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

AUGUST 2025



It was a great year
for the asparagus spear
But the lack of rain
Could spell doom
For the horse mushroom.....

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) toni.fagan@herefordshire.gov.uk
office hours 01981 540721

Dinedor Hill Ward: David Davies david.davies2@herefordshire.gov.uk
07931 733336

15 Hever Road, Lower Bullingham, Hereford HR2 6EW

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Contributions to the Parish news can be given to your parish representative by **10th of the month**:

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

Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Garway:	clerk@garwayparishcouncil.co.uk Website: www.garwayparishcouncil.co.uk	
Orcop:	Neil Barrington clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk	07380 132702
St Weonards:	Neil Barrington clerk@stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.stweonardsparishcouncil.gov.uk	07380 132702
Llanwarne:	Neil Barrington clerk@llanwarnegrouppc.co.uk	07380 132702
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland:	Nicky Mackenzie clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk Website: www.ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk	07581 353103

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

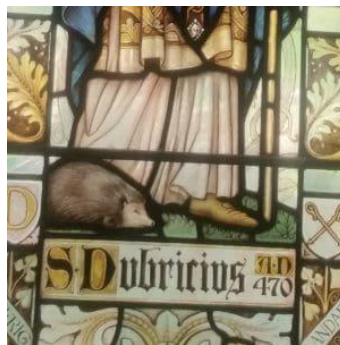
Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger. Otherwise call 101.

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



Hello friends,

Far be it from me to suggest the Church of England is in any way convincingly organised, but the basic structure is: parish – benefice – deanery – archdeaconry – diocese. Working backwards, our diocese is Hereford, our archdeaconry is Hereford, and our deanery is Ross & Archenfield. Up until recently our benefice, consisting of the parishes of Garway, Hentland with Hoarwithy, Orcop, St Weonards, and Tretire & Pencoyd with Michaelchurch, was called the Benefice of St Weonards. At the request of all five parishes, the Bishop of Hereford has signed and sealed an Order determining that we are now to be known as the Benefice of Archenfield (we will be giving the new name and our new website a proper launch in September - watch this space).

The photo is of part of a window in St Dubricius Church, Hentland, featuring our celebrated local saint with a rather charming hedgehog, the symbol of ancient Archenfield (an area of south and west Herefordshire roughly bordered by the rivers Monnow and Wye). It's official: this is the Land of the Hedgehogs!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Betty, Astrid and Brian who opened their beautiful gardens to us in July and generously gave the proceeds to Orcop and St Weonards churches. It was a huge treat to wander around these little bits of paradise and to enjoy a cup of tea and a cake while chatting to other garden pilgrims.

Last thing from me, with great sadness I had to give up my place on the skydiving team, Andrew's Angels. I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing them lots of luck on 2nd August for their big leap in aid of St Michael's Hospice, in memory of our much beloved and much missed Andrew Lewis.

My prayers this month are for all pupils, teachers and support staff, with blessings for a good summer holiday, and for everyone working hard on our local farms.

Rev Angie x

Compline

*a short, quiet service to end the day
for the summer months*

Starting at 7pm

every 1st Wednesday in Hentland Church

every 3rd Wednesday in Garway Church

Join us, you will be most welcome

Rev Angie x

CHURCH SERVICE ROTA FOR AUGUST

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

Sunday 3 rd	10 am	Garway – Benefice Lammas HC – bring your pets
Wednesday 6 th	7 pm	Hentland - Compline
Sunday 10 th	9.30 am 11.15 am	St Weonards – All Age HC Garway – Celtic service
Sunday 17 th	10 am 6 pm	Hoarwithy – HC Pencoyd – Evening Service
Wednesday 20 th	7 pm	Garway – Compline
Sunday 24 th	9.15 am 9.30 am 11.15 am	Hentland - HC St Weonards All Age service Orcop – HC
Sunday 31 st	10 am	Pencoyd – HC

CHURCH SERVICE ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 3 rd	7 pm	Hentland – Compline
Sunday 7 th	10 am	St Weonards – Benefice HC

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

Archenfield Benefice Harvest Festivals

TRETIRE: Sunday 21 September 5pm

ORCOP: Friday 10 October 6pm

GARWAY: Sunday 12 October 11.15am

ST WEONARDS: Friday 17 October 6pm

HOARWITHY: Sunday 19 October 11am

HENTLAND: Sunday 26 October 11.15am

Keep an eye on the parish mag and socials for details

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



August 12th Christine Davies 01981 580129

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE August 10th
Please send in by 6 pm

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

As I write it is so hot and we have had so little rain, that it is hard to remember that in June serious wet weather was threatened. However, it was, and with reluctance the musical evening in aid of St Weonards and Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust was transferred to the church. The rain held off until after the concert so that people sat about enjoying their picnics in the churchyard. Ledbury Brass Band and Risca choir delighted us by playing a wide range of music from *Cold Play* to *Men of Harlech*, with a wonderful extract from Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*. Many thanks to all those who supported the event. After expenses, the church share of the proceeds was £617.

David Furnivall, chair of the Hereford Historic Churches Trust wrote, *Thanks must go to your PCC for hosting the event and for successful events in St Weonards which have raised c£8,500 for the Trust over the last two years.* St Weonards Church has benefitted on a number of occasions from grants from the Trust for repairs-roof and chancel- and for the making of the kitchen and toilet.

Alex Mynors Herbert's ordination in Hereford Cathedral on Saturday July 5th was a wonderful occasion. She was supported by her family, Angie and members of our congregation.

On 2nd August Anna Williams and others from our community are bravely leaping from the sky in aid of St Michael's Hospice, in memory of Andrew Lewis. We wish them well and any donations to their appeal are most welcome.

Calling all pet owners! Bring them to Garway Church on Sunday 3rd August at 10.00am for the annual Lammas celebration. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the joy that our pets bring us.

We are most grateful to Astrid Knappe of Poplands and Brian Hurrell of Harp Cottage who opened their beautiful gardens near St Weonards for visitors. They generously shared the proceeds between Orcop and St Weonards Churches so that the church received £420.

Fiona Mynors on behalf of the PCC

Coffee Morning.

Thursday 14th August.

St Weonards Village Hall 10 am – 12 pm.

Enjoy coffee and some homemade cake.

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

All welcome.

Village Hall Meeting

21st August

8.00pm



Black Poplar Tree evening at Tre-Vern, Llangarron

When: Wednesday 6 August, 7.30pm

Where: Tre-Vern Barn, Upperfields Farm, Llangarron, Ross-on Wye, HR9 6PQ

What: The evening will commence with a short walk to see the ancient Native Black Poplar, followed by a talk with slides, and chat and tea.

Come and hear from an expert about why these trees are so rare and what we can do to save them.
Also learn about the Old Oak of Ross.

The evening is free to all but please contact Sheila on **07976244416** or **SheilaJones866@msn.com** just to give an idea for catering.

Dates for the diary: 20th September Afternoon Tea in the village hall.

28th November, St Weonards, Churchyard bingo.

GARWAY

Church Services in Garway

We are lucky to have three services in Garway this month.

Benefice service

On Sunday 3rd August at 10am, we will be hosting the Benefice Service. This is the service which rotates around our seven churches and this month it is our turn.

We are planning another pet service, as part of Lammas celebration. You are invited to bring your pets to the service for a blessing. Last year amongst dogs of all shapes and sizes, two guinea pigs were also brought

up for a blessing. We shall also have communion, with the added joy of the having the benefice choir to sing with us.

There will be refreshments after the service.

On Sunday 13th August at 11.15am we will have a Celtic Service.

Compline Service 20th August 7.00pm

Peace be with you,

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

Garway Fun Day

23rd August 2025 2pm

FUN DOG SHOW ***** GARWAY BOUTIQUE

BBQ, teas, cake, ice cream

Competition Tent - produce, baking, craft, art - all ages

Fancy Dress Tombola Welly wanging Skittles

Plant stall Sunflower competition Music stage

Kids' Karaoke Vintage tractors Giant football

And lots more - Fun for all the family!

If you would like to have a stall (£12) then let us know:

garwayspicegirls@outlook.com

Keep an eye out on Facebook for more info on dog show classes etc

Garway Funday Nearly New Boutique

The Spice Girls will be grateful for any previously loved good quality clothes and accessories donations for our second Nearly New Boutique!

Garway collection point: Judy Harrhy, 3, Templars Oaks Garway. Tel. 07803 358372
Between: Weds 6th and Sunday 17th August

Moneys raised will support our local community.

GARWAY FUN DAY SCHEDULE FOR COMPETITION ENTRIES

Children's Section: (Free to enter)

Up to 5 years

4 decorated biscuits
A painted/decorated stone
An animal made from veggies or fruit
A crown I have made

6-10 years

4 decorated cup cakes
A papier mâché mask
A bug hotel
A painting of my family

11-16 years

A funny photograph with a caption
A picture of my pet (any medium)
A decorated swiss roll
Something I have made from recycled materials.

Produce Section - 50p per entry

Longest Runner Bean	3 carrots	5 tomatoes
Biggest Marrow	3 cut Dahlias	3 Courgettes
5 cut Garden Flowers in a vase	Best single Rose	
Flower arrangement using a picture frame - no bigger than 45cm x 45cm x 45cm		
Flower arrangement- in a wine glass - no bigger than 30cm x 30cm x 30 cm		

Cookery Section – 50p per entry

6 Plain scones	6 Jam tarts	1lb jar of chutney
1lb jar of soft fruit jam	1lb jar of stone fruit jam	A jar of lemon curd
6 Bread rolls, (hand-made, not in bread maker) any variety		
Victoria Sandwich – made with 3 eggs, raspberry jam filling, no icing or sugar on top.		

Handicraft Section – 50p per entry

A piece of jewellery	A piece of crochet	A patchwork cushion cover
A photograph – an aspect of Garway	A painting in any medium, subject: Nature A4 size maximum	
A Garden on a plate (why should the children have all the best things?)		

All Entries to be brought on the day to the display tent between 12.30 and 14.00. The tent will then be closed for judging at 14.00. **Please put names (and age for child entries) on back of entry or inside an envelope.**



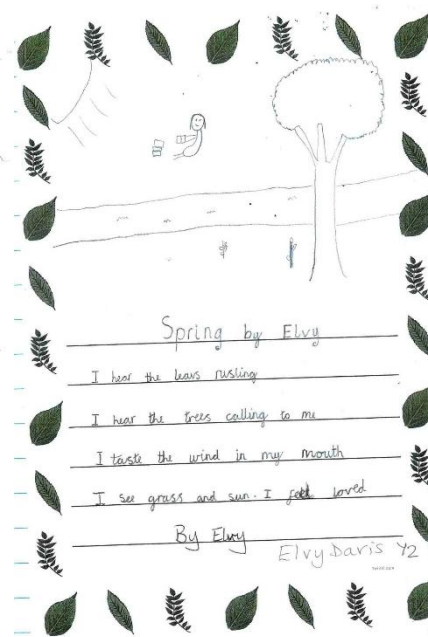
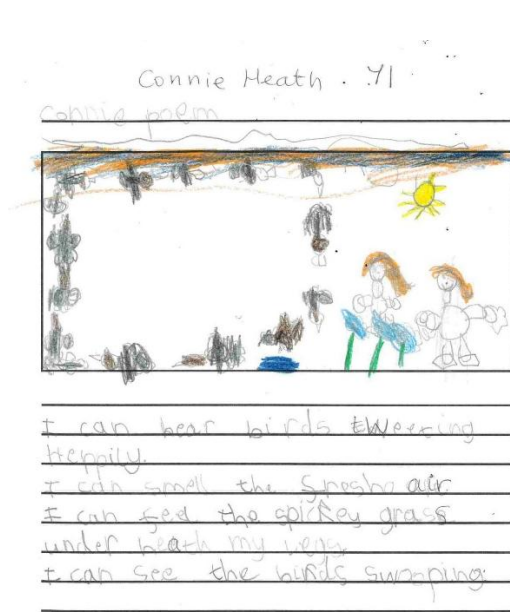
A big thank you

..... to all the kind Garway villagers who contributed to the collection for the Spice Girls. We went on a jolly jaunt to Hellens where we toured the house, had a convivial lunch and wandered the gardens in the sunshine..... a day to remember!

Hilary Smallwood

Garway Primary School

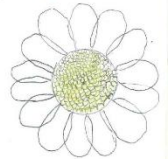
Poems written by pupils of Garway School inspired by a poetry workshop day led by Debra Bertulis and supported by a grant from the Parish Magazine. **Julie Jones, Headteacher**



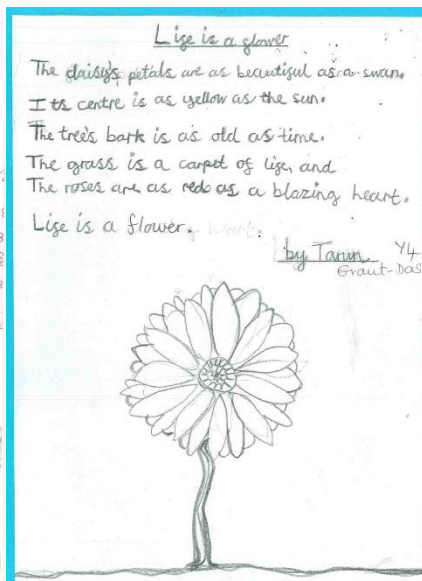
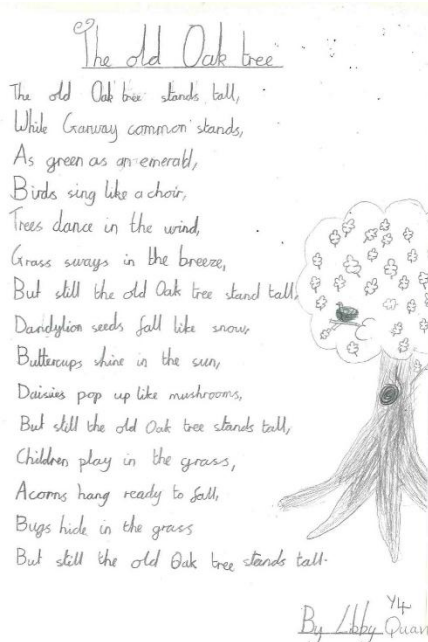
Around the common
Around the common,
Thousands of daisies galore,
Emerald grass a cloudless sky,
A harmonious peace surrounds.

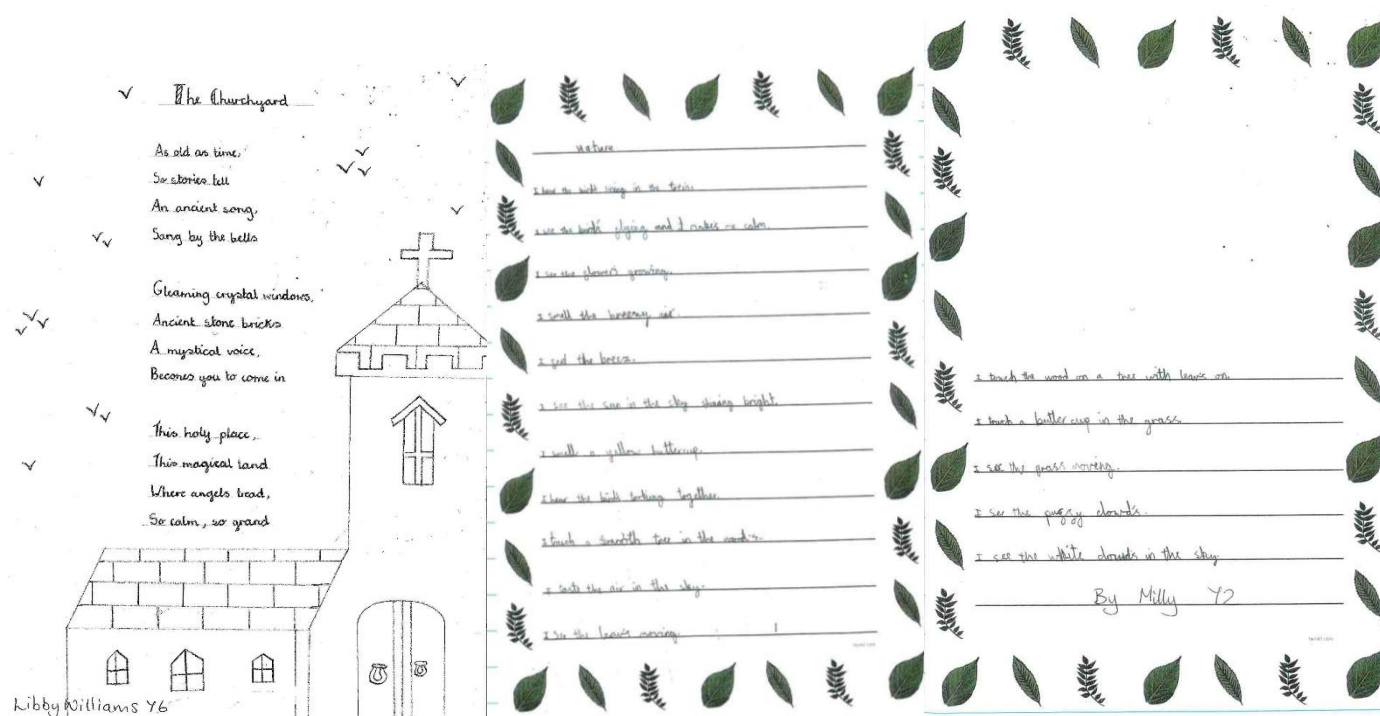
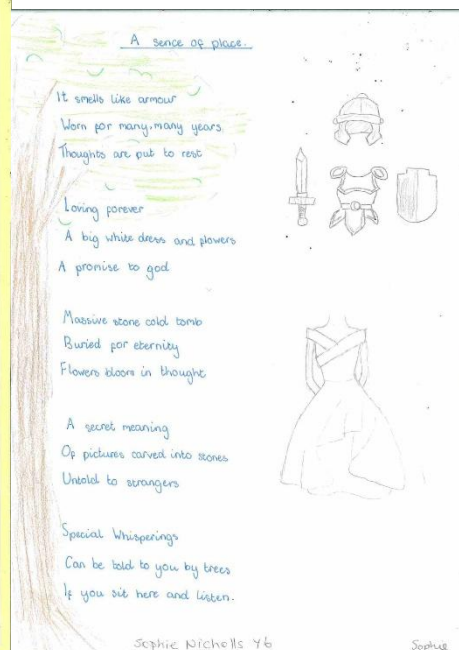
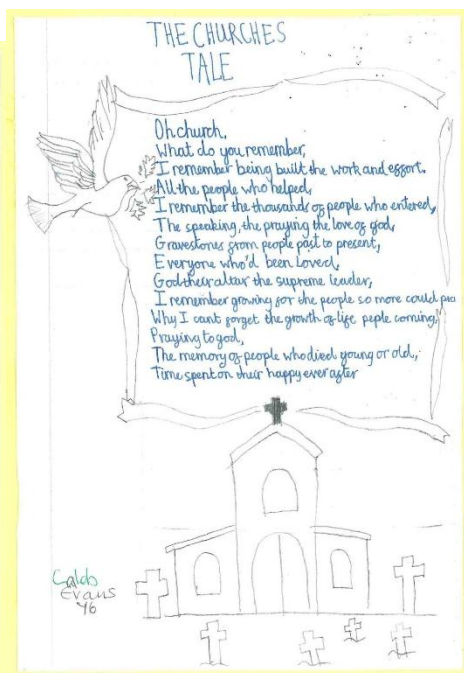
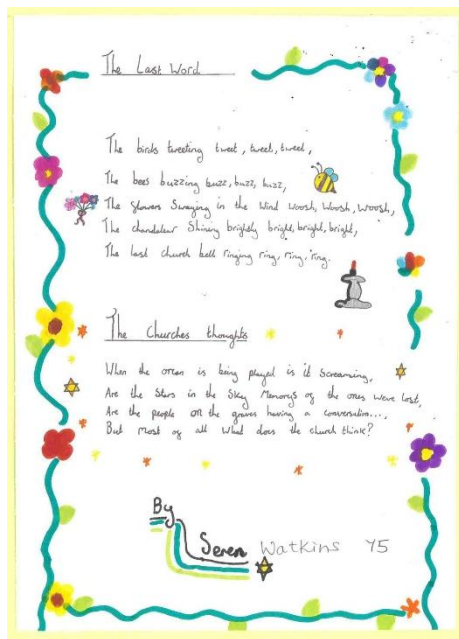
Around the common,
Birds fly high,
A symphony of sound,
As they soar through the sky.

Around the common,
children play,
Smiles and laughter,
Day after day.



By Marley Heath Y4





August is a fairly quiet month at the hall with the regular activities having a well-deserved break. However, still a couple of treats for you to look out for:

Friday 15 August - An Evening with Liam Cromby

Liam Cromby will be performing songs from We Are the Ocean along with some of his original solo material. This will be an intimate gig in the cafe bar area and tickets are available on TicketSource.

Friday 29 August - *Jive By the Wye* Dance

A great opportunity to get on the dance floor for some jive, lindy-hop and great music. More info available through *Jive By The Wye*.

There will be new local artists exhibiting their work from August too.

Vill

Hope to see you at the hall soon. **Garway Village Hall Trustees**

Garway Coffee Morning

Tuesday 5th August 10am

in Garway Village Hall

Tea/coffee/homemade cake and good company

Anglela Farr will join us to talk about the London Marathon and the cancer charity she supports.

GARWAY JULY & AUGUST TALK COMMUNITY
TALK HUB! EVERYONE WELCOME

Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00
Garway Hall - Cafe Area
HR2 8RQ
garwaytalkhub@gmail.com

Drop In Meet & Chat
Tea Coffee Cake
COFFEE MORNING
Warm Building
Baby & Toddler Play Mats
Honesty Library

Plus Talk Community Partner Guest:
➡ 15.07.25 & 19.08.25

Gemma from Taurus TalkWellbeing
121 Heart health checks, Cholesterol tests
(Outreach Room 10:00-12:00) plus, signposting
for any other concerns you want to raise :-).



On Friday 15th August, *Garway Live* is delighted to present 'An Evening With Liam Cromby'

Between 2007 and 2017, Liam Cromby performed with alternative rock band 'We Are the Ocean' as lead singer and guitarist. As he toured the world, he collected stories and continued to write, even after their disbandment. After releasing his debut solo album 'What Can I Trust, If I Can't Trust Love' in 2023, Liam is back with his latest offering, 'Re-Imagined EP', which as the title suggests, takes some WATO favourites and brings them back to life in his Nashville inspired country sound. This tour combines, Re-Imagined with some of Liam's solo work as well as stories from the road. Tickets are limited to just 50 for this event, so we recommend booking early through Ticketsource!

Georgie Davies

Green Book Club
Flight Behaviour by Barbara Kingsolver

Barbara Kingsolver is a definite favourite of Green Garway book group and *Flight Behaviour* did not disappoint. Set in a poor farming community in the Appalachians, Dellarobia is set on escape from her claustrophobic life of poverty but is stopped in her tracks when she discovers a miracle of nature unfolding on her doorstep.

Forced to find new land to breed following catastrophic flooding in Mexico, the monarch butterflies have come in their millions to Feathertown but can they survive the colder climate and threat of deforestation to survive as a species?

Barbara Kingsolver is second to none in her ability to tackle such big issues like climate change, inequality, education and poverty, with such a rich tapestry of wonderful characters and beautiful writing.

Rating: 4/5

Julie Hudson

ORCOP

A big thank you to Betty Lovering, Charmaine and family: The Open Garden weekend at Well House at the end of June was a great success. Not only did it raise over £800 for the NGS charities, but the sale of refreshments raised £300, of which the family have donated £220 to the Churchyard Fund and £80 for tables for the Parish Hall. The event involved a lot of hard work over months of preparation as well as over the weekend itself. Well done to all involved!

Another event that involves a lot of hard work is the annual August Bank Holiday Fete (advertised separately). This year it falls on 25th August. If you are able to help in anyway or wish to run a stall, please contact Julia Garlick. It is always an enjoyable community event and there are usually some bargains to be had, so please come if you can!

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Orcop Flower and Cleaning Rota: Mrs. W. Dudfield

OPEN GARDEN THANKS

Betty Lovering, Charmaine and family wish to thank their friends and neighbours for all their help in making the open garden weekend such a success.

Many thanks to all the visitors, both local and from further away, who helped us raise over £800 for the NGS charities. Thanks also to the Revd. Angie for calling in.

A very special thank you to Linda Jones for her wonderful "post box topper"; a great surprise!

So many people commented on how lovely it was, so thank you Linda once again.

Many thanks to Astrid Knappe of Poplands and Brian Hurrell of Harp Cottage who kindly opened their beautiful gardens near St Weonards on Sunday 6th July for visitors to wander around and explore. Tea and homemade cakes were enjoyed by all and Astrid organised a huge plant stall in aid of a hedgehog charity.

The magnificent total of over £1000 was raised. Orcop PCC would like to thank Astrid and Brian for their generous donation of £420 to Orcop church. £420 was also given to St Weonards church. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

Sarah Griffiths

Village Hall News

Look out for more details about the Orcop Village Hall Apple Pressing Festival. The festival will be held at the hall on Saturday, 11th October.

Find all the information in the September issue of the magazine!

Join the Orcop Village Hall Committee!

Be part of something great in your community

We're looking for enthusiastic, community-minded individuals to help shape the future of Orcop Village Hall.

Why join?

- Have a say ThanGar local events and activities
- Help improve our hall and its facilities
- Meet new people and make a real difference
- Bring your ideas and energy to the heart of Orcop

Whether you've got a little time or a lot to give, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested?

Come along to our next meeting on Monday 1st September at 7:30 at the Hall or get in touch to find out more.

Email: petamary@hotmail.co.uk

Your village hall needs you!



Orcop Fete

Monday August 25th 2025 2.00pm

Orcop Parish Hall

Stalls including cakes and preserves, pictures, plants and produce,
bric a brac, books, tombola, games, skittles, raffles,
ice-creams, refreshments and more.

Pre fete quiz sheets available

Tables welcome

Free Admission, Ample parking, disabled access. Everyone welcome

Contact **Julia Garlick** Tel 01981 580515

ORCOP VILLAGE HALL
Summer Coffee Mornings

will be on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of each month

10.30 – 12.30

August 20th, Sept 17th

Do come along for a local catch-up.

Everyone is welcome - whether new to the area or life-long resident.

Gill & Tim Bannerman 01981 580685

Dates for the diary: Orcop Apple Pressing Festival – Saturday, 11th October.
Annual Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, 29th November.

TRETIRE AND PENCOYD

It was wonderful to see so many people from the Parish and beyond at Michaelchurch on the 29th June. We were full-up, the sun shone and when I asked if anyone was prepared to come up and sing a little anthem at the end we were joined by a crowd of singers. Thank you, everyone.

We were joined by Tracy Genever, our Churches Conservation Trust Local Community Officer and I know she was delighted with the evident support, which all helps to encourage the Trust to remember us.

I do hope some of you have found time to take a look at the fabulous repair to the wall at Pencoyd which has been completed by Crispen Hack. The project has been brilliantly spearheaded by Linda Miles who found this talented chap.

I know you will join me in sending love and best wishes to Linda Miles and Rosemary Evans, for speedy recovery from recent operations.

If you receive this magazine before the last weekend of July – don't forget to sign up for Tennis Tournament &/or Barbeque on Sunday 27 July.

In **August** we will be in St Denys, PENCOYD for Evening service on Sunday 17th at 18:00 (6pm) and hosting the 5th Sunday Communion Service also at St Denys, Pencoyd on Sunday 31st at 10:00.

Please see the advertisement for **Cream Teas** at Michaelchurch Cottage on Sunday 24 August from 2:30pm. Why not tag this into a walk? Part of a Bank Holiday weekend of Parish entertainments for all the family with Fun in Garway on Saturday, Teas with T&P on Sunday and Fete at Orcop on Monday!

Looking ahead to September, our Harvest Service will take place at St Mary's, Tretire on Sunday 21st at 17:00 (5pm). Note earlier start. Friday 3 October, Harvest Drinks.

Elizabeth Malcolm, Churchwarden



Cream Teas

Sunday 24th August '25

Michaelchurch Cottage
St Owen's Cross, HR2 8LD
///latched. Gentlemen.twitchy

2:30 pm to 5pm

£5.00

Take a walk around the hamlet of Michealchurch, visit the ancient little Saxon church and enjoy a cup of tea with home made scones

In aid of Tretire & Pencoyd Churches



HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Thank You

We celebrated Rev. Angie's first year with us on first July. Doesn't time fly? So first of all, a big thank you for all you have, and are doing for us. It's good to have a priest after a long interregnum.

This then set me thinking about all those involved in church life— the organist, those volunteers who look after our finances, churchwardens, sit on the PCC, read, lead intercessions and include prayer requests, provide refreshments after the service, do the flowers, church cleaning. lead and sing in the community choir. All those who also sing in our services, provide afternoon teas in the cloister and the Pop-up Café when hArt comes, the strong arms who move the pews for hArt, run a stall at the village market, sell cakes at the campsite and raise funds for the church.

A big thank you to all – it's so easy to take it for granted, but without all the help we get including, help with grant applications, support from the Parish Council with churchyard maintenance and those who do work for us, all contribute to the life of the church and the Glory of God!

Events for August

Saturday 2 nd August	10.00 am to 12.00 noon Village Market Campsite
Sunday 17 th August	10.00 am Holy Communion 2.15 pm Guided Tour of St. Catherine's 3.00-5.00 pm Teas in the Cloister
Tuesday 19 th August	Arrival of "Our Lady of the Water" 6.30 pm Sung Evensong with Ross Choir Celebrant Fr. David
6 th – 14 th September	11.00 am to 5.00 pm hArt (setup 1 st to 5 th)

Dates for the diary:

On 21st October Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah will be at the New Harp for Bishop's Spiritual Question Time 7.00 pm. **Peter Pember Churchwarden**

Book Review

***The Stopping Places*, by Damien le Bas**

Le Bas, though having been brought up in a “*Romany psychological realm*”, finds himself adrift between his Gypsy and non-Gypsy ancestry, fully accepted by neither and desirous of finding his roots. To this end he takes himself off round the country to find the “atchin tans”, or traditional Romany stopping places of his forbears. He kits out a Ford Transit van and sets off on his travels, intermittently accompanied by his wife, actress and fellow Roma, Candis.

"I can trace my Romany ancestry back at least six generations... I was brought up to know the Romani language... But I have both Gypsy and non-Gypsy blood and so, in many Travellers' eyes, I do not have the right to call myself a true-bred Romany."

As a child he received a scholarship to Christ's Hospital School and thence to Oxford University where he studied Theology, gained a First-class honours and was the top graduate in his year, all of which places him a world away from the traditional suspicion in which Travellers in general hold “gorja” education. His fair colouring further singles him out amongst his fellow Travellers.

There is some lyrical writing here, alongside moments of an examination of Roma history and language that is sparked by the many places he visits. These include a journey to the South of France to join the Roma pilgrimage to the shrine of St Sara-la-Kali. He delves into the culture of the Gypsy horse fairs, heading for Appleby, with its flashy clothing, pairing off opportunities and stalls full of china ornaments and gold jewellery. Also illuminating are his conversations with his Nan, now long settled in a bungalow, which uncover the old traditions so dear to the Roma community.

What fascinated me about this book was his recognition of wider aspects of the Gypsy life, or “problem” as many gorjas might define it. He embraces and treasures his ancestry and culture and recognises the barriers that now beset them in pursuing their desired nomadic life in the face of discrimination. He also accepts the challenges that his people might present to the settled community, now that the romantic idyll of Travellers having an established place in the farming calendar has come to an end.

During my years as picture editor of the *Travellers' Times* (a national magazine for Gypsies and Travellers, now edited by le Bas as an online outlet) there were many aspects of the culture to deeply admire (family loyalty being top of the list) and many whom I was privileged to call friends. However, there were also disturbing undercurrents, including the bare knuckle fighting tradition and the settling of disputes with the fists. With his foot in both camps, it was intriguing to witness le Bas himself tiptoeing round some of the barely hidden hostility of fellow Gypsies in a bid to avoid violent confrontation.

This is a worthwhile although somewhat rambling read and sheds light on a little-known culture that is held in suspicion by many.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

In the hottest week of the summer so far, I've been waging war on a large border next to our summerhouse. Instead of being sensible and sitting in the shade with a long cool drink and a book, I've been working my way through the border with secateurs and loppers. We have made two trips to the tip with all the bags of garden waste, and I haven't finished yet.

It's a border that I can never get quite right. In the thirteen years that I've lived here it has been through three reincarnations already and it is still a nightmare to look after. I have finally realised that two of the biggest problems are two shrubs that have been there all along. One is an old and messy weigela that doesn't look good even when it is in flower. The other is a tatty *Spirea arguta*, which, after its lovely froth of white flowers in the spring, sits in the middle of the border looking scruffy. At the base of both shrubs several brambles have rooted where I can't dig them out; every year they clamber through the other shrubs and trees and then up and over the fence to next door - oops! A tatty close-boarded fence backs the whole border but our attempt to hide it with climbers has failed. The lovely *Clematis* 'Madame Julia Correvon' climbs to the top of the fence and disappears into the shrubs next door. A golden hop (*Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus' – what a lot of 'u's!) performs similarly but also succumbs to a hideous sooty mould and is being munched by unknown

insects. I have already removed the hop and plan to move the Clematis in early spring next year. It won't enjoy the move, but if I dig a large enough area around it, I hope to move it without damaging the roots too much.



The rest of the border is being taken over by periwinkle (*Vinca major*). Lovely as that is, it is smothering other plants such *Echinacea* and *Liatris spicata*. I was planning to remove the periwinkle but as I write this, the thought occurs to me that it might be better/easier to simply move the other plants elsewhere. When I have finished clearing all the stuff I don't want, I will be able to make decisions about what to plant (or not) in the spaces. There is a tricky dry shady patch at the right-hand end between a hawthorn tree and the fence where not even weeds will grow. I am planning a log pile here (for the insects) using an old buddleia that we cut down and will surround it with an artful arrangement of large stones and rounded pebbles, making sure that the whole arrangement doesn't end up looking like the worst of the rockeries that were fashionable in front gardens in the 1970s.

The two standard bay trees that received such a drastic haircut in May have fully recovered and are doing their best to regain their former size. Suckers have always been a problem with these trees and the hard prune caused them to sucker with a vengeance. I am planning to relocate the hardy geraniums that are growing at their base, and to surround the trees with large round pebbles with the hope that I will be able to spot and remove the suckers as soon as they appear. Elsewhere in the garden, with all the sunshine and the lack of rain, I am beginning to wish I had not planted so many pots over the years. I have a large arrangement containing hostas and ferns. I have another group surrounding the new Ginkgo tree which contain shrubs that I haven't planted out yet, and another group outside the kitchen door containing herbs. There are pots at the front door, pots at the front of the house planted with Black-eyed Susan, an old tin bathtub disguising a tree stump and pots containing mini sunflowers next to the small greenhouse. Altogether a ridiculous total of 72 pots, all of which need regular watering and feeding...

Julie Davies



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!

Whether it's a few hours or a regular commitment, every bit of help counts.

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

SUPPORT LINE: 0808 8020070 TEXT: 07786 203130

You Have Two Cows

Around the world we find a bewildering range of socio-political ideologies.

Here in rural Herefordshire our readers might find the following agricultural explanation helpful and, perhaps, amusing:

You have two cows:

- **Socialism:** The government puts them in a shed with everyone else's cows, which you have to help look after. The government gives you a glass of milk.
- **Capitalism:** You sell one cow and buy a bull, your herd multiplies and you retire to live off the profits. (*Or:* You have no cows. The bank will not lend you any money to buy any cows because you have no cows).
- **Feudalism:** Your master takes nearly all of the milk.
- **Dictatorship:** The government takes them both and executes you.
- **British Capitalism:** Both cows are mad.

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

A recent advertisement in *The Devon and Cornwall Advertiser*

"Good quality timber animal hutch in excellent condition. Suitable for guinea pigs or a small rabbi."

Peter Garratt

The dangers of predictive text, courtesy of Carole Day.

An employee at the Welsh Blood Service once ended an email with, *'I hope this will not cause you too much incontinence.'*



St Michael's Hospice invites entries for next year's Open Gardens programme

The St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens season is well underway - with the charity already inviting interest for next year's programme.

If you have a garden - from small domestic to estate-size, and everything in-between - that you would love to open to Hospice supporters for a few hours one day in 2026 between May and October, St Michael's would love to hear from you.

Each year, Open Gardens raises thousands of pounds for St Michael's - vital funding for a charity which relies on its community to help fund the palliative and end-of-life care for which it's renowned.

If you're interested in opening your garden for St Michael's Hospice, call Gaynor at the Hospice on 01432 852630 by no later than the end of this August.

The majority of the charity's annual costs are funded by the community, with supporters taking part in fundraising events, playing the St Michael's Hospice Lottery, shopping at the Hospice's retail outlets, making charitable donations and leaving gifts in their wills.

More information is available at st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

For more information on the content of this press release, please contact Paul Broome, PR and Communications Executive at St Michael's Hospice, on 01432 852643 or email pbroome@smhospicehereford.org

Editor's Comment: Having been involved now for two years in this scheme, the hospice team are wonderful at organising everything including the teas. Visitors come from across the county, but steadily during the afternoon, not in a rush. Do consider providing the garden, which does not have to be perfect, ours isn't, to enable people to enjoy yours.



MENTORS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Children's charity *Mentor Link* provides one to one mentoring and therapeutic support to children and young people in schools and the community who are facing social and emotional difficulties, impacting on themselves and their motivation to learn.

Due to the demand for our service from schools in Herefordshire, we are recruiting additional Volunteer Mentors. We are looking for volunteers who want to support and help the next generation, have a good listening ear and can spare a couple of hours each week.

The charity has an excellent track record of success in achieving positive outcomes with children and young people

If you are interested in supporting a child/young person with social and emotional issues, we would like to hear from you enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk Tel: 01299 822336 www.mentorlink.org.uk

Life experiences a must! Travel expenses paid. Training and ongoing training and support provided.

As a safer recruiter the role is subject to 2-character references and an Enhanced DBS.

Reg Charity No.1169026

Dates for the diary:

AUGUST

- 2 Village Market Campsite
- 3 Benefice Communion and Lammas Service, Garway Church
- 5 Garway Coffee Morning
- 6 Black Poplar Tree evening
- 10 Magazine copy date
- 12 Prescription collection
- 13 Celtic service, Garway
- 14 St Weonards Village Hall coffee morning
- 15 An Evening with Liam Cromby, Garway Village Hall
- 17 Holy Communion, Guided Tour of St Catherine's, Teas in the Cloister
- 17 Evening Service, Pencoyd
- 19 Our Lady of the Water comes to Hoarwithy, Sung Evensong with Ross Choir
- 20 Orcop Coffee Morning
- 20 Compline service, Garway
- 21 St Weonards village hall meeting
- 23 Garway Fun Day
- 24 Cream Teas, Michaelchurch
- 25 Orcop Fete
- 29 Jive By The Wye Dance, Garway Village Hall
- 31 Communion Service, Pencoyd

SEPTEMBER

- 6-14** H-Art and many music and art events at Dore Abbey
- 17** Orcop coffee morning
- 20** Afternoon Tea in St Weonards village hall
- 21** Tretire harvest festival

OCTOBER

- 3** Tretire Harvest Drinks
- 10** Orcop harvest festival
- 11** Orcop Village Hall Apple Pressing Festival
- 12** Garway harvest festival
- 17** St Weonards harvest festival
- 19** Hoarwithy harvest festival
- 21** Bishop's Spiritual Question Time
- 26** Hentland harvest festival

NOVEMBER

- 28** St Weonards churchyard bingo
- 29** Orcop Annual Christmas Bazaar

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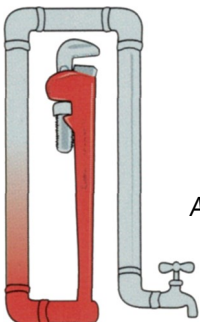
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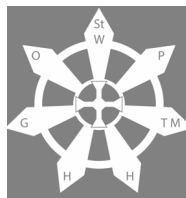
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ELIO (pg)

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SUPERMAN (12a)

Friday 1st - Thursday 7th

JURASSIC WORLD REBIRTH

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SMURFS

Friday 15th - Thursday 21st

FOUR LETTERS OF LOVE (tbc)

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BAD GUYS 2 (pg)

Friday 22nd - Thursday 28th

THE NAKED GUN (12a)

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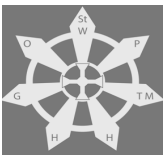
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