PARISH NEWS

OF

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

SEPTEMBER 2025



BY PAT MACRAE

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MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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

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101 talk How to get in touch: to to vour 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 BENEFICE

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

"September! I never tire of turning it over and over in my mind.

It has warmth, depth and colour. It glows like old amber."

- Patience Strong

As I write, I am looking forward to a rather fun August Bank Holiday weekend, full of all kinds of quintessentially English pleasures: Garway Fun Day on the common, Cream Teas in Michaelchurch, and the Church Summer Fete in Orcop. The bank holiday is like the last hurrah of summer as we look ahead to all that autumn might bring. September brings changes in our landscape, our evenings get a bit chillier, and the nights are gently drawing in. It's also the time of year when news outlets love to feed a nation of arachnophobes with scary pictures on front pages declaring the return of spider season (apparently the most common time to see a big spider scuttling across your living room floor in September is 7.35pm - who knew?!)

Wasps are probably still being a bit of a nuisance in their belligerent, drunken way. My preferred way of dealing with them is to flap about, but I'm told that the more sensible choice is to stay still. I'm trying, with variable success, to use these instances as opportunities for mini meditative moments, especially since I learnt that it was a meditating Chinese monk who, around the first century BC, noticed how wasps make their fine paper nests from peeling off and mashing up fine layers of wood. Hence, paper was invented, and you have this magazine in your hands to read! Books, paper aeroplanes, letters from loved ones: I'm very grateful for that Chinese monk and the wasps who inspired him.

Whatever it might be that causes you to literally or metaphorically flap about through September, be it spiders, wasps, monks, an insane new timetable, or a nightmare new form tutor/ student, I hope that you will also find plenty of opportunities for grateful meditative moments amidst the beauty and promise that September so often offers to us.

"September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn."

- Rowland E. Robinson

Whether you are flapping, meditating, struggling, grateful, afraid, feeling grounded or feeling lost, my prayer is that you may you be blessed with the peace, grace, light, strength and hope that you need each day.

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 SEPTEMBER

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

Wednesday 3rd	7.00pm	Hentland, Compline
Sunday 7th	10.00am	St Weonards, Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	9.30am 11.15am	St Weonards, All Age Communion Garway, Celtic Service
Wednesday 17 th	7.00pm	Garway, Compline
Sunday 21 st	10.00am 5.00pm	Hoarwithy, Holy Communion Tretire, Harvest Festival
Sunday 28 th	9.15am 9.30am 11.15am	Hentland, Holy Communion St Weonards, All Age Service Orcop, Holy Communion
Wednesday 1 st October	7.00pm	Hentland, Compline
Sunday 5 th October	10.00am	St Weonards, Benefice Holy Communion

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

Sunday September 7th St Weonards Church

Benefice Communion 10.00 am All are welcome

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



September 9th Chris Strange 07970 614933

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE September 10th Please send in by 6 pm

We are reluctant to put in too much detail of events for later months, or the magazine becomes too repetitive. We include the date and outline information, but not a full notice. Complicated format does not work so well and basic Word docs are best using Calibri font 12.

Cover Picture

The image of a swift on the cover was inspired by Peter Garratt's article in the last Parish News. Peter's swift box and recording of swift calls inspired my husband David to make a similar box for my birthday last year. We played the screaming sounds evening and morning all through the swift season this year. Finally, one morning I was delighted to have four swifts swooping around me and up to the box, as I stood in my back door!

Next year's returners, I hope, as the swifts are now flying south for our winter.

Pat Macrae

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

The summer heat continues as the fields become even drier, looking like foreign lands. Although August often means that people are away, it was good to see a goodly crowd of families at our All Age Communion. We are grateful to Richard Day who managed to organise the IT for us, so that we had the benefit of the new screen which everyone can see, however tall the people are in the front of the church! The ancient stone buildings that are our churches are ideal places to be comfortable in this hot weather!

Apart from the spiritual message we gain from Angie, we also benefit from the time for fellowship after the service with delicious cakes, coffee and tea! We also received some excellent advice on how to use up some of those courgettes which slightly overwhelm many of us at this time of year!! (See below)

We send huge congratulations and love to Gillie Hallewell who is 90 years young this month! Thank you Gillie for all that you have done for the parish and the community over many years. Also to Peter who supports her and leads the bell ringers.

On September 14th at 9.30am when Angie is having a well-earned holiday, we are delighted that Bishop David Thomson is coming to take our All Age Communion. Many people will remember how much Bishop David helped us during the vacancy, and it will be good to welcome him again.

Perhaps you have driven up the road towards Garway and seen the wonderful sight of a field of huge sunflowers growing in a field. (Or perhaps not as the road is so rough and you don't want to risk your tyres!) The Treago Farm family invited people to pay to pick their own flowers. Many did, and with donations they raised more than £800 in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance, which is fantastic. Well done to all involved!



A lovely sunflower drawn by Libby Williams 11 years old

Looking ahead, do put the date of the harvest service and supper in your diary. October 17th at 6.00pm. As well as giving thanks for the harvest, this is an opportunity to share a delicious meal with others.

Fiona Mynors on behalf of the PCC

Andrew's Flying Angels

On Saturday 2nd August, the team of Andrew's Flying Angels made their way to Netheravon airbase in Salsbury to complete their tandem skydive. Fourteen of us took to the sky after an early start. The weather was perfect and each of us thoroughly enjoyed this challenge in memory of Dad, Andrew Lewis, and other members of the team's family and friends who have been cared for by the wonderful St Michael's Hospice.

The fundraising figure has yet to be finalised, but with grateful thanks to everyone who has supported us as we have exceeded our target of £10,000. Special thanks must be given to the Sewciopaths who kindly organised two fundraising events to help us reach our goal. The Sewciopaths are a local group of crafting ladies and close friends of Rev. Angle and the Lewis family.

We are hoping to hold a thank you event soon to announce the final fundraising figure once we have finished collecting all sponsorship. Many thanks, once again, to everyone in our local community, friends and family who supported us, Dad would be amazed at everyone's kindness and generosity and proud of his flying angels. Best Wishes,

Anna Williams x

Courgette glut?

Perhaps like us you planted just too many courgette plants and now feel somewhat overwhelmed at their bounteous harvest! Here are some suggestions. If you have more ideas, do let us know.

From Angie: Slice courgettes lengthwise, drizzle on some olive oil and roast with some tomatoes beside them. When they look good, put the tomatoes on the courgettes, a plonk of Greek yogurt, sprinkle with sea salt and eat.

We tried it and this is fantastic!

Ginnie Thornley: Make courgette bread with courgettes added to a bread mixture with raisins and sliced.

My thoughts: Slice courgettes very thin, preferably with a mandolin slicer, and add to the salad bowl.

Using a processor, I chop large quantities of raw courgettes into small pieces to freeze. In the winter I use them for soup - frying an onion, courgettes, a tin of tomatoes, stock and tsp of curry powder.

I also chop, roast and freeze for winter use.

I have to admit that by the end of summer I can hardly face another courgette!!! **Fiona Mynors**



Coffee Morning. Thursday 11th September

St Weonards Village Hall 10 am-12 noon.

Enjoy coffee and some delicious homemade cake.

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

All welcome.

Afternoon Tea Saturday 20th September St Weonards Village Hall 3pm-5pm



Enjoy a relaxing afternoon tea at St Weonards Village Hall.

Sandwiches, Savouries and Cakes, endless tea, and coffee.

All for £10, Junior school children £5.

It would be helpful for our catering if you could pre-book, please!

Pam 01981 580433 or Gwen 07817 681996

Diary Dates: 9th October Charity Coffee morning. 28th November, St Weonards, Churchyard bingo.



Garway Church

Lammas service with pet blessing

We had lovely weather for the Lammas service last month. This was combined with a pet blessing service and was really enjoyable. Lots of people attended bringing their pets to Angie for a blessing, assisted by Connor who sprinkled water on to the heads of six dogs and two guinea pigs.

Richard Mynors then led the choir on the organ, as they sang the anthem.

We all finished by singing "Who put the colours in the rainbow" outside in the sunshine. Followed by tea, coffee and delicious cakes.

September services

Our regular Celtic style service of worship is on 14th September at 11.15.am

And our Compline service is on Wednesday 17th at 7pm.

Compline is a gentle, short service of contemplation and a lovely way to end a busy day. Everyone is welcome.

Harvest Festival

Advance notice. 12th October 11.15 am. Our Harvest Festival service this year will be held in Garway Village Hall, followed by the Harvest lunch. More details to follow in the October magazine.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden

Wishing Connie Benjamin belated birthday wishes for her 90th on 2nd of August. On this significant milestone I am sure many friends, old and new, would like to join me in sending best wishes to this lovely lady, who has lived her entire life in Orcop and Garway. Happy birthday Connie, and many more to come!



All the regular activities are back after the summer break and here are a few other events coming up:

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*

Tuesday 9 September - Flicks in the Sticks

Flicks in the Sticks are back for their usual monthly showing on the second Tuesday of the month from September. First up for the season is Mr Burton, a British biographical drama film about the early life of Richard Burton starring Toby Jones.

Tuesday 16 September - Garway Heritage Group

An illustrated talk by Peter Harris on Coningsby Hospital Museum

To keep up to date with the latest activities at the hall, sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.garwayhall.org

Julie Hudson

Garway Spice Girls

invite you to the

September Coffee Morning

Tuesday 2nd September 10am

in Garway Hall

Lesley Whistance will join us to talk about the history of Garway Common

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP Tuesday 16th September Garway Hall, 7.30pm

Coningsby Hospital Museum

In this illustrated talk, Peter Harris will relate the fascinating history of the St John Medieval Museum and Coningsby Hospital, located in Widemarsh Street, Hereford.

With its foundation in the 12th century, this historic area of Hereford is linked to the Crusades, the Knights Templar and The Hospitaller Knights. Its 13th century Chapel is still used today by the Order of St John for a monthly service. And the Coningsby Red Coat Hospital was probably the model for red coat uniforms of The Chelsea Hospital in London.

All are welcome - it's a great opportunity to learn about our local area and a chance for a friendly chat; we will, of course, be serving delicious cakes, tea, coffee and wine. Entry free to Garway Heritage Group members (£15 annual subscription) or £8 for guests.

www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

Clare Adamson

Diary Dates: 21 Oct - Treribble House. 18 Nov - The Golden Valley Railway - the Great Western Years / Bob Steele



This month sees the long-awaited return of the Rob Lear Band on Saturday the 20th. Rob is a singer/songwriter who draws his inspiration from events in his own life and makes statements about the world around him. His gentle melodic approach to music makes him a firm favourite at festivals and venues up and down the land. His many admirers include Kingsley Ward (Rockfield Recording Studios) and Justin Hayward, lead singer/composer of "The Moody Blues". Once again, we at Garway Live have striven to bring the best in live music to our hall for your enjoyment, acts of this quality are hard to come by so don't miss out on this one. Sadly, we are not able to afford the "Stones" yet, but you never know. This evening will be the usual, doors open at 7.30 with the band on stage at 8.00. Admission is still £12 for adults and £6 for under 18's and there will be a full bar. Chris will also be providing food with the profits going to a local charity.

No live music next month but we have got the next "National Theatre Live" production "Inter Alia" staring Rosamund Pike as a well-respected High Court Judge who is also a Karaoke fiend. Put a note in your diary for Friday October 24th.

Graham Bevan



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH 7.30pm GARWAY HALL £5.00 MR BURTON

FLICKS is back with our once- a-month feast of excellent films served up on your doorstep. We've, most of us, had certain teachers who've inspired our futures in some way but perhaps no-one has quite benefited from a pupil/teacher relationship as did the mercurial Welsh actor, Richard Burton. This film stars Toby Jones

as the erudite, dignified but lonely school-teacher, Philip Burton, who recognises a spark of talent in Richard Walter Jenkins, son of a hard-drinking miner from Pontrhydyfen. Determined to steer Jenkins towards the theatrical career which he himself had wanted, Burton pays Richard's father £50 and takes the young man on as his ward, encouraging him to change his name to his own more socially acceptable surname. The strength of this film is in the poignant, underplayed acting of Toby Jones and also of Harry Lawtey who absolutely inhabits the persona of the youthful Burton with all his doubts and insecurities. The film follows the young Burton's life from 1942 when he was a seventeen-year-old school boy in Port Talbot Secondary School to 1951 when, voice and social manners altered forever, he hell-raises his way through Oxford University to Stratford and an iconic portrayal of Prince Hal in Henry IV. Watching in the audience is Philip Burton, who doesn't know it yet, but has helped create the man who will become one of the most famous actors in the world. Our equally iconic cakes will be starring before the film and during the interval as will a whole cast of wines, coffees, teas together with Clare and Jeremy's award-winning juice. More information on www.facebook.com/GarwayFlicks.

COMING NEXT: October 14th A REAL PAIN. A "refreshingly unpredictable" road movie with whip-sharp dialogue. Two mismatched American cousins explore their Polish family history.

Corinne Westacott

Green Book Club

Bit of a different book group this time as only Juliette had read the book, it was a tricky one to get hold of. We did have a nice time gossiping about Raynor Winn and *The Salt Path* revelations though! Thanks to Juliette for the following review:

Cull Of The Wild by Hugh Warwick

The author is a conservationist who admits from the start that he abhors the thought of killing animals. However he realises that he has to get out of his bubble and address the real problems that invasive species, usually introduced by humans, cause to environments e.g. grey squirrels versus red squirrels and rats versus ground nesting birds.

Prioritising one animal over another is a complex problem that exposes our prejudices e.g. should cats in New Zealand be culled to protect birds? And how do you get societal support?

Not surprisingly there is no one easy solution to such complicated problems, but he concludes that there is probably a place for compassionate conservation, as to do nothing usually results in more harm and suffering.

He explores plenty of deep philosophical questions but in a quite funny, self-depreciating style that results in an informative and very readable book.

Rating 4/5

Julie Hudson

ORCOP

A memorial service was held at Orcop Church on 6th August for Angus Jackson. It attracted a very large congregation, many of whom had travelled a long way to be there. We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Angus and especially to his widow, Anna.

We bid a sad farewell to Barbara Leeson, who is moving away to be closer to her daughter. Barbara has been an active and highly respected member of the Orcop community for many years, notably as organist at Orcop

Church and as an active member and supporter of the Royal British Legion. We thank her for all she has done for us over the years and wish her every happiness in her new home.

Margaret Fletcher Churchwarden

Flower and cleaning: Mrs M Fletcher

Dates for the diary: *Friday* **10**th *October* Harvest Festival 6pm Orcop Church followed by supper. More details next month. For the purposes of catering please contact Julia Garlick tel 01981 580515 to book a place.

Saturday 11th October Apple Pressing Day. Stalls - (full details in next month's PM)

Growers, Makers, Stall Holders welcome – to book a table, or for more info, please contact:
petamary@hotmail.co.uk or, gill.bannerman@outlook.com

The Owl Community Lunch for September 3rd

The Owl community lunch will restart after our summer break on Wednesday 3rd of September. The lunches are always held on the first Wednesday of the month. The lunch takes place in Orcop Parish Hall.

The events are open to all who wish to attend, just turn up although if you have special dietary requirements such as gluten free please ring Jane to let her know 01981 241310.

We meet at 12.30 to eat at 1pm and have two courses with a soft drink and tea or coffee on arrival. There is usually a small raffle.

New people will be made very welcome.

Jane Lockhart

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 in 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

ORCOP VILLAGE HALL Autumn Coffee Mornings

will continue on the 3^{rd} WEDNESDAY of each month 10.30 - 12.30 (Sept 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 19th, Dec 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

TRETIRE AND PENCOYD

Huge thanks to Chris Snell and David Snow for masterminding the Tennis Tournament & Barbeque on at the end of July. A nail-biting final on the Wimbledon standard grass court followed by a mountain of delicious food and drink, raising an astonishing amount for the churches. To all the participants and supporters a huge thanks.

As I write this, Kevin Pursey and his team are pounding up and down the lane gathering in the wheat harvest. In these difficult drought conditions that we have experienced this year, I hope they and all the farmers around will secure a decent result. It is timely therefore to remind you of two Harvest events coming up:

<u>Harvest Service</u> - Sunday 21st at **17:00** (5pm), St Mary's, Tretire. Note earlier start. Contributions to decorations (and help with cleaning) on Saturday 20th are gratefully received, and we will ensure that local charities benefit.

<u>Harvest Drinks & Canapes</u> - Friday 3 October, 6pm to 8pm at Michaelchurch Cottage — Tickets £10 each. Please come and join us and catch up with old and meet new friends. There will be a raffle and a bit of bring & buy of any excess that you have. All contributions welcome - but your presence it the best contribution and we very much look forward to seeing you.

At a recent gathering of the Parishes in the Ross Deanery, we were introduced to the new *Life Link Chaplin – Emily Goy*. This is a new role, working with young people in the schools in our Deanery, and Emily seems perfectly fitted to the position having been brought up in the area and recently returned from travelling and working abroad in the Antipodes. Please join me in wishing her every success. You can find out more at the website: https://rossparishes.uk/lifelink/.

Elizabeth Malcolm, Churchwarden

HOARWITHY AND HENTLAND

Our *Teas in the Cloister* on 20th July was preceded by a very heavy storm and there was no one in the Cloister at 3.00pm. However as soon as the rain stopped, we had a "full house". Thanks to our catering team for a lovely afternoon with super refreshments.

By the time you read this "Our Lady of the Water" will have progressed down the River Wye – more news next month, but I would like to thank Ross Choir with Mark Sanderson singing Evensong and Father David for taking the service on 19th August.

hArt will be with us from 6th-14th September 11.00am -5.00pm along with Pop-up Café.

17th October Hoarwithy Singers Charity Concert in Church more details later.

On 21st October Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah are coming to the New Harp Hoarwithy for a "Spiritual Question Time" 7.00pm – look out for publicity and tell your friends.

Services

21st September 10.00am Holy Communion

19th October 11.00am Harvest Communion

2nd November 10.00am Benefice Communion with "Good News for Everyone" (formerly Gideons)

Peter Pember Churchwarden

Hentland Church

The Musical and Amicable society presented a wonderful concert against the backdrop of a lovely summer evening at St Dubricius, Hentland on Saturday 12th July. The music was performed by Hanah Davey, Kate Fawcett, Henrik Persson and Martin Perkins. This was a well-supported event with the church full.

As his swan song and the piece de resistance of the evening Robin Symonds gave an impromptu performance and sang with Katherine King which was such a lovely surprise for all.

A wonderful array of refreshments provided by the talented ladies of Hentland were served during the interval.

Many thanks to all who came along to support this wonderful evening.

Val Lilwall Churchwarden

THE SWIFT FAREWELL

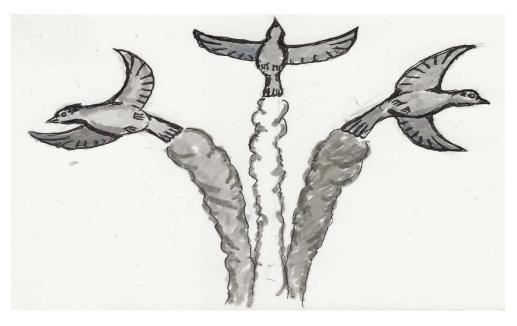
Some readers will remember my "Swift Update" in the June issue. We have been constantly entertained by their amazing aerobatics and primordial screams during their time with us and they have shown great interest in the nesting box attached to our bedroom window.

The first contingent arrived on about 3rd May and within a week we had at least six, sometimes ten, constantly circling the house, encouraged by the recorded call played through a speaker on the nesting box. On 1st August they suddenly disappeared and headed back to Southern Africa. As I write this, I guess they

are probably over Spain. So, they were with us less than three months.

We really miss them and look forward to their return next May and hope they will take up residence in the nesting box, having completed their reconnaissance this year.

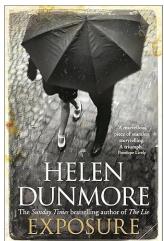
Meanwhile, perhaps we will have to make do for our aeronautical entertainment with the Red Sparrows...........



Peter Garratt

Book Review

Exposure by Helen Dunmore



Set in 1960, this is a spy novel with a difference. There are no daggers hidden in umbrellas, no car chases, no hidden cameras, no Bond-style clichés. What we do have are subtle characterization, acute observation of the details of daily lives and domesticity, and a gentle understanding of human nature and weaknesses.

Dunmore skillfully evokes the cold war era, both with her domestic details (coal skuttles and Ajax) and with her awareness of an underlying sense of menace in government circles:

"The Cold War is at its height, and a spy may be a friend or neighbour, colleague or lover"

Simon is a civil servant in the Admiralty in the early 1960s. He is seen as dull, predictable and reliable – as indeed he is in his work and domestic context.

"It was something he'd learned in the war: only think about what is directly in front of you. ... plan ahead all the time... but (don't) feel ahead."

His wife Lily is a naturalized Britain, having escaped Nazi Germany with her mother in 1938. Their marriage is solid, their children content. But Simon is suddenly faced with a moral dilemma: Giles, a senior colleague and former lover (at a time when homosexual relationships carried severe penalties), phones him out of the blue from hospital, where he is seriously ill, with a request that Simon is reluctant to comply with but has little choice. The decisions that Simon makes while carrying out this simple assignment put him and his family in danger.

There is a spy plot here – a gripping one - but it is woven in with subtly-drawn complex characters and a background of humanity and realism. The heightened sense of suspicion and fear lurks always in the background.

Lily knows that Simon's imprisonment is likely to be a cover-up by those further up the chain of command, and that he is powerless in the face of the establishment. She recognises that everyone, even Simon's legal representation, is part of this big enclosed self-serving "family" and she plays her part in countering this.

Parallels with E Nesbitt's *The Railway Children* abound. When Simon finds himself wrongly arrested on a charge of espionage, the family is forced to decamp to the countryside, arriving by train to a bleak cottage at night, adapting to country life, Lily playing the strong mother, the children collecting sea coal from the beach – all that is missing is "Daddy, my Daddy!"

But this is of course a far more subtle novel than the beloved children's tale. It is told in the adults' voices rather than the children's, and explores the existence of secrets in their lives, and their unwillingness to recognise what is in front of, or indeed inside, them.

"It isn't what you know or don't know: it's what you allow yourself to know...It turns out that I know everything. All the facts were in my head and always had been. I ignored them, because it was easier."

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

It seems that it has been a good year for insects, with reports of increased numbers of ladybirds, butterflies and wasps. Certainly, I've noticed a huge increase in spiders in the house with far more swinging from the living room beams and the kitchen shelves than normal; or perhaps I have simply been spending too much time gardening and not enough wielding a feather duster. The increase has been attributed to the warm humid spring which allowed insects to emerge and the subsequent dry sunny summer which has helped them survive. In turn, all those insects have been good for the bird and bat populations.

We have a wonderful crop of fruit this year – presumably also due to a good spring. I have never seen so many apples on our trees, all so healthy and seemingly unaffected by the lack of rain. The apples are surprisingly large and their skin is beautifully unblemished. The arches of cordon pears are laden with fruit – last year I had just one single pear from the six trees. This year I have between 20 and 60 on each tree and, just like the apples, they are plump and healthy.



Pottering in the large greenhouse, which this year is full of pelargoniums and begonias, I was thrilled to spot an extraordinary insect hovering amongst the flowers. I am familiar with the dragonflies and azure damselflies that I see on the common, but this large damselfly had a metallic royal blue body and navy-blue wings. It was quite mesmerising and extraordinarily beautiful. Others have obviously thought so too as this creature turned out to be called a 'Beautiful Demoiselle'. I have no idea why it was in the greenhouse as the normal habitat is adjacent to fast-flowing streams. Nevertheless, I am pleased to have made its acquaintance.

It set me thinking that I would love to provide a habitat for other such insects in the garden. I have the ideal spot where I removed an enormous *Rosa complicata* in the spring. With the removal of a couple more shrubs I can easily create a wildlife pond. The Freshwater Habitats Trust have produced a useful pamphlet on the subject. As I don't intend to put fish in it and the greatest variety of wildlife lives at the very edge, it need only be shallow - maximum depth just 25-30cm. They recommend creating very shallow shelving edges to provide different habitats for plants and the various forms of pond life. They also recommend that it is partially shaded – again this location is ideal – and not to be too fanatical about clearing out all the fallen leaves. There is no need to deliberately introduce wildlife in the form of sludge from another pond as within minutes the water beetles will fly in and within a day or two other insects and animals will just arrive. This garden has a good population of great crested newts and a few frogs and toads so I am sure they will be grateful for somewhere to breed.

My childhood home had an open-topped rainwater tank on top of the kitchen bay window. My bedroom window looked out over the water, and I was fascinated by the pond skaters and the water boatmen that used to scoot about on the surface. I am looking forward to seeing those again and to see what else arrives.

My next task of course is to find someone who can create this for me...

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: <u>www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk</u>

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Chuckle Corner

A few summer type jokes...

Why don't seashells take baths? Because they wash up on beaches.

Where do surfers get their degree? At boarding school.

When is a pool safe for diving? It Deep Ends.

Did you hear about the dog who wears a swimsuit? Apparently, it looks quite fetching.

Dore Abbey



Saturday 6th September CHORAL WORKSHOP Faure: Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine (both Oxford edition) http://www.doreabbey.org.uk/



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



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 english english eng

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Events in Hereford Cathedral September

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Tuesday 16 September, 1.15 pm

Join us for our Lunchtime Organ Concert series. This week's concert is given by Scott Senogles, Pontefract Parish Church. Free with a retiring collection.

Bereavement Café Wednesday 17 September, 2.30 pm – 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 Old Chapel 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.

The Medieval Jewish history of Hereford Wednesday 17th 7 pm The lecture will serve as an introduction to the history of the Jewish community in Hereford, which expanded significantly in the early 13th century following the expulsion of Jews from Worcester, Gloucester and Bath in 1225. Dr Luke Devine from the University of Worcester will share the history of the community and some of its individuals within Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Tickets £10 and can be booked in advance via the cathedral website.

The Sixteen: The Choral Pilgrimage 2025 Thursday 18 September, 7pm. This year's tour takes its title from words by Cardinal Newman, set to music by Will Todd – 'Let me be an angel of peace'. Newman's meditation on the challenge of existence suggests life's deepest valleys only help its highest mountains feel more wonderful. Perhaps, when we see that joy co-exists with sadness, we've been visited by our own Angel of Peace. For ticket information please visit the cathedral website.

Lunchtime Organ Concert Tuesday 23 September, 1.15 pm

Join us for our Lunchtime Organ Concert series. This week's concert is given by Aaron Shilson, Llandaff Cathedral. Free with a retiring collection.

Harry Potter Book Night Thursday 25 from 5.30 pm. Wizards, witches and muggles of all ages are invited to join us at Hereford Cathedral and celebrate Harry Potter Book Night, a night hosted annually in libraries, schools and venues across the globe and coordinated by Bloomsbury Publishers Co. The theme of this year's Harry Potter Book Night is 'Magical Creatures'! This event is free, but booking is essential. To book your place, visit the cathedral's website. Tickets will be available from Tuesday 26 August.

The Book of Isaiah Friday 26 – Sunday 28 (Friday 7 - 8.30 pm, Saturday 9am – 3.30pm, Sunday 2 -

3.30pm). Join Bishop Donald Allister to study the Book of Isaiah. The book that bears his name tells of a God who wants his people back, who wants to bless them, and who has a plan and a person to do just that. Participants are advised to attend all sessions.

£6 suggested donation. To book your place, visit the cathedral website or call 01432 374225

Lunchtime Organ Concert Tuesday 30, 1.15 pm Join us for our final concert in the Lunchtime Organ Concert series. This week's concert is given by Peter Dyke and will be his incredibly popular Audience Request Concert! Free with a retiring collection.

Dates for the diary:

September	•
1	Orcop Village Hall Committee Meeting
2	Garway Spice Girls coffee morning and talk
3	The Owl Community Lunch
6-14	September h.Art and many music and art events at Dore Abbey
7	St Weonards Church Benefice Communion
9	Flicks in the Sticks
9	Prescription Collection
10	Magazine copy date
11	St Weonards Village Hall coffee morning
14	Garway Celtic style service
16	Hereford Cathedral Lunchtime Organ Concert
16	Garway Heritage Group
17	Garway Compline service
17	Orcop Village Hall Autumn Coffee Morning
17	Hereford Cathedral Bereavement Café
17	Hereford Cathedral - The Medieval Jewish History of Hereford lecture
18	Hereford Cathedral - The Sixteen: The Choral Pilgrimage
20	St Weonards Village Hall Afternoon Tea
20	Rob Lear Band
21	Tretire Harvest Festival
23	Hereford Cathedral Lunchtime Organ Concert
25	Hereford Cathedral Harry Potter Book Night
26-28	Hereford Cathedral - The book of Isaiah study
30	Hereford Cathedral Lunchtime Organ Concert
October	
3	Harvest Drinks and Canapes at Michaelchurch Cottage
9	St Weonards Village Hall Charity Coffee morning
10	Orcop Harvest Festival and supper
11	Apple Pressing Day
12	Garway Harvest Festival and lunch
15	Orcop Village Hall Autumn Coffee Morning
17	St Weonards Harvest Festival and supper
17	Hoarwithy Singers Charity Concert in Church
19	Hoarwithy Harvest Festival
21	Spiritual Question Time
21	Hoarwithy Hold Communion
24	National Theatre Live
26	Hentland Harvest Festival
November	
2	Hoarwithy Benefice Communion
19	Orcop Village Hall Autumn Coffee Morning

December

28

17 Orcop Village Hall Autumn Coffee Morning

St Weonards Churchyard bingo

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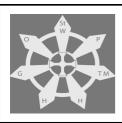
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