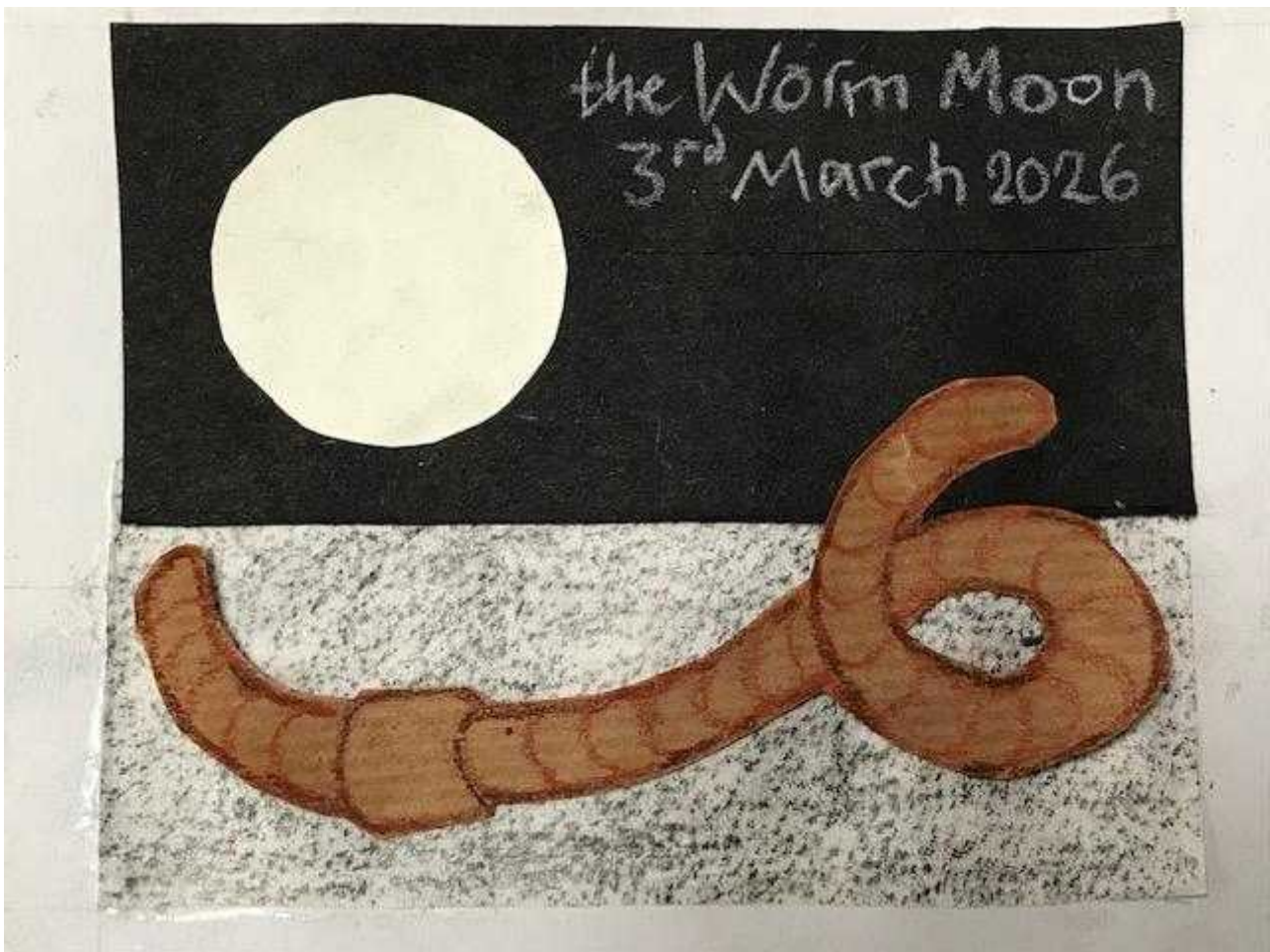


PARISH NEWS

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

MARCH 2026



The “Worm Moon” got its name because in March the soil begins to warm and the very first signs of life begin to return as earthworms, beetle larvae, and grubs emerge from their winter dormancy. These invertebrates are some of the very earliest spring food sources for birds and animals, including bears, skunks, and other animals emerging from hibernation. The castings (vermicasts, waste from earthworms) left behind enrich the soil and make it possible to begin planting and gardening after winter’s end.

From the website www.farmersalmanac.com

And to add interest this year the full moon is forecast to have a full eclipse between 2nd and 3rd March!

BY PAT MACRAE

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OWL Good Neighbours Jane Lockhart 01981 241310
Dore Community Transport 0345 2020144
St Weonards Group website <https://archenfieldbenefice.org.uk/>

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Orcop:	Mrs M Fletcher	01981 540790
	3 Wilkes Row, Orcop	
Tretire/Pencoyd:	Elizabeth Malcolm	07710 380 862
	Michaelchurch Cottage	
	HR2 8LD	
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Contributions by email to archenfieldmag@btinternet.com

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VILLAGE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND NEWS <https://archenfieldbenefice.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 BENEFICE

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

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." - Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

March is a funny old month. It can't quite make up its mind. One day you're squinting into unexpected sunshine, full of good intentions about the garden. The next you're back in your winter coat, being rained on sideways. The lanes are muddy. The dogs are muddier. Nobody can even remember what colour the car is under all that agri-spec coating.

And yet — oh joy! — something is happening.

Snowdrops giving way to spring flowers. Hedgerows getting greener. Lambs appearing as if someone sprinkled them across the fields overnight. Everything looks a bit scruffy and a bit hopeful at the same time.

Which, if I'm honest, is exactly how I often feel by this point in the year. And perhaps that's why Lent sits well here. Not in the sparkle of Christmas or the full glory of Easter, but in the muddle. In the in-between. Lent isn't really about being super-pious or ultra-disciplined. It's kinder, sweeter, than that. More like a quiet spring clean for the soul.

A bit less clutter. A bit more kindness. A small prayer with your morning tea. Checking in on someone who's had a long winter. Nothing heroic. Just small, seed-sized things. Jesus seemed to trust those small things most — seeds, yeast, slow growth. The kind of change you almost miss because it looks so ordinary. Which means most of our lives are probably holier than we think. God at work in the ordinary weave of things — in muddy boots and busy days, in kitchens and offices, in chance conversations and shared pints. Nothing dramatic, just life turning quietly toward the light.

So, if you feel slightly scruffy and slightly hopeful, you're doing just fine.
That's spring. That's Lent. That's grace.

May your boots be muddy, your heart be hopeful, and God be close beside you.

Rev Angie x

CHURCH SERVICES ROTA FOR MARCH

For any changes please check the benefice website <https://archenfieldbenefice.org.uk/>

Sunday 1 st March	10 am	Benefice Holy Communion, St Weonards
Sunday 8 th March	9.30 am 11.15 am	All Age Holy Communion, St Weonards Snug in the Pub, Garway Moon Inn
Sunday 15 th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10 am 6 pm	Holy Communion, Hoarwithy Evening Prayer, Pencoyd
Sunday 22 nd March	9.30 am 11.15 am	All Age Worship, St Weonards Holy Communion, Orcop
Sunday 29 th March PALM SUNDAY	Start at Pencoyd 10.00am 3 pm	Palm Sunday Walk and Worship, Pencoyd to Llanwarne Pax Service, Hentland
Thursday 2 nd April MAUNDY THURSDAY	7 pm	Tenebrae Service, Garway
Friday 3 rd April GOOD FRIDAY	11.00 am 2 pm	Stations of the Cross, Tretire The Last Hour Meditations, Orcop
Sunday 5 th April EASTER SUNDAY	9.15 am 11.15 am time TBC	Easter Communion, Hentland Easter Communion, St Weonards Easter Celebration, Hoarwithy

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

Garway Hill Methodist Church: Sunday 22nd March 3pm - Rev'd Phil Summers (Holy Communion)

South Wye Rural and
Wormelow Hundred
Benefices
Lent Course for 2026



A Picture of Jesus
According to Matthew
from 24th February 2026 and
the following Tuesdays at 7.30.pm.
for 5 weeks

Much Birch Community Hall

Come and join us as we explore who
Jesus is as recorded by Matthew.

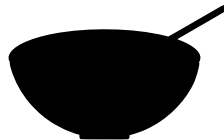
Refreshments available.

THE YEAR
OF MATTHEW

Details on website at:

<https://archenfieldbenefice.org.uk/news/lent-and-easter-2026>

LENT LUNCHES



These are a simple lunch of soup and cheese when donations are this year for two Ugandan Charities. Come along and enjoy the company and the food as well as giving to good causes!

Tuesday 3 March 12.00. Garway Village Hall (linked to Peace Children's Home in Uganda the project visited by Sarah Griffiths)

Wednesday 11 March 12.00 to 1.30pm St Weonards, The Dower House, Treago HR2 8QB (linked to project *Bread for Bricks*)

Wednesday 18 March Orcop will combine with weekly coffee morning in hall. (linked to project *Bread for Bricks*)

Wednesday 25 March T&P at Michaelchurch Court. (linked to project *Bread for Bricks*)

Both charities have links with people in our parishes so that the money goes directly where it is needed. Project Embabazi has an exciting project called *Bricks for Bread*. The current aim to replace the dark, dusty and leaking nursery classrooms at Kanjobe Primary School is underway. The challenge is to help raise the

rest of the funds needed (approx. £8000). Chris Lewis and her family have been involved in this charity for a number of years.

**Sunday March 1st
St Weonards Church
Benefice Communion
10.00am
All are welcome**

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION



24th March Carolyn Trew 01600 750227

!!! Magazine News !!!

COPY DATE March 10TH PLEASE 6.00PM

**Do you read this online? Please consider a
donation for costs. Acc: 70786276 20-00-85**

VILLAGE PAGES

ST WEONARDS

Looking out over what seems to have become a winter wetland, it is hard to imagine more of a contrast to last summer when we baked. However, it is amazing to me how the snowdrops seem to survive, even flourish in this weather and the daffodils are just peeping up.

We had our usual All Age services in February, and we are looking forward to welcoming worshippers from other parishes to the benefice communion, with the choir, on **Sunday March 1st at 10.00am**. Afterwards we shall have time for catching up over refreshments which always include rather wonderful cakes!

In preparation for Easter, a Lent Course starts at the end of February and continues until Easter. More details earlier in the magazine.

Our Lent Lunch is on **Wednesday 11 March** 12.00 to 1.30pm St Weonards, The Dower House, Treago HR2 8QB (linked to project *Bread for Bricks*) This is a simple soup and cheese lunch in relaxed surroundings in aid of the project in Uganda supported by the Lewis family. Do come!

On Palm Sunday, 29th March: people of all ages and their four-footed companions please gather at St Denys, Pencoyd at 10:00am for a walk to Llanwarne. There will be a service at Christ Church Llanwarne and you are most welcome to join this or return straight home. It is a lovely walk on the lanes between our villages and much improved by the company of friends.

On Good Friday, 3rd April 11.00am a simple Iona version of Stations of the Cross will take place at St Mary's Tretire and Last Hour Meditations at Orcop at 2.00pm. For more details of any event check into the website: www.archenfieldbenefice.org.uk

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Lyn Cain. Although we hope to publish more details of her life next month, Gillie and I were sharing our memories of her. She and Mike came to live in the village about the same time as Gillie and Peter and their children attended St Weonards School where friendships were cemented. Lyn was always so supportive of the school and church, and she was a prime mover in setting up a small Bible Study group that lasted for years.

At the parish fete, while Mike ran the skittles, Lyn would be busy with the teas and helping wherever was needed.

Lyn was a bright star, always full of life and fun, a staunch friend and a fine Christian. We will miss her and send our love and best wishes to Mike and all the family.

On behalf of the PCC, Fiona Mynors.

Coffee Morning

Thursday 12th March.

St Weonards Village Hall. 10am -12 noon

Enjoy your coffee, homemade cake, and a raffle.

Meet up with friends and make new ones.

Just turn up, a warm welcome to you all

Gwyneth Williams

Date for the diary: Sunday 19th April St Weonards Village Hall Breakfast 9 am to 12 pm.

Garway Church

Unexpected circumstances saw our “*Snug in the Pub*” gathering, meeting in the Village Hall instead of Garway Moon. Anyone who came and found us not there, please accept our apologies. There were seven of us who attended that morning and with us, a group of carved figures.

The figures were done by a local carving group that came together with the help of Clair Gray, from Kenchurch and a professional woodcarver, Andrew Pearson. Over the years Clair’s group have been carving bible stories, and the carvings that came to our meeting were the figures inspired from the story of the Prodigal Son.

Storytelling has always been a core part of the human experience, for as long as there has been language there have been stories, and one ancient form of storytelling is the wisdom story, passed down through generations.

Angie started us off by inviting us to share together a few short stories from different cultures around the world which hold an example of wisdom in them, and some stories of our own!

Using the figures, discussion moved on to how we as individuals might interpret the story of *The Prodigal Son*. Our conversation around the story took us to thinking about what our dreams for ourselves were when we were young. It was a very interesting morning, enjoyed by all.

8th March, 11.15 am. Do join us for our next *Snug in the Pub*.

Tracy Somerville, churchwarden.

Fay Rowlands

It is with some sadness that I write this obituary for a good friend, Fay Rowlands, but as a devout Christian I know that she is now in a happier place and reunited with her husband, Les. In recent years Fay was mainly housebound, seldom leaving her home, and for the past 12 months resident in a nursing home. Many ‘newer’ people to the area may not have known Fay, but for a lady who only moved a couple of miles in her lifetime and rarely left her farm, she has left behind quite a legacy. Here is a brief synopsis of Fay’s life.

Fay (Mary Faith) Rowlands was born at Park Farm, Llancloudy, in August 1937, the only child of Alice and Warren Bevan. From a toddler Fay was devoted to the farm animals – much to her mother’s consternation, picturing her under the cows’ feet. Fay always loved being outdoors – if not with her animals, then in her garden. That love of animals, especially her sheep, carried on throughout her life. She attended Llancloudy Primary School and then Ross High School. At the age of 7 she attended a Christian summer camp. She told the story of how she got a bit lost on the site and ended up in an evangelistic meeting and there became a Christian. Her faith was with her throughout life. She attended Llancloudy Methodist Chapel, where she helped at the Sunday School and met Les Rowlands. They married in 1959 and set up home in New House, Garway where she carried on farming.

In the early 1970s, Fay and Les, wanting something for the local young people to do, so started a Christian youth club in Llancloudy Chapel. They soon moved this to their farmhouse where youngsters from Garway, Garway Hill, Llanwarne, Llancloudy, Welsh Newton and as far afield as Raglan and Hereford met for club on

Thursday nights. Not only indoor activities were on offer, like snooker and table tennis but football and rounders were played in the fields, which led to matches against Upper Maescoed and Sellack. A few years later when the farmhouse became too small, a large hut was erected on one of the fields with ample space for games and other activities.

Fay played the organ (at both Garway Hill Methodist Chapel and Llancloudy Methodist Chapel) and the piano, but it was her guitar skills she passed on to the young people. With her beautiful singing voice she would accompany the groups of young people at youth club. She encouraged singing and playing, and Fay and Les took the Gospel Group around various local chapels and to Merton House in Ross, performing the musicals that Fay had orchestrated. Fay also coached teams to take part in drama competitions run by the Scripture Union in Hereford – and Garway Youth Club did very well.

For years Fay was a local representative for the Christian charity, Tearfund, and held sales of their products. She and Les also supported *Gideons International*. As well as local children, Fay also supported children abroad. In the 1970s, she and Les hosted visits from Mr. Ted Blackmore, a missionary in Zambia, who raised money to bring children over from an orphanage where he worked for medical treatment.

In recent years Fay became very frail but was actively involved in her precious youth club, which she had started with Les over 55 years ago, until she was no longer physically able. Fay is now with her Lord, free of her recent frailty, and we give thanks for her life.

Ruth Maskell



The new year has brought some great new activities to Garway Village Hall. You can check out the full range of what's on offer on our website www.garwayhall.org. You can also subscribe to receive a monthly newsletter so that you don't miss out.

Drawing Club - monthly on Saturday mornings 10am-12pm

Come along and do some drawing and sketching. All materials provided and guidance available if required
All ages and abilities welcome
£5 to cover materials and hall hire (Taster session is free)

Games Night - monthly on Friday evenings 7.30-10.30pm

A fun night playing our favourite board and card games
Bring a game with you or come along and choose a game from the wide selection available
Come alone and meet new people or bring your own group of friends
Bring your own refreshments. £1 per person to cover hall hire

Julie Hudson

Garway Coffee Morning

Garway Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd March 10:30 am

Followed by **Lent Lunch** from 12 midday.

You are welcome to join us for one or both!

Sarah Hope will be with us to tell us about her trip to the Fountain of Peace Children's Home in Uganda

Green Garway Book Group

***Hagstone* by Sinead Gleeson**

Nell is an artist scratching out a solitary living on a remote island off the coast of Ireland - an unforgiving environment beset by foul weather and a mysterious sound which periodically plays havoc with the inhabitants' minds and bodies.

Unexpectedly, Nell receives a commission to document the lives of a secretive group of women who live a communal existence in a crumbling great house on the cliffs. The assignment, and the two very different men who come along at the same time, appear destined to change her life.

'Hagstone' is a beautifully written novel featuring an original and very human protagonist. Gleeson knows when to let her prose shine, and when to let her characters get on with the business of moving the story along. It is in equal parts mysterious, thoughtful, and funny.

The group gave it 3.5 stars as the ending feels a bit rushed, and too many questions remain unanswered. It is highly recommended for anyone who loves good writing and doesn't mind a slightly unsatisfactory resolution!

(Thanks to Alex for the review)

Next group:

Monday 9 March at 7.30pm - Garway Moon Snug to talk Sarah Hall's debut novel *Haweswater*

In a remote dale in a northern English county, a centuries-old rural community has survived into the mid-1930s almost unchanged. But then Jack Liggett drives in from the city, the spokesman for a Manchester waterworks company with designs on the landscape for a vast new reservoir. The dale must be evacuated, flooded, devastated; its water pumped to the Midlands and its community left in ruins.

Told in luminous prose, with an intuitive sense for period and place, *Haweswater* remembers a rural England that has been lost for many decades.

Julie Hudson



FLICKS IN THE STICKS GARWAY: TWO BORDERLINES FILMS



GARWAY FLICKS IN THE STICKS is proud, once again, to be hosting two films from this year's **Borderlines Film Festival**.

***I SWEAR* (15) Tuesday March 10th, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.50 & £3.00 (Students)**

Telling the true story of John Davidson who more or less single handedly educated Britain about Tourette's syndrome, *I SWEAR* is heartbreaking, compassionate, and also very funny. Until the age of thirteen John was a normal teenager, a talented footballer, popular at school. And then his Tourette's started to emerge in tics, compulsive behaviour and uncontrollable obscene shouts.

In the 1980s there was little to no understanding of the condition in the U.K. John is subjected to bullying at school, punishment from his teachers and bewildered exasperation on the part of his mother. A misunderstanding results in him being charged with assault and he finds himself in court in front of a judge who doesn't believe in Tourette's.

Robert Aramayo is nothing less than superb as the likeable young man who, in his 20s, is on disability benefit and hardly leaves the house. It's when his friend's mother, an ex-psychiatric nurse, played by the excellent Maxine Peake, takes him under her wing, that John starts to turn his life around and eventually sets out on a mission to educate people.

He received the MBE from the Queen in 2019 for his work. It's a story of resilience and determination which is all the more impressive for being true.

***DEAD OF WINTER* (15) Friday March 20th, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.50 & £3.00 (Students)**

The Guardian called this film "a quite outrageously enjoyable suspense thriller". It stars Emma Thompson as widowed loner, Barb, who gets lost in the wintry backroads of Minnesota. Stopping for help at a remote cabin, she discovers a young woman who has been kidnapped by a deranged couple intent, it seems, on murder. Realising she is the young woman's only chance of help, she has to muster all her resilience and fight in freezing conditions to save the girl. Filmed in Finland with 66-year-old Emma Thompson doing most of her own stunts, this is a thriller which chills in more ways than one. Edge of your seat stuff and a brilliant tour de force from the wonderful Thompson.

At both films the Flicks team will be serving delicious cakes and refreshments before the film and during the interval. Join us to enjoy Garway's own annual slice of this brilliant festival.

Corinne Westacott



After the wonderful National Theatre Live offering in February, we're back to live music on the March 7th with the return of our own Chris Eagan and his band Nuahda. Chris will give us an evening of gentle jazz vibes with a distinctive South American feeling.

Last time they appeared at the Hall we had one of the largest audiences of the year and there's no reason to think that that won't happen again, so it might be a good idea to get an on-line ticket beforehand.

Tickets are £12 each plus £6 for under 18's. As usual the doors will be open at 7.30 with the band on stage at 8.00 and hot food and a full bar will be available.

April 24th offering is different again. We are fortunate to secure the *Pantaloons* theatrical company's production of *The Complete History (almost) of Britain* as part of their nationwide tour. Book your tickets now for an evening to remember. All tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/atgarway

Graham Bevan

Garway Community WhatsApp Group

We've recently set up a new Garway WhatsApp community which brings together a lot of the separate Garway WhatsApp groups and individuals all under one umbrella. This means that if there's ever an emergency or useful information for everyone, an announcement can be made to all the groups and people in one go.

You can see all the individual Garway WhatsApp groups but you can only see the content of those groups if you are already a member of that group. Only the designated admin people can make announcements, and it will be kept for emergencies only. You can request an announcement be made and you can join or participate, only if you want to, the community 'general chat' group or 'freecycle' group.

If you use WhatsApp and would like to be added to this community, please contact Julie Hudson by WhatsApp or message on 07801 707575.

Julie Hudson

GARWAY HERITAGE GROUP

Tuesday 17th March Garway Village Hall, 7.30pm

Camp 61 - Coleford PoW's

Owen McLaughlin, a local historian from the Forest of Dean, tells the story of Camp 61 at Wynols Hill, near Coleford. Built in the summer of 1942 its purpose was to accommodate Italian prisoners of war, mostly captured in North Africa. The prisoners laboured on local farms or worked in the forest and in sawmills. After the Italians were repatriated, the camp was used to incarcerate German soldiers.

Everyone welcome: £8 entry (free to Heritage Group members). Refreshments available including cake, coffee, wine and local apple juice.

Dates for your diary:

21 Apr - The Buckholt Iron Age Hill Fort / Churchill Archaeology

15 Sept - The Newport Medieval Ship / Dr Toby Jones

www.garwayheritagegroup.co.uk

Clare Adamson

ORCOP

Nothing of great interest to report. I could talk about the rain and potholes, of course. However, that would be very boring.

So, let's just hope it will stop raining soon!

Margaret Fletcher, Churchwarden

Orcop Parish Council Matters

1. Dark Skies



The Orcop Basin is remarkable in many respects. Not least amongst its delights are the dark skies that we enjoy. Dark skies are increasingly rare as we seek to illuminate what we do and we, in Orcop, should do what we can to protect this extraordinary advantage. Outdoor lighting has become more efficient with the advent of LEDs and generally much brighter and more widespread than in times gone by. So please, if you have outdoor lighting, especially very bright security lights, ensure that they are directed to illuminate only the target area and that they are shrouded if necessary to avoid illuminating the neighbourhood and the sky.

The charity CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) have the preservation of dark skies as one of their priorities. Please look at what they have to say on the matter:

<https://www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk/our-focus-and-campaigns/dark-skies-herefordshire/>

If you share the Parish Council's concern on this matter, please encourage your friends and neighbours to take it seriously.

2. Riparian Responsibility for Drainage

Given the extremely wet weather recently and the frequent incidence of local flooding in the Parish, it is timely to remind parishioners of their legal obligations with regard to the maintenance of drainage pipes and/or ditches on their land, especially the road frontage thereof. This applies equally to residential properties in Orcop Hill and roadside ditches in the agricultural parts of the Parish. Please bear in mind that, if you allow a pipe or ditch fronting or adjacent to your property to become blocked, it may well create a flash flooding problem for your neighbours. Although the maintenance of free-flowing surface runoff drainage is legally a riparian responsibility (i.e. that of the owner or tenant of land or property) the Parish Council recognises that this is an obligation that some might find it difficult to meet, perhaps through old age, infirmity or lack of suitable equipment or under emergency situations. In such cases, please contact the Parish Council and we will endeavour to assist.

3. The Orcop Hill Phone Box

The phone box, now serving as a book-exchange, is in poor condition and in need of refurbishment. A number of parishioners have kindly agreed to organise and undertake the necessary work. Given the proximity of the

Fountain Inn, there will be ample opportunity for refreshment and social interaction after an hour or two of honest toil. If you are willing and able to participate in this initiative, please email the Parish Clerk: clerk@orcopparishcouncil.gov.uk

Peter Garratt Chair

Orcop Hall News

Unfortunately, the February Bash evening had to be cancelled due to unforeseen personnel circumstances affecting the band. We are very sorry for any disappointment this may have caused and thank everyone for their understanding and continued support.

Peta Long

Book group in Orcop

Would anyone in the area be interested in taking part in a book group? I'm not proposing the usual 'we all read a set text', rather we all bring along the book (or books!) we are enjoying at the moment. I'm suggesting a monthly meeting, during which we explore each other's reading pleasures – I've been in this sort of group before, and it's quite inspiring and exhilarating to find so many different stories out there to get your teeth into! It can be an egalitarian discussion space – no leaders, no prescriptions!

This notice is a 'fishing expedition' to find out if there is any interest, and if so, when and where we might like to meet – at each other's houses, for example? If you think this might be something for you to try, please get in touch with me: Sue Edney, sue.edney@outlook.com, or send a text to 07951436702. I will respond!

Sue Edney

Can you help with cleaning Orcop Church?

We are finding it difficult to fill the monthly cleaning rota and a few months are currently without a cleaner.

If you are willing to clean the church in a specified month in 2026 (and annually beyond if possible!) please ring me on 01981 540790.

Margaret

TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCOYD

It was great to welcome a crowd to Pencoyd on 1st February for the Benefice Communion. We were energetically led by Rev Pam Row and by strategically placing the congregation below the heating units, followed by warm coffee and 'boozy' fruit cake I am fairly certain hypothermia was avoided.

Like the miracle of loaves and fishes, Chris Snell took a miscellaneous collection of flowers and filled every corner with a wonderful elegant and cheering display. How clever, thank you.

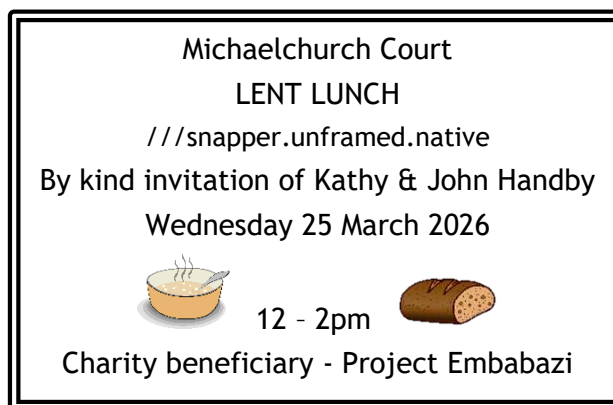
So here we are in March and perhaps a few more dry days? We are now into the season of Lent and there are a few 'special' events that I warmly encourage our Parishioners to support.

Our evening service on 15 March falls to the turn of Pencoyd and it is also Mothering Sunday.

Two weeks later Palm Sunday on the 29th March: people of all ages and their four-footed companions please gather at St Denys, Pencoyd at 10:00am for a walk to Llanwarne. There will be a service at Christ Church Llanwarne and you are most welcome to join this or return straight home. It is a lovely walk on the lanes between our villages and much improved by the company of friends.

Good Friday, 3rd April 11.00am we will again run the simple Iona version of Stations of the Cross from St Mary's Tretire. For more details of any event check into the website: www.archenfieldbenefice.org.uk

Lent lunches are run weekly through Lent with each parish taking turns on Wednesdays to host. You are most welcome to attend all or some and of course we particularly look forward to seeing you at:



See you soon, love

Elizabeth Malcolm, churchwarden

HENTLAND AND HOARWITHY

Pax Service St Dubricius Hentland

The annual Pax Service will take place at St Dubricius on Palm Sunday 29th March at 3pm.

As usual, having taken our seats in church we go out to gather at the lychgate to process into church singing Ride on! Ride on in Majesty, pausing to pray to the churchyard cross halfway, before moving back to our places in church.

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

Looking back over Christmas it was so lovely to see the church full with many friends joining us, the church looked spectacular with a beautifully decorated Christmas tree kindly donated by Jil and James Jay. Refreshment followed the service which enabled everyone to mingle and chat, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves with some of their artwork now on the Benefice website.

The benefice communion service was well supported in January with the now infamous DP pop up choir. Following the service refreshments were provided by the local community.

Val Lilwall, churchwarden

Date for the diary: Saturday 18th April. Concert with the PAX singers from Ledbury.

St Catherine's Hoarwithy

Our Catering Team provided refreshments during the concert with Ross Folk choir on 9th December and the donations of £189.96 were sent to St Michael's Hospice. Thank you!

Peter Pember and Jeff Goulding churchwardens

Book Review

***The Necessary Aptitude* by Pam Ayres**

This is a charming book chronicling the childhood and early career of Berkshire poet Pam Ayres. If you are tempted to think that Ayres is simply a writer of doggerel, then you would be wrong. Her appealing and deceptively simple prose style is a delight, as is her commitment to nature conservation.

The title comes from a repeated phrase, "She lacks the necessary aptitude", that was used to describe her, both at school and at work. She comes from a large family of limited means, her father being a linesman for the electricity board and her mother a homemaker. Home was crowded in their small rural council terrace and sanitary facilities of the most basic – and humorously described!

School was a frustration – clobbered by the cruel divide of the 11+ she was relegated to an uninspiring secondary modern school where aspirations for the pupils were low. Consequently, her next move was to a lowly civil service clerical job that fettered her imagination. Seeking adventure, she joined the Women's Royal Aircraft Corps where she again struggled. Her job as an aircraft plotter involved a level of mathematical knowledge that she did not possess, and she was acutely aware that she did not measure up in that role. The job did however take her to Singapore for two years where she blossomed and relished every moment of the change of climate and culture; and, thanks to the educational opportunities the service provided, she was at last able to take some O-levels, where her talents in English came to the fore.

Back in the UK, more uninspiring clerical jobs followed, and her deep frustration is glaringly obvious in her writing. However, she was at the same time writing poetry – accessible offerings reflecting life around her and the humour to be found in its mundanity. These first saw the light of day in folk clubs, where she interspersed songs with her poems that soon became the highlight of her act and brought her to the attention of local radio. To her astonishment her recital there of one of her early poems "The Battery Hen" was picked up by Radio 4's Pick of the Week and so she came to a much wider audience.

Appearing on the TV programme *Opportunity Knocks* was the next breakthrough, but initially a mixed blessing as, ill-advised by the TV directors, she found herself performing in ways that were not true to her style.

If, like me, you are a child of the immediate post-war era with its rationing and drab conformity, you will find much to identify with – the descriptions of much that I too remember are vivid but leavened by her own quirky sense of humour. I always loved this one:

*My mother had a Flit Gun,
It was not devoid of charm,
A bit of Flit,
Shot out of it,
The rest shot up her arm.*

Oh yes, I remember that scenario and the parental language that followed – goodness knows what toxic chemicals were contained therein!

Confession coming up – I really like her poems. The fact that you can see what rhyme is coming up is part of their humour, and her unique take on life is refreshing. I can recommend this book.

Hilary Smallwood

Garden Notes

Last month I wrote about the birds that visit our garden and what an ideal habitat we have here due to all the hedges, shrubs and trees. I enjoyed taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January and was pleased with the number of different birds that I counted. However, it was sobering to submit my results to the RSPB website and be shown how they compared with the rest of Herefordshire and with the national average.

My results were so much better than most – twice the Herefordshire average for blue tits; four times the Herefordshire average and eight times the national average for goldfinches. We were visited by four chaffinches which was so much better than other gardens which only had one visiting. Similarly, we had five times more sparrows than the national average. I know I have written before about the importance of planting trees and shrubs, especially those with berries, hips and haws to provide nutritious food for the birds when insects are less abundant, but when being shown so clearly what a difference it makes it drives home just how important it is to plant our gardens with wildlife in mind.

Despite our excellent results, I have no intention of resting on my laurels and plan to plant even more flowers, shrubs and trees for the insects and the birds with the hope that we get even more wildlife visiting. I will be trying to provide enough variety to give the birds some food throughout the winter. Different berries are eaten at different times during autumn and winter. Which berries are eaten when does depend on region and habitat, but generally the first berries to be eaten in early autumn are usually the red berries such as those of the rowans (the blackbirds strip ours in a couple of days the minute they are ripe), cotoneaster and hawthorn.

Next might be the darker berries, such as the black or purple berries of elderberry and sloe. In late winter when the other berries have been eaten, the birds will resort to pyracantha, choosing the red ones first, then



orange and finally yellow. As an emergency food in February, they will eat ivy berries which are rich in calories. Although we might curse ivy sometimes in the garden, it also provides nectar in October and November for the pollinators to build up their winter stores.

Amongst the last berries to be eaten are holly, which explains why my lollipop variegated holly tree still has berries in February, just when I am wanting to prune it to shape. Holly berries are more durable too and last well without disintegrating like other berries might.

The first shrub I will be planting will be a Guelder rose - *Viburnum opulus*, which has white flowers followed by bright red berries in September and October. Not having much space left for a very large shrub, I will look for the compact variety, *V. opulus* 'Compactum', but I won't be choosing the variety 'Roseum' which is sterile and won't produce berries. I will also look at roses that are grown for their hips as much as their flowers. The hips are full of vitamins and antioxidants. Some birds such as blackbirds eat the soft flesh, whilst others such as goldfinches prefer to eat the seeds. I already have *Rosa rugosa* and *Rosa glauca* but will look at *Rosa moyesii*, perhaps 'Geranium' with its beautiful single red flowers.

Julie Davies

EVENTS AT HEREFORD CATHEDRAL MARCH

The Hereford Passion Friday 6 & Saturday 7 March, 7.30 pm Following on from the success of The Hereford Passion in 2024, The Revd Canon James Pacey will once again bring the story of Jesus' final days to life this Lent. The production will use words, music, action to tell the events of that fateful week against the stunning architecture of the cathedral nave. **Tickets: £10 per adult, £6 per child. Group discount applies - purchase ten tickets receive your 11th for free. Purchase tickets for The Hereford Mysteries with your tickets for The Hereford Passion and receive a 10% discount.**

Tickets in advance via the cathedral website, in person or by calling the ticket desk (01432 374 202)

Chorister Open Morning Saturday 7 March, 10 am Boys and girls aged 6–9, from any school, are welcome to attend the open morning from 10 to 11.15 am The open morning includes a short open rehearsal of the current choristers and brief presentations from key cathedral and school staff. The visiting children then take part in a workshop with some of the choristers, during which they'll learn a song which they will sing in the cathedral at the end of the morning. **Places at the open morning are free of charge but advance booking is essential. To register for a place, please contact the Reverend Dr Jonathan Roberts: succentor@herefordcathedral.org**

Sacred Creatures - Family Medieval Animals Mask Workshop Saturday 7 March, 2 pm Led by Jeanette McCulloch Colour, snip and glue to create your own individual medieval inspired animal mask. This is a free drop-in session no booking needed. Children must be accompanied at all times. The artwork intertwines images found within the cathedral's library with Jeanette's unique interpretations of the bond we have with animals.

Spring Open Gardens Friday 13 March

Hereford Cathedral's beautiful gardens will be open to the public to explore, offering an early opportunity, before the gardens officially open for summer tours and events, to see the hard work undertaken by the Cathedral gardeners. Guides will be available throughout the day for tours and assistance.

Tickets cost £7. Why not make the day a little more special and add an Afternoon Tea for £13?

You can book via cathedral website, in person or by calling the ticket desk (01432 374 202).

A Feast of Choral Classics | Hereford Choral Society Saturday 14 March, 7.30 pm As instruments, human voices are uniquely capable of combining to create music that ranges from soaring glory to raw power, all of which enhances the expression, impact and beauty of the poetry being sung. Tickets from £10 (unreserved). Up to 2 children under 16 admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

Tickets for this event are sold by Three Choirs Festival Box Office

<https://3choirs.org/events/hcs-a-feast-of-choral-classics/>

St John Passion Tuesday 31 March, 7.30 pm J S Bach's sublime masterpiece tells the story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus according to the account in St John's Gospel. Directed by Peter Dyke, the concert will be performed by the cathedral choir, Marches Baroque and a distinguished line-up of soloists. Supported by the WA Cadbury Charitable Trust and Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

Tickets (£25, £18 or £10) are available to purchase from the cathedral website or ticket desk (01432 374 202).

Date for the diary: 29th April 2026 10.30am-4pm SPRING PLANT FAIR Garnons, Byford HR4 7JX
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Other things which can affect the way we drive are poor weather conditions or the attitude of other drivers. As we age, anxieties can increase and we become less confident, so we restrict our driving to local areas. However, lack of confidence can occur at any age, for any driver, possibly as a result of an accident or other incident.

Herefordshire Advanced Drivers is a charity passionate about road safety, that can help you regain your confidence and equip you to deal with the many challenges encountered on the roads today.

Our **Safer Driving Refresher Days** are held in Herefordshire throughout the year, and the next one will be held at **Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall on Saturday 18 April**. The cost for the day is £30 per person or £25 each if two people book together (this can be friends or family).

The day involves a light-hearted presentation by one of our professional members, who will talk about road safety, current rules of the road and will include a group discussion. This is followed by a short drive in your own car with a friendly observer who will offer constructive, non-judgemental advice, to enable you to continue driving, safely and confidently, into the future.

All drivers, of any age, benefit from these short courses, so if you are forward-thinking, want to put some pleasure back into motoring and believe you would benefit from a little expert help and advice, please call me or email to book your place.

Nigel Jenkins, Chief Observer, Herefordshire Advanced Drivers Tel. 07554 397395

Email: chief-observer@advanced-drivers.org.uk

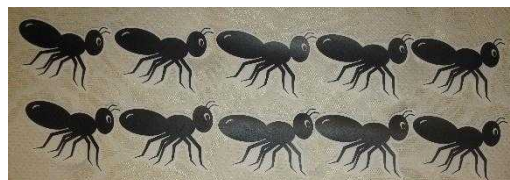
Chuck!e Corner

A couple of Peter Garratt specials this month!

Five ants entered an empty house.

They were followed by five more ants.

Then they were tenants



What did the number 0 say to the number 8?



Like the Belt!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

February

24 Lent course

March

1 St Weonards Church Benefice Communion
3 Coffee morning followed by Lent lunch, Garway Village Hall
6&7 Hereford Cathedral Event: The Hereford Passion
7 Hereford Cathedral Event: Chorister Open Morning
7 Hereford Cathedral Event: Sacred Creatures - Family Medieval Animals Mask Workshop
7 Garway Live
8 Snug in the Pub
9 Green Garway Book Club
10 Magazine copy date
10 Flicks in the Sticks
11 Lent lunch, St Weonards
12 Coffee morning, St Weonards Village Hall
13 Hereford Cathedral Event: Spring Open Gardens
14 Hereford Cathedral Event: A Feast of Choral Classics
17 Garway Heritage Group: Camp 61 - Coleford PoW's
18 Lent lunch, Orcop
18 Concert with the PAX singers from Ledbury
20 Flicks in the Sticks
24 Prescription collection
25 Lent lunch at Michaelchurch Court
29 Pax Service
31 Hereford Cathedral Event: St John Passion

April

18 Driver refresher course
19 St Weonards Village Hall Breakfast
21 Garway Heritage Group: The Buckholt Iron Age Hill Fort / Churchill Archaeology
24 Garway Live
29 Spring Plant Fair, Byford

September

15 Garway Heritage Group: The Newport Medieval Ship / Dr Toby Jones

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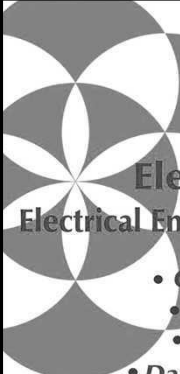


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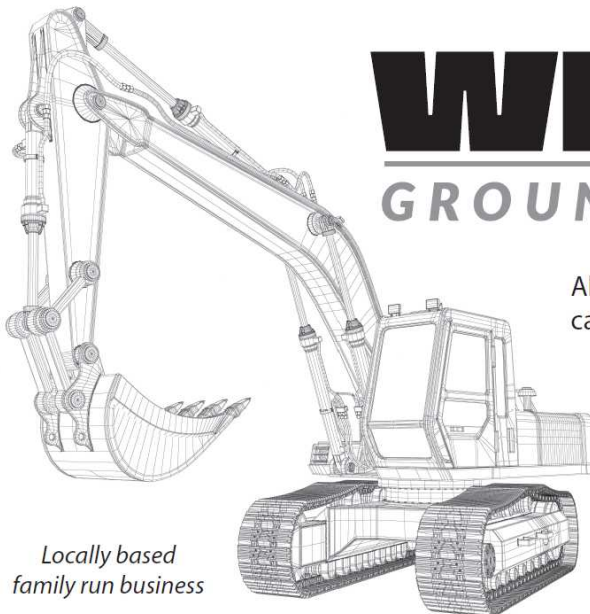
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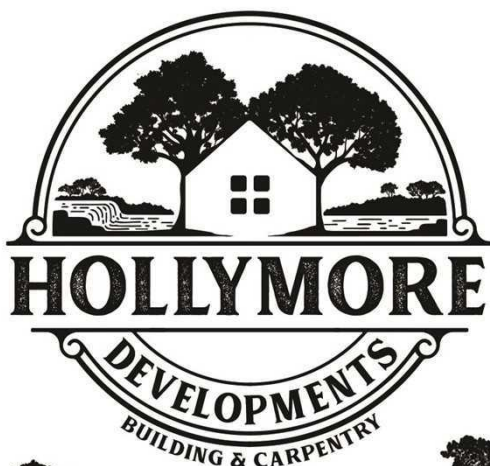
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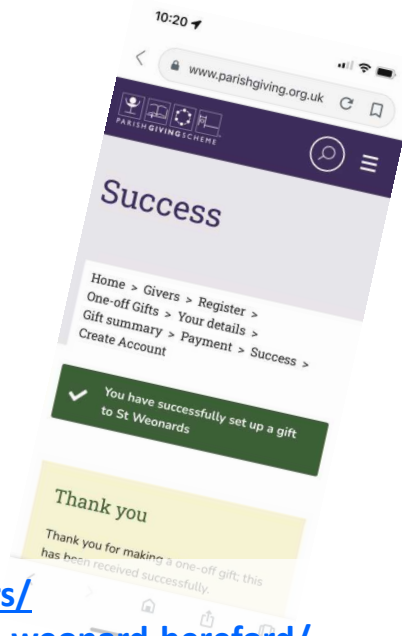
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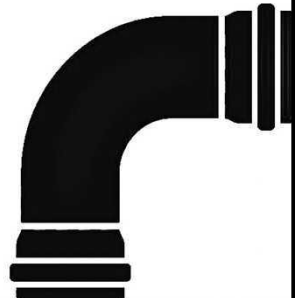
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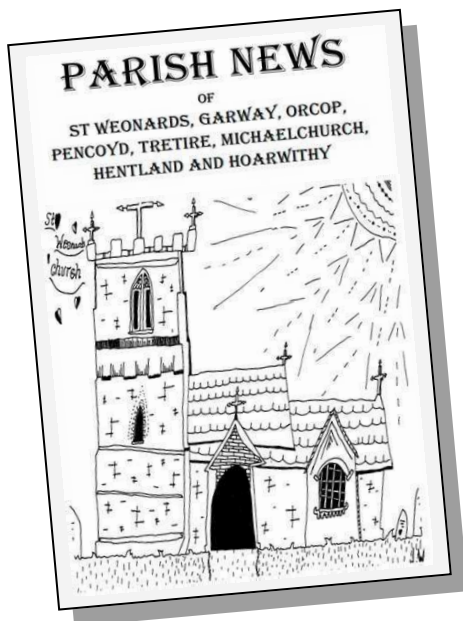
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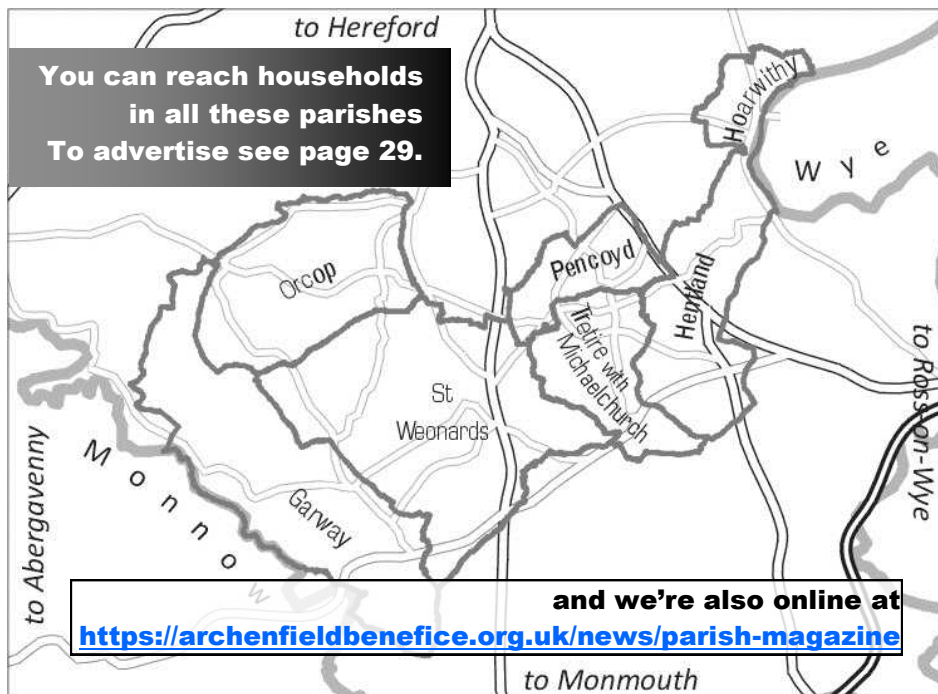
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