

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st March

09.00	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study
09.30	Ganarew	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00	Llangarron	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Wyesham	Sunday Praise

Wednesday 4th March

12.00	Wyesham	Lent discussion group & Lunch at Wyesham Christian Fellowship
18.00	Whitchurch	Night prayer (Compline)

Thursday 5th March

10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.15	Whitchurch	Lent discussion group & Lunch

Sunday 8th March

09.00	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion
09.30	Bishopswood	Holy Communion
10.00	Llangrove	Family Services
10.00	Marstow	Holy Communion
11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Wyesham	Chatty Church

Wednesday 11th March

12.00	Wyesham	Lent discussion group & Lunch at Wyesham Christian Fellowship
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Thursday 12th March

10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.15	Whitchurch	Lent discussion group & Lunch

*Services continued p43
Holy Week Services p23*

BORDER NEWS

*Wye Reaches and Wye Brooks Parish Magazine
Produced by volunteers for the community*

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Revd Tim Starling
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revtimstarling@gmail.com

Associate Minister - Licensed to Wye Brooks Benefice

Revd Simon Tarlton 07462 893457 simon.tarlton@gmail.com

Retired Priests - Supporting our Benefices

Revd Penny Powdrill 01600 714096 pennypowdrill547@gmail.com
Revd Jill Stephens 01600 890975 jill.stephens1@btinternet.com

Please submit material for next month's issue NO LATER than 8th of the month to your parish correspondent

The email address for each correspondent can be found in the Parish News pages

Our Editor, Bobby, can be contacted via bneditor@mail.com

Our Border News Advertising Manager

Bobby can be contacted on 01989 770256

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CHURCH SERVICES Cont'd

Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday

09.00 Welsh Newton Meditation, Breakfast & Bible Study
09.30 Ganarew Sunday Praise
10.00 Llangrove Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion
18.00 Llangarron Evening Prayer

Wednesday 18th March

12.00 Wyesham Lent discussion group & Lunch at Wyesham Christian Fellowship

Thursday 19th March

10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.15 Whitchurch Lent discussion group & Lunch

Sunday 22nd March

09.00 Welsh Newton Holy Communion
09.30 Dixton Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 Llangrove Family Service
10.00 Marstow Family service
11.00 Goodrich Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Sunday Praise
11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th March

12.00 Wyesham Lent discussion group & Lunch at Wyesham Christian Fellowship
18.00 Whitchurch Taizé Prayer

Thursday 26th March

10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.15 Whitchurch Lent discussion group & Lunch

Sunday 29th March - Psalm Sunday

10.00 Marstow Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion

Liz celebrates life-changing weight loss at Ross-on-Wye Slimming World group while still eating real food!

Liz Knapman has won the Ross-on-Wye, Tuesday morning group's 2026 Greatest Loser competition after losing an incredible 4st 7lbs (without having to give up her favourite foods).

The Greatest Loser competition celebrates the member in each local Slimming World group who has lost the most weight, highlighting their dedication, commitment and the inspiring changes they've made on the inside and out.

Liz says: "I started my Slimming World journey in October, 2024. I knew I needed to lose weight when my Doctor told me I was Pre-Diabetic, had high cholesterol and high blood pressure! Since losing more than 4st 7lbs, my blood pressure is normal, I am no longer Pre-Diabetic and my Cholesterol is within acceptable limits. I want to thank Debra who runs the groups for all her help and support throughout my journey. I couldn't have done it without her and the Group who are incredibly supportive and great fun".

Debra, who runs the Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth Slimming World groups, says: "This competition is not just about the weight lost – it's about recognising the lifestyle changes members like Liz (and Toni her daughter who comes along with her who has also lost 2st 7lbs to date) make, the challenges they overcome week in and week out, and the confidence they gain. I am incredibly proud of Liz and the amazing progress she has made since joining my Slimming World group. She's an inspiration to everyone in our group and thoroughly deserves this award."

Debra continues: "If anyone wants to make life-long changes, achieve your weight loss goals like Liz, and feel good on the inside and out, there's always a warm welcome at one of our Slimming World Groups in either Ross-on-Wye or Monmouth (Wyesham).

MONMOUTH: St James Community Hall, Wyesham, NP25 3JY
Tuesdays at 5.30pm & 7.00pm.

ROSS-ON-WYE: The Larruperz Centre, HR9 7QD Mondays at
9.30am, 11am & 5.30pm

Tuesdays at 7.30am & 9am.

Call or message Debra on 07895 257037 or simply pop along.



WELCOME FROM YOUR CLERGY TEAM

In 330AD the Egyptian church leader, Athanasius of Alexandria, wrote a series of letters to Christian communities concerning feasts and other topics. Specifically, he mentions a forty-day fast preceding Easter. Ten years later Athanasius wrote to churches in Egypt instructing them to "proclaim the fast of forty days to the brethren, and persuade them to fast, lest, while all the world is fasting, we who are in Egypt should be derided, as the only people who do not fast, but take our pleasure in these days."

People have observed Lent in many ways through the years, most typically by abstaining from some specific indulgence for the season. Apart from the 40 days of hardship in the wilderness endured by Jesus on which Lent came to be modelled the Bible has remarkably little guidance to offer. St Paul is uncharacteristically ambivalent, "The one who eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God" (Romans 14:6).

Writing a few years after Athanasius, another early church leader, John Chrysostom, had decided that Lent should be more about what we do than what we give up; "No matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

Whichever way you choose to observe Lent, or even if you choose to let it pass you by, these words of the American theologian, Walter Brueggemann, who died last year, offer us all a season (or perhaps longer) which, in these times, the world seems desperate for; "I imagine Lent for you and for me as a great departure from the greedy, anxious, anti-neighbourliness of our economy, a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other, a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation. And then an arrival in a new neighbourhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be."

Simon



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
THIS MONTH**

We pray and give thanks for the life of:

Pauline Curtis whose funeral took place at St Dubricius church, Whitchurch, on Tuesday 20th January.

Freddie Dade whose funeral took place at St James church, Wyesham on Friday 6th February.

Prayers for March, the Interregnum and Peace

As I step into the month of March, I come before You with a heart full of hope and expectation. March signifies a transition, the time when winter's cold grasp loosens and the first signs of spring begin to emerge.

It's a reminder of Your promise for renewal and growth, not just in the world around me but within my own life. I pray that this month will be a season of refreshing, new beginnings, and blossoming of the plans You have for me.

Guide and support the members of our five parishes that they be drawn together in optimism and faith during the interregnum. We pray that a suitable and worthy person answers their prayers to care and guide for all in the Wye Reaches benefice.

As we witness conflict and disruption all around us let there be peace and harmony, bring us together in the hope and belief of a more peaceful and just world.

Thought for the season

Spring the reminder of how wonderful change can be and what God can do to transform the world after a drab, wet winter.



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples
to be ready for the end of time. 'A
rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money
to look after, depending on
what they could do.



He gave 5 bags of coins to the
first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone,
the first two servants
started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins
used them to earn 5 more.



and the one with 2 bags
used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a
hole and buried his bag.



When
the master
came back,
he called
his
servants
to him...



The first two showed him they
had doubled his money, and he
was very happy with them.



You are a hard man
who expects us to work. I
was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I
expected, why didn't
you do it?



Get out of here!





Our Riverside Church



St. Peter's Church, Dixton the church of rowers, walkers and river fishermen. An attractive whitewashed building is nestled in a quiet spot on the banks of the River Wye, on the outskirts of Monmouth. At one time the church did hold the fishing rights on the banks of River Wye.

The present building dates to the 11th Century, but it is thought that people were worshipping on this site long before that. The Book of Llandaff refers to the existence of a church, or monastery, on this site in about 735, when it was already described as an "old church". It was originally dedicated to St. Tadioc, an early Celtic saint, and later to St. Mary Magdalene before it became St. Peter's.

The building itself consists of a tower, nave and chancel with barrel vaulting and very thick stone walls. Inside there is a patch of exposed Saxon herringbone stonework on the north wall. As we know too well, St Peter's has always been subject to flooding hence the brass markers on the chancel arch showing the depth of the floods, though these only record floods over three feet deep. The altar piece was carved by Belgian refugees during WW1.

There is a Royal Arms of Queen Anne panel on the north wall and two panels showing the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments on the south wall. At the back there is a modern carved oak gallery, where the organ can be stored safe from the floods.

The church has five stained glass windows the earliest dating from 1862 depicting *Christ Raising the Daughter of Jairus and Healing the Son of the Widow of Nain* to the recent 1954 addition in the chancel entitled *Agnus Dei Adored by St Mary Magdalene and St Tadioc*.

In the porch there is a relief of St. Peter's crucifixion upside down and opposite, a list of all the vicars since 1257, including 'William, an alien', which tends to raise a smile. On the south wall in the churchyard there is a leper's bench.

Cont'd...

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 **Welsh Newton, Monmouth, NP25 5RW**

The church was given Grade II* listed building status in 1952. The cross in the churchyard was made a listed monument in 2005, in addition to being a scheduled monument.

Despite being in Monmouthshire the church remains part of the Diocese of Hereford and the Church of England. It was transferred to the Diocese of Llandaff in 1844, however, a vote by the parishioners in 1915 decided that it should not join the Church in Wales when it became disestablished, and it returned to the Diocese of Hereford in 1950.

Dixon church is dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle who was a disciple of Jesus Christ, and is recognized as the leader of the 12 disciples. Peter, a Jewish fisherman, was called to be a disciple of Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. He was known as the 'rock' upon which Jesus built His Church for his unwavering faith and dedication to spreading Christ's message.

St Peters' Feast Day is celebrated on June 29 and shared with Paul to commemorate the martyrdom of both apostles in Rome. This feast is significant as it symbolizes the unity and leadership of the early church. So, next time you are walking the riverbank take a moment to visit this beautiful church nestled on the banks of the River Wye. *Ed*



On St David's Day, why the leeks?

St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear proudly a leek.

Shakespeare refers to the custom in Henry V, Act 5 Sc.1, where Gower berates Pistol for mocking at "an ancient tradition begun upon an honourable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour."

According to some sources, the wearing of leeks may be based on a legend that Welsh archers fought bravely at the Battle of Crecy in a field of leeks and, as a reminder of their bravery and loyalty, the Welsh

Cont'd...

began to wear a leek in their caps every St David's Day. The legend, true or not, could be a source of the 'honourable respect' which the Welsh had for their valorous archers.

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his contribution at the important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights

Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28th March, when at 8.30pm local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour. The event organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), aims to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31st March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives. And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>



Wye Reaches APCM on Monday 30th March

7.00pm at Old Court Hotel, Whitchurch



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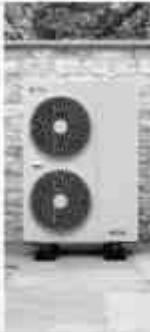
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Herefordshire Prayer Beads Project

By Helen Mealin

On 18 January 2026, we came together as a Benefice to pray for the world and, in the words of Martin Leckebusch's hymn, "in an age of twisted values", to ask God to "heal our nation". The service at Llangarron was officiated by Reverend Penny Powdrill and addressed by the Bishop of Hereford, The Right. Reverend. Richard Jackson, who spoke about the importance of prayer. I spoke about praying together, which is a central theme of the Herefordshire Prayer Beads project that I introduced at the service.

In a nutshell, the Herefordshire Prayer Beads project offers people in the county, from all faiths and backgrounds, an opportunity to pause, discuss, reflect and demonstrably express empathy with people affected by armed conflict, displacement and migration. Project participants can opt to join facilitated reflective/craft sessions or to work independently using a project-provided "postal pack" of materials. They will collectively craft a set of origami prayer beads that will go on public display, most likely, in Hereford Cathedral.

If you are involved with a school, faith or community group who you think would like to participate, please email Helen at herefordshireprayerbeads@outlook.com and I will follow up.

Passion Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Cont'd...

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.




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Sunday 1st Lent Breakfast 9.30am special breakfast (in the church) after 9.00am meditation - all welcome.

Throughout March (for Lent) daily **Morning Prayer** service, Mondays to Saturdays, at 8.30am. Why not add a healthy habit this year and join us for at least one of these informal, peaceful services? It's a lovely, positive way to start the day.

Looking ahead to Easter

Maundy Thursday 2nd April Compline 6.00pm - a simple service of evening prayer as we prepare for Good Friday.

Good Friday 3rd April Story Walk for Families from Llangrove to Welsh Newton, with Easter-themed activities on the way and hot cross buns at the end. Watch this space for more information, or check back in to our website or social media.

Easter Sunday 5th April Family Communion 9.00am followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard and Easter-themed refreshments.

Save the Date!

Sunday 12th July BBQ lunch come and find out about church and spend time socialising with friends and neighbours, Welsh Newton Common.



LLANGARRON

Helen Edwards edwardshelen82@gmail.com

www.llangarron.info & Facebook Llangarron Village Hall

We had an extremely successful **Bingo Night** on the 23rd January raising £1500 on the actual night. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of the many people. Your support was so appreciated raising a huge amount towards the Churchyard fund.

Friday 6th **Miniyaki's Food Van and Pop-up Pub Night** from 6.00pm
Saturday 21st **Llangarron Community Café** 10.30-12.30pm The cafe will be open to all serving teas, coffees, cakes and delicious bacon sandwiches. Well behaved dogs are very welcome to come along with their faithful owners.

Saturday 4th April **1984 Food Van and Pop-up Pub Night** from 6.00pm. More Information to follow in the next issue.

Saturday 18th April **Llangarron Community Café** 10.30-12.30pm. The cafe will be open to all serving teas, coffees, cakes and delicious bacon sandwiches. Well behaved dogs are very welcome to come along with their faithful owners.

Saturday 2nd May **Progressive Supper** Please note the change of date. We do hope that you will take part in this annual event. It is a great opportunity for those of you who are new to the village to meet other residents and for us all to get together. We are always looking for hosts for either a starter or main course as some people have moved away, and we like to try and give other people who host regularly a break. Gill would appreciate it if you can let me know as soon as possible if you will be taking part. The cost of the evening will be £15 per head and the closing date for entry will be the 21st March. Please contact Gill on 01989 770387 or email me at gilliandrayton@me.com

Saturday 30th May **Village Quiz Night** Judith and David, quiz masters extraordinaire, will be back to challenge teams of 6 for another evening of quizzing and puddings. More information to follow in the next issue.

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BISHOPSWOOD

I think it is fair to say that we really enjoy our **monthly services** in Bishopswood Village Hall. If you would like to join us you would be warmly welcomed when we meet on Sunday 8th at 9.30am again in the village hall.

Monday 30th **APCM** 7.00pm We look forward to welcoming you all to our annual general meeting (technically called an APCM) for the churches in our benefice, which this year takes place at the Old Court Hotel, Whitchurch. This is an important meeting as we sign off all the legal papers for the past year.

And advanced notice – our **Christmas Carol service** is at 3.00pm on Sunday 20th December, at the Village Hall, with Parkend Silver Band.

Saturday 14th **Café Bishopswood** 10.00 am – Midday Book Swap
Delicious cakes and refreshments (Gluten free available)

Sunday 22nd **Community Lunch** Doors and the Bar will open at 12:30pm for a 1:00pm lunch £10 per Person Booking Only - Telephone 01600891277 or email treasurer@bvonline.co.uk to secure your place

GOODRICH

Marlene Corker marienecorker@yahoo.co.uk

St. Giles Church

We are incredibly lucky to live on our little hill fort that is Goodrich, some 30 metres above the river meadows. Our thoughts and prayers have very much been with our friends lower down the river, who have had the worst start to the new year possible.

Plans are now in place to **graze the church yard**, with the 1st to 28th being the probable dates. Please pass this on to anyone you know who may not be able to get a copy of the Border News or does not have Facebook. Please phone 07973880004 for any queries. Absolutely no flowers of any kind and dogs must be kept on leads for the duration. Too much dog mess once again in the church yard. This is unacceptable. Please pick up!

Goodrich Church of England Primary School

Our Open the Book story was about the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan. It was done by John the Baptist in front of a huge crowd of people. When Jesus came up from the water, the Holy Spirit came to him like a dove. We loved singing He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, at the end.

Village Hall Events

Thursday 26th **Flicks in the Sticks** The Choral starring Ralph Fiennes. Choral society male members enlist in World War 1, leaving them to recruit teenagers. Tickets £5, can be bought on the night or at <https://goodrichvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on/> Doors open at 7pm.

MARSTOW

Sue Rolfe rolfe653@btinternet.com Tel: 07971 411020
Website: marstowchurch.org
West End bookings Phyll Hannah 01989 770617

CHURCH NEWS and EVENTS - Lent and Easter

Tuesday 10th **The West End Lent Lunch** 12.30pm Do come and join us for our Bread and Cheese lunch. A good opportunity for our community to meet up and share a simple lunch for Lent. There is no charge but we will be asking for donations to St Michael's Hospice.

Sunday 29th **Benefice Palm Sunday Communion Service** 10.00am We look forward to welcoming our friends from across the Benefice for this 'fifth Sunday' service.

Easter Day April 5th **Dawn Service** Churchyard 6.00am We will be greeting Easter Day at our annual Dawn Communion Service in the Churchyard followed by Hot Cross buns and coffee in the West End.

ST MATTHEW'S WEST END EVENTS

Wednesday 18th **Marstow Makers Craft Evenings** 7.00pm We will be meeting this year from 7.00pm-10.00pm on the third Wednesday of each month, and experimenting with a different craft each session. We gave 2D and 3D paper weaving a go in February. In March, we will be our hand at crocheting and making beanie hats. You are welcome to



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bring your own project to work on if you prefer, or to just come along for
some company. Refreshments will be on offer. Sessions are free to
attend. We look forward to you joining us.

ST MATTHEW'S FREE FOOD BASKET A reminder that we have a free
food basket in the church. If you are struggling financially to buy
groceries you are welcome to help yourself. We will be depending on
the generosity of our PCC and parishioners who can afford to buy a little
extra to top up supplies and hope that those who could do with a little
help will feel the benefit, but just take what they need.

For more information about donating please see our website or phone
Sue Rolfe (See above).

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Tuesday 17th next meeting St Matthew's West End, 7.30pm See the
Parish Council website for future dates and agendas marstowpc.org.uk.
A list of Marstow Parish councillors is also on the website.

DIXTON

Kate Richards - kate@summerleas.com

Sunday 22nd Our **March service** is at 9.30am when we will be some
way through Lent. As usual, we will be hoping that the river behaves
and stays within its banks, and that maybe it will have stopped raining
by then! We hope to see some of you there.

LLANGROVE

Wendy Price Wendyllangrove@gmail.com,
www.llangrove.org.uk & llangrovelinks@yahoo.co.uk

Friday 6th **Lenten lunch** from 12.30pm at Llangrove Village Hall. Soup,
bread, cheese and fruit for a donation towards local Food Banks.

Wednesday 11th from 10.30am **Coffee Morning** in Llangrove Village
Hall. Amazing Raffle. Good company!

Wednesdays from 10.30am at the Garron Centre we are invited to join
in a Discussion Group with Rev. Penny.

Fridays from 11.00am **Warm Welcome** in Llangrove Village Hall continues.

Playground Update - The site of the old play area by Llangrove Village Hall will be tidied up and seeded very soon before new equipment is, hopefully, set up later in the year.

Saturday 7th Social evening at 7.00pm with novelty **horse racing** in aid of the new play area. Contact Elaine on 07961 686500 to get free tickets.

Wednesday 11th Llangrove **Village Hall AGM** 7.30pm

Wednesday 4th and **Saturday 7th** from 9.30am **Volunteers needed** at Tretawdy Nature Reserve helping with seasonal tasks.

Llangrove & District Gardening Society Talks: Last month and interesting talk and question and answer session from Richard on ponds. Through grant money, Richard will be advising and encouraging Llangarron Parish how to increase their bio-diversity over the next 5 years. If you would like to be involved, please contact Archenfield Climate and Environment Group ArchenfieldCEG@gmail.com

Thursday 5th **Willow Weaving Talk & Plant Support Demo** with Clyde from Wild Wicker. Find out about growing willow and see how Clyde creates a plant support using it.

Thursday 2nd April **From Spring to Summer at Stockton Bury** - talk by Tamsin Westhorpe.

Llangrove Village Hall 7.00pm Admission for non-members is £5. All welcome you don't have to be a member or live in Llangrove!

Contact: llangrovegardeningociety@outlook.com.

Thursday 26th ACEG **'Our Bats'** at the Garron Centre, Llangarron 7.00 - 8.30pm

Food Bank continues to be available and used in Christ Church. Accessible to all. Please add to if you can and help yourself as needed.



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Llangrove May Fair 2026 will take place on Monday 4th May, 12 noon to 4.00pm. We are looking for helpers on the day, please contact Wendy, and contributions of plants, Nearly New items, Cuddly Toys. These can be left at Ty-Angles Plus cakes which can be brought on the day. Thank you

WHITCHURCH

Brigid Hamilton-Jones brigidhj@aol.com

Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th **Lent Lunches** at St Dubricius.

Wednesdays 4th and 18th **Community coffee mornings** 10.30-12pm at St Dubricius.

Tuesday mornings, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th **Sticky Little Fingers** at St Dubricius, 9.30-11.00am. Babies and toddlers with their carers are most welcome.

Wednesday 25th March **Taizé service** 6.00pm at St Dubricius

Thursday afternoons **Knit & Natter Group** at St Dubricius, 2.00-4.00pm

Saturday 21st **Travelling Light** day retreat at St Dubricius, 10.00am to 4.00pm. 'Setting Out' is the first retreat in the programme for 2026: 'Travelling with God'. See page 19 for full details.

Whitchurch Floral Society

At our AGM in February, the Society took the difficult decision to close. Numbers have been dwindling, and the meetings had become unsustainable. The Society has been in existence for 45 years, so we are very sorry to see it close. Thank you to all who have supported us over the years.

Whitchurch and Ganarew Memorial Hall

20th March: **Film night**, showing 'The Choral' starring Ranulph Fiennes, Roger Allum and Simon Russell Beale. Set in 1916, a choral group in the Yorkshire decides to appoint Dr Henry Guthrie as his replacement. The decision is controversial and the lives of many are changed forever. Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm screening. Tickets

at the door £5. Licensed bar and snacks available. Contact: Graham 07768 125452 or email: wandghall@hotmail.com

YOUR Whitchurch & Ganarew Hall NEEDS YOU !

The Memorial Hall is a Charity run by a small but active Committee and we are often in need of some extra help. In particular we need help with:

*Practical support, setting up the Hall for events and clearing up afterwards; *Serving behind the bar, which sells very reasonably priced drinks at our events; *Helping to serve food, donating cakes (always very much appreciated!); *Delivering flyers in your neighbourhood.

The Hall is over 100 years old and is a very popular venue for social events in our community. It's a great base for sports (bowls, snooker, table tennis), dance (ballet and Silver Swans), yoga, dog training, and private hires.

Could you offer your help? You will join a thriving local organization, make friends and have fun! Please email us on wandghall@hotmail.com or talk to Graham 07768125452 or Judith 07768096438

WYESHAM

Jo Townsend & Marguerite Gordon

jotown223@hotmail.com marguerite.gordon@btinternet.com

Monday 2nd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast 9.00 -10.00am Kymin View School

Monday 2nd Ladies Prayer Group 2.00pm Wyesham Christian Fellowship

Wednesday 4th Lent Course 1.30 - 2.30pm Wyesham Christian Fellowship

Thursday 5th Bingo 7.00pm St James' Community Hall

Saturday 7th Wyedean Embroiderers 10.00am -13.30pm

Monday 9th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast 9.00-10.00am Kymin View School

Monday 9th WI 7.00pm St James Community Hall

Wednesday 11th Lent Course 1.30-2.30pm Wyesham Christian Fellowship



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Thurs 26th March
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7pm-8.30pm

Our bats (we have at least 8 species in the
parish) and what we they need from us.
A fascinating talk by Stuart Moore from the
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Sat April 11th
The Garron Centre
10.30-1pm

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refreshments. Booking required. Please email
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Monday 16th Wyesham Together 9.00-10.00am Kymin View School
Wednesday 18th Lent Course 1.30-2.30pm Wyesham Christian
Fellowship
Thursday 19th Bingo 7.00pm St James' Community Hall
Monday 23rd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast 9.00-10.00am Kymin
View School
Tuesday 24th School Easter Assembly 10.30am St James' Church
Wednesday 25th Lent Course 1.30-2.30pm Wyesham Christian
Fellowship
Saturday 28th Community Coffee Morning with Raffle and Tombola,
10.00am -12.00noon St James Church



Travelling Light Retreats 2026

Our lives are a journey, and God is with us every step of the way. Within our lives there are other journeys, some planned by us, some not. Our theme for Travelling Light retreats in 2026 is 'Travelling with God'.

All retreats are held at St Dubricius Church, Whitchurch, HR9 6BZ from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

March 21st Setting out; May 9th Hope on the way; July 4th New horizons; September 12th Journeying on.

Booking is essential. Drinks are provided but not food. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. Please email travellinglight@supanet.com. Our website is <https://travelling-light.org.uk>

Don't forget this month

Mothering Sunday on 15th and
Clocks go forward on 29th at 1.00am





A World of Conflict

The Venerable Derek Chedzey Archdeacon of Hereford

As I write this we are fast approaching the fourth anniversary of the full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 22nd. I have learnt through listening to the Ukrainian community who came here following that invasion that for many this war actually began in 2014 when Russia invaded the Crimea. Our communities have offered hospitality, love and care to those displaced by this act of war.

Wherever we look our news is constantly full of conflict and around the world there are armed conflicts and tensions which cause us all to stop and ask is there not a better way to resolve our differences. Whatever the politics and reasons for the Russian invasion what is clear is that despite peace negotiations this war is continuing to see people killed and injured on both sides. It is important we do not lose sight of the fact that in war there are no winners only losers.

There are many theological arguments on whether warfare can ever be just and how we appropriately remember those lost in war. For us as Christians the Bible has a lot to teach us about the root causes of warfare and bloodshed. We are also reminded in those same pages that we are called to serve one another and to care for those who suffer. The ultimate sacrifice will always be to give our lives away for others.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13

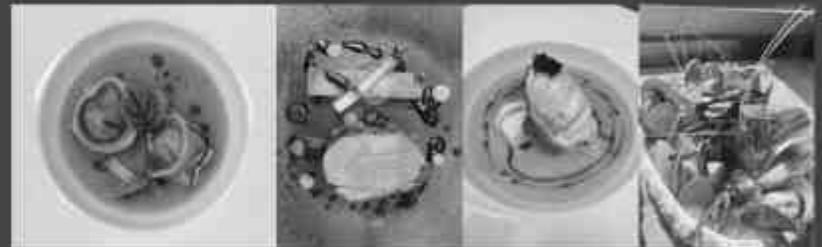
As Christians we are called to build relationships that create peace and harmony and offer the reconciling power of Jesus' love. We are to offer a better more appropriate way to live and it is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that we are changed. It is the Holy Spirit that builds the fruit of the Kingdom within each of us, and this enables us to bear one another's burdens and create communities of peace.

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Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm
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Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm
THE SIGN OF FOUR
starring Colin Baker as Sherlock Holmes

Friday 27th March at 7.30pm
ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm
ROBIN MORGAN: Let's Overshare

FILMS

March 1st for one day only: **TWIN TOWN (15)**
Fri 6th at 3pm & 7pm, Sun 15th at 7pm **OTHELLO**
starring David Harewood and Toby Jones
Sun 15th - Wed 18th: **ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (15)**
Sat 20th - Thur 25th **THE SECRET AGENT (15)**
Sat 21 & Sun 22nd **STITCH HEAD (pg)**
Sat 28th - Thur 2nd Apr **THE TEATMENT OF ANN LEE(tbc)**
Sat 28th - Tues 31st **GOAT (pg)**

For cinema listings please see website

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As Jesus prepared for his own death, he warns the disciples not to lose heart when they see strife in the world. As they stand outside the temple in Jerusalem, he warns them what is to happen in their lifetime. His words are fulfilled in 72AD when the Romans destroy the temple in Jerusalem, but they are also just as true today for us as for his disciples.

"Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus does not mean that we have to accept war with its horror and bloodshed but that we should respond to it appropriately. The New Testament teaches us that human selfishness, greed and intolerance lead to conflict. The church has a message of hope and the solution to these driving passions deep within humanity. If we are in any doubt, it is Jesus and his sacrifice for us that reconciles us to God and helps us offer peace in the world. We are called to fight evil and stand up for the Kingdom and its values; in doing so we help to build a better world. Our job is not to judge but to offer love and support. As a clergy person I have had the privilege of hearing the stories and experiences of grief and pain that war brings from those most impacted by it. I have always tried to bring God's love, forgiveness and compassion to those who are tormented by memories of war. As the church we are called to care for those who suffer and to build a more peaceful world. In this period of Lent perhaps we should all pray for peace and reconciliation wherever there is conflict

Derek

PARISH EVENTS AT A GLANCE



March

- 2nd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
- 4th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30 - 12.00
- 5th Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.00
LDGS 'Willow Weaving Talk' Llangrove Village Hall 19.30
- 6th Miniyaki's Food Van & Pop Up Pub Garron Centre 18.00
Lenten Lunch Llangrove Village Hall 12.30
- 7th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall 10.00 - 15.30
- 9th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
WI St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00
- 11th Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30
Llangrove Village Hall AGM 19.30
- 14th Café Bishopswood Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00
ACEG Repair Café Llangrove Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
- 16th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
- 18th Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30 - 12.00
Marstow Makers Craft Evening St Matthews West End Marstow 19.00
- 19th Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.00
- 20th Film Night "The Choral" Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall 19.00
- 21st Community Café Garron Centre 10.30 - 12.30
Travelling Light Retreat St Dubricius 10.00 -16.00
- 22nd Community Lunch Bishops Wood Village Hall 12.30
- 23rd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
- 24th School Easter Assembly St St James' Church 10.30
- 26th Flicks in the Sticks 'The Choral' Goodrich Village Hall 19.30
ACEG 'Our Bats' Garron Centre 19.00 - 20.30
- 28th Coffee Morning St James' Church 10.00 - 12.00



Celebrate **Easter** with us.... in Holy Week

- Every day** 08.30 Morning Prayer St Mary's Welsh Newton
- Monday 30th March** 18.00 Night Prayer at St Matthews Marstow
- Tuesday 31st** 18.00 Night prayer at St Peters Dixton
18.00 Night prayer at St Deinst Llangarron
- Wednesday 1st April** 18.00 Night prayer at St Swithin's Ganarew
18.00 Night prayer at St Giles Goodrich
- Maundy Thursday Thursday 2nd**
10.30 Holy Communion at St Dubricius Whitchurch
18.00 Night prayer at St Dubricius Whitchurch
18.00 Night prayer St Mary's Welsh Newton
- Good Friday Friday 3rd**
TBC Walk from Llangrove to Welsh Newton
14.00 Tenebrae Service at St Dubricius Whitchurch
14.00 Good Friday reflections at St James Wyesham
19.00 Tenebrae Service at Christ Church Llangrove
- Easter Sunday 5th April**
06.00 Sunrise Holy Communion St Matthews Marstow
07.30 Dawn Holy Communion at St Dubricius Whitchurch
09.00 Holy Communion St Mary's Welsh Newton
09.30 Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peters Dixton
09.30 Holy Communion (BCP) at St Swithins Ganarew
10.00 Holy Communion Christ Church Llangrove
11.00 Holy Communion St Giles Goodrich
11.00 Holy Communion at St Dubricius. Whitchurch
11.00 Holy Communion at St James, Wyesham

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... (1 Peter 1.3)