CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st November		*All Saints Day*
09.00	Welsh Newton	Meditation, Bible Study and Outdoor Church
09.30	Ganarew	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion with Llangarron
15.00	Wyesham	Remembering Service
17.00	Goodrich	All Souls Service
17.00	Whitchurch	'In Loving Memory' Service
18.00	Welsh Newton	All Souls Service
Wednesday 4th November		
18.00	Whitchurch	Night Prayer (Compline)
Thursday 5th November		
10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Bible Study.
Sunday 8th November		*Remembrance Sunday*
10.50	Goodrich	Holy Communion and 12.00 Noon Remembrance at the War Memorial
09.00	Welsh Newton	Meditation, Bible Study and Outdoor Church 10.00 Remembrance at the War Memorial
10.00	Llangrove	Remembrance at the War Memorial
10.00	Marstow	Holy Communion & Remembrance
10.45	Bishopswood	Remembrance at the War Memorial and Service at the Village Hall.
10.45	Ganarew	Remembrance at the War Memorial and Service at St Swithin's church
10.55	Llangarron	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard
11.00	Wyesham	Remembrance Service
15.00	Whitchurch	Remembrance Service at the Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall

BORDER NEWS

Wye Reaches and Wye Brooks Parish Magazine

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NOVEMBER 2026



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Revd Tim Starling

07980204572

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 or via bnads@mail.com

CHURCH SERVICES Cont'd

Thursday 12th November

10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Bible Study

Sunday 15th November

09.00	Welsh Newton	Meditation, Bible Study and Outdoor Church
10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Holy Communion with Patronal Festival
11.00	Wyesham	Chatty Church
18.00	Llangarron	Evening Service

Wednesday 18th November

18.00	Whitchurch	Taizé Prayer

Thursday 19th November

10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Bible Study

Sunday 22nd November *Christ the King*

09.00	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion
09.30	Dixton	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00	Llangrove	Café Church
11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Sunday Praise
11.00	Wyesham	Holy Communion

Thursday 26th November

10.30	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00	Whitchurch	Bible Study

Sunday 30th November *1st Sunday of Advent*

09.00	Welsh Newton	Benefice Holy Communion
10.00	Llangrove	Advent Carol Service
11.00	Whitchurch	Advent Carol Service
11.00	Wyesham	Advent Carol Service

November the Month of Remembrance

With All Souls Day on the 1st and Armistice Day on the 8th we remember loved ones and the fallen. Whilst we never forget our loved ones, the wearing of a poppy brings the nation together to remember the dead of two World Wars and the many conflicts since.

Written in 2019 by BFBS Forces Radio broadcaster Ernie Rowe, 'Remembered Still Those Souls' reflects the emotions stirred by the loss of fallen soldiers in warfare in modern times, reminding us that our Armed Forces make sacrifices day in, day out. Its message continues to resonate to this day.

Remembered still those souls who tried
To save the world, but many died.
A moment stolen for a tear,
As we recall those unlived years.
The camaraderie that flew those souls back home to those they knew,
And loved them dear and held them close
But for our sakes released to foes
The silence that they leave behind
Is space to calm the troubled minds of those they loved –
And can't rewind.
Again this day we give our thanks
For those returned from serving ranks
And them 'as gave it all away
Forever in our minds will stay.



WELCOME FROM YOUR CLERGY TEAM

Dear All,

In retail terms November provides only the opportunity to hype Christmas squeezed, as it is, between Halloween and Yuletide. (Note my use of Yuletide as a term to describe a non-religious commercial event.) But, for those of us in the know November has much to offer.

When I was ordained I recall being told not to worry about what happens next but to enjoy the moment and trust those conducting the service and I often say the same thing to couples getting married. So what does happen in November and why should we take time to enjoy it?

Firstly we have 'All Souls' and 'All Saints'. With an ageing population many in our congregations have experienced the loss of someone precious over the year and 'All Souls' services provide an opportunity to take time to reflect on them and give thanks for their presence in our lives. With 'All Saints' we think about all the men and women, people like ourselves, who have lived lives devoted to Christ, crucified for humanity and have helped shaped our way of thinking. Next we have 'Remembrance Sunday' and the opportunities it provides to reflect on humanity's inhumanity.

Then, finally we reach the end of the Church Year with 'Christ the King' where we celebrate Christ's life, death and resurrection and ponder on the difference between an earthly monarch and a heavenly King.

November, it seems, rather than being a retail non-event, is a month which is hard to ignore.

Blessings,

Penny



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS MONTH

As we welcome to our churches with the baptisms of :

The daughter of Scott and Alice Evans was christened at St Dubricius, Whitchurch on 27th September 2026.

Lily Eira Baker at Christ Church, Llangrove on 4th October 2026.

Florence Rose Gywn Powell at St Deinst, Llangarron on 25th October 2027.

Pray for the souls and lives of :

Shirley Roberts whose funeral took place at St James', Wyesham on 3rd September 2026.

Marjorie Price whose funeral took place at St Peter's, Dixton on 21st September 2026.

Peter Swain whose funeral took place at St James', Wyesham on 1st October 2026.

Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

God of justice and peace, we pray for those who have been injured or disabled through war. For those who have lost homes and security through conflict; for those who have lost loved relatives in wars; for those who face danger and take risks for peace; for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts; for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help. God of encouragement and Saviour of the despairing, comfort those who remember past sacrifices and guide us in building a just and peaceful community for all.

Lord, cover our military men and women with Your protection today. Give them courage when fear presses in, clarity when decisions cannot wait, and the knowledge that they are not forgotten. Bring them home safely to the people who love them. Guard their minds and bodies in every place I cannot reach. Amen.

"WHY SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS STILL MATTER"

This Spring, Slimming World is proving that community-based support remains as important as ever when it comes to fresh starts, renewed motivation and weight loss goals.

Consultant Debra, who runs groups in Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth says: "slimming groups continue to play a vital role as weight-loss injections rise in popularity, there's real power in community support. The accountability that comes from losing weight alongside others is still as relevant as ever. Our approach continues to resonate with people seeking sustainable weight loss. For 56 years we've seen that real change doesn't happen in isolation – it happens when you're surrounded by people who understand your challenges – they're there for the highs and the lows, helping you to lose weight and build confidence."

With interest in weight-loss injections growing, Debra says: "groups attract a wide range of members – from young adults to older members, each bringing their own experiences, challenges and goals. Members say the sense of belonging, accountability and encouragement they find in group is what keeps them coming back, even when new weight-loss trends emerge. Members value an approach focused on healthy eating, behaviour change and emotional support – elements that help them maintain weight loss long after the initial motivation fades."

Slimming World's healthy eating plan, Food Optimising, is at the heart of every member's success. "Each week members learn how to enjoy a wide range of satisfying meals, build long-term healthy habits as part of their everyday life. For those taking weight-loss medication, the healthfulness of the plan is especially important, when appetite is reduced and smaller portions are required, every bite really does count. Members feel reassured that they're getting a balanced, nutritious diet, rich in protein, fibre and all the essentials their body needs."

Debra's comments follow the release of a recent landmark University of Oxford study showing that people who stop taking weight-loss medication regain the weight they lost in under two years, four times faster than other weight loss plans. If you are interested in joining Slimming World, please see details below:

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

ROSS-ON-WYE: The Larruperz Centre, HR9 7QD Mondays at 5.30pm and Tuesdays at 7.30am & 9.00am & 10.30am.

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

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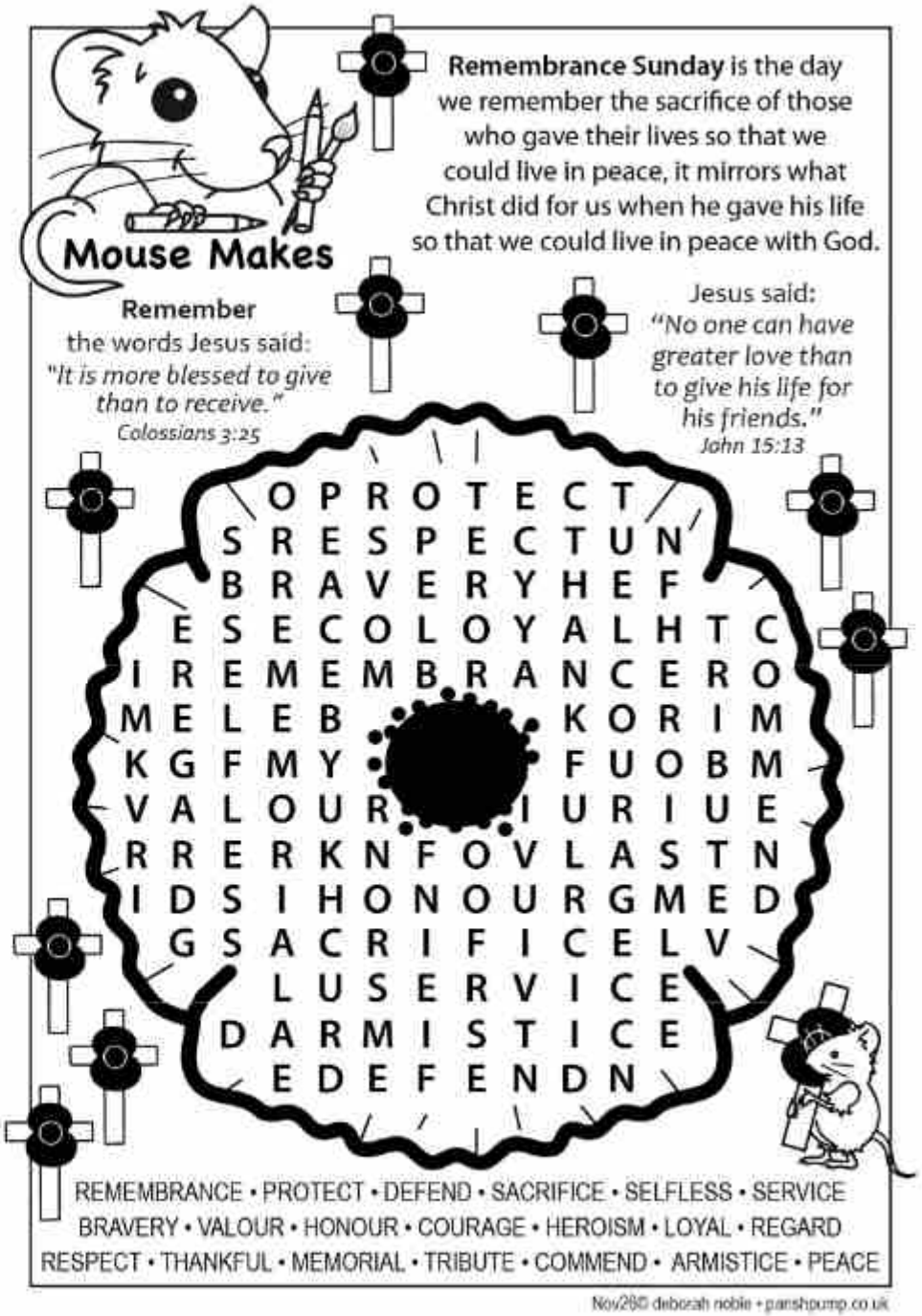
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All Saints

Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate 'All Saints' (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old- those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures- can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you'd meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat with in the village. He always had time for you. You'd go away thinking 'salt of the earth', and you would be right.

But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania, and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.

And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous. For all of them, let's thank God.

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The Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion

Ken Lloyd, Member of The Royal British Legion.

'Poppy Appeal Fortnight' will begin in October ending on 7th November followed by Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. All are welcome to attend this event in your local area. The Poppy Appeal in 2025 received £56.6 millions across Britain as donations to this amazing, registered charity. This money goes toward providing vital care to our Armed Forces Community, dealing with physical and mental health, money and debt, care and caring. After just one day's service, Armed Forces Personnel and their families are entitled to help from The Royal British Legion for as long and as often as they need it. Financial help may be paying for small items such as a grocery bill or a fuel bill through to buying a wheelchair up to larger projects such as advice and financial support to start a business.

There is a centre supported by the Royal British Legion, TRBL, at which those suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD, can be helped. The organisation behind all this work is The Royal British Legion which is a membership organisation that came into being over a century ago.

During 1917 at the height of WW1 (1914-1918) Field Marshal Douglas Lord Haig realised that when the fighting ended and peace came many of the returning armed service veterans would need help to settle into home and civilian life.

During 1919 Lance Bombardier Thomas Federick Lister (later Sir Thomas) decided that he would establish some means to help returning veterans cope with civilian life: some had never had a civilian life as such, being orphans, young with no job or no job experience and so on. Veterans across Britain in towns and villages had formed local groups to help each other.

Cont'd...

Thomas Lister and Lord Haig worked together and in 1921 founded The British Legion (later to become the Royal British Legion with Queen Elizabeth the Second's support.) The small groups soon joined the newly formed Legion which became a large membership organisation and a growing Charity. The red poppy that had grown abundantly across the muddy battlefields in France and Belgium during the war became the symbol of the Legion and has remained so being adopted across the world by Legion Branches.

In recent years membership of the Legion has been extended to all people over 18 years age who can join a local Branch and help with the work of the Legion. Locally the Legion is most recognised during Poppy 'fortnight' and by local parades and church services. The Sunday date is that nearest to 11th November. That was the day in 1918 on which peace was declared so ending WW1, known then as the Great War.

You can obtain more information about the Legion by calling 0808 802 8080 free on UK land lines between 8.00am and 8.00pm seven days a week.

This year the national service for Remembrance, is on 8th November, and includes the annual Cenotaph march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.

The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

As one of the many regular poppy appeal volunteers, please give generously to support both our serving personnel and veterans. *Ed*



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'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

There are many stories that belong to Christmas: the Nativity, of course, but also stories of deep snow, family kindness and generosity, homecoming and hope. One of the most enduring Christmas stories has to be Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Published in 1843, it has become so woven into our Christmas imagination that it can be easy to forget just how deeply Christian the story is.

Enter stage right one Ebenezer Scrooge - a man who has allowed money, bitterness and self-interest to close his heart to other people; the words *"Bah! Humbug!"* become his famous cry. Christmas, for Scrooge, is an unwelcome interruption to what is important to him.

But something extraordinary happens. He is confronted with the truth about his life. Through the visits of nighttime spirits, Scrooge is shown the consequences of the way he has lived, the love he has forgotten, and the future towards which he is heading. He is given the possibility of another way.

That is profoundly Christian. Christmas is, after all, about God coming into the midst of our ordinary human lives and opening before us a different future. In Jesus, God does not remain distant. He comes among us. The light comes into the darkness. And that coming changes what is possible.

Scrooge's transformation is therefore more than becoming a little kinder at Christmas. His whole way of seeing the world changes. He becomes generous where he was grasping, joyful where he was bitter, and attentive to people where he had previously seen only inconvenience.

Perhaps that is why *A Christmas Carol* has lasted so well.

It reminds us that Christmas is not simply about remembering something that happened long ago. It is about the possibility of being changed by the love of God today.

Cont'd...

Dickens understood something wonderfully simple: *Christmas means that it is never too late for a human heart to be opened.*

Rev Tim

See page 25 for details of a production of A Christmas Carol at St Dubricius on 10th December.



December Christmas Events at Hereford Cathedral

Messiah by Candelight Saturday 12th 7.30pm to 9.30pm

"Christmas doesn't start until Hereford Choral Society has sung *Messiah*" are frequent comments following this atmospheric, candlelight concert. Add in the evocative sound of the period instruments, played by Marches Baroque, and you have an unforgettable experience.

Ex Cathedra 'Christmas Music by Candlelight' 16th 7.00pm

Step out of the winter rush and into the still, warm glow of candlelight. Our much-loved concerts offer beautiful seasonal music, a sprinkling of favourite carols, and readings to make you smile and reflect, all revealing the quiet magic of Christmas. Encounter the mystery as well as the merriment. Once experienced, they're never forgotten.

Christmas Fair Saturday 19th 9.30am – 4.00pm

Over forty stallholders will be in the cathedral for the annual Christmas Fair. The Fair opens at 9.30am and will be featuring homemade produce, handcrafted items and plenty of festive gifts and crafts from local stallholders. Entry is free for the Christmas Fair, although donations on the door are invited which go to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. It is recommended to bring cash on the day as not all stalls will be taking card payment

Festival of Lessons & Carols Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd 7.00pm

The tickets for the Festival of Lessons & Carols will be released on Monday 2nd November at 11am. Available in person or via the Cathedral website.

Details for all events are on the Cathedral website www.herefordcathedral.org

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DIXTON

Kate Richards - kate@summerleas.com

As we approach the anniversary of the **devastating floods** in Monmouth, with some people still not back in their homes, other businesses closed for good while others are back with a bang (who knew how exciting it would be to have the DIY shop open again!), we realise how at the mercy of the elements we are. After a long, blistering hot summer and what seems like quite a bit of rain since, the river is still at such a low level that the annual rowing club Head races were cancelled at the end of September. And inevitably, our concerns turn to how the church might be affected in the coming months. We got away with no floods last year, for which we were very grateful and we pray that the river behaves again this winter.

22nd November is our **next service** at 9.30am, as ever it would be lovely to see some of you there. And an advance date for your diary – our wonderful **candlelit carol service** (with real candles! Mulled wine! Mince pies!) is at 5.00pm on 22nd December – a wonderful start to the run up to Christmas Day!

WELSH NEWTON & LLANROTHAL

Glenys Biggs andy_n_glen@btinternet.com Tel 01989770540

Sunday 1st 6.00pm **Remembering Our Loved Ones** A quiet, contemplative service marking All Souls Day, where we will remember loved ones who are no longer with us, particularly those who have died in recent years, and pray for the bereaved. As part of the service, the names of those who have passed away will be read out and prayerfully remembered. There will also be the chance for those present to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

If you can't come but would like your loved one to be remembered, please do send their name to stmaryswelshnewton@gmail.com

Sunday 8th November 10.00am **Act of Remembrance** *Lest we forget..*
On Remembrance Sunday, we'd love you to join us at the War Memorial in Welsh Newton (after 9.00am Communion) for an Act of Remembrance (a very short service) to lay wreaths and honour those who have died in the service of their country. We will serve refreshments in the church afterwards.

Advent and Christmas dates for your diary:

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th **Advent 24-hour prayer vigil**

Sunday 29th 2.00-4.00pm **Christmas Outdoor Church Goes Wild**, Buckholt Woods

Sunday 20th December 6.00pm **Carol Service**

Christmas Eve 3.00pm **Community Carols by Candlelight**, St John's Llanrothal

Christmas Day 9.30am **Christmas Family Service**

Throughout Advent we will also hold a short **Morning Prayer** service at the back of the church at 8.30am each day, Monday to Friday.

GANAREW

Sue Harley sueharleymcsp@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01600 890489

We enjoyed our **Harvest Festival service** on 4th October. We used the back of the church for refreshments afterwards, which worked very well. Thanks to all who provided food , all delicious, and for decorating the church. Our thanks to Sue Morris for providing musical accompaniment.

Save the date Saturday 16th January 2027 Our next joint fundraiser with Marstow church. Live music and pies! At Whitchurch and Ganarew village hall. Music from the A49er's band. Tickets £15.00



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St. Giles Church

"They may have gone from your sight, said Pooh, but never from your heart. That's where love lives -always. AA Milne.

Sunday 1st **All Souls Service.** There will be a quiet, reflective service at 5.00pm. An opportunity to light a candle for our loved ones in celebration of the lives they lived so well. All are welcome.

Sunday 8th **Remembrance Service** at 10.50am in church, moving on to the **War Memorial** for midday.

Some amazing donations have come forward for the **Wheelbarrow Drive**. There is still plenty of space to fill, so please dig into your cupboards as donations to fill the barrow are most welcome. £5 a ticket. Someone will WIN the lot!

Saturday 5th December **Santa's Soup Kitchen.** A fantastic opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. We have some fantastic stalls.

Friday 11th December **The Roaring Megs in Christmas Concert**

Saturday 12th December The highly acclaimed **Octavo** return to St Giles to give us an evening to remember.

Sunday 20th December **Christmas Carols** A magical, candlelit evening with all your favourite carols.

Goodrich C of E Primary School

The bible story was about Noah's Ark and the forty-day flood. God sent the flood because people were selfish, greedy, and hurtful to each other. God wanted to clean the Earth, so he sent a humongous flood to get rid of the selfishness. It was very difficult for Noah, but he still listened to God. God gave him the courage and strength to be able to build the ark. Today, God gives us strength. The moral of the story is when things are hard, pray to God for help and guidance.

Village Hall Events https://goodrichvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on/

Saturday 21st **Quiz Night** with Ace Quizmaster Jim. Play in a team (maximum 6). Doors and bar open at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Lasagne

Supper at half time (vegetarian and gluten free options available). Tickets £12 per head available online. Ticket sales close on Monday,16th November. There is a licensed bar. Only alcohol bought on the premises may be consumed at this event.

Thursday 26th **Flicks** is showing **& Sons** (15), A darkly comic drama starring Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton. Doors are open at 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm. £5 a ticket.

MARSTOW

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

CHURCH NEWS and EVENTS

The Order of St Ethelbert Award Honour at St Matthew's

Many congratulations to **Phyll Hannah** who has been honoured with the Order of St Ethelbert by the Diocese. The medal was awarded to her at Hereford Cathedral on Sunday, October 25th.

Phyll, our Church Warden for twenty years, has been central to the continuing, successful promotion of St Matthew's as a centre for worship and community activities in our small, scattered parish. She deals with the day to day running involved in managing the fabric and churchyard. She ensures that the church is a welcoming space for Sunday and special services and social events in the nave West End. She designed and maintains our informative website (please take a look, address above), delivers Border News and opens her home for our popular annual Harvest Festival supper. She has taken management responsibility for ensuring the future of the church, organising two major appeals. One to repair the porch and Bellcote and, recently, extensive repairs to the church fabric and re-ordering of the nave to provide a successful and well used community space.

Phyll is a constant, cheerful presence in the church and the wider community, loved by everyone who knows her. The community space in the church, that she worked so hard to provide, is well used and playing an important role in the life of our parish.

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In addition to her service to St Matthew's church, Phyll was, at one time, a very active and much appreciated governor of Goodrich C of E Primary School. We are all very proud of her here in Marstow.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday January 16th 2027 **Pie & Band Evening** 7.00pm Whitchurch Memorial Hall. Beat the New Year Blues and come along to and evening of popular music, played by the A49'ers Band, and enjoy some home cooking. Have a dance or sing along. More information in December Border News

ST MATTHEW'S NAVE WEST END EVENTS

Wednesday 18th **Marstow Makers Craft Evening** 7.00pm – 9.30pm

This month there will be an opportunity, for those who would like to, to make advent wreaths. The session is free to attend and materials will be provided. It will be our last meeting of the year, so even if you don't fancy the planned activity, please come anyway and enjoy the company and refreshments. You are welcome to bring your own project if you prefer.

PARISH COUNCIL NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24th **Next Meeting** West End 7.30pm See the Parish Council website for agendas and meeting minutes marstowpc.org.uk. A list of Marstow Parish councillors is also on the website.

LLANGROVE

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

Many thanks to all who decorated the church for the Harvest.

Sunday 1st **All Souls Service** 10.00am for all who wish to remember loved ones. A number of our community have died over the past 12 months and it would be lovely to share memories and to remember them.

Sunday 8th **Act of Remembrance** 10.00am at the War Memorial by the flagpole, followed by refreshments in the Village hall. Let us join as a community to remember the sacrifice that was made by

communities in the past and acknowledge the sacrifices made today.

Wednesday 11th **Coffee Morning** 10.30am at Llangrove Village Hall. Amazing Raffle! Good Company.

Sunday 22nd **Cafe Church** 10.00am Join us for refreshments, fellowship and a short informal service as we support each other.

Saturday 28th **Shine a light** 2.30pm at Christ Church. Bring a small decorated Christmas Tree or branch to church to celebrate Advent. Come and see and enjoy refreshments.

Sunday 29th **Advent Carol Service** 10.00am **New!** All Welcome.

Fridays at Llangrove Village Hall from 9.00am to 11.00am for **Little Explorers** (under 5s) and their carers. All Welcome. Free play and some themed activities. Songs and Story time. Fridays **Warm Welcome** 11.30am Llangrove Village Hall. Coffee and light lunches.

Wednesday 4th and Saturday 7th 9.30am Work parties at **Tretawdy Nature Reserve.**

Llangrove & District Gardening Society Talks llangrovegardeningsociety@outlook.com

Thursday 5th November: **Apple Trees.** A fruit tree expert from Frank P Matthews Ltd will talk about apple varieties, understanding rootstocks, apple pruning. Held in Llangrove Village Hall, doors open at 7.00pm. Admission for non-members £5, includes refreshments. All welcome.

December dates

Monday 7th Village Singers **Christmas Friends and Families Evening** Llangrove Village Hall 8.00pm

Saturday 12th Llangrove Village Hall Christmas Fair

Sunday 20th Christingle Service with Carols

Christmas Day 10.00am Celebrating Jesus is born!

Food Bank available at Christ Church. Accessible to all. Please add to and help yourself as needed.

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Playground Update -the order has been placed for equipment. Thank you to all who have contributed time and money. Money is still needed to properly complete the project and donations continue to be much appreciated.

ACEG are creating a **Calendar** with photos of local nature sightings. The pictures were chosen at the Apple Juicing in October. Look out for how to purchase. Profits shared between the play area and local nature projects.

WHITCHURCH

Brigid Hamilton-Jones brigidhj@aol.com

Sunday 1st **'In Loving Memory' Service** at St Dubricius 5.00pm.

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

Wednesdays 4th and 18th **Community coffee mornings** at St Dubricius 10.30-12.00pm.

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

*Looking ahead to **Christmas events** in **December**:*

Saturday 5th **Christmas Family Craft Morning** at St Dubricius church

Thursday 10th ***A Christmas Carol*** story-telling and performance. 6.00pm at St Dubricius. Tickets £15 include refreshments.

Sunday 13th **Carols on the Green** 3.00pm

Monday 21st **Carol Service** at St Dubricius 5.00pm

Events at Whitchurch and Ganarew Memorial Hall

Friday 13th Film Night ***Song Sung Blue***. A Milwaukee couple whose heartfelt Neil Diamond tribute act becomes both a source of joy and the backdrop for personal challenges. The film blends themes of love, resilience, and the healing power of music, anchored by strong performances . Tickets at door, £5.00. Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd December **Christmas Wreath Workshop** 7.00pm Phone Abbie to book on 07735 61280.

WYESHAM

Jo Townsend & Marguerite Gordon
jotown223@hotmail.com marguerite.gordon@btinternet.com

Sunday 1st **In Loving Memory Service** 3.00pm St James' Church
Monday 2nd **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 09.00 - 10.00am Kymin View School
Monday 2nd **Ladies Prayer Group** 2.00pm – 3.00pm Wyesham Christian Fellowship with Rev Penny
Monday 2nd **Craft Creators** 10.00am - 2.30pm St James' Community Hall
Wednesday 4th **Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group** 2.00pm Woodland View Shop
Saturday 7th **Wyedean Embroiderers** 10.00am - 2.00pm St James' Community Hall
Sunday 8th **Remembrance Service** 11.00am St James Church
Monday 9th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 - 10.00am Kymin View School
Monday 9th **Ladies Prayer Group** at Connie's 2.30 – 3.30pm
Monday 9th **WI** 7.00pm St James' Community Hall
Thursday 12th **Bingo** 7.00pm St James' Community Hall
Saturday 14th Fund Raiser for **Monmouth Visually Impaired Group** A Hint of Christmas, Tea and Cake Children's Tombola Items for Sale 1.30 - 3.30pm St James' Community Hall
Monday 16th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 09.00-10.00am Kymin View School
Monday 16th **Ladies Prayer Group** at Connie's 2.30pm
Monday 16th **Craft Group** 6.30pm St James' Community Hall
Monday 23rd **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 - 10.00am Kymin View School
Monday 23rd **Ladies Prayer Group** at Connie's 2.00 - 3.00pm
Thursday 26th **Bingo** 7.00pm St James' Community Hall
Monday 30th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00-10.00am Kymin View School
Monday 30th **Ladies Prayer Group** at Connie's 2.30 – 3.30pm

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LLANGARRON

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Wednesday 4th **'Brave Hearts in Archenfield'** 7.30pm at the Garron Centre, Llangarron. The first in a series of military-orientated talks will focus on the service and sacrifice of local people during the late 19th century through to the mid-20th century. From Rorke's Drift to the 18-year-old who witnessed the Battle of Jutland, the local women who worked at Rotherwas Munitions Factory to the VC hero who opened a Llangarron Fete. The military heritage of this area is, it can be argued, both varied and substantial.

If you would like to attend this talk then admission is by donation, the proceeds going to the Herefordshire Branch of the Royal British Legion. The doors will open at 7.00pm when light refreshments will be on offer. No booking required but if you have any queries then please contact Caroline at llangarronhistory@gmail.com.

Saturday 7th **Village Quiz Night** 6.30pm, Quiz Masters Judith and David will be returning to the Garron Centre for another fun and challenging quiz evening. A two-course meal will be served during the interval. Tickets are £15 per head. Please contact Hello@llangarron.info for further information and to register your interest and team of 6. The pop-up bar will be open throughout the evening.

Saturday 28th **Christmas Market** 10.00am - 4.30pm at the Garron Centre Stall holders will be selling a wide variety of locally produced, high quality crafts, gifts, produce cards and wrapping paper. Come along and do some Christmas shopping. Refreshments available .



BISHOPSWOOD

Friday 13th **Bishopswood History Group** A presentation by Peter Gill 'Surviving the Great War' The songs, humour and words that kept the boys going. Doors open 7.15pm £5 per person including refreshments

Saturday 14th **Café Bishopswood** 10.00am – Midday 'Wrapping for Christmas' Ribbons, wrapping paper etc to swap. Please bring anything you have to swap. Also a professional gift-wrapping demonstration in the committee room Delicious cakes and refreshments (Gluten free available)

Saturday 21st **Curry Night** Doors open at 7.00pm Meal starts 7.30pm £15 per person – Curry with rice, naan, poppadom's & Ice Cream to follow Book by emailing : admin@bvhonline.co.uk

Sunday 20th December our **Christmas Carol Service**, at Bishopswood Village Hall 3.00pm. Do join us it is a delightful start to the Christmas season - especially as this year we will be joined by Parkend Silver brass band. Come and enjoy some Christmas cheer and festivities.



Are vicars slowly disappearing?

As Wye Brooks Benefice continue in their search for a new vicar there are certainly some worrying statistics out there regarding the profession

There are 8,368 retired priests holding permission to officiate. But there are only 6,682 clergy in paid (stipendiary) positions, and 2,440 in self-supporting, unpaid roles.

Nearly half of the current 6,682 paid priests are aged over 55. They all retire at 70.

But numbers of new entrants in training dropped from 591 in 2020 to 442 by 2025.

Where is this all headed? Worse case, by 2033, there could be only 5,400 full-time priests. That is 40 per cent of what the number was in 2000. These sobering predictions come in a recent report by the

Cont'd ...





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Tuesday November 10th at 7.30pm

MARK SMITH: Hearts of Oak
Wednesday November 11th at 7.30pm

FORBIDDEN NIGHTS
Thursday November 12th at 7.30pm

THE ROY ORBISON STORY with Barry Steele
Friday November 13th at 7.30pm

'ALLO 'ALLO: Off Centre Theatre
Thur 19th - Sat 21st at 7.30pm

IGNACIO LOPEZ: Nada
Sunday November 22nd at 8pm

OMID DJALILI
Saturday November 28th at 8pm

SANTA'S BEST EVER CHRISTMAS
Sunday November 29th at 11am and 2pm

ON SCREEN

Oct 31st - Nov 5th **THE UPRISING**

Nov 6th - Nov 11th **WINTER OF THE CROW**

Nov 22nd and Nov 26th **GIANT**
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For cinema listings please see website
WWW.MONMOUTH- SAVOY.CO.UK

campaign group Save the Parish. It argues that the decline has left the C of E at real risk of no longer being "a Christian presence in every community."

So, Save the Parish is calling on the C of E to "commit to a model that will support a young person in stipendiary ministry for their lifetime." It does not want a reduction in full-time paid clerical positions to save money, and it wants to lift the retirement age of 70. Also, the report says that the Church should measure ministers' success on the "numbers of lives touched, funeral by funeral, cup of tea by cup of tea".



Evergreen Immortals: Yew Tree Folklore

In St George's Churchyard in Clun. Shropshire stands a marvellous sight to behold. Estimated to be around 2,000 years old, lives a majestic ancient Yew tree. As the Oldest tree in Shropshire, this beautiful specimen has likely borne witness to rich history, It has stood tall. guarding the churchyard since medieval times If it could speak, it would surely have stories to tell.

There are many Yews across the UK churchyards. each with their own unique heritage The English Yew, Taxus baccata. is an evergreen tree that is commonly found in churchyards, hundreds and even thousands of years old. Many of these likely predate the churchyards they are found in and have strong ties to Pagan, Celtic and Druidic traditions.

Yews are steeped in rich and sometimes dark folklore. known as the "tree of the dead" for several reasons. It is thought that these trees were planted in sacred places to watch over the dead and guide their passage to the other side. The species is known for its longevity and habit of rooting from drooping branches that touch the ground, further cementing its lore of being a tree of death and rebirth. All parts of the tree are toxic to humans, in Shakespeare's Scottish play, a poisonous concoction featuring Yew berries is made.

In Kingley Vale, Hampshire legend says there was a great battle

Cont'd...

between locals and Vikings. When the local soldiers fell, their bodies were buried in the forests where the Yew trees now stand. The forests are supposedly haunted by the soldiers. who possess the Yews and come alive at night. At Nevern Church in Pembrokeshire, the "Bleeding Yews" appear to bleed red sap from their trunks. According to legend, they bleed in sympathy with Jesus' crucifixion.

There are a few things you can do to help out Yews. Most Yews don't need much management and generally like to be left alone. However, clearing anything over their root plate and underneath the trees as well as any ivy growing up the trunk will give them the best conditions to thrive. Think too about how you can involve your local communities with our Love Your Yew Week in February 2027. To find out more, follow the link to our website to read why Yews are so important to churchyards and how you can help them today.



Modern Day Advent

In Christianity, Advent refers to the period of four weeks leading up to Christmas. It begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th and ends on December 24th. It is a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

Different Christian denominations may have variations in how they observe Advent, but here are some common traditions and practices:

Advent Wreath: Lighting candles on an Advent wreath is a common

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Wintery Highlights



November

Sun 1st - The Utterly Revolting Science Show

Thu 5th - NT Live: Golden Boy

Tue 10th - RBO: Carmen

Sat 14th - Talon: Best of the Eagles

Thu 19th - Jonathan 'Fox' Davies

Wed 25th - Russell Watson

Fri 27th - Sir Geoff Hurst

December

Tue 1st - RBO: The Nutcracker

Wed 2nd - Christmas Gothic

Sat 5th - The West End at Christmas

Fri 11th & Sat 13th - Dear Santa

Sun 13th - Cory Brass Band: The Snowman

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practice. The wreath typically has four candles, each one representing the four weeks of Advent. A new candle is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas.

Advent Calendar: Many families and churches use Advent calendars to count down the days until Christmas. These calendars often have small doors or pockets that conceal a treat or a small item to be opened each day in December.

Prayer and Reflection: Advent is a time for spiritual reflection and prayer. Some churches may have special Advent prayer services.

Jesse Tree: The Jesse Tree is a symbolic way of recounting the genealogy of Jesus, starting from Jesse, the father of King David. Each day, a different ornament or symbol is added to a tree or wreath, representing key figures and events from the Old Testament that led to the birth of Jesus.

Acts of Kindness and Charity: Advent is also seen as a time of giving and helping others. Many Christians engage in acts of kindness, charity, or volunteer work during this season.

Christmas Hymns: Singing hymns and carols that focus on the themes of Advent and Christmas is a common tradition. Many churches have special musical performances or choir presentations during Advent.

Nativity Scenes: Setting up a nativity scene at home or in church is a tradition that helps focus on the central story of Christmas—the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

All Souls Service Welsh Newton

Sunday 1st November 6.00pm

This is a service for anyone who wants to remember someone who has died, either this year or in previous years. This is not just for people from Welsh Newton but for anyone. For further details contact Revd. Penny Powdrill on pennypowdrill547@gmail.com or 01600 714096

PARISH EVENTS AT A GLANCE



November

Every Tuesday Sticky Little Fingers St Dubricius Whitchurch 9.30 - 11.00
Every Thursday Knit & Natter St Dubricius Whitchurch 14.00 - 16.00
Every Friday Little Explorers Hall 9.00 - 11.00 & Warm Welcome 11.30
Llangrove Village Hall

2nd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00 -10.00
Craft Creators St James' Community Hall 10.00 - 14.30
Ladies Prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00 - 15.00

4th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group Wyesham 14.00
Talk "Brave Hearts of Archenfield" The Garron Centre 19.30

5th LDGS "Apple Trees" Llangrove Village Hall 19.30

7th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall 10.00 - 14.30
Quiz Night Garron Centre 18.30

9th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00 -10.00
Ladies Prayer Group at Connie's 14.30
WI St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00

11th Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30

12th Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.30

13th Film night 'Song Sung Blue' Ganarew & Whitchurch Memorial Hall 19.00
Talk 'Surviving the Great War' Bishopswood Village Hall 19.15

14th Café Bishopswood at Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00
ACEG Repair Café Llangrove Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
Monmouth Visually Impaired Group Fundraiser St James' Community Hall 13.30 - 15.30

16th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00 -10.00
Ladies Prayer Group at Connie's 14.30
Craft Group St James' Community Hall Wyesham 18.30

18th Marstow Makers Craft Evening St Matthews West End Marstow 19.00

21st Quiz Night Goodrich Village Hall 18.00
Curry Night Bishopswood Village Hall 19.00

23rd Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00 -10.00
Ladies Prayer Group at Connie's 14.30

26th Flicks in the Sticks '& Sons' Goodrich Village Hall 19.00

28th Christmas Market Garron Centre 10.00 - 16.30
'Shine a Light' Christ Church Llangrove 14.30

30th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00 -10.00
Ladies Prayer Group at Connie's 14.30

Let's Go Quizzing

Saturday 7th

Garron Centre 18.30

£15 per head

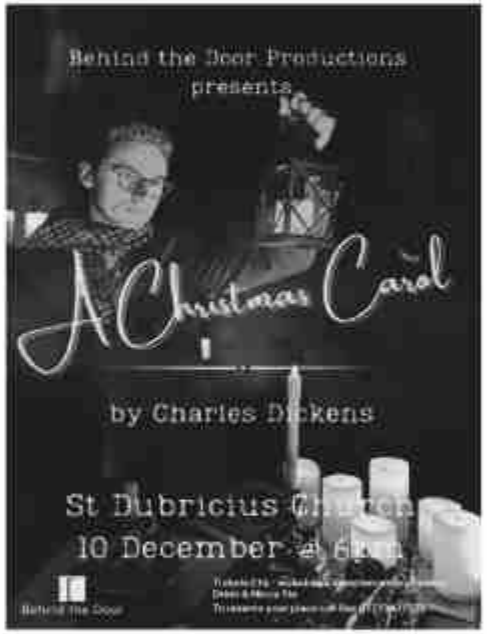
Welsh Newton Village Hall
19.00 £10 per head

Saturday 21st

Goodrich Village Hall 18.00
£12 per head

All include supper on the night !

QUIZ



Christmas Wreath Making

Welsh Newton Village Hall 28th & 29th November - See advert page 36

Marstow Makers 18th November - more details page 15

Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall 3rd December - more details see page 17