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Usual Office Hours Monday to Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm Out of Hours Please leave a message on the telephone answering service, or send an email All Saints Parish Office: High Street Hereford

HR4 9AA 01432 370414 allsaintshfd@btconnect.com Staffed: Mon and Tuesday mornings 9-11am Thursday 9.30am-4pm Answer phone at other times. **Baptisms** *May their lives be long and happy.*

> 16th January 2022 Holy Trinity Church Darcie Grace

Weddings

May their l ives together be long and happy.

Funerals

Please remember the departed their family and friends in your prayers

14th January 2022 St Michael's Church, Breinton Trudy Brookes (92)

> 21st January 2022 Holy Trinity Church Audrey Baggott (91)

24th January 2022 Hereford Crematorium Sylvia Roger

25th January 2022 Holy Trinity Church Valerie Cornwall (90)

4th February 2022 Holy Trinity Church Irene McColgan (81)

Funerals

Please remember the departed their family and friends in your prayers

10th January 2022 Hereford Crematorium Wendy Lane (72)





As we embark on the season of Lent let me pose a question. What does Lent mean for you?

This morning I attended morning prayer on Zoom. We have been reading from chapter 23 of Leviticus. It sets out a series of festivals which were to be celebrated or kept throughout the year. There are common threads throughout. Convocation, or coming together, offering sacrifices which for the most part are to give thanks for God's providence (which sometimes means marking a time of deliverance), although on the day of atonement the sacrifice is to be given as atonement for sin. For the duration of each festival everyday work is to be put to aside. No work was to be done.

All these observances were to be in addition to the usual rules for observance of the Sabbath.

I invite you to consider the ways in which this season of Lent could be used by us both as individuals and as a worshipping community, in a way which somehow reflects some of the strands common to these great Jewish festivals.

We naturally come together to worship on our Sabbath, although at this time of Covid uncertainty it is appreciated that this is not always possible for many. Some may be able to join via Zoom and of course some are unable to join us even in this way for one reason or another. As the festivals were celebrated in addition to Sabbath observance it may be that you might consider trying another church community activity which you don't usually join in with. Our weekly news provides information on plenty of opportunities. In Lent we will be running a course on prayer, details of which can be found elsewhere in this edition of the magazine. So that's another possibility.

The sacrifices at these festivals involved offering the first fruits of labour rather than what may have been left over. Many people are bracing themselves for a tightening of their financial belts as we have all heard of the financial squeeze we have been told to expect; yet whilst some will perhaps be at the end of their tether others may want to consider how much of a priority they attach to charitable giving of one form or another, whether in terms of money or the offering of their time, personal resources and skills whether within the church community or elsewhere. If you are not sure how to go about this perhaps you could make a point of asking a member of clergy or churchwarden or someone else you think may know.

Lent is as much about moving and looking forward as it is about reflecting on the past

These words from a hymn may serve as a prayer for daily use.

Father I place into your hands the things that I can't do.

Father I place into your hands the times that I've been through.

Father I place into your hands the way that I should go,

for I know I always can trust you.

Jenny Hewer (b. 1945)

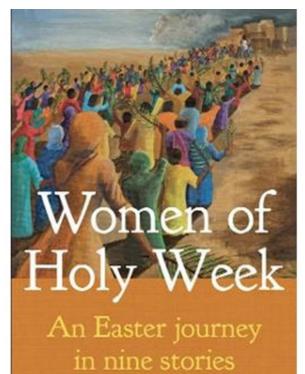
Perhaps you could also try substituting the word 'we' for 'l' as a prayer on behalf of the whole community.

Yours in Christ.

Chris Webb

All Saints Lent Discussion Group: Wednesdays 9 March-6 April, after 12.10 Mass

This year for our Lent Discussion Group, we will be using 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder. Written in the style of her bestselling Phoebe, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise to retell the events of the Crucifix-



Paula Gooder with illustrations by Ally Barrett ion, Resurrection and Ascension through the eyes of nine female characters she imagines accompanying Jesus during these momentous days.

Accompanied by nine colour illustrations, each story brings to life the tension, drama and shock of the events of Holy Week, banishing any over-familiarity and helping readers enter into the Passion narrative in a deeper, more meaningful way.

You do not need a copy of the book in order to join in, though it's available to buy online for around £10 if you would like your own copy.

The group will meet on Wednesdays during Lent immediately after the 12.10 mass, meeting over a bowl of soup in All Saints Café.

For more information, please contact Rev'd Lois Beynon.

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Dear Friends,

No sooner are the Christmas decorations down on Twelfth Night (or Candlemas, depending on your practice) than the Easter Eggs start appearing in the shops – one of our modern signs of spring!

But we know that we don't just jump straight from Christmas to Easter. We shall begin to mark the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. In some traditions, last year's palm crosses will be burned, and the ash used to mark the forehead with a cross as a sign of penitence, focusing the heart on repentance and prayer, as well as on our own mortality –

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you will return."

For most people, modern Lent doesn't involve the full Lenten Fast. Instead, you'll often hear people talk about giving up chocolate, cake, alcohol, or social media. One year, in my teens, I gave up television for Lent. It was amazing to see what else I got done instead! The 'giving up' symbolises, of course, a period of self-denial: saying 'no' to some of the things we crave, to help us focus more on God. And in my book that's always a good thing. But just giving up things for the sake of it may not help us with that aim of focusing more on God and his character.

Each year many Lent Books are published to help us spend extra time reflecting on God and his character. This year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, written by the Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, focuses on justice as we recall the words of Isaiah, "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice?" (Isaiah 58:6). There's a 40-day Live Lent challenge we can all follow, based on the book, which you can order online here https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781402603/live-lentembracing-justice-adult-pack-of-10 (I've given the link for packs of 10 in case you want to follow the challenge as a congregation; you can order them individually or in packs of 50 as well.) There's also a children's version https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781402665/live-lent-embracing-justicekids-pack-of-10

And in case you find the giving-up all too much, remember that the Sundays in Lent don't count as fast days: all Sundays are always a remembrance of the resurrection, and Christians can't fast on such a joyful day. You heard it here first...

With my best wishes, Fiona Gibson Archdeacon of Ludlow

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Psalm 27:14



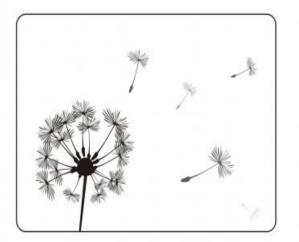
Our new Families Worker makes her introduction

What a joy it is to, at last, officially serve with you in Christ as part of the West Hereford team! Within my role of Families Worker, I am passionate in supporting our families, development of discipleship within our children and young people, and working alongside our partners at Whitecross High School.

Although not originally native to Herefordshire, I am proud to call this beautiful county "home." Our family emigrated to my husband's home country almost three years ago from the US, where we were raising our five children (ranging from 1 up to 12 years old). We truly are blessed with all God has given.

Along with the enjoyment and fulfillment of church fellowship, I regularly hike, draw and paint in oils as a way to connect deeper with my faith (and perhaps a much needed quiet respite from our loud household). My artwork is primarily focused on local sites and landscapes, as well as portraiture. Herefordshire is certainly a breathtaking muse to any artist and wonderful place to quiet one's mind to hear the Lord.

As I begin this journey within the West Hereford team of churches, please know my heart is always open for your thoughts, ideas and experience in how we can nurture and strengthen our community



Pastoral care within our churches

The West Hereford Team has an appointed team of pastoral visitors from amongst our churches. Their role is to support church members in the ups and downs of life, offering confidential support. If you'd like to know who the pastoral visiting team is in your church, your churchwardens or ministers will be able to identify the team. Our pastoral visitors are all DBS checked, and have been trained to offer this important ministry.

From time to time, any of us may find that we need support with things like lifts to appointments or collecting a prescription whilst we are unwell. Should you find that you require such support, please contact the West Hereford Team Office, and one of the office team will try to find a volunteer who can help. As a church we do not charge for these services but would expect our volunteers to be reimbursed for actual costs, on presentation of receipts.

Living in Love and Faith

If you have taken part in a Church of England project Living in Love and Faith group or looked at any of the material that has been published as part of it, could we ask you to complete a questionnaire that has been issued nationally? You can find the questionnaire on the Church of England website. Select resources and then Living in Love and Faith. Stuart Vince

Ash Wednesday 2022



GENESIS 3:19

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a 40-day season focussing on repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration as we mark Easter Sunday.

The 40-day period of Lent represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where he was tempted by Satan. During Lent believers set aside a time each year for similar fasting from certain foods or activities, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. In recent years it has become popular to take up something as well as fast. This could be charitable giving, acts of kindness or something similar that intentionally seeks to bless others.

All this begins with Ash Wednesday, which serves to focus the heart on repentance and prayer, turning ourselves consciously towards the journey through Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, during the Eucharist there may be a sermon that is penitential and reflective in nature. The mood is solemn - many services will have longer periods of silence, and worshipers will often leave the service in silence.

And to mark all of this, the congregation will be invited to receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. Usually, the priest will dip their finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3: 19)

This sobering phrase said to each person in turn, is a reminder that we ourselves, and this world, are temporary and that we put our trust instead in the eternal love of God. It is in this perspective that the words of Genesis are repeated in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, inviting us to an awareness of our mortal state and our need for penance. By Jesus' Cross and Resurrection, though we are only dust and ashes, we also have the hope that we will be made a new creation.

If you would like to join the West Hereford Team on Wednesday March 2nd for an Ash Wednesday service, they will take place as follows:

All Saints'	Ash Wednesday meditations on the hour be- tween 10am and 3pm
	12.10 Mass with ashing
St Nicholas'	7.30pm Team Eucharist with ashing

N.B. DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF TEAMTALK 10TH March

Please send your articles to the office or to the editor (jesherfmag@gmail.com)



LIFE ≣ H O P E : JESUS ≃ RISEN!

16-19 APRIL 2022

Building on last year's event, The West Hereford Team will once again be running an Easter display trail this year, with the theme Life and Hope : Jesus is Risen!

What is it?

A series of Easter displays created by members of our churches outside their homes or in their windows for others to visit. The aim is that this will act as a visible reminder of the Easter message within our community and a springboard for conversations about life and hope. The event will also provide an opportunity for us to engage with the community by encouraging schools, colleges and local residents to get involved and create their own models or artwork expressing what life and hope mean to them. These will then be displayed at our churches.

When is it?

The displays will be on show from Holy Saturday (16 April) to Easter Tuesday (19 April).

What do I need to do if I want to create a display?

If you'd like to be part of the fun this year, just let me know by emailing <u>abib1983@hotmail.com</u>. Displays can be as simple or as creative as you like – they could include drawings, paintings, Lego models, floral arrangements, toys, words, images, photos or anything else you'd like to use. Maybe you could incorporate something that people could take away with them (a chocolate egg, a cross, a crocheted flower...?), or invite people to add something to show that they've visited your display (draw a picture or write a word?). There were some fantastic and imaginative ideas last year, and I've included some pictures of them below for inspiration!

How will it be publicised?

There will be a poster to go alongside each display with information about the event, to enable passers-by to find out more and visit the other displays as well. Information will also go out on social media and the website, and local schools and colleges will be involved.

How else can I help?

We'll need to spread the word that the event is happening in as many ways as possible, so things you can do in the next few weeks include:

Distributing flyers to local homes

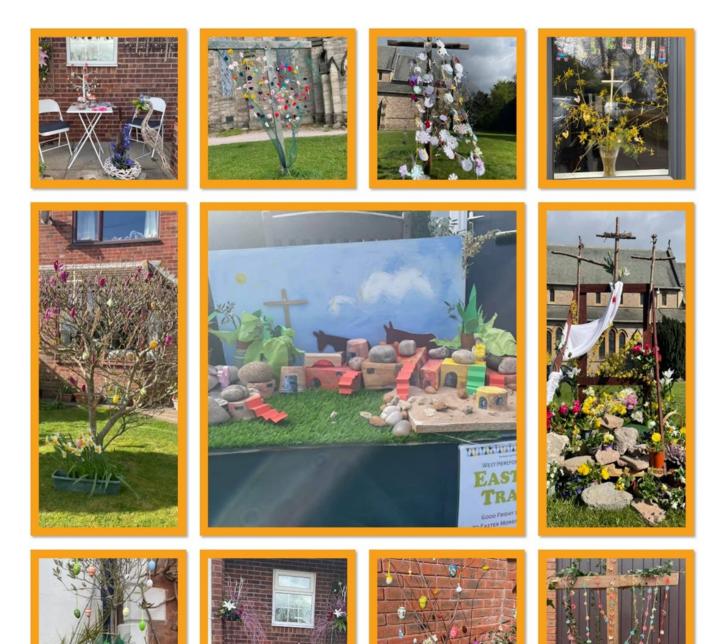
Asking local businesses and organisations you're in touch with to display a poster

Contacting local media

Telling people you talk to that it's happening

Please let me know by emailing abib1983@hotmail.com if you can help with any of these things or have ideas for other ways to publicise the event.

Abi Weller



PROJECT LINUS"......A group of quilters have for many years made beautiful items for children in hospital or in difficult circumstances.

Mothers Union have been given a few to pass on to families (possibly refugees) who would benefit from something beautiful to keep for life. They cannot be sold or given to "anyone!"

Linus was the "Peanuts" character who carried a blanket around and this is what might exemplify the children in question. The quilts are truly lovely and if a home is not found for them I shall have to return them to the makers...please think of worthwhile homes for them!

Andria Lewis..Mothers Union...357281



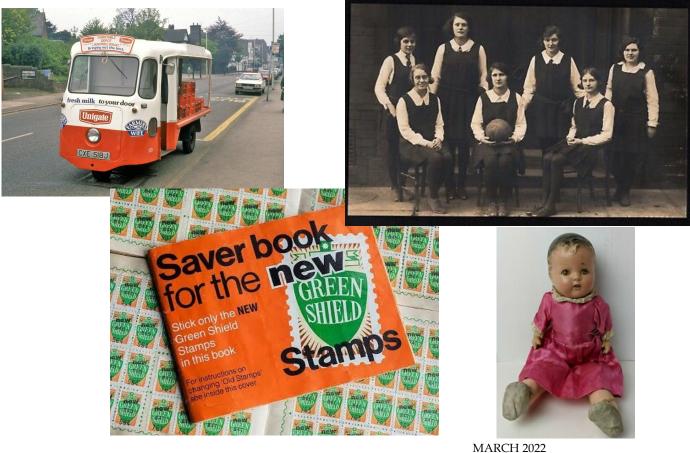
A BIT OF HISTORY AND STORY-TELLING....

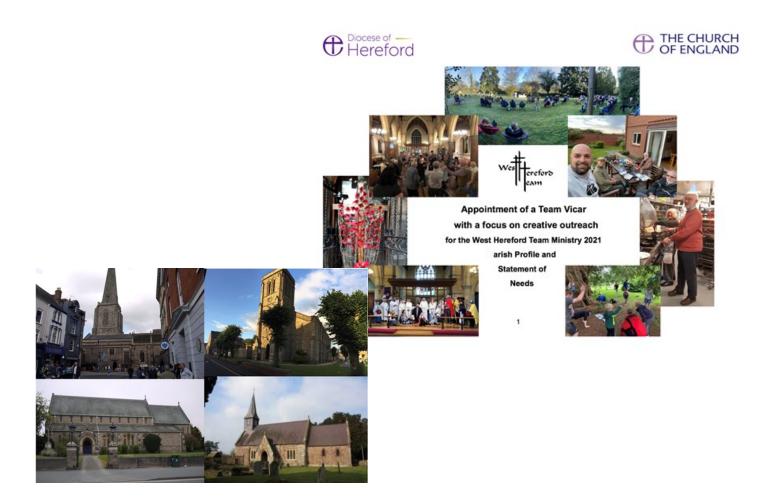
Mothers Union has worked with the volunteer organisers at the county hospital for some years - making small toiletry bags with contents to provide washing items for emergency admissions and recently belongings bags for items belonging to the deceased.

Now we are requested to search our memories for photos with stories that can be used by young volunteers to stimulate conversation with inpatients - for example, royal visits, local landmarks or gifts of history that would make a good story.

Please contact me or the coordinator Anna Beckhouse if you can help.

Andria Lewis...01432 357281





We are looking for a Team Vicar to join us:

Someone who will build on our creative foundations and help us reach out into the community.

Our Team churches are distinctive in their expressions of worship, faith in action and community life. We aim to work together, whilst also honouring the individual traditions of the four churches.

We are looking for a Priest colleague who has

- a focus on pioneering creative outreach
- a living faith and a passion for creative mission
- a proven track record of innovative community outreach
- an ability to discern and grow the gifts and talents of others

We hope to find a new Team Vicar of the West Hereford Team, with special responsibility for All Saints and St Nicholas', (shared with the Team Rector), but who will work across the Team to inspire us to be creative in our mission and ministry, challenging us to think beyond what is already happening in order to more fully share the good news of Jesus with those around us, and being visionary in how we use the resources we have, and could have.

Initial interest in this post has been very promising and with a deadline of 7th March 2022, there is still time to send this out to anyone who you think might be interested.

Interviews are due to take place on 30th March.

More details can be found on the Church of England pathways website or by contacting the Team Rector: Reverend Ruth Hulse on 01432 273086.



Theme for 2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!



Anna, one of the hospital Volunteer Co-ordinators, joined us for our February meeting. The meeting started with prayers led by Jean Thomson, during the prayers Jean, using Godly Play, acted The Creation.

Anna explained a hospital project: young volunteers go on to the wards to talk with patients, and they need relevant pictures to start conversations. Together with the pictures there needs to be a brief explanation and perhaps a few questions for the volunteer to use as prompts. Photos can be taken of items such as military buttons and badges, everyday items such as wooden spoons and mixing bowls, pictures of things from last century. All pictures need to be clear and good quality, as they will be enlarged to fit an A4 page.

2022 Theme: Transformation – Now!

<u>March</u>

Ash Wednesday		
Woman's World Day of Prayer		
2.30 pm MU meeting, St Nicholas' House Speaker Revd Jo Jennings		
Midday Prayers, Cathedral		
11.55 am Lady Day service at St Martin's Church, Hereford		
Lady Day		
Mothering Sunday		
TT Nomoratin 2		
Trustees meeting, Conference Room or Zoom		
Holy Week End abuse and violence now		
2.30 MU meeting, St Nicholas' Speaker Revd Ruth Hulse		
Maundy Thursday Midday Prayers, Cathedral		
Good Friday		
Easter Sunday		
No meeting		
Midday Prayers, Cathedral		
2.30 MU meeting, St Nicholas'		
Wave of Prayer		
South Sudan, Garissa Kenya, Mbamili Nigeria, Willochra Australia, Thailand, Hereford England		
Midday Prayers, Cathedral		
Diocesan Council, Kimbolton		

If you want more details please contact me, 07988 750673, <u>annenewman57@hotmail.com</u>, or just turn up at one of our meetings!

Anne Newman,

Branch Leader









Thursday 10am Communion Service at Holy Trinity followed by coffee and time to talk

Would you like some company during the week?

Would you appreciate a short (25 minutes approximately), gentle service of Communion, followed by a chance to meet people over coffee?

The Thursday service at 10am might be for you.

Come along and join us as we share communion together, enjoy one another's company and get out of the house!

For more information phone the Team office on 01432 273086.

Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir's 25th Concert

takes place in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 14th May 2022 at 7.00pm

More Information in the April edition of Teamtalk.

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St Nicholas' Notebook 2

One of the people taking part in the procession from the Bishop's Palace on the day of consecration of St Nicholas' in 1842 was F Braithwaite Esq (one of the churchwardens, carrying the Petition for Consecration). After the sermon, 'the Dean read the sentences from the Offertory, during which the collection was made



The new St. Nicholas' Church in 1842

from seat to

A 1 A

seat; the churchwarden, F Braithwaite Esq and several of the principal inhabitants of the parish, discharging the office of collectors'. (Hereford Times)

The 1841 census shows Francis Braithwaite (35) living on Wye Bridge Street with three children; Elizabeth (8), Francis (6) and Thomas (4) and Ann Lewis 'house servant'. His wife Mary Anne had died in 1837 after the birth of Thomas. In 1851 Francis (46) describes his occupation as '*Fellow member of Royal College of Surgeons. Surgeon Licensee of Apothecaries Company London. General Practitioner*' which I understand to mean that he was a GP, surgeon and a Dispensing Chemist too. After a search on the Royal College of Surgeons' website I found he was trained at Guy's Hospital and by 1855 was a surgeon at Hereford Infirmary. Later in the 1861 census Francis (56) lives at 26 Bridge Street and his birthplace is given as Holme Lacy. His daughter Elizabeth Fanny Braithwaite (27) is still living with him as is Ann Lewis (63), his 'house servant'. Two years later on 2 December he dies and the probate administration is left to his daughter Elizabeth.

The mention of Holme Lacy led me to research his birth family which opened up a treasure trove of information. His father was Thomas Braithwaite who managed the estates of the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk. In Thomas' will, written in 1818 but proved in 1820, his children John, Thomas, Francis, Elizabeth and Margaret all receive £1,000 given to them when they reached 21 years. His widow Dorothy (nee Hudson) is also provided for as is his sister Margery living in Cumbria and brother-in-law Dr John Johnson of Holme Lacy. After Thomas's death in 1819 a memorial was erected to him high on the arcade of the south aisle of Holme Lacy church: 'Few men better understood the relative interests of landlord and tenant; he truly considered their mutual advantage was best promoted when most united.' This must have been erected by a grateful landlord! So if you want an excuse to visit Holme Lacy church, go and have a look!

Taking the collection at the consecration of St Nicholas' church indicates one of the roles Francis took as churchwarden. In an 1880 description of churchwardens' duties I found that they were, 'guardians of the public parts of the church (the nave, porch and belfry but not the chancel), the silver, books and furnishings, and other possessions such as the churchyard and any land. They were responsible for their upkeep and maintenance and for any fundraising involved.' (Shaw 1880) The churchwardens' accounts are to be found in the records presented at the Archdeacon's visitation, which included the income coming in from fundraising including the pew rents. The church had been built 'with 800 sittings, 300 of which are free'. In a recent study using evidence throughout the country it was shown that the majority of people who rented were from the upper-middle and lower-middle classes and particularly small business owners. In 1818 there had been a Church Building Act which legitimised pew rents as part of the fundraising for new churches in the widespread church building of the nineteenth century. Many people were unhappy with this system as it demeaned those who could not afford the rent and relegated them to 'free seats', and the rents were eventually abolished because the cost and trouble it took to administer did not justify the revenue produced. (JC Bennett 2011). I suppose even then money-raising could be quite a problem for the church!

Jean Thomson

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MARCH 2022



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Getting ready for Easter. New Lent course for 2022!

Time to pray!

When it seems only yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas, its time to look forward. Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent, is on 2nd March this year and we are already planning the Team Lent Course.

We have all been through a period of great uncertainty and as I write, although there are some reasons to feel optimistic, we seem to remain a long way from seeing the tailing off of measures required to ameliorate the effects of the Covid pandemic and any significant reduction in the numbers of people catching Covid.

It is not only the pandemic which gives rise to uncertainty. The pandemic itself has brought about significant challenges to our economy, individuals' finances and job security. On the international scene there has been and will continue to be tension between the superpowers flowing from the realignment of power structures at the global scale.

Within the Anglican communion and the Church of England significant debates are taking place on a variety of topics. During Advent a number of us took part in a really interesting course looking at 'Living in Love and Faith' a wealth of material published by the Church of England and intended to support debate on issues relating to human sexuality and marriage.

With this background of threats, changes and uncertainty it can be a source of great comfort to consider that each of us is a member of the vast Christian family which is manifest at the local level in the communities served by our Team churches.

Times of challenge and change can seem daunting and yet at such times opportunities can arise. There have been many examples over the last two years of the communities which comprise the Team coming closer together. Some of this positive change has been brought about by the sharing and use of technology. There have been many more opportunities to meet -although sometimes only 'virtually', people from other churches within the Team. There have been many pastoral opportunities to reach out to people who have a particular need or who have become isolated from many aspects of everyday life.

There is much to pray about!

In our Lent Course we will be looking at different aspects of prayer and different kinds of prayer. I wonder for example how many times you might pray each day without even thinking of what you have said, thought or done, as being prayer. Food for thought perhaps. It would be wonderful to join together to spend time looking at the subject of prayer. To consider what it is to pray, how to pray and to discover some of the examples of prayers which have been prayed over the centuries, through times of change and challenge.

The course is likely to be by Zoom but this will be kept under review until it happens!

Our plan is to 'meet' on Wednesday evenings at 7p.m. on 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th March. Please keep an eye open for further details in due course.

Chris Webb

The Gaze of Love. Reflections on the novel To the Lighthouse

As we approach Lent, here is a reflection on how our hearts and minds can be touched in a profound way by happenings in ordinary life. It was stimulated by reading Virginia Woolf's novel To the Lighthouse. Her writing is famous for its moments of epiphany. Were these religious moments, I wondered?

Quite by chance, (or was it ?!) I had also just read a wise, American rabbi, Abraham Heschel, whose words suggested how Woolf captures in her writing some moments with a religious quality. Religious formation, and the learning of moral values, he wrote, cannot be taught directly. Rather it occurs through particular inner experiences, when the 'chaos' of *turbulent impulses within human beings is touched in some way by the teaching*. (My italics) He suggests that the 'chaos' is like that from which God brought Creation into being. This suggests that religious education or formation is a similarly creative process. Something is needed to awaken the soul with 'acts that happen within the depth of a person . . .' This is exactly what Virginia Woolf shows us through two characters in particular, Lily Briscoe and Mr Banks. Both of them have such awakening experiences.

The scene is set for such an awakening because they are observing their hostess, Mrs Ramsay, reading a fairy tale to one of her sons. Lily is a painter, who has been painting the view from the garden. She has been in her painter's contemplative, observing mode and finds herself captivated by the figure of Mrs Ramsay and responding very warmly to her. Mr Banks, a scientist, has also been observing their hostess, with a similar effect. It would be easy to assume that they have a crush on their hostess, but reading it more carefully, it is clear that something else is being presented. The vocabulary hints at the attitude of prayer when it uses words like 'gaze' and 'rapture'.

Furthermore, the critical thoughts she has been having, about both Mr and Mrs Ramsay, are dissolved by the realisation of love.

"Directly one looked up and saw them, what she called 'being in love' flooded them. They became part of that unreal but penetrating and exciting universe which is the world seen through the eyes of love....(and she saw) how life, from being made up of little separate incidents which one lived one by one, became curled up and whole like a wave which bore one up with it and threw one down with it, there, with a dash on the beach."

This is a profound religious intuition, which is linked to how she has been looking. Firstly, her critical thoughts vanish; her perceptions have been cleansed and purified. Then, love and rapture arise. As Lily watches Mr Banks gazing at Mrs Ramsay she thinks

" It is love..., distilled and filtered; *love that never attempted to clutch its object;* (my italics) but, like the love that mathematicians bear their symbols, or poets their phrases, was meant to be spread over the world and become part of human gain. So,... Mr Banks....rested in contemplation of it, and felt, that barbarity was tamed, the reign of chaos subdued."

Secondly, that sense of life as not just separate little incidents, but as a whole, is what many avowedly religious writers describe. With this new awareness goes a loss of that egotistical self, driven by the inner chaotic impulses, and a different love arises that does not try "to clutch."

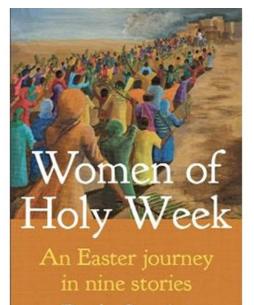
Sean Cathie

All Saints Lent Discussion Group:

Wednesdays 9 March-6 April, after 12.10 Mass

This year for our Lent Discussion Group, we will be using 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder. Written in the style of her bestselling Phoebe, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise to retell the events of the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension through the eyes of nine female characters she imagines accompanying Jesus during these momentous days.

Please contact Lois for details



Paula Gooder with illustrations by Ally Barrett



SAINT OF THE MONTH: ST DAVID OF WALES

March 1st is St David's Day. I'm named after him as I was due to be born then, but arrived a month early instead. I'm glad my parents stuck to their guns and didn't call me Candle instead...

David was a bishop in 6th century Wales, and founded a monastery where the cathedral named after him now stands. Despite promoting a *very* austere religious life (or perhaps because of it), he was immensely popular, and the Welsh acclaimed him as an <u>Arch</u>bishop – independent of Canterbury, which of course Canterbury would have none of. The scuffle was still going on six centuries later when Hereford prebendary Gerald of Wales campaigned for it and wanted the job – but was blocked because he had royal blood and might have got away with it.

The dove seen in Burges' window settled on David's shoulder when he preached so powerfully at the Synod of Brefi that the ground rose up under him to make a hill (not that Wales is short of them...).

David's last words to his followers still have power:

"Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do."

David Thomson



HolyTrinity Church financially supports Barnabas Fund which works to provide hope and aid for the persecuted Church, from Christians, to Christians, through Christians. Barnabas Fund recently published the article below in relation to their work with Iranian Christians. **Iranian Christians protest against denial of right to education to converts and children** A group of Iranian Christians previously imprisoned for their faith have <u>released a statement</u> protesting against the denial of the right to education to Farsi-speaking Christians in Iran.

The statement was written in Farsi (Persian), the national language of Iran, and published on 24 January to coincide with the International Day of Education.

Farsi-speaking Christian children in Iran who refuse to take Islamic Studies classes have been barred from school. Whilst other non-Muslim children are exempt from studying for exams in Islamic Studies, children of converts from Islam to Christianity are not recognised as Christians by the authorities and do not satisfy the criteria for exemption.

Unlike the historic Armenian- and Assyrian-speaking Christian communities, Farsi-speaking Christians are converts from Islam, that is, apostates according to Islamic law. Generally, the children of apostates are deemed by Islamic law to be Muslim from birth, just as their parents were born Muslims. So the children of Farsi-speaking Christians are officially considered to be Muslims who must attend Islamic Studies classes at school. The signatories of the statement describe Farsi-speaking Christians as an "unrecognised" minority that faces "a sea of persecution and oppression", of which the denial of education is merely one aspect. They emphasise that Iran's constitution guarantees citizens the right to education, as does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which Iran is a signatory

The statement declares, "Unfortunately, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of its international obligations and constitution, expels us Farsi-speaking Christians and our children from school and university... The dreams we nurtured in our hearts and minds, and the plans we had for our jobs and our future, disappear like a cloud overhead."

The statement concludes with a call for all Iranians to protect the right of education "not only for Christians, but for people of all beliefs, both present and future generations".

Ask the Lord to intervene and open doors for Christians of whatever background to have full access to education in Iran and that the authorities see them as valued contributors to society.

Adapted from an article on <u>www.barnabasfund.org</u>, 1 February 2022



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BREINTON'S SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE 2021



The Walk to Bethlehem.— UPDATE

Members , friends and families of Breinton Church decided to walk to Bethlehem during Advent—in time for Christmas. The total number of steps logged thus far is 3,301,382 , about 1,600 miles which is a little over half way. It means that we reached Bulgaria. Unfortunately we needed to do 6,000,000 steps. Getting over half way was a great achievement. Can we blame covid restrictions at Border

controls for our failure to achieve our goal??? I think not!! Total money raised so far is $\pounds 200$ – perhaps there is more to come??





Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity



Cleaning Services and Property Improvements

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

Do you live in Breinton? Are you at university and needing books for your course? Or are you a teenager who needs equipment for a Duke of Edinburgh Award? Maybe you need help in buying school uniform for your children?

Breinton has access to limited funds which come partly from the rental of land left many years ago to support the education of young people in the Parish. This money is carefully managed for your use and you are invited to apply for it. If you are interested, either for yourself or for your child, please telephone Helen on 353850



Pledge form for contributions towards the Families Worker Project

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78: 4

As we give thanks to God for the appointment of a families worker in the West Hereford Team, we also recognise our part in sharing the Good News of Christ with those who will come after us. There are many ways in which to support the project: prayer, welcoming families and the Family Worker, listening to our families, and finding out what happens in the groups. This form is specifically for those who would like, and are able, to contribute to this project financially. Our 5 year Families Worker project will aim to encourage whole life discipleship in families, through focused activities, the sacraments and pastoral care. With focused leadership we hope to be able to develop this investment in the future generations of the Church.

Taking seriously the dismissal of our services, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord', the Families Worker will also work with local families in need of extra support, referred through Whitecross School, to encourage family life that allows the whole family to flourish. If you would like, and are able, to contribute, please fill in the form below and return it to The Team Office, Vowles Close, HR4 0DF. Or email it to <u>office@westherefordteam.org.uk</u>. You can begin to contribute at any point from now, but this form will give us an idea of the contributions we can expect in the future if you are not able to begin the donation at the present time.

Name: Church (if applicable):

I pledge to contribute towards the Families Worker Project as follows (please circle):

£5	£10	£15	£20	Other	
monthly	quarterly	annually	one-off contribu	ution	
For 1 year	2years	3years	4yea	ars	5years

Date:

You can donate in the following ways:

BACS (with reference WHTM Families): sort code 40-52-40. Account number 00016757

By cheque made payable to 'Holy Trinity PCC' (clearly marked 'Families Worker Project)

By cash (clearly marked 'Families Worker Project)

Don't forget to let us know if we are able to claim Gift Aid on your donation, which adds 25% to the value of your donation. The Project will formally begin now that our Families Worker has been appointed.

Thank you for your pledge and your support. Your contribution is gratefully received and we pray that through it, the families known to us, and those not yet known, will come to know more and more the love of God shown in Jesus and made known through the Holy Spirit. Thank you!



The Year Moves Forward

At All Saints we said Goodbye to the Christmas Season, somewhat early, on 30th January at the Candlemass ceremonies. The Crib went away for another year and the tree was also removed. During January we had had plenty of children coming for a last look and I also saw adults saying a prayer.

As I write, we have just observed what the Anglican Church now calls the 3rd Sunday before Lent but I prefer the traditional name of Septuagesima Sunday. This reminds us that the great Easter festival is approximately 70 days ahead. It is always good to look beyond the Lenten observances to the climax of the year in Easter. We have to observe Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday in order to be ready for Easter.

All our Team churches are planning Lent Courses and at All Saints we look forward to a course on Wednesdays after the Mass. We enjoy each other's company over a bowl of soup and will be led by Lois in what looks a very interesting study.

Some people give up something they enjoy as a Lenten penance while others take on some extra observance. Mercifully we seem to have left behind the rigid observance which was once imposed on even very young children. I think the present generation would be shocked to be given tea without jam, cake or biscuits! No one has the right to impose their austerities on other people and doing it to children is not the way to foster a love of church practices.

A Platinum Jubilee

Those of us with long memories remember the gloomy day in 1952 when King George VI died. I was too young to notice the death of George V or be rocked by the abdication and I remember being quite frightened by the loss of the then King. My father was in the High Commission for India and he told us that all the Commonwealth countries were told in order of seniority. They watched the flags being lowered all round as each country heard.

I was doing my mock O levels and we returned to our form rooms where we were told the shattering news. The radio played solemn music and I learnt the power of Elgar's Nimrod. All theatres were closed and our exams were interrupted to hear the proclamation and the funeral service.

It seems like another world but Queen Elizabeth II has reigned for the whole 70 years growing from a young girl to a revered matriarch. I pray that she will be in good health for the celebrations in June. When we heard her broadcast in 1947 and say "My life whether it be long or short" we could not begin to think 95. Very few people then reached 90.

She has been a dignified example through good times and bad. Let us thank God for her reign.

Kayani Menon



THE BIG SPRING WALK 2022

- Sunday 20th March 2022
- Registration from 8.30am. First walk begins 9am.
- Fownhope Recreation Ground, HR1 4PJ Free, with sponsorship encouraged

Free to enter, you can choose from four circular routes – 2K, 5K, 11K or 16K – each taking you through the beautiful Herefordshire countryside. All routes are signposted and marshalled. Contact St. Michael's Hospice for further details

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www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

MARCH 2022



Breinton Village Hall

Breinton Village Hall is available to hire and information can be found on the Village Hall website at breintonhall.chessck.co.uk (please note the recent change) or by calling Anne or Phil Chapman (01432 263 769). Please contact us if you wish to use the Hall for a family event or a group activity.

In 2022 we are hoping to be able to return to offering more opportunities for the Community to meet up in the Hall. With this in mind the Committee aim to start with a Saturday Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of each month commencing on:

Saturday 2nd April, 10.30am – 1pm

Please come along to support us to enjoy coffee, tea, soft drinks, cakes and biscuits, enjoy a chat with other community members, share your ideas for future events in the Hall, peruse the book swap bookcase and, if you bring your own internet device, use the excellent internet provided by Gigaclear. Activities for children too, including Minecrafting with Jo.

We also wish to plan an event at the Village Hall to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee during the first weekend in June. Again, ideas and help are required. If you would like to join the planning group for this event or simply have an idea you would like to suggest please call Anne on the number above.

Regular Events at Breinton Village Hall

Hand Bell Ringers	Tuesday mornings 11am – 1pm	
Parish Council	Every 2 nd or 3 rd Wednesday evening of the month	Contact Emily Godsall 07501293 457 clerk@breintonparish.co.uk
Morris Dancing	Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9pm	
Nordic Walking	Friday mornings as arranged	Contact Louise Evans 07815 315 503
Herefordshire Photographic Society	Every 3 rd Friday evening of the month 7.30pm	Contact Philip Chapman 01432 263 769
Tango Tea Dance	Every 2 nd Sunday of the month 2.30pm	Contact Catherine Lusher 01547 560 375

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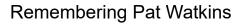
ST MICHAEL'S BREINTON

Services resume at normal times. Please see the back of the magazine.

Social distancing and hand sanitising are standard.

N.B

On the first Sunday of every month there will be a Communion Service using the Book of Common Prayer at the usual time of 9.30am at St. Michael's



A memorial tea party was held in Breinton Village Hall on Saturday 27th November 2021 to celebrate the life of Pat Watkins who sadly passed away in October.

Friends, neighbours and NHS colleagues gathered to share their memories of Pat, many humorous and a lovely time was had albeit tinged with sadness.

<image>

Pat was originally from South Wales and moved to Breinton with her husband Mervyn. This was to be their home for over 60 years.

Pat was a very active resident of the village and a dear friend to many. Consequently a large number wanted to show their appreciation of her kindness and community spirit. If there was an event Pat was usually at the centre of it! She was also an active member of other groups and had a great love of the church - particularly junior church where she encouraged the smaller children through play. Singing was a love of hers and she enjoyed the choir where she was a member .

Tea and cakes were served. Many were donated by friends and those left over were auctioned to raise further funds for the chosen charity Special Care Baby Unit at Hereford County Hospital. A massive £300 was raised which would have pleased Pat enormously.







Fraud update from West Mercia Police - Economic Crime Unit

WHAT ARE SCAMS?

A scam is a fraudulent scheme performed by a dishonest individual, group, or company in an attempt obtain money or something else of value. Scams traditionally resided in confidence tricks, where an individual would misrepresent themselves as someone with skill or authority, i.e. a doctor, lawyer, investor. After the internet became widely used, new forms of scams emerged such as lottery scams, scam baiting, email spoofing, phishing, or request for helps. These are considered to be email fraud.

The truth about scams

Scam artists will use your name, but they don't know you. Any mail you receive will look personalised, but you are never the only 'winner'.

Scam artists are only after your money. You'll always be asked to pay them money before you receive your 'prize'. Never give out money at the promise of receiving more.

Scam artists are good actors (some deserve Oscars). They will be more excited than you about your 'good luck'. They will be ultra-friendly on the phone, email or doorstep.

Scam artists are up to date and very well organised. They use the latest trends to make them seem current and credible.

Scam artists are have a believable answer to any and every one of your questions

Scam artists try to rush you into a decision. They don't want you to think about whether the offer or win is genuine.

Scam artists will steal your personal information even if that wasn't their original intention. They will on occasions demand your bank or credit card details and then use them to commit crime.

Scam artists target all of us. Don't think you can't be conned, this is their profession and many of them are very good at what they do!

FACEBOOK MARKETING SCAMS

This week we are highlighting two current Scams relating to sellers and buyers using Facebook Marketplace

Fraudulent Purchasers

The victim will list something for sale on Facebook Marketplace; typically a mobile phone or games console. The suspect will then make contact with the victim, enquiring about the item and will subsequently ask for that item to be sent by Special Delivery.

The suspect will then offer to send the money via PayPal.

The suspect will then send a fake email, claiming to be from PayPal, and requesting a Tracking Number before the money can go into the victim's account.

In reality the suspect hasn't paid the victim for the item. As the victim has sent the Tracking Number, which can only be provided once they have sent the item, the victim is at a loss both for the item they have sent, and the money they should have received from the sale of that item.

You will never be asked for a Tracking Number from PayPal before the money can be credited into your account. If this does happen, this is very likely to be a Scam and you should not send the item until you have received payment in full.

Fraudulent Sellers

On Facebook Marketplace the suspect will list something for sale such as DIY tools; a games console; a mobile phone.

The victim then makes contact with the suspect, negotiates a price and sometimes personal information is obtained, such as the victim's address for where to send the item.

The suspect will say they have numerous people looking at/interested in the item and asks for either a deposit or the full amount in order to "*secure the item*".

The victim will pay via a bank transfer (and this offers no protection from fraud as there is no way to get the money back once the money has been sent)

A couple of days may then pass and the suspect will still have the item showing on the Facebook Marketplace.

The victim will try and make contact to ask when the item will be sent, or why the item is still for sale after they have paid a deposit, and the suspect will either verbally abuse the victim or block the victim from making any further contact.

The crux of this scam is that the suspect will list an item for sale on Facebook Marketplace with no intention of selling the item at all.

How to avoid this scam

If you are buying from Facebook Marketplace, ensure you know exactly who you are dealing with. If you are unsure in any way, do not part with any of your money.

If you do need to part with your money, pay by credit card if you can, or use a reputable site such as PayPal which will offer some form of protection when making a purchase.

Take Five To Stop Fraud

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information that could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at <u>actionfraud.police.uk</u> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit: https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/

WHATSAPP SCAMS

Despite extensive coverage in national and local Press and Media, the Public, especially older age groups, is still being targeted by this particular Scam.

Please make sure your relatives, friends, and neighbours are made aware of this also.

The basic format used is:

The suspect will send the victim a message via WhatsApp claiming to be their son/daughter/friend and that they have had to change their number, having lost or damaged their

phone

The Scammer will then say they are now using a new phone number

As a result of this, the Scammers will claim they are getting in touch in order to borrow money to purchase the new device or pay off a debt.

After this, the Scammer will give their bank details so a payment can be made to them, with some coming back with further demands for money.

https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/

How to protect yourself

STOP: Take time before you respond. Make sure your <u>WhatsApp two-step verification</u> is switched on to protect your account, that you are happy with your privacy settings. Never share your 6 digit PIN code with anyone

THÍNK: Does this request make sense? Are they asking for money? Remember that scammers prey on people's kindness, trust and willingness to help.

CALL: Verify that it really is your friend or family member by calling them directly or asking them to share a voice note.

Only when you are 100% sure the request is from someone you know and trust, should you consider it. If it turns out to be untrue, report it to **Action Fraud**.

For further information visit:

https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/ https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/



Would you like to join our volunteer team?

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- WaterworksMuseum.org.uk -



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TWAM's mission is to collect unwanted tools, refurbish them, sort them into trade kits and send them across the world for livelihood creation. We send around 20 containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools every year. We want to support local people supporting their own communities through livelihood creating projects. We believe there is dignity through work and the ability to provide for yourself and your family. We believe entire communities can be transformed through training and the provision of tool kits and equipment.

Please contact, Cat Whiteaway, via catherinew@twam.uk or call 01473 210220 if you have any questions or would like me to collect any local donations you might have for TWAM

VACANCY - Voluntary Advertising Co-Ordinator

After many years of co-ordinating the advertisements within Teamtalk, Nikky Eyles resigned this year. She has done a wonderful job for many years. We thank her wholeheartedly and are very sorry to see her go.

This leaves an opportunity for someone to become involved with the production of the Teamtalk magazine. Arranging for the advertisements is an essential part of the production of Teamtalk as they provide the majority of its funding. The task entails contacting advertisers at the end of the year to arrange the regular advertisements, then keeping track of payments. There will also be occasional one-off advertisers through the year.

If you are interested to know more about this voluntary position please contact the Team Office on 01432 273086 or

office@westherefordteam.org.uk

Citizen scientists on the River Wye

The quality of the water in the River Wye is in serious trouble. It's a "chemical cocktail of sewage, agricultural waste, plastic and road run-off," according to the Friends of the Upper Wye who are currently testing its quality, with the aid of 150 volunteer citizen scientists. Concern about the river's water quality was recently the subject of a Parliamentary question from local MP, Jesse Norman, asking about the failure of the relevant authorities to enforce pollution regulations. For the Wye, the situation is extremely serious and it is claimed that there is only a year before it will be beyond restoration.

This is where the work of the volunteer citizen scientists comes in. They are organised by the Friends of the Upper Wye, who provide training and equipment for them to collect data on the River Wye's water quality. I discovered this, by chance, when talking to a neighbour, Ant Barraclough.He is one of these 'citizen scientists' and he goes to his designated water collection, on the steps of the Rowing Club, twice a week to collect water and test it.

Not surprisingly, as this is a scientific task, there is a clearly specified way to do this, with specific equipment for the tests. Some of it, however, is very homely, for example the part of an old yoga mat that he sits on and the plastic bucket with some rope attached to the handle, for gathering the water and a plastic jug to transfer it to the measuring tube. The specialised kit includes a 20" secchi tube made from clear plastic which has a black and white disc at the bottom and a series of graduated markings along its length.

However, before it can be used, the equipment has to be cleaned by being rinsed out three times, with water from the river. Only then is the water for testing collected by the bucket from the river. First, it is transferred to the secchi tube. This is where it gets technical. Only as much water is transferred to the tube that allows you to see that black and white disc at its bottom. On a normal day, the water is clear and the tube is filled. The day I met with Ant, Monday 7 February, just after a lot of rain had fallen in the Welsh hills, the river was fairly high and the water was not very clear. So only about a third of it was filled. The graduated markings on the tube gives a reading which he then records. The water remaining in the jug is used for three further tests. The first tests the conductivity of the water which is an indicator of levels of pollution and two further tests measure levels of two significant chemical pollutants, nitrates and phosphates.

These are followed by some observations including taking a photograph from the same spot each time, looking down river, recording weather conditions (for example, has it rained recently?) and then recording the speed of the river's flow, (from slowly, walking pace, faster than walking to flood level/pace). Then the level of the water is recorded, first by observation (very low, low, medium high and flood). Then a reading is taken electronically from the water level gauge on the opposite bank of the river. Today it was 2.96 metres high.

The final task is to report on visible forms of pollution, such as algae or foam, with a photograph. Finally, all the data is uploaded to a central collection point at Cardiff University.

Other volunteer groups, eg anglers, are also recording and submitting data. My neighbour began doing it for a six month spell last July, and has begun another six month spell recently.

Already the data is being used by campaigners locally and in parliament where it is being fed into the work of a Parliamentary Water Quality Inquiry. For further information do look at the web site of the

Friends of the Upper Wye: www.fouw.or.uk

Sean Cathie



Faith in Art?

The creative and visual arts, whether painting, drawing, photography, film making, ceramics sculpture, textiles or any other medium, for many, is the essential way that we connect with God, express our love for Him or celebrate all that He has done for us. We can worship, we can meditate, we can pray, and we can share all of this with others communicated through what we create.

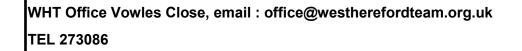
Therefore encourage one another and build one another up Thessalonians 5:11

If you are an artist or creative craftsperson you may be interested to hear about a new group in the West Hereford Team of churches, who have a desire to explore their journey of faith and the relationship between God and their creative practice. With the blessing of our Rector Rev. Ruth Hulse, we plan to meet about once a month where we will reflect on the Word that encourages us, share ideas and progress on creative projects, hear from other inspiring Christian artists and pray together and for each other.

The group is open to everyone with an interest in exploring the relationship between their creative practice and the Christian faith and in encouraging others who are at varying stages of their journey.



He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end Ecclesiastes 3:11



Sunday Services in March 2022



	All Saints	St Michael's	Holy Trinity	St Nicholas'
6th March:	9.30am Mass@All Saints	9.30am BCP Communion	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Parish Eucharist
First Sunday of Lent		11.30am Baptism		6.30pm Even- song in St Nich- olas'
13th March: Second Sunday of Lent	9.30am Parish Mass	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.00am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Con- temporary Morn- ing Prayer6.30pm Evening
20th March:	9.30am	9.30am	11.00am	Prayer on Zoom
	Parish Mass	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
Third Sunday of Lent				6.30pm Evening Prayer on Zoom
27th February:	9.30am Parish Mass	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Parish Eucharist
Fourth Sunday of Lent				6.30pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

Week-Day Services in March 2022

	All Saints	Holy Trinity
Monday	12.10pm Rosary Group	8.15am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
Tuesday	12.10pm Said Mass	8.15am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
Wednesday	12.10pm Said Mass	8.15am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
Thursday	12.10pm Said Mass	8.15am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
		10.00am Holy Communion

Online services For Details and link, email office - see opposite page

Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer	
	6.30pm Evening Prayer	
Monday - Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer	

