

OCTOBER 2020

THE GOOD NEWS

THE EWYAS HAROLD GROUP OF CHURCHES



St Francis of Assisi

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Everyone is welcome - please bring, and wear a face-covering.
Each service lasts 30-40 mins max

+

**All services are liable to change or cancellation
as and when new instructions are issued by the Government.**

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We are using Dore Abbey on Sundays as it provides is a large,
well-ventilated area in which 2m distancing is possible.
Dress warmly, bring a hot water bottle and flask of brandy!

+

Every Sunday at 10am, there's a new video on the Abbeydore Deanery
YouTube Channel that can be viewed anytime.

Sunday 4th	10.30	Dore Abbey	Sunday Worship
	16.00	Bacton	A Simple Harvest
Wednesday 7th	10.00	St Michael's	Weds @ 10
Sunday 11th	10.30	Dore Abbey	Holy Communion (nb see p 9)
Wednesday 14th	10.00	St Michael's	Weds @ 10
Sunday 18th	10.30	Dore Abbey	Sunday Worship
Wednesday 21st	10.00	St Michael's	Weds @ 10
Sunday 25th	10.30	Dore Abbey	Sunday Worship
Wednesday 28th	10.00	St Michael's	Weds @ 10

We continue support the Food Bank.
Please leave your donations at either
EH VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE
Or **CROFT HOUSE, PONTRILAS** (near the bus stop)

There is no longer a collection point at St Michael's Church



The Rev'd Mark Godson

The Rectory, Ewyas Harold, Hereford HR2 0EZ
 revmarkgodson@gmail.com 01981 241066

Did you know that October 10th is national handbag day? That the 25th is Mother in Law day, and the 24th Cat Day? No, neither did I, and other than talk-like-a-pirate day (aaaargh, that be Sept 19th) I'm not much impressed by any of the recent additions to the calendar.

I do, however, have a fondness for the keeping of saints days (I love a good feast), and the chance to reflect on those ordinary people who discovered something extraordinary as their gift to others.

Take Francis, for example, whose feast day is 4th October. Maybe you know him from the words attributed to him that form the basis of the song, Make me a channel of your peace. Or perhaps, you recall that he organised the first Christmas crib scene with live animals in 1223 - now that's an 800th anniversary we should keep in 2023. But I like Francis because he did what he believed was right.

His dad was a wealthy cloth merchant but Francis believed in living simply and bothered little about what he wore. He found an abandoned church and lived there, praying and helping others. When his dad worked out that Francis might inherit a good chunk of the family estate, Pietro took him to court to explain how irresponsible Francis was.

Francis simply agreed, renounced any inheritance, took off his clothes and walked away. This simplicity became a hallmark of his life and the community he founded with Clare, his sister.

Francis never owned a complete bible, never became a priest, never had a prayer book. He just got on with being Christ-like (Christian) in the way he felt

called to be. Naturally, those who have written about him differ in their understanding, and there are those who love the gentle saint who preached to birds, converted wolves and padded around in flower-filled meadows.

For me, Francis highlights a paradox at the heart of the church because of his commitment to radical simplicity - a way of life that Franciscan sisters and brothers live out today. He wished for them to have nothing for themselves - and yet a stunning basilica was built at Assisi. It seems inevitable that our church institutions will take that simple message of love and peace, and quietly smother it in regulations, entombing it as well-intentioned but impractical.

In the midst of the pandemic, it's easy to lose track of the simplicity of the Christian message that speaks of love and compassion, hope and courage, joy and peace. It's easy to point the finger, lay the blame, excuse ourselves, and act out our fears.

In the coming months, the Christian calendar helps us confront the realities of life, and to find comfort in the truths that bind us together. The rituals around All Saints and All Souls; the recollections of Remembrance Day; the endarkened waiting of Advent; the joyous light and piercing truth of God-with-us at Christmas.

I hope in these dark months, you will be part of marking the days, keeping the hours. Perhaps you can notice and attend to how you might be, like Francis, most loving, most peace-giving, most generous, most forgiving. But please don't just strip off all your clothes, and go to live in an abandoned church. I wouldn't want to explain that to the bishop, *Mark*

LOOKING AHEAD

FOOD BANK - getting help; giving help.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the work of Hereford Food Bank this year. As the economic implications of COVID19 begin to bite, the need for donations is rising as the challenge to provide food for individuals and families is increasing all the time.

A food emergency can happen to anyone - the Food Bank volunteers don't judge, don't gossip, and don't disclose names or circumstances to anyone else. Food is delivered in unmarked vehicles within 24 hours of a request.

You can contact the Food Bank by phone 01432 352674 or via email: herefoodbank@rocketmail.com Request for help should be made via a GP, school, local churches but you can contact the Food Bank direct for advice.

If you can help, please leave food at either **Ewyas Harold Shop** or **Croft House, Pontrilas** (near the bus stop). The collection point at St Michaels' is no longer in use.

The Food Bank always need: Tinned meat (stews, casseroles, ham), Tinned vegetables, Smash, UHT/Dried Milk, Sugar, Tinned fruit, Rice pudding, Custard, Coffee, Toothpaste, Soap & Toilet rolls.

- - - - -

November - if you would like a loved one remembered this year, please contact your local church warden - see back page. We're working out how to adapt the annual All Soul's Service to meet Government restrictions. Watch out for news of this event, and details of how we will observe Remembrance Sunday (8th) and Remembrance Day, too.

December - Advent and Christmas will be marked very differently this year. Perhaps a life-sized nativity to visit; a Christmas story trail through the village; wrapped bales decorated with Christmas characters... get your thinking hats on and share your ideas with your church warden.

THE RAMBLING READER

Diane Bates, our Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) writes each week a "rambling". If you'd like to receive this by email, please contact Diane: dianembates@me.com

"In this most unusual year, we have just passed the autumnal equinox, the day which marks a turning point in the year with the days gradually beginning to shorten and the evenings drawing in.

From mid September to the end of October we can enjoy the richness of autumn, its beauty, its colours and its fruits. A special time and especially when the sun shines and we can get out in the garden or for walks shuffling through the leaves, collecting conkers and then home to enjoy tea and crumpets and a warm by the fire.

I like this piece from Katherine Swift's book 'the Morville Hours' about the onset of autumn:

'The wound-up watch-spring of summer is winding down. The days fill with rounded golden light, like a rich old Sauternes, full and sweet. Sugars caramelize in the leaves - tones of butterscotch, cinder toffee, treacle tart, quince paste, marmalade, toffee apple, Beaujolais, cassis. The hedgerow shines with great plates and bunches of glossy berries like so many jars of jelly and jam ranged on a larder shelf - scarlet hip and crimson haw; red bullace and yellow crab; purple elderberry and blue-black sloe. Trees blaze as if a reverse photosynthesis were taking place, green chlorophyll turning back into pure energy.'

Once we get through October we reach the Church's time of Remembrance. The first of November we celebrate All Saints Day and the second is All Souls Day known as the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed which celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key, allowing us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.

Remembrance Sunday, on 8th November this year, goes on to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace and every year the nation unites to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

In this year of pandemic these commemorations will be particularly poignant and we pray for God's loving hand and to lead and guide us through this storm to stiller pastures."

You are all welcome to join us any week for **Wednesday @ Ten** at St Michael's Ewyas Harold.

Sometimes, we use the Northumbria Community Morning Prayer service and at other times Common Worship. There is a short meditation, and John Hook plays the organ for us.

Diane Bates, The Rambling Reader

THOSE WHOM WE LOVE

(ERNEST) RONALD MORGAN - died 21 September 1944

I was contacted last month by Adri Los, a young man in the Netherlands who is voluntarily helping to look after the graves in the Valkenswaard military cemetery. Adri wrote to ask for information about (Ernest) Ronald Morgan and thus began the hunt. Fortunately, Ruth Truelove (a fountain of local knowledge) and Ruth Wigglesworth (a great get-things-done person) came the rescue with a photo and tales of Morgan's Garage in Pontrilas Road from Joyce who was married to Wilf.

Ron was a corporal in the 4th Battalion Royal Welch (sic) Fusiliers and, in one of those great co-incidences, was buried just a few rows away from a relative of mine - also a corporal in the same regiment and killed just a few days after him.

It's a comfort to know that youngsters in the Netherlands are, to this day, honouring the young men and women who gave their lives for freedom and peace.

Ron is pictured on the right with his brothers, Tom (centre), and Wilfred (left)



Ida Johnson (10/12/1921 - 25/8/2020). Ida's family were deeply touched by the respect shown to Mum / Granny as her funeral cortege drove through Ewyas Harold on Friday 11th September.

The support of such a wonderful community, particularly during the last few difficult months, has been greatly appreciated. To all her friends including her carers Chris & Denise, district nurses, medical folk, Golden Valley Funeral Services and to Diane and Rev. Bob Bates - Thank You."

AROUND THE PARISHES

Walterstone Scripture Cake

from Rachel Whilding, Churchwarden

Ingredients

1. 225g (1/2 lb.) Judges 5, 25
(last clause)
2. 225g (1/2 lb.) Jeremiah 6, 20
3. 15ml (1 tbsp) I Samuel 14, 25
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17, 11
5. 225g (1/2 lb.) I Samuel 30, 12
6. 225g (1/2 lb.) Nahum 3, 12
(chopped)
7. 50g (2 oz) Numbers 17, 8
(blanched and chopped)
8. 450g (1 lb.) I Kings 4, 22
9. Season to taste
with I Chronicles 9, 9

10. a pinch of Leviticus 2, 13
11. 5ml (1 tsp) Amos 4, 5
12. 45ml (3 tbsp) Judges 4, 19

Method

- Beat 1, 2, and 3 to a cream;
- add 4, one at a time, still beating;
- then add 5, 6, and 7, and beat again.
- Add 8, 9, 10 & 11 having previously mixed them, and then, lastly, 12.
- Bake in a slow oven (325F 160C) for 1 ½ hours. Test, as the timing will vary.
- Allow to cool for 30 minutes before turning out onto rack.

KENTCHURCH

Under normal circumstances, over the last few weeks, we would have been preparing for our Harvest service – the signs would be up, apples polished, the best onions and garlic bulbs selected, potatoes washed, and flowers picked in readiness for decorating the church, but sadly like so many other things that have been part of everyone's life for generations, the harvest service has had to be put on hold.

We do, however, plan to broadcast something on a Harvest theme on the St. Mary's website on Sunday 11th October. This will include harvest readings and hymns. Further information can be found on our website stmaryskentchurch.org

As everyone will be aware, in recent years the harvest service has been followed by a lively auction of the produce and flowers in the church and as a result of competitive bidding this has helped to boost church funds as

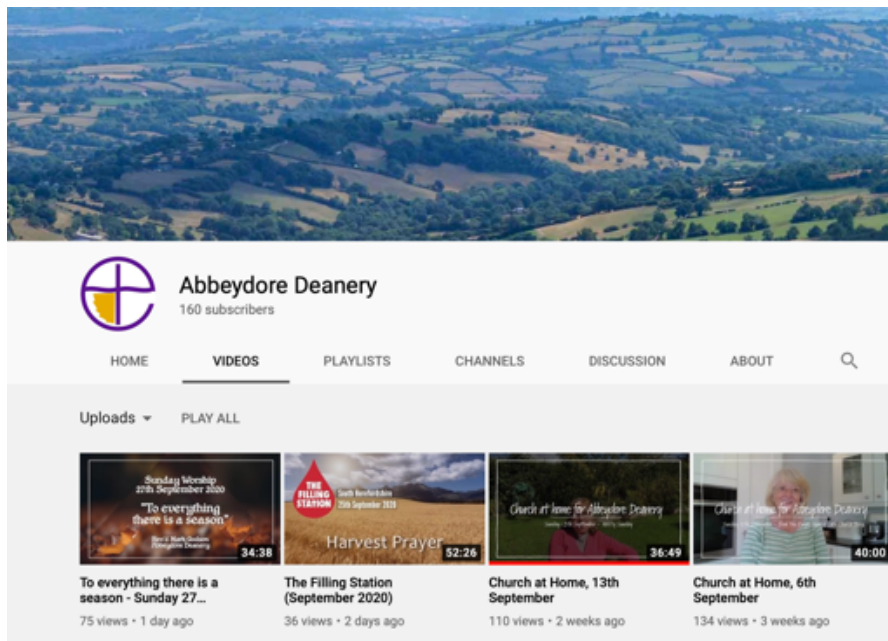
well as local charities. Each year, Bill has been kind enough to provide us with bags of locally grown potatoes which have been sold in aid of church funds and Bill has once again kindly offered to provide us with 15 bags of potatoes this year.

If anyone would like to purchase a bag of potatoes, in aid of St. Mary's, for £5, then please text the word "POTATO" followed by "RED" or "WHITE" to 07973 237383. Arrangements will then be made for the potatoes to be collected from the church.

During the month of September numerous people have also been able to take advantage of the tasty Brambly apples that have appeared in the Church Porch and many have complimented on how beautiful and well kept the churchyard has looked over the summer months and a big thank you must go to those who regularly give their time to mow, trim and keep the pathways clear.

We hope you are able to join us for our harvest service and in the meantime, keep safe. *Julia Watkins*

DEANERY UPDATE



The people and places within Abbeydore deanery are intent on doing all that is possible to continue to provide opportunities for sharing God's love in our area. But how...? Perhaps you would consider one of these?

- Attend a service of worship in one of our churches or churchyards. We can send you details by post or email. Just get in touch using the details below.
- Join in with our Church at Home services. A service goes live at 10am each Sunday on the Abbeydore Deanery YouTube channel, and they are there to view at any time.
- Join our Facebook Group. Just search for Abbeydore Deanery. In this group there are lots of regular posts and the chance to comment and chat too.
- Let us know if you'd like to hear from one of our pastoral visitors. We have a wonderful team who are willing to give you a call for a chat.
- Join in with The Big Church Read. The current book is The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer. You can find out more on their website. <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

If you're already doing one (or all) of the above. Could we ask you to share the information with one of your friends and neighbours? Sometimes it's daunting to talk about our faith, but statistics show that many people are now really interested in finding out more.

To find out more about anything that's being offered by the Deanery, including our many services on YouTube, please do get in touch via phone 07432 873422 or email abbeydoredmc@gmail.com

Anne Lloyd Deanery Mission Co-ordinator

CHURCH NEWS

Ewyas Harold Baptist Church

As our church buildings, which have brought so many people together through Koffi Pot, Rainbow Arts, Community Singing and O Sew Simple, remain closed, we pray that the friendships formed there will be a source of strength and support for one another during these times until we can safely reopen.

Sunday worship and fellowship is something that is able to continue which enables us to pray, reflect, come together and support one another and the Zoom services also enable people from further afield to join in. For those without internet access the services are printed out and hand delivered.

We are continuing to worship together via Zoom on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 10.30am. On the other Sundays a message is sent via email or delivered.

Sunday 11th October will be a Zoom celebration of harvest as we give thanks for the earth with its fruits that sustains us and for those who work on and steward the land. Maybe we are more grateful this year than most for the harvest as food production has continued relatively unimpeded by the pandemic.



Harvest donations will be to the food bank and these can be dropped off either at EH Village Shop or at Croft House, Pontrilas, by the bus stop.

Sunday 25th October will be the other Zoom service for October.

We would be delighted if you would like to join us: please contact us by phone on 01981 241318 or by email : secretary4ehbaptistchurch@gmail.com

if you would like to know more or be included in the Zoom invites or if we can support you in any other way.

CHURCH NEWS 2

Bishop Richard's First Visit to Ewyas Harold

At the end of August Bishop Richard and his wife Deborah made the first stop on their 'Beating the bounds' Diocesan Prayer Pilgrimage at Ewyas Harold.

Being new to these parts and also having been in lock down for most of that time they were eager to get out and about and meet 'the flock' and we were their first port of call.

It was a lovely sunny morning and a group of us shared morning prayer together in the church yard before they moved on to their next stop. On that day they visited churches in the Abbeydore,

Kington and Weobley, Leominster and Clun Deaneries. Three Saturday's later they had visited representative churches in every Deanery in the Diocese.

After that they must have finally felt at home in Hereford Diocese! **DB**



Holy Communion | Sunday October 11th | 1030 Dore Abbey

We hope to be able to hold a monthly service of Holy Communion although it presents both an increased number of restrictions, and risks to be managed.

In a departure from usual C of E practice, you are welcome to bring a small piece of bread from home to the service. You may then keep it with you to hold in your hand during the words of consecration before eating it. Others may want to receive one of the wafers in the usual way. Either is absolutely fine, so, please have no concerns about choosing which is best for you each time.

As with all our services at present, you will remain in your seat throughout - only removing your face-covering while you receive communion (either the bread that you bring with you or the wafer that will be brought to you). **Mark G**

CHURCH NEWS 3

St Mary's, Walterstone

Rachel Whilding & co have been busy preparing a **2021 calendar** to be sold in aid of St Mary's Church. Featuring photos of churches around the area, the calendar will be available from the middle of October.

You'll be able to buy one (£5 - same price as the 2014 version!) from:

Wormbridge Garage
Pontrilas, Merchants
Mailes (Butchers)
Ewyas Harold Shop
and Neil Powell (Butchers)

Harvest in Walterstone in happier times



DORE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Yes, we are fully operational again, and we never shut down during the lockdown, providing a limited service to a few customers during the height of the Covid epidemic.

We have equipped all our vehicles with sanitiser, masks, wipes, gloves and in some cases screens. Our drivers follow a strict protocol for keeping our customers and themselves safe.



If you need transport to shops, hospital, doctor, dentist or for any other reason, please call Sue or Sarah on **0845 2020144** (office hours 9-12am) We look forward to seeing you again!

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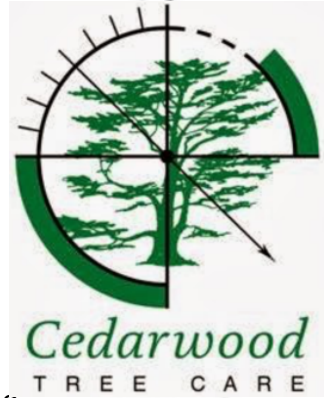
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