

Wye Brooks Group
UPDATE for 19 September
Trinity 16—GREEN

LECTIONARY
 Proverbs 31:10-end
 Psalm 1
 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
 Mark 9:30-37

A **brief** update this week, due to returning from annual leave, attending a retreat, catching up with emails and gradually getting to grips again with the demands of the job.

FROM THE VICAR

After nearly a year and a half of Covid it was nice to be able to go on holiday. The first week of it was in an apartment in Spain, three quarters of an hour from Alicante. It was constantly hot. We were able to explore the local towns, get to beaches - and swim in the apartment complex's pool just below us. But to be honest one of the nicest things was to be able to have breakfast and evening dinner out on the balcony, bathing in the warmth and staring out across hundreds of acres of recently harvested cornfields peppered with those big cylindrical bales of straw, a clear reminder of the harvest season we are now in.

Returning home we immediately took off to Somerset with the caravan, and found ourselves on a tiny site on a goose farm near East Coker. There were a few hundred geese, which emerged from big barns a couple of hundred yards away each morning, and were rounded up by the farmer and four sheepdogs each evening. And we were reminded of a rather different harvest, at the geese's expense, just before Christmas.

Harvest is all year round really, one crop after the next with sprouts about the last one in the cold of winter, but thanks to international trade and modern transport, we can get most foods all year.

In 1989 Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, of Istanbul, introduced to Eastern Orthodox Churches his wish that we keep a Creation Season through the whole of September and ending on St Francis' day on 4th October. It caught on, in the Roman Catholic Church and then in the Anglican Church. So Harvest Festival is now a part of something much bigger - a 5 week season in which we don't just give thanks for the Harvest, but in addition think about the earth itself, our place in it and our responsibility to God for it.

The health of God's good earth has never been so much in focus, and not just in secular society. The Hereford Diocese aims to be carbon neutral by 2030 (that's less than nine years away) and all our churches are being encouraged to be part of the EcoChurch movement, to be active in reducing their carbon footprint and in creating wildlife friendly churchyards. There is even something called Forest Church, a 'Fresh Expressions' thing in which people are encouraged to worship together, pray and meditate together amongst the trees.

There will be those who want to dismiss this, but if you are one, my advice is not to be too hasty. Creation based worship is not a new thing, and in fact it's been a solid part of celtic and Franciscan worship for ages. Care for creation is part of commitment to Christ.

SERVICE ROTA

We're now in the third week of a route heading towards normality. We have more than doubled the number of services in the benefice on a Sunday, but this is considerably more challenging than you might expect and I'm grateful to the Wardens' and Reps Group for their input. There will be more changes.

	19 Sept	26 Sept	4 Oct	11 Oct
Benefice Communion Service	10a.m. Llangrove (short 30min communion service)	Vicar at Hentland	11a.m. Llangarron	8.30 Welsh Newton (BCP) 10.00 Marstow
Extra Service(s)	11a.m. Marstow Harvest followed by picnic 5p.m. Welsh Newton Harvest and Harvest Supper	6 p.m. Goodrich Harvest 6p.m. Welsh Newton Village Event	8.30 Welsh Newton Meditation & Bible Study 4.30pm Llangrove Harvest Festival and nibbles	11.00 Goodrich (Lay led service)

LIGHT BITES

For anyone who hasn't tumbled to it yet, a *Light Bite* is a home produced 'event' of about 20 minutes on You Tube. It will consist usually of an introduction, a bible reading, a talk a hymn and a blessing. They are supposed to TEACH you something about your faith or challenge you.

LIGHT BITE THEMES

Our Christian learning is never complete and there are always some awkward questions we don't like to be asked. This month we'll be dealing with some of those. By all means give me an awkward topic to deal with.

19 Sep Awkward Questions (5)

26 Sep Awkward Questions (6)

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE

Everyone knows that Jesus was a good preacher and a wise teacher, but why try to turn him into the Son of God too?

Go to <https://youtu.be/gdj6RKqXDtk>

RON TUBB LATEST

You may remember that Ron had had a setback and had been rushed back into hospital. He was in another induced coma in Intensive Care.

He is now back in the land of the living, but very weak, and having had thick tubes down his throat, is having to learn again to swallow and to talk.

As if that were not enough, an associate of Diana's has tested positive for Covid and when I talked to her the other day it seemed certain that she would not be able to visit Ron in hospital for maybe ten days.

Keep them in your prayers.

ROSIE SHEPHERD

I returned from holiday to the news that Rosie Shepherd had broken her hip. Like the Tubbs it has happened as they are moving house.

Rosie is in the Ross Community hospital and is learning to walk again. For those of you who are close to her, she is only allowed one visitor per day so visits have to be booked, and of course they mustn't deny Nigel the opportunity to visit his wife!

Keep them in your prayers.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

The UK

- HM the Queen and the Royal Family,
- HM Government

World

- The difficult situation in Afghanistan
- The tension between China and other countries
- Famine in Ethiopia and Yemen, Civil war in Yemen.
- Haiti and the continued relief effort after the earthquake.
- The migrant issue and especially, at the moment, those desperately trying to escape Afghanistan.
- The UK/Europe tension over trade, travel and vaccines.
- Violent persecution of Christians in the Muslim world
- Climate change and ecology

Coronavirus.

- Infection rates and new risks from the easing of restrictions
- Covid elsewhere in the world
- Those who continue to suffer from the Virus and from long Covid
- Those who have lost loved ones or watched them suffer.
- Those who continue to be isolated

Our churches and clergy

- Clergy—for energy, wisdom, faithfulness, courage.
- Churches—role in the community, finances, adaptability, digital presence.
- The future. What kind of normal (this is really important)
- The weekly services, Light Bites, the Updates, the lay-led services, the Zoom Prayer Meeting, House Groups, Meditation Group, the Worship Group, the Tech working party and the work to give us a proper digital presence; the possibility of starting a benefice choir.
- The Church as it debates *Living in Love and Faith*, which is about our approach to issues in human sexuality.

Our villages

- Our pubs
- Our parish councils, local businesses and schools

Pray for people

- Brenda, on a course of chemo, and Graham
- Doris, living with dementia, in a nursing home
- Rosie, in hospital with a broken hip, and her husband Nigel.
- Margaret, still on the long road to recovery after operations
- Ron, in hospital after a setback, on the road to recovery again.
- James, a young man with long term illness
- Carol, in a persistent vegetative state.
- Ivor, battling on
- Lisa, still suffering from vertigo

THE BORDER NEWS

With the easing of the lockdown we are now in a position to start thinking about what we do with the Border News. Do we return to a paper copy, or do we keep it online? Do we keep its format as now, or do we develop it?

Your views are invited.

Churchwardens/PCC Chairmen have all been sent a questionnaire and have been asked to consult. Do get involved.

A meeting is in the offing.

(ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT TRINITY 16

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS FOR THE IMPERFECT

Make me fabulously rich,
God, and I promise to answer
a lot of people's prayers.

Hypocrites are like
old, clay pots
pretending to be
silverware



Be honest with me Lord. Could wealth possibly
make me a worse Christian than I am now?

I didn't just marry George for his money, Lord. I
also fell madly in love with his possessions!

I'd gladly give my last penny to the poor, Lord, but
I'm not down to that just yet.

Happy are the poor, you say? No, God, I can't
honestly say I had ever noticed.

The best things in life might be free, God, but you
have to be pretty well off to enjoy them.

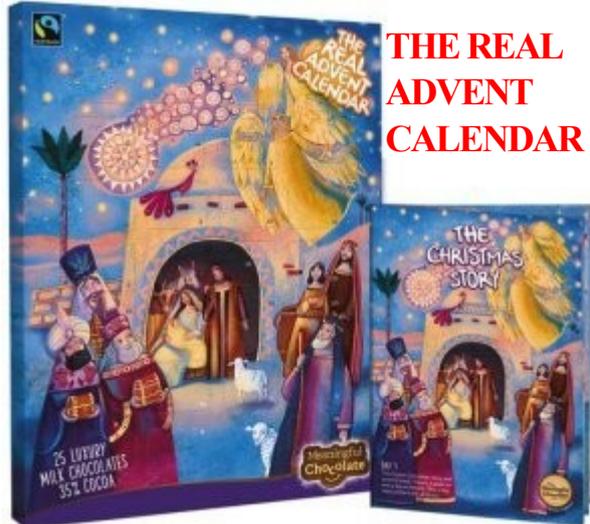
THE BENEFICE THIS WEEK

Tuesday 10am

HOUSE GROUP meeting as usual
Zoom invitation issued with this Update's email.

Tuesday 7.30pm

PRAYER GROUP as usual
Zoom invitation issued with this Update's email.



THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The Real Advent Calendar is a Fairtrade chocolate Advent Calendar which comes with the telling of the Bible's story of that first Christmas.

You used to be able to get it at Tesco, but you can't this year.

Please do make a firm decision - that any cards or Advent Calendars which you send this Christmas will make reference to the birth of Jesus. Insist on it, and be prepared to go to more than one shop. Don't be afraid to ask.

Please also consider ordering the Real Advent Calendar online through the Meaningful Chocolate Company. You'll find it on <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/> . There are various organisations which sell this product.

Remember that this is a secular society, and if we don't draw attention to the message of the birth of Christ, no-one else will.

Three months to go, so you have plenty of time to do this.



REGULARS

THESE ITEMS DON'T NORMALLY CHANGE FROM WEEK TO WEEK

THE DAILY HOPE LINE

0800 804 8044

If you haven't done already, this is information to be passed on to those who don't have access to the Internet. It's a freephone number to a Church of England initiative, where there are recorded hymns, messages and prayers.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

We are pushing the Parish Giving Scheme because it is the best way of giving to your Church, not just because of *how little hassle* it is to you, but also because of *how safe* and *tax efficient* it is, *how easy it is for treasurers to administer* and how it usually does actually *drive the income of churches up*. And GOOD NEWS—you don't even have to fill in a form. You can set it up by phone. By all means ring your church treasurer for details and fill in a form, or call the number below.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Tel 0333 002 1271

Church	Parish Ref	Church	Parish Ref
Goodrich	180618231	Marstow	180618241
Llangarron	180618239	Llangrove	180618240
Welsh Newton	180618256		

THE BORDER NEWS

Not currently available as a hard copy.

To get the online Border News:

- Go to wyereaches.org
- Click the What's On tab.

CONTACT

Revd Ben 01989 770454.

Revd Philip 'Ben' Bentham

Tel 01989 770454

Email benbentham@yahoo.co.uk

If you have suggestions for improving this Update, please do let me know.

To unsubscribe, simply drop me a line.

COMPANION WORK NEEDED

One of our parishioners would like to find paid work as a companion to someone

—cooking, housekeeping, shopping etc.

If you or someone you know might be able to offer this kind of work, please ring me (01989 770454) and I'll put you in touch.



The Llangrove Milk Shed at the Village Hall, For farm fresh milk and a few other things like butter, cheese and cake.



Our local eateries are important, and without our patronage they risk not being able to survive, especially in this climate.

Llangrove - The Royal Arms

Phone [01989 770267](tel:01989770267)

Goodrich - The Hostellerie

Phone [01600 890241](tel:01600890241)

Goodrich - The Cross Keys

Phone [01600 890692](tel:01600890692)

Goodrich - Hen and Dot Café

Flanesford Priory, Open Fri to Sun 10am - 4pm

Phone [01600 890506](tel:01600890506)

CLERGY DAY OFF

My DAY OFF is Monday. I may be around on Mondays, but can't guarantee it.

CLERGY HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR

28-31 Dec