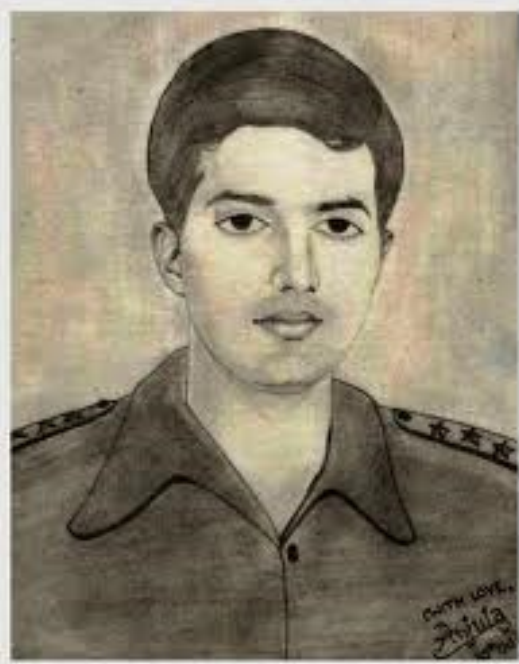


Wye Brooks Group
UPDATE for 26 September
Trinity 17—GREEN

FROM THE VICAR

Whoever takes the Son gets it all.

I was pleased to rediscover this story recently. I hope you like it.



It's the story of a wealthy widower and his son who shared a passion for collecting art. They travelled the world together, adding only the finest articles to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and a host of others adorned the walls of their large country house. The father was filled with satisfaction as his son became an experienced collector in his own right.

But then the country found itself at war and the son entered military service. A few months later the father received the terrible news that his son had been killed rescuing another soldier.

One day not too long after that there was a knock at his door and there on his doorstep was a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself. "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few minutes? I have something I want to show you."

Sitting in the house he said to the father, "Your son was fascinated by art. I'm something of an artist myself, and I wanted you to have this. I know it isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

LECTIONARY

Esther 7:1-6, 9, 10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-end
Mark 9:38-end

It was a painting of the man's son - not a work of genius, but a good likeness. It brought tears to the father's eyes and he promised the soldier that he would give it pride of place in his house. As soon as the young man had gone he took down from above the fireplace a painting that was worth a fortune and replaced it with the painting of his son.

Months later the old man died. He had no heir and his art collection was to be auctioned off. The day arrived and art dealers from all over the world arrived to bid for some of his marvellous paintings.

But the first painting to be auctioned was not in the catalogue, a simple portrait of a young soldier, the old man's son.

The auctioneer asked for an opening bid: "Who will open the bidding - a hundred dollars anyone?" A voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally a local man, a neighbour, said, "Will you take ten dollars? I knew the boy. I'd like to have it. I can't afford any more." No-one added any more bids; it was sold to the neighbour and the room and the crowd was eager to begin the 'real' sale. But the auctioneer announced that the sale was over. The shocked crowd demanded to know what was going on.

The auctioneer replied "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all.

Now there is the eternal Christian reality, sealed in blood, suffering and then triumph, that whoever takes the Son...gets it all!

ANGER

It is easy to get angry: anyone can do it. But to be angry with the right person, to the right extent, at the right time, with the right purpose and in the right way, - that is not easy, and not everyone can do it. (Aristotle)

"Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil."
(St Paul)

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.

	26 Sept	4 Oct	11 Oct	18 Oct
Benefice Communion Service	Vicar at Hentland	11a.m. Llangarron	8.30 Welsh Newton (BCP) 10.00 Marstow	10.00 Langrove
Extra Service(s)	6 p.m. Goodrich Harvest and harvest lunch - a ploughmans 6pm. Welsh Newton Village Event	8.30 Welsh Newton Meditation & Bible Study 4.30pm Llangrove Harvest Festival and nibbles	11.00 Goodrich (Lay led service)	8.30 Meditation at Welsh Newton 9a.m. Bible Study at Welsh Newton 11.00 Llangarron (lay led)

MIDWEEK COMMUNION

The intention is to have a simple midweek communion as well. Tentative arrangements can't be brought to reality though and we'll have to think again. More news when we have it.



CRE stands for Christian Resources Exhibition. It's basically a big Christian trade fair, with about 170 stalls - everything from Christian books to fair trade coffee, from church furniture to church accountancy, sound systems to Sunday school materials, architects to Christian charities.

There are also seminars.

- The art of storytelling
- Digital giving and the hybrid church
- Webstreaming and Sunday services
- Fundraising for capital projects
- Home groups conference (essential to prebook)
- Family Bible engagement
- Jeff Lucas speaks on the Book of Daniel

CRE in October is at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher, Surrey, so it's about two and a half hours to drive. I am going on Wednesday 13th October and I will have room for 4 people to accompany me.

We set out not later than 7.30am and we'll get home by about 7.00pm, so it'll be a long day.

I can't emphasize too strongly that this is a must see event for all involved in Christian leadership, and that includes wardens, treasurers and worship leaders.

The cost is £3 each if we get three or more, bookable in advance. We can of course take more than one car. Please will you tell me quickly if you want to go so we can get booking done in good time.

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.

3 Oct Awkward Questions (7)

10 Oct 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? This week the talk is about the Resurrection.

Go to <https://youtu.be/nLQsiezlOc4>

RON TUBB LATEST

I rang Diana on Thursday. She has had a bad week. Ron is still in intensive care. They have described him as critically ill, and have warned Diana that he is in some danger. He is very weak and barely conscious.

The original hip infection is ok though, so that is not dragging him down. This problem is I think about the kidneys. He really needs to get enough nourishment to gain strength. The staff have said that getting him better may take months.

So please continue to pray.

ROSIE SHEPHERD LATEST

As you know, Rosie is in the Ross Community hospital having broken her hip two or three weeks ago.

The good news is that that all being well she will be coming home on Monday and then there will be a convalescence period.

Keep them in your prayers. Don't forget that they are settling into a new house, and that will bring its challenges.

IVOR TRAPP

Ivor Trapp had another fall this week, and ended up in hospital briefly. Please do commit him to prayer.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

The UK

- HM the Queen and the Royal Family,
- HM Government, especially as it seeks to solve transport and other difficulties

World

- The difficult situation in Afghanistan, and especially the increasingly visible brutality of the new regime.
- The tension between China and other countries
- Famine in Ethiopia and Yemen, Civil war in Yemen.
- 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. The protests.
- La Palma Island and the volcanic eruption

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

- For our diocesan leaders as they steer us towards more mission thinking.
- 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. They are also in the middle of a house move.
- Margaret, still on the long road to recovery after operations
- Ron, critically ill in hospital after a setback
- James, a young man with long term illness
- Carol, in a persistent vegetative state.
- Ivor, recovering after a fall.
- 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 17

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

NEWS THIS WEEK

Cancel Culture and Oxford University

On Wednesday Worcester College Oxford issued an apology—for hosting a Wilberforce Academy Christian event which has been held at Oxford Colleges annually for more than a decade. The event is a week-long course aimed at Christian young people and is a crash course in Christian worldview.

It seems that there were complaints from students not attending the event that the event was Islamophobic as it included a discussion on the nature of Islam and also one or more speakers were said to be in favour of conversion therapy (a number of techniques to help people who want to lose their homosexual orientation).

There are big questions here about freedom of speech and so called 'cancel culture.'

When to abort

This week Heidi Crowter, who has Downs Syndrome, lost in a High Court challenge to the law which allows abortion for Downs' Syndrome all the way up to birth. She argued that current rules are discriminatory and do not respect her life.

Cases like this are important. Quite apart from anything else they beg the question of the value of life and the right to life. The Roman Catholic Church, of course, is against abortion in all cases. The Church of England broadly speaking disagrees with it.

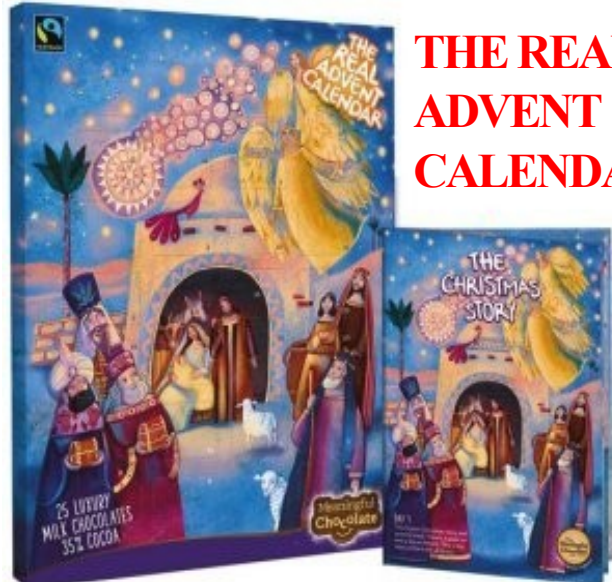
DURING THE WEEK

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