

**Wye Brooks Group
UPDATE for 31 July
TRINITY 7
GREEN**

TRINITY 7 READINGS

**Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21**

FROM THE VICAR

**LAMBETH
CONFERENCE**
God's Church for God's world



Sparks have been flying at the Lambeth Conference this week - over sexual behaviour.

The Conference was originally going to be asked to commit to "the reaffirmation of Lambeth 1:10 that upholds marriage as between a man and a woman and requires deeper work to uphold the dignity and witness of LGBTQ Anglicans."

After a lot of pressure from the liberal part of the Church this became "It is the mind of the Anglican Communion as a whole that "all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation are full members of the Body of Christ" and to be welcomed, cared for, and treated with respect."

Many provinces within the Anglican Church strongly reject that homosexual relationships can be holy at all, let alone homosexual marriage, and the church is very deeply divided on the issue.

So the conference committed itself to further discussion to try to find a compromise.

Broadly speaking the disagreement is between those who say that the Bible is clear on sexual matters and we should do what it tells us, and those who would dispute that or say that the Bible's teaching needs to be re-interpreted for the times in which we live.

Even in this country there are very clear opposing sides on the subject, with neither likely to give ground.

**(ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT
FOR TRINITY 7**

**Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**SNIPPETS
KING AENGUS' BAPTISM**

You'll have heard of St Patrick. He was born in Ireland (or it might have been Wales) around 389 and died in 461. Patrick became a Christian missionary to Ireland and indeed, is its patron saint.

Sometime in the fifth century Patrick baptised the Irish King Aengus on Cashel Rock. They went through the long liturgy and finally just before the baptism itself Patrick prayed, eyes tightly closed.

Unfortunately, in the middle of his prayer, he lifted his bishop's staff quite high and brought it down hard, sending its spike straight through the King's foot. He finished his prayer, entered the water and beckoned the king.

Naked, King Aengus limped into the water, his foot bleeding badly, where Patrick baptized him. The incident was never mentioned again, and it seems that the King must have thought that it was all part of the ritual.

**CHRISTIAN WISDOM ON
SEX**

It's easy to take off your clothes and have sex. People do it all the time. But opening up your soul to someone, letting them into your spirit, thoughts, fears, future, hopes, dreams... that is being naked.

Rob Bell

It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

CS Lewis

CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

NICKY GUMBEL RETIRES



Nicky Gumbel, Vicar of the 4000 strong Holy Trinity Brompton Church and pioneer of the Alpha Course, has retired, along with his wife Pippa.

His final message was entitled "The Best is Yet to Come" and in his case that means a ten year strategy in which he hopes to make the gospel accessible to everyone in the world.

He's in partnership with Bible translators who are working on getting the New Testament into every language in the world by 2033 (the 2000th anniversary of the Resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church) and the big plan is to try to make the Alpha Course available to everyone on the planet by 2033. That is going to involve the new film series, on which they have already been working for the last couple of years.

He has other projects on the go too.

PRAYER WORKS

A church in Tooting, South London, which lost almost £140,000 through a Covid scam has been paid all the money back by its bank.



Criminals posed as bank employees and managed to scam two members of the Parochial Church Council at All Saints Church out of £138,000.

After an investigation was carried out by the bank, it has now been given all the money back.

Rev Mae Christie from the church said

"Prayer works... I really am grateful that the bank have done the right thing... I am so grateful for the people in my church who have worked so hard for it... We didn't have any indication that this was going to happen and it is a huge weight off of our shoulders."

HOLY COMMOTION!



A priest in Italy, went viral earlier this week for offering Mass on an inflatable mattress in the sea, and has been placed under investigation by the Church

Father Mattia Bernasconi, from the diocese of Milan, decided to do Sunday's service in the sea after failing to find shade among the trees by the beach in Crotona, where he had originally planned to hold the service.

The 36-year-old priest said a family offered the use of the inflatable mattress, which transformed into the altar, while they celebrated the Sunday service in swimsuits. He had been working in a summer camp for high school students with an anti-mafia organisation.

Videos online also showed teenagers in swimsuits kneeling, squatting, or sitting in front of Father Bernasconi as they participated in the service.

The Church has emphasised the need to maintain "the minimum decorum and care for the symbols necessitated by the very nature of liturgical celebrations".

THIRD APPEAL LOST

The Court of Appeal has ruled that doctors can lawfully turn off the life support of 12-year-old Archie Battersbee. And on Thursday, in further blow, the Supreme Court refused to get involved.



The family - who were all baptised shortly after his accident - were attempting to overturn the verdict of two High Court cases. Previously, both judges had ruled that Archie was legally dead, and that life support should be removed.

The 12-year-old has been described as being "obsessed" with the idea of getting christened. He was baptised on Easter Sunday, whilst in an induced coma. His mother, brother and sister followed suit the following day.

Since then, they have been forthright in their beliefs, saying only God has the right to give or take life.

In a late twist the UN has taken out an injunction forcing the authorities to hold fire from switching off his life support until it has had time to look at the case.

WHITCHURCH WEEKLY



10.30 every Thursday at St Dubricius Church, Whitchurch

A simple informal half hour communion without a sermon or a collection. Followed by a cuppa and biscuits.

It has always been open to anyone from both the Wye Reaches and Wye Brooks benefices.

Please do come. Relax and enjoy God's presence with us.

JUST TO DELIGHT YOU FLASH MOB

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxLbmnvMWM0>

MINI BIBLE STUDY THE CHRISTIAN'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Sent into the world [John 17:18; 20:21](#)

Preaching to the world [Mark 16:15](#)

The light of the world [Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:14](#)

Live godly in the world [Titus 2:12](#)

Not conformed to the world [Rom. 12:2; John 17:15](#)

Love not the world [1 John 2:16; 2 Tim. 4:10](#)

Passing through the world [1 Peter 2:11](#)

No friendship with the world [James 1:27; 4:4](#)

As a saint, in separation from it [John 17:16](#)

As a subject, in subjection to it [Rom. 13:1](#)

As a servant, in service toward it [John 20:21](#)

Suffering yet victorious in Christ [John 16:33](#)

RESPONDING TO THE UKRAINE CRISIS



The Diocese has a web page encouraging us to respond in prayer and action to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Go to <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/prayers-for-ukraine/>



BORDER NEWS

The Border News is back in paper form! A digital copy is also available, and it will have its own website from June. In the meantime you can access it by going to <http://wyereaches.org/parish-magazine/>

Deadline for items is 12th of the month and we will keep to that.

UKRAINE FOOD COLLECTION

Tinned food is being collected at KTS Craft Warehouse, Trenchard Street, at the bottom of Edde Cross Street in Ross. They have already made deliveries of clothing and medical equipment, and now it is tinned food which is needed, (no glass). Tins - soup, spaghetti, pies, meat, fruit, plus cereal bars.

SERVICES CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Date	Time	Place	Service	Leader
Sun 31 July	10.00	Marstow	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
7th August	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Sue
7th August	11.00	Llangarron	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
7th August	4.30pm	Llangrove	Evening service	Lay led
14th August	8.30	Welsh Newton	Benefice Holy Communion	Sue
14th August	10.00	Marstow	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
14th August	11.00	Goodrich	Morning service	Lay led
Sun 21st August	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
Sun 21st August	10.00	Llangrove	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
Sun 21st August	6.00	Llangarron	Evening Prayer	Penny
Sun 28 August	10.00	Marstow	Morning Service	Lay led
Sun 28 August	11.00	Goodrich	Benefice Holy Communion	TBA
Sun 28 August	6.00	Welsh Newton	Village Service	Lay led
Sun 4 September	10.00	Marstow	Morning Service	Lay led
Sun 4 September	11.00	Goodrich	Benefice Holy Communion	TBA
Sun 4 September	6.00	Welsh Newton	Village Service	Lay led

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE AND BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Our Light Bite today begins a new series—on big words within Christianity. We start with a familiar one. What's the word 'God' all about. Go to <https://youtu.be/-Hmd8vxLRtc>

The Bishop's message will resume in September

WEEKDAY GROUPS

House Group: Tuesday 10.00am

The group has chosen to walk through the gospel of Luke, and this week we'll be continuing to look at the temptations of Jesus, as seen through Luke's eyes.

Prayer Group Tuesday 7.30pm

A short but precious time together, with the opportunity to pray for the world, the church and people.

LIGHT BITES

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

LIGHT BITE THEMES

31st July Big Bible words (1)

7th August Big Bible words (2)

Today we end our series on Ephesians 6, the full armour of God. Then from next week will do a series on Bib Bible words—the words that are difficult to understand.

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE

God

JARGON BUSTER

CONFESSION

This is several things.

You can confess your sins to a priest, i.e tell him about them, own up to them. That normally happens in the Roman Catholic Church but can also happen in the Church of England. The priest may absolve you (assure you of God's forgiveness) but will almost certainly make suggestions about how you can get back on the right path.

You can confess your sins to one another, which sort of implies that you will pray for one another and help one another not to keep in going wrong. That's implied in James 5:16

You can confess your sins in Church too. It's part of the liturgy. We basically say sorry for sins of thought, word, deed and neglect. The basic idea is that it is linked with repentance, a change of mind (which then leads to a change of direction). Confession isn't really confession, and it definitely isn't repentance, unless you really do go back over the previous few days, recognise where you have fallen short, and promise God that you will turn away from what you have done wrong. The priest will then assure you of God's forgiveness.

Confession is also witnessing to your faith in Christ. At its most basic we do that every time we say a creed in church, but it needs to be much more than that. Jesus told us not to be ashamed of him, and all true Christians will try to find ways of confessing their faith to loved ones, friends and others.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

The UK

- HM the Queen her health and wellbeing
- The parliamentary leadership race
- Rising prices and the hardship they bring
- The increasingly important work of food banks.

World

Please continue to pray for the Ukraine, and for Russia as the war rages.

Pray for China and Taiwan. This situation is looking ominous.

Pray for the US. The political chaos is severe. The latest is the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe vs Wade which has split the country. But gun rights and the continued fallout from the last presidential elections continue to dog the country.

Pray for Afghanistan still in turmoil

Pray too about the famine in East Africa, the migrant problem, threats from nations like North Korea and so on.

Covid.

- Increased threat from Covid, including new variants.
- Those who have lost loved ones or watched them suffer.
- Those who continue to be isolated

Our churches and clergy

- The Lambeth conference
- For right actions leading to sustainability and growth.
- For the prayer life of our churches
- For the hard decisions which will need to be made about clergy numbers.
- For mission mindedness

Our villages

Our pubs, parish councils, local businesses and schools. Pray for all our communities in these difficult times.

Pray for people

Please pray for all those you know who are sick or in particular need.

You might like to pray for Annie—medical issues following the birth of a child, but with treatment promised.

Please pray for Mike and Anne Trask. Neither of them is very well.

Pray for Chris, slowly recovering (we hope) but very weak.

Pray for Ruth (not Ruth Davis) undergoing stem cell treatment.

Pray for the family of 22 year old Ethan Kimberley, whose funeral was on Thursday.

REGULARS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—WILLS



Want to make a difference to your local church? Why not leave it something in your will? It's easy to do, and helps what you care about.

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.

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.



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

Support local businesses!

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Tel 0333 002 1271

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



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**

Goodrich - The Hostelrie
Phone **01600 890241**

Goodrich - The Cross Keys
Phone **01600 890692**

CONTACT

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

CLERGY HOLIDAYS

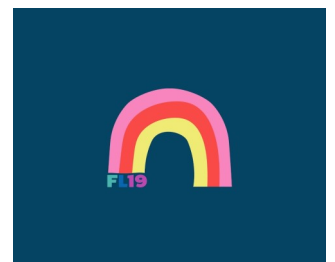
23 August to 6 September
25 October to 6 November
26–31 December.

CLERGY DAY OFF

My usual day off is MONDAY

BLESS THE NHS

Thanks to Helen Shipton, who belongs to our Tuesday prayer group, for giving us details of this initiative to provide a bit of support for NHS workers. Do have a look.



<https://www.frontline19.com/hopeline19/>