

# Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 2 October TRINITY 16 GREEN

## TRINITY 16 READINGS

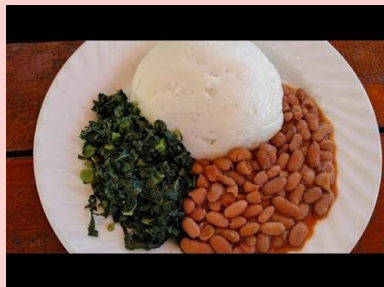
Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

## FROM THE VICAR CREATION



In our short three years in Zimbabwe we learned quite a bit about farming, and in particular farming maize, the staple diet in many African countries.

Black Zimbabweans will likely eat sadza, maize meal porridge (the white stuff in the picture), every day of their lives - as a breakfast porridge, as a lunchtime dish with relish (vegetables) or possibly as an evening meal with a bit of meat and gravy or beans. To me it tastes like cardboard and there is apparently very little nutrition in it, but it fills you up a treat!

The planting of maize, I think in late September or early October, requires the rains to begin on time in mid November, and if they don't, if they are more than a couple of weeks late or early, the crop is likely to fail in whole or in part. This happens in one year out of every four approximately, and few if any contingency plans are made for a year in which the maize crop fails.

There are *some* large farms in Zimbabwe. Once owned by white farmers, they are now mostly owned by black farmers. But most of the once productive farmland is now in portions of 10 hectares and under, in the hands of individual families, who struggle without machinery or the benefit of a planning culture to feed themselves and who most at risk from drought or flooding.

It is thought that Zimbabwe's rainfall has declined about 10% due to global warming in the last hundred years, and of course the poorest people will have felt the effects more in smaller crops and greater poverty.

When adverse conditions strike us here in rich nations, when some foods are not available, or when market conditions force prices up, we can simply change diet or, as we say, tighten our belts. Some of us will be beginning to do that right now. But in poorer countries there are no ways of economising. People live on the edge all the time. To tighten one's belt literally means

## (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR 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.

for to cut down on food., from three meals a day to two, from two to one, and even from one to none.

But it's not just drought that is the problem. The Russian attempt to invade Ukraine has massively affected the Ukrainian wheat crop, which in turn has meant that some African countries, which have depended on imports from Ukraine to feed their people, have not been able to import and in quite a number of African countries people will be going hungry. In fact, we do need to remember that *all* war affects agriculture.

In this Harvest season, part of Creationtide, we should give thanks for our farmers and our crops as we have always done, but in this global village in which we live, we also need to remember that everyone on the planet is now our neighbour. That fact should affect both our praying and our giving. Even in this country the current crisis means that people are going short of food, and I would say that giving to a foodbank at the moment is part of Christ's command to love others.

## THE BISHOP'S MESSAGE

LGBTQI and the Church.

Go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYs42F7IhhY>

## LIGHT BITES

Last week's on **Righteousness**. We had another technical issue last week. Go to <https://youtu.be/HPszZOP2HL8>

This week's on **Faith**. Go to <https://youtu.be/Pj61vPIAs-o>

# CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

## CHRISTIAN GP SETTLEMENT



This is an important event in a long running battle. Dr Richard Scott, a Christian doctor was being forced by the NHS to take costly 'professional boundary' training after offering to pray with

patients but, he refused, stating that the training was aimed at sexual miscreants and fraudsters. A disciplinary hearing was scheduled but called off at the last minute.

"Sadly I have seen a deep intolerance from some parts of the NHS towards Christian beliefs and a complete lack of understanding of what prayer is and how it positively impacts people's lives," said Dr Scott.

He described the imposed course as a power trip with aim of humiliation and pressurising. He expressed the hope that the result would encourage other Christian professionals to share their faith.

## CHURCH BAN ON DESMOND TUTU'S DAUGHTER



The daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been barred from leading a funeral due to the Church of England's rule

not allowing clergy to be in a same-sex marriage.

Mpho Tutu van Furth, who's an Anglican priest in the US, planned to officiate her godfather's funeral service in the Hereford diocese, but was told she can't because she has a wife.

The diocese said it was "a difficult situation" as the Anglican Church in the US, The Episcopal Church, does allow clergy to have same-sex marriages whilst the Church of England doesn't, and neither does South Africa, her home country. In the Church of England same sex couples must remain celibate.

The funeral was moved into a marquee, and she did officiate.

*This is a rather bigger issue than you might think involving the reasoning behind policy making, and how Christian scripture, which clearly prohibits same sex sexual activity, is 'the word of God'.*

## SCHOOL TRANSGENDER CASE PAYOUT



Following a five-year legal battle, a Christian couple has been awarded £22,000 in legal costs.

Nigel and Sally Rowe took legal action against the Department for Education after a Church of England primary school labelled them and their six-year-old son "transphobic" for refusing to "believe" in transgender affirming policies.

In 2015, the Rowes voiced concerns after two boys in their sons' classes at the age of six were attending school, identifying as girls. The school had stated that they did not "require any formal medical/psychological assessment and reporting when a pupil seeks to be treated as transgendered."

According to the Christian Legal Centre, which supported the Rowes, the parents were given an "accept it or leave" ultimatum by the school after they were told that their son would be demonstrating "transphobic behaviour" if he showed an "inability to believe a transgender person is actually a 'real' female or male" or refused to "acknowledge a transgendered

person's true gender e.g. by failing to use their adopted name or using gender inappropriate pronouns." The couple then chose to home-school their children and appealed to the DfE calling on the Secretary of State for Education to intervene in their case.

Their diocese, the Diocese of Portsmouth, backed the school's position based on its 'Valuing All God's Children' guidance on challenging homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic bullying.

The Government rejected the complaint, but the Rowes were granted permission for a judicial review of the Government's gender affirming policies and the Government decided to settle.

A DofE spokesperson told Premier in a statement: "We are working with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to develop guidance to schools on transgender matters following feedback from the sector earlier this year."

## 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.

## 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/>

## 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.

## JUST TO DELIGHT YOU PRANKSTER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pEWaNv6xbI>

## QUIZ—WHICH BOOK? ANSWERS

Jesus wept. **John 11 35**, at the grave of Lazarus

I am the Alpha and the Omega. **In Revelation 22:13**, words of Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **This is the priestly blessing from Numbers 6**

No longer drink only water, but take a little wine... **1 Timothy 5:23**. It's caused some anti-alcohol Christians a problem or two!

I am my beloved's and his desire is for me. **Song of Songs 6:3**. **This book is an erotic love poem.**

6. Then the people cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them Ehud, the son of Gera. **Judges 3—the delightfully gory story of Ehud,**

7. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. **Joshua's ultimatum to the nation in Joshua 24:15**

8. ...most excellent Festus...Acts 26:25. **Paul was defending himself in front of the Roman procurator.**

9. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances. **1 Thess 5:16** . **Normal Christian behaviour.**

10. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. **Proverbs 15:20, by King Solomon.**

11. The hand of the Lord was upon me and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley: it was full of bones. **Ezekiel 37—a famous vision.**

12. I know your works. You are neither cold nor hot... **Revelation 3:15**. **Essential reading for all Christians.**

13. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Jesus last command to his disciples in Matthew 28, and essential for us too.**

14. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be included among the tribes of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be a ruler in Israel. **Micah 5:2, prophesying the birth of Jesus.**

15. Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand the schemes of the devil. **Ephesians 6 - powerful stuff!**

## SERVICES CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Date	Time	Place	Service	Leader
2 October	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Sue
2 October	11.00	Llangarron	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
2 October	4.30pm	Llangrove	Harvest Festival and finger buffet	Ben
9 October	8.30	Welsh Newton	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
9 October	10.00	Llangrove	Sunday Praise	Wendy
9 October	11.00	Marstow	Harvest Festival	Ben
9 October	11.00	Goodrich	Morning service	Lay led
16 October	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
16 October	10.00	Llangrove	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
16 October	6.00	Llangarron	Evening Prayer	Penny
23 October	10.00	Llangrove	Community Service	Lay led
23 October	10.00	Marstow	Morning Service	Lay led
23 October	11.00	Goodrich	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben
23 October	6.00	Welsh Newton	Village Service	Lay led
30th October	9.00	Welsh Newton	** Explore Quiet Morning	Sue
30th October	10.00	Llangrove	Benefice Holy Communion	Simon Tarlton

**Revd Simon Tarlton is being licensed to the benefice on 11 October in the evening. He will do two services per month. So this plan is very provisional from mid October.**

### WHAT IS FAITH?

One of Alexander the Great's subjects needed money and asked him for some. Alexander told him to go to the Treasury and draw what he wanted. He asked for a large sum, which the Treasurer refused. But Alexander told the Treasurer to cough up the money, saying the man had honoured him by acknowledging both his wealth and his generosity.

\*\*Celtic morning prayer followed by a time exploring our relationship with God. Discussions and quiet times spent apart. It will last until about 12.00. Refreshments will definitely be served. All welcome.

## 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

25th September Big Bible words (8)

Today we are on the eighth in a series on Bible words—the words that are difficult to understand.

### THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE

This week's big word is FAITH

## CHRISTIAN QUOTES FAITH

"Faith is about trusting God when you have unanswered questions."

*Joel Osteen.*

"Faith is like radar that sees through the fog."

*Corrie Ten Boom*

"Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptized into a Church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God."

*Martin Luther*

"The soul is the life of the body, faith is the life of the soul, and Christ is the life of faith. Justification by faith in Christ's righteousness is the golden chain which binds the Christian world in one body."

*James Aughey)*

## JARGON BUSTER CENSER/THURIBLE



A censer or thurible is a container made for burning incense or perfume in some solid form. They vary greatly in size, form, and material of construction, and have been in use since ancient times throughout the world. Normally it's the size in the picture, but if you want to see a seriously big one in

action in Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Spain, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBgNrreh8L8>

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

### The UK

- HM the King
- Our new Prime Minister and Cabinet
- 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, especially in view of the annexation of parts of Ukraine.
- Pray for China and Taiwan.
- Pray for the US. The political chaos is severe. There is anger at the Roe vs Wade decision, but gun rights and the continued fallout from the last presidential elections continue to split the country.
- Pray too about the famine in East Africa, the migrant problem, threats from nations like North Korea and of course Iran, which has just declared itself to have nuclear weapons, and so on.

### Covid.

- Covid is still with us, and of course is still killing people, though not as many.
- Those who have lost loved ones or watched them suffer.
- Those who continue to be isolated
- Our NHS

### Our churches and clergy

- 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, and those facing big changes in life.

- Chris as he continues to recover slowly.
- Ruth (not Ruth Davis) undergoing stem cell treatment.
- Another Ruth, in St Michael's hospice
- Geraldine—not well at present
- John— awaiting tests in hospital
- The family of Joyce Rollinson, whose funeral is on Monday
- Rob Cole. Rob is grieving over the death of his father and his mother only a couple of weeks apart.

# 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 leave me a message (01989 770454) and I'll put you in touch when I am back from holiday.

## 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	<u>Parish Ref</u>	Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>
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

Revd Philip 'Ben' Bentham

Tel 01989 770454

Email [benbentham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:benbentham@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## CLERGY HOLIDAYS

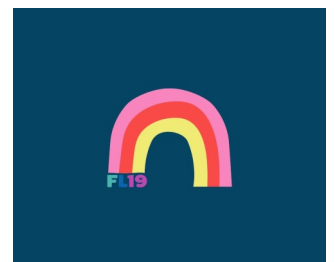
25 October to 6 November

## 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/>



# Food Bank

St Mary's Welsh Newton want you to know that they have started an informal, voucher-free food bank at the church.

The church is open 24/7

Anyone in need can just slip in and take what they need without having to register anywhere.

Do gossip this information to anyone whom you think might find it helpful.

Please also feel free to donate food to it yourself.

Thanks.



# Another Food Bank

Christ Church Llangrove have set up the Benefice's Second Food Bank

The church is open during the day.

Anyone in need can just slip in and take what they need without having to register anywhere.

Please also feel free to donate food to it yourself.

Do gossip this information to anyone whom you think might find it helpful.

Thanks.