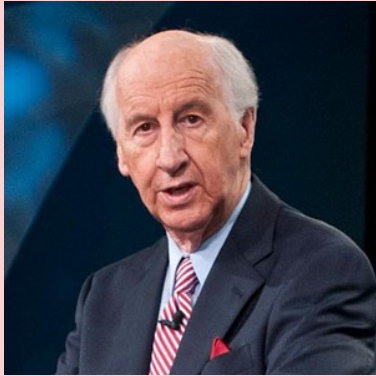


# Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 15 JANUARY EPIPHANY 2 WHITE

## READINGS EPIPHANY 2

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

## FROM THE VICAR SHELF LIFE



I see that Pastor Jack Hayford, writer of the song *Majesty*, has died.

Here are the words to it.

**Majesty, worship His Majesty:  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honour, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
flow from His throne unto His own:  
His anthems raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship His Majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all Kings.**

This song first made its appearance in in 1977, one of hundreds or thousands of 'choruses' used in more informal worship. But *Majesty* seemed to have something extra about it, something more broadly marketable, and it found its way into more mainstream hymn books.

Hayford was a Pentecostal pastor who had taken on a struggling, ageing church of 20 members in 1969. Eleven years later it had grown to 3600 members and now it has more than 7000.

The story of the hymn is that in 1977 while he was traveling in Great Britain he developed interest in the actions and symbols of the Royal Family, relating them to Christ and his kingdom.

Hymnologist Donald Hustad wrote "We need to cultivate a sense of the majestic presence of God. He is a close friend, by his grace, but he is also the majestic, holy awesome God of the universe and we need constant reminding not to take His royal presence lightly. In this short song we are called to recognize His

## (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY 2

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

majesty and then ascribe the glory due His name."

The thing I notice about the hymn *Majesty*, though, is that it has gone in just a few decades from being something which was sung everywhere, to being something which is sung just occasionally. Quite simply, we have moved on. Some other hymns have not lost their popularity, some older hymns have been rediscovered and new hymns have been written.

Hymns usually have a 'shelf life'. Only a few will stay in vogue for centuries. Most appear, shine brightly for a while, then fade and disappear. I was looking at *Singing the Faith*, the latest Methodist hymn book. Charles Wesley, the great Methodist hymnwriter, wrote more than 6000 hymns, but only 77 of them appear in *Singing the Faith*. The others are lost.

What is a good hymn? Disagree with me if you like, but largely it's going to be one that you are humming on the way home from church, going over the words in your mind or which expresses the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in simple and memorable terms. .

## BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE OUR YEAR OF PRAYER

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

## OUR OWN LIGHT BITE NONE THIS WEEK

## HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER GROUP

The next **Zoom House Group** will be on Tuesday 17th January, at 10.00am  
The next **Zoom Prayer Group** will be on Tuesday 17th January, at 7.30pm

# CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

## A CONTROVERSIAL BISHOP



Downing Street has announced Rt Rev Philip North as the next Bishop of Blackburn. He will succeed Rt Rev Julian Henderson following his retirement last year. Rev Philip, who has been the Bishop of Burnley since 2015, will take up the new role in May or June.

The 56-year-old said he is “delighted” to continue his work in Lancashire.

But this appointment is not universally approved. He had two previous opportunities for promotion thwarted following protests over his traditional views of refusing to ordain women as priests and bishops.

In 2017 he declined the role of Bishop of Sheffield following comments from the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford who said the appointment would “cause significant pastoral and public damage.”

*Ben notes: Either we are a broad church or we aren't. If we are, there is room for his views.*

## CofE £100m SLAVERY FUND

The Church Commissioners have announced new funding to compensate for the Church’s historic slavery links.



In an effort to “address past wrongs,” the Church will seek to invest £100m over the next nine years to back community projects helping families affected by the slave trade.

The new fund follows a Church Commissioners interim report looking into the origins of its funds. It concluded part of its endowment traces back to Queen Anne’s Bounty, a financial scheme established in 1704, invested “significantly” in the South Sea Company, an organisation which traded and transported enslaved people from Africa to the Caribbean.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is Chairman of the Church Commissioners, has publicly expressed his deep sorrow for the links.

## OFFENSIVE TO CHRISTIANS



The advertising regulator has ruled that a poster to promote a Demi Lovato album in the UK was likely to cause serious offence to Christians.

The image of the US pop singer’s album cover, which was plastered around six sites London last August, showed her wearing a bondage-style outfit and lying on a large cushioned crucifix. The title of the album is too offensive to print on this page.

The advertisement really was putting out a highly sexualised image of the crucifixion, complete with sexualised language, and as such the ASA said that it breached two of the code's requirements: responsible advertising and the avoidance of harm and offence. It was also easily viewable by children.

The ASA said the advert mustn't appear again, unless it is "suitably targeted". It also told Universal Music Operations Ltd to make sure "their ads did not cause serious or widespread offence in future".

## 'X' KISSES BANNED FROM GRAVESTONES

A church judge has ruled that 'X' kiss symbols are “excessively casual and informal” for headstone messages.



The Church of England’s Consistory Court judge Robert Hopkins made the ruling after being asked to approve a replacement memorial stone for a grave at St Mary’s Church at Great Chart near Ashford in Kent.

He concluded that “the symbol is not appropriate”. He added: “In my view, it conveys a tone that is loving, but excessively casual and informal; it befits transitory person-to-person communication, but not a permanent message on consecrated ground that serves future generations as well as the current one.”

*Ben notes: This is a thorny one. We want to help people, but graveyards are also places of dignity.*

## 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.

## POETRY CORNER TWO POEMS FOR EPIPHANY MALCOLM GUTE

*Malcolm Gute is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter who writes a weekly column in the Church Times. For more of his poetry and other writing, go to <https://malcolmgute.wordpress.com/>*

### *The Magi*

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

### *The Baptism of Christ*

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'  
In that swift light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river,  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

## SERVICES CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Date	Time	Place	Service	Leader
Sunday 15 January	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
Sunday 15 January	10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 15 January	11.00	Goodrich	Morning Service	Penny
Sunday 15 January	6.00	Llangarron	Evening Service	Penny
Sunday 22 January	8.30	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 22 January	10.00	Marstow	Morning Service	Lay led
Sunday 22 January	10.00	Llangrove	Community Service	Lay led
Sunday 22 January	11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 29 January	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
Sunday 29 January	11.00	Goodrich	Benefice Holy Communion	Ben and Simon
Sunday 5 February	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
Sunday 5 February	10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Simon
Sunday 5 February	11.00	Goodrich	Morning Prayer	Lay led
Sunday 5 February	11.00	Llangarron	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 12 February	8.30	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 12 February	10.00	Llangrove	Community Praise	Wendy
Sunday 12 February	10.00	Marstow	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 12 February	11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Simon

\*Note - the rotas are in transition at the moment so please do double check.

# MINI BIBLE STUDY WHO IS JESUS? —TWO PORTRAITS IN HEBREWS

## 2. PORTRAIT NUMBER TWO (Hebrews 1:8-14)

Notice again that in verse 8 our Lord is spoken of as “the Son”. But who is He?

1. **He is the King in His kingdom (verse 8).** He is the Son and He has an eternal throne; His administration is always just, and He has a kingdom.
2. **He is the altogether sinless One (verse 9).** Look up 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 9:13-14. He is the sinless Son of God.
3. **He is the designer of the universe (verse 10).** This is a repetition of what we saw in our first portrait, but with more details. The language is very precise.
4. **He is the eternal creator (verse 11).** The Lord Jesus will never “perish”. Everything else will wear out and pass away; He remains the same!
5. **He is the unchanging One (verse 12).** The present system will change and there will be a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:11-13); compare the great words recorded in Hebrews 13:8.
6. **He is the final conqueror (verse 13).** Ultimately He will overcome all His enemies. He is waiting for this time to come when He will manifest His power and put down all who oppose Him (Hebrews 10:13). Never doubt this, and make quite sure that you are on His side now.
6. **He is the Lord of angels (verse 14).** The angels are God’s messengers, who have been described as ‘God’s errand boys’! They are sent out by Him to minister to and for those who are the heirs of salvation. This means the angels are commissioned by the Lord Jesus to look after all who belong to Him and trust Him as their Saviour and Lord.

Part 2 of this Bible study will be in this spot next week.

*The letter to the Hebrews is something of a mystery. We don't know who wrote it, and we don't know for whom it was originally written. We used to think Paul, but it doesn't say that, and the language, style and Christology are different from those of Paul's writings. The main thing is that Christ is our great High Priest.*

# PRAYER FOR OTHERS

## The UK

- HM the King and the Royal Family
- Our Prime Minister and Government
- The hardship caused by rising prices.
- The increasingly important work of food banks.
- Those badly affected by strikes, and those who feel that they have no other option but to strike

## World

- Please continue to pray for the Ukraine, and for Russia, especially in view of the threat of more escalation
- Pray for the US and its political chaos and internal anger.
- Pray too about the famine in East Africa, the migrant problem, threats from nations like North Korea and of course Iran, which recently declared itself to have nuclear weapons, and is said to be the biggest sponsor of Russia.
- Pray about rogue nations on the world stage—nations like Iran and North Korea
- Pray for efforts to reduce global warming.
- Pray about the issue of migration

## Health

- The NHS crisis
- The ongoing presence and effects of Covid.
- Those being badly affected by Strep A
- Those suffering from mental health issues

## Our churches and clergy

- For right actions leading to sustainability and growth.
- For a right response to the issue of human sexuality
- For the prayer life of our churches, and especially as we enter our diocesan Year of Prayer for mission.
- For the hard decisions which will need to be made about clergy numbers.
- For mission mindedness generally

## 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.

- Mick – getting over pneumonia
- Chris as he continues to recover from serious illness.
- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer. His chemo is over. Further tests are looming.
- Bernie and Jill (Bernie's very elderly parents are very ill).
- The family of Gill Green, whose funeral was at Welsh Newton recently..
- The family of Pat Parkinson, of Welsh Newton Common, who died over the Christmas period.
- The family of Richard and Gail Clarke, whose ashes were interred at Goodrich recently.

# REGULARS

## 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	<u>Parish Ref</u>	Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>
Goodrich	180618231	Marstow	180618241
Llangarron	180618239	Llangrove	180618240
Welsh Newton	180618256		

## CONTACTS

Vicar: Revd Philip 'Ben' Bentham  
Tel 01989 770454 Email  
benbentham@yahoo.co.uk

Associate Minister: Revd Simon Tarlton  
Tel 07462 893457

Associate Minister: Revd Penny  
Powdrill Email 01600 714096

If you have suggestions for improving this Update, please do let me know. To UNSUBSCRIBE, simply drop me a line.

## CLERGY HOLIDAYS

TBA

## CLERGY DAY OFF

My usual day off is MONDAY

## 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.



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!



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

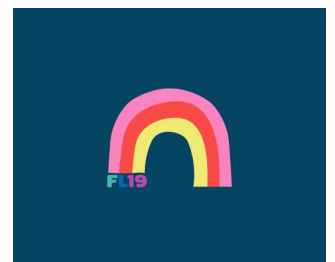
Llangrove - The Royal Arms  
Phone **01989 770267**

Goodrich - The Hostelrie  
Phone **01600 890241**

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

## 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 an informal, voucher-free food bank at the church.

The church is open 24/7

Anyone who feels under pressure financially 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 who feels under pressure financially 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.





### **A notice from St Mary's, Welsh Newton**

We would like to host Growing Good workshops in the New Year for anyone in the benefice who might be interested in attending.

It's a series of six workshops about using social action to benefit the community and grow the church, using the Growing Good Toolkit provided by the Church Urban Fund.

Each session will last about 75 minutes and include a Bible text and reflection, a short film, a group activity and time for prayer.

We have heard from other churches (including a small rural church) that it's an incredibly valuable resource. Anyone interested in joining it or finding out more should email me at [patriciacarswell@gmail.com](mailto:patriciacarswell@gmail.com).

# ORDER THE 2023 REAL EASTER EGG NOW

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RRP £9.99

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RRP £5.50



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