

Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 22 JANUARY EPIPHANY 3 WHITE

READINGS EPIPHANY 3

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

FROM THE VICAR DISCIPLESHIP SELF TEST



Discipleship is about following Christ and coming under his authority. It's not automatic, and not the same as being a good person or a good

citizen. So how are you doing? American pastor Gordon Madonald came up with this discipleship self test.

1. How is your relationship with God right now?
2. What have you read in the Bible in the past week?
3. What has God said to you in today's readings?
4. Where do you find yourself resisting Him these days?
5. What specific things are you praying for in regard to yourself?
7. What are the specific tasks facing you right now that you consider incomplete?
8. What habits intimidate you?
9. What have you read in the secular press this week?
10. What general reading are you doing?
11. What have you done to relax?
12. How are you doing with your family?
13. If I were to ask your spouse about your state of mind, state of spirit, state of energy level, what would the response be?
14. Are you sensing spiritual attacks from the enemy right now?
15. If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord, how might he do it?
16. What is the state of your sexual perspective? Tempted? Dealing with fantasies? Entertainment?
17. Where are you financially right now? (things under control? under anxiety? in great debt?)

(ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY 3

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

18. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your circle of relationships right now?
19. When was the last time you spent time with a good friend of your own gender?
20. What kind of time have you spent with anyone who is a non-Christian this month?
21. What challenges do you think you're going to face in the coming week? Month?
22. What would you say are your fears at this present time?
23. Are you sleeping well?
24. What three things are you most thankful for?
25. Do you like yourself at this point in your pilgrimage?
26. What are your greatest confusions about your relationship with God?

BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuPvv_CHGT8

OUR OWN LIGHT BITE PETER, AND DISCIPLESHIP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbbD2FUku-M>

HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER GROUP

The next **Zoom House Group** will be on Tuesday 24th January, at 10.00am
The next **Zoom Prayer Group** will be on Tuesday 24th January, at 7.30pm

CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

NOT GUILTY



Three Christians, including a retired priest, who took part in an Insulate Britain protest last year, have been found not guilty of causing a public nuisance.

Rev Sue Parfitt, Benjamin Buse, and Ruth Jarman, , were arrested after joining the Insulate Britain roadblock at Cranford Parkway on the M4 on 1st October 2021.

The trio were on trial at Inner London Crown Court. After deliberating for four hours, the jury issued a unanimous not guilty verdict.

Ruth Jarman, from Hampshire, said: “I took part in Insulate Britain because my Christian faith pushes me to stand up for the poor and vulnerable.”

Ben writes: For me the issue is not whether there is a right to protest (there is) but whether there should be right to protest and cause distress, or cost people money. Watch for new legislation.

THE SEAL UNSEALED?

We have all been into Roman Catholic Churches and seen a confessional - a two part cubicle where someone confesses his or her sins to a priest, and receives absolution. Anglican priests can hear confessions too.



What you may not know is that sins confessed to a priest are confidential. Details may not be shared even with police.

But a group of theologians, church leaders and safeguarding professionals will meet over the next 12 months to decide whether to amend the Seal in the Church of England following recommendations made by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in October. It called for legislation to place certain individuals – to be known as “mandated reporters” – under a statutory duty to report child sexual abuse.

Current guidelines are that priests should not offer absolution before an offender confesses to police too. New legislation may make disclosing confessed offences to safeguarding authorities compulsory for any priest. There may well be conflict about such a requirement.

A NEW CHILDREN'S BIBLE



Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), has distributed a new translation of its Child's Bible to the Amazonian Sateré-Mawé people, enabling them to learn scripture in their own language.

More than 1,000 copies of the of the Catholic charity's Child's Bible, *God Speaks to His Children*, have been given to representatives of nearly 30 Sateré-Mawé communities in the Andirá and Marau regions of the Amazon.

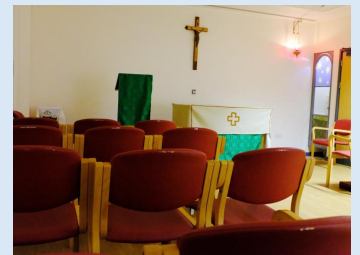
Dercival Santos Batista, a member of the Sateré-Mawé and one of seven locals who translated the new edition of the Child's Bible, said: “Through this book, our children and our youth will be able to walk along the right path. It is also very important for our own understanding of the Word of God.”

Ben writes: there are over 7000 languages. A complete bible is available in 724 of those, a New Testament in another 1617, and parts into another 3589.

CHAPLAINS FOR HOPE

We have all heard of the problems in the NHS.

NHS workers are turning to hospital chaplains to support them as they struggle with the impact of staff shortages, Winter illnesses and the cost of living crisis.



The charity Doctors in Distress says health workers are facing an “unimaginable crisis” and the President of the College of Health Care Chaplains, Dr Simon Harrison says hospital chaplains are witnessing acute stresses and strains among staff in the NHS.

Sarah Chaplin, hospital chaplain in Cornwall, said, “I think a prevalent thing is ... absolute exhaustion, having worked through COVID, and now through the current NHS crisis and bed shortages. “Sometimes staff feel undervalued. I think at the root of some of their angst is that they don't feel listened to. This is also a huge role of a chaplain, we listen.

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

Disciple

Lord, I am not ashamed,
of the hope that lives in me
I wear my faith openly
for all the world to see.

You asked me to be the light,
to shine Your Word upon my path
so, I share Your truth knowing
at me they'll scorn and laugh.

I am not intimidated,
by the words and thoughts of man
instead, I rejoice in the knowledge
You will finish what You began.

You asked me to be the salt,
to spread Your favour on the earth
so, I tell the story on my way
of their sin, Your life, new birth.

I am not afraid,
or concerned what man may do
for I know that I am Yours
and they can't take me from You.

You asked me to follow You,
in my every act and deed
I do so willingly because I know
You will help me as I need.

I am not beaten,
although man may think he's won
for, I've seen the crown of victory
upon my Lord, the Christ, Your Son.

You asked me to be faithful,
my trust in You remains
I know You will walk with me
on the narrowest of these plains.

Lord, I am not ashamed,
despite how man wants me to feel
the Good News is my life . . .
and Your love I must reveal!

Deborah Ann Belka

DISCIPLESHIP QUOTE

Go 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 everything I have commanded you.

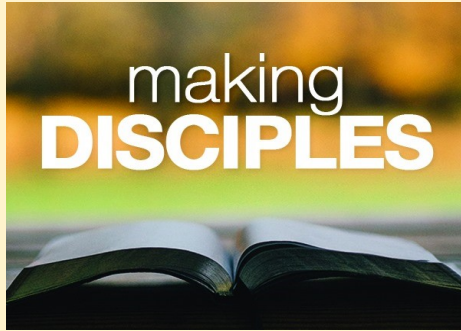
Matthew 28:19-20

SERVICES CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Date	Time	Place	Service	Leader
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
Sunday 19 February	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
Sunday 19 February	10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Ben
Sunday 19 February	11.00	Goodrich	Morning Service	Jill
Sunday 19 February	6.00	Llangarron	Evening Service	Penny

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

MINI BIBLE STUDY 10 LESSONS ON



Disciples are called to make disciples. Here are ten clues as to how.

- **Prayer** **Luke 6:12-16**

Do you want to see people come to an active faith in Christ? Pray for them.

- **Love** **John 13:34-35**

There is a strong link between loving people and their finding faith.

- **Build relationships** **Luke 19:2-10**

Have a look at how Jesus did this, and what was the result.

- **Lead by example** **John 13:14-17**

A servant heart is essential.

- **Rely on the Holy Spirit** **John 14:26**

The Holy Spirit will teach and remind us of the teaching of Jesus.

- **Equip others to equip others** **2 Timothy 2:2**

The goal of discipleship is to help people follow Jesus who will teach others how to follow Jesus who will then disciple others how to follow Jesus.

- **Group discipleship** **Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 8:9-15,51, John 13 ; Proverbs 7:17, Hebrews 10:24-25**

Sometimes Jesus took only a couple of disciples aside to let them see what He was doing but He almost always taught all of His disciples together.

- **Mentorship** **Proverbs 11:14**

Joshua was mentored by Moses, Elisha learned from Elijah, the twelve disciples were taught by Jesus, Barnabus took Paul under his wing, and Timothy grew in his faith by spending time with Paul.

- **Teaching from God's word** **2 Timothy 3:16**

Discipleship should point people to Jesus and give them a desire to study God's Word.

- **Live life together** **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Jesus' disciples followed Him everywhere. They ate, walked, and traveled together. They saw Jesus in normal, daily life.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

The UK

- HM the King and the Royal Family especially in the light of the release of Prince Harry's book.
- 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, and about the
- 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, the pressure on front line staff, recruitment and so on.
- The ability of the NHS to cope in a time of both shortages of staff and strikes.
- The ongoing presence and effects of Covid/Strepa A and other infectious diseases
- Those suffering from mental health issues
- NHS chaplains

Our churches and clergy

- The Church of England following the Bishop's announcement that it will not permit homosexual marriage, but will issue prayers blessing homosexual relationships.
- For our encouragement of true discipleship
- For right actions leading to sustainability and growth.
- For the prayer life of our churches, and especially as we continue with 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.

- Chris as he continues to recover from serious illness.
- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer. His chemo is over. Further tests are looming.
- Bernie Water's elderly and frail parents.
- 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.

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 Tel 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.

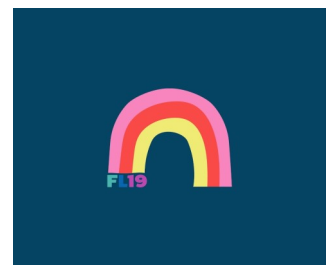
Llangrove - The Royal Arms
Phone **01989 770267**

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.

The logo for 'Growing Good' features the word 'Growing' in a white, sans-serif font above the word 'good' in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters of 'good' are filled with different colors: 'g' is orange, 'o' is yellow, 'o' is blue, and 'd' is orange. The background consists of several overlapping circles in various colors (orange, red, purple, teal, yellow) on a light green background.

Growing good

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.

**The first session is on Saturday 18th February
10.00am—11.30am**

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How do I find out more?

If you have any questions please contact:

Marion Forrester marion.r.forrester@googlemail.com / 01568 780188

Sue Foster s.foster779@outlook.com

Catherine Benbow benbowcatherine@gmail.com / 01746 785440

Pat Helm pat@thehelm.me.uk

Pat Macrae patfmacrae@gmail.com / 01981 580438

Bishop Richard writes: *"I warmly commend the week of accompanied prayer. In my 11 years as an incumbent, the week of accompanied prayer was the most significant time of spiritual growth for those who participated. Some said it was the most significant week in their entire spiritual journey to date. The opportunity to speak in complete confidence about our spiritual lives with a confidential and experienced guide proved revolutionary and enriching. I heartily recommend this programme for anyone whatever your spirituality or stage of the faith journey."*

Closing date for booking: Sunday 12th February.

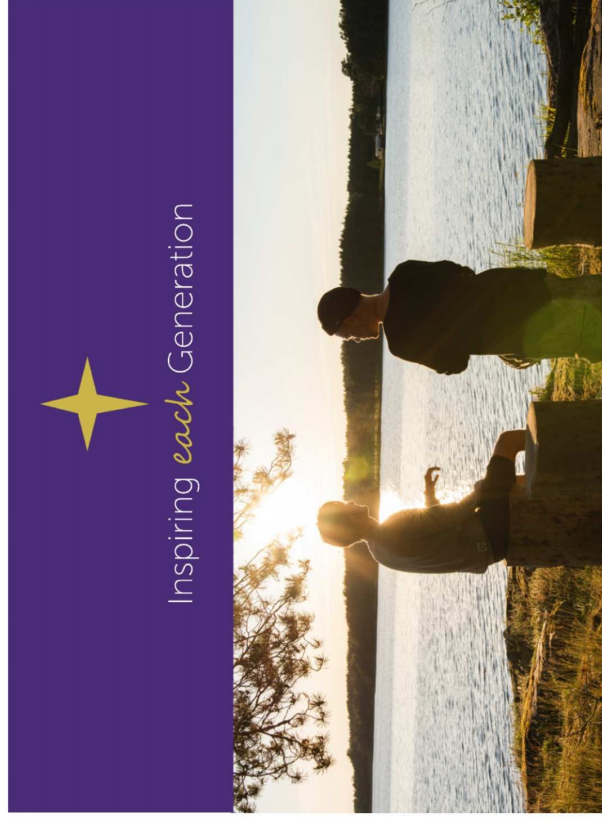
Book a place:

<https://bit.ly/onlineWAP>



Diocese of
Hereford
Proclaiming Christ + Growing Disciples

The Diocesan Office • The Palace • Hereford • HR4 9BL
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An online Week of Accompanied Prayer

26th February – 4th March 2023



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