

# Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 19 FEBRUARY 1 BEFORE LENT GREEN

## FROM THE VICAR AN ABUNDANT LIFE



This is Caylee Dugger, ministry student and Church volunteer from Oklahoma, US. Caylee preached to a women's group at her church recently, then a few hours later was killed in a car crash. At her memorial services she was described as "always having a smile on her face" and being "full of joy". "She lived her life well. She lived it to the glory of God," a member of the family said.

So sad.

It reminds me of someone else, George Chapman - odd jobman at my old Bible college. He had gone there as a student in the 1930s and never left.

The college community was in the chapel praying for the coming missions, and George prayed a really rather beautiful prayer about commitment and salvation— then he collapsed and died there in his pew. He went out on a real high - among the people he loved, praying to the Saviour he adored.

And of Lorraine Warren, Chairman of the Church Council at my church in Chile. Lorraine was a bouncing Christian, full of joy and with far too much energy for a woman of 75.

At our Bible study one week we had two guest speakers, from Scotland and Ireland, who led us in a really rather good session on heaven. Afterwards, as I remember, Lorraine was so excited, hopping from one

...continued on next page

## READINGS 1 BEFORE LENT

Exodus 24:12 - end  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-end  
Matthew 17:1-9

## BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

The Bread for today

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG6\\_3yGZbB0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG6_3yGZbB0)

## OUR OWN LIGHT BITE

Lent—and being serious about it.

<https://youtu.be/d1YkCwnIdGM>

## HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER GROUP

This week's House Group will *not* happen. I have a medical appointment.

The **Zoom Prayer Group** will be on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm

## CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

1st Saturday of the month Welsh Newton 10.30

2nd Saturday of the Month Llangarron. 10.30

2nd Wednesday of the month Llangrove 10.30

## WHY NOT...

JOIN THE ZOOM PRAYER GROUP AS A LENTEN

DISCIPLINE? EVERY TUESDAY EVENING AT 7.30PM?

THE ADDRESS IS ALWAYS ON THE ACCOMPANYING

LETTER TO THIS UPDATE.

## ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION (with imposition of ashes)



This Wednesday  
Christ Church Llangrove  
7.00pm

foot to the other, wringing her hands and with a marked expression of joy and gladness. "Oh! I'm so excited," she said, "I wouldn't care if I died tonight."

That evening it was the church Annual Meeting, and Lorraine, as Chairman, had to give her report. She stood up to speak, but then after a short time she complained of a terrible headache and had to sit down. Then she went into a state of collapse. So we carried her out, put her into a car and took her to one of the small hospitals that they have in Chile. I well remember watching her husband Ian writing out a blank cheque for her care and treatment (you go to jail if it bounces, apparently) and Lorraine was admitted.

In the early hours of the morning I was allowed to go in to see her, attached as she was to all kinds of tubes and wires. Later that night they switched everything off and she died. It was a huge shock.

Two days later we had the funeral - a huge, lively affair full of joy and laughter and celebration because Lorraine wouldn't have approved of anything else. Her home is in heaven.

I half suspect that when I die I'll be welcomed into heaven by Lorraine, who will be completely at home with its noisy, exuberant glory. And somewhere in the crowds will be Caylee and George too.

What does the Bible teach about death for all who belong to Christ?

"Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:26

"So we are always confident, because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight. We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord." 2 Cor 5:6-8

"I assure you that whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and won't come under judgment but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? 1 Cor 15:54-55

For those without Christ death is terrifying. For those *in* Christ death is triumph, and a going to our true home.

## CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

### THERMAL TENT CHURCH

A Cumbria church, Christ Church Cockermouth, has decided to save thousands of pounds by erecting a 'tent' inside the building.



The 'tent' is made from scaffolding sheeting, which is flame resistant. It puts in an artificial ceiling at the height of the church's balcony and blocks off the chancel, reducing the worship space by three quarters.

For a total outlay of £750 the church is set to save £4000 in heating costs.

*Not bad as a temporary measure!*

### THE POOR HAVE BEEN ABANDONED

A new report has found significantly more churches have closed in low income areas than in affluent ones in the past decade.



Research from **Church Action on Poverty** revealed a disproportionate affect on poor communities when churches in the UK have shut their doors. The three year study - Church On The Margins - examined closures across Greater Manchester over the past ten years, in Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches., and only the URC had more closures in affluent areas.

The churches gave familiar and convincing reasons as contributing factors to church closures: declining attendance; buildings costs and repair and a lack of clergy.

Niall Cooper, from the charity, expressed his concerns: "Churches are effectively withdrawing from low income communities. And if that trend continues for the next 10 or 20 years, then it's really about abandoning communities." He noted that the closing churches tend to be in areas where lots of other things are closing too, but that when the church closes people feel abandoned and left behind.

## LENT COURSE THE KING'S SPEECH

The last Lent course I attempted to run, on the film *The King's Speech*, was cut off by Covid after only one session. In my opinion the King's Speech is one of the most outstanding films ever to be made, and I have decided that I want to have another go at the course, repeating the first session.

The commitment is to six sessions at the Vicarage. Each session will happen both on a Wednesday evening and a Friday afternoon, to give people the best chance of getting there. You can come to either one. A booklet will be provided.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served. Each session will be over in about an hour and a half. It will consist of the showing of two clips of between four and about six minutes, and discussion.

They will run as follows

<b>Thurs 22 Feb</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Film viewing</b>
<b>Fri 24 Feb</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Film viewing</b>
<b>Wed 1 Mar</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Session 1</b>
<b>Fri 3 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Session 1</b>
<b>Wed 8 Mar</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
<b>Fri 10 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
<b>Wed 15 Mar</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Session 3</b>
<b>Fri 17 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Session 3</b>
<b>Wed 22 Mar</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Session 4</b>
<b>Fri 24 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Session 4</b>
<b>Wed 29 Mar</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Session 5</b>
<b>Fri 31 Mar</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Session 5</b>



See you there!

### THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF LENT

Moderation is a very good thing. In fact, I've given it up for Lent.

I'm giving up procrastination for Lent. Well, on second thoughts, maybe I should give myself a year to prepare for it.

I'm giving up negativity for Lent. Well, we'll see how long that lasts!

I was wondering what to give up for Lent - and eventually decided to give up fasting.

## LENT LUNCHES



Lent lunches raise money for a charity chosen by the host. The cost is a donation.

The time for each lunch is 12.30 pm, but see Goodrich, below.

So far we have

*(wb 27 Feb or 6 Mar - day and place still to be confirmed)*

**SUNDAY 12 MARCH**

Goodrich Church after the service (12.15). Please feel free to come even if you weren't church.

**WED 15 MARCH**

Ian and Phyll Hannah (Marstow)

**THUR 23 MARCH**

Ian and Jacky Alexander (Llangrove)

**MON 27 MARCH**

Gill Drayton (Langarron)



## FOR YOUR DIARY

## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week this year is Sun Apr 2 - Sat Apr 8.

There is a long established pattern of activities with one important addition.

**Sun** Usual services for Palm Sunday

**Mon—Wed** Morning Prayer  
Compline (Night Prayer)

**Thurs** Morning Prayer  
24 hour prayer begins  
Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

**Friday** Hour round the Cross  
Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)

Details will firm up very soon.

# PRAYER PAGE

The Bishop has designated 2023 as a Year of Prayer for the Diocese, and so I am going to try to gather prayer materials and information on this page week by week.

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

### The UK

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

### World

- Pray for the people of Turkey and Syria, where the death toll from the recent earthquake is now over 44,000
- Please continue to pray for the Ukraine, and for Russia, and about the countries involved on the sidelines of the conflict.
- Pray for the US and its political chaos and internal anger.
- Pray for efforts to reduce global warming.
- Pray about the issue of migration

### Health

- The NHS
- 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 aftermath of the General Synod, and especially those who feel betrayed by the outcome
- For our encouragement of true discipleship
- For our own attempts to move towards mission mindedness and action
- 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.

### 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.

- Matthew and Patricia, a year after their son's death
- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer. His chemo is over. Further tests are ongoing.
- Bernie Water's elderly and frail parents, while Bernie and Gill are visiting relatives in Australia.
- The family of Pat Parkinson, of Welsh Newton Common, whose memorial service is impending
- Tina—for continued recovery following her operation
- A baby born recently with physical and possible development problems
- April (close to death) and her husband Clive

## THE (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## LOSING BY PRAYING

A woman was once asked: "What do you gain from praying to God regularly?"

She replied:

Usually "I don't earn anything", but rather "I lose things".

And she mentioned some of the things she lost from praying to God regularly:

I lost pride.

I lost arrogance.

I lost greed.

I lost jealousy.

I lost anger.

I lost .

I lost the pleasure of lying.

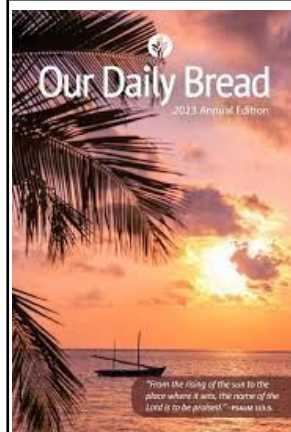
I lost the taste of sin.

I lost impatience, despair, and discouragement.

Sometimes we pray, not to gain something, but to lose things that don't allow us to grow spiritually. Prayer educates, strengthens, and heals. Prayer is the channel that connects us directly to God."

## PRAYER HELP

LOOK OUT in church for a foldable prayer aid for Lent. Easy to use.



## OUR DAILY BREAD

Free daily notes to help you with your quiet time with God.

Available in your church once again.

## SERVICES CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE	LEADER
Sun 19 Feb	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation/Bib St	Lay led
	10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Ben
	11.00	Goodrich	Morning Service	Jill
	6.00	Llangarron	Evening Service	Penny
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Llangrove</b>	<b>Ash Wed HC with ashing</b>	<b>Ben</b>
Sun 26 Feb	8.30	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion	Penny
	10.00	Marstow	Morning Worship	Hillary
	10.00	Llangrove	Community Praise	Lay led
	11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Ben
	6.00	Welsh Newton	Worship and Prayer	Lay led*

\* NB This is correct. St Mary's meets twice on a fourth Sunday.

## 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.

## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

To give to your local church in easiest, most efficient way, telephone **0333 002 1271**

You will need a parish reference number, as follows:

Church	Parish Ref	Church	Parish Ref
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](mailto: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.

## BLESS THE NHS

Messages of support for the NHS

For details go to <https://www.frontline19.com/hopeline19/>

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



## VICAR HOLIDAYS

TBA

## CLERGY DAY OFF

My usual day off is MONDAY



## Benefice Food Banks

The Benefice now has three informal, voucher-free food banks, at the churches in  
**Welsh Newton**  
**Llangrove**  
**Langarron**

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 them yourself.

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

Thanks

### THE GENERAL SYNOD DEBATE



The recent bishops' decision and subsequent debate at General Synod is resulting in the issuing of prayers of blessing for same sex couples.

The Coalition for Marriage has issued a video clip of a conversation between Tony Rucinski of the Coalition for Marriage and Revd Dr Ian Paul, who is a member of the General Synod.

You might like to have a look at this 18 minute clip. It gives a decent idea in language that can be understood what the fuss is all about, and why the situation now is not helpful. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBFffXTtUYM>

The Coalition for Marriage is a campaigning organisation for a traditional view of marriage as being between one man and one woman. If you would like to view a slightly longer and prior conversation, about gay marriage, why not also go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk8wL\\_lmaxg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk8wL_lmaxg)

### 24 HOUR PRAYER



In the Diocese we are committing ourselves to a year of prayer.

As part of this the congregation at St Mary's Welsh Newton are hosting 24 hours of prayer for the whole benefice, probably starting on Maundy Thursday.

Currently, if I understand it correctly people will be invited to commit themselves to a specific hour of prayer in church.

Want to be part of it? Let Patricia know on [patriciacarswell@gmail.com](mailto:patriciacarswell@gmail.com)

More details out soon.

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