

**Wye Brooks Group
UPDATE for 26 FEBRUARY
LENT1
PURPLE**

**FROM THE VICAR
TEMPTATION**

It's the first Sunday in Lent, and every year that means that the gospel reading is about temptation - Jesus in the wilderness, hungry and alone, being tempted by Satan, and then our own attitude.

I'm grateful to American pastor and evangelist Charles Swindoll for this story.

"Son," ordered a father, "Don't swim in that canal."

"OK, Dad," he answered. But he came home carrying a wet bathing suit that evening.

"Where have you been?" demanded the father.

"Swimming in the canal," answered the boy. "Didn't I tell you not to swim there?" asked the father.

"Yes, Dad," answered the boy.

"Why did you?" he asked.

"Well, Dad," he explained, "I had my bathing suit with me and I couldn't resist the temptation."

"Why did you take your bathing suit with you?" he questioned.

"So I'd be prepared to swim, in case I was tempted," he replied.

I think part of the problem as we think about temptation is that we often use the passive voice when talking about it—it was something done to us. "I was tempted to do this or that." The reality is that all too often we place ourselves in the way of temptation where it is easy to fall to it. It's one thing to say that Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit out into the desert to be tempted, and quite another to say that I took myself out into the desert to be tempted.

Mark Twain said, "There are several good protections against temptation, but the surest is cowardice." If you know you are weak in a particular area in your moral life, be careful in that area.

READINGS

LENT 1

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Forgive us our trespasses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJP-w4QU2PI>

OUR OWN LIGHT BITE

No Light Bite this week

**HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER
GROUP**

The **Zoom House Group** will be on Tuesday 28th at 10.00am.

The **Zoom Prayer Group** will not happen due to clash with a PCC

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? MOST TUESDAYS AT 7.30PM?

**THE ADDRESS IS ALWAYS ON THE ACCOMPANYING
LETTER TO THIS UPDATE.**

TEMPTATION

My best friend was getting married to his girlfriend Edith. At his stag night he was approached by a beautiful woman who whispered in his ear. He smiled and whispered back in her ear. She frowned and walked away. I went up to him and asked what she said.

"She said, 'Hello, my name is Kate. I understand it's your stag night and I wanted to offer a night of pleasure before you're married'. But I told her that it was kind of her to offer but that I can't do that."

I said to him "Wow, she is gorgeous. You must have been sorely tempted?" He put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eyes and said...

"You can't have your Kate, and Edith too."

CHRISTIAN NEWS

THE PROBLEM OF BEING A CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN



Kate Forbes is an SNP MP—and an active Christian. She does not approve of gay marriage or of having children outside marriage. Neither does she support the

controversial Gender Reform Bill. But she is also one of those who want to become the First Minister and Leader of the SNP following the recent resignation of Nicola Sturgeon.

But there are those who do not support her simply because of her Christian moral beliefs and three key MSPs have already disassociated themselves from her.

Ian Blackford is the former leader of the SNP in Westminster. He commented, not unsympathetically, that as a Christian politician, you need to be very careful about mixing religious views and politics. "For me, my faith is important - it shapes who you are. But we are always facing this question, 'how do you align your faith to the responsibility you have as an elected politician to represent all of your constituents'."

CHRISTIAN NAME 'OFFENSIVE'



The University of Kent has asked students to stop using the expression 'Christian name' to avoid offending non-believers.

The institution's new inclusive guidelines encourage using 'first name', 'given name' or 'family name rather than those which involve "religion and belief". It has also pointed out that 'surname' whilst not unacceptable may originate from sire-name, or the name derived from one's father."

In December, the University of Brighton encouraged staff and students to say "winter closure period" instead of Christmas and in January, the London School of Economics announced it was dropping the traditional Christian titles for its academic term dates

THE GAY MARRIAGE VOTE FALLOUT

The Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches (GSFA) has announced it will no longer recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury as the "leader of the global communion", following the decision to allow same-sex couples to be blessed within the Church of England.



The GSFA said that the Church of England (CofE) had "disqualified" itself by allowing same-sex blessings and that they no longer considered the CofE as the "mother church".

The GSFA says it speaks for 75% of Anglicans around the world, officially representing 25 member provinces - mainly in Asia, Latin America and Africa. It said that it would no longer work "in communion" with groups that have "taken the path of false teaching". They accused the Church of England of going against "the historical biblical faith", adding: "This breaks our hearts."

These provinces will not leave the Anglican Communion. But according to the statement, their leaders will "expeditiously meet, consult and work with other orthodox Primates in the Anglican Church across the nations to re-set the Communion on its biblical foundation."

FOOTBALLER ATSU DEAD IN EARTHQUAKES

The body of former Newcastle footballer Christian Atsu has been found under a collapsed building following Turkey's recent earthquakes.



The 31-year-old was a devout Christian and would often use his high profile to share his faith. He used to attend Hillsong Church Newcastle during his time at Newcastle United.

In 2018, he told Ghana Sports he became a Christian at the age of 16 and has since tried to "imitate the life that Jesus Christ was living".



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, of course, the 40 day season for self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting and self denial and also reading and meditating on God's word.

A small group of us gathered at Christ Church for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. And we were reminded that it is the interior faith, our relationship with God, which drives external Christian moral action.

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.

Apologies - film viewing on Thursday this week had to be postponed for a couple of days. It was beyond my control.

Wed	1 Mar	7.00	Session 1
Fri	3 Mar	2.00	Session 1
Wed	8 Mar	7.00	Session 2
Fri	10 Mar	2.00	Session 2
Thu	16 Mar	7.00	Session 3
Fri	17 Mar	2.00	Session 3
Thu	23 Mar	7.00	Session 4
Fri	24 Mar	2.00	Session 4
Wed	29 Mar	7.00	Session 5
Fri	31 Mar	2.00	Session 5



See you there!

LENT LUNCHES



Lent lunches raise money for a charity chosen by the host. The cost is a donation. We have four this year, not five.

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

THURSDAY 2 MARCH (Llangrove/Welsh Newton)
The Vicarage, Llangrove

SUNDAY 12 MARCH (Goodrich)
Goodrich Church after the service (12.15). Please feel free to come even if you weren't church.

WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH
Ian and Phyll Hannah (Marstow)

MON 27 MARCH (Langarron)
Gill Drayton

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 Diocesan Year of Prayer, and so I am going to try to put at least one new prayer item on this page each 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

- The people of Turkey and Syria, where the death toll from the recent earthquake is now over 47,000
- The Ukraine, and for Russia, and about the countries involved on the sidelines of the conflict.
- The US and its political chaos and internal anger.
- Efforts to reduce global warming.
- The issue of migration

Health

- The NHS—still under very serious pressure
- 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, those who feel betrayed by the outcome and the potential for schism
- For our encouragement of true discipleship and 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.

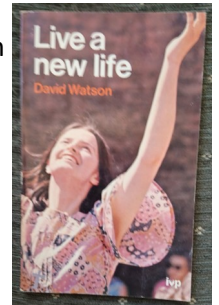
- Ian and Jacky - having a tough time at present.
- Helen Edwards - in hospital, multiple sclerosis relapse
- Wendy, after the loss of her sister this week
- April (close to death) and her husband Clive
- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer. His chemo is over. Further tests are ongoing.
- Bernie Water's elderly and frail parents, while Bernie and Gill are visiting relatives in Australia.
- The family of Pat Parkinson, of Welsh Newton Common, after her funeral and memorial service
- Tina—for continued recovery following her operation
- A baby born recently with physical and possible development problems

THE (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR LENT 1

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAISE

This was the cover of a book by David Watson—the image of a young woman pouring herself out in praise.



We are all used to thanking God for what he has done, but we can and should praise God for who he is.

Try it. Tell God you recognise his being and his character, that he is one, infinite, eternal, all powerful, beyond, all knowing, everywhere, all loving; that he is our Creator and Sustainer that he is majestic far beyond what we can imagine, that he is holy and righteous, the ultimate reality, the ultimate truth; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords yet knowable in Christ.

Try using a hymnbook to help you

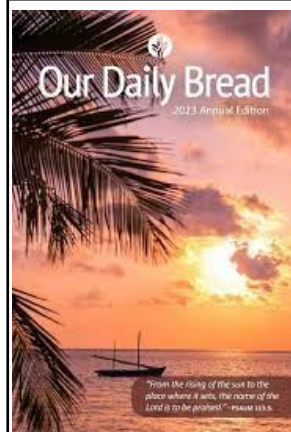
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation
- O worship the King

Or the Psalms: Psalms 8, 18,19, 24,29 and so on.

Praise lifts our prayer to new heights.

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

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.				
Sun 5 Mar	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation/Bib St	Lay led
	10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Simon
	11.00	Llangarron	Holy Communion	Ben
Sun 12 Mar	8.30	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion	Ben
	10.00	Llangrove	Sunday Praise	Wendy
	10.00	Marstow	Holy Communion	Ben
	11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Simon

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		

MINI BIBLE STUDY OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

1. **Be conscious of God's provision to help you in any tempting situation.** 1 Corinthians 10:13
2. **Take heed to Gods word.** Psalms. 119:9-11, Proverbs 24:5, John 17:17, Acts 20:32
3. **Pray for the Strength.** Matt. 26:41, Jude 20.
4. **Forgo Self Gratification.** Romans 13: 14
5. **Grow into Spiritual Maturity.** 1 Corinthians 3: 1-3; 2 Timothy 2:19-21).
6. **Surround yourself with people of value NOT partners in sin.** 2 Samuel 13 Psalm 1:1-3).
7. **Resist the Devil.** 1 Peter 5:8, James 4:7
8. **Run away from Dangerous Spots.** 1 Corinthians 6: 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

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.

BLESS THE NHS

Messages of support for the NHS

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

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

TEMPTATION QUOTES

Temptation is the devil looking through the keyhole.
Yielding is opening the door and inviting him in.

Billy Sunday

Every time we say yes to temptation, we make it harder to say no the next time.

Jerry Bridges

The Devil suits his temptation to every sinner.

Rowland Hill

There is no mask that temptation cannot wear.

Georges Bernanos

Ignoring a temptation is far more effective than fighting it.

Once your mind is on something else, the temptation loses its power. So when temptation calls you on the phone, don't argue with it -- just hang up!

Rick Warren

To be tempted is in itself no sin. It is the yielding to the temptation, and giving it a place in our hearts, which we must fear. -

Bishop J. C. Ryle.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

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

More details out soon.

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St Mary's Church,

Welsh Newton

with the Wye Brooks Benefice



P R A Y E R

S E R V I C E

**SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY
6PM**

**An informal service
where we will pray for the church,
the community and each other**