

Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 5 MARCH LENT 2 PURPLE

FROM THE VICAR "I HAVE A VOICE"



Our Lent course this year is based on the 2010 film *The King's Speech*, which is about the accession of King George VI to the throne, his distressing and debilitating stammer, and the efforts of his Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue to help him. It's an outstanding film, in which arguably the climax is not the

speech itself, but the end of a row between the King and Logue in Westminster Abbey just before the Coronation. After a bitter exchange the King shouts out at fever pitch "I have a right to be heard, I have a voice!" which, in a smart duplication of meaning, means that yes, he can conquer his stammer, and yes, he can lead the nation. It's an utterly marvellous moment. But the reality is that it's only in safety that he can speak.

For me the comparison with our Church is obvious. Christians are adopted sons and heirs of God in Christ, according to the New Testament, and yet we the Church, despite our lofty status, seem to find it almost impossible to speak out a gospel message. We shelter in our palaces - our churches, our liturgies, the places where the general public don't come. And even there it is rare to hear Christians talking in any specific way about their faith - God's love for them in Christ, what they have discovered in their Bible study, how they are refreshed or guided in prayer, who they know who really needs praying for.

Terrified by allegations of arrogance or intolerance, we can't seem speak out the gospel, can't even seem to agree that we should, and instead we try to inhabit easier ground - as the social conscience of the nation, or talking about justice which, while it is undoubtedly a Christian theme, is not *the* Christian theme.

READINGS LENT 2

Genesis 12:-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Lead us not into temptation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iczxG9-zcgc>

OUR OWN LIGHT BITE

Sex and temptation for us, the Church.

<https://youtu.be/04xLZzula5A>

HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER GROUP

The **Zoom House Group** will be on Tuesday 7th at 10.00am.

The **Zoom Prayer Group** will be on Tuesday 7th at 7.30pm

CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

1st Saturday of the month Welsh Newton 10.00

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.**

We need help, just like the Duke of York, who became King, did. In the film, as you watch you realise that there are people closed to him, like his wife, children, staff, who are actually willing him to succeed. He also turned to Lionel Logue, and made faltering but solid progress.

Think of it like this. It's a scary thing to speak out our faith, but it won't be so scary if we have the support of one another to do that. But ultimately we need to asking someone else, God the Holy Spirit, for help.

We do have a voice, but not while we are sheltering safe in our church buildings.

CHRISTIAN NEWS

CHURCH REJECTS BISHOP



One of the UK's biggest churches, St Helen's Bishopsgate, has announced it will no longer accept episcopal oversight from the Church of England's House of Bishops.

It is in response to the bishops' decision to "exalt their desire for an institutional political consensus above the authority of Jesus's word", following the General Synod's vote to bless couples in same-sex marriage or civil partnerships.

The Vicar, Revd William Taylor, added that "The bishops of the Church of England have walked away from us. By contrast, we will continue to walk in closer union with those who uphold the teaching of God's word, and will actively develop stronger gospel partnerships with them," Rev William added. The Church has asked Most Rev Dr Foley Beach, Chairman of GAFCON (The Global Anglican Future Conference) to provide pastoral oversight.

FOLEY MAINTAINS LEAD



It has been a turbulent week in the Scottish National Party. Since Nicola Sturgeon announced her resignation the race has been on to find her successor and this really looks like being between Hamza Yousaf and Kate

Forbes.

Kate Forbes is a member of the Free Church of Scotland and makes no secret about her faith, which includes unease with sex before marriage, childbirth before marriage, same sex marriage, abortion and the SNP determination to change the definitions of male and female. She has said she believes that a trans woman is a "biological male who identifies as a woman".

Her opponent has said that someone who believes what she does should never be allowed to lead the SNP and the knives have certainly been out for her this week. The battle is far from over, but a poll this week suggested that only 5% of Scottish voters thought that her Christian faith is an issue.

But these are early days, and we won't know who will win this till 27th March.

TRANS BASED PULL-OUT

An American Christian girls school has dropped out of its state basketball championship after discovering its opponent had a transgender player on its team. They abdicated their participation over concerns of "fairness" and "safety".



The Head of Mid Vermont Christian School said the school team withdrew from the Vermont Division IV state tournament because they "believe playing against an opponent with a biological male jeopardizes the fairness of the game and the safety of our players".

Vermont State does not ban transgender women from participating in women's sports and indeed insists that transgender students should be able to compete in line with gender identity.

But the Head said, "As a Christian-based school we have a statutory and constitutional right to make decisions based on our religious beliefs, including those pertaining to marriage and sexuality,"

N KOREAN 'EXTERMINATION'

Christians in North Korea are being sent to labour camps, a leading persecution charity has warned.



According to Open Doors, there has been a rise in incidents of persecution against Christians across the last year. Being part of an underground church could be a death sentence for many living under Kim Jong-un; in one incident detailed by the persecution charity, when interviewed by The Telegraph, believers were rounded up and executed after their church was discovered.

North Korea continues to top the Open Doors World Watch List as the most dangerous place to be a Christian. In 2022, it was topped by Afghanistan after years in the top spot. In 2023, it has returned to the list as the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Under 2% of the North Korean population holds to the Christian faith.

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 decided that I wanted to have another go at the course, repeating the first session.

The course commitment has been to a showing of the film then to five sessions at the Vicarage, parallel sessions each week on a Wednesday evening and a Friday afternoon, to give everyone the maximum chance of getting there. A booklet is provided.

Each session lasts about an hour and a half, including tea, coffee and biscuits. It will consist of the showing of two clips of between four and about six minutes, and discussion. This is Lent, of course, and so the focus is on ourselves, our taking stock and our moving on in faith, so the discussions are in that area.

We have already had the showing of the film and the first session, but you are most welcome to join us for the remaining sessions. If you want to borrow the film to watch it, just give me a ring.

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 at the Vicarage!

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.

Last week's was on Thursday at the Vicarage. The next one is after the service at Goodrich on 12th March. The Goodrich folk have asked me to tell you that you are welcome to join them even if you aren't at church there that morning.

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
St Matthew's Church (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.



MONDAYS IN LENT 9.30PM

From Hillary (writing on Tuesday)

Last night I discovered accidentally that Radio is broadcasting a weekly Compline at 9.30pm during Lent. It was a lovely end to the day yesterday

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 50,000
- 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 impending 3 day strike
- 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 Shipton - in hospital, multiple sclerosis relapse
- Wendy (not Llangrove), after the loss of her sister last week
- April (close to death) and her husband Clive
- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer. His chemo is over. Further tests are ongoing.
- The family of Pat Parkinson, of Welsh Newton Common, after her funeral and memorial service
- Tina—for continued recovery following her operation
- Freya (not from here) grieving after the sudden death of her best friend.

THE (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR LENT 2

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

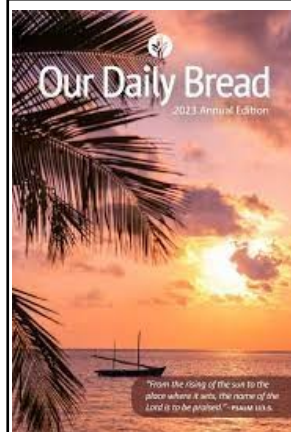
PRAYER WALKING

Prayer walking involves, yes, going for a walk and praying as you do so. It can be done alone, but is probably done better going out in prayers, and the idea is to soak your neighbourhood in prayer.

- Pray generally about community issues.
- Pray for God's blessing on every household.
- Pray for God's blessing on your friends and neighbours as you pass their houses.
- Pray for the sick, the frail, those living alone or those who are struggling with life in other ways as you pass their houses.
- Pray for those whom you know are in conflict as you pass their houses.
- Pray for the school, the church, the village hall and any business as you pass them.
- And in each place, pray for the family to find a Christian faith, or to grow in their Christian faith.

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 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
Sun 19 Mar MOTHERING SUNDAY				
	8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation/Bib St	Lay led
	10.00	Llangrove	Family Communion	Ben
	11.00	Goodrich	All Age Praise	Sue
	6.00**	Llangarron	Evening Service	Penny

**(Note: this time is correct. The Border News is incorrect)

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		

FAITH NOT FEAR

I am inwardly fashioned for faith, not for fear. Fear is not my native land; faith is. I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life; faith is the oil. I live better by faith and confidence than by fear, doubt and anxiety. In anxiety and worry, my being is gasping for breath—these are not my native air. But in faith and confidence, I breathe freely—these are my native air.

One medical professional put it like this: "We do not know why it is that worriers die sooner than the non-worriers, but that is a fact." But I, who am simple of mind, think I know; We are inwardly constructed in nerve and tissue, brain cell and soul, for faith and not for fear. God made us that way. To live by worry is to live against reality.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones

CONTACTS

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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

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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.