

The Rector writes.... There are a few advantages to be gained from being old, one being Senior Rail cards and associated concessions which has included this winter being able to travel on the Arriva Wales Rail network for £13 for a day! One day in March I took advantage of this and went by train to Pwlheli and back, something I had meant to do for a long time! It has to be said that this rail journey must rank among the top five in the British Isles, possibly in Europe! The rapid sylvan descent to Machynlleth, the travel across the broad Dovey and Mawddach estuaries, hugging the cliffs from Aberdovey before the train reaches Fairbourne, crossing into Barmouth on that astonishing bridge over the Mawddach estuary, travelling past the vast sandy stretches of Harlech beach, the scenic variety has to be experienced to be believed! Such an experience is exciting and uplifting to the soul! Naturally enough, it led me to compare such a wonderful experience with the joys of Easter and the Resurrection! How transformed those first disciples were to encounter the Risen Jesus and what amazing results followed, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles! Because this astonishing event – the resurrection of Jesus Christ – occurred over two thousand years ago it's easy to lose sight of or hard to recall how exciting it was! When we have a good day out its great, of course, and maybe it can give us a small reminder of the great joy experienced by the disciples and followers witnessing Christ's resurrection, especially Mary Magdalene's as recorded in John's Gospel! Everyone is invited to share in the events of Holy Week as our services take us through the week to Good Friday and thence to welcome the Risen Christ on Easter Day! "Lo I am with you always to the end of the Age" said Jesus, and in these troubled times its good to know Our Lord and Master is always our constant Friend and Companion - Easter Good News indeed!

SUNDAY SERVICES: All are welcome to services at all our churches!

SUNDAY 3 APRIL LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY

8.00 Holy Communion Lydham

10.00 MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE Churchstoke

10.30 MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE & Family Communion Ratlinghope

Licensing of Canon Julia Francis as Reader Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop of Hereford

6.30 "Spring Lamb Service" & Evening Prayer Wentnor

SATURDAY 9 APRIL 5.00pm WEDDING MORE: Nicholas Russell & Kate Taylor 5.00pm

SUNDAY 10 APRIL LENT 5 PASSION SUNDAY

8.30 Holy Communion Ratlinghope

9.45 Holy Communion Wentnor (Rev Jo Evans)

10.00 Holy Communion Hyssington

11.15 Holy Communion Churchstoke (Preb Michael Pollit)

11.30 Holy Communion More

2.30 Kinnerton Methodist Chapel Lambing Service

6.30 Evening Prayer Norbury

HOLY WEEK: SUNDAY 17 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

Blessing of Palms at all services

8.30 Holy Communion Wentnor

10.00 Holy Communion Snead

11.15 "Palm Sunday Praise" Churchstoke

11.15 "Palm Sunday Praise" Lydham (Rev Jo Evans)

7.30 Marches Community Choir Concert "Faure Requiem" St John's Church. Bishop's Castle

Monday 18 April 12 Noon Stations of the Cross Churchstoke

Tuesday 19 April 12 Noon Stations of the Cross Churchstoke

Wednesday 20 April 12 Noon Stations of the Cross Churchstoke

MAUNDY THURSDAY 21 APRIL

10.30 Chrism Eucharist Hereford Cathedral

6.30 Benefice Maundy Eucharist Ratlinghope

GOOD FRIDAY 2 APRIL

10.30 Liturgy for Good Friday Churchstoke (Jon Price)

2.00 "Meditation, Hymns & Prayer" Part one Norbury & Good Friday Walk "Following the Cross" to Wentnor

4.00pm "Meditation, Hymns & Prayer" Part two Wentnor

EASTER EVE 3 APRIL

7.30pm Easter Vigil Hyssington (Preb M Pollit)

SUNDAY 24 APRIL EASTER DAY

6.00 "Dawn Service" Knolls car park, Stiperstones

8.30 Holy Communion Norbury

9.45 Holy Communion Myndtown

9.45 Holy Communion Ratlinghope (David Jelves)

11.15 Holy Communion More (Rev Jo Evans)

11.15 Holy Communion Churchstoke

6.30 Evening Prayer & Holy Communion Wentnor

Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am All are welcome to this short weekly act of worship from all the parishes.
Weds 30 March Myndtown; Weds 6 April Snead; 13 April Ratlinghope; 20 April Norbury; 27 April NO SERVICE;
4 May Lydham

AT THE CHURCHES:

MONDAY 11 APRIL at 11am THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH by Rt Rev ALISTAIR MAGOWAN, BISHOP OF LUDLOW OF THE NEW CLUN FOREST DEANERY CHURCH TOURISM LEAFLET AT THE CROWN, WENTNOR. NEAR BISHOP'S CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE

All are welcome – we need representatives please from all churches in the Clun Forest Deanery to attend and collect their leaflets. This has been a project undertaken by Rev Norman Morris, on behalf of the Deanery to encourage visitors and raise the profile of all our churches. The leaflet has been designed and prepared by Bob Calver, Editor of the Hereford Diocesan Newspaper, with photographs of the Churches by Roger Turner – it's a very attractive leaflet which profiles all the deanery churches

Annual Parochial Church Meeting dates (APCM) Very important! All are welcome! Please attend – and we always need new PCC members!! Remaining meetings:-

Friday 1 April Hyssington APCM Cefn Farm 7.30pm

Monday 4 April Wentnor APCM The Rectory 7.30pm

Wednesday 6 April More APCM 7.30pm The Rectory

Thursday 7 April Norbury APCM 7.30pm Lea Farm

Friday 8 April Myndtown APCM Handless Farm 7.30pm

Thursday 14 April Lydham APCM 7.30pm Upper Broughton Farm

The **Local Ministry Team** runs a **Prayer Line** which is like the School Snow Line. You phone the first number and we phone several volunteers to pray for any worrying situation you feel you need help with. Prayer request number: contact 0782 7750 665.

News of The Local Ministry Team: Members are ; Anita Bright (Wentnor & Myndtown), **David Hardham** (Ratlinghope), Trish Macmullan (Snead); Janet Wilcoxon (Lydham & More), David Jelves (Churchstoke), Capt Jon Price, Canon Julia Francis, Margaret Wallsgrove (Hyssington) & Rev Norman Morris. Ann Remfry (Ratlinghope) & Oliver Goode (Norbury) have retired from the Team but Anne will continue as Convenor. Many thanks Anne for all you have done for the Team and we are glad you are continuing to be active with us. Thanks you Oliver for all you have contributed too. We always welcome new members, especially at this stage when we are renewing for another four years. "Calling out" is being called for so please look around and if you think someone young or old would be a good potential team member, please put her or his name forward.

On Saturday 16 April there will be a Children's Activity Day – Craft Day - Preparing for Easter

at Norbury Village Hall, organized by the Rev Norman Morris, Julia Francis & members of the Local Ministry Team 10.30 – 1.00pm – please sign in from 10.00am

The day is always a good one. The day will also include our World famous

ANNUAL EGG ROLLING Contest at c.12.30pm - always great fun! Parents please come at c.12.30pm

Children are welcome – 5-11 year olds - with teenagers welcome as helpers - under fives

with a parent/carer, please. £1 per child (£2 per family)

Bring hard-boiled eggs & pack lunch Drinks & biscuits provided.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15 – 21 MAY: For almost the past ten years the Rector has held a benefice-wide Coffee Morning for CHRISTIAN AID in CHRISTIAN AID WEEK at The Rectory – maybe it would be good to have a change of venue so an offer would be very welcome & the event can be advertised in the next magazine. Please respond!

WENTNOR FLOWER FESTIVAL JUNE 2012:

If you have not yet had an opportunity to come to the previous meetings, please do come and join us, your support is needed and will be very warmly welcomed.

For any further information please call Victoria Cockburn (650454) or Angela Turner (650352)

More Draw results for March for the parish mag were as follows: - 1.Claire Lavender 2 Marion Denwood 3 More PCC

Many thanks to all who helped and supported the Myndtown/Snead Quiz, our smallest churches, which took place at The Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle on Friday 11 March at 7.30pm – This year Myndtown won the trophy!

NEWS ROUND

Bev Lee of Ratlinghope writes "I would like to thank the ladies at the Ratlinghope Ladies' Lunch for their generosity in giving me the collection towards my London Marathon sponsorship. I have pledged it online to the Cardiomyopathy Association. On 17th April I will be running in the London Marathon to raise money for the Cardiomyopathy Association in memory of my younger brother, Gordon, who died of a heart attack four days after his 29th birthday. My fundraising target is £1600, and so far I have raised approximately half of that.

If you would like to sponsor me for the London Marathon, I would be very grateful for any contribution, however small. In addition to sponsorship, I will be selling cakes, cards, and the general contents of my house in order to reach my target of £1600! You can let me have cash, or a cheque payable to the CARDIOMYOPATHY ASSOCIATION or, if you prefer, you can donate online by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BevLee>. I can be contacted at Stitt Cottage, Ratlinghope, and on telephone number 01588 650581. Thanks for your support."

IONA WEEK 21 -28 April 2012 FOUR SPACES AVAILABLE (TWO ROOMS WITH TWIN BEDS)

In the past years I have organized a couple of pilgrimages to Iona in 2007 and 2009 which were much enjoyed, and a former parishioner, Hilary Jackson, is planning to take a party to Iona, staying at Bishop's House, in April 2012, which I am attending myself. We may possibly still have a couple of rooms (twin beds) available so there are vacancies for a couple of couples or a couple of people to share. Anyone expressing interest is very welcome to get in touch with me 01588 650244 or Hilary Jackson 01432 761588 who now lives near Hereford

UP AND COMING EVENTS

BENEFICE BOOK GROUP: Next meeting Friday 1 April at 3.00pm at The Stables, Asterton - "Gate of the Stairs" by Lorrie Moore & Friday 6 May at 3.00pm at The Rectory "Never let me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro". The next book after that will be by AS Byatt "The Children's Book". Potential new members are welcome Contact Rev Norman Morris 01588 650244.

LENT GROUPS: LENT began on Ash Wednesday 17 February and there are parallel **LENT COURSES** on weekday afternoons at **Churchstoke & at Wentnor.**

At Wentnor Rectory, we are following the **NEW 2011 York Course** – Rich Inheritance...Jesus' Legacy of Love"? - A Challenging topics! – with taped comments by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Dr Paula Goodier, Jim Wallis, introduced by the former Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, with closing comments by Inderjit Bhogal. Meeting at WENTNOR RECTORY at 2.30pm – remaining meeting Thursday 7 April.

All are welcome to come to all or any of the sessions.

There will also be Lent Group meetings at Churchstoke Vicarage run by David Jelves & Jon Price. (Please ring David & Jo Jelves for details 01588 620434)

There are Lent Bread & Soup Lunches for Christian Aid every Friday from 12 Noon at BC Methodist Hall from 12 Noon. This year our benefice contribution will be by Hyssington parish kindly providing a Bread & Soup Lunch on Friday 15 April.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME OPEN DAY AT MAREHAY FARM, RATLINGHOPE

SUNDAY 22 MAY 11.00am – 6.00pm
Entrance £3 children free Coffee & teas
Proceeds to “The Porridge Project”, Tanzania
Contact: 01588 650289

4TH OPEN GARDENS EVENT
WENTNOR
“Shropshire’s Tuscany”
Sunday 29 May/Bank Monday 30 May
2.00-6.00pm
Tickets: £4
In aid of Wentnor Church
Teas & Stalls at Walkmill Farm
(In aid of Norbury Church)
All are welcome!

SPONSORED WALK SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2011
ADSTONE FARMHOUSE WENTNOR
To raise funds for the Wentnor Flower Festival 2012

Courses to suit all ages and levels of fitness with a choice of 1, 6 1/2 and 11 Miles.
Start times between 0930 and 1230.

For further details, and sponsorship forms, contact Tim Bevan
01588 650158 or: timandpenny@btinternet.com

MAPS WILL BE PROVIDED AND ALL COURSES WILL BE SIGNED.

The Bible Study Group Meets at the Rectory, usually occasional Fridays - new members always welcome!
Currently studying St John’s Gospel at the Wentnor Rectory. Contact: The Rector 01588 650

Clr Peter Phillips on the Shropshire Council contributes the following “SCHOOLS THREATENED AGAIN”

Readers will have read of Shropshire Council’s threatened closure of 8 primary schools, most being Church of England. Lydbury North in our Deanery is on the list. We recall with both awe and anguish the tenacity and endurance of that community – fighting the arguments for 12 months! – and the jubilation when they won. Appropriately marked by the ringing of church bells as the children came out of school on that wonderful afternoon.

What has changed? What possible new and compelling argument has been adduced. None at all. Not one. Nor has Lydbury’s determination to stand firm again. I trust readers will lend prayerful and practical support.

The Diocese is 100% the 5 schools threatened with closure – and indeed explaining its own alternative route (Academies should Shropshire Council remain obdurate.)

Bucknell, Clun, Clunbury and Newcastle schools are being urged to federate. The potential perils of this, as a precursor to the closure, are well know; and colleagues and communities in the “frame would undoubtedly be alive too”.

The Issues

The Independent Schools Commission set up after the furore of 2008 concluded there was not reason for attacking Shropshire’s network of schools. They were absolutely right.

Readers will undoubtedly wish to rally round Lydbury and the others in our Church Family which are threatened (Onny, Hopton Wafers, Stiperstones and Barrow). Perhaps the best initial contact is the Diocesan Director of Education, Philip Sell – email: p.sell@hereford.anglican.org

Rev John Cribb informs us of 2011 Marches Spirituality dates ... 14th April see below Michael Tavernor Dean of Hereford; 7th October Esther de Waal Writer; also 5th November John Bell of Iona - a return visit to Bishops Castle.

Weddings in 2011 are currently booked for Saturday 9 April at More; Saturday 18 June at More; Friday 19 August Ratlinghope & possibly late August at Hyssington.

TWENTY YEARS AGO! The Deanery debated the Ordination of Women. Voting was Laity 22 – 6 in favour; Clergy 6- 1. George Carey would be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury in April; the deanery was undertaking study units; eleven parishes were late with their parish share; the winter had been bad with snow and ice; Wentnor was looking forward to a Concert given by the Craven Arms Male Voice Choir

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings:

Ruth Georgina & Grace Charlotte Shaw Sunday 20 February More

Fay & Dylan Pritchard Churchstoke Saturday 5 March

Funerals:

Patricia Mildred Kate Varcoe (80) Wentnor Friday 18 February

Gaynor Mauvie Bright (71) Hyssington Saturday 5 March

Our sympathies are extended to the family of **Pat Varcoe** of Rock Close who died, aged 80 on 7 February and whose funeral took place at Wentnor Church on Friday 18 February. Pat was born in January 1931, the youngest of seven children, and the family lived at Virginia Water until she was nearly two when sadly her Mother died. The family split up and Pat was raised by her Aunt near Farnham. After leaving school, she worked in London and later trained as a PE Instructor in the Women's RAF but switched to Office Administration. In May 1953 she married Douglas Varcoe and they honeymooned in Paris – they recalled watching the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on French TV! They lived in Basingstoke and in 1954 a son, Adrian, was born. Pat worked as a Secretary & Office Administrator in Basingstoke (Eli Lillys, Smiths Aviation) until the family went to Wentnor in 1972, Douglas having relatives in the area. Pat then worked in Shrewsbury then Church Stretton. She was Parish Clerk for 25 years, an active member of the WI until ten years or so she founded the Over 50s Club which has been such a great success. Malcolm Corfield, for many years Myndtown Parish Councilor recalled Pat excellent service as Parish Clerk and her good use of a waste paper basket when it came to the cascade of mail that seemed to grow larger and larger by the year! As the Rector said at her funeral, "Pat was well-known and well-loved in Wentnor and beyond and she will be greatly missed. It was very poignant that in January the social Club – her creation – gathered to celebrate her 80th birthday even though Pat was not well enough to come out of hospital you join in. Nonetheless, Pat's birthday was joyfully celebrated by the club she had founded! Pat was one of those hardworking people who brought people together and showed how coming together people could have fun! The Club's meetings and numerous outings were and continue to be very enjoyable! There's much sadness in life but Pat knew how to make things happen and so brought joy and laughter into the lives of many people, particularly the elderly, in our very rural area. We shall remember Pat with affection, with her bright smile and her chucking laugh! "May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Age UK Lunches for those 60 & over at the Crown Inn, Wentnor, 12 Noon for 12.30pm

Normally SECOND WEDNESDAY in the month –

NEXT LUNCH IN APRIL Wednesday 13 April

to book your meal please ring Vera Brookfield 01588 650230 BY 3 April

and THIRD TUESDAY in the month,

NEXT LUNCH IN APRIL Tuesday 19 April

Please ring Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 to make a booking

Table Tennis! Open to all! Anyone wanting a good game! Often taking place Mondays at Norbury Village Hall 2-3pm for details contact The Rector 01588 650244

Local public transport?

DIAL-A-RIDE Wentnor to Bishops Castle & back every Friday pick-up 10.00am Wentnor Church & Wentnor Shop (can stop at Norbury) return 12.45pm from Tuffins BC.

SHROPSHIRE LINK ring 01743 210368 – need to make a booking a day or two before.

Find out what is going on across the **Hereford diocese** at the website at www.hereford.anglican.org - have a look at the Notice board. For details of service times at the Cathedral, please telephone 01432 374212 or visit the cathedral website www.herefordcathedral.org.

Norbury & District WI: Thursday 14 April; "Hand weaving" Speaker: ANN SMITH; Hostesses Shirley Betton, Rose Jones & Kate Robinson; Flowers: Janet Brandon; Competition: Diabetic recipe (cake, biscuit, choc or drink)

Lydham, More & Snead WI: Thursday 21 April; "My latest Adventure" Mrs. Pam Love; Competition: Interesting item from a foreign holiday; Refreshments Janet P & Margaret. .

Onny Valley Social Club: Usually meeting at Norbury Village Hall; .Social gatherings & outings for the over-fifties: well worthwhile – do join! New members welcome. Monthly meetings First Tuesday in the month through the year in Norbury Village Hall 2,30pm - next Tuesday 5 April Penny (daughter of Maureen & John Walker of Gatten) “Riding across America on a Harley Davidson motorbike”; DAY TRIPS TO COME; 20 April Black Country Museum; 18 May Blaenarvon Big Pit 15 June Brecon Railway; 20 July Aberystwyth; 17 August Blists Hill Ironbridge; 21 Sept Snowdon Railway; 19 Oct Coventry Museum & city.

Churchstoke “Over-Sixties”: Meet alternative Wednesdays 3.00pm Churchstoke Community Hall contact: Margaret Chislett 01588 620310 and Joan Osborn 01588 620653

Age UK: please contact Mrs. Janet Brandon on 01588 650232 – your Age Concern Parish Link – who will also be pleased to help.

FLOWERS/CLEANING: Following the usual custom winter foliage as decoration in the churches during Lent.

Wentnor

13 March – 17 April (inc) No Flowers – Mrs. A Bright

24 & 1 May: Mrs. J Sheard & Mrs. A Turner

8 & 15 May: Mrs. B Jones & Mrs. M Rowson

Ratlinghope

3 & 10 April: Mrs. C Mansell & Mrs. P Sansom

17 & 24 April: Mrs. M Atkins & Mrs. M Hardham EASTER

1 May: Mrs. Sue Cooke & Mrs. Allison Littlehales

8 May: Mrs. Anne Littlehales & Mrs. D Owen

Norbury: March LENT; April Marion Rose

Lydham: March LENT; April Mrs. A Jones

More: March LENT; April Marion Denwood.

NOTICEBOARD

Want a Magazine?

Know someone who would like one? Please encourage sales & distribution! Please contact Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 (Shropshire & Snead parishes) or Jane Frank 01588 620711 (Churchstoke & Hyssington)

Myndtown Combined Parish Council Contact: Parish Clerk Mrs. L Thomas 01588 650509.

Wentnor Stores: The Post Office OUTREACH service is OPEN on TUESDAY 9.00AM – 11.00am - offering personal banking, Car Tax & Euros- please support our village shop WENTNOR STORES as much as possible!

Bus enquiries: **0870 241 2 216** National Rail Enquires: **08457 484950**

Hall Bookings: Norbury 650660 Anita (or if need be Rev Norman Morris **650244**) – **Lydham 638737** –

Hyssington Village Hall: 01588 620197 - do use our halls!

Norbury Village Hall: Tables, chairs, hostess trolley, crockery, & boiler available for hire 01588 650660

The Rector is always available to discuss Wedding and Christening dates at any time

Office Hour: Saturday morning at The Rectory 9-10am. Tel: 01588 650244.

House Communion is available to anyone who cannot easily get to Church.

Photocopying at The Rectory: 5p per sheet – reductions for longer runs.

Bishop’s Castle Dial-a-Ride and Community Car scheme: Available for individuals or groups regardless of age or disability. All journeys must be pre-booked. Volunteer drivers and escorts urgently required for this worthwhile community service. Contact: Adrian Varcoe or ring 01588 638350.

RATLINGHOPE’S FESTIVAL OF CEREMONIES

A Celebration of Weddings and Christenings

9th - 10th JULY 2011

Were you christened or married at St Margaret’s Church, Ratlinghope?

We are looking to display associated items: wedding dresses, family photos,

Christening gowns, memorabilia, interesting tales etc. relating to wedding

and christening celebrations at Ratlinghope Church over the decades.

We would like to hear from you should you be able to contribute to our festival.

Please contact Margaret Cooke (tel: 01588 650280) or Janet Brandon (tel: 01588 650232).

Proceeds to: St Margaret’s Church, Ratlinghope &

The Rainbow Unit, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

MARCHES SPIRITUALITY MEETING

Date Thursday 14th April
Speaker The Dean of Hereford - Michael Tavinor
Theme Saints and Sinners of the Marches - introducing characters, poems and prose and a way into lateral thinking prayer
Place Ludlow Conference Centre - [Bishop Mascall]
Time 9.30 for 10.00 finish 3.30ish
Cost £15 including light lunch and tea/coffee
Cheques payable to **Bishop Mascall Centre Foundation**
Address: Ludlow Conference Centre [Re Marches Spirituality]
Lower Galdeford, Ludlow SY8 1RZ All welcome!

What is a grandparent? If you are not a grandparent you will still love this. If you are it shows how precious the babies are and what we mean to them.

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own.

They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack time before bed time, and kiss us even when we've acted badly.

A 6-YEAR-OLD WAS ASKED WHERE HIS GRANDMA LIVED. "OH," HE SAID, "SHE LIVES AT THE AIRPORT, AND WHEN WE WANT HER, WE JUST GO GET HER. THEN WHEN WE'RE DONE HAVING HER VISIT, WE TAKE HER BACK TO THE AIRPORT."

GRANDPA IS THE SMARTEST MAN ON EARTH! HE TEACHES ME GOOD THINGS, BUT I DON'T GET TO SEE HIM ENOUGH TO GET AS SMART AS HIM!

It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.