

The Rector writes...How often do you come across a book which really makes you think and which may change your life? One of the books I have been reading recently has certainly made me think and reassess how I believe. Melvyn Matthews' "Awake to God" (2006) which tackles how we can believe in God in a post-modern age was the choice of a Hereford Theological Book Group I attend occasionally. Now don't let that sentence put you off because the subject is one we all find challenging – how do we make sense of God at dark and difficult times? In my role as Parish Priest one experiences just about everything, and there are many happy moments such as Weddings and Christenings when it's easy to thank God and feel life is marvelous...and then...there's a phone call...someone is seriously ill...an unexpected death...And before you know where you are the smooth tenor of life has been interrupted and one is having to cope with family grief and upset. We have all experienced it and the question...where is God in all this inevitably arises even with people who don't really believe in God at all! This book "Awake to God" points out challenging times are nothing new and that in our post-modern times – meaning there are no longer single big answers to everything – one man's view of life is as good as another's – means that that one of the mystical paths to God – a negative view of God – may have something to say to us if life is difficult or we find belief in a loving God challenging. Basically the mystics way back in the Middle Ages grasped that God could be found in the darkness (there's an intriguing reference in Exodus 20 of Moses and the Israelites experiencing God in the darkness). Even in the darkness, in the feeling that God is absent, we may be nearer than we think to experiencing God who can help us. God may only be caught in glimpses in this life for some people but he can be there nonetheless – an absence that may yet be a presence – the experience of some of those who survived the Holocaust – may be of help and possibly inspiration to those who are passing through dark times?

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

SUNDAY 29 MAY EASTER 5 ROGATION SUNDAY

10.30 BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION RATLINGHOPE *All Welcome! Please come!*

THURSDAY 2 JUNE ASCENSION DAY

12 noon Holy Communion Wentnor

6.00 Ascension Prayer Walk up Hyssington Motte (meet Hyssington church 6.00pm) & 6.30pm Holy Communion Hyssington

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

8.00 Holy Communion Lydham

9.15 Holy Communion Hyssington

10.00 Family Worship Churchstoke

10.30 ALL AGE HC Ratlinghope (Canon Julia Francis)

11.15 Family Communion Norbury

6.30 MORE FESTIVAL EVENSONG MORE Preacher: Revd Carol Whittock

SUNDAY 12 JUNE PENTECOST

10.30 DEANERY EUCHARIST CHURCHSTOKE PREACHER: EARL OF POWIS

All Welcome! Please come! Coffee at the Community Hall afterwards/Church Army Activity Trailer! Do bring a Picnic!

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

WEDDING: Richard Bryant & Isobella Dowden More 3.00pm

SUNDAY 19 JUNE TRINITY SUNDAY

8.30 Holy Communion Wentnor

10.00 Holy Communion Snead

11.15 Morning Praise Lydham

11.15 Morning Praise Churchstoke (David Jelves)
6.30 "Songs of Praise" Ratlinghope

SUNDAY 26 JUNE TRINITY 1

8.30 Holy Communion Norbury
9.45 Holy Communion Myndtown
9.45 Morning Praise (Lay Led) Ratlinghope
10.00 United Service Hyssington
11.15 Holy Communion Churchstoke (Special Rite: David Jelves Ministry of the Word)
6.30 "Songs of Praise" More

SUNDAY 3 JULY TRINITY 2 ST THOMAS

8.00 Holy Communion Lydham (Canon Julia Francis)
9.15 Holy Communion Hyssington (Canon Julia Francis)
10.00 Family Worship Churchstoke
10.30 Family Communion Wentnor

Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am All are welcome to this short weekly act of worship from all the parishes.
1 June Myndtown; 8 June Snead; 15 June Ratlinghope; 22 June Norbury; 29 June Lydham; 6 July More

NEWS ROUND

The **Annual Parochial Church Meetings** have taken place and our grateful thanks to all those who serve as Officeholders and PCC members of our churches. Once again its been a busy year with lots of achievements though tempered by sadness at the loss in some parishes of very loyal and longstanding members and tributes were repaid to them at the Annual meetings. We always need new PCC members, supporters and helpers of all kinds! Please let the Rector know if you know if you can contribute in any way.

CALLING ALL PCCs! On Wednesday 27 July there will be the combined Annual PCC Meeting at Norbury Village Hall at 7.30pm for all the PCCs of the nine OnnyCamlad parishes at which Rev Caroline Pascoe, the Hereford Diocesan Lay Development Officer will be our Guest Speaker. This is an opportunity for all our PCCs to meet and consider matters of common interest and on this occasion to have a session with our Diocesan Parish Development Officer, building on our 2015 Lydham Supper and Table Cloth session last July. All are welcome.

A new **Churches Officer to the Hereford diocese** has been appointed for a three year term, **Tim Bridges**, as part of an English Heritage scheme called "Inspired" to help congregations tackle church restoration and to advise on funding. In the diocese there are over 400 historic church buildings. Currently we have major restoration work happening in the churches of Ratlinghope and Lydham so advice and help are always welcome! In due course we shall try and secure a visit from Mr. Bridges.

LOCAL MINISTRY NEWS: 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.

We always welcome new members, especially at this stage when we are renewing with a new Team for another four years. "Calling out" is being called for this month of June, 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. The Local Ministry team has been a major success story in the parishes these past five years, both for the members in their spiritual development but also the parishes, in terms of ministry, worship and mission. As I said last month, please let's take Local Ministry forward for the next four years!

SNEAD CHURCH NEWS

Churchwarden Pam Blaxland's TAI CHI CLASS at Hyssington Methodist Chapel has been running since 28th April and now has as many Tai Chi beginners as there is space for. Should there be more people interested in learning Tai Chi they should contact Pam on 01588 638145 or email

pamela.blaxland@virgin.net. She is willing to give private lessons in her home or yours. Should there be sufficient interest; a second class at Hyssington may be a possibility.

Snead Church takes flight: Pam and Simon Blaxland have generously provided a venue for the Snead Annual Duck Race for many years. This year our major fundraising event will find us two miles down the road at Churchstoke. Keeping to our ariel theme and without a stretch of Camlad for ducks we are having a balloon race! We hope to have the same support for our new venture and Karen Jones has once again promised to call on as many as possible of you with tickets. (Please be assured that we are following environmentally sound advice in staging this event) Trish Macmullan 01588620275

More Monthly Draw Results for May. 1. Shirley Betton 2. Peter Swanson 3. Goodwin Self.

Wentnor Churchyard – with the summer coming upon us, we have once again engaged a gardener to look after the new churchyard and he does very well. However, there is an expense involved so all those who a family interest in the new churchyard, in keeping with the past two years, any contribution to the upkeep of the churchyard would be most welcome. Please make any cheques out to Wentnor PCC and drop them in at the Wentnor Shop or at the Rectory in an envelope marked “Wentnor Churchyard Fund” Thank you.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

BENEFACTIVE BOOK GROUP: Next meeting will be at Norbury on Saturday 25 June to discuss “Never let me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro”. Following that there will be a meeting on Saturday 27 August at 2.30pm at The Stables, Asterton to discuss “The Hare with amber eyes” by Edmund de Waal. In the autumn, we shall consider George Eliot’s “Middlemarch” – “the greatest English Novel of the Nineteenth century – Discuss?” Contact Rev Norman Morris 01588 650244.

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

The Rector is planning to show a couple of series of videos (sorry old technology but the Word is timeless!) I have during the summer evenings for viewing and discussion -lectures by Tom Wright "Living Faith" (2005) and a former Bishop of Salisbury, John Austin Baker, on "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" (1994) - very good lectures - just for interest – starting on MONDAY 6 JUNE at The Rectory and probably continuing on some subsequent Monday evenings. All are welcome!

4TH OPEN GARDENS EVENT

WENTNOR

“Shropshire’s Tuscany”

Sunday 29 May/Bank Monday 30 May

2.00-6.00pm

Tickets: £4 obtainable at the gardens

In aid of Wentnor Church/Wentnor Churchyard Fund

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 Great Poppy Party Weekend"

**In support of the national celebrations to mark 90 years of
the Royal British Legion
Bishop's Castle Branch invites you to**

**A Mid Summer Day Tea Party
Saturday 11th June
from 2pm**

**at
Ashlea, Norbury
with**

**"Anything Goes" Bishop's Castle Swing Band
£8.00 per adult**

**Come and enjoy Super Sandwiches, Homemade Cakes, Traditional Puddings and a Glass
or two of Norbury Elderflower Champagne, whilst enjoying the view.
1920's Dress optional**

RATLINGHOPE FESTIVAL OF CEREMONIES

at ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

9th JULY – 11.00am to 5.00pm

10th JULY – 11.00am to 3.45pm followed by

a Special Service at 4.00pm with the Bishop of Ludlow

**A rare opportunity to see a collection of
Wedding Dresses and Christening Gowns
worn in the Church over the past 70 years**

**Displayed in the Church with appropriate flower arrangements
& accessories**

**Refreshments – Ploughman's Lunch, homemade cakes, tea, coffee,
soft drinks, etc.**

Friday 8th July 8.00 p.m.

'Words and Music for a Summer Evening'

Music from Early Music group Parsley's Clocke

And wit and wisdom from Richard Beaumont.

Tickets £5 (to include a glass of wine)

In support of St Margaret's Church, Ratlinghope

From Frances Williams 01743 790769

ANNUAL PARISH CRICKET MATCH

SUNDAY 17 JULY

From 12 Noon onwards

NORBURY FOOTBALL GROUND

Knock-out Competition – current holders Ratlinghope

Teams: Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Linley, Myndtown, Norbury & Snead (Welsh parishes)

Contact: Malcolm Corfield

All welcome – players, spectators needed – barbeque – raffle - please support

The Rector would like to inaugurate an Inter-parish croquet competition at The Rectory if we can agree on the rules – please be in touch – 650244 to express interest

SATURDAY 30 JULY & SUNDAY 31 JULY: LYDHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL LYDHAM VILLAGE HALL & LYDHAM CHURCH Teas at Lydham Village Hall - Sunday 31 July: 10.30 Lydham Flower Festival Service Preacher: Canon Chris Pullen Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER: NORBURY HERITAGE DAY
SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: 6.30 “Victorian Evensong” Norbury Church

2011 HARVEST FESTIVAL DATES

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER: 10.00 Snead Harvest Festival Preacher: Norris Boyland

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

11.15 Lydham Harvest Festival & Harvest Lunch Preacher: Rev Mark Dayborn

6.30 Wentnor Harvest Festival: TBA

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER TRINITY 15

11.15 More Harvest Festival Preacher: TBA

3.00 Hyssington Harvest Festival Preacher:

6.00 Ratlinghope Harvest Festival Preacher: Preb Dick France

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER TRINITY 16

11.00 Myndtown Harvest Festival Preacher: Canon John Tiller

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER TRINITY 18

11.15 Churchstoke Harvest Festival Preacher: Bishop of Ludlow

6.30 Norbury Harvest Festival Preacher: Rev Jo Evans

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

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)

Rev John Cribb informs us of 2011 Marches Spirituality dates ... 7th October Esther de Waal Writer; also 5th November John Bell of Iona - a return visit to Bishop's Castle.

Weddings in 2011 are currently booked for Saturday 18 June at More & Friday 19 August Ratlinghope

TWENTY YEARS AGO! Rev Alan Denyer had been appt Vicar of Lydbury North, Edgton & Hopesay; 25 people attended the Deanery Study Units on Worship; at the Bishop's Castle APCM details of changes in the production of the magazine were outlined – the Deanery magazine was then very much a BC effort with sales of 1200 producing an income of £120 pcm plus £50 pcm from advertising with expenses of £230 pcm; Ven Andrew Woodhouse retired having been archdeacon of Ludlow and then of Hereford for 21 years; Churchstoke had a Mission called “Churchstoke Awake” & Churchstoke Guides celebrated 70 years of guiding at a packed church service.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings:

James Joseph Rogers Sunday 1 May Wentnor

Funerals:

William Andrew Burt (91) Monday 18 April Myndtown Interment of Ashes

Stewart Curran Holy Saturday 23 April Hyssington

Joan Holder (88) Tuesday 10 May Tenbury Wells

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 JUNE Wednesday 8 June

to book your meal please ring Vera Brookfield 01588 650230 BY 4 June

and THIRD TUESDAY in the month,

NEXT LUNCH IN JUNE Tuesday 21 June

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

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 9 June; “Palmistry How to read your own palm” Speaker: SUE MILLER; Hostesses Vivien Ridgway, Gilly Bachelor, & Rita Preston; Flowers: Kath Hughes; Competition: Hand & Nail care tips.

Lydham, More & Snead WI: Thursday 16 June; Visit to Marehay garden 7.00pm Home of Mr. & Mrs. Buxton Members bring their own food & drink No competition.

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 7 June Shrewsbury River Trip DAY TRIPS TO COME; 20 April Black Country Museum; 18 May Aberystwyth 15 June Brecon Railway; 20 July; Blaenarvon Big Pit; 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: Many thanks for wonderful Easter decorations!

Wentnor

5 & 12 June: Mrs. V Cockburn & Mrs. A Parry

19 & 26 June: Mrs. Lorna Middleton & Mrs. Rose Jones

Ratlinghope

5 June: Mrs. J Ryan & Mrs. A Remfry

12 June: Mrs. C Mansell & Mrs. P Sansom

19 June: Mrs M Atkins & Mrs. M Hardham

26 June: Mrs Sue Cooke & Mrs. Allison Littlehales

3 July: Mrs. C Buxton & Mrs. K Hughes

10 & 17 July: FLOWER FESTIVAL

Norbury: June: Mrs. A Cooke & Mrs. J Cooke

Lydham: Church restoration taking place

More: June: Daphne Matthews

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 Enquiries: **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.

SERVICES AT GREEN CHAPEL

JUNE

June 5 th - 6.30pm	Own Arrangement.
June 12 th -6.30pm	Miss M. Savage.
June 19 th -2.30pm	Mrs. Rachel Powell, Camp Meeting Tea.
June 26 th -6.30pm	Rev. E. Reddington, Holy Communion.

More Bible According to Kids

The following statements about the Bible were written by children and have not been retouched or corrected (i.e., bad spelling has been left in.)

Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Then the three Wise Guys from the east arrived and found Jesus in the manger.

Jesus was born because Mary had an Immaculate Contraption.

St. John, the blacksmith, dumped water on his head.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says do one to others before they do one to you.

He also explained that "Man does not live by sweat alone".

It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibles.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached the holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

PRAYERS FOR 2015 VISION – Change, Guidance, Local Churches, Youth From David Hardham

Dear Father God, there are so many concerns weighing heavily on our hearts.

We lay them at your feet:

concerns for where our church is going,

changes in liturgy,

our young people,

acceptance and inclusiveness of all,

division, money, decision making, outreach, communion practices, and so much more.

But Lord, help us not to forget how many times you have blessed our lives;

walked with us, and carried us through.

We thank you Lord, with grateful hearts, for all that you have done,

are doing, and will continue to do for us into the future.

We praise you for your mercy, grace and love.

Thank you for being with us as we work through all our concerns and issues, in order to grow in our Christianity.

Help us to remember that nothing is impossible with you in our hearts, minds and souls.

Thank you Heavenly Father for granting us your grace;

picking us up and forgiving us when we fall;

and for sending us forth with your blessing;

strengthened by your love.

Amen.

Almighty God, as your church goes forth into the future,
guide us to know your will and purpose.

May your church be truly alive in your Holy Spirit;

with a true and full love of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

May we walk together on our journey with love, compassion and acceptance of all.

Grant us understanding of each other and respect for the opinions of all.

May we go forth to make decisions with open-mindedness and love, guided by you.

May the worship we offer be always filled with reverence, life and joy,

so that each heart, young, old, and in between, will be filled to overflowing with love of you.

Then may we take that love out into our world working towards bringing others to you.

This we ask in Jesus' precious name. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF THANKS AND GUIDANCE FOR OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

O God, Creator of all, we thank you for this Church of.....,

the place we call our church home,

where we gather to worship you and to have fellowship with one another.

It is a calm, welcoming, caring place to be;

a community of love and hope.

Continue to guide us by your Holy Spirit;

to be flexible and open to change;

accepting of everyone, and sensitive to their needs.

May we continue to grow in your love, and in love for one another.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Dear Lord, we pray for your Holy Spirit to inspire the hearts of our young people, who are our future.

Guide us in helping them to become all that is your will for them to be.

Grant us the inspiration to be creative in worship, and intelligent with youth programs;

give us wisdom in dealing with each other,

so that we may be drawn closer in fellowship with you, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Reflection: The Heart of the Matter.

The Lord God said:

'I myself will dream a dream within you.

Good dreams come from me you know;

My dreams seem impossible, not too practical,

Not for the cautious man or woman;

A little risky sometimes, a trifle brash perhaps;

Some of my friends prefer to rest more comfortably

In sounder sleep with visionless eye.

But for those who do share my dreams I ask a little patience,

A little humour, some small courage,

And a listening heart – I will do the rest.

Then they will risk and wonder at their daring,

Run and marvel at their speed,

Build and stand in awe at the beauty of their building.

You will meet me often as you work –

In your companions who share your risk,

In your friends who believe in you enough to lend you

Their own dreams, their own hands,

Their own hearts to your building;

In the people who will find your doorway, stay a while

And walk away knowing they too can find a dream.
There will be sun filled days and sometimes it will rain –
A little variety....
Both come from me – so come, be content;
It is MY dream you dream,
It is my house you build,
My caring you witness,
My love you share – and this is the heart of the matter.
(Anon.)

In celebration of the life of Joan Holder, mother of Pat Simon

Joan was the third daughter of William and Helen Havart (known to the family as Nan and Pop), who longed for a son! Perhaps that was the reason that the three sisters were known as Chris, Jimmy and Johnnie. Years later, a mispronunciation of 'Johnnie', by one of her nieces, and 'Granny' by her eldest grand-daughter, sealed Joan's nickname of 'Nonny' by which she was fondly known.

Pop owned a garage so there was always a car available and the children were able to have frequent holidays with Nan's family in Swanwick, Hants where Grandad owned the pub, "The Jolly Sailor", which later featured in the BBC television series "Howards Way".

At 17, Johnnie wanted to join the ATS. Being under age she needed her father's permission, which was granted on condition that she be allowed to join the same regiment as Jimmy. There began many adventures and hilarious episodes as the two sisters, on radio location, listened out for enemy planes on a base protected by wooden guns. In the later years they would often reminisce about the night they cowered in their lookout hut, listening to the bombers going low overhead fearing that the next one was for them - only to find out that they were 'ours' going out not 'theirs' coming in.

Shortly after that, Joan's interest in sports and her ability to run fast, led to her training to be a P.T. instructor. That is how she met Ernest, who she married at the end of the war. They moved to the Midlands, where they brought up their children, Pat and Joanne. Joan enjoyed baking, flower arranging and could often be heard singing her favourite songs. Through the W.I., she became interested in amateur dramatics and her talent was recognised when she played Catherine of Aragon in the play, "Lace Maker to the Queen" and won the regional cup, the prize being presented by John Gielgud.

In 1959, the family moved to Sussex and were soon joined by her parents, after her father suffered a stroke. For the next 30 years, a large part of Joan's life was taken up with looking after people: her father, her mother and Lynne, who arrived to spend one night and stayed for twenty years! At the same time, Joan ran a series of shops, a decision brought about by Ernest's failing eyesight: After Lynne's death, Joan was taken on as manager of a brand new Abbeyfield House in Stow-on-the-Wold. Prince Charles came to open it and Joan was showing him round when a sudden flash alarmed them, the prince grabbing hold of Joan to protect her, no doubt, from ambush – but it was only one of the residents breaking the rules and trying to snap a photograph of the two of them.

In 1987, Joan and Ernest finally retired and moved to Tenbury Wells, a house with the river flowing at the bottom of the garden, just round the corner from this church. They both helped at the local museum and the little church at Burford. Joan also became treasurer of the W.I.

After Ernest's death she moved to Bishop's Castle and then to College Court in Ludlow. In January 2005, Joan became Mrs. Holder and Owen became one of the family.

Six months later came the stroke But Joan still kept her sense of humour and her love of children and caring for others. In Shrewsbury Hospital, barely two weeks before she died, hardly able to move or to speak, Joan managed to play 'crocodiles' with one of her great grandchildren and signaled for help because the patient opposite had missed her cup of tea.

Joan moved many times during her lifetime and will always be fondly remembered by so many friends and family for her hospitality, caring nature and sense of humour. She was an example to us all of kindness and selflessness and she will be greatly missed.

