

## **OnnyCamlad Parishes**

**Rev Norman Morris, Rector of Wentnor with Ratlinghope, Norbury,  
Myndtown, Lydham, More & Snead, & Priest in charge of  
Churchstoke & Hyssington**

**01588 650244**

**David Jelves, Reader 01588 620434**

**Jon Price “Fresh Expressions”**

**Community Evangelist 01588 620693**

**The Rector writes...** I write this editorial just after Easter Monday. Today the Prime minister is due to go to the Palace to see the Queen, arrange for the dissolution of Parliament, and call for a General Election on Thursday 6 May. By the time this magazine comes out, we shall be about a week away from voting. It's not my job as Rector to tell parishioners how to vote, far from it, but I believe that it's important that everyone exercises their democratic right and privilege to vote in General Elections for their Member of Parliament. Having taught History for many years, especially nineteenth century British History, I know how long and hard-fought the battle was to secure the vote, especially for women and working men. It took nearly a century in fact from the 1832 Great Reform Act to the vote eventually being given to women over 21 in 1929. That being said what are some of the important issues to for our Parliamentary candidates to consider? We live in a deeply rural area and we might well ask about the quality of life in the country and the state of our public services?

Looking at the last ten years or so, there are some plusses, notwithstanding Shropdoc, local medical provision remains very good, local village schools have been under pressure and are still with us, just, some provisions for the elderly, free bus passes and winter fuel allowances have been welcome, Gift Aid and the refunds on VAT work on listed buildings like churches has been a big help. On the other hand., a lot of things have been happening to make living in the country more and more difficult, such as the inexorable rise in petrol prices, the lack of affordable housing, (really the lack of available housing to buy or rent in general), and the scarcity of jobs. While about 40 -50% of people living in villages are now pensioners – more than double the national average – young people are a small minority not well-served by public services. On both sides of the border there is little youth services provision compared with what there is in towns. There is little public transport. The churches survive thanks to the goodwill and support of local people and remain important players on the community scene. But, at the end of the day, we living in the hills are a small minority in our land and we need to have articulate voices in high places! That's why it is important for all of us voters to see what all our Parliamentary candidates are offering, weigh things up, and cast our votes for those who we think will best serve our local rural interests and the wider national interest.

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

#### **Sunday 2 May Easter 4**

- 9.15 Holy Communion Hyssington (Rev Jo Evans)
- 10.30 ALL AGE SERVICE Ratlinghope (David Jelves)
- 11.15 Holy Communion Churchstoke (Preb Michael Pollit)
- 11.15 Morning Praise Norbury (Oliver Goode & LMT)
- 6.30 Evening Prayer Wentnor (Barry Preston)

#### **Sunday 9 May Easter 5 ROGATION SUNDAY**

**(Christian Aid Week begins Monday 10 May)**

- 8.30 Holy Communion Wentnor
- 9.45 Family Communion Ratlinghope
- 10.00 “Christian Aid” Service Hyssington
- 11.15 Holy Communion More
- 11.15 Morning Praise Churchstoke (David Jelves)
- 2.00 Rogation Walk from Ratlinghope to Wentnor

6.30 Norbury Evening Prayer “Christian Aid “theme

**THURSDAY 13 MAY ASCENSION DAY**

12 Noon Holy Communion Wentnor

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

**SUNDAY 16 MAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY**

8.30 Holy Communion Ratlinghope

10.00 Holy Communion Snead

10.30 ALL AGE SERVICE MORE

11.00 Churchstoke Methodist Chapel Final Service

11.15 Morning Praise Lydham

BANNS (1) Sarah Louise Perks (Lydham) & Peter Nigel Bevan (Churchstoke)

6.30 “Songs of Praise” Ratlinghope

**SUNDAY 23 MAY WHITSUNDAY (PENTECOST)**

8.30 Holy Communion Norbury

9.45 Holy Communion Wentnor Preacher: Canon Julia Francis

9.45 Morning Praise Ratlinghope (Lay Led)

10.00 Hyssington Utd Service

**11.15 “The Church looks Ahead” Presentation & Holy Communion Churchstoke**

BANNS (1) : Jason Francis Price (Churchstoke) & Angela Clare Norton (Churchstoke)

BANNS (1) Peter Nigel Bevan (Churchstoke) & Sarah Louise Perks (Lydham)

6.30 Evening Prayer More

**SUNDAY 30 MAY TRINITY SUNDAY**

8.30 Holy Communion Lydham

**10.30 Benefice Pet Service Myndtown**

BANNS (1): Colin Sheard & Mary Fox

BANNS (1) Ian Edward Mason (St Helen’s Church, St Helen’s Gardens, London) & Satarupa Alice Bradley (Myndtown)

BANNS (2) Sarah Louise Perks (Lydham) & Peter Nigel Bevan (Churchstoke)

4.00 Hyssington Gardens Chapel Service Preacher: Canon Julia Francis

6.30 Benefice Evening Prayer Norbury

All the churches were wonderfully decorated for Easter – many thanks!

**Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am**

28 April Norbury; 5 May Lydham; 12 May Hyssington; 19 May More; 26 May Wentnor; 2 June Myndtown. All are welcome to this short weekly act of worship from all the parishes.

**AT THE CHURCHES**

**The Benefice Choir rehearsals for the Sunday 6 June 6.30pm More Festival Evensong** will begin on **Wednesday 5 May at 6.30pm** (till 7.30pm) and on Wednesdays thereafter **at More Church** All are welcome!

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. The Local Ministry Team members are Ann Remfry (Ratlinghope) ; Anita Bright (Wentnor & Myndtown), David & Mary Hardham (Ratlinghope), Oliver Goode (Norbury), Trish Macmullan (Snead); Janet Wilcoxon (Lydham & More), David Jelves (Churchstoke), Jon Price & Rev Norman Morris. Margaret Wallsgrove (Hyssington) attends. Rev John Daniels is the new Diocesan Local Ministry officer.

**Snead Church**, Our smallest parish and Church, looks wonderful with newly restored floorboards and pews! Really excellent! Thanks Pam, Trish and to everyone at Snead for getting this job done! Come and visit! Better still come to one of Snead’s monthly services! Next one Sunday 16 May at 10.00am

Many thanks to the ladies who kindly organized the Lent Soup & Bread roll Lunch at Bishop's Castle Methodist Hall on Friday 26 March for "**Christian Aid**".

**On Saturday 28 March** there was a **Children's Activity Day & Craft Day** - at Norbury Village Hall, organized by the Rector, Sue Cooke and the Sunday Stars Team, with 18 children and several adults involved. These days are always good ones! This one concluded with the World famous ANNUAL EGG ROLLING Contest which was great fun. The two children of a couple of PE teachers managed to be among the winners! Our thanks to all those who helped and to the egg suppliers of Snead!

What follows may be of interest to all rural churches. A **public meeting** took place at **Lydham Church** on Wednesday 17 March about the future of the church. There were various expressions of support and 23 people actually came to the meeting. The total in the parish is estimated to be 150. The Rector explained that the need to find £100,000 to repair the East and West windows of the church represented a major challenge to the future of the church. The major fabric challenge is that the East Window needs to be totally taken out and replaced, along with minor repairs to the West Window.

The Church Architect, Andrew Arrol, has drawn up an estimate that the work will cost £100,000. The good news is that we have been able to secure nearly £80,000 from Grant-Awarding bodies with whom we would go into partnership over next two years or so. We would need to pay VAT – about £14,000 – which we should be able to get back – so we only need to raise c. £6,000.

The dilemma for the Church, the Rector and PCC (Parochial Church Council) was that we also need to raise over £6,000 per annum just to pay the Parish Share, heat, light, insure and maintain the church building and churchyard so that it is fit and safe for twice monthly services, christenings, weddings & funerals. Lydham worshippers are small in number to continue to undertake this responsibility annually and the prospect of entering into partnership with bodies like English Heritage was a daunting one, **without the wider support** the parish of Lydham and friends of Lydham Church could give us.

Would it be right to go ahead and accept public money for repairs if the community was indifferent or unwilling to take responsibility to share in this major decision? A lot of debate ensued. It was realized that there are wider issues than just a small number of regular worshippers trying to keep up a big building. Rural churches are repositories of history and tradition, visually prominent in the landscape. They deserve broad support. Lydham has also been superbly maintained up to now. In the end the meeting agreed to recommend to the Lydham PCC that it should go ahead with the repairs, that they would help fundraise for **both** the extra £6,000 needed for repairs and for ongoing annual expenses. The meeting however, felt that they should monitor the needs of the church and the community over the next few years.

Of course, lots of follow-up will need to be done and hopefully expressions of support will be redeemed in the future. It was encouraging that the Lydham community was willing to engage and find out what the needs of their small rural church are and realize it has no future unless there is local support to help meet routine costs and match public funding which is often out there willing to help.

At the time of writing the Rector has attended five out of the nine Annual Meetings!! Our thanks to all those serving on our PCCs and all that everyone does to keep our country churches in good heart!

**The Local Ministry Team is launching "The Church looks Ahead"**

A series of presentations at Church services during May-June.

Culminating in a special Benefice-wide evening on 2 July

**Friday 2 July**

**"The Church looks Ahead!" Evening**

Including a free Ploughman's Supper, discussion & speakers

**At Lydham Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Many changes to society & the church are taking place

And this is our opportunity to shape our future!

80 Tickets (free) will be available soon and

We hope there will be a good take up from all who use our churches!

**UP AND COMING EVENTS**

**Benefice Book Group: Friday 28 May** 7.30pm - The Barns - "All Quiet on the Western Front" & "Catcher in the Rye".

The **Bible Study Group** Meets at the Rectory, usually occasional Fridays - new members always welcome! We will resume study of St John's Gospel at Wentnor Rectory after Easter on Friday 16 April at 4.00pm at Wentnor Rectory. Contact: The Rector 01588 650244.

**Saturday 8 May "Onny Valley Concert- A Shropshire Tapestry"**

With Val Littlehales, David Preshous. Bob & Marian Gatward, Nigel Sustins & other local artistes to raise funds to restore the Ratlinghope Sin-Eater's funerary monument.

**Norbury Village Hall**

**7.30pm.**

Refreshments & Raffle.

All welcome!

Offers of support welcome too!

Tickets £5: Rector 01588 6450244 & David Preshous 01588 638363

**Margaret & Frank Wood**

**invite you to a**

**COFFEE MORNING**

**To help the survivors of the  
BUDUDA REGION OF EASTERN UGANDA**

**SATURDAY MAY 15<sup>th</sup>  
LYDHAM VILLAGE HALL  
10.30 – 12.30**

**AT LEAST 400 DEAD,  
MAJORITY WERE BURIED ALIVE IN MUDSLIDES WHICH ENGULFED  
THREE VILLAGES**

**Many parallels with Aberfan, but on a far greater scale**

This disaster occurred on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and unless you happened to be listening to the BBC World Service during that night, it is likely you will have not learned of the appalling loss of life, and devastation of the fragile infrastructure of three villages called Nametsi, Namakansa and Kubewa. These villages, with their homes, a school, small hospital, and church were on the lower slopes of Mount Elgon, which is an extinct volcano, THEY NO LONGER EXIST. Following torrential storms the mountainside became unstable and engulfed these villages without warning.

Margaret and Frank taught in this region of Uganda, and know it well. You may be aware of their family visits in recent years, and their previous fundraising coffee mornings for Busano. Most recently their grandson Joe was in the region for 6 months.

Busano did not sustain any loss of life, but lost all their crops to the torrential storms, despite this the people of Busano are sharing what little they have in storage with the displaced survivors.

We hope very much you will be able to join us, if you are unable to attend but feel moved to make a donation this will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you - Margaret & Frank Wood

From the Diocesan Mission Statement: "Caring for and serving people in all life's situations"

**Christian Aid week**

**Saturday 22 May Annual Coffee Morning** in aid of Christian Aid Wentnor Rectory  
10.30 - 12 Noon All Welcome!

**NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**

**"OPEN GARDEN"**

**MAREHAY GARDEN, RATLINGHOPE**

**SUNDAY 6 JUNE**

**11.00am – 6pm**

**ADULTS £5 – CHILDREN FREE**

**"TEAS FOR CHRISTIAN AID"**

**HERE AND THERE**

From **More Church**: monthly Draw 1st prize Rob Evans; 2nd prize Marian Edwards; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Ethel Philpot

**Recorder Players Wanted!**

John and Frances Williams would like to set up a small, informal group of recorder players in South Shropshire. Hopefully the group would meet on a regular basis to explore (and enjoy!) the recorder repertoire. The actual rehearsal venue and times would only be arranged once we know who is interested and where they live and this could be discussed at a first meeting. Adults only and an intermediate ability would be required but players don't have to be particularly far advanced and the emphasis really would be on enjoying and making music together.

Further information - please phone Frances Williams 01743 790769 or  
email: [musicatleasowes@googlemail.com](mailto:musicatleasowes@googlemail.com)

**SUMMER DATES:** Please contact the Rector if you would like a listing. More details will follow nearer the date of the event.

**Saturday 15 May** Family Day & Hog Roast Churchstoke Vicarage

**Wednesday 18 May** Ratlinghope 2011 Weddings Event Cttee Meeting

**Saturday 22 May Annual Coffee Morning** in aid of Christian Aid Wentnor Rectory 10.30 - 12 Noon All Welcome!

**Sunday 30 May** 10.30 Benefice Myndtown Pet Service

**WEEKEND 5/6 JUNE**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> MORE FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 5 June**

"More Breakfast" Lydham Village Hall – in aid of More Church  
"Concert – given by Local Talent Young & Old!" More Church 7.30pm;

## Sunday 6 June 6.30pm

More Festival Evensong Preacher: Canon Chris Pullan,  
Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral

**Friday 25 June** Lydham "Wine & Cheese Party" at "Parkside", in aid of Lydham Church  
**Friday 2 July** The Churches look Ahead!" "2015" Evening at Lydham Village Hall 7.30pm  
**Friday 9 July** Leasowes Concert for Ratlinghope Church 7.30pm  
**Sunday 11 July** Inter-Parish Cricket Norbury Football Stadium 12.30pm  
**Saturday 17 July** Table Top Sale & Teas Lydham Village Hall for More Church  
**Sunday 18 July** Upper Onny Country Show Norbury Village Hall & grounds  
**Saturday 24 July Open Garden & Coffee Morning** Adstone Farmhouse – in aid of Wentnor Church  
10.30 – 12 Noon  
**Saturday 25 July** Hyssington Annual Open Church & Churchyard Afternoon  
**Sunday 1 August** Annual Snead Duck Races & Festival Evensong  
**BABK HOLIDAY MONDAY 30 AUGUST WENTNOR FETE**  
**Tuesday 28 September Harvest Produce Sale at the "Inn on the Green" for More Church & Busano  
Parishes (Uganda)**  
**Saturday 9 October** Coffee Morning at Upper Bent for More Church 10.00 – 12.30pm

### 2010 Harvest Festival Dates

**Sunday 12 September** 11.15 Lydham Harvest Festival & Harvest Lunch (Lydham Village Hall) Preacher:  
The Bishop of Hereford ...*early because of September weddings & the Michaelmas Fayre*  
**Sunday 19 September** 10.00 Snead Harvest Festival Preacher: Rev Maurice Young  
**Sunday 26 September** 11.15 More Harvest Festival Preacher: Rev Dr John Daniels  
**Sunday 3 October** 6.00 Ratlinghope Harvest Festival Preacher: Jon Price  
**Friday 15 October** 6.30 Myndtown Harvest Festival  
**Sunday 17 October**; 3.00 Hyssington Harvest Festival Preacher Canon Julia Francis: 6.30 Wentnor  
Harvest Festival  
**Thursday 21 October** 2.00 Norbury School Harvest Festival  
**Sunday 24 October** 11.15 Churchstoke Harvest Festival & Harvest Lunch Preacher Norris & Kathy  
Boyland; 6.30 Norbury Harvest Festival

**FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!** Rev Gill Sumner was appt as Hereford diocese's first Local Ministry Officer;  
an exhibition of wedding dresses was planned for Churchstoke; special VE Day commemorative services  
were being organized; a Dawn Chorus walk was planned at Clunton; it was anticipated that parishes would  
be contributing to Clergy Pensions by 1998 at a rate of 20% of stipend (in 2010 it is 40% and rising!);  
parish share in 1995 was up 17.5% to make up for Church Commissioners' investment losses!

### **Myndtown Combined Parish Council**

The Parish Council now has a new web address [www.myndtown.org.uk](http://www.myndtown.org.uk) In due course it is hoped that the  
website will provide information relevant to the Parishes. It is also hoped to set up a business directory on  
the site for local businesses, be they plumbers, electricians, b&bs, gardeners or anyone running their own  
business locally. If you would like your contact details and maybe a link to your own site in the directory,  
please send your details to [philip@myndtownwines.co.uk](mailto:philip@myndtownwines.co.uk). The bigger the directory the better for everyone  
and it is an ideal opportunity to have a web presence, so please do contact us.

#### **Myndtown Combined Parish Council 2010**

Meetings: Norbury Village Hall 7.30pm Mondays; 10 May AGM; 5 July; 6 Sept; 8 Nov. Contact: Parish  
Clerk Mrs. L Thomas 01588 650509.

**Age Concern Lunches for those 60 & over** at The Crown Inn, Wentnor, 12 Noon for 12.30pm **SECOND  
WEDNESDAY** in the month – **NEXT LUNCH Wednesday 12 May** – to book your meal please ring  
Vera Brookfield 01588 650230 BY 3 May AND third Tuesday in the month, **NEXT LUNCH Tuesday  
18 May** please ring Margaret Cooke 01588 650280.

**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](http://www.hereford.anglican.org) - have a look at the Noticeboard. For details of service times at the Cathedral, please telephone 01432 374212 or visit the cathedral website [www.herefordcathedral.org](http://www.herefordcathedral.org).

**Norbury & District WI:** Thursday 13 May; Speaker: DIANE JENNINGS “Painting my way” Hostesses: Ann Little haies, Margaret Rowson & Julie Spille ; Flowers: Jane Ingram; Competition: A favourite painting.

**Lydham, More & Snead WI:** Thursday 20 May: Speaker: MARGATRET WOOD: “Uganda with three Nippers in tow!” Competition: Picture (any medium) of an African animal; Teas: Betty & Shirley. Suggestions for the 2011 programme.

**Onny Valley Social Club:** Usually meeting at Norbury Village Hall; .Social gatherings & outings for the over-fifties: well worthwhile – do join! Contact: Pat Varcoe 01588 650204 New members welcome.

Friday 7 May 7.30pm Idris Evans “Collecting Collectables”; 1 June Skittles; **DAY TRIPS 19 May** Forest of Dean & River Trip **16 June** Matlock Train & Tram Museum (early start & late return).; 21 July Southport

**Churchstoke Mothers Union:** Contact: Olive Fitzhugh 01588 620698 The **Mothers Union** has a scheme to provide holidays for families in need – any recommendations, please contact the AFIA Holiday Organizer at the Mother’s Union 01432 373306 or email: [mothersunion.hereford@surefish.co.uk](mailto:mothersunion.hereford@surefish.co.uk)

**Churchstoke “Over-Sixties”:** Meet alternative Wednesdays 3.00pm Churchstoke Community Hall contact: Jay Frank 01588 620081

**.Age Concern:** 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 the wonderful Easter decorations in the Churches!

#### **Wentnor:**

2 & 9 May Mrs. A Turner & Mrs. J Sheard

16 & 23 May Mrs. M Rowson & Mrs. B Jones

30 May & 6 June Mrs. R Jones & Mrs. L Middleton

#### **Ratlinghope**

2 May Mrs. M Atkins & Mrs. M Hardham

9 May Mrs. S Cooke & Mrs. A Littlehaies

16 May Mrs. C Buxton & Mrs. K Hughes

23 May Mrs. S Betton & Mrs. S Pinches

30 May Mrs. J Brandon & Mrs. V Harley

6 June Mrs. M Cooke & Mrs. J Pinches

#### **Norbury:**

May Mrs. R Howells & Mrs. H Atherton

June Mrs. A Cooke & Mrs. J Cooke

**Lydham:** May: Miss J Wilcoxon June: Mrs. M Denwood

**More** May: Mrs. B Butler; Mrs. D 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 10.00AM – 12 NOON - offering personal banking, Car Tax & Euros- please support our village shop WENTNOR STORES as much as possible!**

**Run up the Flag!** Here’s an offer to everyone in the Wentnor Group of parishes and beyond - every man, woman and child - those living in Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Norbury, Myndtown, More, Lydham, and Snead

- mark your birthday, pet's birthday, wedding, anniversary, exam success, passing your driving licence, whatever, by having the Union Flag or St George's Flag flying from the Wentnor Flagpole - pay only £1 to the Benefice account which supports all the churches. The flag could fly for you! Any day of the year! Contact Rev Norman Morris 01588 650244.

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.