

ONNYCAMLAD PARISHES (Dec 2017 & Jan 2018)

Revd. Deborah Swann, Priest in Charge (01588 650253)

of Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Myndtown, Norbury, Lydham,
More and Snead, with Churchstoke & Hyssington

Revd. Carol Whittock, Mission Priest of Churchstoke (01588 620693)

David Jelves, Reader (01588 620434)

Mette Wardle, Reader (01694 751466)

Sunday Services and other worship events.

Sun 3rd Advent Sunday	10.30 11.15 3.00 6.30	Morning Praise Holy Communion Advent Party Evening Prayer	St Nicholas', Churchstoke All Saints, Norbury Hyssington Village Hall St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Sun 10th Advent 2	9.45 11.15 4.00 6.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion Carol Service Evening Prayer	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope St Peter's, More St Nicholas', Churchstoke All Saints, Norbury
Mon 11th	About 1.30	Norbury School's Christingle. Dress rehearsal Guests are welcome	St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor (contact school for exact time; 01588 650207 or www.norbury.shropshire.sch.uk)
Tue 12th	6.00	Norbury School Christingle	St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Fri 15th	6.30 6.30	CAROL SERVICE Carol Service,	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope United Pack, at St Peter's, More
Sun 17th Advent 3	10.30 2.30 6.30 6.30	Holy Communion Carol Service Benefice Carol Service Carol Service	St Nicholas, Churchstoke Kinnerton Chapel St Peter's, More Hyssington Methodist Chapel
Wed 20th	2.30 7.00	MU Advent Service Castle Voices Concert	St John the Baptist, Myndtown Holy Trinity, Lydham (see 'Future Events' for details)
Sun 24th Christmas Eve	10.30 4.00 6.30 11.30	Holy Communion Crib Service Carols by Candlelight Midnight Communion	St Nicholas', Churchstoke St Nicholas', Churchstoke St Ethelreda's, Hyssington St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Mon 25th Christmas Day	8.30 9.45 10.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	All Saints, Norbury St Margaret's, Ratlinghope St Nicholas', Churchstoke
Wed 27th	6.30	Christmas Carols	St John the Baptist, Myndtown
Sun 31st	10.30	Holy Communion United Benefice	St Nicholas', Churchstoke (For all nine parishes)
Jan 14 & 28: Afternoon services at 2.30 at Kinnerton Chapel			

Please hold Revd Deborah and her family in your prayers as her father died on Monday 13th November.

Please therefore bear with us in that some items in the December service schedule were unconfirmed at the time of going to print.

Please check your church notice boards for these and all January services.

Revd Carol.

Christmas Eve Crib Service A Family Event

4pm at St Nicholas' Churchstoke - Sunday 24th December

Carols, Drama, the greatest true story ever told, with children taking part

Children: Come dressed as shepherds or angels if you want to!

Benefice Service Sunday 31st December

For everyone in the OnnyCamlad Group of Parishes – and friends!

Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Churchstoke 10.30am

Come and be a part of it!

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

From Revd Deborah Swann and Revd Carol Whittock

Countdown

One of the best bits about Christmas is the build-up to it. Everything seems to begin earlier each year with shops competing with each other for our custom by reminding us of the 'Countdown to Christmas'. Advent calendars too help us to countdown to Christmas, with the size of the chocolates building up as we approach this most wonderful celebration!

And the Bible, the book of God, does the same thing and gives us the world's biggest build-up to Christmas. Almost from the beginning of the Bible God begins to 'drop hints' that He is going to send His one and only Son, Jesus, to earth to restore the broken relationship between us and Him. There are indeed many prophecies in the Old Testament about the birth, life and death of Jesus.

Every good story, every good narrative, has a hero, a hero who conquers the bad guys, a person you want to follow and emulate. When Jesus steps on to the world stage as a tiny baby He doesn't look like a hero. He evokes a range of reactions: stunned shepherds, a jealous king, worshipping wise men; and later a loyal but often confused band of followers, exasperated Pharisees, furious Temple leaders, forgiven sinners. In Jesus God provides His clearest demonstration of what He is like - and the human race is not sure what to make of Him; people either love Him or hate Him.

Finally in dying on the cross He defeats sin and conquers the devil and in rising from the dead He sets us free to follow Him to eternal life with God - and enables the whole truth of the story of God to go global. Then we see who Jesus is – He really is the conquering hero.

In your Christmas Countdown make it a priority to think through where you stand in relation to Jesus. What reaction does He evoke in you?

Are you on the Lord's side? One thing is certain – you can't sit on the fence, you can't half-believe – He's either who He says He is, or He isn't.

In one sense the whole of our lives is a Countdown to the day when we'll stand before Jesus and be asked to give an account of our lives to Him. It will be too late then to try to work out what we believe; by then the decision will already have been made.

Actually we'll probably all be face-down on the ground in worship before the Holy One of God. We won't be able to stand at all.

Revd Carol (*Check out Revelation 1:9-18*)

A view from Hyssington: I am grateful to Sally, treasurer at Hyssington, for the following 'View from Hyssington'. However, I know from many discussions around the Parishes that the need for careful thought & commitment is relevant to all of us!

David Hardham.

A view from Sally Currin, a new treasurer

A few of you may know that I recently became the treasurer for **Hyssington PCC**. I didn't really know what a PCC was other than from watching the Vicar of Dibley. I've now attended three meetings and daren't comment on too many parallels!

The main reason for getting involved was because I was aware of the value placed upon having the church in the community. It isn't well attended but we know that it is valued by those who attend it; and many others like to walk around the building, and attend the Christmas candle light service.

We are a small community but it is a lovely place for weddings for those that are local and we do have funerals for local people and a graveyard.

As I looked into the accounts for the church I must admit that I'd not previously realised or thought of the costs of running the church building and graveyard, and of course the services. Nor did I know that without a PCC we are not legally allowed to have a functioning church and without a functioning church we would not be able to maintain the building and church yard.

To give you an idea I have just paid the insurance premium for the year of £800. This is a legal requirement for a public building so that we have public liability in place for those that venture onto church premises as well as buildings insurance. The electricity bill for the year is £450 for 2017.

These are costs that we cannot avoid. And we also need to save for maintenance projects in the church and churchyard.

In addition, in order to function, we do have the benefit of a small portion of the services of a paid vicar. I say small portion as Deborah has nine churches to look after! Clergy stipends & housing are paid by the Diocese out of donations from all the churches in the Diocese, including us.

We do benefit enormously from several volunteers who give of their time and resources to help maintain the churchyard and church building and run fund raising events and without these we would have even more costs. For

a small village church to be sustainable we need an annual income of about £7,500. If anyone wants to see our church accounts, don't hesitate to ask!

I'm not asking any of you to come to church or to participate in the PCC although you are of course most welcome. But if you do value having the church in our community, you do like to attend the Christmas candle light service or have relatives buried in the churchyard, would you spare a thought for the fact that the few retired folk that make up the congregation at our monthly Sunday service are the principal givers of money to keep the church going for the benefit of us all.

Sally Currin

The Moroccan-flavour quiz on 10 Nov was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves, terrific food, and many people going up for seconds! We plan to have the final figure raised in the next few days and put it in the next magazine. Thank you to everyone involved. Valerie Woodmansey.

AROUND THE PARISHES: Future events and News from the Parishes:

All events from ALL Parishes in our group are included in one section.

Followed by any news from individual parishes, in alphabetical order.

This is just an abbreviated version of the magazine, without the sections on 'Future events' and 'News from the Parishes'.

If you would like to subscribe to receive the full magazine, including 'Future events' and 'News from the Parishes' (and also the letters etc. that are for us and for the whole Clun Forest area, and the sections with news and events elsewhere in Clun Forest) then please contact Margaret Cooke (01588 650280).

It is only £6 per year to cover costs plus a small surplus that is spent on local mission activities.

Sat 3 Feb: Comedy show in Village Hall at Norbury. Looking forward to seeing you there! Arts & Social Group, Village Hall, Norbury (see below).

Village Hall at Norbury, Saturday 3 February 2018.

If you fancy live comedy that's a bit different to stand-up:

'From Here to Absurdity' is a quick-fire satirical sketch show.

Doors open at 7.00 pm, the show will start at 7.30 pm

A licensed bar will be available.

Tickets (£7.00) can be bought by calling 07986 237683 or emailing valerie.woodmansey@btinternet.com.

The show is written and performed by Private Eye contributor Richard Kelly. He will be joined on stage by Ashley Hern (Oxford University Review) and Lucy Simons (stand-up comedienne).

More details on the show itself can be found at www.2absurdity.co.uk.

AGE UK Lunches for those 60 & over at the Crown Inn, Wentnor, 12.30pm
Normally **SECOND WEDNESDAY** and **THIRD TUESDAY** in the month.

Next Wednesday Lunches: 13 December & 10 January 2018

Next Tuesday Lunches: 19 December & 16 January 2018.

To book please ring Trevor Jones 01588 650758 (Wednesday lunches)
or Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 (Tuesday lunches).

Mrs. Janet Brandon on 01588 650232 – is the ‘Age UK Parish Link’

Hereford Diocese website: You can find out what is going on across the Diocese by using their re-vamped website at www.hereford.anglican.org
For details of service times at the **Cathedral**, please telephone 01432 374212 or visit the **Cathedral website:** www.herefordcathedral.org.

Want a Magazine? Know someone who would like one? Please encourage sales & distribution.

Contact Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 (Shropshire & Sneed parishes)
or Jo Jelves 620434 (Churchstoke & Hyssington)

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

Bus enquiries: 08702 412216 **National Rail Enquires:** 08457 484950

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

Wentnor Stores: The Post Office OUTREACH service is OPEN on TUESDAY 9.30AM – 11.30am - offering personal banking, Car Tax & Euros- please support our village shop WENTNOR STORES as much as possible

Hall Bookings:

Churchstoke Community Centre: Ann Kinsey, 01588 620110

Hyssington Village Hall: 01588 620197

Lydham Hall: N. Le Gras, 01588 630639.

Email: treasurerlydhammorevillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall at Norbury: bookings: Anita Bright, 01588 650660

COPY DATE for February 2018 Magazine is 14 January 2018

Send contributions to the Compiler for your Parishes.

David Hardham (dhardham@yahoo.co.uk) is the Compiler for Wentnor, Lydham, More, Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Sneed.

In Hyssington send to Afrianne Jones (afrianne@btinternet.com).

In Churchstoke send to Rev Carol Whittock (carolwhittock@btinternet.com) 01588 620693. They will forward contributions to David Hardham.

PLEASE do not copy to the Magazine Editor.

ONNYCAMLAD PARISHES November 2017

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Revd. Carol Whittock, Mission Priest of Churchstoke (01588 620693)
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Date	Time	Service	Place
<i>All Saints</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	St Ethelreda's, Hyssington
	10.30	Morning Praise	St Nicholas', Churchstoke
	11.15	Holy Communion	All Saints, Norbury
	2.30	Afternoon service	Kinnerton Chapel
	6.30	Evening Prayer	St Michael&All Angels, Wentnor
<i>Remem-brance</i>	10.45	Remembrance	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope
	10.50	Remembrance	St Nicholas', Churchstoke
	3pm	Act of Remembrance	Holy Trinity, Lydham
	6.30	Evening Prayer for Peace	All Saints, Norbury
<i>2nd before Advent</i>	8.30	Holy Communion	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope
	9.45	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Myndtown
	10.30	Sunday Central	St Nicholas', Churchstoke
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Holy Trinity, Lydham
	2.30	Afternoon service	Kinnerton Chapel
	6.30	Evening Prayer	St Michael&All Angels, Wentnor
<i>Christ the King</i>	8.30	Holy Communion	All Saints, Norbury
	9.45	Morning Praise	St Margaret's Ratlinghope
	9.45	Holy Communion	St M & All Angels, Wentnor
	10.00	United Service	St Etheldreda's, Hyssington
	10.30	Holy Communion	St Nicholas', Churchstoke
	11.15	Morning Praise	St Peter's, More

Use November to Remember:

Remembering the past, and the present moment, is a very precious cognitive ability and something to be truly thankful for, especially in November when there are so many events that are linked to personal and communal memories. These include:

November 1st is All Saints' Day, remembering the witness of all Christian people and the great heroes of our faith.

This will be celebrated on Sunday 5th.

November 2nd is All Souls Day, providing opportunity to remember those we love who have died. Although there is not a formal service of Commemoration this year, you are invited to visit our Churches which are

open during the day, to light candles, remember and give thanks. (Candles and prayers will be left out in each Church for this purpose).

Remembrance Sunday 12 November (following Armistice Day on 11 Nov), unites people of faith and none, to remember the human cost and suffering of war and the preciousness of peace.

Please join us at one of the Benefice Remembrance services – all will include minutes of silence for remembering those who have died in past and current wars, and the laying of wreaths.

The **Evening Prayer for Peace** service at Norbury will be more meditative and will include greater opportunity for silent reflection and prayer.

Revd Deb Swann

Dear Readers,

Reality

Iris Murdoch said, 'We live in a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality.' Russell Brand said that for him the problem is not drugs but reality.

Jesus Christ said, 'I am the Truth.'

Discovering what's real, what's true, must surely be of utmost importance to us. C.S.Lewis said: 'If Christianity is false, it's of no importance; if it's true it's of huge importance; but what it can't be is moderately true.'

The first evening of the Alpha Course is entitled: 'Is there more to life than this?' On that first evening we watched an interview with Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project, where he spoke of his realisation that as a scientist he was appalled at the fact that he had never investigated the evidence for Christianity, the evidence for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. He had assumed it was all myth. When he applied his mind and examined the evidence he said, 'It resulted in my conversion to Christianity'.

So often people assume they know what Christianity is; they think it's just trying to do good. It is in fact believing in Jesus who says He is the Truth; it's following Jesus who says He is the Way; it's living in close relationship with the living God Jesus, who says 'I am the Life'.

Loving people, standing up for justice, being kind, and generally 'doing good' – these are all part of following Jesus, the natural result of being filled with the Spirit of God, of knowing the truth of who He is and who we are.

Jesus calls us to follow Him in radical discipleship. Finding out what that looks like is the adventure of our lives. I've been a follower of Jesus for many years but it's still the greatest adventure of my life.

You and I were created to walk in relationship with God; we were designed to walk in rhythm with Him, to be loved by Him and to love Him back.

That is our purpose.

That is the true reality.

If you want to explore this further please get in touch.

Revd Carol 01588 620693

Harvest Thanksgiving in OnnyCamlad:

Thank you to everyone:

Organists and those who have led music

Decorators, cleaners and flower arrangers

Preparers of Harvest suppers and refreshments

Service leaders and all who have come together in worship

For making the month of October a truly meaningful and communal time of thanksgiving and celebration.

Revd Deb Swann

Life Events:

We welcomed through:

Baptism:

Prudence Sophie Ursa Mickelwright.

1 Oct, St

Mary the Virgin, Snead

1



Oct, St Michael

Archie Alan Ziemann

& All Angels, Wentnor

Marriage:

Samuel Pinches & Megan Hyne

16 Sept, St Margaret's, Ratlinghope

We entrusted to God the souls of

Michael Charles Stuart

12th Oct, Shrewsbury Crematorium

Please continue to pray for these people, couples and families.

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Community Larder & Advice Centre at Clun (CLAC@CLUN):

If anyone in our area is in need and cannot afford to buy food, and other supplies, they can contact a doctor, head teacher, priest, or someone from the Local Ministry Group, or another similar person, for help to obtain food, or advice from our deanery’s ‘Food Bank’ in Clun. All cases are treated in total confidence.

The Community Larder is grateful for the donations from those of our churches that are collecting food items from their congregations.

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with Churchstoke & Hyssington**

**Revd. Carol Whittock, Mission Priest of Churchstoke (01588 620693)
David Jelves, Reader (01588 620434)**

Dear Readers,

One of the aspects I've really enjoyed about living here is finding out a little about local farming. It's been fascinating hearing about TB testing, local dairy herds, weaning lambs and observing what crops are harvested when – you can see a lot from the Wentnor Rectory!

Celebrating harvest will be different for me this year because of this. I'll be able to visualise people and places when we pray and give thanks.

Thousands of years ago the people of Israel were given laws (a lot of them!) linked to harvest offerings, festivals and feasts, reminding them how to give God thanks and to remember their dependence on him. Having been through hard times themselves, they were not to forget the vulnerable and hungry at harvest, but to do something practical to help. For example:

'Do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God' (Leviticus 23. 22).

Harvest Festivals are wonderful opportunities for celebrating, feasting and appreciating creation, but also for acknowledging the 'dark side' of harvest time. For remembering those who don't have a harvest to celebrate, or the injustice and struggle, linked to farming and food production.

This Harvest, let's pray for local farmers and growers, food producers, retailers and transporters and also for people globally, whose crops, livestock, livelihoods and future, have been washed away, withered away or taken away.

I look forward to experiencing Harvest in *OnnyCamlad* and hope that we can share the goodness of God, practically as well as prayerfully.

Revd Deborah Swann

Celebration of 25 years of Reader Ministry

David Jelves,

Reader/Lay Minister for 25 years

On **Sunday 8 October** David will be ministering and preaching
at St Nicholas' Churchstoke, as he has for many years.

Please come at 10.30am

For Bacon/sausage baps and good coffee – a relaxed start!

Then a chance to worship and celebrate with David and all God's people

October's services:

Date	Time	Service	Place
Sunday 1 st	10.30 11.15 11.30 1.00 3.00 6.30	Harvest Praise Holy Communion Holy Baptism Holy Baptism Harvest Festival Harvest Festival	St Nicholas', Churchstoke All Saints, Norbury St Mary the Virgin, Snead St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor St Etheldreda's, Hyssington St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Sunday 8 th	10.30 11.15 2.30 6.30 6.30	Holy Communion & celebration with David Jelves. Harvest Festival Harvest Festival Evening Prayer Harvest Festival	St Nicholas, Churchstoke (See previous page for details about this celebration / service) St Peter's, More Kinnerton Chapel All Saints, Norbury St Margaret Ratlinghope
Friday 13 th	6.30	Myndtown's Harvest Service & Supper	Village Hall at Norbury
Sunday 15 th	8.30 10.30 11.30 6.30	Holy Communion Sunday Central Harvest Festival Evening Prayer	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope St Nicholas', Churchstoke Holy Trinity, Lydham St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Friday 20 th		Norbury School Harvest	All Saints, Norbury
Sunday 22 nd	9.45 10.30 2.30 11.15 2.30 6.30	Morning Praise Holy Communion Afternoon service Morning Praise United service Harvest Festival	St Margaret's, Ratlinghope St Nicholas', Churchstoke Kinnerton Chapel St Peter's, More Hyssington Methodist Chapel All Saints, Norbury
Sunday 29 th	10.30	Bible Sunday United Benefice Service	Village Hall at Norbury



Come and celebrate
Bible Sunday
together on 29 October



Life Events: August to mid-September



We welcomed through:

Baptism:

Tyler John Wood. 13 August, St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor

Marriage:

Julian Close & Rebecca Afonwy Jones: 8 August, St Peter's, More
Martyn Pryce & Bronwen Goodwin: 2 Sept, St Nicholas, Churchstoke
Peter Boyd & Victoria Wilkinson: 9 Sept, St Nicholas, Churchstoke

We entrusted to God the souls of

Jill Morgan (burial of ashes)	12 August, St Ethelreda, Hyssington
Rachel Ann Bright	25 August, St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Frank (Francis Rowland) Butler	26 August, St Peter's, More
Pauline Kitty Andrews	5 Sept, St Michael & All Angels, Wentnor
Edith Olwyn Powell	7 Sept, St Nicholas', Churchstoke
Richard John Edward Cox	9 Sept., All Saints, Norbury

Please continue to pray for these people, couples and families.

A BIG Thank you

Sincere thanks to clergy and lay people who have taken our services during the Interregnum. In particular our Rural Dean, Rev Stephanie Fountain, and Rev Carol Whittock for 'shepherding' us during this time and arranging our services and providing pastoral care and giving of their time so generously. Our grateful thanks likewise to Rev Preb Michael Pollit , Rev Preb Michael Whittock , Rev Michael Plunkett and Rev Jo Evans who have proved that 'retirement' is open to a different interpretation when it refers to clergy! Now, after the long interregnum, we are delighted to welcome Rev Deborah Swann to St Etheldreda's, and all the other 8 churches.

Afrianne Jones

'Henry and the Dinosaurs'

A newly published book for young children and new readers. By **Julia Francis**, who ministered in our Deanery, and especially in our Group of Parishes, for many years until 'retiring' a couple of years ago. An excellent present to share with your youngest friends and relatives.

You can check it out on AustinMacaqueley's website. Or go to Julia's facebook page: Julia F Francis. Or speak to her direct on 07966 457852.

It can be ordered with ISBN code. 9781786294685

Julia has some copies herself for sale, and would be happy to arrange to come to nursery groups or schools, or to groups attached to the churches.

If you contact Julia she would be happy to personalise a copy for you to give as a gift. On **Monday 9 October** she is at Hyssington Village Hall around 4pm if anyone would like to meet her and see a copy of the book.

The Wentnor Fête had a surprisingly sunny, warm day. This was a great help towards making it a financial success – raising a net sum of £4,695. Thank you to all who supported the fête, and to all who worked so hard to make it such a success. We are grateful to Nigel Hirst who took over the lead this year. Does he have a job for life?

The breakdown, after expenses, is: The Draw £1,206; Teas £632; Tombola £494; Hog Roast £467; Cakes £386; Plants £265; Sale of new items £229; Bric a Brac £212; Books £139; Magnum of Champagne £114; draw for £50 notes £100. The stall selling squash was a new innovation this year and was very successful, making a net sum of £73. All the other activities (dog show, sideshows, children's corner, ice cream, donations) raised another £378.

Well done everyone!

Ride & Stride ... getting back on track. This event is in September every year, raising money by sponsorship – half going to local churches and half to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, which provides grants to repair old churches. They have given grants to many local churches including Myndtown, Hyssington & Ratlinghope.

R&S used to be a big thing in some of our parishes, but all those riders and striders have moved on, leaving a bit of a vacuum. We did not know what to do or who to contact. But this sounded a bit like a teenager's excuse (whatevah) so we made a bit of an effort and, this year, 5 of our churches were registered and open for visitors, and we actually had 3 people who collected sponsorship for their Ride & Stride endeavours, raising a total of £239: half for their local church and half for SHCT.

We have learned much more about what to do and how to encourage people to participate as regards getting sponsorship. Many people have been surprised that the Riding and Striding can be rather non-energetic. So, maybe we can get even more Back on Track next year! And thank you to everyone who took part and/or sponsored anyone. David Hardham

The Long Mynd Batch Burner is a Mountain Bike Challenge, organised by Norbury School PTA to raise money for the School. Now in its fifth year it was a great success in May & June, raising a total of about £**18,000**, which is truly exceptional. The route, new this year, was 52 km, much of it over private land that is usually off-limits to mountain bikes. The 'Junior Batch Burner' on 19 May involved all the children from Norbury Primary and Nursery riding the entire 52km as a relay, raising over £5,000 in sponsorship.

The main event, on 10 June, raised another £13,000 profit, including some Match Funding from Barclays. It had about 400 participants from all over the UK and, this year, even from America. They love the friendship, the lovely scenery and tracks and, of course, the great cakes and sausages.

Thank you everyone who helped with all the many jobs that had to be done, and to the landowners who let the MTBs ride over their land.

The proceeds of this and other events by the PTA are going to Norbury School, partly to enhance the all-round education, for example by financing

field trips, residential, and trips to France and London; and partly towards building a new classroom so that Yrs 3,4,5 & 6 can be split into two classes.

Hyssington History Group Can anyone in our nine Parishes help this History group with their research?

They have been researching the history of Hyssington from 1770 until the present day and are compiling a booklet. Many people have kindly helped by loaning documents or allowing themselves to be quizzed and recorded. However, they are missing some facts. Can you help?

- 1 Do you recall when the present village green was levelled? This would in turn date some photos.
- 2 Do you have memories or photos of the early post office at Brynawel?
- 3 Do you have memories of the shop at The Bryn?
- 4 Do you know when the Post Office moved from The Old Smithy to Brynawel?
- 5 Do you know when the telephone kiosk or post box were installed?
- 6 When did the P. O. move from Brynawel to its last location?
- 7 When did the Smithy cease functioning?
- 8 Do you have stories of the school? How was it lit in the early days?
- 9 When did electricity come to the village? This would also enable us to date some photos.
- 10 Do you have memories of the early village hall?
- 11 Do you know when the cherry trees were planted on the village green?
- 12 Do you have early memories of the flower festivals? We know about 1997 but would like to know more about earlier festivals.
- 13 Do you have memories or photos of the Coronation Celebrations?
- 14 Do you have memories or photos of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations?
- 15 Do you have any old photographs of the village? If so, we can scan them and preserve them.

Thank you! Please contact Liz: 01588 620027, Jeannette 620548, Sylvia 620142.

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They are only 60p each - £6 for a whole year – 10 issues per year.
The proceeds help support our costs and other local projects.

Just Credit Union

Anyone who needs financial help can ask the Credit Union for quick loans, with no arrangement fee, from £300 to £1,000. Credit Union is a People's Bank, to stop the payday loan-sharks who charge very high interest.

£300 loans for the really needy are available within 48 hours; repayable over 30 to 52 weeks; no arrangement fee, no early repayment penalty.

Free life insurance available. Far cheaper than other sources. Confidential calls can be made: 01743-252325. Graham Hemmings can help Monday mornings in the Church Barn, by Bishop's Castle church.

Community Larder & Advice Centre at Clun (CLAC@CLUN):

If anyone in our area is in need and cannot afford to buy food, and other supplies, they can contact a doctor, head teacher, priest, or someone from the Local Ministry Group, or another similar person, for help to obtain food, or advice from our deanery's 'Food Bank' in Clun. All cases are treated in total confidence.

The Community Larder is grateful for the donations from those of our churches that are collecting food items from their congregations.

In mid-September they said there is a need for certain items that are popular with people who often have very limited cooking facilities and, maybe, not even a tin opener! They mentioned: **washing detergent, tea bags, instant coffee, UHT milk, cereals** (cornflakes, weetabix or rice krispies), **plain biscuits** (sweet and savoury) and **dried pet food**.

They also said the following were welcome: **tins of corned beef, ham, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, fruit** (peaches, apricots & fruit salad), **rice pudding and custard**.

Hereford Diocese website: You can find out what is going on across the Diocese by using their re-vamped website at www.hereford.anglican.org For details of service times at the **Cathedral**, please telephone 01432 374212 or visit the **Cathedral website**: www.herefordcathedral.org.

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COPY DATE for November Magazine is 15 October

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David Hardham (dhardham@yahoo.co.uk) is the Compiler for Wentnor, Lydham, More, Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Snead.

In Hyssington send to Afrianne Jones (afrianne@btinternet.com).

In Churchstoke send to Rev Carol Whittock (carolwhittock@btinternet.com) 01588 620693. They will forward contributions to David Hardham.

PLEASE do not copy to the Magazine Editor.

July 2017

(Abbreviated version for Myndtown Combined Parish Council website)

ONNYCAMLAD PARISHES (Vacant until 27 July)

Contact: Rev Stephanie Fountain Rural Dean 01588 630324 for Christenings, Weddings & Funerals at Hyssington, Lydham, More, Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor.

**Rev. Carol Whittock Mission Priest of Churchstoke 01588 620693
David Jelves, Reader 01588 620434**

Date	Service	Officiant
2 July	9.45: Holy Communion, Hyssington 10.30: Morning Praise, Churchstoke 11.15: Morning Prayer, Shead 11.15: Holy Communion, Norbury 2.30: Kinnerton Chapel 6.30: Evening prayer, Wentnor	Preb M Pollit David Jelves Revd R Payne Oliver Goode
9 July	9.45: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope 10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 11.15: Holy Communion, More 6.30: Evening Prayer, Norbury	Revd R Payne Revd C Whittock Revd M Plunkett Nigel Hirst
16 July	8.30: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope 10.30: Sunday Central, Churchstoke 11.15: Morning Praise, Lydham 2.30: Kinnerton Chapel 6.30: Evening Prayer, Wentnor	Revd M Plunkett Revd C Whittock Afrianne Jones Mr B Preston
23 July	8.30: Holy Communion, Norbury 9.45: Morning Praise, Ratlinghope 10.30: Sunday Central, Churchstoke (Family Church – lively and relaxed – please see our ‘ad’ on the next page) 11.15: Morning Praise, More 2.30: United service, Hyssington	Revd M Plunkett David Hardham Revd C Whittock David Hardham
Thursday 27 July	7.30: Licensing Service at More. Revd Deborah Swann will be licensed as our new priest. Followed by refreshments. See separate article.	
30 July	10.30: Holy Communion. Benefice service. All Saint's, Norbury.	Local Ministry Group & Revd Deborah Swann

Ignite, Youth Group for school years 7 and 8, meets every Wednesday
7.00-8.45pm in the vicarage, Churchstoke.

Games Food Worship Drama Prayer Chat

Sunday Central on Sunday 16 July at 10.30am

Family Church

Relaxed and lively worship

At Churchstoke church ...

with drama, meditation,
big craft construction
and fun activities for all ages.



NEW PRIEST FOR ONNYCAMLAD PARISHES

Revd Deborah Swann will be joining the Deanery later this summer as Rector of Wentnor and Ratlinghope with Myndtown, Norbury, More, Lydham and Snead and Priest-in-Charge of Churchstoke and Hyssington.

The Licensing Service will be at St Peter's, **More**, at **7.30pm on Thursday 27 July**. Everyone is invited to come and welcome the Revd Deborah to the OnnyCamlad group of Parishes.

There will be refreshments after the service, in the form of a reception/party. Deborah would be delighted to meet as many people as possible from our group of Parishes.

There is a much longer article about Deborah in the front section of the complete magazine, which is available as a hard copy; but is not on the internet.

The Revd Deborah Swann

We are very pleased indeed to know that the Revd Deborah Swann has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of the OnnyCamlad Group of Parishes. She will be licensed at a service at More Church on Thursday 27th July at 7.30pm.

All involved in her appointment were of the same mind that Deborah was God's choice for this Benefice and we are thrilled that she is coming here.

We look forward to welcoming her and her husband Neil to our parishes and we pray for God's anointing on Deborah for her ministry and His blessing on her as she settles into a new place.

Revd Carol Whittock

TRINITY HOSPITAL, CLUN

There are two vacant residential premises at Trinity, available for people in need, over 55 years of age, who live locally.

See article near front of complete magazine for details about how to apply.

The complete magazine, for the Clun Forest Deanery, is available as a hard copy but is not published on the internet

CHRISTIAN AID. Anita Bright organised a coffee morning at Robury Ring, Wentnor, on 20th May. It was a great success, raising over £300. A more exact figure will be available next month. Well done, Anita!

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Date	Service	Officiant
7 May Easter 4	9.45: Holy Communion, Hyssington 10.30: Morning Praise, Churchstoke 11.15: Service at Snead 11.15: Holy Communion, Norbury 2.30: Kinnerton Chapel Wentnor - Christening 6.30: Evening prayer, Wentnor	Preb M Whittock Revd C Whittock Rev S Fountain Revd J Evans Preb M Whittock Canon J Francis
14 May Easter 5	9.45: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope 10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 11.15: Holy Communion, More 6.30: Evening Prayer, Norbury	Preb M Whittock Revd C Whittock Revd R Payne Mr N Hirst
21 May Easter 6	8.30: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope 10.30: Sunday Central, Churchstoke 11.15: Morning Praise, Lydham 2.30: Kinnerton Chapel 6.30: Evening Prayer, Wentnor	Revd J Evans Revd C Whittock Afrianne Jones Mr B Preston
25 May	Ascension Day	
28 May Easter 7	8.30: Holy Communion, Norbury 9.45: Morning Praise, Ratlinghope 10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 11.15: Morning Praise, More 2.30: United service, Hyssington	Revd M Plunkett Afrianne Jones Preb M Whittock Afrianne Jones

Sunday Central on Sunday May 21st at 10.30am

Family Church

Relaxed and lively worship

At Churchstoke church ...

with drama, meditation,
big craft construction
and fun activities for all ages.



From Churchstoke Vicarage

Do you remember the show 'The Weakest Link'? Ann Robinson was a tyrant on this programme, giving people a really hard time, trying to expose flaws in their knowledge. When a Christian minister was on the show, she really went for him. Her final attempt to unsettle him was,

'I suppose you believe in the Gospel don't you?'

'Yes.'

'Well then I challenge you to sing me the Gospel in two sentences.'

Quick as a flash the minister sang:

'Here's to you Mrs Robinson. Jesus loves you more than you will know.'!!

Clever and witty? Yes. But it's also true isn't it? Jesus loves you, He loves me, more than we will know. His death on the cross proves it, proves His love. To give up Your life for another is the ultimate sacrifice. That it should be Jesus, God the Son, the perfect and holy One, the Lord of all and creator of heaven and earth, the One who should be for ever worshipped and adored - is amazing, terrifying, awesome, incomprehensible – but TRUE.

Of course when Jesus died such a horrible, shameful death, having been whipped and scourged, mocked and spat upon, betrayed and denied and finally crucified - it looked like He had lost, that the powers of darkness had won – it looked like He Himself was the weakest link. BUT they reckoned without the third day.

On the third day, (a phrase used symbolically in the Old Testament signifying the intervention by God for good, for our salvation), an event prophesied 8 times by Jesus Himself – this event rocked the world. Jesus was raised to life! His tomb was empty! Over the next days over 500 people saw Him. They touched Him, talked to Him and ate with Him. The truth is Jesus won. He is the Victor. He has conquered death and opened the way for us to be resurrected to new life too, new life with God in heaven – for everyone who puts their trust – not in themselves or their good behaviour – but puts their trust in Jesus.

This is the extent of the love Jesus has for us, that 'While we were still sinners, He died for us.' (Rom 5:8)

Jesus loves you more than you will know. He died in my place; He died in yours.

Thank you Jesus.

Revd Carol

Confirmation by Bishop Alistair (for the entire OnnyCamlad group)

There will be a Confirmation Service on **Sunday 18th June** at 10.30am at **St Nicholas' Churchstoke**.

If you would like to be confirmed (or baptised) please contact Revd Carol Whittock. (01588 620693)

Ignite, Youth Group for school years 7 and 8, meets every Wednesday
7.00-8.45pm in the vicarage, Churchstoke.

Games Food Worship Drama Prayer Chat

WENTNOR FETE

There will be a meeting to start the organisation of the Annual Grand Fete.
At: The Village Hall at Norbury on Wednesday 17th May at 7:30pm.
All are welcome.
We especially need someone interested in running the dog show this year!

ONNYCAMLAD VACANCY

In the April Magazine I said that the Diocese was re-advertising in the Church Times.

I am pleased to give news that, on 13 April, Bishop Alistair advised Nigel Hirst that two candidates have applied. Both are experienced in Rural Ministry, and both are from outside the Diocese.

Interviews will take place on the **2nd May**. The exact timings will need to be firmed up, but both candidates will view all the churches in the morning and will be interviewed in the afternoon. The arrangements will be such that the two candidates will not be visiting any individual church at the same time.

Christ Church, Oxford, are the patrons of most of our Parishes, and they are very generous in their support. Canon Edmund Newey, from Christ Church, will be here after 11:30 am to assist with the interviews.

The candidates will be interviewed by two interviewing panels, which will include the Parish representatives, as nominated by each Parish at the meeting last autumn, and Bishop Alistair and Canon Edmund Newey.

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David Jelves, Reader 01588 620434

Mette Wardle, Reader 01694 751466

Sunday services and other worship

	Service	Officiant
2 April Lent 5 Passion-tide	9.45: Holy Communion, Hyssington 10.30: Morning Praise, Churchstoke 11.15: Holy Communion, Norbury 6.30: Evening prayer, Wentnor	Preb M Pollit David Jelves Revd M Plunkett Mr B Preston
9 April Palm Sunday	10.30: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope 10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 11.15: Holy Communion, More 6.30: Evening Prayer, Norbury	Revd Dr J Daniels Revd C Whittock Revd R Payne Mr N Hirst
10 April	12.00: Stations of the Cross, Churchstoke	Preb M Whittock
11 April	12.00: Stations of the Cross, Churchstoke	Preb M Whittock
12 April	12.00: Stations of the Cross, Churchstoke	Preb M Whittock
Maundy Thursday	Thurs 13 April. See Ridgeway Benefice services	
14 April	10.30: Good Friday, Churchstoke	Preb M Whittock
15 April	8.00pm: Easter Vigil, Churchstoke	Revd C Whittock
16 April EASTER Sunday	10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 10.30: Holy Communion, Wentnor 10.30: Holy Communion, Ratlinghope	Revd C Whittock Bishop Alistair Preb M Whittock
23 April Easter 2	8.30: Holy Communion, Norbury 9.45: Morning Praise, Ratlinghope 10.30: Holy Communion, Churchstoke 11.15: Morning Praise, More 2.30: United service, Hyssington 2.30: Kinnerton Chapel	Revd M Plunkett David Hardham Preb M Pollitt Revd M Plunkett
30 April Easter 3	10.30: Benefice Service, More	Revd S Fountain

BENEFICE MEETING: chaired by Bishop Alistair.

Wednesday 5 April: 7.30pm, 5th April 2017, Village Hall at Norbury.

The meeting will be two halves. The first part of the meeting will deal with the election of Churchwardens, and any business common to all the churches of the benefice. The second half will be for separate church groups around the hall to receive the annual reports for each church. There will be refreshments and a time to get to know one another better after we have completed our business.

Rev. Stephanie Fountain, Rural Dean

A short reflection from the Vicarage, Churchstoke:

Tell your story

During Lent we have been watching filmed talks by Danielle Strickland. We have been invited to remember who we are, as children of God, as bearers of the presence of God. We have been encouraged to 'tell our story' – the story of how we met Jesus, the story of the 'significant moments' in our lives that led us to decide to follow Jesus.

Each of us has our own unique story of our salvation, of the things that happened to us and the people who influenced us and sometimes the miraculous events that God did, which moved us to believe and become disciples of Jesus.

At the end of our recent Alpha course we had a 'Testimony Evening' where people were invited to tell their story in 3 minutes; the story of how they came to believe, why they choose to worship God on Sundays in church, what difference Jesus has made in their lives. Everyone chose to tell their story; each had a week to prepare and consider the key events they wanted to tell. Each person had a unique story; each story was fascinating – and glorifying to God. It was a very faith-building evening!

Telling the story of what God has done releases faith. It changes the spiritual atmosphere. It blesses the listener and the teller.

God's story is amazing; we can read it in the Bible – the Book of God!

The key event in God's story is when Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter morning! He who was dead is now alive! Jesus conquered death and the devil. He opened the way for you and me to have LIFE - abundant life in this world - and eternal life with God in the next. It really is a Good News story!

AND He invites us to share this Good News with other people. He invites us to tell His story and our story – to one person at a time.

Do you have a story to tell about the difference Jesus has made in your life?

When did you last tell your story?

Revd Carol Whittock

ONNYCAMLAD VACANCY (Latest information from David Hardham).

On 14 March Bishop Alistair assured us that the Diocese, “Will be placing a new advertisement in the Church Times next week and the following week. The vacancy will then remain on their online list until filled. ... The information is also on the Diocesan website and the national Church of England website”. The Bishop reminded us that the patrons, Christ Church Oxford, are very generous in their support.

Canon Edmund Newey and Bishop Alistair have reserved Tuesday 2nd May as a possible interview date.

The Bishop hopes that a good candidate will emerge. And he asked Nigel Hirst to tell all the parishes that 2nd May has been reserved for possible interviews.

I have heard rumours that the advertisement is for a ‘temporary post’. This is NOT in the advert on Hereford Diocese website, which reads:

PRIEST FOR THE ONNY CAMLAD PARISHES CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD PATRONAGE

If you have a passion for rural ministry, take a look at this:
The Benefice of Wentnor, Lydham, More, Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Snead are looking for a Priest-in-Charge. The person appointed will also be responsible for Churchstoke & Hyssington.

These stunningly beautiful parishes have a welcoming community of able people. The Rectory has glorious views enough to inspire any artist or painter.

The patrons of the living of are the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford. Christ Church is in the happy position of being able to support the incumbents of its ninety livings through the revenues of the Dr South Trust, which is able to assist with grants for study, administration and holidays, as well as offering a biennial conference and loans for the purchase of a car.

For information about interview date please go to our website

Full details on the Diocesan website www.hereford.anglican.org

They miss-spelled ‘OnnyCamlad’ (Norman coined the name without a space between Onny & Camlad) otherwise it seems OK to me.

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Sunday Central

Sunday Central

on Sunday May 21st at 10.30am

Family Church - *Relaxed and lively* worship



with drama, meditation, big craft construction and fun activities for all ages

Lent Course: 'Feel Free' Filmed Talks by Danielle Strickland

Wednesdays at 2pm – 3pm at the Vicarage, Churchstoke.

Open to everyone. Revd Carol Whittock 620693

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Mette Wardle, Reader 01694 751466

SUNDAY SERVICES, and Ash Wednesday

Wed'sday 1 st March	Churchstoke: 10.30. Special service for Ash Wednesday. Rev Carol Whittock.
Sunday 5 March Lent 1	Hyssington: 9.45. Holy Communion. Rev Michael Pollit. Churchstoke: 10.30. Morning Praise. David Jelves & Rev Carol Whittock. Part of Sermon Series on 'Questions People Ask'. This week: "Won't everyone go to Heaven?" Norbury: 11.15. Holy Communion. Rev. Dr John Daniels. Wentnor: 6.30. Evening Prayer. Barry Preston.
Sunday 12 March Lent 2	Ratlinghope: 9.45. Holy Communion. Rev. Dr John Daniels Churchstoke: 10.30. Holy Communion. Rev.Preb. Michael Whittock. Part of Sermon Series on 'Questions People Ask'. This week: "Why do some believe and others don't?" More: 11.15. Holy Communion. Rev J Evans. Kinnerton Chapel: 2.30. Afternoon service. Norbury: 6.30. Evening Prayer. Nigel Hirst.
Sunday 19 March Lent 3	Ratlinghope: 8.30. Holy Communion. Rev Stephanie Fountain. Wentnor: 9.30. Holy Communion. Rev Robert Payne. Churchstoke: 10.30. Holy Communion. Rev Carol Whittock. Lydham: 10.30. Morning Praise. Mette Wardle.
Sunday 26 March Mothering Sunday	Norbury: 8.30. Holy Communion. Rev D Vickers. Ratlinghope: 9.45. Mothering Sunday. Lay-led, Child-friendly service: David Hardham and others. Hyssington: 10.00. Mothering Sunday; at St Ethelreda's. Churchstoke: 10.30. 'Mothering Sunday Central'. Rev Carol Whittock:- Family Church – <u>RELAXED</u> and <u>LIVELY</u> worship. (See later in Magazine for more details) More: 11.15. Morning Praise. Nigel Hirst. Kinnerton Chapel: 2.30. Mothering Sunday service.

BENEFICE MEETING: (APCM) chaired by Bishop Alistair.

Wednesday 5 April: 7.30pm, 5th April 2017, Village Hall at Norbury.

The meeting will be two halves. The first part of the meeting will deal with the election of Churchwardens, and any business common to all the churches of the benefice.

In the second half of the meeting we will split into separate church groups around the hall to receive the annual reports for each church. There will be refreshments and a time to get to know one another better after we have completed our business.

Rev. Stephanie Fountain, Rural Dean

ONNYCAMLAD VACANCY

As at the date of going to press there have not been any applications. The vacancy is still being advertised, and Bishop Alistair is doing all he can to recommend our group of parishes to potential candidates.

Confirmation by Bishop Alistair (for the entire OnnyCamlad group)

There will be a Confirmation Service on **Sunday 18th June** at 10.30am at **St Nicholas' Churchstoke**.

If you would like to be confirmed (or baptised) please contact Revd Carol Whittock. (01588 620693)

Confirmation Preparation for Young People began on Wednesday 8th February at 7pm – 8.45pm at Churchstoke vicarage and is part of our ongoing Youth Programme called **IGNITE**.

Confirmation Preparation for Adults led by Revd Preb Michael Whittock will begin on Thursday 16th March. It is a 9 session course.

Have you been baptised (christened) but never confirmed?

Do you avoid Holy Communion Services because you haven't been confirmed?

Now's the time to do something about it. Interested?

Contact Revd Carol on 01588 620693

Lent Course

'Feel Free' Filmed Talks by Danielle Strickland

Wednesday 8 March and weekly thereafter: 2pm – 3pm at the Vicarage, Churchstoke. Open to everyone. Revd Carol Whittock 620693

All people, from all of our parishes, are welcome to come to this Lent course. This year there will not be any other Lent courses in our Group.

Friday 10 March: 7.30pm. CLUN VALLEY FILLING STATION. Worship and meeting at Newcastle Community Centre with talk by Hellie Brunt, who is the new Filling Station Regional Director for the Midlands.

See full article near front of Magazine.

Sunday Central : at Churchstoke:

Mothering Sunday Central

on Sunday March 26th at 10.30am
Family Church - *Relaxed and lively* worship



with drama, meditation and fun activities for all ages

Note that this is only an abbreviated section of the magazine.

It does not contain all the news and events in the Myndtown Combined Parish Council area.

It does not contain all the adverts from local businesses that provide a vast range of reliable services, and which are likely to be needed by nearly every one of us at some time in our lives.

It does not contain the news that affects the whole of our locality, including Bishop's Castle and Churchstoke, nor does it contain letters from the Bishops or Dean that are addressed to the whole of our Deanery.

Do you want a Magazine? Or do you know someone who would like one?
Please encourage sales & distribution.

Contact Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 (Shropshire & Sneed parishes)
or Jo Jelves 01588 620434 (Churchstoke & Hyssington)

They are only 60p each - £6 for a whole year – 10 issues per year.

ONNYCAMLAD PARISHES (Vacant)

Contact: Rev Stephanie Fountain Rural Dean 01588 630324 for Christenings, Weddings & Funerals at Hyssington, Lydham, More, Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor.

Rev. Carol Whittock Mission Priest at Churchstoke 01588 620693

David Jelves, Reader 01588 620434

Mette Wardle, Reader 01694 751466

SUNDAY SERVICES: (Please support the visiting Ministers, and our local people, who are taking services during the vacancy)

	Sun. 5 th Feb, 4 before Lent	Sun 12 Feb 3 before Lent	Sun 19 Feb 2 before Lent	Sun 26 Feb Last before Lent
Kinnerton Chapel		2.30. Afternoon service		2.30. Afternoon service
Churchstoke	10.30 Morning Praise, Rev Carol Whittock	10.30 HC, Rev. Preb. Michael Whittock	10.30 'Sunday Central', Rev C. Whittock	10.30 HC, Rev Carol Whittock
Hyssington	9.45 HC, Rev. Preb. Michael Whittock			2.30 United Service
Lydham			11.15 Morning Praise, Mette Wardle	
More		11.15 HC Rev Robert Payne		11.15 Morning Praise, Mette Wardle
Myndtown				
Norbury	11.15 HC, Rev. Preb. M Whittock	6.30 Evening Prayer, Nigel Hirst		8.30 HC, Rev J Evans
Ratlinghope		9.45 HC, Rev Carol Whittock	8.30 HC, Rev Mike Plunkett	9.45 Morning Praise, Mette Wardle
Snead				
Wentnor	6.30 Evening Prayer, Barry Preston		6.30 Evening Prayer, Barry Preston	

'Identity' a short reflection from the Vicarage, Churchstoke.

A tourist visiting Italy came upon a construction site. 'What are you doing?' he asked three stonemasons.

"I'm cutting stone," answered the first.

"I'm cutting stone for 150 Euros a day," replied the second.

"I'm helping to build a cathedral," said the third.

It occurs to me at the start of another year that knowing who we are and where we are going is key to us as followers of Jesus Christ. We need a right understanding of our identity and vision for our future.

In John's Gospel we read: 'To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.'

That, my friends, is our identity: we are 'children of God'. If we receive Jesus and believe in His name we are 'children of God'. That means we are valued and passionately loved by our Father God. It means we have status, we are heirs – with all the responsibility that means. It also means we have privilege – the privilege of access to the Father.

This week has been for me a week of meetings. On Wednesday as I walked up the church path ready for 'Powerhouse' – our weekly prayer meeting – it dawned on me that this is the most important meeting I have this week. Along with others in our church family I have the privilege of meeting with the King of kings, the God who created the heavens and the earth, who has the power over life and death, and who is my Father – and yours – and He's waiting and wanting to meet with us!

If we catch the vision of who we are and keep close to our Father God, then He can really use us in His mission to His world.

Revd Carol.

Powerhouse Open to everyone.

Prayer meeting every Wednesday; 2pm – 3pm in Churchstoke church.

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(for the entire OnnyCamlad group)

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Rev Carol (01588 620693).

ONNYCAMLAD VACANCY

In the December Magazine we were told that a small working party of four people were beginning to prepare a 'Benefice Profile & Statement of Needs'. This is a description of our area and our communities, together with a description of what we would like to see happening here, with the help and guidance of the new priest.

This had to be prepared in order to start advertising. The working party did an amazing job, very quickly. A big thank you to them! The Profile was approved by the Diocese in time to advertise before Christmas.

You can see it on the Diocese website: www.hereford.anglican.org > Vacancies (top right) > Posts in parishes for Ordained Ministers > Onny Camlad

In addition, it was advertised in the Church Times on 6th January. The application deadline was an optimistic 10th of January, with interviews of the prospective candidates arranged for 19 Jan.

As of going to press the 'working party' says that there has been no response, but Bishop Alistair is doing all he can to seek a suitable priest for our parishes. The vacancy has been registered with various national networks and he is in touch with other dioceses to see if they know of anyone who is looking for a move and may be interested in coming to Wentnor. He explained it is a sad fact that rural benefices are proving difficult to fill, but he is sure that in time the right person will emerge.

There is always a fairly long time gap between when one priest leaves and another is appointed, because Church policy is not to begin to prepare for a new incumbent until the 'dust has settled' after the departure of the previous one.

This gives time to assess any demographic, social, physical or other changes during the time of the previous priest, so as to reflect carefully on what is necessary for the future. Also it avoids the situation that could arise if the process is commenced before a priest leaves, because the presence of the outgoing priest may unintentionally influence these reflections, whereas the whole idea is to start afresh.

David Hardham

Harry Farr passed away on 30th November 2016. He was born near Eccleshall in Staffordshire in 1933. His family moved to Shropshire when he was six years old and they moved to Lydham when he was 16. He sang in both More and Lydham church choirs for several years.

He was one of the group that dug the footings and helped to build Lydham Village Hall. He married Rosemary in 1961 at More Church and they lived in Lydham for 12 years before moving to Bishops Castle.

He was a sidesman at More church for a number of years and happily helped with jobs there including cleaning the brass. The wooden cross on the altar was donated by Harry and Rosemary.

Donations at the cremation amounted to £905. More Church was given half (£452.50) and Air Ambulance was given the other half.

AGE UK Lunches for those 60 & over at the Crown Inn, Wentnor, 12.30pm Normally **SECOND WEDNESDAY and THIRD TUESDAY** in the month.

Next Wednesday Lunch: 8 February.

Next Tuesday Lunch: 21 February.

To book please ring Rachel Bright 01588 650242 (Wednesday lunches) or Margaret Cooke 01588 650280 (Tuesday lunches).

Mrs. Janet Brandon on 01588 650232 – is the ‘Age UK Parish Link’.

Community Larder & Advice Centre at Clun (CLAC@CLUN):

If anyone in our area is in need and cannot afford to buy food, and other supplies, they can contact a doctor, head teacher, priest, or someone from the Local Ministry Group, or another similar person, for help to obtain food etc. or advice from CLAC@CLUN. All cases are treated in total confidence

Just Credit Union

Anyone who needs financial help can ask the Credit Union for quick loans, with no arrangement fee, from £300 to £1,000. Credit Union is a People's Bank, to stop the payday loan-sharks who charge very high interest.

£300 loans for the really needy are available within 48 hours; repayable over 30 to 52 weeks; no arrangement fee, no early repayment penalty.

Free life insurance available. Far cheaper than other sources. Confidential calls can be made: 01743-252325. Graham Hemmings can help Monday mornings in the Church Barn, by Bishop's Castle church.