

# The Parish Magazine

of Greater Whitbourne



I said to the man  
who stood at  
the gate of the year  
**'Give me a light  
that I may tread safely  
into the unknown'**.

January 2015 60p

# Parish and Magazine Contacts

## Clergy

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Contributions for the magazine are very welcome and may be left at Whitbourne Village Shop or emailed to [parish.magazine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parish.magazine@yahoo.co.uk).

Contributions should be accompanied by a name and full address. Anonymity will be considered on request, but not provided automatically. Please note that the views expressed by contributors to the Parish Magazine are their own and do not represent the position of the PCC or any other body. The last day for submissions is the 10th of the month.

## Advertising

Advertisements are intended for local service providers, retailers and clubs and should comply with the ethos of the Parish Magazine. Advertising rates are £5 and £2.50 for quarter and eighth page adverts respectively. Quarter pages are portrait format and eighth pages are landscape.

Further details at <http://www.whitbourne.org.uk/files/MagazineTemplates/AdvertisingGuide.pdf> Please note our advertising space is limited and you may be placed on a short waiting list.

## Subscriptions

The Parish Magazine is available in the Churches at Edvin Loach, Tedstone Delamere, Upper Sapey and Whitbourne, and also at Whitbourne Village Shop. The price is 60p or £7.00 for an annual subscription, collected at the beginning of the year. To subscribe, please call Mr Andrew Kneen.

Note: All numbers are 01886 unless otherwise stated.

# From the Rector

Happy New Year!

***“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?”*** (Matthew 2:2)

6th January The Feast of The Epiphany

**O. Henry’s famous story, *The Gift of the Magi***, concerns Della and Jim, a young couple who fall on hard times and cannot afford to buy each other Christmas presents. Eventually Della sells her beautiful long hair to buy Jim a fob chain for his prized watch, only to discover that he has sold his watch to buy a set of tortoiseshell combs for her vanished hair!

**When she opens the combs, Della’s grand sacrifice seems pointless.** When she gives him the watch chain, **likewise Jim’s sacrifice seems pointless.** The story ends with O. Henry talking about the magi, who invented the act of giving Christmas presents and gave sacrificially to Jesus, but gave what could be regarded as pointless gifts for a baby. A blanket or a cot might have been better than gold, frankincense, or myrrh. Henry suggests that Della and Jim, who foolishly sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures they possessed, are actually the wisest of all, for, like the magi, they gave their love.

**It is interesting that in Matthew’s Gospel** the first human beings to speak are the magi, who were probably Gentiles, practising a different religion. Because of their interest in astrology and the stars, the magi are thought to have been Zoroastrians, yet astral cults are



condemned in the Old Testament. Nonetheless, God calls the magi to seek for the new king through the medium of following a star. The Jewish priests must have seen the same star but failed to recognise **God’s promptings.**

God called scientists from another religion to travel thousands of miles over a long period of time just to see a baby. Many would have considered them to be the wrong people to **receive God’s call and that journey to be without purpose,** yet it gave a very important message to humanity. Those scientists proclaimed the Christ, showing that Jesus is the Messiah not just for the Jews but for the whole world, and welcomes those of any religion or none.

As long as we are sufficiently open to **recognise God’s promptings, any of us** may be called by God to give sacrificially of our time, talents, wealth and love, just as the magi gave. Like the magi, we may not be able to see the ultimate purpose of our calling, but if we step out on our particular journey in faith, we will find **that all is held firmly in God’s hands.**

# Parish News

Whitbourne W.I.

**Well we can't believe it's Christmas,** but it is, so we meet in the small hall for our American Supper on a very wet and cold night. The WI tree decorations (just examples) were displayed on a small tree and they looked very effective. 2015 programme is now complete; a copy will be on the WI display board by our tree. The tables also looked very attractive with table decorations, Christmas cloths and wine etc. All members looked very smart and Christmassy.

We began with a very speedy business meeting, chose our resolution for the NFWI AGM, and Maureen mingled with the raffle tickets, proceeds of which will go to ACWW. Then we all helped ourselves to the first course which was delicious and everyone seemed to be enjoying it, some went **back for 'seconds'**. **The puddings** were then brought in from the kitchen, again another glorious display which we soon tucked into and enjoyed. After all our food we had a Christmas quiz which Heather conducted and was good fun, followed by drawing the raffle and distribution of **'Secret Santa' presents**.

Maureen is going to decorate the **WI tree in church on Thursday** and I'm sure it will look beautiful.

Next meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 is at The Royal Oak Broadwas for another meal.

Whitbourne WI meets on the second Tuesday in the month, 7.30 in the

Village Hall, women of all ages most welcome. Come along to a meeting and make some new friends.

**Here's what we have planned for next year.**

*Whitnourne WI 2015 Programme*

January 13th Dining Out Pub supper in Broadwas

February 10th Life in Africa Talk by Tim Schoonenberg

March 10th Puppy Rescue Talk by Sheila Tremellen

April 14th Cut Paper Work Demonstration by Liz Cousins

May 12th The Air Ambulance Talk by Mark Wilkins

June 9th Smite at Whitbourne Hall Garden Meeting

July 14th Flower Arranging Demonstration by Sarah Thomas

August 11th Outing TBA

September 8th Dame Laura Knight Talk by Heather Whately

October 13th An Evening with Mary Seldon

November 10th AGM\*Making Miniature Teddy Bears. Demonstration by Janice Waldron

December 8th Christmas Celebration

*Linda Gray*

Teme Valley Geological Society  
Impress your friends with a 2015 diary full of social activity and intellectual pursuits. TVGS can help you with this! Pencil in the following meetings both guaranteed to get the brain buzzing in congenial company

without worrying your bank manager. £1 members, £3 visitors, students FREE and tea, coffee and biscuits thrown in.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January @ 7.30 Tom Jones - **“Fissures & Fountains: Basaltic Volcanic Eruptions.**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30 Adrian Wyatt - **“The Minerals of the Malvern’s”**

Venue Martley Memorial Hall. Any queries ring Harriet 01886-888382.

TVGS, the Lower Teme Valley and the village of Martley itself are becoming increasingly well known in geological circles with a lot less Who? What? Where? This is due to living in a remarkable area that is being skilfully promoted by our pro-active committee. Our next step is to find a Young Persons Ambassador who will go out into the community and engage with our local youngsters and give them a headstart in this fascinating subject as well as finding some future committee members! *Harriet Howell*

### **Friends and Neighbours' Coffee Mornings**

Very many thanks to Ann and Eric Taylor for their enjoyable coffee morning on 19th November, They raised £180 for Church funds. The total for coffee mornings for 2014 was £2014!

I thought we might be able to raise £1000 as we did some years ago. The ladies have doubled it. Thank you so much for all those who helped to raise such a large sum for the Church in Whitbourne.

If you feel lost without a coffee morning, Margaret-Lloyd James is having one on 11th February 10.30-12.30 in aid of Church funds. This is another one on Bottom Lane so all are welcome and bring your friends. *Mau-reen Williams*

Saltmarshe & District W.I.

Our December meeting took place on Friday 12th when 21 of us met at Upper Sapey Golf Club. We're looked after very well there, and this time was no exception. The noise level only quietened down when we were actually eating; otherwise crackers were cracking, chatting was happening and generally a good time was had by all.

It was lovely to be joined by a couple of past Members, and to see all of us in our finery - including some reindeer jumpers ! Our raffle for the rather splendid calendar, courtesy of Ralph Court Gardens, which we intend to visit in 2015, was won by Lin and the cup for winning the yearly competitions went home with Janet R.

We "rest" in January and so will next meet again at 2pm on February 11th in Saltmarshe Village Hall when our Speaker will be our own Linda Marsden talking - and making us laugh, we're sure - about Back Care. *Jean Spelman*

Coffee & Chat

Please come for Coffee and Chat every first Wednesday of the month in Whitbourne Village Hall at 11.00am. Next meeting - Wednesday 7th January. *Ann Roberts*

## Coffee Mornings, Upper Sapey Church

Every Saturday from 11am, Coffee Mornings at Upper Sapey Church. Meet friends new and old for a chat, and see how plans are progressing to repair and develop this little church.

## Whitbourne Village Hall 200 Club December Draw

The December Draw followed the excellent and well attended concert by Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra at St John The Baptist Church, Whitbourne on Saturday December 6th, kindly drawn by the Reverend David Howell. The lucky winners are -:

1st (£50) #44 Thelma Mills; 2nd (£30) #50 Keith Flint; 3rd (£20) #123 Helen Mills; 4th (£15) 187 Paul Lack; 5th (£10) #25 Mrs Sewell.

Congratulations to all winners. The next Draw will take place in March 2015. *Craig Jones*

Tedstone Delamere

## Albert's fundraiser for St Michael's

Hospice was a great success and he

would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway. Thank you to all who gave prizes and donations, to Galen, Elsie, Lynne and Trevor and myself and all who supported Albert on the night. Over £700 was raised.  
*Kathleen Harris*

## Thank You

Dorothy and Lawrence Haddock would like to thank the Church Council for putting the lights on Whitbourne Church Tower. It reminds them of when they first moved into the village over 40 years ago and Jerry Cummins and Richard Neilson put up the cross every Christmas.

## Whitbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan

It is hoped that the final draft of the plan will be available for inspections at the Parish Church, the Village Shop, the Wheatsheaf Pub, the Live and Let Live Pub and on the Parish Council Website before 31 January.  
*Maureen Williams.*

## Bev Pegg and his Band

Live at Whitbourne Village Hall

January 17th at 7.30pm

A selection of 50s/60s Music interspersed with Black Country Humour

Licenced Bar

Tickets to include light supper - price £12.50 available from the Village Shop

Organised by Whitbourne Village Hall Committee - Helping to make a better Community

# What should happen to **Whitbourne school's** buildings?

The school buildings have been **empty since WISH's brave attempt** to use them for a free school ended in the summer and I imagine that everyone has been worried that they might be left to decay for years.

As Whitbourne was a Church of England school, the Board of Finance of the Diocese of Hereford held it on trust to be used for educational purposes. Now its use as a school has ended, the trust ends too. Though the buildings were paid for by government and county council grants, the land and the buildings on it revert to the ownership of the legal successors of whoever gave the land for the school to be built on.

This is complicated in the case of Whitbourne, because there were two gifts of land, in 1797 and 1855, and working out who are the legal successors of the different donors might take years.

Fortunately, the Secretary to the Diocese has been advised by its lawyers that it can dispose of the premises now, without waiting for the legal successors to be established. He wants to know the views of the local

community before any decision about what should happen to the buildings is made and will be consulting Whitbourne Parish Council to work out the best way to find out what residents think.

So what do YOU think the best use for the school buildings would be?

For instance:

Could some other educational use still be found for them? Has anyone any practical suggestions?

Could they be turned into business premises or workshops, that might bring jobs into the village?

Should they be converted into houses, either social housing for rent or sold off to a developer?

How important is preserving the appearance of the Victorian buildings?

Please give some thought to the future of a building that has been at the centre of village life for 160 years and will remain at the centre of the village, whatever the changes that may take place around it. We are very lucky to be consulted in advance **rather than just seeing a "for sale" sign appear one day**, so, when the opportunity comes, make your views known. *Andrew Kneen*

## Solution to Crossword No. 30 (Compiled by Lord Threadneedle of Whitbourne)

Across: 2. spruces; 7. Buttons; 9. apparel; 10. digest; 11. bells; 13. yule; 15. iced; 20. slender; 21. lantern; 24. parsnip; 25. romance; 26. Snowman. Down: 1. nativity; 3. respite; 4. cracker; 5. superb; 6. carolled; 8. once; 12. disciple; 14. lodgings; 16. cinnamon; 17. ornament; 18. crisp; 19. clear; 22. wrap; 23. Snow

**Hidden Phrase: "Season's Greetings"**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
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## At a glance

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January Village Coffee and Chat at Whitbourne Village Hall 11am. All welcome.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February Curry/Lasagne Evening at Sapey Golf Club. Tickets £13 from Kathleen Harris 01885 483681 (proceeds - see advert on page 11).

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month. Upper Sapey Village Hall Whist Drives. 8pm

Every Saturday from 11am, Coffee Mornings at Upper Sapey Church.



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**Proceeds to Church Funds**  
**\* 2 bottles of wine per team of four**

# Letter from The Bishop of Ludlow

May I begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I trust that for many it has been an enjoyable festive season. Sadly, there can be a darker side to all the festivities. Each year as the run up to Christmas seems to extend further back, with all the consequent hype, a growing danger emerges of excessive spending and additional debt. Poverty and hunger are real and present concerns. Even without those pressures Herefordshire has the lowest average earnings in the West Midlands and the second lowest nationally. Shropshire also has significant issues. For years we have perhaps dismissed poverty and hunger as problems other countries face rather than ourselves. What has become apparent over the last few years, as we have faced the deepest economic downturn in living memory, is that these are our problems also.

Since 2010 successive governments have committed themselves to the eradication of Child Poverty by 2020. In fact significant progress has been made in this regard. Sustaining progress is vital but there are signs that progress is fragile and regress a real possibility. On the broader subject of poverty in general, the Archbishop of Canterbury is among many who continue to keep these matters alive in the public eye. As a nation we are in the midst of a process of Welfare Reform. In truth the issues surrounding this are complex and those on both sides of the political debate

will point to the details within the policy and how it benefits or hurts. However whatever the rights or wrongs of policy, good processes of implementation and the accessibility to advice are essential if hardship is to be avoided. Difficulties with implementation and a scarcity of advice result in hardship. It was for that reason that I among others, just over a year ago asked that reconsideration be given to maintaining the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in Hereford. It received a one year reprieve. In 2013-14 it has helped clients manage £710,006 of debt and achieved £2,179,540 in benefit gains for the most vulnerable. Most of that money is spent locally and sustains local business and jobs. Now, Herefordshire Council has informed Herefordshire CAB that the £117,456 grant funding it receives for the provision of its free, confidential, independent and impartial legal advice services for the citizens of Herefordshire, will end in March 2015. It may still be possible to make your views known.

There are in our diocese a good number of voluntary sector agencies all working to help and benefit our communities. Perhaps as part of a New Year resolution it would be worthwhile seeing if you can help. Shropshire has a Rural Communities Council website with useful information. The HVOSS website (Hereford Voluntary Organisations Support Services) is also a good place to look. There are of course others. Across our diocese the food banks continue to need support. If Christmas has

been a good time for a bit of self-indulgence perhaps the New Year is a good time to think again about how we continue to help others.

+Alistair Magowan



Bishop Michael Hooper at the Songs of Praise Service, Upper Sapey.

## Christmas trees, candle-light, carols and cake.

The cross on the tower shone down the lane and lighted us up the church path past visiting reindeer and into the packed Church, radiant with candles. Twelve Christmas trees sparkled, each decorated with a theme by a different village organisation from the Parish Council to Tiblands Nursery.

The handbell ringers rang in the concert. The carols were old favourites that everyone could join in, mixed with a variety of readings and readers, humorous and thoughtful, ending with the moving story of the Christmas Truce in the trenches and Hark the Herald Angels boosted by trumpet.

Then there was a glass of mulled wine to soothe throats dry with singing, mince pies to nibble, even Christmas cake to sample. Chatting with neighbours and strangers, before going out reluctantly into the cold night.

But what an enormous amount of work in organising and preparing, let alone an invitation through every door in the village. Thank you Kim, thank you Gilly and all your helpers and everyone who took part, for a lovely beginning to the Christmas season, Thank you! Thank you! *Andrew Kneen*

### *CURRY/LASAGNE EVENING*

at Sapey Golf Club

7.30 pm

Saturday

14th February

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From Kathleen Harris

01885 483681

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**Holding a Big Tea couldn't be easier:** pick a date this summer, then think about the type of event you'd like to have, where you want to hold your party, and invite your friends, family or colleagues.

For your free Big Tea pack, which is full of ideas to make your Big Tea party a success, contact the Fundraising Team on 01432 851000, or visit the Big Tea page on our website at: [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events)

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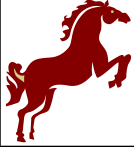
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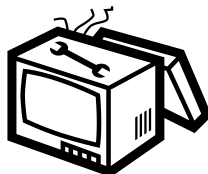
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# Church Rotas

## Flowers and Brasses

4th January	Mrs D. Baseley
11th January	Mrs D. Haddock
18th January	Mrs D. Haddock
25th January	Mrs K. Cunningham
1st February	Mrs K. Cunningham
8th February	Mrs M Williams
15th February	Lent
22nd February	Lent

Any queries relating to flowers, please contact Mrs Ann Taylor on 821744.

## Sidesmen—Whitbourne

4th January	Mr. J. Allan
11th January	Mrs M. Kneen
18th January	Mrs G. Stormonth Darling
25th January	Mr J. Ransley
1st February	Mr J. Cummins
8th February	Mr. J. Allan
15th February	Mrs S. Bland & Mr S. Cole
22nd February	Mr J. Ransley

## Parish Communion Readers—Whitbourne

4th January	Mr C. Short
11th January	Mrs M. Kneen
18th January	Mrs G. Stormonth Darling
25th January	Mrs S. Bland
1st February	Mrs B. Allan
8th February	Mrs S. Dodd
15th February	Sir N. Harington
22nd February	Mr J. Allan

Any queries relating to flowers, please contact Mrs Ann Taylor on 821744. Anyone wishing to be included in the cleaning rotas can contact Carol Wilde on 853491 (Upper Sapey) or Myrtle Kneen on 821707 (Whitbourne). New volunteers for any of the rotas are always welcome.

If the dates shown for the rotas are inconvenient and you are not able to change with anyone else on the list, please let Myrtle Kneen know on 01886 821707. Thank you to all those who put so much effort into keeping our Churches running smoothly.

## Church Cleaning—Whitbourne

3rd January	Mrs A. Evans
10th January	Mrs G. Stormonth Darling
17th January	Mrs A. Howell
24th January	Mrs M Kneen
31st January	Mrs E. James
7th February	Mr J. Allan
14th February	Mrs E. & Miss L. Badger
21st February	Mrs A. Evans

## Upper Sapey

January/February	Carol Wilde/Carol Evans Fisher
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## Coffee - Whitbourne

4th January	Mr and Mrs J. Bland
11th January	Mrs A. Taylor & Mrs M. Williams
18th January	Mrs M. Malkin and Mrs M. Kneen
25th January	Mrs E. Badger and Mrs P. Ransley
1st February	Mrs W. Cummins & Mrs S. Dodd
8th February	Mrs A. Evans & Mrs M. Schoonenberg
15th February	Mrs A. Taylor & Mrs M. Williams
22nd February	Mr and Mrs J. Bland

Please check the rotas as there were some errors in the January listings published in the December issue of the magazine.

# Church Services

Sunday 4th January Christmas 2	8 am *Holy Communion, Whitbourne 9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne
Sunday 11th January Epiphany 1	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne 11 am Holy Communion, Upper Sapey
Sunday 18th January Epiphany 2	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne 11 am Holy Communion, Tedstone Delamere 3 pm Evening Prayer, Edvin Loach
Sunday 25th January Conversion of St Paul	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne
Sunday 1st February Candlemass	8 am *Holy Communion, Whitbourne 9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne
Sunday 8th February Second Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne 11 am Holy Communion, Upper Sapey
Sunday 15th February The Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne 11 am Holy Communion, Tedstone Delamere 3 pm Holy Communion, Edvin Loach
Sunday 22nd February The First Sunday of Lent	9.30 am Holy Communion, Whitbourne



\* denotes Book of Common Prayer. Wednesday mornings are set aside for Home Communion. Please contact the Rector on 01886 821285 if you would like a visit. Please check the Parish Website ([www.whitbourne.org.uk](http://www.whitbourne.org.uk)) for last minute changes to the services listed above.

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602354  
Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall 812880  
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