

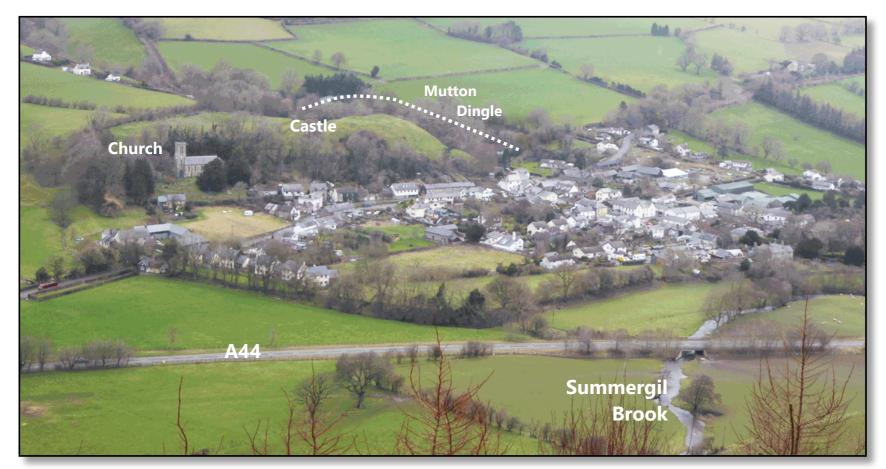
# APRIL 2021

Jesus Carrying the Cross Jackfield, Ironbridge

#### The Magazine of the East Radnor Ministry Area

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Looking down from The Smatcher



#### The Summergil Brook and Tributaries at New Radnor

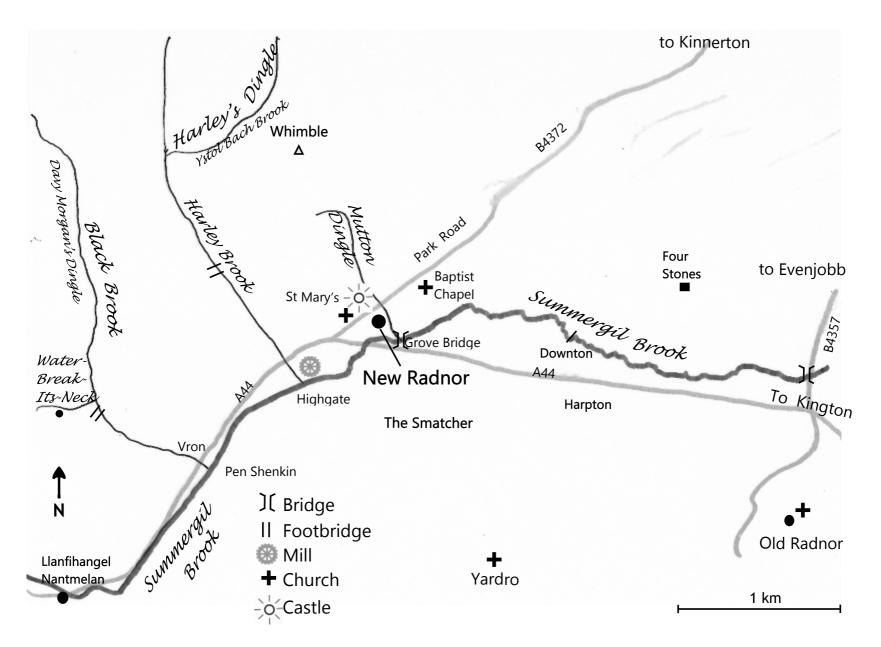
Continuing Laura's article in last month's Radnor we rejoin the Summergil where it enters the parish of New Radnor close to the A44 with Vron Farm to the north and Pen Shenkin to the south. It's not easy to see from the road at this stage.

A little further along at Highgate Farm and Haines Mill (page 5) it is joined by the Harley Brook which has its source in the dingles of Radnor Forest. About here it is joined by another pretty tributary that starts life in some springs in the field behind the castle and begins meandering down the valley to New Radnor where at Grove Bridge it is joined by Mutton Brook from Water Street and Mutton Dingle.

Before it reaches the town, in the summer months the water disappears and flows underground. Hence the New Radnor Welsh name of Maesyfed means *imbibing meadow*.

Because of this phenomenon our little brook is rather sterile and supports little wild life. Otters have occasionally been seen but they must be very thin because of the lack of fish. Dippers are fairly common while the water is running.

Passing under the bridge and skirting the Grove, once the residence of the vicars of Llanfihangel, and a few more meanders it enters a large field where some years ago work has been done to straighten it out. It is here that a trickle of purified water from the sewerage works joins the stream. In this field close to the lane the old Royal Army Ordnance Corps bunker can be seen. This was disbanded in 1993. *(continued on page 4)* 



If we walk along School Lane, possibly a Roman Road, we see the brook again where it restarts its amazing meander. Another tiny rill joins here; this can be seen as a little waterfall at the side of the Kinnerton road near the Baptist chapel. Here more wildlife, heron, mallard and snipe can be seen. In living memory there were curlew and lapwings. Still underground at this stage in summer months. Following this lane takes us to Four Stones.

In this field on the right can be seen two ancient ash trees, (page 2) recorded by the Woodland Trust as over 300 years old with girths of 5.2 and 6.9 feet. Their roots are said to be holding the oxbow together.

https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search

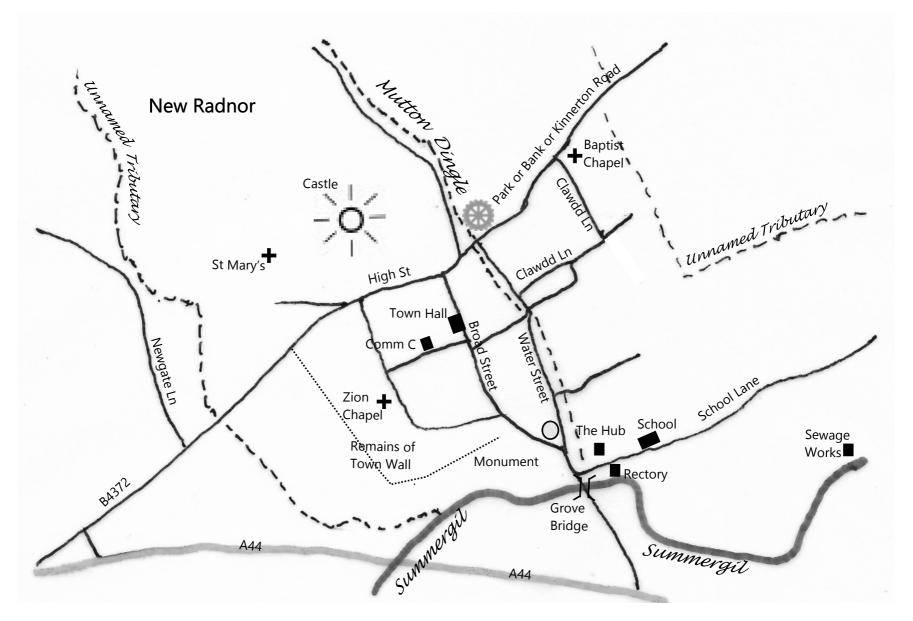
Our Summergil leaves New Radnor parish at Downton where it passes through a small lake and enters Old Radnor parish. Mutton Dingle and Water Street



This little tributary of the Summergil has a short but happy life starting from some springs in a field at Cwmbroadwell just below the Whimble. Even so it had enough umph at one time to power a water mill. John Speed the celebrated map maker shows a mill at the bottom of Mutton Dingle on his map of 1610.

Today there is still a house with the name of Old Mill Pond. A short walk up Mutton Dingle gives access to the castle mound and for the more energetic up to the Whimble and Radnor Forest's delights beyond. *(Cont)* 

Article and photos by Michael Capstick



But that begins another story.

#### Mutton Dingle & Water St (cont)

The last house in Mutton Dingle is Mimulus; (page 9) new comers and visitors often ask why. Up until a few years ago the stream was lined with yellow Mimulus for the length of Water Street. It's a sad mystery why it died out so suddenly.

After passing under the Kinnerton Road, proper name 'Park Road' but always known as 'The Bank Road', the brook becomes Water Street once 'Duck Street'. "The ducks have gone. They've been gone for years. They were to be seen gathering every morning in Duck Street and every evening returning from their foraging." From 'Pansies and Periwinkles" by E.P. Jobson, 1990.

Water Street has the only surviving working farm in the village. Each house has its own little bridge for access.



Working Farm on Water Street,

Thie old photo below is looking up from Grove Bridge. It illustrates Water Street uncluttered by cars, signs and wheelie bins. You can see a bridge across.

#### **Harley Valley**

Everyone loves the Harley Valley and it's one of the favourite places for a Sunday stroll from New Radnor. Being a Lakelander I felt immediately at home on my first visit. It's another short valley, not much more than a couple of miles. Beginning from springs high up in the wonderful Radnor Forest. <u>www.radnorfforest.co.uk/explore</u> Much of the area is an SSSI. Perhaps an article for another time.

A large part of the valley is inaccessible and marked on the OS map as Danger Area. So don't be alarmed to hear loud explosions. It is well signed and flags fly when testing is taking place. <u>www.radnor.org.uk</u>

Haines Mill is a good starting point. This ceased being a mill in 1960. Bryn Melin is built on the site of the old mill pond. Pass the active farm, through a field and after the next metal gate things start to get more interesting with the picturesque little waterfalls on the left. Soon the view up the valley and to the heights of Radnor Forest become clear. (*Cont on page 6*)



Water Street by W. H. McKaig of New Radnor



Haines Mill

#### Harley Valley Cont.

Look out for the remains of the mill leet in various places. Just before an old farm building and the warning signs and flags the lane bears sharp right and leads back to the village. But to get up to big boys' walking country bear left down to the wooden bridge, signed 'Bridle Way'. There is a nice pool here, popular with children in the summer. Look out for brown trout.

Heading back to New Radnor, on your left in the pine wood you'll see the old water works building, a relic from the days, not so long ago, when Harley Valley was the village water supply. Soon Harley Gorse, Myndd Eithon, is reached with views up and down the Radnor Valley.

A thought: valleys are usually named after a river. Why is the Radnor Valley named after the town?

Follow the path to Sunny Bank and New Gate Lane and look over to the The Smatcher.

Article and photos by Michael Capstick



Following the lane up Harley Brook

#### Naming of Summergil

From: Cambridge County Geographies, Radnorshire by Lewis Davies 1912

"The Somergil claims an importance wholly disproportionate to its size, for many authorities hold that it is owing to its current being lost in underground channels in the Vale of Radnor that the Welsh name for the county - Maesyfed - is derived. Its name also claims some attention as one of the few rivers in Wales which has a distinctly Anglo Saxon name. It rises in Radnor Forest and in its early course forms a wonderful cascade known as Water Break its Neck, which has a height of nearly 300 ft. It here turns south, and then east, past the town of New Radnor. Its subterranean passage extends two miles, at the end of which it emerges into a pool of great depth. After continuing on this course for several miles at Downton and Harpton Court emerging into Herefordshire near Lower Harpton."

From 'Ancient Monuments of Wales' (page 129) The Somergil is called 'Cwmnergel' by Edward Lhuyd in 1698, and this is probably the older form. The English name appears indeed to be a clumsy Anglicising of Cwm Nergel.



The uplands of Harley Brook

#### Interview with Reverend Rachael

Our letter this month is an interview with Rachael starting here and continuing on page 20.

#### Where were you raised?

I was born and bred in Ashton, Bristol until the age of 11 and then moved to Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells.

I was raised in the Plymouth Brethren Baptist Church, but moved over to the Church of England when we moved to Pembury.

# Did you have a special moment when you felt called to ministry?

Yes there was. After a few months feeling disconnected from

both God & my faith I was sat in St Bride's church, Cwmdauddwr on a Sunday in late July in 2011 not really connecting with the service, there in body but not in spirit. When all of a sudden I felt like a hot bucket of water had been tipped over me and hearing a voice saying to me: "I am here; turn and face me and stop running. You are my child & I love you." Of course it freaked me out big time and there was a lot of snot & tears. But through this experience I did stop running and turned to God and said, "I am your servant, I put my life in your hands."

And as they say 'the rest is history!' You can do all you want to ignore the presence of God, but he gets you to see sense eventually and lays out his plan for you. It may not happen immediately but it will some day! *(Continued on page 21)* 

#### The Cover - Good Friday

At the east end of St Mary's, Jackfield, in the Ironbridge gorge are five 150-year-old windows. They are Pre-Raphaelite windows using typical flowers and vivid colours

This one shows the agonising moment on Good Friday when Jesus is forced by two Roman soldiers to carry his own cross. Jesus's red garment is a sign of his martyrdom. As Jesus is bowed down below the weight the soldiers force a visitor from Cyrene, Simon, to carry it.

Below Jesus is the head of another Roman soldier, surprisingly with a halo – perhaps the Roman centurion who declared at Jesus' death, "Truly this was the son of God."

The woman weeping below is Mary Magdalene, as her flowing hair reveals. She wears a purple robe, a sign of royalty, here the sovereignty of Christ – purple is also associated with repentance from sin.

#### Online

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#### Cost:

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The deadline for May 2021 is **15th April 2021.** 

Please keep submissions to under 200 words.



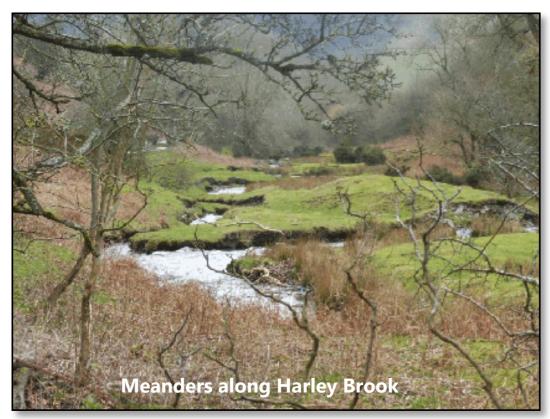
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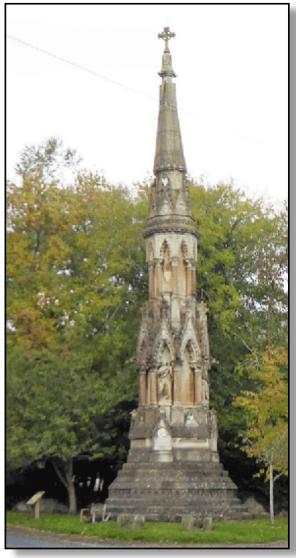
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Revd Rachel Storer		14 350760		
The Rectory, School Lane, New Radnor LD8 2S	5			
Area Dean: Revd Canon Mark Beaton		32 508232		
The Vicarage, 1 North Road, Builth Wells, Powys	5			
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Revd Canon John Greaves	jngreaves1930@hotmail.co.uk 0154	17 530152		
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Cornwallis Monument



New Radnor's Rookery in spring



Keen sailor lived at the end of Harley Dingle



Mimulas [Monkey Flower]



New Radnor St Mary's Anglican Church

# Churches and Chapels



Cross head on barn wall



N. R. Zion Methodist Chapel, now a private home from Geograph by Paul Wood



Yardro Chapel from British Listed Buildings



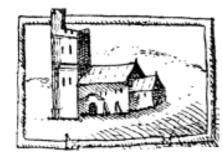
New Radnor Baptist Church



Yardro Chapel's horseshoe bench



#### St Mary's



N.R, Church, Speed 1610

A church was first recorded in the present site in the *Taxacio* of 1291. It was probably built during the life of the Castle where famously Gerald of Wales and

Archbishop Baldwin started their tour of Wales from the Castle in 1188. The church that Speed drew in 1610 might have been the same.

The present church of St Mary's was erected on a high terrace in 1862, possibly the same site. A public footpath angles across the steep churchyard from the lower southwest corner to the northeast corner at the Castle.

Inside the church are two ancient sepulchral slabs. Although much eroded, one holds the round shield of a knight and the other the costume of a lady. They were found on the south side of the church and moved to the enclosed porch. Recently they were moved inside to feature in the south transept.



Effigies: Knight above (broken) & Lady in front

There is a large and beautiful 5-sided chancel (apse). The pews have doors and the gallery with pipe organ is decorated with local coats-of-arms. The bell chamber houses six bells.

#### **Baptist Church**

New Radnor had a Baptist presence as early as 1725 when people met in houses and farmhouses. But things moved on in 1869 when the Reverend Dr Thomas Davies, principal of Havorfordwest Baptist College laid the Foundation Stone on Park Road (the B4372) overlooking the village. In 1870-1 the Chapel was built to seat 150 people. It includes a well tended graveyard and has remained active ever since. It holds services fortnightly.

#### **Zion Methodist Chapel**

Zion Methodist Chapel was built in 1832. Genuki web site records the attendance as 37 in the morning with 33 scholars in the afternoon and 110 in the evening. The appropriately named Moses Williams was in charge. He was the assistant minister to the Rev Ebenezer of Mission House Penybont. During its history it was also called a Calvinistic Presbyterian Chapel. By 1990 the chapel had

been converted into a private house.

**Christian Presence** At the western end of the village a cross head has been built into a barn wall. It is an almost circular Maltese cross with a four-lobed boss in the centre. It might be either a consecration cross removed from the chancel wall at the rebuilding of the church or it might be from a grave. Its earliest date would be late 14 century

#### Yardro Chapel

Yardro is a hamlet in the hills south of New Radnor. The chapel's official name is Yardro English Presbyterian and Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, much as Zion chapel in New Radnor. Services are occasionally held in the little chapel. Walkers delight in the horseshoe bench alongside the chapel.

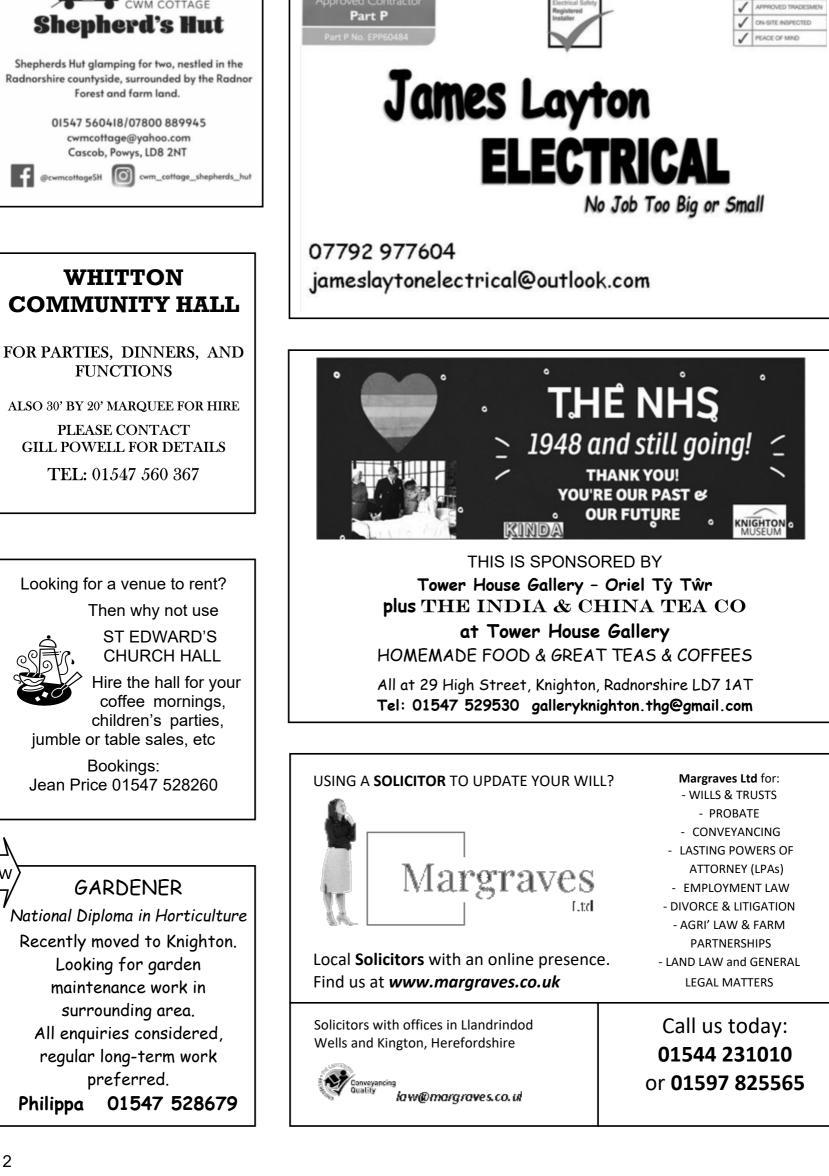


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#### Chatterbrook W.I.



We are still holding our meetings by **INSPIRING W** Zoom on 2nd Thursdays at 7.30 and have organised some interesting speakers for the next few months.

However, we hope to meet in person as soon as restrictions end and to have a programme of events and speakers.

The W.I. Subscription year begins in April, and we would welcome new members. Visitors are still welcome to join us – no charge, no obligation!

Contact Chatterbrook Secretary for details

mail@galliers.org.uk

#### Hear to Help "Drop Off" Clinic

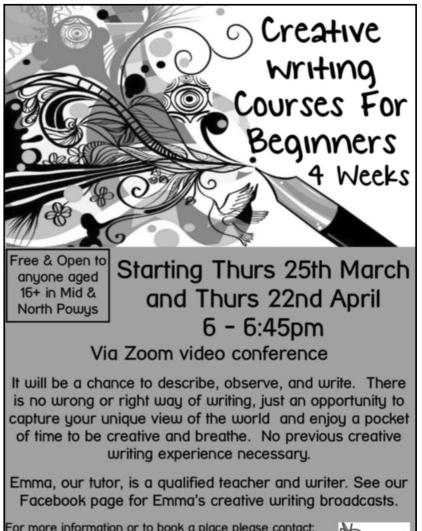
Knighton Clinic, The Comm, Bowling Green Ln, 3rd Tuesday of the month **10am-1pm, 20 April** 

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Rachael Beech 07552165800 or Rachael.beech@rnid.org.uk



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#### Archbishop John's Journey of Ministry

A rchbishop John, who will retire this May, began his training for ministry following a career in the legal profession. After graduating in law from the University of Southampton, he was admitted as a solicitor in 1977, specialising in criminal law. He was heavily involved in the life of the church at parochial, diocesan and provincial level and eventually left the law for ministry and was ordained in 1984. After ordination, he completed a Master's degree in Canon Law.

Archbishop John served in the Diocese of Monmouth in a variety of rural, post-industrial and urban parishes, and he also served as Diocesan Schools' Officer and Officer for Ecumenical Affairs. He was appointed Dean of Brecon in 2000, and during eight years in



Archbishop John welcoming us to our Lent Zoom Course (page 47)

that role oversaw significant improvements to the fabric and liturgy of the Cathedral. He was elected as the ninth Bishop of Swansea and Brecon in 2008.

Diocesan website

#### Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021 to Benefit Four Charities

The four charities who will benefit from this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal are:

- <u>Hearing Dogs for Deaf People</u> (Commended by Mrs Joanna Jones)
- <u>Faith in Families</u> (Commended by the Bishop)
- <u>Helping Our Homeless Wales</u> (In Llandrindod, commended by R Storer)
- <u>St Madoc Christian Centre</u> (On Gower, commended by Tim Ardouin)

See Diocesan website for more information.

#### **Our Ministry Area on Facebook**

We are now on Facebook. Information for all ages. Check it out for the latest. 'East Radnor Ministry Area Facebook' The Lent Appeal has raised more than  $\pounds 100,000$  since it was started by Archbishop John.

Making payments: Parochial or personal cheques for the Appeal should be made out to the 'Bishop of Swansea & Brecon (Emergency)' and should be sent to Ely Tower, Castle Square, Brecon, LD3 9DJ. Payments may be specifically directed to any of the charities. If not specified, payments will be divided equally between all four.

Diocesan Bulletin

#### **New Baptist Minister**

Gareth and Philippa Davidson: Knighton Baptists have welcomed Gareth and Philippa in March. Gareth, who is a solicitor, will be joining Kevin Dare as joint minister for Knighton and Knucklas. Philippa is a horticulturist and garden designer.



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#### St Maughold of the Isle of Man - 27 April

Boris Johnson was at least 1500 years out of date when he suggested the Isle of Man could be a roundabout. In St Maughold's time it was a stopping off place between the kingdoms now known as Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern England.

It was fought over by the men of Ulster, Strathclyde, Rheged, Dalriada, Gododdin and the Britons of North Wales. They all wanted domination. In the end it came under the sway of the Gall-Gael, the Norsemen who had settled in the Hebrides. Even now the bishop is called the Bishop of Sodor and Man as it used to include all the islands off the west coast of Scotland.

The story goes that Maughold was a pirate in Ulster when he met with St Patrick and tried to test him. When he saw that Patrick could perform miracles he renounced his evil ways. Patrick put him in a boat without sails or oars to journey wherever God would take him.

#### We are reading more books

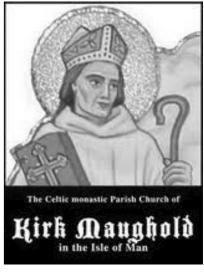
More than 200 million print books were sold in the UK last year, according to an estimate from the official book sales monitor Nielsen BookScan.

It was the first time since 2012 that the volume of physical books sold has exceeded 200 million, and it was the biggest volume rise in the books market since 2007, says 'The Bookseller' magazine.

Books are a uniquely portable magic.

– Stephen King

Maughold came to land on the north-east shore of the Isle of Man where Kirk Maughold now stands. It is said that two men of God instructed Maughold the in Christian faith and he succeeded eventually them as "bishop and



prelate of the Hills of Mann". One of these two was (of course!) a son of Brychan from Brecon, named Cynon. Cynon's mother seems to have been a Pict and his companion Rhun came from the Stirling area of Manau Gododdin. Maughold was Bishop of Mann for sixty years. He organised the island into six areas, each with a church building, so ensuring that the whole island came under the influence of Christianity.

Rosemary Hanna

#### Welsh Words

priellau – primroses cennin Pedr – daffodils (Peter's leeks)



bacsau'r brain – bluebells (crow's stockings) slipars y gog – violets (cuckoo's slippers)

#### **Remembering Paul Northwood**

We are so sad in Llangunllo. As a community we have been so lucky to have Paul with us and we shall miss him dreadfully. He was at the centre of village life, loved and respected by all and our hearts go out to Claire and Bethan, whom we will try to support and help as best we can.

#### Filming Down Our Way!

'Second Best' The film industry first visited Llangunllo in 1993 with the making of "Second Best." Based on David Cook's novel, it tells the story of an unmarried, Welsh subpostmaster who adopts a young boy from a troubled background after his own parents pass away. Directed by Chris Menges, who lived in the area, Llangunllo was chosen to portray the home village of the central character, Graham Holt, played by William previous whose films included Hurt, "Children of a Lesser God" and "Gorky Park."

The village became a film set, with the Old Post Office as Graham's house and a purposely built post office/shop next door on Corner House garden. The Greyhound features as the pub and petrol station, the churchyard for the burial of his father and the village centre for various scenes, including the arrival of the school bus for James, the adopted son, and other pupils.

"Second Best" is a British made film and the cast includes the late Sir John Hurt, Nerys Hughes, Jane Horrocks and Prunella Scales. It received positive reviews on its release in 1994 and a special showing of the film was organised at the cinema in Newtown for locals to attend.

**'You Should Have Left'** In October 2018, filming took place once again with, "You

Should Have Left", an American, psychological, horror starring Kevin Bacon of "Foot Loose," "Apollo 13" and many other successful films. Written and directed by David Koepp, strange events plague a family when they rent a secluded house in the Welsh countryside which has a dark past.

Many of the scenes are filmed in Mid Wales and this time, Llangunllo was chosen by chance, due to the "location finders" getting lost and ending up in the village. Nevertheless, after a further look around, it was deemed suitable for filming and scenery and props arrived to change The Greyhound into a shop. When the sign went up some were rather excited to think Paul and Jake were branching out and we were once again to have a village shop, however, on realising it was for filming everyone was just or even more excited.

Traffic lights were set up on the approaches to the village so traffic could be stopped temporarily for film takes. These centred on Kevin Bacon and the Llangunllo Extras, who all managed to make the final cut and in the same scene, but for Frankie the dog (OH!). Kevin took time to talk to anyone and now the Greyhound Visitors Book is signed by, "STARS", including a paw print from Frankie.

In both films, we consider the, "Llangunllo Scenes", by far the best and as a community, are rather proud of being in the movies!

> Isabel Morris, with grateful thanks to Paul & Jake at The Greyhound, Trevor & Debbie Jones.

Photographs: Second Best – Isabel. You Should Have Left – Paul & Jake, Trevor & Debbie







Preparation complete and camera set to roll

"Second Best"



Scenery - The Shop



The Greyhound as a Shop

# "You Should Have Left"



Kevin Bacon with purchases from 'The Shop'



Kevin Bacon with village 'extras'







# The Rogues Gallery





#### Interview with Reverend Rachael

#### Can you tell us about your family?

(Cont from page 7) Chris and myself were married in August 1994 in St Peter's Church, St Leonard's on Sea and set up home in Bexhill on Sea. We met working in Lloyds Bank in Hastings.

Rupert came along in October 1998, swiftly followed by Beth 17 months later in April 2000

We moved to Wales in 2004 as Chris was offered a post in the Community Mental Health team in Llandrindod Wells. We made Rhayader our home where Rupert and Beth grew up, going to school in Rhayader Primary School and Llandrindod Wells High School.

Rupert is now in his final year studying Computer Science in Aberystwyth University.

Beth recently moved to Llandrindod Wells with her son Noah (Born in May 2020 in Abergavenny) and works at the Elan Valley Visitor Centre as a cook.

We have Noah three days a week whilst Beth works. This is a real blessing and joy as grandparents haven't been able to see their grandchildren because of COVID.

# What did you do before you entered ministry?

I worked for many years as a parish administrator, which stood me in good stead when I became a vicar, as parish paperwork can be quite daunting at times! In recent years I worked at Rhayader Museum & Gallery as an administrator and at E T James Garage in Rhayader.

#### When were you ordained?

I was ordained Deacon in June 2016 in Brecon Cathedral and worked as a non-stipendiary minister part time alongside Reverend Geraint Wathan in the Gwastedyn Parish for my diaconate year. Bishop John then appointed me as the curate in charge of the Ithon Valley Parish, working closely with Reverend Andrew Perrin, when I was priested in Brecon Cathedral, June 2017.

# What has been your greatest joy in ministry?

There have been so many joyous moments since I have been ordained; it's hard to choose just one! I love doing the Lord's work where ever I am, and he certainly works in strange places.

One joyous moment that comes to mind is when I was invited to spend a day in the

# A day in the lambing shed

lambing shed in the spring of 2018. Little did I realize I was going to be put to work to earn my bait, lunch & tea!

I started off filling the water & feed troughs, then marking ewes & lambs so they wouldn't get muddled up in the field. Then the most miraculous, joyous part of the day when the farmer grabbed my hands, studied them and said, "You'll do," and proceeded to talk me through unsticking a lamb that was coming out wrong. Never in a million years did I think that one day I would be elbow deep, turning a **Couldn't stop** lamb so it could be

lamb so it could be grinning and born! They don't teach you this at Vicar school, did a little jig ha ha.

To cut a long story short I helped birth a healthy ewe that was on the big side, a moment in my life when I felt the Holy Spirit in and around me. I couldn't stop grinning and did a little jig. The farmer laughed and said, "You are four years old!" He christened the lamb Rach, as I was known to him as Rev Rach! *(Cont on page 23)* 



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#### **Rachael Interview (cont)**

(Cont from page 21) But I'm a city girl born & bred and I was one of the first group of inner city kids to stay at Michael Morpurgo's farm in

#### An inner city kid at Michael Morpurgo's farm

Devon called Nethercott. At 10 years old, it was the first time ever getting

up close to the farm animals and not just seeing them on the telly. Even the mucking out after milking was fun.

#### What is the hardest thing to do in ministry?

Saying "no" and taking time off! But seriously, one of the hardest things to do in ministry is to meet people in their grief as they mourn the loss of a loved one. Rightly so. They can be really angry with God; I try to be a listening ear not just in the lead up to the funeral but afterwards too.

#### How do you unwind?

I love to potter in the garden and grow vegetables, mind you not so good with flowers. The mobile stays on the kitchen table and spending a couple of hours switched off from the world getting my hands dirty is good for the soul. I love propagating house plants especially my amaryllis bulb collection and my cactus plant collection. But I'm rapidly running out of room!

I love to bake, but will have to learn to make smaller batches as it's just Chris & myself at home now!

During the lockdowns I have rediscovered my love of crafting: something that has been put on the back burner since becoming a vicar.

I rediscovered needle felting, but my fingers don't sometimes like it. This last Christmas all my family and friends received a felted house gnome. One even ended up on the top of the Christmas tree! I'm now branching out onto needle felting animals, birds, insects.

# Can you tell us a bit about your love for animals?

I have always loved animals as far back as I can remember. My first rescued animal was a miniature rabbit who was let lose in our local park. Mum wasn't best pleased when I turned up on the doorstep with the rabbit, as we were moving from Bristol to Kent the following week. But of course

floppy came with us.

I have rescued lots of animals over the years, and Beth is following in my footsteps. She is

# A hedgehog weighing only 60 grams

a certified hedgehog carer, as 3 years ago she found the tiniest hedgehog I had ever seen. It only weighed 60g at 3 weeks old. Hoggi is now 3 years old, over a kilo in weight, and being blind with bandy legs doesn't stop her one bit. We call her our spiky guinea pig!

We have rehabilitated lots of hedgehogs over the years and release day is such a joy not just for the hedgehogs but for us too. We always release them where they were found.

I've got a very understanding husband as when we got married he said no pets! At the last count we have: 2 dogs, 2 guinea pigs, 2 hedgehogs, 3 rats, 2 giant African land snail babies and 6 Bantam hens.

# *Do you have any dreams for your ministry with us?*

Yes, I do, and some of them in no particular order are:

To bring the churches of the parish and Ministry Area together and dare I say worship (Cont on page 25)



#### **Rachael Interview (cont)**

*(Cont from page 23)* in each others' home churches. To be united as one family as brothers and sisters in Christ. We can do it through zoom worship, and we can do it in the real world too.

To cement ties between the church and the community we live in. If they don't come to us

### Not to be stuck in the old ways of worship

we will go and find them, whether it be in their homes, lambing sheds, gardens, fields or barns!

Not to be stuck in the pattern of the old way of worship, but to take this opportunity to start afresh and breathe new life back into our churches after the Covid 19 restrictions in the past year.

#### Can you tell us about how you know Petra?

I got to know Petra when she came to the Gwastedyn Parish to do her three month placement as part of her vicar training. We became firm friends and because of her and vicar Peter Brooks' nagging, (or 'persuasion') I wear a collar today and live my vocation to the full. Without their encouragement & prayers over years, I wouldn't be where I am today and I am so very grateful to them both.

Mind you it does make me smile that we will now be working together, as Vicar Peter said after one very joyful and noisy harvest celebration with the young farmers federation, "We shouldn't be allowed to work together as we are a bad influence (in a good way, he said I might add) on each other!"

I am really looking forward to working together with Petra to make our Ministry Area flourish and cohesive, one family with God at the centre .

# How do you feel that the pandemic has affected the church?

I have mixed feelings on how the pandemic has affected the church. In a good way the Zoom worship has brought us together not just from the deanery but from farther afield. But Zoom is not the same as being physically together in worship.

Also the financial aspect can't be ignored, as bills and parish share needs to be paid. This will eventually put an added strain on the congregations as the churches have been closed for nearly 12 months and there will be repairs that will need to be done.

People have got so used to not coming to church on a Sunday and I think we will need to work hard to get them back through the doors. Or do we take this opportunity to rethink how we do church? Something to think about.

# Who would you like to be locked in a church with?

St Brendan the Navigator (one of the Celtic saints, his Saint day being 16th May), as I would love to hear about his adventures on the high seas in a coracle

for a boat with a single sail, one oar and a few buckets to bail out the water from sea and sky. His discovery of the American continent with

On the high seas in a coracle

his companions, his return to Ireland and the reception he was greeted with. Also I would love to discuss with him his outlook on being a Christian.

The path of least resistance is the path of the loser.

- H. G. Wells.

#### **Radnor Valley School**

#### St David's Day

The younger children in Dosbarth Miss Burgoyne celebrated St David's Day together in school, with art, drama and baking. They made cards for their families depicting a Welsh rugby shirt or Welsh lady in traditional costume. The children handprinted daffodils to decorate their classroom and learned the story of Sant Dewi. Children in school and at home baked some amazing and really tasty looking daffodil biscuits.

#### **New Playground**

We welcomed back the older children in Dosbarth Mrs Curtis on 15th March, with a brand-new playground. While the children were learning from home, the playground was resurfaced and repainted, thanks to the Friends who were successful in securing funding from the National Lottery. At the end of the first day, everyone agreed the best part of being back in school was playing with their friends on the new playground. (see page 28)

Photos and article by Kate, School Secreta

#### **Special Days in April**

1 April – Maundy Thursday

- 2 April Good Friday
- 2 April World Autism Awareness Day
- 2 April International Children's Book Day
- 4 April Easter Sunday
- 22 April Earth Day
  - (https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021)
- 23 April Shakespeare Day
- 23 April St George's Day
- 25 April Anzac Day
- 25 April Penguin Day birds not biscuits!
- 30 April International Jazz Day (jazzday.com)

#### Presteigne & Borders Floral Art Society

Presteigne Flower Club is still unable to hold its monthly meetings, but we are joining short demonstrations

arranged by Mercia & North Wales Area on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons, which are described as 'a breath of fresh air' – and we all need that.

To join the demonstrations (no charge) or for more details: mail@galliers.org.uk We can offer help with Zoom if anyone is unsure. DELICIOUS, NUTRITIOUS, TAKEAWAY MEALS by RUTH WATSON Delivered to your door PHONE **01544 350559** for details and a menu or ruthwatsonfood@gmail.com Made in a 5 star hygiene rated kitchen.

#### Lunch Club

The Lunch Club run by Churches Together at Knighton Methodist Church is continuing to provide and deliver meals, £5 for 2 courses. If there is anyone in need of a hot meal on a Tuesday please ring,.

As the news is becoming more positive we are hoping that, in the not-too distant future we may be able to meet together again. Please be sure to look in the May edition of The Radnor to see what news we have.

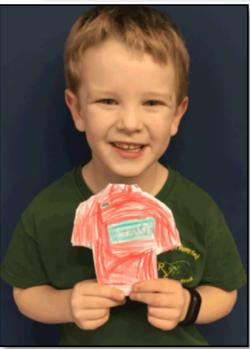
We are also looking for a cook to help on a regular basis. If you are such a person, or know of someone who would be interested please ring Sister Margaret on 01547 528 154. Thank you so much.

# Radnor Valley School - St David's Day



















# Radnor Valley School – New Playground



New Playground at Radnor Valley School Thanks to Matt Price for the aerial photo of the playground



New Playground Courts

#### Flora in April

The name *Easter* is derived from *Eastre* or **L** Eostre, the goddess of spring. The joyous Easter Day nearly always falls in the month of April. The earth comes to life again after the long winter sleep and arises to give us its emblems bounty of flowers, of the resurrection.

The history of the Easter egg is also linked with Christianity when the egg represented fertility and re-birth; others see the empty egg



with its broken shell as the empty tomb and new life escaping from it.

Bulbs planted in the autumn are now rewarding us with their amazing colours, crocus in gold, purple and white, daffodils in arid yellow and blossom in pretty pink.

crocus

Tulips continue to be a real favourite with gardeners and flower arrangers. They come in just about every colour and shape from singles and doubles to

fringed, parrot and lily flowered shapes. One



of the most exciting and impressive varieties is the viridiflora tulips; all the flower heads are slashed with green in lots of main colour combinations, quite exotic. All tulips make glorious displays for that special occasion but it is a flower with a mind of its own: they continue to grow after they

are cut and will often curl and bend, quite wayward.

The weather today is so windy and wet, causing the taller flowers to look quite sad; however, the rockery with smaller plants is coping well. For smaller gardens a rockery can provide a real feature by adding height to a flat area and creating long lasting interest.

Mini daffodils, grape hyacinths, crocus, small varieties of tulips, winter pansies and primulas are just a few ideas to give a colourful carpet effect without being affected too much by harsh weather. Brightly coloured primulas are worth a place in any size garden or



hyacinth

container. The primrose is a reassurance that spring is here. The cowslip, another delightful

member of the primula family, brings back many childhood memories. Like the primrose we collected them from the roadside and woodland for Mothering Sunday. It is now against the law. The drumstick primula is a show stopper and very



primula

much a favourite in all garden centres. I feel they add a little touch of magic to our spring displays.

We continue to see garden programmes and magazines keen to emphasise garden design with structures: painted trellis and vintage architectural items. Artifacts like apple crates all seem to be the 'in thing' in the modern garden. It is important to see that water features and ponds continue to be popular as they are so necessary for wild life.

For most of us our enjoyment comes from growing fruit, veg and flowers and sharing our garden space with all wildlife. Birds, bees and butterflies continue to surprise us. We are sure that very soon we will be able to enjoy garden visits, meet at garden clubs and continue the pleasure we have from gardening. Stay safe.

Jean Price

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#### **Bleddfa Centre**

The Bleddfa Centre is, of course, not able to open at the moment, and we are missing our contact with you, our friends - we do look forward to welcoming you again when we are able!

In the meantime, **we can stay in touch in several ways**. You can join our monthly newsletter, by emailing hello@bleddfacentre.org or clicking the button at the bottom of this page: https://bleddfacentre.org/contact

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter as Bleddfa Centre. You can follow our updates and messages, or simply email or message us if you need support or someone to talk to.

We are in the process of <u>launching several online groups and classes</u>. Wishing you all the best – The Bleddfa Team

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES We are on the A488 between Knighton and Pen Y Bont, LD& 1PA www.bleddfacentre.org 01547 550377 hello@bleddfacentre.org





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#### ANIMAL FEEDS STOCKED AT BCBS

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#### **Knighton News**

**Those who are ill:** In our prayers we continue to pray for all who are poorly in hospital and at home, for those anxious awaiting surgery and treatment for cancer. We too remember all who care for the house bound and frail.

**Vaccine:** We give thanks that the vaccination programme is going well throughout the country, preventing much suffering

**Daffodils:** Lots of time has been spent by volunteers to plant striking massed planting of golden daffodils around the town – what pleasure they give to us all.

**David Minton:** Congratulations to David Minton who has been hailed a real hero by the current owner of the Spar shop. David has worked at the same store for 58 years and seen a lot of changes in Knighton over that time. He is a much valued member of the Church Hall Management Team and the Hospital League of Friends. The full story is in the local paper to be published soon.

**Bereavements:** Rev Petra Goodband conducted the funeral service on 11th March in St. Edward's for David Cunnington who passed away on 22nd February aged 56 years old following a long illness with cancer. Many tributes have been made to this popular man including one from the local Fire Service where he was a volunteer fireman for 31 years. Our thoughts are with Natalie, Trudi and Matt family and many friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one. David was laid to rest in the New Cemetery.

We pray for all who are bereaved and sad today including the family of Jean Williams who passed away on 5th March peacefully at home. *Jean Price* 

#### **The Country Road**

- Give me the peaceful life, the quiet life,
  Amid the fields of green.
  Where I can listen to the birds,
  Or meander by a stream.
  Lead me from the highways to the byways,
  Where sweet scented hedgerows grow,
  And the tall trees softly whisper,
  As their leafy branches blow.
  I love these simple things, these special things,
  That nature has bestowed.
  Upon us all who seek to find,
  Along the country road.
  - Shirley J. Edgar

Submitted by Jean Price

Knighton Community Centre Free snack lunch Delivered by volunteers to your house EVERY THURSDAY Soup Roll Cake Fruit Drink supplied by Radnor Hills Lunches must be booked. Either complete online referral form or msg us at Facebook Knighton and District Corona Virus support page.

In the carriages of the past you can't go anywhere.

- Maxim Gorky

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# **Gladestry Primary School**





#### <u>Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus</u> <u>Happy St David's Day</u>

Pupils spent the day celebrating and exploring all things Welsh, in school and at home! They enjoyed listening to modern welsh songs with Bronwen Lewis, listening to the story of Saint David and baking delicious welsh cakes!

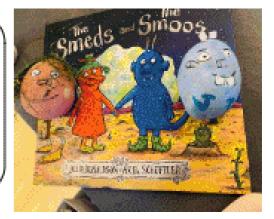






#### World Book Day in Gladestry

A busy World Book Day for all at Gladestry CIW School. Children enjoyed many literacy-based tasks which included listening to reading raps, redesigning our favourite books covers using Adobe Spark, making intricate book shelf inserts and even getting creative with potatoes!









#### Mothering Sunday on Zoom

At our Zoom service on Mothering Sunday we heard a poem about Biblical mothers:.



**Eve** our first mother Thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complications of life.

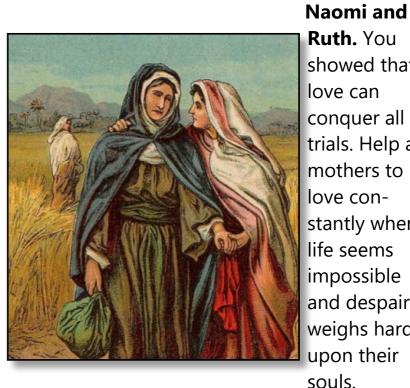


Rachel. You carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children children who

have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.



Hannah and Elizabeth. Thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your story and comforted in their pain.



Ruth. You showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.



Mary. The new Eve whose 'yes' to God changed the world forever.

4 April <i>White</i>
Easter Day
lsaiah 25. 6-9
Psalm 118. [1,
2,] 14-24
Acts 10. 34-43
John 20. 1-18

11 April *White* Easter 2 Exodus 14. 10-31; 15. 20-21 Psalm 133 Acts 4. 32-35 John 20. 19-31

#### **Readings for April**

18 April *White* Easter 3 Zephaniah 3. 14-20 Psalm 4 Acts 3. 12-19 Luke 24. 36b-48

25 April *White* Easter 4 Genesis 7. 1-5, 11-18; 8. 6-18; 9. 8-13 Psalm 23 Acts 4. 5-12 John 10. 11-18 Monday 26 April *Red* St Mark the Evangelist Acts 15. 35-41 Psalm 119. 9-16 Ephesians 4. 7-16 Mark 13. 5-13

Saturday 1 May *Red* Philip and James, Apostles Isaiah 30. 15-21 Psalm 119. 1-8 Ephesians 1. 3-10 John 14. 1-14

**St Mark (26 April)** Mark is identified as the young man who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind. Later he was a companion to Paul on his journeys and helped him when he was a prisoner in Rome. He is traditionally the author of the Gospel of Mark, the earliest account of the life of Jesus. His symbol is the winged lion.

Philip and James (1 May) Philip was the third apostle to be called by Jesus. Later he asked Jesus about how he would feed the five thousand and, at the Last Supper, his dialogue with Jesus prompted the Farewell Discourses. James, the son of Alphæus is often known as 'James the Less' to distinguish him. He may also be the 'James the Younger' who witnessed the Crucifixion.

#### Crafty Coffee Online Support

To join these Tuesday morning craft sessions at 11am contact: Ceri Brown knightoncomm@gmail.com or 07751221487 or Annie England knightonhubcoordinator@gmail.com

Crafty Coffee Schedule 11-12.30pm			
Date	Presenter	Notes	
30/03/21	John Llewellyn-Roberts	Cookery Demo	
06/04/21	Ceri Brown	To be decided	
13/04/21	Kath Horn	Artist	
		Painting demo	
		Email Geoffrey Horn	
		Teme Treasurers	
20/04/21	Avril Greengrass	vril Greengrass Paracord – makes dog	
		collars, leads etc.	
		Teme Treasurers	
27/04/21	Gary Cowell	To be decided	
	Rusticks crafts		
04/05/21	Restorella	To be decided	
11/5/21	Lois Hopwood	Slipware Decorating	
	-	Demo	

Time	Activity	Whom
11am	Welcome & Introduction	Annie &
	to group (housekeeping)	Ceri
11.05	Group introductions	All
11.10	How are things?	All
11.30	Demonstration / Themed	Guest
	talk	speaker
12.10	Questions and Answers	Ceri/All
12.20	'Check out'	All

A forest bird never wants a cage. - Henrik Ibsen





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### Knucklas Notes for April, 2021

As I write this, the chilly winds of March are still blowing and winter has not fully given way to spring.

But, by the time you read this, it should be fully spring, with the days longer than the nights, the browns and greys of the gardens and countryside giving way to the green of fresh growth. The clocks will have been put forward by an hour, the 10-year national census will have taken place and lambing will be in full tilt. It will be the Easter season.

At times, it has seemed as if little has been happening but, beneath the surface, vaccinations are being offered down the agerange, neighbours are keeping an eye on each other and regular virtual meetings have been taken place by churches and other groups.

It is good to learn that full-time paid carers stand to receive a better deal, at least in Powys, but a huge amount of caring is also done, day in and day out, often unpaid, in and around Knucklas, by family members of all ages and states of health.

Meanwhile, some lovely banks of early daffodils are giving a most pleasurable display around the area.

Robert Forbath



### National Garden Scheme

Helen Anthony (North Powys)01686 941795helen.anthony@ngs.org.ukGail Jones(South Powys)0797 410 3692gail.jones@ngs.org.uk

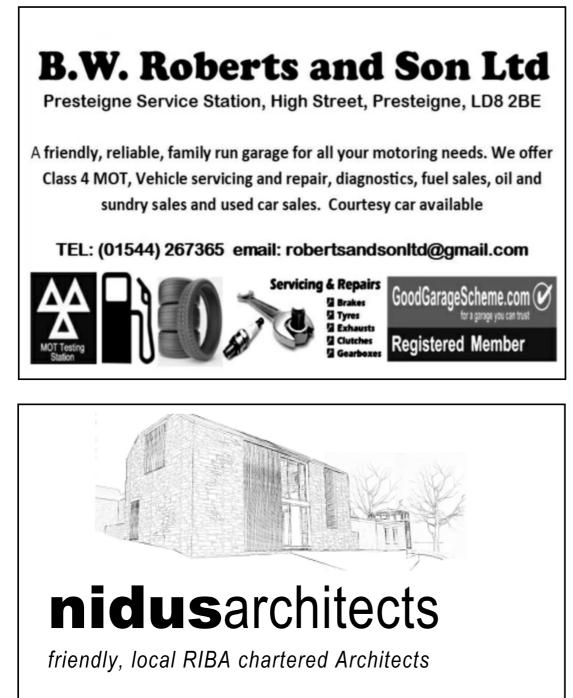
#### Bright and Beautiful, Daffodils Are

**Illuminating Spring:** The daffodil (narcissus) is most commonly known for being a symbol of hope and rebirth. This national flower for Wales has added flower power to our beneficiary charity Marie Curie. Explore our wonderful daffodil gardens, fun facts, and visit a selection of our spring gardens including Fron Heulog, Berriew, managed for wildlife creating a haven for birds, butterflies and pollinators. Enjoy from your home this garden bursting with blossoms and birdsong. Search 'host of golden daffodils' on ngs.org.uk

**Roses in the Garden:** To celebrate the generosity of our garden owners who invite the public to enjoy their beautiful, private spaces through the National Garden Scheme, in 2021 David Austin will make a  $f_{2.50}$ 

donation from the sale of the Generous Gardener to the National Garden Scheme and other health-based charities. If you are redesigning part of your garden, please consider adding a rose arch and plant this pale pink climbing rose with an 'old rose' scent. The beautifully formed flowers nod gracefully from late spring through to early winter.

Any Good at Facebook? You could be just what we're looking for to help us publicise the mainly private gardens opening in Powys to raise funds for the nursing and health care charities we support. We're after someone: 1) familiar with Facebook and a passion for supporting nursing and health care charities, 2) to share posts from our Facebook page to relevant 'What's On?' pages across Powys.



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### Recipe of the month: ANZAC Biscuits

On 25 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in Ottoman Turkey. The plan was to open the Dardanelles for the allied navies. It soon became the day on which Australians and New Zealanders remember the sacrifice of those who had died in the war. A year later, on 25 April 1916, King George V and Queen Mary attended the first commemorative service in Westminster Abbey and it has been held there ever since.

This month's recipe is for the traditional ANZAC biscuits which are thought to date back to the Ottoman Turkey war when mothers made them for their boys heading for the front line. This recipe was found on the Royal British Legion website in 2014.

#### Ingredients

- 4 oz plain flour 4 oz butter
- 4 oz light brown sugar 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- 4 oz desiccated coconut  $-\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon bicarb of soda
- 5 oz rolled oats 2 tablespoons boiling water



#### Method

Mix the flour, sugar, coconut and oats together in a large mixing bowl. Melt together the butter and syrup.

Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in the boiling water and add to the butter and syrup. Add butter and syrup to the flour mixture.

Place teaspoon-sized mounds of the mixture on a greased baking tray large enough to hold 12. Give each mound room to expand.

Bake at 180°C Gas Mark 4 for 15 - 20 minutes, transfer to a cooling rack as soon as cooked.

### Bobby's Beat – A Sunday Morning Dilemma

From the diary of a parishioner who served in the police.



After promotion I worked at a small town called Midhurst, about the size of Lampeter. There were two sergeants, and an Inspector, and the same in another nearby town which

was linked with us, I was in the station one Sunday morning when the civilian counter clerk came to report that he had just received a phone call from a member of the public, "He says that Sgt. Bob Thomas is in the Half Moon (public house) and he is drinking his ninth pint. He has his car in the car park!"

Bob was my colleague at the station, and he was over six ft. tall, and nearly 20 stones in

weight, but he did drink a lot. What was I to do? He had not committed any offence till he went out and got into his car, and that could be prevented if he was advised to do otherwise. I could hardly send our patrol car to pick him up, neither could I do so myself. If he drove and we did not intervene we could be said to have neglected our duty. Fortunately the Inspector at Petworth was on duty and contactable, so I consulted him. He had a CID car out and about, so he arranged for them to go to the Half Moon and advise Bob to walk home. He was also advised to make other arrangements in future.

Bobby Fuzz

### Stained Glass in Chancel Show Catholic Influence – Stage 3

This month we will look at more Stage 3 windows in the north and south sides of Knighton's chancel. These windows are very tall; much higher than the photos indicate.

Stage 3 dates from "the reconstruction of the chancel in 1897 and the years immediately following. They all belong to a gothic fantasy world of pinnacles, and sumptuous robes of violet, crimson and purple. [They] . . . parallel the return of Catholic ritual [to] a church which had been basically Protestant since 1559."

[1] Two women visit Christ's tomb with spices. An angel gives his message: "He has risen; he is not here; look there is the place where they laid him." Matthew 28.5

[2] The next window shows the same two women: "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him." Matthew 28.9

[3] The 'Doubting Thomas' window shows the disciple who does not believe in Jesus resurrection until Jesus appears to him. He declares, "My Lord and my God." Jesus replies "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed." John 20.29

[4] The **Road to Emmaus**. Jesus appears to two disciples as they walk to Emmaus. They do not recognize him, and implore him to stay

with them that evening: "Abide with us for it is toward evening and the day is far spent." Luke 24.29

[5] Jesus has supper with the same two disciples and now they recognise him: "He was known of them in breaking of bread." Luke 24.35

K.J.K. comments, "Jesus celebrates the last supper in what looks like a chasuble (the vestment in which Catholic priests celebrated Mass, derived from the late Roman cloak, and now in widespread use in the Anglican Church)."

"This again emphasises the significance of the Holy Communion or Eucharist, a favourite theme of the Tractarians, though John Wesley had also stressed the importance of this service more than a century before."

All the windows are in memory of either the Reverend Martin Rickets (Vicar of Knighton 1879 to 1901) or his wife Susan. *(conclusion with east window next month)* K.J.K.

submitted by Jean Price photos by Laura W-J

Thank you Laura (Editor) for the recent feature in The Radnor with beautiful photographs of the windows in Church. Several readers have expressed their enjoyment of the detail and will when lock down is over visit the Church to look more closely at the story each window portrays. I know they appreciated the magnificent colour of the glass bringing the stories to our attention. Jean Price

### Easter – the most important annual celebration for all Christians

There about 8 billion people in the world of which 2.25 billion are Christians, 1.9 billion Moslem, 1.2 billion Hindu, and the balance is shared between those of other religions and none. Christians belong to more than 30,000 different denominations of which 900 million individuals are Protestant and about 1,300 million Catholic.

Despite the different approaches, all Christians look to Jesus as their saviour who rose from the dead – making Easter the most important annual celebration throughout the world. *Parish Pump* 



# **Resurrection Windows in the Chancel**







# Handmade Wood Crafts



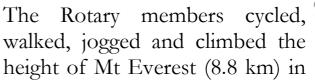


Bug Hotel

### **Rotary Club Supports Nepal**

Starting on February 23rd (Rotary International Day) 25 members of the Knighton Rotary Club "climbed" Everest to support the "Feverest" Challenge set by the educational charity 'Classrooms in the Clouds' (CITC Nepal) based in the Everest region of Nepal.

As Knighton Rotary President Margaret Thorp said, "We have supported this charity for many years and all the money donated goes towards building classrooms, schools and educating teachers in this very rural area of Nepal."





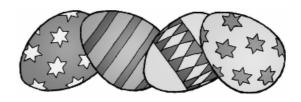
one day or over a few days to raise a total of over £710 for Classrooms in the Clouds. Knighton Rotary Treasurer Kim Smith said, "We are very appreciative of the support of everyone who donated their time and their money to this excellent charity. It has been a challenging climb but we are proud to have risen to the Feverest Challenge."

You can read more about the "Feverest Challenge" and the hard work of CITC Nepal on their website. citcnepal.org

Cathy Jones

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

- Pope John Paul II



### Learning Woodlands Skills From Home

**Wood for the Trees:** Short films on the future of our forests.

**Plantlife International, "Spring into Action" talk** about the importance of road verges, as well as management advice.

**Silk Wood at Westonbirt Arboretum** Short film about the management of the coppice. https://vimeo.com/219694589?ref=tw-v-

share

**Gift ideas?** Our volunteer, Gary Cowell, now has a website selling handmade wood crafts. http://rustickscrafts.co.uk for truly sustainable, beautiful creations handcrafted in Wales. "Activism for Life"- a new book by Angie Zelter A remarkable account of her campaigning life and some of the lessons she has learnt in different countries.

**Tir Coed** connects people with the land (Tir) and woods (Coed) delivering learning and wellbeing programmes in Wales. Online events: admin@tircoed.org.uk on Zoom.

**BIS Training** series of free online training events:

<u>Getting Better Results from Camera Traps</u>. Tuesday 30 March 7:30pm to 9pm. <u>Wildlife Recording - How, Why, What</u> <u>For.</u> Wednesday 14 April 7:30pm to 9pm.

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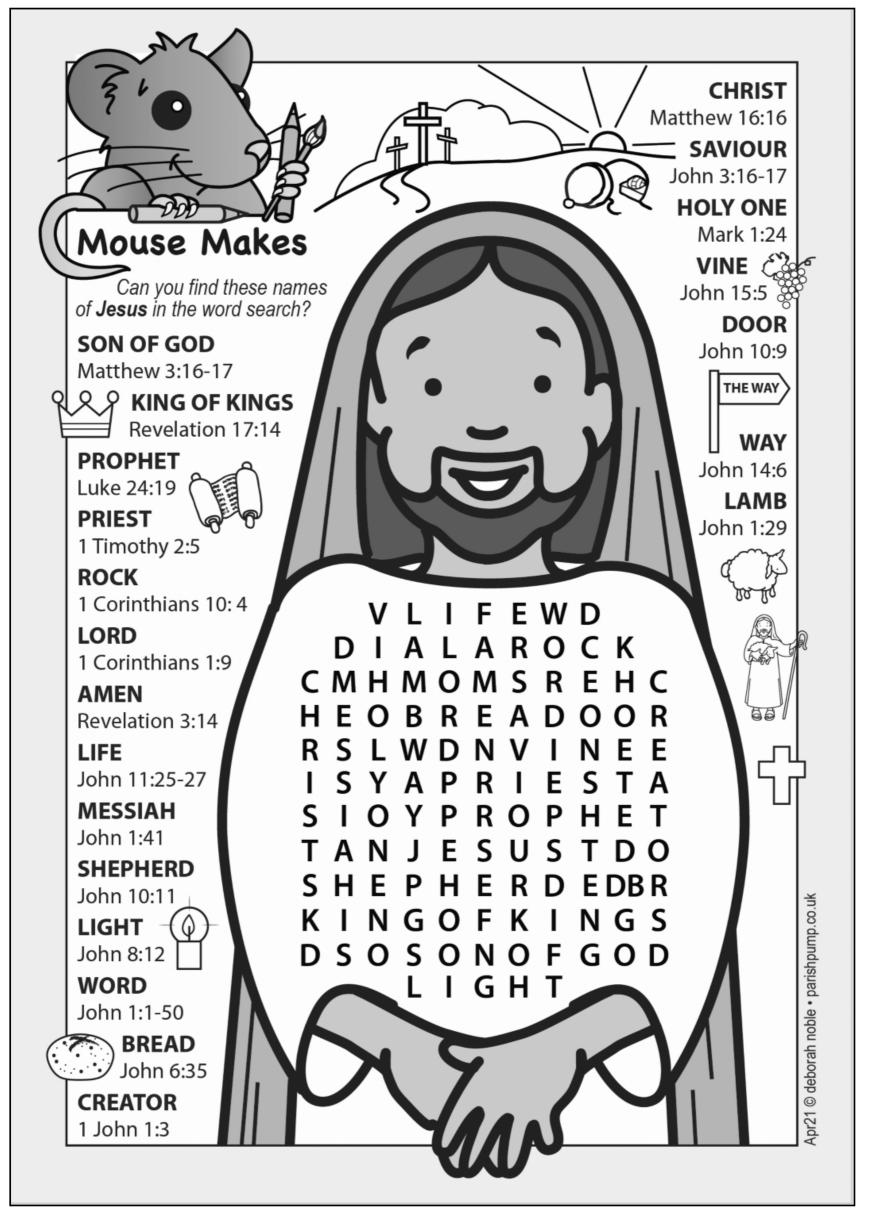
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Archbishop John welcomed and encouraged around 100 of us to understand the Bible more. The course is now available on Facebook.

#### 1) Death the Stumbling Block

Our leader on Zoom, Mark Clavier, explored Old Testament texts from Genesis and Psalms to minor prophets to understand that "death" was more than literal death, it was a kind of "moral" death. Because of their disobedience Adam and Eve were destined not only to eventually die, but also to be cast out of the garden [paradise]. That was a "moral" death.

But not everyone was disobedient, and so the Old Testament is laced with psalmists, leaders, prophets agonising over the age-old question, "Why do good people suffer?" Why did they live in "deep darkness"?

#### 2) Suffering Servants & the Death of Kings

Mark explored two solutions to Israel's problem of continued suffering:

1) **Messiah**. They believed that a warrior king reminiscent of King David would arrive and rescue them from the occupying Romans.

2) **Suffering Servant**. Isaiah prophesied an innocent lamb who would purify them with his own sacrifice.

In the New Testament Jesus becomes both a Messiah (but not the warrior expected) and a Suffering Servant.

He is identified as the "Suffering Servant" because he is hung on a tree, the mark of God's curse.

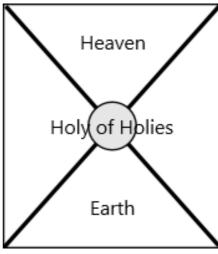
Lent Course from

the Diocese

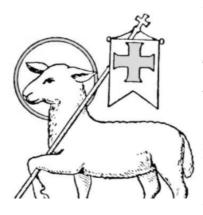
#### 3) The Way to Calvary

The Temple is the key Jewish symbol. Jesus is the 'Temple.'

He was crucified because he said it would be destroyed and re-built in 3 days, but what he



The Temple



meant was his own body would be destroyed and rebuilt (resurrected). The priest stands at the crossing of heaven and earth, and so does Jesus.

When he celebrated the Passover meal he

also identified himself as the "Lamb of God." In Old Testament times a lamb was sacrificed for the sins of the priest and people, and Jesus is now the sinless offering, the lamb.

So many references to vineyards and vines in



the Old and New Testaments led us to see that Jesus is the fulfilment as the 'true vine'.

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### Knighton is my home / Tref-y-Clawdd yw fy nghartref

The Knighton Community Cohesion L Steering Group will be showing a film on Zoom of video, audio and written clips of local people in Knighton and area talking about why they live here, what they like about the area, what could be made better and their friendship networks. This will be followed by a discussion chaired by the Reverend Kevin Dare. The film has been edited by Rob Clough, a local film maker and post graduate student with music composed for the film by Camilla Saunders. Rosemary Hanna has contributed (in Welsh) and Bob Williams and we have also been able to include some children and young people. The film hopes to show the diversity of people living in the area and their common aspirations.

The film will be shown on Wed **15th April** at 7.30 via Zoom. To book your place, please contact Ceri Brown Knighton Community Centre on 07751 221487 , email knightoncomm@gmail.com or message the Community Centre on Facebook. The film will also be shown simultaneously on



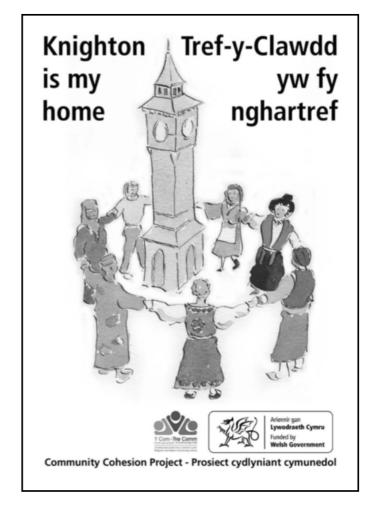
We apologise that during the pandemic we cannot offer group walks.

However you may download maps and

descriptions of a wide range of local walks to walk on your own. See the local Ramblers websites:

www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor www.ramblers.org.uk/4 wells

For walks around Presteigne and Norton our members have offered self-guided walks: presteigne.org.uk/local-walks



Facebook and Youtube and will be available afterwards. We hope to develop a website to show some of the individual videos in full and to organise further events to bring people together. *Ruth Forrester* 

After 12 April the English walkers in our group will offer walks in England, only for those living in England. See the east-radnor website if you live in England.

We are eager to return to our regular schedule of walks every Wednesday and Saturday with a few short walks on weekdays. They will be posted on our websites.

East Radnor Committee

There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it. - Oscar Wilde

### **Zoom Gatherings**

Every Sunday we have a service on Zoom at 9.30am. It is a well attended and meaningful service. You are always welcome to join us, via computer, smart phone or ordinary landline. Contact Petra or Rachel if you would like to join. Details of the current week are always on www.beaconhillbenefice.org.uk Following are brief summaries of recent services.

#### 21 Feb - Lent Laybys

We celebrated Ash Wednesday on this first Sunday of Lent with ashes of repentence. Before the service we had burned a Palm cross into ash.



We crossed our foreheads with those ashes and then for a constant reminder through Lent, we traced a cross on a piece of card

We considered the layby of water baptism when every part of us was cleansed and renewed. We thought about weaving a pattern of prayer into our daily lives, a layby of prayer.

#### 7 March - Business as Usual

Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers because he couldn't bear 'Business' in the Holy Temple. Rachel considered how we all are 'guilty' of 'Business as usual'. We go through the motions of our daily lives, often saying ''I'm fine'' to others and to ourselves, when underneath we are hollow.

Lent teaches us to overturn the illusions, the fatigue, until we re-connect, until we see more clearly that we are the 'temple'. We can face our griefs, our sorrows. In fact, our prayers were all about a good "spring clean."

Image Sources: Rainbow - Met Office Star of David from Book Riot Baptism from: St Benedicts in Ealing Feet from Wholelifechallenge Jochabed from Learn Religions

### 28 Feb - Lent Promises

Mark talked about God's promises.

1) With the sign of a <u>rainbow</u> God promised the good man Noah that he would never destroy the earth again.

2) With <u>circumcision</u> God promised the faithful Abraham that his many descendants would be a blessing to all nations.

3) With <u>baptism</u> God promises Christians eternal life.

And then . . . 4) Our promise to God:

We looked again at our Baptism promises and realised that they were identical to Abraham's promise: "I will walk before God and be blameless" – at least we try!

#### 14 March - Mothering Sunday

We remembered Jochebed, mother of Moses, who put her child in a basket in the reeds, trusting that God would take care of him. We heard a poem about other Biblical mothers. Illustrated on page 34.



# **God's Promises**







# **Our Promise to God**



"I will walk before God and be blameless"

# **Ash Wednesday**



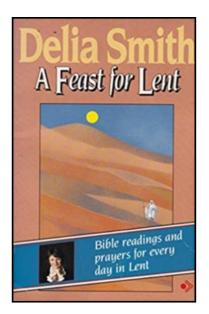


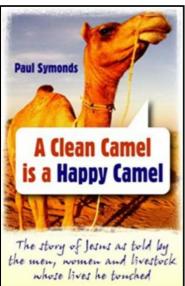
Petra serving the bread and wine on Ash Wednesday

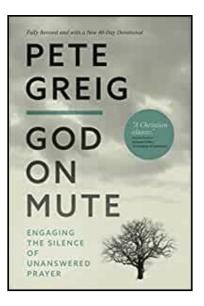


Mark received the ash cross

# Here we are on Zoom







Books from Lent Lunches



























#### What Lent is about

We shared our good Lent experiences (reading a book) and the bad (failing to give up something). Mark suggested that we give the money we would have spent on a treat to one of Archbishop John's charities (page 15).

While we munched sandwiches Mark read the Ash Wednesday section from *A Feast for Lent* by Delia Smith. It started with Joel 2.12-13 where the LORD asked the people to return to him "with fasting and weeping and mourning. ...for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate."

#### God of the unexpected

Rachel read several passages about the mustard seed (starts little – grows big) which led us to thinking about the kingdom of heaven being in places we didn't expect.

Memos, agony aunt letters, newspaper cuttings, and sheep diaries are recorded in the book *A Clean Camel is a Happy Camel.* They give us a fresh perspective on the life of Jesus. What did the three wise men do before they were wise? How did the disciples get on with their first attempts at spreading the word? What would the report card of 13-year -old Jesus look like?

God on Mute is about unanswered prayer. The author's child had a massive brain tumour. Surgery was successful but the child suffered epilepsy as a result. The father's deepest prayers for her healing did not appear to work. The author tracks Christ's own unanswered prayer ("Let this cup pass from me") and how to cope when God appears silent.

The book may help hurting people to hang onto God when they need him more than ever before.

#### Radnorshire Dialect Words from W.I. 75 years 1915-1990

These dialect words were still in use in 1990

*housing time* – winter period when cattle are put indoors

*hump* – to carry

*headland or addlands* – border of field which ploughed last of all.

*heft* – a large amount or number in quantity "I have any a heft of those"

hognel - stupid, pig headed

*heathering* – the long sticks used to top a hedge

*hespel* – to worry "I won't be hespelled by him any longer"

# **Radnor Valley Gardening Club**

Plans for 2021

Clearly we are none of us able to predict exactly what will happen this coming year, but if all goes well with the vaccine programme and virus control, the gardening club hopes to start the year in:

May Annual plant sale

June 27th New Radnor Open Gardens – for the NGS and medical charities.

July/AugustArranged garden outings September Annual Show

Keep your fingers crossed everyone.

RVGC for everyone in the Radnor Valley and beyond To join or if you want to know more ask Hermione Evans Tel: 01544 350 691 Email: hermione.evans46@gmail.com

It is often said that before you die your life passes before your eyes. It is in fact true. It's called living.

- Terry Pratchett



### **Church Information**

#### Services:

**Anglicans:** Ministry Area Zoom service, All Sundays, 9.30am, including by phone. Contact Petra or Mark (see page 6) for an email link. Holy Week Services on back page.

**Methodists:** We at Knighton Methodist Church are hoping to hold our first service for a long while on Easter morning at 11am, socially distanced etc, of course. For those who wish this will also include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

If things improve, we will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 11am.

Our "Share the Love" project continues.

**Baptists:** knightonbaptists.org.uk for details and links to the following. All are welcome, not confined to Baptists.

Holy Week: Online service on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday; time TBD.

For the other Sundays in April (11th, 18th & 25th) Online Service at 6.45 for 7pm

During the week coffee morning at 10am on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays; and a Bible Study group at 7pm on 1st & 3rd Thursdays, both online with details via website.

**Roman Catholic:** Ring (01597) 810199 for current information.



#### **Contacts:**

You may phone or email these ministers at any time.

Methodist Minister: Sara Windsor-Hides, The Manse 2 Cae Clawydd, Knighton LD7 1DQ 01547 520854 sara.windsor-hides@methodist.org.uk Baptist Ministers: Rev Kevin Dare Church Office, Baptist Church 01547 520340 or 07891 500531 Rev Gareth Davidson The Manse, Knighton LD7 1BD 01547 528479 or 07795 087363 Secretary: Mrs Sue Wilson 01544 267456 or 07866 833294 knightonbaptists@gmail.com www.knightonbaptists.org.uk

**Knighton Roman Catholic Church** Fr Jerome 01597 810199 ituahjerome@gmail.com

**Anglican Minister** Rev Petra Goodband The Vicarage, Church Street, Knighton LD71AG 07966 799546 or 01547 529254 revpetra.goodband@yahoo.com

#### **Funerals:**

- 5 March Freya Poppy Price aged 7. Buried next to her Great Grandad Fred Hughes in St Mary's Gladestry churchyard.
- 11 March David Cunnington, aged 55, St Edward's
- 13 March Mrs Margaret Ingram (retired church warden of St Mary's). Buried in the Gladestry churchyard with her husband the late Mr Ingram.
- 15 March Noel Doubleday, aged 90, Whitton
- 17 March Tony Moffat, aged 81, Hereford Crem
- 18 March Paul Northwood, aged 53, Llangunllo graveside service

### Church/Community Hall Contacts

Evenjobb Village Hall	Linda Ellams	01547 560306
Felindre Village Hall	Jess Barrett	01547 510603
felindrevh@gmail.c	om	07805 002497
Gladestry Village Hall	Marlene Evan	s 01544 370646
marlene.evans@hot	tmail.co.uk	
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N Radnor Comm Centre	eCarlee Evans	01544 350575
St Edward's Church Hal	l Jean Price	01547 528260
Whitton Community Ha	II Gill Powell	01547 560367

#### **Grid References & Church Postcodes**

Beguildy	SO 194797	LD7 1YE
Bleddfa	SO 206683	LD7 1PA
Неуоре	SO 239745	LD7 1PY
Llangunllo	SO 211712	LD7 1SW
Knighton	SO 287724	LD7 1AG
Norton	SO 304672	LD8 2EY
Whitton	SO 270673	LD7 1AG
Pilleth	SO 256682	LD7 1NP
Cascob	SO 239664	LD8 2NT
N Radnor	SO 210609	LD8 2SS
Gladestry	SO 230551	HR5 3NR
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### **Spring Flower Folklore**

#### Daffodils

It is said that on the night of the Last Supper, the daffodil appeared in the Garden of Gethsemane to comfort Jesus, who was saddened to know of his betrayal by Judas Iscariot.

In parts of Wales, if you spot the first daffodil of spring, it means that you'll see far more gold than silver come to your home over the coming year.

We all learned and loved Wordsworth's poem "When all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils."

The English word *daffodil* appears to be derived from *asphodel*, with which it was commonly compared. It is actually a *narcissus*. Narcissus was the Greek who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool, and drowned trying to embrace it.

#### Primroses

The scientific name, *Primula vulgaris*, refers to its early blooming (prim = first and *vulgaris* = common).

In Shakespeare's time the primrose was a common symbol of death in young women because many died from the the green sickness (chlorosis), a form of anaemia. One sign was a yellow-green complexion and folklore said that the victim turned into a primrose at her death. In Shakespeare's play, *Cymbeline* Arviragus says:

While summer lasts and I live here, Fidele, I'll sweeten thy sad grave; thou shalt not lack The flower that's like thy face, pale primrose When a girl died unmarried, a garland of primroses was carried in the procession and afterwards hung either over her seat in church, over her grave, or in the chancel – as a token of purity and virginity. It was unlucky to



Two hundred year old maiden crants from Minsterley in Shropshire

remove these garlands, or break bits from them. As they decayed the fallen pieces were buried in the churchyard.

In *Hamlet* Shakespeare refers to these garlands as *crants*, an old Dutch word for a garland or wreath, retained by the Saxons.

#### Celandine

Bright and sunny celandines are very brave to bloom when the air is still sharp with frost. After a long winter of wind and rain, they gladden the heart. Celandines respond to the daylight, opening out at dawn and closing at dusk. They will also close up before rain. The old Celtic name for them is 'grian', meaning 'sun'.

Celandine has been used to treat many ailments, from varicose veins to ulcers, haemorrhoids and warts; in the Western Isles, the plants were sometimes hung in cow byres to bring good yields of milk.

# Daffodils





# Primroses





Celandines





Please check for up-to-date information for services on the East Radnor Ministry Area Facebook page.

This Easter we are striving to provide some services. We may be prevented but pray that we are not. We will need to make the most of the little things that we can do, e.g. making Easter Gardens in order to roll the stone away from the tomb.

#### Palm Sunday, 28 March

11.15am Eucharist, St Mary's Church Gladestry, Led by Rachel.

#### Maundy Thursday, 1 April

7pm Reflective Service, St Peter's Evancoyd, Led by Rachel.

#### Good Friday, 2 April

2-3pm The Final Hour, (tbc please call Petra or Rachael for details.)

#### Holy Saturday, 3 Aprll

For the Easter Vigil we could light candles in our windows and pray.

This is the night of nights, The night of faith and hope. While all is shrouded in darkness God, the Light, keep watch. Watch over us and all who we love. Watch over the sick, the scared, the sad, The happy the hopeful and all who need and love you. We ask this in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

#### Easter Sunday Services, 4 April

11am St Edward's Knighton, Holy Communion. Led by Petra.

11.15am St Mary's New Radnor, Easter Eucharist. Led by Rachel.

