WHEATLAND NEWS

December 2022 – January 2023



Marble bust of Janus Roman deity of beginnings and endings, doorways and gateways and transitions

News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 Parishes around Stottesdon, Ditton Priors and Highley

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Editorial

As we go to press the first Advent candle in the Advent crown will have been lit in our churches and the Christmas season has started even though the shops have had their seasonal offerings on sale for many weeks before!

On a recent visit to a local primary school it was noticeable the hustle and bustle of the children getting organised to present their Christmas shows, practising in the main hall and sorting out the costumes for their appearances later this month. This is one of the busiest times in the school calendar, trying to balance the teaching and focus of the children on their learning with the excitement of the coming weeks. Thanks go to our teaching staff and the parents for the support given at this busy time.

This month we have a combined December and January edition of Wheatland News. The editorial team wish all our readers, their families and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023.

Ed

The next edition of Wheatland News will be dated February 2023.

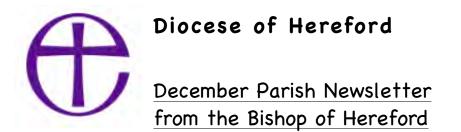
Each edition will continue to be available, free of charge, to download from your Parish or Benefice websites.

If you would like to receive a hard copy to enjoy with your afternoon tea, please make sure that you contact your usual distributor to order and pay your £12 subscription for the eleven 2023 editions, no later than **10th January** so that we can get our numbers agreed with our printer. If you – or anyone you know – wants a WN and doesn't have an order form, or doesn't know who distributes WN to them, then please contact Bobbie Jarvis on 01746-787093.

The deadline for contributions for the February 2023 edition will be Thursday 26th January.

We look forward to getting news of all your forthcoming parish and community events, and accounts of those that have already been enjoyed in your areas.

Brown Clee and Ditton Priors	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - rll.langham@btinternet.com		
Aston Botterell, Cleobury North & Burwarton, Wheathill & Loughton	Alison Greenan, 01746-787032 - greenan6qx@btinternet.com		
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com		
Highley	Revd Val Smith – revval14@gmail.com		
Closelov & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net		
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk		
Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk		
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk		





Hello Everyone

Most years when I was a parish priest in Sussex a group of us used to go Carol singing. We'd visit homes and the local pubs. Rather than asking for money for a charity or Church funds we would finish by giving out mince pies. This always threw people. They wanted to pay for them. They couldn't believe there wasn't some sort of catch. I'm sure it would be even worse were I to do it today. We've got so wary of scam calls, texts and emails, we are immediately suspicious of anything that seems too good to be true.

We often refer to Christ's coming at Christmas in terms of gifts. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Unbidden and unsought, Christ comes to earth to reveal what God is like in a way that eludes human reason. The Christian story is something no one could have made up as a recipe for a restored relationship with God. But gift and the allied term grace are what it is all about.

This Christmas we are acutely aware of life's intractable problems. How on earth are we to solve the climate crisis, the economic crisis, the international relations crisis brought on by the war in Ukraine? All these problems seem unsolvable given normal patterns of human behaviour. How can a baby born in the backwater of an ancient empire 2000 years ago have anything to say about any of them? But the gift of Jesus is simple without being simplistic. The heart of most problems is the problem of the human heart. Jesus offers us the gift that meets the needs we seek to fill with rapacious consumption. He offers the security that frees us to love. He offers us the peace that in trust releases generosity. He offers the forgiveness that releases us from defensiveness and self-justification. The Gospel is good news because it meets the deepest needs of the human heart. This is where the real transformation of individuals and society is to be found.



The Bishop's weekly video message

...inviting us to reflect on the difference between anger and righteous indignation as a motive for holy action, and the guidance to be found in the Bible.

This message, and all his earlier messages can be seen on <u>YouTube</u>



Messages from the Rural Dean

It's good at this season of goodwill and of the turning of the year, to be able to report further appointments progress in Bridgnorth Deanery. Revd Jon Aldwinckle has been appointed Rector of Alveley, and will take up the post in February 2023. Two vacancies filled, two to go!

Meanwhile, the Diocesan Lead on Local Ministry, Revd Dr Elizabeth Wild, has set out plans for people who feel called to help in the parishes as worship leaders,

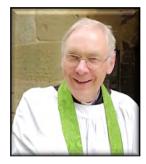
missioners or pastoral visitors. These can be trained on a parish, deanery or central basis (at weekly sessions in Ludlow) to enable a wider breadth of God's people to be an active part of the church.

I can bear witness to how those who already do some of these things are an amazing asset during vacancies, and I have nothing but praise and gratitude for the Local Ministry Development Group in the Brown Clee parishes, who have done such a marvellous job of keeping things going during vacancy and who will be a great gift to the man or woman whom God calls to minister as priest in those parishes.

So if anyone out there needs to explore a calling to helping out with local ministry, speak to your incumbent – or to your Rural Dean if you don't have one!

Meanwhile, have a most blessed Christmas, and may God bless you in the new year. Preb Mark Daborn

Readings for December 2022
December 4 th – The Second Sunday in Advent (Purple) Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
December 11 th : The Third Sunday in Advent (Purple)
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-22
December 18 th : The Fourth Sunday in Advent (Purple)
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-8; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-end
December 25 th : Christmas Day (White)
Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14
Readings for January 2023
January 1 st : Second Sunday of Christmas (White)
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-end; Matthew 2:13-end
January 8 th : The Baptism of Christ (White)
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-end
January 15 th : The Second Sunday of Epiphany (White)
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
January 22 nd : The Third Sunday of Epiphany (White)
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-11; I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
January 29 th : The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (White)
I Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 1:18-end; John 2:1-11



Saint of the Month - St Wolfstan

By Preb Mark Daborn

On January 19th we remember a local man made good.

St. Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095 was the only Anglo-Saxon bishop to survive not just the Norman Conquest, but also the Conqueror himself. Brought up in Worcester, he was educated at Evesham and Peterborough Abbeys, was ordained priest, and then took monastic vows, becoming prior of the cathedral priory.

He was a somewhat unlikely choice to become bishop in 1062, when his predecessor, Aldred, was persuaded that he could not hold the See of York in plurality with the diocese of Worcester. But Wulfstan was an active and effective bishop, travelling his diocese to visit not just the monasteries, but the parishes too, personally presiding over baptisms and confessions.

1066 was the first of three pivotal points in Wulfstan's relations with the incoming Normans. He not only did not oppose William's accession-by-force, but supported it. Perhaps he had felt unhappy with Harold Godwinson's coup d'état in January of that year. The Anglo-Saxon word for 'king' was cyning meaning 'from the family' (related to our modern word 'kin', of course); although William's connection to the descendants of Alfred the Great was tenuous in the extreme, Harold's was non-existent. Wulfstan might genuinely have felt that God's judgement had gone to the more legitimate candidate at Hastings.

He made his peace with William, as did other bishops appointed by Edward the Confessor's regime. But this was only the first round. William had also retained the Anglo-Saxon earls who were outside the House of Wessex until he was strong enough to deal with them. In the early 1070s, a revolt in these Marcher regions ignited by another local hero, Wild Edric, provided William with the excuse to move against the brothers Edwin and Morcar, earls of Mercia and Northumbria. A purge of English bishops was carried out concurrently, leaving Wulfstan as the only pre-conquest bishop still in post.

A further revolt in 1075, by the Breton earl Ralph of Norfolk, and Waltheof of Huntingdon, the last Saxon earl, might have provided the opportunity for William to completely Normanise his English church – but Wulfstan remained firmly loyal, and was evidently well trusted by the king.

In the event, Wulfstan outlived William by a good six years. Being a bishop was evidently less stressful than being a conquering king, for Wulfstan lived to the ripe old age of 85 – as close as can be reckoned in those pre-census days.

Wulfstan was canonised in 1203, in the reign of King John. And when that much-maligned monarch was dying, cut off from his capital and the loyalty of most of his barons, it was to Wulfstan's cathedral that he directed that his bones should be taken for burial.

MD

The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Rector: vacant				
	Please contact your Chui , contact Preb. Mark Dab	-		
St John the Baptist, Ditton Pric Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474	ors, and Holy Trinity,	St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237		
Mark Smith: 01746-712394				
St Giles, Chetton CHURCHWARDEN	SS Peter & Paul, Cleo	bury North	All Saints, Neenton	
Sheila Millington: 01746-789443	Mike Bradbury: 01746-78		Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093	

Brown Clee Group News

Services in Brown Clee Churches during January (see p 8 for December)

Sunday Jai	nuary 1 st – Ch	ristmas 2	Sunday Jan	uary 22 nd – Ep	oiphany 3
10:00	MP	Ditton Priors	08:30	HC	Ditton Priors
			09:45	HC	Chetton
Sunday Jai	nuary 8 th – Ba	ptism of Christ	11:30	HC	Cleobury North
)9:45	HC	Ditton Priors			
1.30	HC	Chetton	Sunday Jan	uary 29 th – Ep	iphany 4
			10:15	GpHC	Cleobury North
Sunday Jai	nuary 15 th – E	piphany 2			
)9:45	HC	Ditton Priors	Sunday Feb	oruary 5 th – Th	ird before Lent
1:30	HC	Neenton	09:45	HC	Ditton Priors

Group Choir

The choir meets for practice on Thursday evenings at 7pm in Ditton Priors church. For more information please contact Mike Teague on 01746-789592.

The Community Choir is hosting a concert on Friday 16th December – see the poster on the back cover of this WN.

Christmas Services in Brown Clee Churches



We would love to see you at our Christmas Services. Children especially enjoy our Christingle and Crib services. All are welcome.

Sunday November 27th 16:00 Ditton Priors – Christingle Service Thursday December 1st 18:30 Ditton Priors – Lighting the Christmas lights at Church. Sunday December 4th 11:30 Aston Botterell - Carol Service Sunday December 11th 16:00 Chetton - Carol Service Saturday December 17th 18:00 Loughton – Carol Service Sunday December 18th 10:00 Ditton Priors – Carol Service 16:00 Neenton – Carol Service Friday December 24th: Christmas Eve 16:00 Ditton Priors – Crib Service 19:00 Wheathill – Christmas Eve Communion with Carols 23:00 Ditton Priors – Christmas Eve Communion with Carols Saturday December 25th: Christmas Day 10:00 Chetton – Christmas Day Communion - Toys are welcome!

Pilates at Ditton Priors Village Hall

Pilates - Mondays at 12.30pm, £8.00 a session. Please bring own mat. Contact Nikki for more information on <u>nikkis2010@hotmail.co.l'm</u>, 07939-054024, who says that her classes are: "Suitable for all ages and fitness abilities. Will help improve core strength, reduce back pain, increase flexibility and posture."

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2023 - Catherine.

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Church Services in December and January

- December 4th 9.45 Communion with Revd. Val Smith
- December 11th 9.45 Communion with Revd. John Daniels
- December 18th 10:00 Carol Service with Alex Daborn
- December 24th 4:00pm Crib Service
- December 24th 11:00pm Christmas Communion with Revd. Justin Bailey
- January 1st 10.00 Morning Prayer
- January 8th 9.45 Holy Communion
- January 15th 9.45 Holy Communion
- January 22nd 8.30 Holy Communion
- January 29th 10:15 Group Service Cleobury North

Remembrance Service was well attended. The collection of **£134** has been sent to the Royal British Legion.

Switching on the Christmas Lights

Thursday, 1st December at 6.30 in Ditton Priors Church. Carols followed by mulled wine and Christmas snacks.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday, 10th December at 10.30 at the PAVILION. We shall raffle our usual Christmas Hamper and there will be stalls, music, good coffee and mince pies.

School in Church

Tuesday 13th December, 2pm, Brown Clee school will be coming into church for their Christmas service. The "Open the Book" team will present a nativity play.

Saturday Coffee Mornings

On 3rd December, 7th January, 4th February, 4th March (weather permitting, of course).

Ludlow Male Voice Choir - A most enjoyable evening on 4th November. The choir was well received and appreciated and thanked for a splendid evening. Over **£650** was raised for church funds. My thanks to all who provided food and helped in any way.

Ladies' Choir - "Of One Accord"

Friday 16th December 7.30 pm in Ditton Priors church. Tickets £7 each, children £3, to include tea, coffee and cakes. The choir will be supporting Shropshire Domestic Abuse service and Brown Clee Choir.

We Wish You A Very Happy And Blessed Christmas And Pray For Your Well-Being Throughout The New Year.

Cleaning Rota for December and January:

- Sunday 4th December Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 11th December
 Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 18th December
 Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 25th December
 Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
- Sunday1st January
 Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 8th January
 Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 15th January
 Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 22nd January
 Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 29th January
 Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 5th February Mr & Mrs Graham Russell

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for October 2022

- £20 Audrey Mountain
- £10 Mr M Woods
- £ 5 each to Janet Clymer, AJ & L Brown, Callum Mitchell.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

Church services

- Carol Service on Saturday 17th December, 6pm at Loughton Church, led by the local ministry team. Do come and join us.
- **Christmas Eve**: 7pm communion service at Wheathill church.

There will be no services during January and February 2023, as in previous years, but services will resume in March 2023.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you all.

Burwarton and Cleobury North News

Christmas Social

Our Christmas social event will be held in Burwarton Church by very kind invitation of David Croft, at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th December. Come along and enjoy the festive season in the company of friends with carol singing and light refreshments.

Tickets: Adults £5 Children £2 (refreshments included). Tickets are available from PCC members: Jane Bufton 07716-877421 Carol Radnor 01746-787463 Penny 01746-787206

Thank you!

Cleobury North and Burwarton PCC would like to thank the Young Farmers for their kind donation of **£250**. This will go towards the much-needed repair of the Church roof.



Cleobury North Remembrance

Thank you to the anonymous gentleman who said that we might include these wonderful pictures of his service medals, worn with great pride at the Remembrance service.



Cleobury North & District Village Hall

CNVH remains open and available for hire. For enquiries about booking and using the hall, please call 01746-787093 and leave a message or send a TEXT MESSAGE to 07483-879763 (or both!).

The Committee wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas, and look forward to lots of bookings in 2023!!

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:

Coffee Morning

First Sunday in January – 1st January! There will be no service in the church, so instead come to a coffee morning at Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell, 11.00am till 12.30pm. All are welcome – proceeds to the Church. Anne – 07966-459806.

Lottery winners

- £20.00 Margaret Jones no 5
- £10.00 each William Scott no 50 and Audrey Bacon no 40
- £5.00 each Brenda Howells No 162 and Charlie Scott no 51

Daddy's Hat in Aston Botterell

Anne Preece writes:

"On Saturday 19th November, Daddy's Hat came to Aston Botterell again! Thank you, Sally for organising the music. We had Sam Cooper......who played 'Autism Blues' and 'Bronze Age Blues' on his guitar: a very talented young man. Then Pam Cusack read some lovely poems written by, and in memory of, her departed partner called Moz, *(who will be remembered by many in the Wheatland area – Ed)* and his music. When I did a coach day trip to Chester recently, Sally met another musician, Frank Neil, who would have loved to visit but it would have been too far. Instead, we played CDs by his late bandleader Terry



Burgin, on which Frank played harmonica. Last but not least we had the great pleasure of Richard Fox ...with many musical instrumental talents, who had brought his guitar and we had a lovely sing along ending with Richard and Sam jamming "Hallelujah" together...which was super. During the performances we drank tea / coffee and had cakes and Janet's special shortbread. Thank you to all for your time and support."

The occasion was entitled 'Rockers and Bluesbreakers' in honour of 'Moz' Arnold. Moz was also a harmonica player in private! Music buffs may remember the late Ray Owen of Juicy Lucy, a blues player, who was a guest at Mimosa Club on Jersey in the 1980s, at which Terry played every week. All connected.

	I did my best; it wasn't much	
Sally signs off the 2022 DH	I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch.	
season with a verse from	I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you and	
Leonard Cohen's Alleluia.	even though it all went wrong, I'll stand before the Lord of Song	
	With nothing on my lips but Hallelujah	

And finally - Revd David Poyner reflected:

"This season of Daddy's Hat concerts came to an end in November, at Aston Bottrell Church. There was a good attendance, including two clerics, Val Smith and myself; Sally asked us to top and tail the event. I discovered Daddy's Hat earlier in the year, when Sally rang me to see if we could host a concert at Billingsley; I enjoyed it so much I volunteered Glazeley for the next concert. I love the music, a mix of old and new, from classical to pop, and I love the company, the laughter, the banter and the refreshments. Above all, I love the way it brings music to our churches outside of a service.

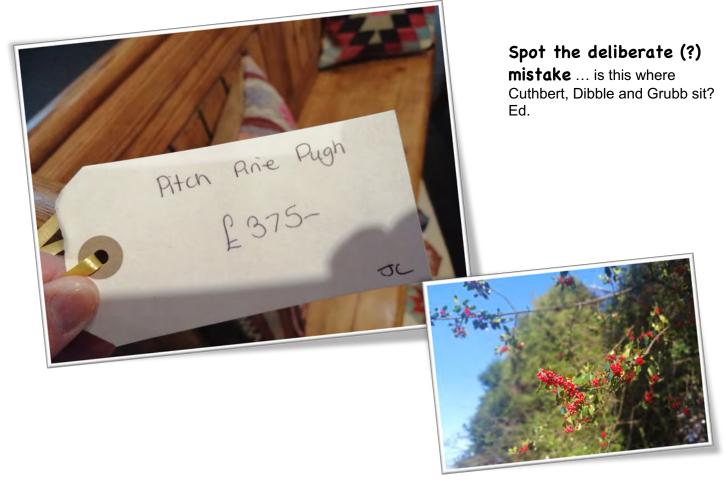
I was going to expand further on this, quoting the psalms and the Hebrew roots of Hallelujah. Fortunately, I have just heard an interview with the musician Courtney Pine, who has just released a new album, Spirituality. His words capture exactly what I, as a priest, feel about the music we hear in Daddy's Hat.

'Spirituality, music, religion, it's all on the same plane for me... I'm hoping that the people who come to the concert will connect with something that isn't there... what I try to do... through creating is to inspire the audience so they know there is something else going on... I'm a Christian, but music is my religion and if I'm able, by playing one note, to conjure up some kind of spirituality, I try to do that all the time. There are different ways of giving praise; for me, it is all about playing music that will conjure up the creative spirit'.

Amen.

Wheatland Diary

Thurs	1	Dec	Switching on the Ditton Priors Christmas Lights – 6.30 pm – see page 9
Thurs	1	Dec	Neen Savage WI – Advent Soup Lunches, CM Market Hall, 12.30 – 1.30pm. See page 26
Fri	2	Dec	Chetton Christmas Meal at Church House.
Fri	2	Dec	Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels at the Pheasant, Neenton, 9.00pm
Sat	3	Dec	Ditton Priors Saturday Coffee Morning in church
Wed	7	Dec	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH 7.30pm – The Duke – see page 16
Thurs	8	Dec	Neen Savage WI – Advent Soup Lunches, CM Market Hall, 12.30 – 1.30pm. See page 26
Fri	9	Dec	Paul Parker and All the Right Friends at the Pheasant, Neenton, 9.00pm
Sat	10	Dec	Middleton Scriven Christmas coffee morning in church – 10:00 – 12:00
Sat	10	Dec	Ditton Priors Christmas coffee morning at the Paviliion. See page 9.
Sun	11	Dec	Burwarton & Cleobury North Christmas Social at former Burwarton Church – SEE PAGE 11 for BOOKING
Thurs	15	Dec	Neen Savage WI – Advent Soup Lunches, CM Market Hall, 12.30 – 1.30pm. See page 26
Fri	16	Dec	Cooper & Davies at the Pheasant, Neenton, 9.00pm
Fri	16	Dec	Brown Clee Community Choir hosts charity concert at Ditton Priors Church – see back cover
Fri	23	Dec	Bluze Box at the Pheasant, Neenton, 9.00pm
Thurs	23	Dec	Neen Savage WI – Advent Soup Lunches, CM Market Hall, 12.30 – 1.30pm. See page 26
Sun	1	Jan	Innocent Criminals at the Pheasant, Neenton, 9.00pm
Sun	1	Jan	Aston Botterell coffee morning, Middle House Farm, 11.00 – 12.30. See page 11
Sun	8	Jan	Pantomime – Robin Hood, Chelmarsh Parish Hall. See page 19 for booking
Sat	11	Feb	Middleton Scriven Christmas coffee morning in church – 10:00 – 12:00
Wed	15	Feb	Flicks in the Sticks – Chetton VH, 7.00pm – see page 16



Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Gerald Evans – 5th December 1938 – 14th October 2022



The huge congregation at Emstrey Crematorium was proof – if any were needed – of the community's affection for the late Gerald when they gathered to say their farewells on 11th November. The service was led by Mark Daborn.

Gerald and his wife Ann met in Neenton, when he was lodging at New Park Farm Cottage and she was living and working for Dr Smith in her house at the other end of the lane. Their first date was to a dance in Neenton Village Hall and on their way in he asked her "have you got any money?" – not having had time to cash a cheque..... They married in 1964 and moved into the house which has been their home ever since. Their family burgeoned, with three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Always a gregarious person, Gerald would strike up conversations with everyone, and of course because of this he knew and was well-known to all.

Gerald has always been a very hard worker, both at the day

job – variously at Decca, and Star Aluminium, and in a variety of extras both before and since his retirement, when he took to car repairs and was an invaluable source of help and solver of problems to many of us over the years. Despite living in the country, Gerald didn't regard himself as a gardener: Anne described her task in the garden as protecting it from Gerald!

He enjoyed watching sport and Bond films on TV, as well as following the financial and market reports. Even from a hospital bed he would check their home electricity consumption – and query when it seemed to jump up!

Gerald is greatly missed, but we hope that the memories and friends that he has left will always comfort Ann and the family. May he rest in peace.

Carol Service

th The service is on Sunday 18th December at 4pm.

Are you ready for Christmas? Come along and sing some well-known Carols then relax and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine at The Pheasant after the service.

We already have a volunteer to ring the church bell on the day, but we do need volunteers to decorate the church – if you can spare an hour on Saturday 17th from 10.30am to prepare the church for the service you will be very welcome.

Our new neighbours

We welcome our new residents Catherine and Craig, and Debbie and Jason, who have recently moved into the village. We hope they will enjoy living in our beautiful rural countryside and the community life that Neenton has to offer.

Neenton Tote - November 2022

1st prize – Dot Cartwright 2nd prize – Richard Jones

The Pheasant at Neenton

Opening times -

- 🥝 🛛 Wednesday/Thursday 12 noon 3pm, 6pm 11pm
- 🥝 Friday / Saturday 12 noon 11pm
- Sunday lunch 12 noon 4.30pm

Please call 01746-787955 or email <u>info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk</u> to discuss times and your requirements or book direct on the website.

Events at the Pheasant:

- Friday 2nd December Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels at 9pm
- Friday 9th December Paul Parker and All the Right Friends at 9pm
- Friday 16th December Cooper & Davies at 9pm
- Friday 23rd December Bluze Box at 9pm
- Sunday 1st January 2023 Innocent Criminals at 5pm

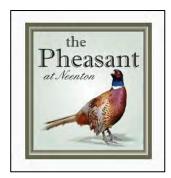
Please note: The Pheasant will be closed from Monday 2nd January until it reopens on Wednesday 11th January 2023

A Peaceful and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023 to all

Recognition

The Diocese recently saw fit to award to Bobbie Jarvis the Order of St Ethelbert in recognition of her unstinting work for the Diocese and the Community over many years. Due to Covid, Bobbie was unable to receive her medal and certificate at the service at Hereford Cathedral – so the Bishop and his wife visited her at home (after Covid!) to make the presentation and thank and congratulate her. Bobbie was delighted.





Chetton News

From Pam Downing

St Giles's Church and Parish

Services for December and January

- Sunday 11thDecember, 4pm. Carol service.
- Christmas Day 10am.
- Sunday 8th January, 11.30am Holy Communion.
- Sunday 22ndJanuary, 9.45am Holy Communion.

With the year drawing to a close, we are getting ready and looking forward to our Christmas services and celebrations.

We hold our Carol service at 4pm on Sunday 11th December. As in previous years, we are following this with mulled wine and mince pies. Some of the children in the parish are decorating windows for us (with a little assistance!) If anyone else would like to help, please contact Sheila or Lisa.

We also have our Christmas Day service, 10am we would love you to join us for either or both of these.

Thank you to all our PCC members, flower ladies, Churchyard helpers, supporters etc for everything you do, we are very grateful. We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Flowers and cleaning

- December Volunteers!
- January Sheila

100 club

- £15.00 to Paul Verney no 74
- £10.00 to Daisy Berry no 21.

January's Hundred Club will be drawn next month.

Chetton Village Hall

For details of hall or equipment hire please telephone Sue on 789239.

Flicks in the Sticks

'The Duke' will be shown on December 7th, due to the rerun of Downton Abbey, through technical issues.

Flicks in the Sticks will **resume** on Wednesday February 15th - the film has yet to be decided.

Please note that the films will now be shown without a break. Coffee, tea and cake will be available from 7pm, before the film starts. Tickets £4, refreshments £2.

Puppy Training Classes are available now on Thursday evening, please telephone Sue on 789239 for further information.

Exercise classes

- Pam's Pilates 9.30 am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.
- Chetton Active Friends from 2.00pm on Mondays
- Zumba 2.30pm on Tuesdays.

Many thanks for all your support throughout 2022: we are looking forward to seeing you in 2023.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Chemicals of Christmas - Alcohol - ethanol

By David Poyner

Inlike their son, neither Mum nor Dad really drank; the only time I can ever recall seeing them having a glass of sherry was at Christmas. Christmas is time of celebration and in many cultures, including our own, part of that is to drink alcohol; in modest quantities it can elevate our mood. In previous ages, alcohol filled a much more fundamental need. It can act as a preservative, stopping the growth of harmful bacteria. Water,

particularly from wells and springs in built-up areas, stood a good chance of

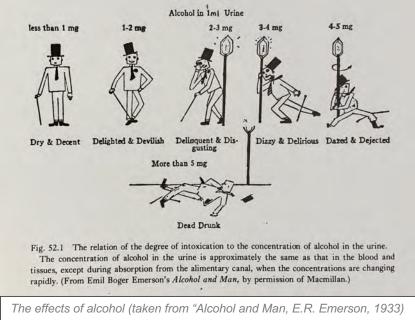


being contaminated. Alcoholic drinks (especially beer, where the water has been boiled) were much safer; "small beer", where the alcohol content was low, was a staple drink for even children.

Alcohol is a simple chemical. To a chemist, the word "alcohol" signifies a class of chemicals that all contain an oxygen atom (O) attached to a hydrogen atom (H); this, the "hydroxy" group, is the building block of water and means that alcohols readily mix with water. The compound we think of as alcohol is ethanol, where the hydroxy group is attached to a short chain of two carbon (C) atoms surrounded by hydrogen (H) atoms; hence the formula C_2H_5OH . It is made in small quantities in the body as part of our natural chemistry, but other organisms, especially brewers' yeast, make it in much larger amounts. This is the basis of fermentation. Either fruit is crushed, or barley is boiled with water, to extract natural sugars. The

yeast then convert the sugar into alcohol. Other ingredients such as hops (in beer) may be added; the alcohol may be distilled to concentrate it (as in spirits) and further flavours can come from allowing the liquid to mature in casks.

Alcohol is an important industrial chemical. Most of us will be familiar with methylated spirits, which is alcohol that has been rendered undrinkable by adding other chemicals. It is used to dissolve many substances that are not soluble in water. It is a disinfectant. However, most of us know ethanol best through drinking it. The effects on the



brain are complex and of course, depend on how much is consumed. The biochemical actions are still not fully understood. However, it seems probable that it produces most of its effects by binding to specific proteins found on the outside of nerve cells. These proteins are usually "receptors"; they recognise the chemical signals nerves produce to talk to each other. The main targets for alcohol are probably receptors for neurotransmitters called GABA and glutamate. GABA stops nerve cells from becoming active and alcohol makes it more effective when it binds to its receptors. Glutamate makes nerve cells more active, alcohol stops glutamate receptors from working properly. Thus overall alcohol stops nerves from being active. However, since some nerves work simply to act as "brake" on others, in the short term, if the brake is removed, then parts of the brain will become more active. This explains why alcohol has such a variety of effects. It also has actions outside the brain. One of the more noticeable is that it stops the body producing a hormone called vasopressin. Amongst other things, vasopressin reduces urine production; when alcohol suppresses this, the bladder fills more quickly. **All beer drinkers will know this**...

Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Vacant	Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister
Revd Val Smith, Associate Minister	Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work);
revval14@gmail.com	email <u>D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</u>

St Mary, Billingsley	St Peter, Chelmarsh	St Bartholomew, Glazeley
CHURCHWARDEN	CHURCHWARDEN	CHURCHWARDENS
Vacant	Derek Arnold: 07956-844854	Vacant

Benefice news and services

Church services for December and January

During the interregnum please check service times in the parish sections below, or with your churchwardens.

Glazeley

Marion Corfield and David Poyner write:

Services at St Bartholomew's Church

In December:

Dec 18th – CAROL SERVICE with Holy Communion

This year's Remembrance Sunday service was led by Laura Jones; I am very grateful to Laura for taking the service as I had to be at Highley. It was good that the event was well supported; we must continue to remember the sacrifice of those who have served in our armed services whilst at the same time working for peace within our own communities.

I am writing this before our next breakfast at the Down has taken place, but I anticipate that it will be well supported. If you have not been to one of these, please come along; details are on our website, under "services and events" at <u>Events - Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You</u> OR phone or txt Marion on 764585/. 07918559043

Our Christmas carol service will take place on Sunday 18th December at 10.00 am. All are welcome to this. There are midnight communion services at Highley and Chelmarsh and Christmas Day services at Highley and at Billingsley (10am)

Best wishes for a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year from all the members of Glazeley PCC.

PS – don't forget to fill in your form for 2023 subscription if you want a hard copy of the Wheatland News, and return it to Marion! If you don't have a form, please ask Marion.

David Poyner Tel 01562 68638; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk Marion Corfield - 01746-764585 marion.corfield@talktalk.net

Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

A short act of remembrance in Billingsley Church was led by Amanda and Dave Prescott, when the names of Billingsley's fallen were read out, in front of the wooden cross that originally marked the grave of Lt Gibbs, one of own who was killed in active service in France in 1918.

We are now reverting to our winter pattern of services, with a once-a-month Holy Communion at 8am on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will resume the 6pm evening services on the 2nd Sunday of the month in April, once the pews have defrosted... However, at a time and date yet to be decided, I will do another open-air Forest Church, to mark how we can celebrate God in the natural world in winter; watch out for details on our websites and Facebook pages (Google "Billingsley St Mary's).

We have an open-air carol service at 7pm on Monday 19th December outside the green at Lincoln Fields. As last year, there will be mulled wine and mince pies. On Christmas Day we have a service of music and words at 10am in the church.

Many thanks to the donor of the old sign that used to be in the churchyard. It dates back at least 50 years, to when the Rev Dore was in charge locally and before he moved to the rectory at Sidbury. It is currently in the porch but we will put in the church.

Follow Billingsley on Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/</u> or our websites, <u>www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk</u>, <u>https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/</u>

David Poyner – Associate Minister Tel 01562-68638; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Chelmarsh News

Robin Hood is coming back to Chelmarsh this Christmas!

Oh yes he is!

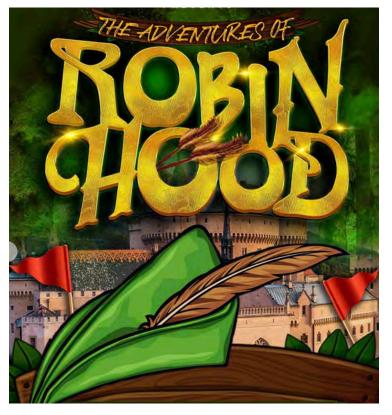
Chelmarsh Parish Hall is pleased to announce that Gerry Graham Pantomimes are coming again on 8th January to present 'Robin Hood'.

This is the updated version of the show they first brought to Chelmarsh in 2016. It was so popular that they were invited back, and have performed to sell-out audiences ever since. Fun and laughter, with audience participation, is guaranteed!

And further good news - ticket prices are being held at 2020 levels -£9 for adults, and just £5 for children.

Places must be booked in advance, by speaking to Geoff on 01746 862104

https://gerrygraham.co.uk/pantos



The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: Prebendary Mark Daborn

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE Telephone 01746-718127. Email <u>mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk</u> Days off – MONDAY <u>and</u> THURSDAY

December & January Message

I have to confess that I had some doubts about putting the picture of a pagan god on the front cover of this bumper edition of Wheatland News – but then I checked back on last year's edition and found that I'd put Father Christmas in that one! Anyway, there is food for thought in December and January and in Janus, the god of beginnings and endings.

December is taken from the Latin 'decem' which means 'ten'. Originally, it was the tenth month, when the year began in March; when the year start was moved to January, the name was well established, and stuck. January, of course, comes from Janus with that association with beginnings and endings. Many of the depictions of Janus show him as an old man looking back, and a young man looking forward – the end of the old year and the beginning of the new.

The new year is traditionally a time for making resolutions (I wonder how many people still really do that?) as a good time for casting off the old and putting on the new. There are echoes there of the Christian ceremony of baptism, and one of the early Sundays in January – the first one that follows the Epiphany on January 6th – is kept as a celebration of the baptism of Jesus by his kinsman John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

But the main new beginning we celebrate over these two months is, of course, Christmas. On Christmas Day we don't celebrate Jesus's birthday – whose date we don't know – but the fact of his birth. In John's Gospel, in the reading we use to finish all our carol services, we read about Jesus as God's creating Word becoming human within his own creation. This is such a spectacular new beginning that all the Christian year revolves around this season, as we then follow the story of the human life of the man who shows us the very nature of God.

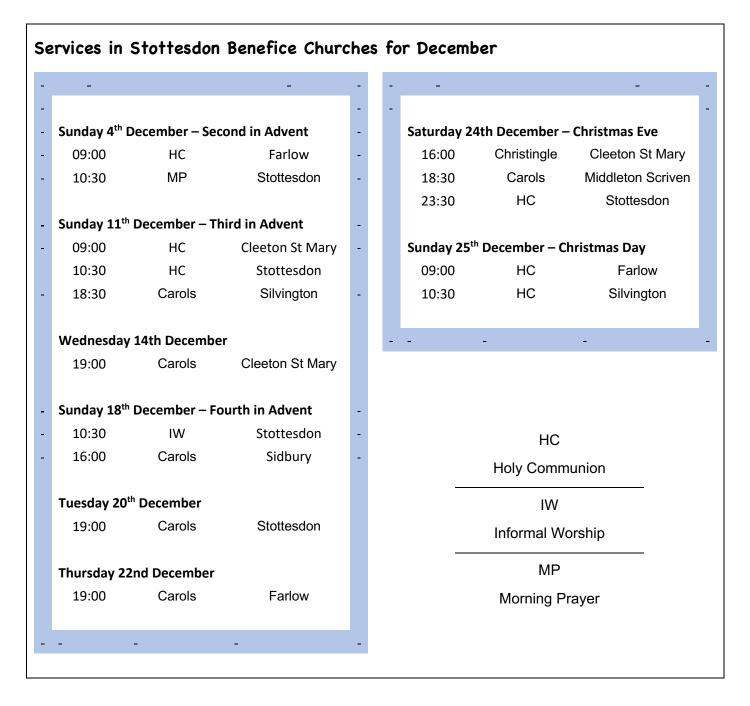
The Christmas story that we read every year is made up from passages from Matthew's gospel and Luke's gospel – Mark has no stories of Jesus before he appeared in the wilderness by the Jordan to be baptised. But right from the first words this gospel doesn't make any bones about who the story is about: 'The beginning of the Good News of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.' And John's gospel soars high above the wonders of the stable, the angels, the wise men and the shepherds: 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory: the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.'

Time to celebrate and look forward!

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

St Mary, Stottesdon	St Giles, Farlow	Holy Trinity, Sidbury
CHURCHWARDEN	CHURCHWARDENS	CHURCHWARDEN
Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	Nigel Savage-Bailey - 07989-308599	Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary	St John, Middleton Scriven	St Michael, Silvington
CHURCHWARDEN	CHURCHWARDEN	CHURCHWARDEN
Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583	vacant – so your contact is Preb Mark Daborn - 01746-718127	Annette Metcalfe: - 01584-890161



See next page for January services

vices in S	Stottesdo	n Benefice Churc	:he	s to	or January		
Sunday 1 st Ja	nuary – Chris	tmas 2			Sunday 22nd	January – Ep	piphany 3
٦	No services he	ere today.			09:00	HC	Silvington
					10:30	HC	Stottesdon
Sunday 8 th Ja	anuary – Bapt	ism of Christ			16:30	EP	Cleeton St Mary
09:00	MP	Cleeton St Mary					
10:30	MP	Stottesdon			Sunday 29 th .	lanuary – Epi	phany 4
18:30	EP	Silvington			10:30	HC	Stottesdon
Sunday 15 th January – Epiphany 2					Sunday 5 th Fe	ebruary – 3 b	efore Lent
10:30	IW	Stottesdon			09:00	HC	Farlow
11:30	HC	Sidbury			10:30	MP	Stottesdon
	НС					IW	
Holy Communion						Informal W	/orship
	MP					EP	
	Morning F	Prayer				Evening P	Prayer

Bible Study for Advent

Mark says that he's always told off for calling these informal and friendly meetings 'Bible Study', because that sounds highly academic and challenging. They aren't: they are friendly and informal and an opportunity to explore aspects of the Bible in a completely safe and relaxed way, accompanied by tea or coffee and biscuits. And a considerable amount of laughter, usually!

This year we are going to 'Meet the Evangelists' – that is, the writers of the four gospels – on the four Mondays of Advent. You are welcome to any or all of these meetings, which will take place at the Rectory at 7pm. It would be helpful to know who is coming, but not essential, we can always overflow into the hall! So: Monday 28th November, meeting Matthew; 5th December, meeting Mark; 12th December, meeting Luke; 19th December, meeting John.

From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers:

Cleeton St Mary: 3rd November - Funeral Office for Janet Irene Broome RIP

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

St Mary's 100 Club

Congratulations to our November winners, Diana Marsh, Mike Musgrove and Mark & Alex Daborn

Christmastide Services

Everyone will be very welcome at this year's celebrations -

- ✤ Parish candlelit Carol Service at 7pm on Tuesday 20th December
- Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve
- New Year's Communion at 10.30am on 1st January.

Stottesdon Parish Church: "Past, Present and Future" Heritage Project

Chris Tibbits writes:

Despite the wettest November for years, Mike Gammon's crew have kept up their stunning progress with the re-roofing elements of the project – by the time you read this we expect that the vast north side slope and the Chancel roof will be complete.

The next tasks are then the raking-out and repointing of the east gable stonework, and the reinstatement (with new oak boards) of the wooden floors at the west end of the church. The timing of these phases is entirely dependent upon delivery of scaffolding for the former, and completion of underfloor connections for new kitchen units for the latter.

January will see the Porch re-roofed; a start made on the new rainwater and exterior drainage system; kitchen build/installation; and then upgrading of heating and lighting.

Rome was not, as the saying goes, 're-built in a day'.....and this job is more complex!!

Silvington News

Annette Metcalfe writes:

Our Christmas services this year will be

- Carols at 6.30pm on Sunday 11th December
- Holy Communion at 10.30am on Christmas Day.

Services in January start with

- Evening Prayer 6.30pm on 8th January
- ✤ Holy Communion at 9am on Sunday 22nd January.

Farlow News

Our next services will be

- Holy Communion at 9:00 am on Sunday 4th December
- Carols at 7:00 pm on Thursday 22nd December,
- Christmas Day Communion at 9:00 am, and then
- Holy Communion on Sunday 5th February.

Sidbury News

- Come along and join us for Christmas Carols at 4:00 pm on Sunday 18th December and for
- Holy Communion at 11:30 am on Sunday 15th January.

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Our next services will be

- Holy Communion at 9am on Sunday 11th December
- Carols at 7pm on Wednesday 14th December
- Christingle at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

We start 2023 with

- ✤ Morning Prayer, 9am on Sunday 8th January
- Evening Prayer at 4.30pm on 22nd January

October 100 Club results:

- £20 David Percival no 36
- £10 each to Keith Bowen no 89; Elijah and Isla Jesse no 93
- £5 each to Jennifer Hewitt no 86, Bryan Harris no 24.

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Church service:

✤ Our next church service will be the Christmas Eve Carol Service – at 6.30pm - with seasonal mince pies and wine to follow. There is no service at St John's in January.

Community Events:

'Thank you' to all who supported our Harvest Supper in October, plus the coffee morning held in November and to Rachael for hosting.

Dates for your diary:

Community Coffee mornings. Come and meet up with friends, all are most welcome. Produce and homemade items for bring and buy stall:

- Saturday December 10th 10-12: please join us for our Christmas coffee morning.
- 2023 our coffee mornings restart on 11th February. This will be the 20th anniversary of the start of this community event!!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Thank you to all who have supported our church and community in 2022 in any way and we look forward to sharing time together in 2023.

As 2022 comes to a close and we look forward to 2023, here is a little Winter Prayer:

	A Winter Prayer
	Lord of the seasons,
	From this time of darkness,
	Let us look to the brightness.
	To pure pearls of snowdrops,
	Boldly emerging;
	The silver frosting on twisted branches;
-	The magic crystal mirror of ice on still water;
	The dripping diamonds of melting icicles;
Th	e flittering, glittering little birds in their table-
	top dances.
V	Ve thank you for the strange beauty of winter
	and the sure hope of a new springtime.
	Amen
И	Vritten by Susan Clough of Canterbury Women in Fellowship.

South East Shropshire Community Noticeboard

Cleobury Country Farmers Market

...is "under and around the crooked spire" at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the THIRD SATURDAY of each month from 09.30-12.30. Features local producers of plants, meats. cheeses, vegetables, rapeseed oils, gins, cookies, crafts and more.

Free town centre car parking and very well worth a visit. Details: Clare 01299-272300.

Community and Mobile Library Services

FREE membership, access to Books, DVDs, Computer workstations and more!

- > HIGHLEY at The Severn Centre 01746 860000. Open 7 days a week from 9am.
- > CLEOBURY at The Cleobury Country Centre 01299 272301. Open 6 days a week.

Brooks Mobile Library also serves our villages direct – see Shropshire Council website and social media.

Our Local Food Banks

Both of these are *always* in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, of money to sustain their services, and of volunteers' time. Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER.

Call to support them 07305-715521 – Ian 07306 618191 – Pj and for more information.



Stottesdon & District Women's Institute

Meets at 7.30pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY each month, generally at either Farlow or Chorley Village Hall, with a varied programme of entertaining talks, crafting and events. Contact Helena 01746 718012 or Clare 01746 718007 for more details.



Neen Savage WI will be hosting

ADVENT SOUP LUNCHES at C.M. Market Hall

12.30-1.30pm on Thursdays in December

proceeds to Nightingale Nursing Fund (raffle: Severn Hospice)

Useful Community Contacts - updated Dec 2022

Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Contact 01584-823723 for details of topic and venue
Burwarton & District WI	Meets in Cleobury North Village Hall. The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm. Contact 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Chelmarsh Crown Green Bowling Club	Welcomes old and new members. Contact Sue Jackman 01746-862850
Chelmarsh Friends	Meet every 2nd Wednesday 7.30pm Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Jenny Green 01746-862191
Chelmarsh Indoor Short Mat Bowling	Welcomes old and new members. The sessions are every Tuesday evening from 7.30-10.00pm. Further details Sue Jackman 01746-862850
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Parish Hall 01746-86525 Jean Davis
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846- 692323
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking for Health	Monday 10.00am except Bank Holidays. Parish Hall. Eleanor Haddon 01746-862884. 2 levels of walking available
Chetton & Gazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O'Sullivan 01746-868225
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584- 823802
Chetton Village Hall	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
Cleeton & Silvington V H	Zumba - Thursdays 6.30pm 7.30pm all year Ula 01584-890200
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Mrs Denise Davies 01746-712521
Ditton Priors Book Club	Jenny -01746-712665
Ditton Priors Local History Group	The Local History Centre, next to the Willows Café, opens 12.00-2.00 on Saturdays, and at other times by arrangement. Contact 01746-712850
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriorshalls@gmail.com
Ditton Priors WI	Meets in Ditton Priors Village Hall on 2nd Wednesday each month at 7.15pm 01746-712473
Domestic Abuse Hotline	Telephone Number 08448-044999
Fun & Fitness for 50+	Cleobury North Village Hall - low impact fitness programme working the whole body every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.15am. Contact 01584-823640
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wendy Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549
Short Mat Bowling	Every Monday & Thursday 2.30 – 4.30pm at Cleeton & Silvington Village Hall, October to end of April. Pam 01584-89261
Short Mat Bowling	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm except the second Wednesday in the month when it will be Thursday at 8.00 – 10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact 01746-712157
Stoke St Milborough Dance	Mike 01746-712774 - Betty 01746-77515
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the 3rd Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746 718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
	Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday



Brown Clee Community

Choir



A Christmas Concert



Friday 16th December 2022 at 7.30pm

at St John The Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

One of Shropshire's best mixed voice choirs, Of One Accord, will be performing a variety of Christmas carols and songs, joined by Brown Clee Community Choir

Tickets £7 per adult (£3 for children) - includes tea/coffee and cake.

Tickets available from Marjorie (712423), Ruth (712029, evenings) and the Post office.

Raffle

Supporting Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service





Shrop