

WHEATLAND NEWS

March 2023



The cross at Heavenfield, on Hadrian's Wall, marking the site of the victory of St Oswald (see 'Saint of the Month' for August 2022) over the invading forces of Cadwallon of Gwynedd in 634 AD.

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

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Editorial

Last month we wrote about the economic stringency and turmoil in people’s lives and the need to find ways to help each other to take ourselves forward in a positive way. In this edition of Wheatland news many parishes have discussed and planned their events for the year which will enable people to get together to enjoy the friendship and companionship of others.

We are delighted to welcome back news from Chelmarsh and include a notice about their Parish Hall on page 19.

Another important notice is printed on page 28 regarding the future of **Brown Clee Surgery**. We are very fortunate to have this incredible service at such a local level with the dedicated Doctors and staff who maintain the health of our population. Please read and give support to the request for help with maintaining this asset. There are 13 parishes represented in the Wheatland News area who have patients who attend either the Ditton Priors or Stottesdon surgeries. If you feel you can support the future of this service in any way, please make yourself known to the Patient Participation Group. We shall be reporting progress following their meetings in subsequent editions of WN.

Sadly a long standing retired member of the team, Dr Kirk, passed away recently. This is reported on page 8.

We hope to commence a series of writings chronicling the activities of local farmer Richard Jones in the next and subsequent copies of the Wheatland News. Richard has kept a diary from a very early age about his experiences on the farm with his family.

The snowdrops have appeared and the first signs of spring are with us in the vegetation and the birdsong to be heard around the countryside. Our intrepid gardener on the team reminds us that ‘One slug pellet (not blue mulch!) should have been placed on your hostas on Valentine’s day’. It’s not too late even now!!

Daddy’s Hat will be coming to a place near you this summer – see page 26.

We look forward to receiving reports of your events and more events as they are planned. Please send to your contact for your parishes as in the table below.

Ed

The **deadline** for contributions for the April 2023 edition of WN will be **Friday 24th March.**

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
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net 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



Diocese of Hereford

March Parish Newsletter from the Bishop of Hereford



Dear Friends

I have been delighted to see how many people have already engaged with events in our year of prayer. Not only that, but parishes across the diocese are organising their own programmes. It has felt a welcome “going back to basics” of why the church is here. We are too often overwhelmed by our obvious challenges and forget that prayer connects us with the one who holds the future in his hands.

Prayer is confusing! If God is all powerful and all knowing, why do we need to ask him anything? Wouldn't he unfold his purposes in spite us? What about those prayers that must be in his will, but seem to remain unanswered? But Jesus clearly taught us to ask for things. What are the requests in the Lord's prayer for God's will to be done on earth as in heaven and for daily bread, if not prayers for God's intervention to sustain us and even change our circumstances? Paul advised the Philippian Church 'in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to God'.

Perhaps our quandary is because we mistake correlation with causation. If we could really twist God's arm, then it would be about formulas and patterns, with God sitting inactive until the right prayers were offered. Correlation is rather more mysterious. As Archbishop William Temple said, when challenged whether prayer had a point, “When I pray co-incidences happen; when I don't, they don't!” In the Lord's prayer, your will be done follows hallowed be your name. Worship re-orientates the mind to think God's thoughts after him. A mind so formed is more likely to ask for the things that are on God's heart. More importantly, such a heart may find itself the answer to its own prayers. A prayer for justice might lead to actions to bring justice. A prayer for more people to come to know Jesus may raise the courage to tell people about him.

I hope the Year of Prayer may lead to a lasting change in our own praying and an increase in the spiritual temperature and our missional fruitfulness. If you haven't done so already, do join in.

+ Richard

You can find [resources to help your church and a list of all our key events on the Year of Prayer web page](#).

The Bishop's weekly video message

Speaking this week from a spring garden washed in sunshine and carpeted with budding daffodils, Bishop Richard gives surprising insights into the early life of Jesus as he continues his exploration of the Lord's Prayer.

This message, and all his earlier messages can be seen on [YouTube](#) and on the [Diocese website](#).



Messages from the Rural Dean

Thank you to all those who came to the Safeguarding training at Chelmarsh at the end of February. There seemed to be a general feeling that it was helpful, practical and well-delivered. Mandy and Carl are both practical, experienced people in this field, and their training sessions are excellent. There was also the advantage of sharing the session with others, being able to ask questions and make contributions, and having tea, coffee and biscuits provided! And, of course, knowing who Mandy and Carl are, in case we ever need to ring them and ask their help or advice.



For those who were unable to come, there are two options to get this training: you can access the required level of training on the Church of England website (see the section headed 'Safeguarding') or there are further face-to-face sessions available in Ludlow at the Bishop Mascall Centre on Saturday 27th May and in Church Stretton at the Parish Centre on Saturday 15th July, both of them from 10:00 to 12:30.

Churchwardens must have this training, and it is due for renewal every three years. Others who are required to have up-to-date Safeguarding training are people in leadership areas like youth groups, messy church, tower captains and those taking on the new lay roles of worship leader, missionary and pastoral visitor. As many PCC members as possible should also get this training, so that PCCs as a whole are Safeguarding-aware.

Certificates are given to show that courses have been completed and your parish safeguarding officer will want a copy of your certificate for the records when you get it. Those who did the session at Chelmarsh will have their certificates forwarded in due course.

In case anyone thinks of Safeguarding training as just another chore being imposed on us, consider this: it takes about two-and-a-half hours every three years. And, if you were attending church for the first time, wouldn't you like to think that the people there will make sure it is a safe place for you, your children and your grandchildren?

Preb Mark Daborn

Readings for March 2023

March 5th: Lent 2 (Purple)

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12th: Lent 3 (Purple)

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19th: Lent 4 (Purple)

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9

Or for **Mothering Sunday** on the 19th

Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 127:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17; John 19:25b-27

March 26th: Lent 5 (Purple)

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 2nd: Palm Sunday (Purple)

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end; Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27

Saint of the Month - St Chad

By Preb Mark Daborn

[Note: This article ties in with the cover photo: it was Oswald, King of Northumbria, who invited Aidan from Iona to be his bishop at Lindisfarne. Now read on!]

Growing up on the edge of Shrewsbury, I used to take the 'bus into town on a Saturday morning, stepping down at St Chad's Terrace. This is the area above the quarry gardens – where the Shrewsbury Flower Show is held every year – and at the back of it is a very unusual church. St Chad's church is a rebuild, and its story can be found on the website for the parish.

Briefly, the original St Chad's was near the Square in the town centre. Pronounced dangerous by Thomas Telford in the late eighteenth century, the building heeded the great man's assessment by collapsing soon afterwards. A new church was commissioned on the present site, the architect being George Steuart, the builder of Attingham Hall. It was originally meant to be rectangular but, 'due to a misunderstanding' (isn't that lovely?), an alternative round design was constructed. There is only a handful of round churches in England – the old ruined chapel at Ludlow castle springs to mind, and there is one in Cambridge – so the result is actually a distinguished rarity.

St Chad, to whom the church is dedicated, was one of four brothers educated on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne under the authority of Bishop Aidan, in the seventh century. The eldest of the four, Cedd (pronounced 'Ched') was Abbot of Lastingham and bishop of the East Saxons. On his death, Chad succeeded to the abbacy, and was later made bishop of York. This post had been filled after many English bishops had been struck down by plague, but the new bishop – the fiery and spiky Wilfrid of Ripon – had gone abroad to seek proper consecration and did not return for a long time. The king of Northumbria, Oswiu, appointed Chad in his place.

After Wilfrid's return, a new and reforming Archbishop of Canterbury, Theodore of Tarsus, required Chad to give place to Wilfrid. Chad's humility in doing so and retiring to Lastingham so impressed Theodore that, when Wulfhere, king of the Mercians, requested a bishop, Theodore brought Chad out of his retirement to be the first bishop of Lichfield.

Chad, following the example of his teacher Aidan, was a man of great simplicity and humility, who preferred to walk rather than ride. Archbishop Theodore, a practical man, saw that this was not possible in so large a diocese, so ordered him to ride a horse – on one occasion actually lifting Chad into the saddle.



Chad only lived for a couple of years after his appointment to Lichfield, and died of plague in March, 672. But the Venerable Bede, historian of the Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxons, credits Chad with the securing of the Faith in the kingdom of Mercia. His feast day is on March 2nd.

MD

The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Rector: vacant <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please contact your Churchwarden, as below. In emergency, contact Preb. Mark Daborn, Rural Dean, on 01746-718127</i></p>		
St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474 Mark Smith: 01746-712394	St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237	
St Giles, Chetton CHURCHWARDEN Sheila Millington: 01746-789443	SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North CHURCHWARDENS Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676 Jane Bufton: 01746-787298	All Saints, Neenton CHURCHWARDEN Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

Brown Clee Group News

Services in Brown Clee Churches during March

<p>Sunday 5th March – Lent 2</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Aston Botterell</p> <p>Sunday 12th March – Lent 3</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11.30 HC Chetton</p> <p>Sunday 19th March – Mothering Sunday</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Neenton</p> <p>14:30 HC Wheathill</p>	<p>Sunday 26th March – Lent 5</p> <p>08:30 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>09:45 HC Chetton</p> <p>11:30 HC Cleobury North</p> <p>Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Aston Botterell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>HC Holy Communion</i></p>
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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.

A new Vicar for Brown Clee

We are delighted to report that we have three applicants for this post! Interviews are planned for 9th March. Let us hope and pray for a successful outcome.

The future for Brown Cleve Surgery

Bill Lewis asks for our help, and writes:

"I am writing to you on behalf of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) of Brown Cleve Medical Practice. I believe that many readers of the Wheatland News are patients of Brown Cleve Surgery. We are trying to ensure by all means possible that everybody concerned is made aware of current developments at the practice which a valued local resource. Below is a summary from the meeting of the PPG held on 7th February, which describes the changes that are in the pipeline. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you."

Please read the feature article on the back page for more details. Ed.



Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

From Ditton Priors Registers

Mrs. Margaret Hough, 2nd February - Funeral service and burial.

May she rest in peace.

Dr Michael Kirk

We are deeply saddened to hear of Michael's death. He has long been a valued member of our village and served the community and neighbouring villages as our respected GP for many years. The funeral service will take place on Saturday 4th March at 1pm.

Isabel Williams

Stephen and Stewart Williams and families would like to thank everyone for attending their mum Isabel Williams's funeral on 16th December 2022. Thank you also for all the cards, kind messages and donations which have been gratefully received by Brown Cleve medical practice.



Church Flower Rota

The rota is now up in the church porch. If you have anything to celebrate or wish to remember a loved one or just like to see flowers in church – please put your name on the rota. Vases and water are provided. Enquiries 01746 787457.

Cleaning rota

- Sunday 5th March Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 12th March Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 19th March Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 26th March Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 2nd April Mr & Mrs Graham Russell

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.

First Saturday of the month coffee mornings:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Saturday 4th March – CANCELLED – funeral.● Saturday 1st April● Saturday 6th May – CANCELLED for the Coronation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Saturday 3rd June● Saturday 1st July● Saturday 5th August
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Parochial Church council

Our PCC met on Monday 23rd January. As our church architect has retired, we need to appoint a new one as soon as possible, because the quinquennial inspection of the church building is due this year. This inspection gives a detailed report on the state of the building, together with a list of work to be carried out. Let us hope for a favourable report later this year.

The Churchyard

The PCC would like to give thanks to all who have donated towards maintenance costs of the churchyards and thanks to those who tend family graves. If there are any Christmas wreaths left, we shall be removing them now that we are in Lent, in tidying up for the mowing to begin by Easter time. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

- 16th March (Thursday) LENT LUNCH in the VILLAGE HALL 12.30 – 2.30 pm
- 23rd April – (Sunday) SUNDAY ROAST (or similar) in VILLAGE HALL 12.30pm
- 1st May (Monday) THE BRIDGNORTH WALK - COFFEE, CAKE AND STALLS AT CHURCH.
- Later May: PAM'S PLANTS and COFFEE IN CHURCH
- 24th June (Saturday) CHURCH FETE
- 8th July (Saturday) SPONSORED WALK
- 22nd July (Saturday) PIMMS & PUDS SOCIAL EVENING
- 3rd August (Thursday) BURWARTON SHOW- REFRESHMENTS TENT
- 17th August (Thursday) TEA PARTY IN CHURCHYARD



St John the Baptist 100 Club results for February

- £20 Gill Severn
- £10 Ruth Jones
- £5 each to: David Lowe, Frank Waterworth and Jutta Langham

The church 100 club starts its new year on 1st May. I will have forms ready for April and welcome present and new members to join. If you would like more information, please contact me. Shirley Wall. 07530-089808.

Opportunity awaits....

Has anyone **volunteered** to help Ruby with caretaking and cleaning at the church? I hope to hear some good news!

Thanks as always to Jutta for her pictures in the Ditton Priors section! Ed.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

Church services during March

- ✝ Sunday 19th March – Mothering Sunday. There will be a service of Holy Communion at Wheathill church at 2.30 pm. The service will be led by our Rural Dean, Preb Mark Daborn with his ‘boom box’ music system.
- ✝ Sunday 16th April – Holy Communion at Loughton Church at 2.30pm, again to be led by Preb Mark Daborn.

Cleaning at Wheathill

Is anyone willing and able to help clean Wheathill Church? We are desperate for people to **clean**. We also need a **caretaker**. If anyone is interested please ring Ruby on 01584-823234.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

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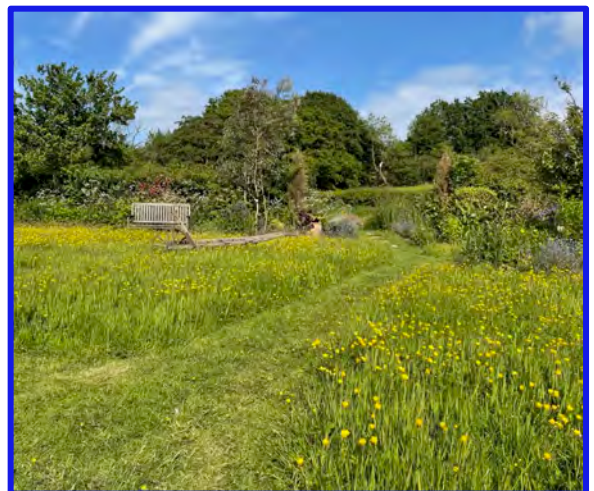
Wheathill Wildlife Site Late February 2023

Sue Crichton writes:

Snowdrops, Catkins, Crocuses and Frogspawn. The season is captivating us, the birdsong is starting around 6.30am now, with blackbirds marking their territory. We wander around noticing what's coming into leaf and which plants are starting to come through along with the nettles and cow parsley. This green and pleasant land.

But keeping it that way, needs us all to change the relationship we have with it.

I don't mow the lawn now until September, I cut a wavy path through it and keep the edges mown. It becomes alive with insects, bees, butterflies and the odd vole all through summer. It's just the most brilliant natural habitat.



This winter, I have left all the perennials collapsed or standing upright. The next couple of weeks will see me starting to cut them all back.

As a result of doing this, insects, bees and butterfly larvae will all have had safe, sheltered place to hibernate through the winter.

Tall hedges and grass verges, managed with a late cut all help lock up carbon, so essential to help slow down climate change. Here, for the first time in 25 years, there have been no muddy gateways for the horses to wade through. Last summer, another first, the ponds dried up!!

We are noticing changes, let's use them to motivate us to do things a little differently. Love the Spring and keep it all natural!

Sue Crichton Keep it Natural ABC on Facebook



Peaky Blinders, Molls and Mobsters came to Cleobury North VH!!

Local talent was out in force to transform Cleobury North Village Hall into the set – and cast – of Peaky Blinders for our CNVH fundraiser last Saturday! **Huge thanks and congratulations** to the Committee for putting on a fantastic show for us all to enjoy. Costumes were works of art, with wigs, feathers, flat caps and the whole Peaky look. Great music from Bluze Box topped off the atmosphere and it was all just great fun!



Do you feel you missed a great night here? Does this inspire you to join the Committee of CNVH (pictured here!!) to ensure that it will be an asset to everyone for generations to come? If so, or even if you just want to arrange a super event of your own, please get in touch.

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!).



Burwarton and Cleobury North News

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.

Burwarton & District WI 2023 Programme

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Cleobury North Village Hall, WV16 6RW, at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated on the programme. See February WN (electronic version always online from A Church Near You) for the full WI programme.

Aston Botterell News

Lottery winners - February

- £20 – Tom Jones, no 11
- £10 each to Chris Kinnish, no 166 and Mike & Shirley Baugh, no 222
- £5 each to Will Watkins, no 179, and William Scott, no 50.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

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Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Service at All Saints' Church

Our next service on Sunday 19th March, which is Mothering Sunday, which is the special opportunity for families to give thanks and show their appreciation for the lifelong help and support that mothers give.

Bereavement

We extend our deepest sympathy to another local family who have recently lost a loved relation.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.

Fun and Fundraising – past and future

Dot writes:

We are now a quarter of the way through 2023, and we have several fund-raising events planned.

So far, there is a **tabletop sale and coffee morning at Cleobury Village Hall on April 22nd**. - This is not only a sale, but also a chance to drop off any donations for the tombola etc. for this year's **Neenton Duck Race on July 15th**.

There will also be a skittles and **fish and chip evening on October 14th at Cleobury North Village Hall**.

We would like to thank all those who helped with fundraising in 2022, for their time and effort, and not least for their enthusiasm. As well as raising funds for our lovely All Saints Church in Neenton, we made donations to: Little Explorers, Brown Clee Brownies, Riding for the Disabled (Wenlock), British Heart Foundation, Lifeboats, and Arden Grange (comfort fund).

Thank you once again to all our helpers from the community of Neenton, and to all those who attended our events.

All Saints Tote – February – congratulations to our winners

- 1st prize – Marjorie Jones
- 2nd prize – Sue Hale

The Pheasant at Neenton

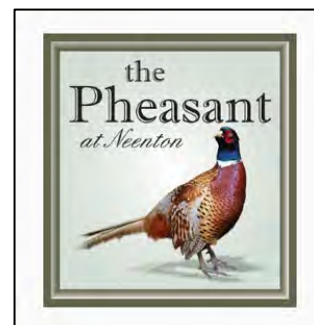
Opening times –

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

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

Neenton Dates for your Diaries

- Easter Monday 10th April – Easter Trail – Bouncy Castle - Live music -5pm:
Call of the Kraken
- Monday 1st May – Live music
- Monday 8th May – Coronation Garden Party
- Saturday 15th July - Duck Race & Fete



Chetton News

Pam Downing writes:

Services at St Giles' Church

- ✝ Sunday 12th March, 11.30am Holy Communion.
- ✝ Sunday 26th March, 9.45am Holy Communion.

Flowers and Cleaning

Sheila

100 Club Winners

February –

- £15.00 Ersilia Simpson - No 10
- £10.00 Steve Vaughan – No 29

March –

- £15.00 Sarah Bayliss – No 64
- £10.00 Hugo & Flossie Durston – No 8

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

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Spring events

Spring is just around the corner and it is uplifting to see daffodils in bud on the lane up to the Church, always a wonderful show.

We have two small events in the next couple of months. On **Saturday 18th March**, we are holding another Down breakfast, 9am. Let Sheila or Lisa know if you wish to join us.

On **Saturday 29th April**, we are holding a coffee morning in Church 10am - 12pm, all very welcome.

Chetton Village Hall

Flicks in the Sticks concludes for this season with 'Fisherman's Friends, One and All' on **Wednesday 15th March** at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served before the performance, doors open at 6.45.

Exercise Classes

- Pam's Pilates, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning 9.30 a
- Chetton Active Friends, Mondays from 2pm.
- Zumba with Lisa, Tuesday at 2.30pm

The Coronation

We are holding a Celebration Coronation chicken lunch on **Sunday 7th May** in the Village Hall, with a vegetarian alternative and chicken drumsticks / sausage and baked beans for children. There will be a licensed bar, and the lunch will be free of charge. Invitations available from committee members and please advise dietary requirements at the time.

For enquiries, Sue on 789239.

Molecule of the Month - the Folic Acid Transporter



Those who indulge in vitamin supplements or who read the small print on food labels may be familiar with folic acid. It is one of group of chemicals that a previous generation grouped together under the term “vitamin B complex”. It is an essential nutrient that we get from our food.

Vitamin deficiency is now rare in the West but is still common in some parts of the world. Folic acid is used to make essential chemicals inside our bodies, including DNA, found in all cells and which forms the instructions for building proteins. If folic acid is not processed properly, cells cannot divide as they cannot make new DNA.

There are of course circumstances when cell division is unwelcome, most especially in cancer, where cells divide uncontrollably. In this case, their demand for processing folic acid is a point of weaknesses. One of the first steps in processing folic acid is done by a protein called dihydrofolate reductase; if this does not work, new DNA cannot be made and the cancer is stopped. For over half a century, we have had access to such drugs, called dihydrofolate inhibitors; the most widely used of such drugs is called methotrexate and it is still widely used in chemotherapy.

Both folic acid and methotrexate need to get into cells to work and this is not simple as they cannot get past the oily membrane that surrounds all living cells. To help them, a “transporter” is used; this is a protein that straddles the cell membrane and through which both folic acid and methotrexate can pass. Interestingly, this particular protein, known by the not-entirely memorable name of SCL19A1 also takes up signals that stimulate the immune system to help the body fight infection and which can also play a role in restricting the spread of cancer. SCL19A1 is a protein many medicinal chemists would like to know more about; could we design improved versions of methotrexate that penetrate cancer cells more effectively? Can we make novel stimulators of the immune system that get taken up better by cells that need them? If we knew more about the structure of SCL19A1 (which I will simply call the folic acid transporter) then we would be in a better position to achieve these goals.

Recently, two research groups have identified the three-dimensional structure of the folic acid transporter and have identified how both folic acid and the regulators of the immune system can bind to it. They have done this through a combination of very powerful electron microscopy to visualise the protein and also the use of computers to work out how the protein is likely to open and close when transporting molecules into the cell. This is precisely the information that medicinal chemists need when designing better drugs, so hopefully we will see new agents for the treatment of cancer and for controlling the activity of the immune system.



The structure of the folic acid transporter, SLC19A1 (green ribbons). Near the top of the molecule are a pair of smaller molecule, regulators of the immune system, in the act of passing through the transporter ([3D View: 7XQ1 \(rcsb.org\)](#)).

(See also [Folate transporter offers clues for anticancer drugs \(nature.com\)](#) for more on this story).

Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Vacant Revd Val Smith, Associate Minister revval14@gmail.com	Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
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St Mary, Billingsley CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley CHURCHWARDENS Vacant
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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 News

Marion Corfield and David Poyner write:

Services for March 2023

✝ Sunday March 19th - Holy Communion at 10am

From the Registry

Bronwyn Pearce, 09/03/1945 - 26/01/2023. Funeral 18th 2023

We were very sorry to learn of the death of our former Church Warden, Bronwyn Pearce. Bronwyn died peacefully with her family at her side after a long battle against illness; it was my privilege to give her communion the day before. Bronwyn was a staunch supporter of Glazeley; even when lockdown and illness conspired to stop her attending, she was always interested in what was happening at the church and very much appreciated phone calls from members of the congregation. I have fond memories of her mother answering the phone and then calling her with the words "Bronwyn, it's the parson for you". Bronwyn, rest in peace and rise in glory! (D Poyner)



June Davenhill - memorial brass plaque

We have also been remembering another loyal past servant of Glazeley this month, with the installation of a memorial plaque on the organ to June Davenhill. June faithfully played the organ for us for many years and now daughter Rachel follows in her footsteps. We hope that all who play the instrument will read the plaque and draw inspiration from June's service. We can formally dedicate the plaque at a service in the future.

Future events

By the time you read this we will have held another Breakfast at The Down on February 18th, but the next scheduled one is Chetton's on March 18th and then the next one will be for Glazeley in April - date to be confirmed !!!!

A Gentle Stroll

On the first Sunday in March, at 2pm, we have a walk from Glazeley Church to Eudon George and back, starting at 2pm. It is mostly a gentle stroll of about 3 miles, although it may be muddy in places. If we take it as a gentle amble, it should take a bit under 2 hours. All are welcome, just turn up at the church. One or two may remember, or have heard stories, of the excursions that the Rev Southwell used to organise from Glazeley; I have a photo [see below] of my grandfather attending one, around 1930. I can't promise anything as grand as he used to organise (coach trip with notes), but it is good to keep the tradition of social events alive in at least some form!

A photo from Marion's album: a 1930s coach trip from Glazeley, organised by the Rev Southwell. Her grandfather and other family members are in the picture.



I wish we knew which was Marion's grandfather! Ed.

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

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.

Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

We are still in winter mode at Billingsley, with just an 8am communion on the 4th Sunday of the month. This has a small but loyal congregation who like an early morning service and know to wrap up well in church... However, thoughts are now turning to warmer times when we can also have a Sunday evening service. The first will be in April and they will run until Harvest. This year we are looking at the theme of journeys; several of our former or current church members have made exciting trips in recent months (Antarctica, South Africa, to name but two) and we hope they will be able to tell us about their adventures. We also hope to be doing a number of social activities; walks, talks, music and a coffee morning (pencilled in for Saturday 2nd September). If all a church does is to work for its own survival, perhaps it does not deserve to survive; it is really important that we reach out, to make a difference to the community which we serve.

We are sad to hear that Sue, our splendid treasurer and Phil her husband, will soon be leaving Billingsley. Sue and Phil have done an immense amount of work both for the church and the village and we will be sorry when they go. Sue has set up the 100 Club, which raises money to support the church and particularly its community work in Billingsley and Glazeley. It was the 100 club that paid for the Jubilee party last year. We need volunteers to replace Sue; especially to help run the 100 Club. I can help, but I need another person to work with me. Whilst we are also looking for a new church treasurer, the 100 club is perhaps more important. If anyone is interested, please contact me (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) or Sue (suebates@uwclub.net)

Billingsley Church needs a new Treasurer!

After five years of exemplary service, our current treasurer, Sue Bates will be hanging up her spread sheet as she and husband Phil are leaving Billingsley. Our immediate priority is to find someone who can look after the Billingsley 100 Club. This was set up by Sue and is extremely important for the church as it gives us the money we need both to maintain the building and also hold community events such as the Jubilee party, last year. The amount of work is not huge, it is mainly keeping track of money via a spreadsheet and writing out 3 cheques once a month for the club winners. There is also a small amount of paperwork that needs to be completed for Shropshire County Council. The person does not need to live in Billingsley or go to the church; just as long as she or he is community-minded and is prepared to help us! We can provide training and you will not be left by yourself if you have questions.

If anyone can help (or knows someone who might be interested), please can they contact me, d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk ? It is really important we have someone who can help us with this.

David Poyner – Associate Minister

Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693

email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.

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

Chelmarsh News

Glenys Williams writes:

Spring is on its way, the snowdrops tell us so, even on these cold, damp, grey days. St Valentine's Day gives a signal to birds in new plumage to prepare for the Spring, and we too as human beings, feel we have a fresh start to serve God in Jesus.

Ash Wednesday 22nd February

The season of Lent is at hand, a time of prayer and contemplation for Christians to reflect on ways of making amends to God for the times we fall short of our promise to praise and worship him as he would want us to do. This year there will not be a service on Ash Wednesday at Chelmarsh.

Mothering Sunday service, 19th March at 10am

We look forward to this day of Thanksgiving for the value of Mothering, both in Parish churches for their congregations, and mums showing the love of God in their vital job of caring for and nurturing the next generation of children. The usual distribution of small posies for everyoneafter all we have all had a mother of our own! Simnel cake and light refreshment served after the service. Any posies left will be taken to people in the village unable to get to the service.

A Safer Church

All members of Chelmarsh PCC recently updated their Safeguarding training to comply with the latest advice.

Church cleaning Wednesday 22nd March, 2.30 ish

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Please make sure that you read the very important information on the back page of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates.



Chelmarsh Parish Hall - Geoff Price writes:

Chelmarsh is rightly proud of its Parish Hall. For over 40 years it has been providing a warm and comfortable space for local events. Birthday parties and Wedding receptions have been held there, along with other family events. Some 80 'Arts Events' have taken place over a period of 25 years, hosting a total audience of over 6,000, with the most recent the ever-popular Pantomime. It is used almost every day for activities including Yoga, Toddlers, Book Club and Taekwon-do.

The Parish Hall Committee also organises the annual Fete, which for over 40 years has been attracting folk to Chelmarsh for a traditional, family friendly event, renowned throughout the area for it's fun and excellent value.

This all relies on the commitment, energy and imagination of the Management Committee. This year they are losing their active Chairman, when he moves out of the area, but already have a replacement lined up. However they now need to strengthen and grow the Committee. The time commitment is not too great- meetings of a couple of hours every two months – but what is sought are new viewpoints and a keenness to carry projects forward.

They would welcome the addition of enthusiastic new members to ensure the continuing success of the Hall for the years ahead. **Anyone is most cordially invited to come along to the AGM** on 2nd March at 7.30pm, when you can meet the team and get a good insight into our plans and activities. We are always looking for new ideas, and you might be the very person to help build our future!

Caring for God's Acre

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>

Some seasonal help and advice from the Benefice. Caring for God's Acre has its own website containing lots of great reading, information, help and ideas for making churchyards even more wonderful than they are already, and discounts for members! Great for our own gardens too!



Time for a Spring Cut?

Do you have an area of meadow or long grass within your churchyard and perhaps your garden too? If so, March may be an excellent month to give it a cut and vigorous rake. Wildflowers and fine grasses can become swamped by coarse tougher grasses, the bruisers of the meadow world, and a spring cut can make all the difference. Cutting in spring really knocks back these coarser grasses such as Yorkshire Fog and False Oat Grass, giving other meadow grasses and flowers a chance to take up the space and receive life-giving sunlight onto their leaves. The vigorous raking will expose soil and break up mats of dead plant matter, all of which allows seeds to germinate in soil and seedlings to reach the sunshine.

But, I hear you say, what about the invertebrates which need coarse grass tussocks and hollow stems to over-winter? This is where management planning is so important; can you designate an area of coarse grass, perhaps adjacent to a wall or hedge, where you can leave it uncut for a year or two? In this way you can maintain areas for over-wintering and also manage the wildflower meadow well.

That's all very well but I have spring bulbs. Ahh, in that case you don't want to do a spring cut, but don't leave areas with bulbs uncut for too long. It's a good idea to cut a meadow after 3 or 4 months growth, never more or it starts to get overrun with coarse grasses and other plants such as hogweed. If you can't do a spring cut because of bulbs then plan for one in early summer - early July or even late June. This area can fill with lovely flowers in May and June and is a **spring meadow**.

A meadow which is cut in March or April can then be left until late July or August and fills with summer flowers such as knapweed or scabious. This is a **summer meadow**.

If you have a bit of both then you'll have flowers all spring and summer long, but it can get a little complicated and it may be best to keep things simple! Have a look at our Action Pack sheet A2 Caring for Grassland (<https://tinyurl.com/22af3rpv>) to remind yourself of the timings.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: Prebendary Mark Daborn

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE

Telephone 01746-718127. Email mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk

Days off – MONDAY and THURSDAY

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

March Message

I've had some supportive feedback from last month's comments on our parish churches, so this week's meander through the dark recesses of my thoughts picks up from there. In a way.

It was after last month's edition went to press that we made the difficult decision to close St Mary's, Stottesdon, for worship for the time being. The builders – Mike Gammon and his excellent workforce – had paused the outside work, and were doing the inside. With all the goodwill and good craftsmanship in the world, you can't restore the inside of a church roof without a century or so of dust and grub falling down. The church was carpeted with black filth. Not pleasant.

So the Stottesdon services have gone on the road. What, after all, is the point of having a benefice with six churches if you don't make best use of them? On the morning of writing this, we have had a service at Silvington followed by the Stottesdon service at Sidbury, and it's good to feel that all the churches belong to all of us, and that anyone from any of our churches will be warmly welcome at all of them.

You will see therefore, in this month's church services list, that the Stottesdon service will take place at Middleton Scriven on the first Sunday in March, then on the following Sundays at Sidbury and Farlow. Silvington is just keeping its regular service pattern, and Cleeton is still awaiting a structural engineer's visit. One day we will be back to normal!

We've asked that Stottesdon's 'inside work' be finished for the end of the month, so that a massive cleaning-up operation can be carried out, and we can reopen the church for worship on Easter morning. How appropriate is that?

But meanwhile, it's good to be on the road exploring each other's church buildings and getting, perhaps, a new perspective on faith and worship as we go. Not to mention trying out different ideas, like the February Café Church at Middleton Scriven.

So having, last month, extolled the good things about our little parish churches, may I this month remind everyone that we belong to bigger groups: our benefice of six parishes; our deanery of seven benefices; and our diocese of thirteen deaneries. As John Donne remarked 'No man is an island, entire of itself'; the same applies to parishes. We all belong to the Christian Church worldwide, worshipping the same God in many different ways, but always doing our best to live out the Gospel in the place where we are.

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches during March

<p>Sunday 5th March – Lent 2</p> <p>10:30 GS Farlow Led by Archdeacon Fiona</p>			<p>GS Group Service</p> <hr/> <p>HC Holy Communion</p> <hr/> <p>MP Morning Prayer</p> <hr/> <p>EP Evening Prayer</p>
<p>Sunday 12th March – Lent 3</p> <p>10:30 HC Sidbury</p> <p>18:30 EP Silvington</p>			
<p>Sunday 19th March – Mothering Sunday</p> <p>10:30 HC Farlow</p>			
<p>Sunday 26th March – Lent 5</p> <p>09:00 MP Silvington</p> <p>10:30 MP Middleton Scriven</p>			
<p>Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday</p> <p>09:00 HC Farlow</p> <p>10:30 MP Sidbury</p>			

These times and services are correct at the time of going to print but - with building works etc underway - it's always worth checking the website ("A church near you: Stottesdon benefice") or with the churchwarden.

Please see the March Message from Preb Mark Daborn regarding the service locations during March.

If you are, or someone you know is, in need of prayer or a visit, or Communion at home or elsewhere, then please contact Mark direct, or ask your churchwarden to help you to arrange this.

The deadline for the March edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Monday 20th February. Thanks!

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

Cleeton 100 Club - Congratulations to our recent winners –

- January £20 Chris Lewis No 27; £10 Paula & Nig Porter No 53; £10 Chris & Sam Howells No 82; £5 Paul Rutter No 74; £5 Andy Smith No 75
- February £20 Sue Lloyd No 22; £10 Gemma Pritchard No 115; £10 Sharon Oertel No 102;
- £5 Tony Gilbert No 63; £5 Sharon Oertel No 99.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

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Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

In February we were delighted to welcome visitors/ friends from other parishes in the benefice to join in our service.



Those attending cafe church enjoyed the different way of sharing time together in church, listening to and discussing readings plus enjoying coffee, cake and biscuits.

Coffee mornings in church, 10:00 - 12:00

- Saturday March 11th
- Saturday April 8th

Everyone is most welcome. Do come and have a cup of coffee or tea, and catch up with friends and neighbours.

We have no news this month

....from Farlow, Silvington or Sidbury.

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Stottesdon 100 club

Congratulations to February winners Emma Lennox, Janette Chubb and Alan Bamfield.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

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

Chris Tibbits writes:

With the contractors continuing to make good progress with the internal building work, this month's photographic record (see page 24) shows that the Nave and North Aisle ceilings have been repaired and repainted and similar work is about to be done in the Baptistry and Wrickton Aisle, with many decades of cobwebs and other high level ceiling dust to dislodge before we can contemplate thorough pre-Easter clean!

Outside, as the photos show, excavations and the forming of new 'french drains' are progressing well on the North side – under the watchful eye of our archaeologist (news of his 'finds' follows next month). It's a bit of a muddy building site now but, once backfilled and top dressed, this will be a huge improvement on the broken brick channels (and pooling water) that are being dug out.

To educate our typist a French drain is a trench filled with gravel or rock, or both, containing a perforated pipe that redirects surface water and groundwater away from an area.- Ed.





Chris's pictures of the stages of work at St Mary's have added so much to WN over recent months, highlighting bits of the building that maybe we haven't paid much attention to before. And forming a record for centuries to come. What a legacy to leave in a time capsule!

Thank you Chris. Ed.



Fancy being a historic researcher or a heritage detective??

Well here's a great volunteering opportunity! Our project is almost ready to move onto the next, exciting phase as we seek to piece together and explain the historic secrets and stories which the 1000-year-old St Mary's site has to tell (if you know where to look!).

Here are just a few of the heritage teasers, all connected with St Mary's, which we hope to get working on after Easter....

What was local 18 year-old local Stephen Karlake doing in Hobart, Tasmania on 12th February 1896? [we know he was a midshipman in the Royal Navy, and died there the next day; he is remembered in one of the stained glass windows in the Wrickton Aisle]

Is there a connection between the church clock [installed by Joyce's of Whitchurch 1851] and the clock commonly called 'Big Ben' – and did this help Victorian trains 'run on time'?

Since the 'piscina' (wash basin to you and I) in the Chancel is set at knee height, were vicars of earlier times significantly less tall than their modern successors?

Could the Carved Eagle lectern really date from the first Crimean War (think: Florence Nightingale and her lamp); likewise the Pulpit [from Bonnie Prince Charles' Jacobite era!]

Can it possibly be true that our little War Memorial window was made by Burlison and Grylls – best known for their magnificent Rose Window in Westminster's Poets Corner?

OK, we do know some of the answers – but there are loads still yet to be explored and we could really use your help to unlock, and then re-tell, these and many other stories – in a new guide book for St Mary's and through a Digital Guided tour which we are now designing.

INTERESTED?? THEN PLEASE DROP US A LINE by email to stotty.heritage@gmail.com

Our Community Noticeboard

Cleobury Country Farmers Market – 15th March

...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 many Wheatlands area 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.

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 on 01746-718012 or Clare on 01746-718007 for more details

Wheatland Diary

Thur	2	Mar	Chelmarsh VH AGM – see page 19
Sat	4	Mar	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church CANCELLED
Sun	5	Mar	A gentle stroll from Glazeley Church to Eudon George and back – 2pm. See page 17
Sat	11	Mar	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 – 12:00
Sat	11	Mar	Daddy's Hat resumes at Aston Botterell at 3.00pm – see page 26.
Wed	15	Mar	Flicks in the Sticks – Chetton VH, 7.00pm – “Fishermen’s Friends, One and All” - see page 14
Thur	16	Mar	St John’s Ditton Priors Lent Lunch in the Village Hall – 12.30 – 2.30pm.
Sat	18	Mar	Chetton Church Breakfast at the Down, 9:00am – see page 14
Sat	1	Apr	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church
Sat	8	Apr	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 – 12:00
Mon	10	Apr	Easter Monday Trail, Bouncy Castle, music from Call of the Kraken at the Pheasant, Neenton, 5.00pm
Sun	23	Apr	Ditton Priors - Sunday Lunch in the Village Hall – 12.30pm
Sat	29	Apr	Coffee morning, Chetton Church – 10:00 – 12:00 – see page 14
Mon	1	May	BRIDGNORTH WALK – coffee, cake and stalls at Ditton Priors Church
Mon	1	May	Live music at the Pheasant, Neenton, to be announced.
Sun	7	May	Celebration Coronation Chicken Lunch, Chetton VH – contact Sue for details – see page 14
Mon	8	May	Coronation Garden Party at the Pheasant, Neenton
Sat	3	Jun	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church
Sat	17	Jun	Wyre Forest Big Band playing at Church House, Chetton. More details later. See page 15.
Sat	24	Jun	St John’s Ditton Priors Church Fete
Sat	1	July	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church
Sat	8	July	Ditton Priors Sponsored Walk
Sat	15	July	Neenton Fete and Duck Race at and around the Pheasant, Neenton, from 2pm – 5pm.
Sat	22	July	Ditton Priors Pimms & Puds Social Evening
Thur	3	Aug	Burwarton Show
Sat	5	Aug	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church
Thur	17	Aug	St John’s Ditton Priors – Tea Party in the Churchyard.
Thur	2	Nov	Chetton Winter Fair – do you want to book a table? Contact Sheila.

Daddy’s Hat 2023

Sincere thanks this month go to all the talented and generous performers, as well as their equally generous and appreciative audiences, who attended ten rural churches at 3pm, on ten Saturdays, throughout 2022!

From Jackfield, singer songwriter Sam Cooper, had treated Daddy’s Hat Music and Poetry to three performances during that year; in April at Billingsley (with Ragni, Bob, Emelia, Isobel, Penny & Louise), in May at Glazeley (with Mary & David Hardham, promoting Historic Churches Trust’s Ride & Stride) and in November at Aston Botterell, where Sam joined forces with Richard Fox, for some very entertaining blues and rounds. Exchanges of Richard’s recent book and Sam’s latest cd took place whilst the audience (including Reverends Val Smith and David Poyner) enjoyed Anne’s hospitality with Janet’s legendary shortbread!

Sam’s proud partner (and roadie!) Jo Briggs, commented that they both felt ‘warmly welcomed into a brilliant atmosphere, which was very open and accommodating’ ... so much so that Sam volunteered to return with his family (Dad used to drive the mobile library van into Ditton Priors until a few years ago) and sing Cohen’s Hallelujah, as a natural conclusion to the carol service at Aston Botterell, where **Daddy’s Hat resumes on Saturday March 11th at 3pm**, hopefully with members of Team Cleo’s string quartet, Jarualda, and a story to tug at the heartstrings of everyone free to come and listen again ... bring friends and smiles!

Phone Sally 01746 787419 with queries, ideas, cake, requests, performers & poems!

Useful Community Contacts - updated March 2023

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	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Buzzard community bus	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00
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 - dittonpriors@outlook.com
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
Tae kwon-do	Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday 5.45pm. 07969-996055

The future for Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon

Many of you in the Wheatland News area are patients of Brown Clee Practice and use the surgery in Ditton Priors or Stottesdon.

However, you may not be aware of the current issues faced by the practice. As a result of these issues about 40 people, including Dr Railton, attended the meeting on Tuesday to express their concern and support.

The issues were summarised by Tina Ranson, Chair of the PPG.

- Dr Railton intends to resign the Partnership as soon as practicable (this was initially going to be Christmas 2023, but there may be a little more flexibility in this now). She will continue to work as a part time GP for 2 years after she has resigned from the Partnership.
- Dr Bassett intends to continue to serve for a maximum of another 5 years.
- Dr Jones will continue to work for a maximum of another 3 years.

The Practice anticipates that it will be difficult to recruit suitable GPs who will be able to take on the Partnership for the longer term. In order to attract GPs they want to dispose of the Practice buildings in order to relieve any subsequent Partners from the associated expenses and stresses. Ideally they would like some form of local or community ownership of the buildings to provide some guarantee of the continued provision of medical services in the area. The timescale for the change of ownership would be Autumn 2023.

It is intended to form a **Steering Group** to look at options for acquisition of the buildings.

If you would like to be part of this Steering Group and contribute ideas, time and energy to this enterprise, please contact Tina Ranson at tina.ranson@outlook.com.

Rural medical practices are under considerable pressure at the moment and we have been informed that Highley Surgery is to close on 31st March. Brown Clee Medical Practice has consistently been rated one of the best in the country and we would urge you to support this effort, so we do not lose such an important local resource.

You can read the latest developments on Facebook by following the Brown Clee Medical Practice - Patient Page or if you would like to participate in the PPG, contact the Tina Ranson, Chair of the Patient Participation Group, at tina.ranson@outlook.com

David Bleser and Louise Tyson are trying to put together group of people with the necessary skills, experience and expertise to help to develop a scheme which will allow the Surgery buildings in Ditton Priors and Stottesdon, to be acquired for the community in perpetuity. David Bleser writes:

Brown Clee Surgery - update

The Steering Group that was established in September 2022 following the PPG meeting is continuing to progress and research the various options available and is now looking to expand its membership to create a formal committee and constitution. There will be a meeting of the Steering Group to this end during the week commencing 6th March.

The committee will need additional members who can provide expertise in managing and driving this forward. As you will appreciate, this is a complicated task - we are not aware of any other community undertaking such a project. The Committee will have need of financial, legal and entrepreneurial expertise. If you feel able to participate and add value to achieve what we believe to be a worthwhile goal, please get in touch with David Bleser as follows Email: david.bleser@btinternet.com