

WHEATLAND NEWS

April 2023



This month's cross comes from a disused church
near Assapol, on the island of Mull

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

Contents

Contents	2
Editorial	3
Diocese of Hereford	4
Bishop Richard's video 23 rd March – transcript.	4
The Bishop's weekly video message	5
Caring for God's Acre in April	5
Messages from the Rural Dean	6
A word about churchyards... ..	6
Readings for April 2023.....	6
Saint of the Month – St Mark. Of course.	7
The United Benefice of Brown Clee	8
Brown Clee Group News.....	8
A new Priest-in-Charge for Brown Clee - update	8
Brown Clee Community Choir	9
Ditton Priors News	10
Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon - important update.....	12
Wheathill & Loughton News.....	12
Burwarton and Cleobury North News.....	12
Cleobury North & District Village Hall.....	12
Burwarton & District WI 2023 Programme.....	12
Aston Botterell News	12
Neenton News	13
Chetton News	14
Molecule of the Month – Synthetic antibodies and protein engineering	16
Severn Valley Group of Parishes	17
Glazeley News.....	17
Billingsley News.....	18
Chelmarsh and Highley News	18
Daddy's Hat Music and Poetry in April	19
Wheatland Diary	20
The Stottesdon Group of Parishes	21
April Message	21
Stottesdon Benefice Group News	22
Sadly, we have no news this month from Cleeton, Silvington or Sidbury.....	23
Middleton Scriven News.....	23
Farlow News	23
Stottesdon News	24
Fancy being a historic researcher or a heritage detective??	24
Our Community Noticeboard	25
Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon - important update.....	25
Useful Community Contacts – updated March 2023	26
Brown Clee Surgery – update as at 20th March 2023	27

Editorial

As this goes to print, we have reached the weekend when the clocks are turned forward 1 hour to start summer time. The news from the meteorological office is that the lovely springlike weather we have been experiencing for the past couple of weeks is being replaced by colder weather again! However, the spring flowers have appeared with many displays of daffodils and primroses appearing on the roadsides and in gardens. The dawn chorus has been heard and the birds are obviously starting to nest and enjoy the warmer weather. A wonderful sign of the change in the season. We can look forward to the extended daylight hours and spending more time outside.

A further update is printed on the page 27 of this WN regarding the future of Brown Clee Surgery. Please read and give support to the request for help with maintaining this asset.

WN has news of another important asset at risk. Read about the future for Ditton Priors Local History Group and the History Centre on page 11.

In last month's Wheatland News we were hoping to commence a series of writings chronicling the activities of local farmer Richard Jones about his life on the farm with his family. Due to limitation of movement of a member of the team this has not been possible and will be included at our earliest opportunity.

With the Coronation celebrations coming up in May, time is passing quickly and we need to make sure we have all our bunting and preparations in hand. Please see the various parish news items for their plans for the event. This weekend gives us all the opportunity to tidy up and prepare the gardens and village areas to enjoy over the coming months. See the quote from Rev David Poyner on page 17 - 'all landscape is sacred; some is consecrated, some is desecrated'.

In the article about 'Caring for Gods Acre' there are interesting facts about the arrival of the martins, swifts and swallows with a request for information about these wonderful birds, particularly the swifts who travel, eat and sleep on the wing. An amazing feat carried out each year to return to the same nest built many years before.

Thank you to everyone who has responded with reports of your events and future events as they are planned. Please continue to send to your contact for your parishes as listed below. Great to see the Diary filling up! Keep it coming! The Wheatland area is a marvellous place to live.

Ed

The **deadline** for contributions for the May 2023 edition of WN will be **Monday 24th APRIL**.

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

Bishop Richard's video 23rd March – transcript.



Hello everyone and welcome to this week's video.

I hope you found our trip through the Lord's prayer over the last few weeks helpful. That teaching on prayer was provoked by the disciples' question, "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." We read frequently in the Gospels of Jesus withdrawing to pray, both before difficult decisions and after demanding ministry. There was something in the quality of those prayer that inspired imitation. We also have records of the specific words Jesus used in these prayers and in some cases the words he received from God the Father in return. I'd like to look at a couple of these as Lent ends, and we turn our attention more fully towards Holy Week and Easter.

There is an interesting exchange in John, Chapter 12 where some people from out of town ask some of the disciples if they could meet with Jesus. When Jesus is informed about this it provokes both a theological reflection and later on in verse 27 this prayer, "Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father glorify your name!" It then records a voice came from heaven saying, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." This theme of glory pops up again a chapter later when Judas leaves to betray Jesus to the authorities. You may remember attributing glory to God is one of the themes at the end of the Lord's prayer as well.

In the Lord's prayer the idea is more to do with giving God credit. In this prayer it has more to do with revealing God's character. We believe that Jesus is God's definitive revelation of himself. Jesus himself said as much when he said, "I and the Father are one." It gives the lie to the idea that thinking of Jesus as divine was a later invention of the church long after his death. From the context of the various statements he made and the furious reaction of the religious leaders in response, we know they were interpreting his claims as blasphemy. "How can you, a mere man, claim to be God," they said on one occasion. Jesus knew exactly what he was saying and they knew exactly what he meant.

But we can go deeper and ask, if Jesus is God, when does he most look like God? The miracles of healing would be a good candidate, but Jesus never uses the word glory around those. Similarly, the embracing of the outcast, particularly those defined as religiously unclean, would appeal to modern sensibilities. It might be in the clarity of his moral teaching, based as it mostly is on the laws of the Old Testament, but again, no glory is mentioned here either.

Where glory does come in is where Jesus turns his face towards Jerusalem and imminent execution. For Jesus, the greatest revelation of the nature of God is to be seen in his life ebbing away, nailed to a cross between two criminals. These are not the dynamics of power we are used to. This is not the power dynamics playing out between Vladimir Putin and the President of China in their recent state visit. The supreme glory of God is revealed in self-sacrificial love. Jesus saw his whole life as leading up to this moment. The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified says Jesus, just before his prayer to be delivered from it. He had witnessed crucifixions. He knew the real cost. Christians have had long arguments about the mechanism of this event, but what is clear is that Jesus' death effects something, it's not simply an exemplar of sacrifice. Something is to go on here in the moral economy of the universe. Justice and mercy are to be held together in almost unbearable tension. This is a revelation of God that is simply beyond philosophical reasoning. The very creator of the universe is to give himself for the re-creation not just of broken human lives but a universe out of joint as well.

Well might Jesus use the word glory of this event. This is the point from which forgiveness and redemption flow backwards and forwards in time. This is the event through which we can be forgiven and our relationship with God restored. This is supreme power shown in powerlessness.

There is much on our world that causes us to question whether God loves us. It is the glory of the cross that in the midst of the mystery is God's definitive answer, "Yes!"

+ Richard

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



The Bishop's weekly video message



Caring for God's Acre in April

April is a month to marvel at the birds returning to our shores, a true herald of spring. During the month you may witness first Martins, then Swallows and finally Swifts appearing, with the Swifts last to arrive in late April. These Swifts are at the end of a nonstop journey of over 6,000 miles from Africa; they will have been on the wing since they left the U.K. last August as they eat, drink and sleep on the wing, soaring up to 3km high and reaching speeds of 70mph.

Swifts look rather like swallows and martins but are more closely related to hummingbirds. They feed on insects and spiders, often caught high up in the sky. Spiders are known to 'balloon' to great heights, they spin a few strands of gossamer web which catches the wind and can take them long distances. Spiders have been found 5km up in the sky and in also in mid-ocean!

Swifts pair for life and return to the same nest site year after year. They tend to nest in colonies – within a hole in a cliff, wall or roof. Tall buildings with more than one story, such as churches and towers, make good nesting sites. Under church eaves is a particular favourite. It can be difficult to know exactly where swifts are nesting as the parents tend to eat the droppings of their young and so there is little or no mess beneath a swift nest and the nest itself is completely out of sight. In addition, they don't return to feed their young often, so you will not see swifts repeatedly visiting their nests with food, unlike swallows and martins. Look for swifts nipping into holes or swooping in under the eaves, particularly in the evening when they do return to their nests.

Sadly this fantastic bird is in trouble – 58% of our swifts vanished between 1996 and 2018 and lack of nesting sites is contributing to their decline. Many established swift colonies are being lost through building demolition, renovation, improvements in energy efficiency and roof repair. It is possible to do all of these important building works without adversely affecting swifts however. Many communities are helping swifts by fitting nest boxes or swift bricks into and onto buildings with good success. Church towers are ideal places for nesting boxes. Place swift boxes snugly behind the tower louvres, cutting a small hole in any bird netting which gives access into the box, but not into the whole tower. Amazingly the swifts don't seem to mind the bells! Video footage shows birds jump slightly at the first ring and then settle back down.

Please have a look for swifts in late April and if you see them whizzing around the church and churchyard then why not return a few weeks later and see if you can see where they are nesting. Please let us know what you find, email wildlife@cfga.org.uk. – from Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*

Messages from the Rural Dean

A word about churchyards...

One of the interesting – and challenging – things about being Rural Dean is that churchyard matters in vacant parishes come to rest on my desk.



Most of these are to do with memorial applications, so it's worth just saying a word about those. Any memorial in a churchyard needs permission from the vicar (or Rural Dean!) before it can be put in. Permission is usually asked for by the stonemason who makes the memorial, and there are regulations about what sort of stone can be used, the colour, design and size. This is to make sure that the memorials in the churchyard are in keeping with the church and its surroundings – not just because anyone is trying to be awkward. So it's really important that the masons are helping their clients with choosing memorials that are within the permitted regulations.

These regulations also talk about the general care of grave plots, and how these can be decorated or not. Part of those regulations tell us that artificial flowers are 'to be discouraged' – which isn't very helpful! But certainly, in this increasingly eco-aware age, we prefer real flowers to plastic ones. We are also very grateful when people tending graves are aware of the invaluable job done by those who do the mowing, and don't create obstructions to make this more difficult. And also those who put seasonal decorations on graves and then remove them at the end of that season! Christmas wreaths in the churchyard as Easter is approaching always look a bit strange...

Our churches – as I've said before – are an important part of our heritage, and churchyards are part of the churches. As such, they belong to everyone, as a record of the history of the community, and as a place of peaceful reflection. Especially as we come into the season of Easter.

Mark Daborn

Readings for April 2023

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

April 9th: Easter (White)

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-10 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 16th: The Second Sunday of Easter (White)

Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21; Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-end

April 23rd: The Third Sunday of Easter (White)

Zephaniah 3:14-end; Psalm 116:1-7; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35

April 30th: The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

Genesis 7; Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-end; John 10:1-10

May 7th: The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

Genesis 8:1-19; Psalm 31:1-5; Acts 7:55-end; John 14:1-14

Saint of the Month - St Mark. Of course.

By Preb Mark Daborn

Saint Mark is celebrated on April 25th, so he is our New Testament saint for this month. We know a little about him, can deduce a bit more, and tradition tells more again. He is mentioned, as John Mark, in both the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters. Originally a missionary companion with Paul, Mark refused to go on the second journey with him and caused a split between Paul and Barnabas, Mark's cousin. Paul's letters to the Thessalonians and to Philemon show that they were reconciled later, with Mark mentioned warmly in the greetings sections of those letters.

Mark is also mentioned in St. Peter's first letter. This ties in with the tradition that the Gospel attributed to St. Mark is derived from the memories or preaching of Peter. The Gospel itself may have been written in Alexandria or in Rome, but tradition tells us that Mark took down the story from Peter in the latter's last days in Rome before Peter was crucified in Nero's persecution of Christians. This could explain why this gospel appears most critical of the slow understanding of the disciples: who is more entitled to make that criticism than their leader?

Questioning always exists about the authenticity of the attributed writers of the Gospels but it has been pointed out that Mark was quite a minor figure in New Testament times: anyone wishing to gain credence for their account of Jesus' life by attaching it to a famous name would hardly have chosen Mark! Moreover, Mark may also appear in his own Gospel story. His is the only account of the events after the Last Supper to mention a youth who followed Jesus at a distance after the arrest, clad only in a sheet. When he was spotted by the soldiers, he was only able to make his escape by slipping off the sheet and running away naked. Perhaps this is the author himself, making a cameo appearance in his own story!

This fits with the tradition that the Last Supper took place in the house owned by Mark's mother. If this is the case, then Mark may well have been in bed and asleep, wrapped only in his linen sheet, when Jesus and the disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane; wrapping that sheet around himself, perhaps, he followed them, witnessed Jesus' agonised prayers, the betraying kiss of Judas and the flight of the disciples. And who else could know about that ignominious flight back into the city when some quick-eyed, quick-footed soldier made a grab at the corner of his sheet?

For a long time, it was thought that Mark's gospel was just a summary of the longer version of St. Matthew. More recent scholarship indicates that Mark's is the oldest of the Gospels that survive. It is an immediate, compelling and pounding story, from the banks of the Jordan and John the Baptist calling the people to repentance, to the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. Of all the gospels, it is the one to read first, and to read at a single sitting: it takes us into the presence of Christ through the memory of his friend St. Peter.

MD



Stained glass window from St Mark's Anglican Church, High Prairie, Alberta.

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 April

<p>Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Aston Botterell</p> <p>Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday</p> <p>19:00 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>Friday 7th April – Good Friday</p> <p>10:00 Ref Ditton Priors</p> <p>Sunday 9th April – Easter Day</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>Sunday 16th April – Easter 2</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Neenton</p> <p>14:30 HC Loughton</p>	<p>Sunday 23rd April – Easter 3</p> <p>08:30 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>09:45 HC Chetton</p> <p>11:30 HC Cleobury North</p> <p>Sunday 30th April – Easter 4</p> <p>10:15 GpHC Aston Botterell</p> <p>Sunday 7th May -</p> <p>09:45 HC Ditton Priors</p> <p>11:30 HC Aston Botterell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>HC – Holy Communion Ref – Reflection GpHC – Group Holy Communion</i></p>
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A new Priest-in-Charge for Brown Clee - update

The process to appoint a new Priest in Charge for Brown Clee Benefice is under way and ongoing. An announcement will be made in churches in the near future.



Brown Clee Community Choir

Open to all ages and abilities!!!

New members welcome!!!

No auditions!!!

Brown Clee Community Choir was set up several years ago by Karen Kirkland, our Musical Director from Shropshire Music Service. We are a small group of singers who meet on Tuesday evenings at Brown Clee Primary School (during term times) from 6pm to 6.45pm. We sing a mixed repertoire of film, pop, folk and traditional songs including pieces written by local composers.

We are a community choir, self-funding and supporting local charities. Last year, we took part in The Ludlow Big Sing, Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre and joined in with Of One Accord, the mixed voice choir from Shrewsbury, at our Christmas concert held at the church in Ditton Priors.

Our next concert is planned for Saturday 17th June 2023 at Ditton Priors Village Hall. "Of One Accord" will be joining us. More details will follow next month.

If you would like to join us, then please get in touch. Contact Ruth on BrownCleeChoir@gmail.com

Ditton Priors Pitstop

Monday, 1st May 2023

in and around

St. John the Baptist Church

(Bridgnorth Lions Walk & Marathon Day)

from 10:30 am

Refreshments & Cake in the Church

**BBQ • Sweet Stall • Ice Cream
Milkshakes • Lucky Dip • Tombola
Book Stall**

Buz Beats Radio

Shout out to your friends & family
via the blue button on the website:

www.buzbeats.co.uk



Neenton PCC FAF group

TABLE TOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Cleobury North Village Hall

Saturday 22nd April 2023

10am - 12 Noon

Join us for a cuppa , cake ,
catch up & a bargain!

If you would like to have a table please call:
Dot 01746 712548 • Tables £10



We will also be accepting donations on the day for the tombola stall at the Duck Race in July

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

From Ditton Priors Registers

Dr Michael Kirk, 4th March – Funeral and Burial

May they rest in peace.

Mrs Kathleen Clee, 11th March – Funeral & Burial

The Churchyard

The PCC would like to thank all those who have cleared graves of all spent Christmas wreaths. There is still work to do as the mowing season begins. To this we would request that floral tributes / vases be placed at the headstone or in the approximate position where a headstone, cross or other memorial would be, had there been one.

The churchyard has to be maintained by the PCC for all to use and for years to come. We need to allow this maintenance to be as simple as possible. Thank you.



Church Notice Board

The Church notice board has now been fully restored and reinstated. We are extremely grateful to Sarah who carried out the restoration and organised the funding. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Ditton Priors PCC

Cleaning rota

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday 2nd April Mr & Mrs Graham Russell ● Sunday 9th April Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell ● Sunday 16th April Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday 23rd April Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths ● Sunday 30th April Mr & Mrs John Ballard ● Sunday 7th May Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
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St John the Baptist 100 Club results for March

- £20 Annie Bamford
- £10 Gill Severn
- £5 each to: Jenny Rowland, Molly Casswell and Emma Rowson.

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.

First Saturday of the month coffee mornings:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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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Ditton Priors Local History Group at a Turning Point.....

When you visit Ditton Priors Surgery, do you ever wonder why there is an enormous map in a frame on the wall of the waiting room?

Some 20 years ago, the late Dr Groves rescued this 1768 estate map from being consigned to the bonfire. A local historian, Di Bryan, took up the cudgels, formed the Ditton Priors Local History Group and won a £30,000 grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund which paid for the conservation and framing of the map, and further research into the history of the Village.

The legacy of the group is a treasure-trove of artefacts, documents and photographs which can be seen in The Local History Centre, housed next to the Willows Café. Our local community is indebted to Rona Cobb and Graham Till (pictured), who, for many years, have opened the Centre on Saturday mornings to keep the collection accessible to everyone.

But time moves on. Many of the members from those early days have moved away or passed away. Graham and Rona have decided that it is now time for them to say – ‘enough’, and to move on with the good wishes and endless gratitude from so many people.



At a recent meeting it became clear that without new supporters the History Group will fold and the History Centre in all likelihood be mothballed. This would be a tragedy, so Paul Wilson volunteered to lead efforts to find out if there is sufficient appetite for things historical in this extraordinary village to keep the History Group alive.

If you think this amazing treasure trove should be preserved, please email Paul paul.wilson8992@gmail.com so that you can be added to the LHG circulation list. It does not involve making commitments or taking on responsibilities but, if there is enough interest, Paul will organise a further meeting to establish what future activities would win the support of the local community. *CCJ for PW*

Dates for your Diary

- 23rd April – (Sunday) SUNDAY ROAST (or similar) in VILLAGE HALL 12.30pm
- 1st May (Monday) THE BRIDGNORTH WALK – Church will be open from 10:30 am for coffee & cakes.
- 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
- 7th October (Saturday) – Harvest Supper in the Village Hall
- 28th October (Saturday) – Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir in the Village Hall.

Apologies for cancelling the Lent Lunch.

We made the decision when we were deep in snow and it seemed most appropriate with unsettled weather ahead.

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon - important update

Please make sure that you read the very important information on page 27 of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates. A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 4th April at Ditton Priors Village Hall.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

Church services during April and May

- ✝ Sunday 16th April – Holy Communion at Loughton Church at 2.30pm, again to be led by our Rural Dean, Preb Mark Daborn.
- ✝ Sunday 21st May -6:00 pm at Wheathill Church.

Cleaning at Wheathill

Is **anyone** willing and able to **help clean** Wheathill church? We are **desperate** for people to help. We also need a **caretaker**. If anyone is interested, please ring Ruby on 01584-823234 or Marjorie Jones on 712423.

Burwarton and Cleobury North News

Lottery winners

- 1st – Jane Bufton
- 2nd – Will Worthington
- 3rd – Jessica Radnor

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!).

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 - March

- £20 – Sam Jones, no 16
- £10 each to Rebecca Green, no 214 and Lord Boyne, no 113
- £5 each to Rachel Whiteman, no 80, and Vera Jones, no 60.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Services at All Saints' Church

Our Mothering Sunday Morning Praise service led by Dot was a true thanksgiving for all the mothers and people who care throughout the world. We were joined by the benefice choir which swelled the singing with the excellent acoustics of Neenton church. Candles were lit and all the congregation received a paper heart to remember those in their own lives at this time. Colourful plants were handed to everyone as they left the church to continue the theme of caring, hope and thanks.

The services for April, including Easter, are listed under the Brown Clee Benefice News.

Valentine Sydney "Val" Bryan - 14th February 1930 - 23rd February 2023

A large congregation met on Saturday 25th March 2023 at the Parish Church of All Saints, Neenton, to say their farewells to 'wonderful' Val at a service conducted by Prebendary Mark Daborn.

Val lived in Billingsley with his parents Sidney and Lucy Bryan. He went to Bridgnorth Grammar School after which he joined the Royal Air Force for National Service. He returned to work at his parents' farm and, on the termination of the tenancy, to follow his love of farming he bought New Park Farm, Neenton where he continued to look after his dairy herd.

Val's passion for flying in his spare time took him to Shobdon Airfield and his membership of The Flying Farmers where he spent many enjoyable and exciting hours with his flying friends.

Val also had a keen interest in nature and devoted his time to planting and nurturing his own wood. On his 80th birthday this wood was officially designated in his name as 'Valentine's Wood' on the Ordnance Survey map for the area.

Val will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. He was a fantastic 'dad', 'grandad' and 'great-grandad'.

Val met June in Spain in March 1998 and they were married in Jamaica in December of the same year.

June has special memories of Val which will always be a comfort to her, and she is proud of the lovely life he shared with her and all her family.

June wishes to express special thanks to Preb Mark Daborn for his help and support at this time and to all the people who have sent their thoughts and messages of Val.

Val is now resting in peace in his wood.

Fun & Fundraising - (FAF) Group

A Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning is being held on Saturday 22nd April in Cleobury North Village Hall – details on page 9. All welcome.

Retirement

We wish Wende Lloyd a restful and happy retirement after her magnificent work with Little Explorers. She will be greatly missed by all the children who have passed through the pre-school, and we look forward to continuing our contact with Wende at the Neenton Duck Race & Fete in July when many of her previous children will be able to join her in the fun of the day.



All Saints Tote – March – congratulations to our winners

- 1st prize – Pam Knowles
- 2nd prize – Toni Cartwright

The Pheasant at Neenton

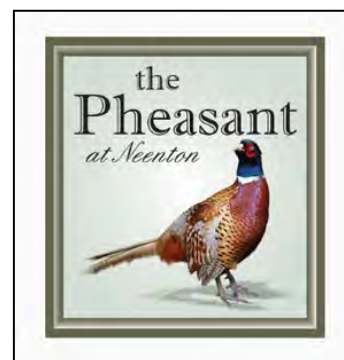
Opening times –

- 🌀 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 from “Call of the Kraken” at 5pm:
- Monday 1st May – Live music
- Monday 8th May – Coronation Garden Party
- Saturday 15th July - Duck Race & Fete 2pm – 5pm.



Chetton News

Pam Downing writes:

Services at St Giles' Church

- ✝ Just one service during April - Sunday 23rd, 9.45am – Holy Communion.
- ✝ On Sunday 28th May, 10.15am (Pentecost) we are pleased to say that Bishop Richard is joining us to lead our service. This will be followed by light refreshments. There will be plenty of parking spaces near the Church.

Flowers and Cleaning

Lisa and Zena.

100 Club Winners

- £15.00 Jessica Ralph, no 40
- £10.00 Thomas Mundy, no 55

Dates for your diaries

We are holding our **Spring coffee morning** in Church on Saturday 29th April, 10am – 12pm. Do come along for coffee and chat.

Looking ahead to Saturday 17th June, we will be welcoming the **Wyre Forest Big Band** for another “**Chetfest**” in the garden of Church House courtesy of Charles & Lisa. They play a variety of music, big band, jazz, swing, rock ‘n’ roll etc. Come and join us, bring your own picnic and enjoy the beautiful garden. £10.00 per person, children free. This will be an early evening event, time to be confirmed in next month’s news.

Chetton Village Hall

Calling all gardeners!

We are taking part in the **RHS Big Seed Sow**.

The hall will be open from 10-11am on Sunday 2nd April, everyone is welcome to join in and sow seed of their choice and take them away to watch them grow. It's a great way to introduce children to growing plants and edibles. All trays, compost, seed and instruction is free of charge. Enquiries on 01746 789239.



<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/big-seed-sow>

Plant sale

This will be held on Sunday 21st May, between 10 and noon. Refreshments available.

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. Please let me know on the above number whether you wish to attend the lunch at 1 pm on Sunday 7th May, as places are limited.

Exercise Classes

- Pam's Pilates, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning 9.30 am.
- Chetton Active Friends, Mondays from 2pm.
- We are hoping that Zumba will resume on Tuesdays at 2.30 during April. Lisa is away at present due to illness.

Village Hall Enquiries – Sue, on 01746 789239

Molecule of the Month - Synthetic antibodies and protein engineering



This month, Molecule of the Month looks at the work of one of my colleagues at Aston University, Professor Anna Hine. Anna is a molecular biologist who works with DNA.

Anna writes:

“Antibodies are one of our major lines of defence against infection and our bodies can create them very quickly to help incapacitate a multitude of biological invaders. Humans do this by changing the part of the antibody that recognises the invading pathogen, though a process of rapid, natural mutation. Protein engineers have learned to mimic this process in the laboratory to create synthetic antibodies for use in both therapy and fundamental research.”



“I am a protein engineer. I use our knowledge of how the instructions in our DNA blueprints are used to make proteins to create new and useful synthetic proteins not available to us in nature’s repertoire. Similar to the natural mutation of antibodies, protein engineers can make vast numbers of tiny variations of a protein such as an antibody. They do this to find the proverbial “needle in a haystack” – a protein (or antibody) that does exactly what is needed.”

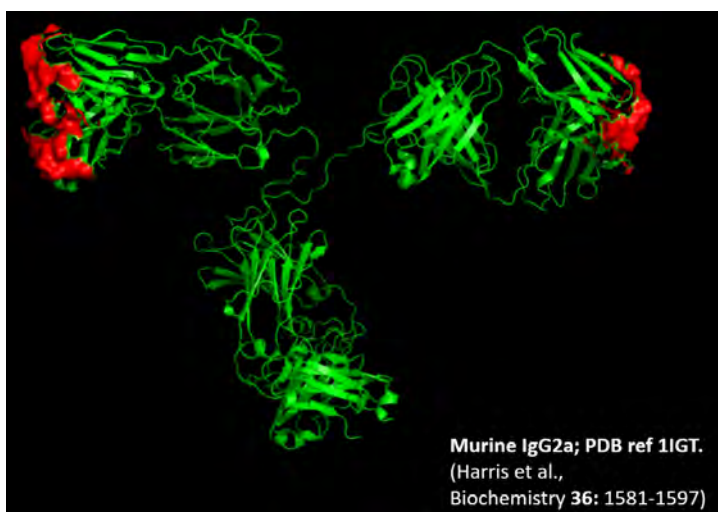
Anna’s research group make vast numbers (trillions!) of DNA blueprints to create a DNA “library”; each molecule of DNA in their library will produce a slightly different version of the protein molecule, so they end up with a protein “library”. They have produced novel ways of doing this as well as solutions to the ensuing problem of how to find the few proteins that they really want from within the protein library. This includes collaborating with experts who specialise in computer-assisted library design, and also working with those who have developed the latest methods to search the libraries that we make.

Anna’s research group’s inventions in making DNA libraries have been used to make both synthetic antibodies for use in treating and diagnosing disease (see Isogenica.com) but, in her current research, her group is now collaborating with colleagues in Switzerland and Germany to make synthetic proteins to replace the antibodies used in research altogether! These new proteins aren’t antibodies at all, but are far more simple, stable and thus more suited to use in a research lab.

**Please pray for Anna and her colleagues
in their work.**

David Poyner

*Figure 1 Structure of an antibody.
The regions in red are the “hypervariable” regions;
the business end of antibodies that recognise
different targets. These are what Anna changes in
her work.*



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
St Mary, Billingsley CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley CHURCHWARDENS Vacant

Glazeley News

Marion Corfield and David Poyner write:

Services for April 2023

✝ Sunday 9th April 2023 - Holy Communion at 10am

Breakfast at The Down

Our breakfast will be on Saturday April 22nd 2023 at 9.00 am.

Please make sure to bring cash to pay for your breakfast as Andy Johnson will be collecting money from you individually as you come in!

A Gentle Stroll

We had a good turn-out for our Sunday afternoon walk from Glazeley Church at the start of March, with nine humans, two dogs and one vicar, drawn from Glazeley, Billingsley and Highley. I am not sure what to call these walks; I advertised this in some quarters as “Forest Church”, but the church was just the very lightest of touches, with simply an opening thought (“all landscape is sacred; some is consecrated, some is desecrated”). Perhaps the best I can do is to borrow a title from the writer and “Thought for the Day” presenter Brian Draper who has published a book called “Soulful Nature”; the spiritual nourishment comes simply from being in the open with like-minded people where you can talk or contemplate as you wish. I hope to be running monthly Sunday afternoon soulful strolls over the next few months; on Sunday 16th April we will meet outside Chelmarsh church at 2pm, perhaps for a gentle walk around the reservoir. All are welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Glazeley Church on Thursday 13th April at 7pm; everyone interested in the church is welcome. This is where we “elect” the parochial church council; effectively the group of people who help run the church. We would especially welcome anyone who wants to join. The work is not particularly hard, we mostly deal with matters by email and telephone. The most important quality is the ability to say “Good idea vicar, but have you thought about....”.

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:

For updates on our “soulful strolls”, please read the Glazeley news above; also for the next breakfast at the Down and the appeal for more people to help run the church via the PCC. As mentioned last month, we still **desperately need** someone to volunteer to help run the 100 Club when Sue Bates leaves us.

I hope by the time this article appears we will have restored the water supply to the church and the toilet will again be functional. The pump is being replaced; many thanks to Phil Bates for tracing the problem and fixing it. This, incidentally, is a good example of why we are so keen to continue with the 100 Club; the funds from this have paid for the replacement. Just a few years ago, we simply could not have afforded this.

Our Sunday evening services start again in April. These are normally at 6pm on the second Sunday of the month but because that is Easter Day, just for April it will be on Palm Sunday, 2nd April. The theme is “The very stones will cry out”; some words of Jesus to the Pharisees on Palm Sunday who wanted him to quieten the crowd who were celebrating his arrival into Jerusalem. In this case, we will look at the how the stones in Billingsley church and churchyard tell their own story of the faith of our community, going back to around 3000BC. On Easter Sunday itself, we celebrate the first communion in the benefice at 8am, where we will use the Easter Sepulchre in the wall of the church as focus for or celebrations of the Resurrection. If you do not know what an Easter Sepulchre is, come to the church the week before...

David Poyner – Associate Minister

Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693

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

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 and Highley News

Elizabeth Bebb writes:

March has so far come in like a lion! We hope it goes out like a lamb and beautiful weather is resumed toward Easter.

The most important news we have to share is that the Reverend Kina Robertshaw will be joining us as the new Rector of the Benefice from the 18th April. She will be sworn in by the Bishop at a service to be held on the evening of the **18th April at 7pm at Highley Church**, all are welcome and we hope you will join us in this celebration. There will be refreshments afterward in the village hall. Rev’d Robertshaw’s first service to be held in St. Peter’s Chelmarsh will be on April 30th. It would be wonderful if you could join us for this event.

- ✝ Please note that there will be a service on Easter Day, 9th April at 10am at Chelmarsh
- ✝ and one the following week on the 16th April when Holy Communion will be held at 10am.
- ✝ There is no service scheduled for 23rd April (note the change to the usual 2nd and 4th week schedule). As noted above there is also the 10am service scheduled for 30th April at St. Peter’s.

The PCC has been busy ensuring the church is fit for purpose. New shelves have been fitted in the vestry and a clear out has improved the space considerably. The electrics have been checked and we await the findings of the quinquennial report.

Our APCM (the annual meeting for St. Peter's, Chelmarsh) will be held on the 25th April in St. Peter's church. This meeting is open to everyone and we invite you to attend.

Ahead of the APCM we would also like to draw your attention to the **vacancy we have for a churchwarden(s)** at St. Peter's. If anyone is interested in hearing more about this position please contact Elizabeth_bebb@hotmail.com (07971 465811) or speak to someone at the church.

In April we also look forward to the christening of Alex Joseph Richardson to be held at St Peter's.

Table Top Sale – to be held on Saturday 13th May 2023 at Chelmarsh Village Hall. For more details or to book a table please speak to Anita Manley, Michelle Russon or Liz Bebb.

Church cleaning Wednesday 19th April at 2.00pm.



Daddy's Hat presents

Marcia and Ami

Playing beautiful music
Traditional tunes from the British Isles
Banjo picking numbers from America
and Klezmer tunes.



"Wonderful musicians, not to be missed!"

All Saints' Church, Claverley, WV5 7DT
Saturday 15th April at 3:00 pm
By kind invitation of the Rev'd Garry Ward
Free entry, hat collection to cover costs,
refreshments afterwards.



Daddy's Hat Music and Poetry in April

After a false start in March – the weather put paid to plans for the Aston Botterell event – DHM&P is putting on a real treat in Claverley on 15th April. **Marcia and Ami**, who played at the Orchid Walk hosted in Wheathill on 19th June last year (see July 22 WN), bring with them to Claverley some musical friends, and memories of sunshine, the perfume of summer grass and flowers, and conviviality.

Sally hopes that the 2023 programme will continue without flood or pestilence and be great fun for everyone! More next month.

Wheatland Diary

Sat	1	Apr	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church
Sun	2	Apr	RHS Big Seed Sow – Chetton VH – see page 15
Tue	4	Apr	Brown Clee Surgery Patients' Group – important – see page 27 feature.
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
Sat	15	Apr	Daddy's Hat Music and Poetry – All Saints' Church Claverley, 3:00pm – see page 19.
Sun	16	Apr	Soulful Stroll with Rev'd David Poyner – from Chelmarsh Church at 2pm – see page 17.
Sat	22	Apr	Table-Top Sale and Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH. See poster on page 9.
Sat	22	Apr	Breakfast at The Down with Glazeley Church – see page 17.
Sun	23	Apr	Ditton Priors - Sunday Lunch in the Village Hall – 12.30pm
Sat	29	Apr	Spring Coffee morning, Chetton Church – 10:00 – 12:00 – see page 14.
Mon	1	May	BRIDGNORTH WALK – coffee, cake and stalls at Ditton Priors Church -see Pit Stop, page 9.
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
Sun	7	May	Coronation Celebration and Plant Sale – Middleton Scriven Church, 2:00pm – 5:00pm – see page 23.
Mon	8	May	Coronation Garden Party at the Pheasant, Neenton
Sat	13	May	Table-Top Sale – Chelmarsh Village Hall – see page 19.
Sun	21	May	Plant Sale – Chetton VH – 10:00 – 12 noon – see page 15.
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 14.
Sat	17	Jun	Brown Clee Community Choir - concert at Ditton Priors VH. See page 9.
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.
Sat	7	Oct	Ditton Priors Harvest Supper, Ditton Priors VH.
Sat	28	Oct	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir, Ditton Priors VH.
Thur	2	Nov	Chetton Winter Fair – do you want to book a table? Contact Sheila.

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: Prebendary Mark Daborn

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE

Telephone 01746-718127. Email mark.daborn55@outlook.com

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

April Message

Churches and The Church

As I write, we are still waiting for a structural engineer's visit to Cleeton, and for the builders to finish work on the inside of Stottesdon. This is inconvenient. But members of the Stottesdon congregation are being very good about going round the other churches in pursuit of their weekly service, and if that helps with creating more of an identity as a benefice, so much the better. I'm hoping that having all our Annual Meetings at the same time in the same place will contribute to that as well. See the notice below!

The notion of all one church is very important. Although our local village or town church is important in its community and for community events, The Church is the whole world population of Christians. That's a big idea to grapple with, and it helps to begin small, as it were. Your parish, one of the seventeen covered by Wheatland News, belongs to a group of parishes that is looked after by a member of the clergy. That group, or benefice, belongs to the deanery, which is made up of all the parishes in the Bridgnorth area. The deanery is a part of Hereford Diocese, under the shepherding of Bishop Richard. As the bishop himself says often, the Diocese is all of us, not just the office staff in Hereford.

The Church is often divided by contentious issues; this is not surprising as it's made up of ordinary fallible human beings! But in this month when we celebrate Easter, it's important to remember what we share in common.

First, that we follow Jesus as disciples, just as his first disciples did. That means we read and hear and talk about what Jesus did and said, and do our best to live in conformity with his teaching.

Second, that we believe that in Jesus we can see something of the nature of God, who is our creator, and we can see the amazing potential of our own humanity.

Third, that the Easter story tells us of the deep, unmeasurable love that God has for every single one of us, individually and collectively, and for His whole creation; and that we should be open to it, so that it fills us to overflowing.

Any little human disagreements we may have pale into insignificance beside these three astounding ideas. So this Easter season, whichever church we happen to be worshipping in, let's remember that it's the same God we worship, and he is there, ever the same, ever reaching out to us with his love.

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches – April 2023

-	-		-	-
-				-
-	Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday			-
-	09:00	SC	Farlow	-
	10:30	PS	Sidbury	
	Good Friday, 7th April			
	6:30pm	HC	Sidbury	
	Saturday 8th April – Easter Eve			
	6:30pm	HC & EV	Middleton Scriven	
-	Sunday 9th April – Easter Day			-
	10:30	HCE	Silvington	
-	11:00	HC	Farlow	-
	Sunday 16th April – Second of Easter			
	10:30	IW	Farlow	
	11:30	HC	Sidbury	
-	Sunday 23rd April – Third of Easter			-
	09:00	HC	Silvington	
-	10:30	HC	Farlow	-
	Sunday 30th April – Fourth of Easter			
	10:30	GpHC	Farlow	
-	-	-	-	-

HC
Holy Communion

GpHC
Group Holy Communion

HC EV
Holy Communion Easter Vigil

HCE
Holy Communion by Extension

SC
Said Communion

PS
Palm Sunday Service

Stottesdon and Cleeton Churches are currently closed because of building needs, so services for this month have needed some rearranging, as shown. For the same reason, regrettably, we cannot provide information about the service on 7th May. All times and locations are correct as we go to press, but you may wish to check with your churchwarden or on the website.

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 April edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Friday 21st April Thanks!

Annual Meetings for the Stottesdon Benefice Parishes

All six of our annual meetings will take place together this year:

- Location: Farlow and Oretton Village Hall
- Date: Saturday 15th April
- Time: 10 am to approximately noon

All members of our communities are welcome to come to these meetings to hear the reports and catch up with what is happening in the churches.

Sadly, we have no news this month from Cleeton, Silvington or Sidbury.

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Easter Eve, April 8th:

- ✝ 6:30 pm Easter Vigil Holy Communion at Middleton Scriven.

Coffee Mornings

Unfortunately, the March coffee morning was cancelled due to snow and ice! Our next coffee morning in church will be on Saturday 8th April, 10:00 – 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome. Do come and have a cup of coffee/ tea and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Community Coronation Celebration and Annual Plant Sale!

Our Annual Plant sale will be held at our Community Coronation celebration shared Afternoon Tea on Sunday May 7th, 2-5pm at church. Look out for more details and your invitation to the Middleton Scriven Community Coronation event.

Farlow News

Janice Howells sent this very welcome first recent news from FARLOW - thank you!!

Farlow Church will be decorated red, white and blue to celebrate the **Coronation of King Charles III** on Sunday 7th May. More details next month.

Easter Coffee Morning: 10am-12pm Saturday 1st April. All welcome!

March 100 Club winners

- £20 Mike & Pam Winters
- £10 each to Neville Carter and Nigel Savage-Bailey
- £5 each to Ken Howells and Ted & Sheila.

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Stottesdon 100 club

Congratulations to March winners - the Overton family, Peter Backhouse and Rachael Tibbits.

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

Chris Tibbits writes:

After the exceptionally dry February we enjoyed just weeks ago, March turned out to be one of the wettest on record. So what stage did the project reach? Well yes, Dave, Clive and Mac set about digging out for the new drains and soakaways!! Great timing, or what? Still there was plenty of 'inside' work for those who fancied a bit of dry – with the Wrickton Aisle and Baptistry ceilings all thoroughly cleaned, repaired and repainted. Mike even had time to work on the new servery/kitchen cupboards!

More on this next month – and the promised report on the archaeology into the bargain.



Taken from Rev'd Edward Williams Sketches, British Library.

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

Brown Clee Surgery at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon - important update

Please make sure that you read the very important information on page 27 of this edition of WN, and, if you're interested, get on the mailing list for further updates. A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 4th April at Ditton Priors Village Hall.

Cleobury Country Farmers Market - 15th April

...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.

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

Brown Clee Surgery - update as at 20th March 2023

The three Doctors at Brown Clee are all planning to retire within the next five years.

- Dr Railton (December 2023),
 - Dr Jones (2025) and
 - Dr Bassett (2027).

This means, that the recruitment of new GPs is an absolute priority, however there is a nationwide shortage of Doctors and rural Practices are finding it particularly hard to fill vacancies. It is also highly unlikely that any new GPs will want to buy the surgery premises.

Therefore, the Partners want to sell the Practice buildings, ideally to patients, or a locally based charitable organisation set up to keep the buildings as a Community Asset. The sale of the buildings can happen during 2023 if suitable arrangements can be agreed.

The Patient Group is trying to support the Practice:

1. **Disposal of the buildings:** Currently a Committee is looking at ways in which the premises at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon can be acquired, and the ways that patients can help this process.
2. **Recruitment of GPs:** Dr Pamela Yuille is using her contacts to develop ideas to promote Brown Clee Practice to newly qualified GPs, and Doctors who may wish to bring up their family in a rural setting.
3. **Showing how much we value our Practice:** mobilising the 4,000-strong patient base to harness your ideas and your talents to help the Practice.

The Patient Group meets 4 times a year and the next meeting is

Tuesday 4th April at Ditton Priors Village Hall.

Doors open at 6.30 and the meeting starts at 7.00 pm.

Dr Railton will be there and will give an update and answer questions. There will also be an opportunity to learn about how the patient community might be able to buy the Surgery premises, and to hear from a representative of Shropshire Integrated Care Board about what support they can offer.

Our visitor from the Shropshire Integrated Care Board needs to see how much support the Practice has, and to realise how vital it is to put real effort in to find new Doctors who want to look after us all.

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING.

BY TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE PATIENT GROUP, YOU CAN HELP TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE DOCTORS WHO HAVE GIVEN US ALL SUCH OUTSTANDING CARE OVER SO MANY YEARS.

If you are unable to attend, but wish to receive a summary of the meeting, please send me your email address.

Tina Ranson Chair of the Brown Clee Patients Group

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24th Shropshire Vintage Tractor Road Run

This took place on Sunday 26th March, making for an enjoyable day for all, and raising money for the Midlands Air Ambulance, should anyone wish to make a donation in recognition of this. It was great to see the cavalcade passing by Neenton Church. We'll just hope for some sunshine for next year's run!

Spring Blossom in the churchyard of St Mary's Sutton Maddock.

Yes, well outside the Wheatland area, and in the diocese of Lichfield! The team at Badger Print, who print the Wheatland News, are just next door, and it is a real treat to pass by this peaceful church when we collect the magazine for distribution.

Thank you Badger!

