

WHEATLAND NEWS

July 2023



July 19th – Confirmation Service at Stottesdon

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

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Editorial

This month

we shall be going through a period of change as Prebendary Mark Daborn prepares to retire at the end of August from his position as Rural Dean and also he will be leaving his parishes of the Stottesdon Group and we welcome the Revd Joe Simons to Brown Clee Benefice.

Preb Mark has supported Brown Clee Benefice throughout the interregnum as well as several other benefices going through similar vacancies. We welcome messages to Preb Mark for the next edition of WN and photographs and reports from any events happening across the area. While we are very sorry to lose our wonderful RD, all the parishes look forward to seeing him and saying their own farewells to Mark and Alex over the next couple of months. And we're delighted that he will continue to send us our monthly Saint for a little while too!

Revd Joe has written an open letter on page 11 explaining his current situation – our prayers are with him and his family at this time.

This month we've also included an article about the work of the Diocese in education – see page 5.

We are essentially a social community and this is a time for us all to come together in solidarity, acknowledging our interdependence and the need to work together in faith, hope and love. See Preb Mark's message on page 7.



Ed

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for contributions for the July 2023 edition of WN will be **Monday 24th July. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.**

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

July Newsletter from the Bishop of Hereford



Dear Friends

June marked the 25th anniversary of Refugee Week (19 – 25th June). People were invited to celebrate what compassion looks like in action so, I was proud to support the launch of a fundraising campaign, set up by our Diocesan Mothers' Union. They are supporting those who are seeking asylum who are currently housed at The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford. They are raising cash to offer each person the dignity of choosing basic clothing items.

Asylum Seekers are the real face of refugees in our midst – 'the stranger.' They flee their countries of origin often in fear, searching for something better, the freedom to live and eventually contribute through work. They find themselves in a strange place, reliant on the mercy and generosity of others – us.

I was reminded how vulnerable we are when we rely on the generosity of others during my recent visit to Nuremberg. The kindness and generosity of my hosts were gratefully received, and I am thankful for our strong links of friendship with the German diocese of Nuremberg which have stood the test of time for over 30 years. I was there, visiting the Evangelical Lutheran Churches biennial Kirchentag. Despite being post-Brexit, I was warmly welcomed, and Bishop Elizabeth and her husband made our stay easy. Even with our different languages, cultures and histories, we are genuinely brothers and sisters through our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

It is a healthy part of Christian discipleship to get out of our comfort zone. To be in Germany, a country I am not that familiar with, forced a certain dependence. My hosts gave me accommodation, fed me and provided a huge amount of inside information to help enrich my stay. There is a rich tradition of such Christian hospitality going back to the earliest times, particularly to foreigners and strangers.

In Deuteronomy 10 we read, "the great God mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you, yourself were foreigners in Egypt."

We have an opportunity to offer such hospitality to people who have arrived in our midst and live out the commandment in Deuteronomy 10. The writer of Deuteronomy doesn't speculate on whether the foreigners were smuggled into Israel slung under a camel. The sole criterion to help was the need.

I am very proud of our Diocesan Mothers' Union who are seeking to provide support to our refugee friends. You can still give to the clothing appeal by arranging a retiring collection at a service and donating the proceeds online or if you can donate directly, please give what you can. [All the details are on the website](#). Please be generous.

+ Richard

At the end of his time in Germany attending the biennial Kirchentag, Bishop Richard's moving message comes from the Nuremberg Stadium. He reflects on the ease with which madness overtook the world, and the challenges today for all Christians.

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

The Bishop's weekly video message



The work of Hereford Diocese in Education

One in every four primary schools in England, and one in twenty of the secondary schools, is a Church of England School. Across the Diocese of Hereford there are 78 Church Schools, three of which are in the Wheatland News area – Brown Clee, Stottesdon and Farlow.

Canon Andrew Teale, the Diocesan Director of Education, writes a weekly bulletin on the Diocese website, which may be of interest to all teachers and parents: it is open to anyone to subscribe. As the long summer holiday races closer, we're including a page here about how the Diocese Education Team has been celebrating the end of the school year. Here are some extracts from a recent bulletin.

“June 22nd was the day dedicated to our Year 6 children who are coming to the end of their time at primary school and preparing to the move to their new secondary school. Over 800 children from 43 of our 78 CE schools came to Hereford Cathedral. I think that is absolutely brilliant. I know it isn't possible for everyone, but it is great to see so many of our schools gathered together to worship and celebrate.

The Cathedral was filled with children who have spent their first years (perhaps all 7) in a Church of England Primary School. Most of those children will *not* be heading to a Church of England *Secondary* School. There are only three CofE secondary schools in our whole diocese, so unless they are heading to Ludlow CE School or The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School or The Hereford (CE) Academy, they will be going to a community secondary school. Many of these are also wonderful establishments where children will still flourish into young adults and gain a great education. However, there will, I think it is fair to say, be less emphasis on the development of spiritual wellbeing and routes to personal faith.

Our three Church secondaries think very carefully about their distinctive and inclusive Church School ethos. The recent SIAMs** at The Hereford (CE) Academy, was a really intense process of scrutiny which examined the difference that the ethos and distinctive culture makes for the young people who attend. How well developed is the worship and prayer-life of the school? Only the CE secondary schools in the diocese go through that process. We have so few Church secondary schools, that the ‘growing faith’ work, which aims to combine teaching and experiences at home, in church and at school, loses one of its key anchor points. The reliance from Year 7 therefore often falls upon church and home to a large extent. Yet most of young people are not in church and have no connection to one (unless they maintain one they built while at primary school). That just leaves the option to grow faith in the home environment alone.

We don't expect our Year 6 children to have developed a fully matured faith by the time they leave primary or perhaps even secondary school, but we do aim to have given them some experience and opportunities to have an encounter with God and to gain some sense of what that feels like. They will have regularly sung songs of praise with their friends. They will have regularly prayed together. They will have been quiet together and been joyful together. They will have been called to and sent away from worship with reverence and respect. They will have enjoyed fellowship as a diverse group from different faith backgrounds and learned that they are all known and loved by God, just as they are.

June 21st was national “Thank a Teacher Day” and so a sincere, thank you all for everything you are doing in support of schools, at every level in schools across the diocese. Your work to keep our schools as places of sanctuary for every child and young person who crosses the threshold, is vitally important and will be, for many, life changing.”

**The Church of England operates an inspection regime for its schools, called SIAMs – the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.





Caring for God's Acre: Queens, sunny spots and sticky tongue

July is the month for sunshine, flowers and butterflies.

Butterflies are seen as indicators of a healthy, well managed habitat – if you have several species of butterfly, you likely have a rich variety of native plants. The UK has 59 species of butterflies – 57 resident species and two regular migrants (the Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow). Butterflies that over winter as dormant adults include Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma. They can often be seen in churches, chapels or outbuildings from which they emerge when the weather warms up.

While most butterflies are not choosy about what plant they obtain their nectar from, they are particular about where they lay their eggs. For example, Skippers, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet all lay their eggs on grasses, while Peacock caterpillars like munching on nettles and Painted Lady on thistles. Brimstone butterflies choose buckthorn (purging or alder buckthorn), while Common Blue's caterpillars need bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, rest harrow or red clover.

Churchyards, with their mix of sunny and shaded places, can hold both grassland and woodland butterflies and if you see a butterfly high in the canopy of an oak, it is probably a Purple Hairstreak. Speckled Wood is a common find in shady places, and its caterpillars favour the coarse, tussocky grasses you might have against a wall or hedge. Commas, by contrast, prefer shorter vegetation and will be emerging in July, so look out for the distinctive wing shape and tiny white 'comma' on the underside of the wing.

We would love to know what species you see – please visit our website to download [Spotter's Guide to Butterflies](#) and see what you can find.

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

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

Use the discount code diomem22



Message from the Rural Dean

This will be my last 'Message from the Rural Dean' in Wheatland News. Goodness me! At the end of this month, on 24th July, we will be licensing Revd Joe Simons as Priest-in-Charge of the Brown Clee group of parishes, and three of the four vacancies in this deanery will have been filled. Bridgnorth remains, but that needs to go on into new hands. I am stepping down as RD at the end of July, and will be spending August in my own parishes, preparing them for their own vacancy which begins in September.

I have been Rural Dean since 2017, and it has been – as they say – very interesting. I am aware that the last two years of dealing with multiple vacancies has been hard on my own parishes, but they have been amazingly supportive and understanding: nobody could have foreseen the extent of change over the last four years. And I have to say as well that meeting all the people who keep our Church going, day in, day out, in all the vacant parishes has been the most extraordinary privilege. It's given me a chance to get to know the churches and their people in a way that has given me even more respect and admiration for the volunteers without whom the Church of England would disappear without trace.

The next decade or two are going to be testing times for our Church as a whole, as we try to find our place in post-post-modern (if that means anything at all!) society. Changes will be needed, and change hurts. But, as long as we try to find where God is leading us, we will come to the right place eventually, even if there's some bruising on the way.

At a vacancy consultation meeting this morning, when the people there were asked to set down the qualities they sought in their new priest-to-be, someone asked me what qualities I thought are important for what I do as a parish priest. 'Faith' I said. 'Or, better, let's go with St Paul: faith, hope and love.'

Thank you all for the faith, hope and love I've witnessed over these six years.

Mark Daborn

Confirmation

There will be a Deanery Service of Confirmation on the evening of Wednesday July 19th at St Mary's, Stottesdon, at 7 pm, with the Bishop of Hereford. If anyone wishes to be confirmed or to talk about being confirmed, please get in touch with your parish priest or with Mark Daborn, the Rural Dean and Rector of Stottesdon, on 01746 718127 or mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk.

Readings for July 2023

July 2nd: Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-end; Matthew 10:40-end.

July 9th - Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-end; Psalm 45:10-end; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

July 16th - Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 25:19-end; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23rd - Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-11; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30th - Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 29: 15-28; Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-end; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6th - The Transfiguration (White)

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28-36

Saint of the Month - Mary Magdalene

By Preb Mark Daborn

July 22nd is the feast day of Mary Magdalene, possibly the most misrepresented of all New Testament characters. To begin with, forget the da Vinci code, and stories that she married Jesus after he had survived the Cross: this is a novel, a work of fiction. Forget also, quite a number of legends about her from many years earlier. She has gone down in church history as the penitent sinner, and is portrayed as a reformed prostitute. This comes from a muddle about the famous story of pouring oil on Jesus' head or feet.

There seem to be two identifiable stories of this anointing: one is of the penitent sinner washing Jesus' feet with her tears, drying them with her hair, and then anointing them with oil. The other is the anointing by Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, at which Judas Iscariot upbraided her extravagance. In some traditions, Mary Magdalene is identified with the sinner in the first story; in others, she is identified as the same as Martha's sister. I have never been able to see how either could be justified.

Luke's gospel refers to all three women. He tells the story of the penitent sinner, to whom he gives no name and then immediately writes of Mary Magdalene, who had had seven devils cast out by Jesus, and was one of several women who supported Jesus' mission out their own means. Luke also tells a story about Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus late in his gospel, in which he introduces Mary for the first time, with no reference back to a previous appearance.

All we actually know about Mary Magdalene from the gospels before the scenes surrounding the crucifixion is that she was healed of some ailment, which may have been physical, mental or spiritual, and that she supported Jesus' mission. It is at the crucifixion that she comes into prominence: she is mentioned as having witnessed the crucifixion and the burial, and to have been first on the scene with other women on the Sunday morning of the resurrection.

And, if I have seemed critically tetchy of some stories that have attached themselves to Mary over the years, it is because they distract our attention from her last appearance in the gospel story. It was Mary alone who hung around disconsolate before the empty tomb when everyone else had gone, so it was she who first saw Jesus on that first Easter morning. More than this, she was commissioned by him to go and tell Peter and the disciples that she had so seen him – and such a commission is what we use the word 'apostle' to describe, one who is 'sent out'.

So – not a reformed prostitute; not married to Jesus; but the first apostle of the Resurrection!

MD

Wheatland Diary

Sat	1	July	Coffee morning, Ditton Priors church - see page 12
Tue	4	July	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Group Meeting – DPVH, 7:00 – 8:00pm – see June WN.
Sat	8	July	Ditton Priors Sponsored Walk – see page 12
Sat	8	July	Coffee morning at Middleton Scriven Church – see page 23
Sun	9	July	Billingsley Church ‘Journeys of a Lifetime’ – this month: ‘Full Circle’. See page 20
Fri	14	July	Stottesdon Annual Church and School Community Fete, 5.30pm to 8:00pm. See page 24
Sat	15	July	Daddy’s Hat – St Bartholomew’s Church, Richard’s Castle, 3:00pm. See page 9
Sun	16	July	Stottesdon Open Gardens for NGS charities – see page 24
Sat	22	July	Ditton Priors Pimms & Puds Social Evening – see page 12
Sat	22	July	Neenton Annual Fete and Duck Race at the Pheasant, 2:00pm – 5:00pm. See Back Cover and page 16
Sat	22	July	Marion’s Big Birthday Breakfast at The Down, 9:00am. See page 19.
Thur	27	July	Quiz Night at the Three Horseshoes! Fundraising for Loughton Church – see page 13
Sun	30	July	Car Treasure Hunt – Aston Botterell – Anne – 07966-459806. See page 15
Thur	3	Aug	Burwarton Show – Refreshment Tent – see page 12
Thur	17	Aug	Ditton Priors – Tea Party in the Churchyard – see page 12
Sat	19	Aug	Daddy’s Hat – St Mary’s Church, Billingsley, 3:00pm. See page 9
Sun	10	Sept	Car Boot / Tabletop Sale – Three Horseshoes, Wheathill, 11:00 – 2:00 - see page 13
Sat	16	Sept	Daddy’s Hat – Church of St Mary the Virgin, Jackfield, 3:00pm. See page 9
Sat	7	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 12
Sat	28	Oct	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir at Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 12

Daddy’s Hat Music and Poetry

Read about the June DH concert within the **Chelmarsh Parish news** in this edition of WN, on page 20!

DH events aren’t only confined to the Wheatland area churches, and we’re delighted once again to announce concert dates in churches further afield, but by no means out of reach for anyone in the WN area! If your church

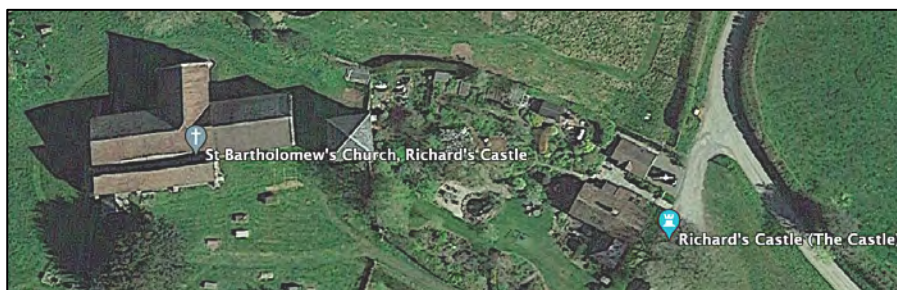


hasn’t hosted yet, but would like to, or if you know someone who would like to perform, please text Sally on 07747-788429 or leave a message on 01746-787419.

Saturday July 15th, 3:00pm – St Bartholomew’s Church, Richard’s Castle – a melange of music and poetry in the breathtaking church and countryside, by kind and generous permission of Humphrey Salwey. There are no indoor facilities for catering, and no toilets, but if the weather is good then feel free to bring a picnic to enjoy in the churchyard.

August 19th – St Mary’s Church, Billingsley WV16 6PH, with the marvellous Clee Liberty Band!

September 16th – the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Jackfield, TF8 7ND – new and very exciting artists to be announced.



The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Rector: Rev'd Joe Simons will be licensed on 24th July 2023

Please contact your Churchwarden, as below.

In emergency, contact Preb. Mark Daborn, Rural Dean, on 01746-718127

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 during July

Sunday 2nd July – Trinity 4

09:45 HC Ditton Priors
 11:30 HC Aston Botterell

Sunday 9th July – Trinity 5

09:45 EHC Ditton Priors
 11:30 EHC Chetton

Sunday 16th July – Trinity 6

09:45 HC Ditton Priors
 11:30 MP Neenton
 18:00 HC Wheathill

Sunday 23rd July – Trinity 7

08:30 HC Ditton Priors
 09:45 MP Chetton
 11:30 MP Cleobury North

Sunday 30th July – Trinity 8

10:15 HC Group Service
 Wheathill

Sunday 6th August – Trinity 9

11:30 SoP Aston Botterell

HC – Holy Communion

EHC – Extended Holy Communion

MP – Morning Prayer

SoP – Songs of Praise

**Brown Clee Churches
 BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR
 8 HOURS PER WEEK
 Voluntary or Paid (Rate to be agreed)**

We are looking for someone to provide administrative support to our new priest-in-charge, churchwardens and external parties to ensure efficient working of Brown Clee Benefice. Based in The Vicarage at Ditton Priors, 2 or 3 mornings a week.

If you are interested a Role Description and Application form is available from Ditton Priors Church, on our website (www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10502/), or from Mike Teague 01746 789592.

Applications must be emailed to m.k.teague@btinternet.com before 5pm on 5th July 2023.

Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview by 10th July 2023. Two references will be required. We will conduct a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for the successful candidate. Initial trial period - 3 months.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, and welcome applications from all suitably qualified people.

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy.

Open letter to
all in the
Brown Clee
Benefice, from
the Revd Joe
Simons

Rev Joe Simons
Brown Clee Benefice
The Vicarage
Ditton Priors
Email – browncleebenefice@outlook.com
17th June 2023

Dear PCC and Church Members,

Subject - My Health - Treatment Plan

I am really looking forward to my ministry with you in the Brown Clee Benefice starting at the end of July.

It is important that you need to be made aware that I will be undergoing treatment for lymphoma, which I was diagnosed with some two years ago. The treatment will last for four to five months and will involve overnight treatment in hospital once a month.

I am not entirely certain how I will react to the treatment, but suffice to say that it is unlikely I will be quite my usual self for a while after each treatment and my capacity will be reduced.

However, it is my intention, to be present in the community, as active and visible as I can, so that I can meet you all and other members of our communities.

Sadly it will be a little while before I will be well enough to deliver fully the service rota.

I am working with Mike Teague and others to help organise cover, however I will do my best to cause as little disruption as possible.

The good news is that once the treatment is completed the prognosis is positive and I will return to full strength.

Thank you so much for all your love, prayers and support.

God bless,
Joe

*WN warmly welcomes
Rev'd Joe to Brown
Clee, wishes him the
very best for his course
of treatment, and looks
forward to hearing
much more from him in
due course. - Ed*

Ditton Priors News

The Friends of St John's Church, Ditton Priors

We would like to thank everyone who has joined the Friends again in 2023. This is a building trust and money raised will help with repairs and any necessary developments at our church.

At present we have 99 members but if anyone is interested in becoming a Friend there are leaflets in church and any donation can be given to one of the trustees.

We feel we must continue to care for the fabric of our church and its environs as it is such an important part of our village.

Marjorie Jones writes:

From the Register

- Funeral service of John Smith on 27th May 2023. May he rest in peace.
- Wedding of Elizabeth Lowe and Gareth Lewis on 17th June 2023. Every good wish to the happy couple.

As I write we are all recovering from the hard work of finishing up after our **church fete**. Both the weather and the attendance were good, and we had a splendid and enjoyable afternoon. We also had a visit from our new vicar Joe, and his wife Karen – a happy time to welcome them into our community.

Cleaning rota for July

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sunday 2nd July – Mr & Mrs Tony Brown● Sunday 9th July - Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen● Sunday 16th July - Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sunday 23rd July - Mr & Mrs Graham Russell● Sunday 30th July - Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell● Sunday 6th August - Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
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Dates for your Diary

Sponsored walk – Saturday 8th July: The walk will start from church at 11am. We usually walk-up Bent Lane, across Hillside and back again down Powkesmore road to church – or walkers can choose their own shorter route. A light lunch is served in church for those taking part. Sponsor forms available on bookcase in church or phone Marjorie (712 423)

Pimms & Puds Social – Saturday 22nd July: from 6pm onwards. Tickets £12 from Marjorie (712423). Come and enjoy Mark & Miriam’s lovely garden. (Garden Cottage, South Road) with live music by Penny and Alan.

Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent: – Thursday, 3rd August near the “village green”. Offers of help for the stall please as well as contribution of cakes and sandwiches. Please phone Marjorie (712423).

Tea Party in the Churchyard: Thursday, 17th August 3pm onwards.

Harvest Supper: Saturday 7th October in the Village Hall

Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir – Saturday 28th October, in the Village Hall.

Remember! our social/fundraising events not only raise funds to keep our churches open but provide opportunities to bring our communities together in mutual support and fellowship.

First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings – Saturdays 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October.

St John the Baptist 100 Club results

- £100 – Marjorie Jones
- £20 Jennifer Lowe
- £10 Trish Shotton
- £5 each to: Carole Smith, Adrian Massey and Jutta Langham.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

Church services during July

- ✝ Sunday 16th – Holy Communion, 4:00pm at Wheathill Church
- ✝ Sunday 30th July – Group Service, 10:15am at Wheathill Church, to be led by Revd John Daniels.
- ✝ Advance notice – bring your pets to the September service!

The service at Loughton on 18th June led by Mark Daborn with his boom box was well attended (12 in all) and it was good to see Jim Hurford and Sarah.

Fund-raising QUIZ NIGHT!!

In support of Wheathill and Loughton churches, on Thursday 27th July, 8.00pm at the Three Horseshoes, Wheathill. Fish and chip supper with a veggie option. £10 per person, teams of up to 4 people.

Car Boot / Tabletop Sale

At the Three Horseshoes on Sunday September 10th, 11:00 to 2:00pm.

A happy return to Loughton Church

Sarah Hurford writes:

On Fathers' Day 2022, I was due to take my father, Jim Hurford to church. Dad was the Church Warden/lawn mower operative of Loughton Church up until a (series of) stroke(s) rendered him out of action and it was planned to be a pleasant early evening in the church he loved with his friends around him. However, stroke decided to strike again, and whilst my sister was visiting, she noticed Dad go 'blank' and his speech become garbled and odd. Dad was having another *stroke and had to go to hospital. Luckily after a brief visit to hospital, and 'passing' the health tests, Dad was allowed back to Arden Grange and that was that, for the time being.



On

Fathers' Day 2023 we thankfully made it to Loughton Church, to a sizeable congregation, which satisfied Dad greatly. He was able to take communion, chat to people and be in the place he cared for, for all those years. The flowers were beautiful, the music although recorded, was rousing and provided great accompaniment, and we even had Fleur the dog in the congregation, which was very pleasing (dog is God backwards, it's no coincidence as far as I am concerned). Even though Dad made



Stroke strikes every five minutes in the UK.

It can happen to anyone, of any age, at any time. It's vital to know how to spot the signs of a stroke in yourself or someone else.

Stroke is a medical emergency. The FAST test can help you recognise the most common signs.

- **Facial weakness:** Can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye drooped?
- **Arm weakness:** Can the person raise both arms?
- **Speech problems:** Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?
- **Time to call 999:** if you see any of these signs.

Make sure you and your loved ones all know the **FAST** test.

no bones about telling people that he would have fixed the floor by now(!) he was very pleased to be able to attend and help set the world to rights with some friendly faces.

I hope we can all agree that Loughton Church is such a valuable resource to the local community and is a friendly and treasured space that deserves our support.

Another Orchid Wander at Brickyard Farm, Wheathill

Nina Rowson, with Becky, Ruby and Albert, writes:



We had a lovely afternoon walk at the home of Sue and Dave Crichton on Saturday 17th June. It was beautiful to see so many wild orchids. Sue explained to Ruby all the different types of grasses there are. Ruby picked around 23.

Dave showed us a collection of moths that the experts had trapped the evening before: they managed to collect over 100!

Thanks to Sue & Dave for opening your beautiful gardens & showing us a great example of a natural garden.



*A super-king-sized orchid!
Sue among her host of flowers*

*The Saturday group heading up the hill
for the best view in the world.*

*Ami and Marcia playing the great
Duelling Banjos!!*



Looking after Wheathill

This lovely little church is in sound order but just needs some loving care on a regular basis. Ruby has to stand down now for health reasons and grateful thanks go to her for her many years of devotion. We would love to have someone to take over from her – urgently. Please ring Ruby on 01584-823234 or Marjorie Jones on 712423.

Cleobury North and Burwarton News



The Old Rectory – Sunday 25th June

We look forward to more news and pictures of the garden for the next WN – but a breathless correspondent has sent a last-minute report telling us that it was a wonderful afternoon, the gardens were spectacular and the crowd enormous! Huge thanks to David and Penny.



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

Church services

- ✝ Sunday 2nd July – Holy Communion, 11:30am
- ✝ Sunday 6th August - Songs of Praise, 11:30am

Sally Russell writes:

Our service with Anne was indeed a merry one, thanks to the lively sermon and joyful hymns, lovingly led by Father Justin, from Jackfield, Ironbridge, who also accompanied our vocal efforts on the organ. We look forward to sharing some more tunes (and GAS?!) in his church later in the year.

Anne Preece writes:

Car Treasure Hunt!

On Sunday afternoon, 30th July, starting from Anne and David Preece's home, Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell. £10 per ticket pp including afternoon tea! Please book your car in, and get your time slot. No rush and a lot of fun finding your clues. First car will leave at 13:45 hrs. Please come along for a fun afternoon and help to raise funds for Aston Botterell Church!!

Lottery winners - £20 – Audrey Colebatch No 36, £10 – Anne Preece No 190, £5 each to David Roberts No 234, and Lily Roberts No 197.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

July Service at All Saints' Church, Neenton

✝ Next Service in All Saints Church will be on Sunday 16th July at 11.30am with a Lay led service of Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Neenton has a wedding! The first in a very long time and it has seen volunteers come and go to prepare the churchyard and church for this event. We hope to report next month with photographs to celebrate the marriage of Liz to Graham.



All Saints Tote – July – congratulations to our winners

- 1st prize – Sue Ahmed 2nd prize – Martin Moreton

Neenton Fete and Duck Race – Saturday 22nd July, 2:00 – 5:00 at The Pheasant.

See the 'mini-poster' on the back cover!!

	<p>Opening times –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌀 Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3pm, 6pm – 11pm 🌀 Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11pm 🌀 Sunday lunch 12 noon – 4.30pm <p>PLEASE NOTE – the Pheasant will be closed on Saturday 1st July for a private function</p> <p>Please call 01746-787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and your requirements or book direct on the website.</p>
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Chetton News

Pam Downing writes:

Services at St Giles' Church

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✝ Sunday 9th July, 11:30am, Extended Holy Communion ✝ Sunday 23rd July, 09:45am, Morning Prayer. 	<p>Flowers and Cleaning</p> <p>Jill and Nick</p>
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Welcome

We would like to welcome Revd Joe Simons and Karen to Ditton Priors Vicarage. We hope you enjoy some very happy times in our Benefice.

Cheffest!!!



On a beautiful sunny evening last month, we were host to the Wyre Forest Big Band. We all enjoyed a picnic, listened to the fabulous music and ended the evening with dancing on the lawn. Many thanks for Charles and Lisa for letting us use their garden. And thank you to all who came to enjoy the evening.



100 Club Winners

- £15.00 to Mike & Jill Lindley no 82
- £10.00 to Charlotte Meehan no 17

Chetton Village Hall - Regular activities and events

Great News! We have succeeded with our funding application from Awards for All, the National Lottery Community Fund, for the continuation of Flicks in the Sticks, which will resume in September. We look forward to your continued support of this service and are open to suggestions for any films you wish to see.

- Pam's Pilates, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning 9.30 am.
- Chetton Active Friends, Mondays from 2pm for a donation of £1.00 per person per session. Seated exercise, or standing if preferred, followed by recovery with refreshments and time to chat.
- The Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month.
- The Folk Dance Club meets on the last Wednesday of each month.

Village Hall and activities enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239

Molecule of the Month - Ketamine

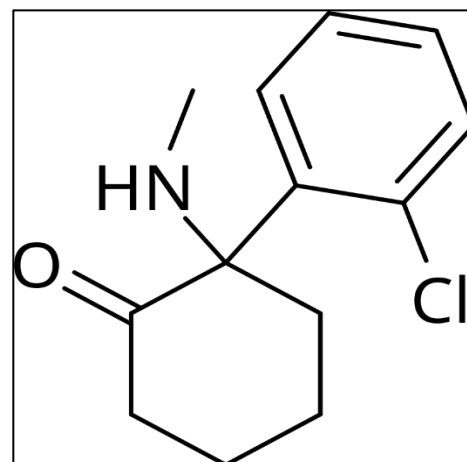


Ketamine was first synthesised in 1962 by the chemist Calvin Stevens, working for the drug company Parke Davies. It was a derivative of a chemical discovered a few years earlier at Parke Davies called phencyclidine. This molecule was a very effective anaesthetic but also produced a long-lasting delirium, both in animal models and humans. Parke Davies wanted a version without the delirium; clinical trials established that ketamine was significantly better and in 1970 it was approved for use in humans. Prior to that it had been approved for use in veterinary medicine.

Its great strength as an anaesthetic is that it does not slow breathing or heart rate, a common problem, and so has been considered a very safe agent for use in surgery. Ketamine works by sedating patients (i.e. sending them to sleep) but also suppresses memory and provides pain relief; this last action is particularly valued as operations inevitably produce pain. It is used for short-lasting operations and also in individuals with serious injuries; it was widely used in the Vietnam War to treat soldiers hurt on the battlefield.

The ability of ketamine to suppress pain has led to trials where it has been given at low doses to individuals who suffer from chronic pain that is resistant to conventional drugs. Recently, it has also been used in the treatment of depression. Generally depression can be treated either by behavioural therapy or a range of drugs, most of which apparently work by increasing the levels of a chemical in the brain called serotonin. This is released by nerves and sends signals that help maintain a person's well-being. However, in a small number of cases, these therapies do not work leaving the unfortunate individuals with a poor quality of life. There is some evidence that ketamine is beneficial for these individuals. Unlike virtually every other drug used to treat depression, ketamine is effective within a few hours, although its actions also rapidly wear off. It also has other problems...

Ketamine is a drug of abuse; on the street it is known as "Special K". Whilst better than its parent compound, phencyclidine, it can still produce hallucinogenic effects. These can be countered by other drugs when it is used in surgery, but it is less clear what can be done if it is ever to be used for depression. This is an area of active research.



Ketamine produces most of its effects by reducing electrical activity in the brain. Electrical currents in the brain are caused by protein molecules called ion channels opening and closing; ketamine blocks one of these called the NMDA receptor, which is responsible for activating many nerves in the brain. However, it is less clear if this explains its effects in depression; perhaps if this were known, it might be possible to produce a derivative that did not have the hallucinogenic effects.

DRP

Regarding ketamine abuse – the Government has issued an Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, which includes a commitment to extend the powers for police to test for drugs, and also to extend the range of substances for which tests will be available to the police to include all Class A and certain Class B substances – including ketamine.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1157028/Anti-social_Behaviour_Action_Plan_March_2023.pdf Ed.

Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw	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 Laura Jones – 07714-432836, laura@laj.me.uk
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Glazeley News

Marion Corfield and David Poyner write:

By the time this appears, Laura Jones should have been officially appointed churchwarden, filling an important post that has been empty for some years. Her husband Andy is our new treasurer, following in the footsteps of Andy Johnson. We are very grateful to Laura and Andy for taking on these roles, but we are equally grateful to Lyn, Marion, Ian, Cath and Rita for all the quiet work they do for us on the PCC.

Congratulations to Rachael Davenhill, our organist, on becoming a grandmother! Daughter Lauren and the new granddaughter are both doing well.

Services at Glazeley (third Sunday of the month, 10am) continue to be well-attended, for which we are very grateful. We particularly appreciate those from the other parishes in the benefice who support us. It was nice to have a good turnout for Kina's first service with us.

We hope to keep the joint breakfasts with Chetton Church going all over the summer; please check our website for details of these and also the walks which we do with the other parishes in the benefice ([Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You](#))

Morris James: 1938 – 2023

Morris sadly passed away in April and his funeral was in May. He leaves his wife and five children, Mandy, Anthony, Jennifer, Stephen and Hayley, and his grandchildren. Morris and Margaret were married at Glazeley church 65 years ago and lived for many years at Spring Cottages. They sadly lost their first-born child, Shani, at about 18 months old.

Morris, Margaret and all their family have supported Glazeley Church with Jennie and Laurence still helping out when we have any special occasions. Our thoughts are with the family. GOD BLESS.



Marion's Big Birthday Breakfast!!!

Marion is hosting her celebration breakfast at The Down at 9:00am on Saturday 22nd July, price £8 with proceeds going to charity. **Please book your place** with Marion on 01746-764585, or text her on 07918-559043.

[Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You](#)

David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638 Email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk	Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585 Marion.corfield@talktalk.net
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Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

We had an excellent turnout at our June evening service to hear our treasurer, Sue Bates, tell us about Antarctica. Sue and husband Phil were able to visit the continent last November; Sue gave us some background about how the continent is managed via an international treaty as a pristine wilderness and a place for scientific research. She also told us about what she saw; everything from icebergs to penguins. Whilst Sue would not describe herself as religious, I got the sense that she does get something akin to spiritual nourishment from being in wild places. Our next talk is by Caroline John, co-producer of the Wheatland News and is entitled "Full Circle". It also takes the theme of travel; Caroline describes it as being about "scenery and reflections gleaned during three spectacular voyages". This will be on Sunday July 9th at 6pm.

The first 100 Club draw organised by Diane Stepney, took place in June; Diane is taking over from Sue Bates. Thanks also to Sue Russell for doing the draw.

Thanks to everyone who helps maintain the church and the churchyard. Although managed for wildlife by the Caring for God's Acre team, volunteers mow and weed paths and look after flower beds. We are currently replacing the gravel on the main path to the church. The boiler house door has also been creosoted and the church windows cleaned.

[Billingsley: St Mary - A Church Near You](#) / [\(20+\) St Mary's Billingsley | Bridgnorth | Facebook](#).

David Poyner – Associate Minister

Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693

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

Chelmarsh News

David Poyner writes:

On Saturday 3rd June, Chelmarsh had the privilege of a concert by Belaria, under the Daddy's Hat umbrella. Belaria (John Davidson (tenor), Patricia Head (soprano) and Catherine Lack (piano)) perform popular classics; we had everything from Henry Purcell to George Gershwin. I can do no better than quote their own Facebook page "Another super afternoon of music making at St Peter's Chelmarsh.



The afternoon was greatly enjoyed by everyone which is hugely gratifying and apparently attracted the biggest audience for a

'Daddy's Hat' concert so far. Great tea and cake afterwards, an impromptu demo from Catherine on the church organ and so we got to do an informal 'encore' of Panis Angelicus." *Our thanks to Avril and Tissy for their photographs – Ed.*



The next Daddy's Hat concert in our benefice will be at Billingsley, 3pm, on Saturday 19th August; details to follow.

Hidden away in what was once a side chapel in Chelmarsh Church, behind the organ, is an accumulation of bits that nobody has thrown away. This includes a 12' wooden ladder, with a broken rung. At the most recent inspection of the church, the architect suggested it be thrown out. However, the assistant curate made an impassioned plea to the PCC that it be kept; it is hand-made and probably at least 100 years old. In the absence of a skilled local craftsman, a master local wood-butcher volunteered to replace the rung. This has been done and the ladder is now propped up against the wall of north aisle, to be loved, cherished and tripped over.

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 call Preb Mark Daborn - 01746-718127	St Michael, Silvington CHURCHWARDEN vacant – so call Preb Mark Daborn - 01746-718127

July Message

You will see on the cover of this edition and the notice below news about the bishop coming to Stottesdon for a confirmation service. What, you may ask, is that?

Going way back into New Testament times, John the Baptist talked about baptising people with water, and how the one who came after him would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. This, of course, referred to Jesus. In the early Christian community, new members were usually adults, and they were baptised and confirmed at the same time: where baptism represented John's baptism with water; and confirmation represented baptism with the Holy Spirit, with all the associations of what happened to the disciples at Pentecost.

As time went on, baptism became a ceremony for the babies of Christian families to be baptised, and then, later, when a bishop came by on his rounds, that child would be confirmed. Baptism came to be seen as entry to the Christian community for a new child; Confirmation as the time when someone wanted to make their own declaration of belonging to that worldwide Christian community.

Confirmation consists of the bishop laying his hands on the head of the person being confirmed, and praying for the Holy Spirit to strengthen that person in their journey of faith. 'Confirmation' simply means to make strong. In the Church of England, it is the usual expectation that people who wish to join in receiving the bread and wine at the service of Holy Communion will be confirmed; but, equally, we do not turn away anyone who wishes to participate fully in that Holy Communion.

The last time we had a Confirmation service in this benefice was before Covid, and I wanted to offer another opportunity before I retire. So, if you, or anyone you know, would like to talk more about this, please get in touch by email, 'phone, or in conversation.

By the way – you may recall the Pentecost story, when the disciples heard the sound of a rushing, mighty wind, and saw tongues of fire over each others' heads; well, the special hat that a bishop wears, which is called a Mitre, is meant to represent those tongues of fire!

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches – July 2023

-	-	-	-
Sunday 2nd July – Fourth after Trinity			
09:00	HC	Farlow	
10:30	MP	Stottesdon	
Sunday 9th July – Fifth after Trinity			
09:00	HC	Cleeton St Mary	
10:30	HC	Stottesdon	
6:30pm	EP	Silvington	
Sunday 16th July – Sixth after Trinity			
10:30	IW	Stottesdon	
11:30	HC	Sidbury	
Wednesday 19th July – Confirmation Service			
7:00pm	Conf	Stottesdon	
Sunday 23rd July – Seventh after Trinity			
9:00	MP	Silvington	
10:30	HC	Stottesdon	
4:00pm	EP	Cleeton St Mary	
Sunday 30th July – Eighth after Trinity			
9:00	HC	Middleton Scriven	
10:30	HC	Stottesdon	
6:30pm	EP	Farlow	
Sunday 6th August – Ninth after Trinity			
9:00	HC	Farlow	
10:30	MP	Stottesdon	
4:00pm	EP	Sidbury	
-	-	-	-

HC
Holy Communion

GHC
Group Holy Communion

MP
Morning Prayer

EP Evening Prayer

IW
Informal Worship

~

Conf
Confirmation Service

Bishop Richard is coming to St Mary's in Stottesdon on **Wednesday 19th July** for a Confirmation service at 7 pm.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being confirmed, or to know more about it, please get in touch mark.daborn55@outlook.com

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Times and services correct at the time of going to print – but it's always worth checking on our website (A church near you: Stottesdon benefice) or with your churchwarden.

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 June edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Friday 26th May - Thanks!

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

- ✝ Our next church service is Holy Communion at Stottesdon on Sunday July 30th at 10:30am – celebrating the completion of the major conservation work there.

Coffee mornings

Our next coffee morning in church will be on Saturday July 8th, 10:00am till 12 noon.

Farlow News

Summer Ecumenical Service and BBQ



Many thanks to everyone who supported our June 11th ecumenical service with Melville Chapel at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall. 'Ecumenical' - for the majority of you who may not do 'Churchspeak' - simply means different church groups working together in the sort of unity and brotherly love you would expect from Christians! In this case, the Church of England and the Methodists. We do a lot of sharing between church and chapel at Farlow: notably with the Open the Book Team that goes

into Farlow School to tell the Bible stories to the children.

This year's BBQ service was focused on prayer, mainly to do with prayer for finding a way forward for all the Churches in the modern world. 2023 has been designated a Year of Prayer for Hereford Diocese, with each deanery having a candle for prayer going around its churches. The candle for Bridgnorth Deanery was lit at this service. With thoughtful prayer and rousing singing, this was a



lovely joint occasion, led by Revds Mark Daborn and Kim Stilwell; our guest preacher this year was the Ven Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow, who also ended the service with the blessing before we gathered outside the village hall for barbeque goodies and cakes!



June 100 Club winners

- £20 to Ann Sutton
- £10 to Janice Howells
- £5 each to Helena & Mike Hale, and to Clare & James Harris.

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

Just in case the good news hasn't reached you yet, St Mary's church is now once again fully open to visitors and for worship. All are very welcome!

May 100 Club Results

- £20 to Wendy Dolphin No 69,
- £10 each to Charles Metcalf No 59, and to Gary Shorthouse No 57
- £5 each to Sharon Ortel No 101 and to Chris Cuthbert No 25.

Silvington and Sidbury

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

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

July Diary Dates

Community Fete. This annual Church and School event will be from **5:30 pm on Friday 14th July** and tickets for the Grand Draw Raffle are on sale now, from anyone with children at the school and church volunteers – look out for really great prizes including family passes to visitor attractions, meals at local venues more. Beer Tent and a stunning BBQ (your last chance before his retirement to buy burgers from Mark!)

Village Open Gardens in aid of NGS Nursing Charities from noon on Sunday 16th with Teas, Refreshments and fabulous Cake at the new kitchen in our Parish Church. Please contact Mary Overton 01746 718517 if you could offer to help with this one.

Confirmation Service with Bishop Richard at 7pm on Wednesday 19th – this is open to everyone in our Bridgnorth Deanery, and prospective candidates should discuss preparations and arrangements with their local clergy.

Celebration of the finished works at St Mary's will be a 'red letter day' for sure – and what better an occasion than the 10:30 Group Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 30th July? This is a great opportunity for all to celebrate the results achieved in the months of intrusive conservation and building work.

Stottesdon 100 club - Congratulations to June winners – Janet Williams, Henry Marsh and John & Linda Phillips.

St Mary's Church Past Present and Future Heritage Project – Latest News

With the conservation and other building works now almost complete, here's a summary of what has been achieved so far:

Our Parish Church, built by the Normans on the Saxon site of an even earlier one, is Grade 1 Listed (meaning “of national importance”) and ‘Heritage at Risk’.

The restoration and conservation works, largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, encompassed -

- 33,000 new, hand-made tiles to replace worn-out roof coverings
- New rainwater drainage and disposal all around the building – see the ‘Before’ and ‘After’ pix below!
- New oak floors/kitchen furniture to replace old ‘dry-rotten’ timberwork
- Upgraded lighting and heating systems installed.



Our next phase is to research and ‘tell the story’ of the remarkable building, which has been a place of Christian worship for over 1000 years. The community’s heritage treasures here include the Font (carved just 60 years after William was ‘Conqueror’); the wooden Pulpit (‘Jacobean’ or Guy Fawkes’ time); the eagle Lectern (Crimean War era of Florence Nightingale) and the 650-year-old Medieval floor tiles, ‘saved’ during a previous restoration project (just 156 years ago, by the Victorians).

For more on this – and the TOILET FUNDING APPEAL – see next month’s edition!

Another BUSY WEEKEND ahead in Stottesdon!

The middle weekend of July promises to be a busy one for Stottesdon’s village volunteers and community, with not one but two ‘not to be missed’ events welcoming residents, locals and visitors from further afield too!

FREE CAR PARKING for both events is signposted near the village centre, at Pound Lane [Sat Nav: DY14 8UJ] by courtesy of the Evans family.

SUNDAY LUNCH available at ‘The Fighting Cocks Inn’ (prebooking required : call Hannah or Darren 01746 718270)

FRIDAY 14th July

is the date for this year's Stottesdon Community Fete raising money for the Primary School and the Parish Church. Join the fun between 5.30 – 8pm on the School Field – BBQ and Hobsons Beer Tent, Raffle, Games, Bottle Hoopla, Plant stall, homemade cake and much more in a really good cause!

Raffle Prizes, including a “Reel” off-road scooter (worth £129) and a Family Pass (worth £86) to the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, will be drawn at 6pm. Tickets, available beforehand from School and Church, are a bargain at just £1 – any remaining will be sold on the day, so get there early on...

SUNDAY 16th July

sees the return of **Stottesdon Village Open Gardens** from noon to 4pm raising money for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) - the largest funder of Nursing Charities and Hospices in Shropshire and nationwide.

The £5 entry fee (children go FREE) is really amazing value as it gives entry to 6 or 7 different gardens around the village – some with splendid views, many with spaces for outdoor living and a good variety of traditional and more modern ‘cottage gardens’ including one showcasing permaculture principles. So, come along and chat to friendly gardeners for ideas and top tips for ‘growing your own’ fruit, veg and the odd floral item.

Teas, Refreshments and Plants will be available throughout **at St Mary's Parish Church** – giving everyone a first opportunity to see the stunning results of our major restoration and conservation project – enabled by substantial grant help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund; the builders, electricians and others will be finished!

Church Guided tours will take folk ‘behind the scenes’ but not ‘up the tower’ (for which we’re preparing an armchair ‘virtual’ tour, launching later this year).

Our Community Noticeboard

Cleobury Country Farmers Market – 15th July

...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 for dates, times and local stops.

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 May 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 History Group	Please contact paul.wilson8992@gmail.com
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriorsalls@gmail.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 Churches
BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR
8 HOURS PER WEEK
Voluntary or Paid (Rate to be agreed)

We are looking for someone to provide administrative support to our new priest-in-charge, churchwardens and external parties to ensure efficient working of Brown Clee Benefice. Based in The Vicarage at Ditton Priors, 2 or 3 mornings a week.

If you are interested a Role Description and Application form is available from Ditton Priors Church, on our website (www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10502/), or from Mike Teague 01746 789592.

Applications must be emailed to m.k.teague@btinternet.com before 5pm on 5th July 2023.

Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview by **10th July 2023**.
Two references will be required. We will conduct a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for the successful candidate. Initial trial period - 3 months.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, and welcome applications from all suitably qualified people.

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy.

Neenton Annual Duck Race and Fete

Saturday 22nd July 2 – 5pm

Stalls **BBQ** **Football Competition**

Tombola **Live Music**

And **NEW THIS YEAR** **BEECH GREEN ACTIVITIES!!!**

Come and join in the fun!