

# WHEATLAND NEWS

August 2023



The Statue of St Aidan adjoining Lindisfarne Priory

See this month's 'Saint of the Month'

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

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# Editorial

In this edition of Wheatland News we reach the end of an era when Revd Preb Mark Daborn, Rural Dean, retires and leaves for a well-deserved rest and recuperation together with his wife, Alex who has been his 'rock' throughout the time he has been in the Stottesdon Benefice. Little did he expect when he became Rural Dean that he would be involved in so many incumbent vacancies resulting in 21 parishes becoming his responsibility.

Without exception, and this is echoed in many of the comments being paid to Mark in this edition of WN, he has given more than 100% of his time to all the parishes. He has a clear understanding of people and about life in the countryside and has joined in with the way of the communities and officiated at all the different aspects of pastoral ministry.

One of Mark's lesser-known duties is to chair the Wheatland News Committee, who also wish to thank him for his commitment to producing the magazine each month, contributing such lovely readable items, and for keeping us all in order!!!

We shall miss both Mark and Alex and wish them a happy and blessed retirement in their new home.

There are special services listed in the various parishes to recognise the work of both Mark and Alex and to give people the chance to bid them Godspeed!

There are farewells in this edition to members of congregations of other WN parishes – and indeed this year has seen quite a number of good friends moving to pastures new. You will find mention of more such friends in the various parish sections, but WN wishes them all well in their new homes and communities.

As wildfires and volcanoes rage in other parts of the world, much of England and certainly the WN area is damp and soggy. This has meant difficult challenges for our farmers, postponement of a lot of our usual summer events and will no doubt mean that families' school holiday plans will be changed for some. We hope also that it will mean a cascade of community events to publicise and report upon in the September and October editions of WN – keep taking the photographs!

The family of the late Claire Mottershead, for many years Churchwarden of All Saints', Neenton, kindly passed on to us some souvenirs of the village including very old copies of WN. From time to time we will pick out gems from these to add into current editions.

The Licensing of the Revd Joseph Simons as Priest-in-Charge of Brown Clee Benefice took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 see report on page 7.

We look forward to working together in faith, hope and love with Joe and his wife Karen.

## Ed

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for contributions for the September 2023 edition of WN will be **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August. 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 - <a href="mailto:rll.langham@btinternet.com">rll.langham@btinternet.com</a>   |
| Aston Botterell, Cleobury North & Burwarton, Wheathill & Loughton   | Alison Greenan, 01746-787032 - <a href="mailto:greenan6qx@btinternet.com">greenan6qx@btinternet.com</a>  |
| Chetton   | Pam Downing - <a href="mailto:pamdowning61@gmail.com">pamdowning61@gmail.com</a>   |
| Highley   |  |
| Glazeley & Deuxhill   | Marion Corfield - <a href="mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net">marion.corfield@talktalk.net</a><br>Revd David Poyner - <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a> |
| Billingsley   | Revd David Poyner - <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a>   |
| Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington | Chris Tibbits - <a href="mailto:Chris@stottystores.co.uk">Chris@stottystores.co.uk</a>   |



## Diocese of Hereford

### August Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



#### Dear Friends

There's been a lot of walking around the Diocese recently. Bishop Richard has led walks up high places in each of our deaneries and led simple services of Holy Communion on the hills, as part of our Year of Prayer. The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way, beginning and ending at our Cathedral, has seen more and more pilgrims walking along its route. Some are doing the full 59 miles, sometimes sleeping overnight by prior arrangement in one of the churches along the way, some just doing the shorter Pilgrim Trail over two or three days, still beginning and ending in our Cathedral. The prayers offered by those pilgrims is an integral part of their pilgrimage.

My husband and I will be off to Northumberland soon, a place where we have spent many happy holidays over the years. Tides permitting, we'll probably make the pilgrimage to Holy Island again, walking barefoot across the sandy Pilgrim's Way linking Holy Island with the mainland.

Pilgrimage has a long and honoured tradition among Christians. It used to be known as peregrination or leaving one's home and wandering for the love of God.

Away from the distractions and comforts of home, in creation, it's often easier to tune into the presence of God. Praying while walking becomes a conversation, as we notice things about our surroundings, ourselves, and God which the Holy Spirit brings to our attention. We are embodied creatures, and being on the move can release emotions and thoughts that can get 'stuck' in our more sedentary day-to-day existence, all of which can be offered to God in prayer.

Not all of us are physically capable of making a pilgrimage. That need not stop us from entering into the experience either by following a pilgrim trail on YouTube or by taking an 'internal pilgrimage'. I came across this idea in a newsletter sent by someone who runs a retreat centre in Cyprus:

- Where have you been in your life? What have you done? What has happened? Whom have you met? Where has life taken you?
- Draw a meandering road on a large piece of paper.
- Record on the line significant events/times in your life through words/pictures/colour. Begin with the day you were born.
- Consider where you sense God was in each of those times - close, absent, in you, in others, etc. Mark this in some way on your path.
- Consider with God anything that has come to your attention that you feel needs more pondering. If any of it has been difficult, consider discussing it with a Christian friend and praying together.

Whether your summer pilgrimage is to a local park, your own garden, or along the Camino de Santiago, may you find blessing and joy in the journey.

AD Fíona

## Caring for God's Acre - Hopping with life

**Why not** have a search for grasshoppers and bush-crickets in your local churchyard. Churchyards can be real havens for them as they contain a range of different habitats which may suit different species. Some are found in long or tussocky grass, some scrub and hedgerows, and some in the canopy of trees. Some burial grounds can have more than 3 grasshoppers per square foot!

The easiest way to identify grasshoppers from bush-crickets is to look at their antennae. Grasshoppers have shorter, thicker antennae compared to the antennae of crickets which are long and thin, almost hairlike. Another difference is in their habits, grasshoppers are herbivores, feeding mainly on grass as their name suggests, whilst bush-crickets eat a range of foods including aphids and small caterpillars as well as plant material. These insects have been around on the earth for a long time, they are found in the fossil record of the early Triassic, about 250 million years ago, making them the most ancient group of herbivorous, chewing insects that are still living.

Grasshoppers and crickets are tasty prey items to many larger creatures such as birds, mammals, spiders and amphibians so they have good senses to help them escape this fate. They have large, compound eyes on the sides of their heads, giving a wide field of vision, ears on either side of their abdomens and of course the antennae to sense touch. If under threat they will jump astounding distances, up to 80cm, equivalent to a human jumping the length of a football pitch.

Have a look for grasshoppers within the long and tussocky grass of your churchyard or shake a tree or shrub branch over something white like a bedsheet or plastic tray to see if any bush-crickets fall down. Showing these special creatures to children opens up a world of delight and interest.

All the best,

Harriet Carty

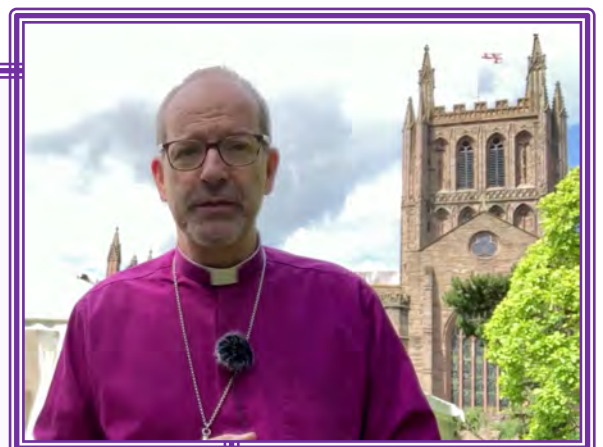
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**



In his final video before the summer break, Bishop Richard talks about hospitality, and compares the modern holiday with the biblical Sabbath, the needs that they meet and the benefits that they bring.

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



**The Bishop's weekly video message**



## Saint of the Month for August - Aidan of Lindisfarne

By Preb Mark Daborn

**August is a good month for saints' days, topped and tailed by two of my favourites: Oswald on August 5<sup>th</sup> (see August 2022!) and Aidan on August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Oswald won the kingdom of Northumbria in battle at Heavenfield, just by the Roman wall near Hexham, in 634 AD. Unusually for those early Anglo-Saxon times he was a Christian, having lived in exile at the monastery on Iona, off the tip of the Isle of Mull. So it was to Iona that he sent for a bishop to minister to his new kingdom, and in 635 AD a party of monks, led by Aidan, arrived in the north-east, and founded their simple monastery on the tidal island of Lindisfarne.

In the account given by the Venerable Bede, there was a previous mission sent from Iona in answer to Oswald's call, but it failed: the leader of the mission found the Anglo-Saxons uncouth and unwilling to hear his message, and returned in disgust. When he reported back to the monks on Iona, Aidan suggested he had expected too much of his listeners, and that he should have begun at a much simpler level. So Aidan was sent as a replacement.

Aidan worked for nearly twenty years among the pagan Angles, gradually making Northumbria a truly Christian kingdom, so that it even survived Oswald's death in battle at Oswestry on a raid into Mercia and North Wales. Aidan was the first bishop of the area that now covers Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire, and was noted for his humility. He preferred to walk around his vast diocese so that he could talk to anyone he met on their own level. When one of Oswald's successors, Oswin, gave him a horse to get around more quickly, Aidan gave it away to the first beggar he met, harness, trappings and all.

The monastery that Aidan founded became a centre of learning and mission, with such names as St Chad and St Wilfrid among its distinguished members and St Cuthbert as one of its priors and bishops. Recent excavations on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne have revealed the possible site of that monastic community on the raised ground known as The Heugh adjoining the island's harbour.

The royal headquarters of Oswald and his successors was at Bamburgh, just down the coast and within sight of Lindisfarne, and it was there, outside the church he founded, that Aidan died in the year 654.

Aidan is, quite simply, my historical hero above all others: a Christian of simplicity, humility and holiness and a model for all Christian ministers for all time.

### Readings for August 2023

#### August 6<sup>th</sup> - The Transfiguration (White)

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

#### August 13<sup>th</sup> - Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6; Romans 10:5-15

#### August 20<sup>th</sup> - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

#### August 27<sup>th</sup> - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

#### September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 115; Romans 12:9-end; Matthew 16:21-end

# The United Benefice of Brown Clee

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Rector: Rev'd Joe Simons was licensed on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b><br><i>Please contact your Churchwarden, as below, in case of emergency.</i>            |   |  |
| <b>St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill &amp; Loughton</b><br>CHURCHWARDENS<br>Carole Smith: 01746-712474<br>Mark Smith: 01746-712394 |   | <b>St Michael &amp; All Angels, Aston Botterell</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Anne Preece: 01746-787237 |
| <b>St Giles, Chetton</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Sheila Millington: 01746-789443  | <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul, Cleobury North</b><br>CHURCHWARDENS<br>Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676<br>Jane Bufton: 01746-787298 | <b>All Saints, Neenton</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093                        |

## Brown Clee Group News

**Special Service**

**to say**

**“Thank you” to Revd Preb Mark Daborn and Alex**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 6pm**

**St John’s Church, Ditton Priors**

## Licensing of the Revd Joseph Simons, Priest-in-Charge

On the evening of July 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 a packed church at Ditton Priors witnessed the Licensing of The Reverend Joseph Simons as Priest-in-Charge of Brown Clee Benefice. This service involved people from many different roles in the Church of England with The Right Reverend Bishop Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford officiating assisted by The Venerable Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow, with support from Reverend Nicol Kinrade, Bishop’s Chaplain, Reverend Prebendary Mark Daborn, Rural Dean, Alex Daborn and Dot Cartwright, Readers and Carole Smith, Mark Smith, Anne Preece and Sheila Millington, churchwardens, and the Brown Clee Benefice Choir.

The atmosphere was electric throughout - with family and friends from many other areas who have known Joe throughout his training - raising the roof in praise and thanks for Joe and his wife Karen who have moved into the vicarage at Ditton Priors and are getting to know the people in the seven parishes comprising Brown Clee Benefice.

We warmly welcome Joe and Karen, together with their faithful hounds, and look forward very much to his ministry across the Benefice.

## Brown Clew Services in during August

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August - Trinity 9

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

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 10

09:45 HC Ditton Priors  
 11:30 HC / MP Chetton

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

6:00pm Service of Thanks Ditton Priors

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 11

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

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 12

08:30 BCPHC Cancelled  
 10:15 GpHC Chetton

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Pls check HC Pls check with churchwardens

**HC – Holy Communion**

**GpHC – Extended Holy Communion**

**BCPHC –**

**MP – Morning Prayer**

**SoP – Songs of Praise**

**Services at Ditton Priors remain subject to some alteration so please check with your Churchwarden.**

## Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

### Churchyard maintenance

The cost of mowing, strimming etc. this year is expected to top £2000. Any donations towards this would be very welcome. This is a community facility (2 churchyards) and I know everyone likes to see them looking neat and tidy. Donations please to churchwardens, Marjorie, or any church member. **THANK YOU.**

### Cleaning rota for August

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August - Mrs Jennifer Lowe &amp; Mrs Debbie Jones</li> <li>● Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Mr &amp; Mrs Dennis Griffiths</li> <li>● Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Mr &amp; Mrs John Ballard</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Mrs Jutta Langham &amp; Mr Steve Allen</li> <li>● Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Mr &amp; Mrs Tony Brown</li> </ul> |
|---|---|



## Dates for your Diary

**Pimms and Puds Social** – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Sadly, it was decided to **postpone** this event due to the horrid weather forecast. It has turned so cold as well as rainy. We hope to reschedule when the weather picks up. All ticket holders were notified in good time.

**Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent: - Thursday 3rd August** near the “village green”. We look forward to seeing you all at the Show.

**Tea Party in the Churchyard: Thursday, 17th August** 3pm onwards. Teas, stalls and games – and lots of sunshine (we hope!).

**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, 10:30 – 12:30 – 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## Sponsored walk Saturday 8th July

Despite the dodgy weather, twelve people took part in the walk. We were treated to lunch on returning to church, provided by Margaret, and prepared by Jennifer and Pat. A very pleasant way to end the morning. A big THANK YOU to all who took part and to those who sponsored our walkers.

## St John the Baptist 100 Club results for July

- £20 – Annie Bamford
- £10     Mark Smith
- £5 each to:     Graham Russell, Peter Mathews, and Sally Green.

## Wheathill & Loughton News

**Marjorie Jones writes**

### Church services during August

- ✝ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July – 10:15am, Group Service at Wheathill led by Revd John Daniels
- ✝ Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – 6:00pm at Loughton Chapel – Holy Communion led by Revd David Poyner
- ✝ Advance notice – bring your pets to the September service!

**Thank you** to Ruby, Marjorie, Janet and Elizabeth for the wonderful spread of homemade nibbles to enjoy after what was Mark’s final and very moving service at Wheathill in July.

## 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.

## **Restoration work at Loughton Chapel**

At a recent PCC meeting it was agreed to go ahead as soon as possible with the tile replacement at Loughton Chapel. The repairs to the floor and to the steps into the churchyard will follow when we have obtained the necessary authority from Hereford Diocese, and we shall endeavour to secure dates as soon as possible now that we have a new Priest-in-charge.

## **Car Boot / Tabletop Sale**

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

## **Fund-raising QUIZ NIGHT!!**

The funds raised at the Three Horseshoes Quiz night in July were donated to the Air Ambulance and not Loughton Church as reported in the July edition.

## **Cleobury North and Burwarton News**

### **The Old Rectory – open garden – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

The PCC would like to thank Penny and David for opening their beautiful gardens for us. It was a huge success. We raised **£3445** which will go towards the repairs of the church roof. Thank you to everyone who came along on the day and to all who helped. See the full page of photographs of this beautiful garden on page 11.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> August - Songs of Praise, 11:30am

### **Car Treasure Hunt!**

On Sunday afternoon, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 – John & Linda Hughes no 64, £10 – Margaret Griffith no 22, £5 – Jake Muff no 128, and Ben Jones.



*The Old Rectory  
Cleobury North  
With grateful thanks to  
David and Penny*



# Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

## August Service at All Saints' Church, Neenton

✝ Next Service in All Saints Church will be Morning Prayer at 11:30am on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August. All are welcome.

### Celebrations

It has been a pleasure and has given great delight to have both a wedding and a christening in July 2023, both celebrated by Preb Mark. Thanks to all who helped to prepare the church and churchyard for these events.



### The bells rang out ...

...for Lizzie and Graham's wedding ceremony, conducted by Revd Preb Mark Daborn, with additional music from Charlie Venables whose father Alan is Neenton's honorary campanologist. The church and the churchyard looked magnificent, thanks to the hard work over the preceding few weeks, including a major renovation of the porch, and the flower arrangements inside by the Ridges flowers. Claire Darby, sister-in-law of the bride, sang a beautiful solo during the signing of the registers. The new Mr and Mrs Dean held their wedding breakfast and evening party in the Pheasant. We wish them every happiness for their married life together.



## And a Christening

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 we welcomed **Payton Margaret Ivy Bick** into the church family. Payton, daughter of Karen and Paul, who were married in All Saints Church on a beautiful day in 2018, is the sister of Arabella and Lucie-Mae, great-grand-daughter of Margaret Moreton (herself a long standing and well-known resident of Neenton), the granddaughter of Martin and Barbara Moreton and the great-niece of Ian and Paul Moreton. Lucie-Mae read a poem during the service. Payton was a delight throughout the service, and at 3 months old showed great composure, delighting the members of the congregation and Revd Preb Mark Daborn with her dazzling smile.

## All Saints Tote – August – congratulations to our winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Vicki Cartwright
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Richard Jones

**Subscriptions are now due** for the next 12 months’ tote. To join – or rejoin – please send £12 to Sue Hale.

## Neenton Fete and Duck Race

With great regret, we had to postpone the Annual Duck Race & Fête due to the inclement weather. A new date will be set and announced in next month’s WN. But it means that we still have the occasion to look forward to, later in the summer! All is not lost!

**Live music at the Pheasant** – Bank Holiday Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. “Call of the Kraken” will be playing from 5:00pm. Food will be available from 12 noon until 4:00pm.



|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p><b>Opening times –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌀 Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3pm, 6pm – 11pm</li> <li>🌀 Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11pm</li> <li>🌀 Sunday lunch 12 noon – 4.30pm</li> <li>🌀 Bank Holiday Monday 28 August – food from 12:00 – 4:00pm</li> </ul> |
| <p>Please call 01746-787955 or email <a href="mailto:info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk">info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk</a> to discuss times and your requirements or book direct on the website.</p> |   |

## Chetton News

*Pam Downing writes:*

## Services at St Giles’ Church

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✝ Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – 11:30am – Morning Prayer</li> <li>✝ Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – 10:15am – Group Service</li> </ul> | <p><b>Flowers and Cleaning</b></p> <p>Anne, Elizabeth and Sheila</p> |
|---|--|

## 100 Club Winners

- £15.00 to Jill Tofiluk no 4
- £10.00 to Andy & Elizabeth Johnson no 60.

## Chetton Village Hall - Regular activities and events

- Pam's Pilates resume on 4<sup>th</sup> September - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 9:30am
- Chetton Active Friends, Mondays from 2pm except 21<sup>st</sup> August
- Zumba – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm

## Flicks in the Sticks

The following film list has been suggested by the Committee but any films can be requested as long as they are not Amazon Prime/Netflix.

**Alleluia, Little English, Living, A man called Otto, A Christmas Carol, Joyride, The outfit, The phantom of the open, The Railway children and Mrs Harris goes to Paris.**

If you have any suggestions please email [wallsbatch@gmail.com](mailto:wallsbatch@gmail.com). Or telephone Sue on 789239.

**Village Hall and activities enquiries – Sue on 01746-789239**

## Daddy's Hat music and poetry

*Sally Russell writes:*



On the third Saturday in July, four members of the Hat family (two new performers and two long-established explorers of ancient, sacred spaces) climbed the steep grassy track, to St Bartholomew's, high above Richard's Castle. Exactly a year ago the quiet, completely unspoilt 12th (?!) century building had resonated with the rich sounds of two 'celli; this time, equally captivating strains of Kim McCafferty's classical guitar filled the air, interspersed with the poetry of an interfaith minister, who magically joined in, after phoning just the previous evening. This lady minister lives near the castle but has also been connected with Bridgnorth Endowed School and Billingsley church, where Daddy's Hat will be rejoining Revd David Poyner, next month.

**On Saturday August 19th at 3pm in Billingsley Church**, the Clee Liberty Band (Marcia & Ami, Penny & Paul), will be giving us some more of their lively and colourful music and humour, last seen and never to be forgotten, at Revd Garry's Claverley church on the third Saturday in April. The links and connections are becoming too powerful to ignore ... do come and join the Hat family, as performer or audience, for the final three events of the year!

**On Saturday 16th September at St Mary the Virgin, Jackfield**, with a piano recital (including Debussy & Gershwin) by Richard Fox (veteran Hatter!) and the amazing Saxon Fire saxophone quartet.

**And on Saturday 21st October, DH is finishing the year at Aston Botterell** with artists still assembling, hopefully to include a community choir and some local organists, perhaps even our new 'fiddler Bob' and classical guitarist, Kit McCafferty?

**More details in the next WN**, or please text Sally on 07747-788429 or leave a message on 01746-787419.

# Ditton Priors Local History Group

John Coles writes:

**“The Village History Walk, led by Di Bryan on 24th June, was a huge success.”**

A total of about 40 people turned out in the sunshine to enjoy Di’s History Walk around Ditton Priors. Di, a well-known local historian and author, had everyone spellbound with her colourful descriptions of the key historical buildings in the village, delivered with humour and enthusiasm. Even those who have lived in the village most of their lives admitted to learning something new.



One of the highlights, thanks to the generosity of Veronica and Colin, was a guided tour of Church Farm, which they have lovingly restored.



In expressing his deep thanks to Di for a wonderful tour, Chairman Paul Wilson explained that this was the first event organised by the new committee and that he hoped to notify everyone of more activities by late summer.

## DPLHG September meeting

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at Ditton Priors Village Hall – local historian and author Clive Gwilt will be in conversation with Paul Wilson. Clive will bring with him the maps of the potential German invasion plans for Bridgnorth, which is the subject of his recent book.

## Molecule of the Month - Compound 69 and the 5HT<sub>2a</sub> receptor



One of the major challenges faced by the pharmaceutical industry is to deliver new drugs to treat conditions where existing therapies do not work as well as we would like. There are particularly large gaps in the treatment of mental health, especially conditions. Underlying these are imbalances in brain biochemistry, especially a chemical released by nerves called variously serotonin or 5-hydroxytryptamine, usually shortened to 5HT. This is released to promote activity in the parts of our brain that give feelings of contentment and well-being; feelings that are largely absent in those who suffer from long-term depression or anxiety. There are good treatments available for depression, but unfortunately there are a number of people who do not respond to these. For them, life can be very dark.

It has been known anecdotally that some of these people seem to respond well to mind-altering drugs of abuse, such as LSD. However, it would be a brave/foolish clinician who prescribed LSD or similar psychedelic agents to a depressed patient; the depression might be alleviated, but the resulting psychoses (“bad trips”) could be worse. And so the field has gone nowhere.

It has been known for some years that LSD works by mimicking the effects of 5HT on one of the proteins that nerves produce to respond to it; a protein called the 5HT<sub>2a</sub> receptor. This protein can activate nerve cells when LSD binds to it, but perhaps not quite in the same way as 5HT itself. LSD activates a set of reactions in nerve cells that are mediated by a protein called beta-arrestin; 5HT can additionally activate what are termed “G proteins” to produce a somewhat different pattern of activity in nerves. Could this help us to design new drugs that act at the 5HT<sub>2a</sub> receptor without the undesirable actions of LSD?

Very recent data suggests this might be possible. In a large-scale collaboration between chemists, pharmacologists, computer scientists and behavioural specialists, computers were used to generate 75 million (!) different chemical structures, based on our knowledge of what was likely to be a good drug and could perhaps interact with the 5HT<sub>2a</sub> receptor. Then, using 1000 computers, each of these chemicals was examined to see if it was likely that it could bind to a computer model of the 5HT<sub>2a</sub> receptor. At the end, 17 of the structures showed enough promise to be actually made by chemists and tested in the laboratory. After further rounds of refinement, both using computers and at the lab bench, two agents emerged that looked promising; compounds 69 and 70. Compound 69 was examined carefully in animals that showed signs of depression or anxiety; it alleviated these without showing any evidence for causing psychoses. Biochemically, it seems to activate G proteins rather than beta-arrestins, in line with expectations.

**The real test will come** when Compound 69 or an analogue is used in patients in clinical trials. None-the-less, that story so far is very promising and shows what can now be achieved by a combination of modern computing and traditional laboratory approaches. **Only by using a computer could we possibly investigate so many potential drugs.** As an aside, with colleagues at Aston and Coventry universities and in a project funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), we are developing new computer methods that better predict how drugs activate cells, in line with what seems to have been a key finding in this project.

DRP



# Severn Valley Group of Parishes

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw</b><br><a href="mailto:Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com">Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com</a> |  | <b>Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister</b><br>Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email<br><a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a> |
| <b>St Mary, Billingsley</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Vacant   | <b>St Peter, Chelmarsh</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Vacant | <b>St Bartholomew, Glazeley</b><br>CHURCHWARDENS<br>Laura Jones – 07714-432836,<br><a href="mailto:laura@laj.me.uk">laura@laj.me.uk</a>                                     |

## Services at St Mary's Highley

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

10:30 HC St Mary's Highley

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

10:30 Informal Service St Mary's Highley

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August

10:30 HC St Mary's Highley

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August

10:30 Informal Service St Mary's Highley

**HC – Holy Communion**

**EHC – Extended Holy Communion**

**MP – Morning Prayer**

**SoP – Songs of Praise**



## Glazeley News

*Marion Corfield and David Poyner write:*

The Gabb family again opened the gardens of their home at the Woodlands in aid of Kidney Research UK and Glazeley and Chelmarsh churches; volunteers from Glazeley and Chelmarsh supplied refreshments and sold raffle tickets and Chelmarsh also had their own plant sale. The weather was glorious and the public turned out in droves. There was still a queue for refreshments thirty minutes before the gates closed. The takings were a record, with well over **£3000** being raised; Glazeley and

Chelmarsh churches have both benefited by their share of well over **£750** each. More important than the money was the role this has an event that brings people together, from my perspective, selling raffle tickets, it was wonderful to see so many people meeting and talking with each.



We are very grateful especially to Caspar Gabb and his family, who in the absence of Roger this year, took the chief responsibility for organising the event. Many thanks!



As I write (15<sup>th</sup> July) we are preparing for our monthly breakfast at the Down. This month, Marion is hosting the event to mark a significant birthday; congratulations Marion! Our service of Holy Communion at 10am on the third Sunday of the month continues to go well, please do join us if you can. Refreshments are served afterwards. Please do not park on the verge of the drive; if the car park is full, go down the drive where you are welcome to park at the Old Rectory.

A reminder that Glazeley church is now open daily for visitors; many thanks to Laura and Andrew for unlocking and locking it. It is excellent that visitors can enjoy the beauty of the interior of this building.

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638</b><br>Email <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a> | <b>Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585</b><br><a href="mailto:Marion.corfield@talktalk.net">Marion.corfield@talktalk.net</a> |
|---|---|

## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

We had a good turnout for our latest Sunday evening service focussing on travel. After Sue Bates’s account of a trip to Antarctica last month, this month, the assistant editor/typist-in-chief at the Wheatland News, Caroline John, spoke on “Full Circle”, a reflection on three spectacular cruises she has been on, starting with a school cruise in 1970. Caroline spoke about the friendships she has made on boats, the work of all the crew and the nourishment she finds from simply looking out at the sea and the sky. As the psalmist puts it, they too are telling of the glory of God. Next up, on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm, your own correspondent will speak on “Tours of the Hebrides”, based on 30 years visiting these beautiful and (sometimes) remote islands of the west coast of Scotland, home to eagles, otters, midges and numerous saints.

*Thank you all for your very warm welcome at Billingsley! The banana cake was absolutely delicious too. CCI*



**After five years of dedicated service**, Sue Bates is stepping down as treasurer of Billingsley Church, as she and husband Phil are moving. I cannot thank Sue and Phil enough for the work they have done for Billingsley; this has gone far beyond book-keeping. As an example, in the last couple of weeks they dealt with a flood when a pipe failed, ordered and fitted a replacement and got the water system back working for our evening service. Sue, Phil, we will miss you both! We are however delighted that Diane Stepney is taking over from Sue as treasurer and we very much appreciate the help Diane gives us in looking after the churchyard.

We have also had a recent visit from Alex from **Caring for God's Acre**, who has scythed the grass. We manage it this way to encourage wildlife.



**See also the God's Acre article on page 5**



## **Daddy's Hat is coming to Billingsley**

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August, at 3pm Billingsley plays host to a Daddy's Hat concert. This month we welcome the marvellous Clee Liberty Band who entertain on the banjo and piano accordion. Just turn up; put whatever donation you want in the hat at the end to meet the expenses of the musicians.

David Poyner – Associate Minister  
Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693  
email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk)

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

## Chelmarsh News

*Elizabeth Bebb writes:*

July was a busy month for St Peter's. We started the month off with many of the ladies helping out at the Chelmarsh Fete. Despite being a smaller event than pre-Covid times, it was still a great success (the intermittent showers didn't fully wash us away) and a good time was had by all at this very successful village fundraiser.

During the month we were joined by the **Through Faith Mission** who joined us within the benefice to share their faith with us. Their initial offer to walk between all the churches praising God was kind, but we were a bit unsure whether they realised how far apart some of our churches were! A compromise was reached with transport. It was lovely to host them and to appreciate a different approach to bringing the family of Christ together. A service was held at Highley church during their time in the benefice.

We continue to explore the concept of Faith and the Holy Spirit within scripture. Kina is ably helped by Michelle and Anita as they both work towards becoming Local Worship Leaders. They have both hosted services and given talks within the church over the last few months.

Thank you to all those who have helped and continue to help to upgrade the vestry. The addition of the shelves has made storage much easier and new paint will brighten it up no end. Members of the clergy have all commented on how much easier it is to ensure their robes are straight for the service with the addition of the new mirror. We also continue to receive offers of help from many sources - we thank you all and will be in touch in due course.

**Church cleaning:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 2pm.

## Wheatland Diary

|      |    |      |   |
|------|----|------|---|
| Sun  | 30 | July | Car Treasure Hunt – Aston Botterell – Anne – 07966-459806. See page 10                          |
| Thur | 3  | Aug  | Burwarton Show – Refreshment Tent – see page 9  |
| Sat  | 5  | Aug  | Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 9                                |
| Sun  | 13 | Aug  | Tours of the Hebrides – talk by Revd David Poyner, Billingsley Church, 6pm. See page 18         |
| Thur | 17 | Aug  | Ditton Priors – Tea Party in the Churchyard – see page 9  |
| Sat  | 19 | Aug  | Daddy's Hat – St Mary's Church, Billingsley, 3:00pm. See page 14 and page 19                    |
| Sun  | 20 | Aug  | Informal Community Supper – Middleton Scriven – further details available locally – see page 24 |
| Mon  | 28 | Aug  | Pheasant at Neenton – Live Music from Call of the Kraken, 5:00pm – see page 13                  |
| Sat  | 2  | Sept | Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 9                                |
| Sat  | 9  | Sept | Ride and Stride! See poster on the back cover of this WN, and item on page 23                   |
| Sat  | 9  | Sept | Coffee Morning at Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 – 12:00 - see page 24                         |
| 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 14                      |
| Thur | 21 | Sept | Ditton Priors Local History Group – evening with Clive Gwilt, Ditton Priors VH – see page 15    |
| Sat  | 7  | Oct  | Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 9  |
| Sat  | 7  | Oct  | Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 9                                |
| Sat  | 21 | Oct  | Daddy's Hat at Aston Botterell Church, 3:00pm – see page 14                                     |
| Sat  | 28 | Oct  | Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir at Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 9                        |
| Sat  | 4  | Nov  | Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 9                                |

# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

**Rector: Prebendary Mark Daborn**

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE  
 Telephone 01746-718127. Email [mark.daborn55@outlook.com](mailto:mark.daborn55@outlook.com)  
 Days off – hopefully MONDAY and THURSDAY

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>St Mary, Stottesdon</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDEN<br/>         Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007</p>      | <p><b>St Giles, Farlow</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDENS<br/>         Nigel Savage-Bailey - 07989-308599</p>                                     | <p><b>Holy Trinity, Sidbury</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDEN<br/>         Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149</p>                              |
| <p><b>St Mary, Cleeton St Mary</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDEN<br/>         Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583</p> | <p><b>St John, Middleton Scriven</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDEN<br/>         vacant – so call<br/>         Preb Mark Daborn - 01746-718127</p> | <p><b>St Michael, Silvington</b><br/>         CHURCHWARDEN<br/>         vacant – so call<br/>         Preb Mark Daborn - 01746-718127</p> |

## August Message

I was musing in a sermon towards the end of July about new beginnings. I had been involved in a baptism, a confirmation, a wedding, a licensing of a new priest-in-charge and the handing over of the role of Rural Dean. Alongside this, the Church of England is wrestling with how to fit in with the modern world. It is a time of change in so many ways; but every change is a new beginning and every new beginning is a new opportunity.

To my mind, the great strength of the Church of England is that it is there for everyone when they need it. Some people like their weekly worship in the village church; some people like to drop in occasionally; some people only need it in times of particular rejoicing or particular grief. Many people find it a safe haven to come back to when the busy-ness of life eases off. But the parish system provides everyone with a church they can call their own, and a vicar they can get to know. Thus, when there is a need, neither the place nor the person is a stranger to the one in need.

The village church is a community building. When I have taken services for the children in our schools or helped with curriculum enrichment projects in their parish churches, I have always been careful to welcome them to their church. When people have come to celebrate their weddings and their baptisms, I have welcomed them, and thanked their friends and families for being there to support them. The churches can so easily be seen as mysterious and somehow threatening to those who are not used to them, with strange language and strange ceremonies: but, actually, they belong to you, the people of the parishes.

This is most noticeable at the main festivals – particularly Harvest and Carol Services – but also at community events like coffee mornings and Harvest Suppers. It will be increasingly evident at Stottesdon as the Heritage Lottery community events are rolled out now that the building work is completed. But it is there, as well, in the people who drop in to the church on their own, either for a look round or to step aside from the everyday, for a little while spent with the eternal.

It has been a time of great joy and privilege to serve these parishes, but my term of office as Rector finishes on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, when we shall have a thanksgiving service at Stottesdon. This will not be a Communion service, because I want it to be equally open to all. There will then be a new beginning for us, and for you. A new opportunity.

Mark Daborn

# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

## Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches – August 2023

|   |    |                   |   |
|---|----|-------------------|---|
| -   | -  | -                 | - |
| -   | -  | -                 | - |
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August – The Transfiguration</b>           |    |                   |   |
| 9:00  | HC | Farlow            |   |
| 10:30   | MP | Stottesdon        |   |
| 4:00pm  | EP | Sidbury           |   |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 10</b>                   |    |                   |   |
| 9:00  | HC | Cleeton St Mary   |   |
| 10:30   | HC | Stottesdon        |   |
| 6:30pm  | EP | Silvington        |   |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 11</b>                   |    |                   |   |
| 10:30   | IW | Stottesdon        |   |
| 11:30   | HC | Sidbury           |   |
| 6:30pm  | EP | Middleton Scriven |   |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 12</b>                   |    |                   |   |
| 9:00  | IW | Silvington        |   |
| 10:30   | HC | Stottesdon        |   |
| 4:00pm  | EP | Cleeton St Mary   |   |
| <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Trinity 13</b>                 |    |                   |   |
| 10:30   |    | Stottesdon        |   |
| <b>Benefice Gathering<br/>for Mark and Alex's<br/>Final Service</b> |    |                   |   |
| -   | -  | -                 | - |

HC  
Holy Communion

MP  
Morning Prayer

EP  
Evening Prayer

IW  
Informal Worship

~

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 September edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August - Thanks!

## Confirmation

Thank you to those who were able to come and support our three candidates for Confirmation at St Giles, Farlow, and also to the admirable Farlow team who got the church ready beforehand and provided us with lovely refreshments after the service. Bishop Richard seemed to be very relaxed and at ease with this intimate and moving service, and stayed on to talk to people over coffee and cake for a good long time afterwards!

## Ride and Stride 2023

We have been immeasurably helped in our parishes by grants from Shropshire Historic Churches Trust towards the upkeep and renovation of our churches. We, in our turn, have done our best to contribute to that organisation through fundraising on **Ride and Stride day**. Over the last few years, we have done this with a Benefice Pilgrimage, walking round our six churches, and reading one of the Psalms of Ascent at each one. This year Ride and Stride day falls on September 9<sup>th</sup> when Mark will have left, and on the previous Saturday he is celebrating a wedding.



**So Alex and Mark propose to do their final R and S pilgrimage on Saturday 26th August, with Merry and Seren, and with anyone who would like to join us for all or part of the journey. Call Mark to check times and other details!**

## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### **Thank you from our community to Mark and Alex:**

At the last vacancy in our Benefice we were absolutely delighted when a lovely vicar, who understood about life in the countryside, loved researching historic things for sermons to teach us something new, with an unassuming manner and was clearly a “people person” was starting to come to our church leading our services. We were even more delighted and fully supported his appointment as rector.

Our church congregations have always been small, and our community spirit very strong. Mark has recognised this and helped us in many ways. He has tried to join us for our community events and has this way been able to connect with so many people in his extended flock. He’s been very approachable and for many has officiated at “life events” or been there with pastoral care.

Mark and Alex are to be congratulated on their incredibly hard work in this parish and beyond, their team work has been outstanding. Who can forget their amazing work and those online services during Covid. They will be a very hard act to follow and we will miss them.

**We wish them a well-deserved, happy and healthy retirement. Sending prayers and best wishes.**

## Church services at Middleton Scriven

Our final two services with Mark:

- ✝ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 9:00am
- ✝ Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30pm

## Coffee mornings

Please note that there is no coffee morning during August. Our next coffee morning in church will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10:00am till 12 noon.

## Date for your diary

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August - informal Community Supper 7.30pm. Look out for invitations and further details of this event.

## Farlow News

*Janice Howells writes:*

**Farlow Church PCC would like to thank Mark and Alex for all their hard work, and wish them a long and happy retirement.**

## July 100 Club winners

- £20 to Pip & Steve Tolley
- £10 each to Linda Turner and Mark Link
- £5 each to Sylvia Best and Hazel Deignan.

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

**From all in Cleeton parish: Thanking Mark and Alex for your ministry among us, services always good even though we were few. Wishing you both the very best in retirement .**

## June 100 Club Results

- £20 Kate Broome No 60
- £10 each to Andy Smith No 75 and Chris Cuthbert No 25
- £5 each to John Condliffe No 84 and Martin Smith No 97.

## Silvington

*Chris Tibbits writes:*

After over 20 years in the parish, Annette and Charles Metcalfe have moved on to pastures new in Leicestershire, to be nearer their children and grandchildren. Both will be greatly missed here, and we all wish them every happiness for the future. Annette has penned one last piece for WN and it will appear here next month.



# Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

## From the St Mary's Registers

May 2023 - Funeral Office for Janette Wilkes R I P (late of Glebe Drive, Stottesdon).

**Stottesdon 100 club** - Congratulations to July winners – Emma Lennox, Mary Overton, and Babs & Tony Brown.

## In the News - Reports of a busy summer of fundraising events!

### Correspondent Francis Engleheart reports that

“the annual **Stottesdon / Chorley vs Kinlet Cricket match** was established in 1984 and has continued ever since.

This year's game, played at Kinlet on a June Sunday of almost dreamlike beauty, was as much social as sporting event (as it has always been). Although most of the team assembled by Mike Mooney rarely if ever play cricket the contest before tea was an even one: it was only towards the end of the thirty overs that Kinlet's batsmen reached a respectable total, and the bowling figures read well.

Chorley & Stottesdon's reply was a different kettle of fish - the batsmen found runs hard to come by against bowlers who play a lot of cricket, and none reached double figures. This is however the most affable of fixtures, summed up by a leisurely tea interval, at which time must be found for calorific indulgence and the raffle. Let's hope we can celebrate the fortieth anniversary in style in 2024!”

Kinlet 155/6 in 30 overs; Chorley & Stottesdon 32.

**Raffle raised £70 for St Mary's**

### Open Gardens on 16<sup>th</sup> July

The formula of 'sunshine and showers, 9 gardens to explore and teas, cakes and plants on sale at the Parish Church' drew a near record 220 visitors and in just 4 hours we raised **£1,000 for the NGS Nursing and Hospice charities and an extra £750 for the church Fabric Fund.**

A huge thank you to the gardeners, bakers, church cleaners, refreshment servers, car park providers and helpers and everyone who visited!!

### Stottesdon Community Fete held on 21<sup>st</sup> July [deferred from the rain-sodden 14<sup>th</sup>]

saw the School Field teeming with stalls galore, the traditional tug-o-war and children's performance. New this year were fresh crêpes by France Pioger & friends, the FoSPS Bar was popular as ever (thanks Hobsons Brewery for your support!) and the Church BBQ sold out of the great Reg May's sausages (thanks too to the Co-op in Cleobury for your support!)

**The fete raised £2,700 to be equally shared as usual between Church and School.**

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

The restoration and conservation works are now complete, and the Parish Church is now once again open to everyone, every day (roughly 9am-5pm daily).

Sunday services are back at 'home' in the Nave, Chancel and High Altar and the regular provision of Tea and Coffee after church gatherings resumed in late July.

Alongside the building restoration work, we have funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to research our remarkable building - a place of Christian worship for over 1000 years. Later this year we'll be ready to share the story of St Mary's and its many, splendid heritage treasures – with a digital 'Explorer Trail' in preparation along with a new guidebook and heritage visitor 'welcome & interpretation centre'.

More on this, and the proposed toilet facility, in next month's edition.

## Sidbury

Regrettably, we have no news this month from Sidbury.

## Our Community Noticeboard

### Cleobury Country Farmers Market – 19<sup>th</sup> August

...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 August 2023

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Brown Clee Walkers</b>                         | Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662   |
| <b>Burwarton &amp; District Garden Club</b>       | Meets on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Contact 01584-823723 for details of topic and venue  |
| <b>Burwarton &amp; District WI</b>                | Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466   |
| <b>Burwarton &amp; District Wives Group</b>       | Meeting 8pm 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231  |
| <b>Buzzard community bus</b>                      | Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00  |
| <b>Chelmarsh Crown Green Bowling Club</b>         | Welcomes old and new members. Contact Sue Jackman 01746-862850   |
| <b>Chelmarsh Friends</b>                          | Meet every 2nd Wednesday 7.30pm Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Jenny Green 01746-862191  |
| <b>Chelmarsh Indoor Short Mat Bowling</b>         | Welcomes old and new members. The sessions are every Tuesday evening from 7.30-10.00pm. Further details Sue Jackman 01746-862850   |
| <b>Chelmarsh Jubilee Club</b>                     | Parish Hall 01746-86525 Jean Davis   |
| <b>Chelmarsh Parent &amp; Toddler Group</b>       | Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323  |
| <b>Chelmarsh Parish Hall</b>                      | Available for hire - <a href="mailto:booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk">booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Chelmarsh Walking for Health</b>               | Monday 10.00am except Bank Holidays. Parish Hall. Eleanor Haddon 01746-862884. 2 levels of walking available   |
| <b>Chetton &amp; Gazeley WI</b>                   | Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O'Sullivan 01746-868225   |
| <b>Chetton Folk Dance Club</b>                    | Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802  |
| <b>Chetton Village Hall</b>                       | Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239  |
| <b>Chorley Village Hall</b>                       | Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact <b>07726-763883</b> – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022  |
| <b>Cleeton &amp; Silvington V H</b>               | Zumba - Thursdays 6.30pm 7.30pm all year Ula 01584-890200  |
| <b>Cleobury North Village Hall</b>                | Enquiries to 01746-787093 please   |
| <b>Ditton Priors Art Group</b>                    | Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532   |
| <b>Ditton Priors Book Club</b>                    | Jenny -01746-712665  |
| <b>Ditton Priors History Group</b>                | Please contact <a href="mailto:paul.wilson8992@gmail.com">paul.wilson8992@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>Ditton Priors Village Hall</b>                 | Bookings - <b>07766 392 105</b> - <a href="mailto:dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Domestic Abuse Hotline</b>                     | Telephone Number 08448-044999  |
| <b>Fun &amp; Fitness for 50+</b>                  | Cleobury North Village Hall - low impact fitness programme working the whole body every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.15am. Contact 01584-823640  |
| <b>Knowle Sports Club</b>                         | Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644   |
| <b>Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors</b> | Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wendy Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549   |
| <b>Short Mat Bowling</b>                          | Every Monday & Thursday 2.30 – 4.30pm at Cleeton & Silvington Village Hall, October to end of April. Pam 01584-89261   |
| <b>Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors</b>          | 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 Clive Jackson on 01746-718046 |
| <b>Stoke St Milborough Dance</b>                  | Mike 01746-712774 - Betty 01746-77515  |
| <b>Stottesdon &amp; District W.I.</b>             | Meets in various venues on the 3rd Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746 718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007   |
| <b>Stottesdon Gateway Nursery</b>                 | Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769  |
| <b>Tae kwon-do</b>                                | Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday 5.45pm. 07969-996055   |

09<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPT.  
2023

# RIDE+STRIDES

for Churches

## SHROPSHIRE CHURCHES OPEN DAY



join us

**Join us to keep Shropshire's historic churches and chapels open, beautiful, and updated with modern facilities**

Collect sponsors, then plan your own route and visit some churches – enjoy the day.

Half the money you raise from Ride+Stride goes to your Church, and half to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants for repairs and renovations.

In 2022 we raised **£29,700** thanks to your help. Let's make 2023 a bumper year!



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