

# WHEATLAND NEWS

September 2023



*St Mary's Stottesdon, in spring. New beginnings.*

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

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## Editorial



Last month we made reference to the retirement of Rev Preb Mark Daborn and in this month's edition we report on some of the special Services of Thanks which have taken place throughout the Wheatland area. Mark and Alex will be missed for all the contributions they have made, not only to the Stottesdon Benefice, but also to the greater community in Mark's role as Rural Dean and his unfailing support to all the 21 parishes he took on during the vacancies in the Wheatland Area.

We wish Mark and Alex a happy, peaceful and fulfilling retirement.

There is also a report on the Licensing of The Revd Joseph Simons as Priest –in-Charge of Brown Clee. The Wheatland News team are delighted to report that Joe has agreed to join the Wheatland News committee to continue the clerical input to the magazine.

We also welcome Emma Haywood, who has joined Brown Clee Benefice as the Benefice Administrator.

As we go to press with this edition of Wheatland News we have been hearing many comments about the GCSE results being received by the young people who have spent many hours agonising over and revising the subjects they have chosen. The next phase in their lives can be determined by the grade obtained and whether the place at their chosen future education path will be accessible. A friend described the day as emotionally charged, particularly as the results received were not as good as predicted, but a place was secured and the day ended on a positive note. These emotions demonstrate the fragility of us all in this world where we experience ups and downs as part of everyday life. A real 'Big Dipper' journey which tests our resilience but, in the end, as our lives unfold, we are made stronger as we cope with the uncertainties that life throws at us. We wish our community of young people success in whatever path they choose or are directed.

By request there is a brief introduction to the role of the Churchwarden in our churches and the 'Visitation' which is held every year to admit each person individually to the position and the legal responsibilities this entails. See page 7.



**Finally** – please don't forget the annual Ride and Stride on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September!

## Ed

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for contributions for the October 2023 edition of WN will be **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. **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   | <b>Canev Clayton</b>   |
| 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

### September Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



#### Dear Friends

Achievement – One of the things I have done as part of my study leave is to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. I have wanted to do this since I was in my late teens. I actually did around a third of it back in 1986 and have done different parts ever since but never got around to walking the whole path. I can now say that after walking for 16 days I have completed all 186 miles and enjoyed every moment of it! Whilst written out it does not seem quite so challenging, as it was coastal walking it certainly contained a lot of climbing up and down. According to the Coast Path, guide book the ascents and descent are said to be the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest – 35,000 feet! In addition I lost weight and raised with my sister in law £3000 for the Alzheimer's Society. It actually feels like I have achieved something and it got me thinking about the idea of success.

In our society today, we are often measured by how successful we are and whilst we should all aim to do our best and work hard that will not always lead to success. It is so easy for us to try to emulate others or to search out the golden bullet that will change our fortunes but the reality is chasing after superficial success will not help us spiritually.

The same is true in our churches it is far too easy to compare ourselves with others or think that there is a clever solution to our problems. The reality is there is no one way to grow our churches or to be successful because it is God who grows the church not us. When we chase after clever tools and copy other peoples strategies we miss the point completely.

***“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” - James 4:13-17***

James, writing to the early church, recognised that it is only God who can create our spiritual growth and grand plans that don't include God are fruitless. When we chase success for success's sake we will simply end up missing what God is about and fool ourselves. James isn't suggesting we have a fatalistic faith but what he is saying is that we need to see what God is doing amongst us and join in with him. So often, we create plans and then invite God to bless them rather than asking God in prayer what he would have us do. James wants the church to be a place that is faithful to the gospel and to listen to God and not chase after success and achievement so we can boast about ourselves. When we put God first in our lives then we will see achievement in a different light.

Achievement also does not come without cost and it amazes me how so often we stockpile our resources and then wonder why we don't see more fruit from our church life. Generosity and hospitality are core parts of our faith and yet we often fail to share what God has given us with others. If we truly want to see our churches grow and flourish we have to live out the values of our faith and not allow ourselves to become inward looking. Our faith is not a business transaction where we get what we pay for instead we are called to give ourselves away for the sake of the kingdom. This is what Jesus taught his disciples and it is just as true for us today.

***“Don't pile up treasures on earth, where moth and rust can spoil them and thieves can break in and steal. But keep your treasure in Heaven where there is neither moth nor rust to spoil it and nobody can break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there too!” Matthew 6:19-21***

The good news is that we can all achieve things for God if we put our minds to it and he has given us all the resources we need if we put our trust in him. It doesn't matter if we are part of a church with six members or sixty we all have a part in God's plan if we ask him and listen for the whispers of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Instead of trying to be successful, we need to learn to be faithful and obedient to the call of God to serve our communities. I love the words of the Missionary teacher William Carey that remind us to trust God and have a go!

*"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."*

The Bishop of Hereford's weekly video message will be back next month, after his summer break.

Ven Derek Chedzey  
Archdeacon of Hereford

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

**If you were looking for bats** in your local churchyard, where would you expect them to be? They are not in the belfry for a start, it's too noisy! Bats often use church buildings, and a bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK; eight of these use churches or chapels.

Bats, like most animals, have different needs throughout the year. They need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. Bats roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves, porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lychgates. As well as buildings, bats will use trees seeking out holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Old and veteran trees are full of possible bat roosting places, as well as being home to many other creatures.

Burial grounds tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are relatively free of chemicals and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects. Flying uses up a lot of energy so a site rich in insects is crucial for bats.

September is a great month to search for bats, as the nights are starting to draw in the bats will be flying earlier, so you don't have to stay up too late to see and hear them. They have left their nursery roosts and both adults and young are flying, hunting to put on fat which will help them survive the winter. Watching them hunt can be great fun and with a bat detector you can also hear them echo-locate as they search for prey. Why not contact the Bat Conservation Trust and see if there is a local expert who could run a public event for you? Knowing which bats use your churchyard can help you manage for them and also avoid any damage to either bats or their habitats.

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**



# Saint of the Month for September – Hildegard of Bingen

By Preb Mark Daborn

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September we celebrate the feast day of Hildegard of Bingen, the ‘Sibyl of the Rhine’. She is known thus because of the music that she left to be enjoyed by many following generations. It is spiritual and ethereal music, reflecting Hildegard’s mystical experiences.

She was born in 1098 at Bermersheim in Rheinhessen, and lived until 1179. To put that into its historical context, she lived through the reigns (in England) of William Rufus, Henry I, Stephen (and Matilda!) and into the last decade of Henry II. Soon after her birth Jerusalem was stormed and captured by the first Crusade; nine years before she died Thomas Beckett was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral. As abbess of her community of nuns at Rupertsberg, near Bingen, she corresponded with – among others – the German emperor Frederic Barbarossa, Henry II of England and four popes. She was, as so many women in the religious life have been, extraordinarily influential and well-known.

She entered the monastery as a child oblate – that is, she was a gift from her parents – at the age of eight. This was a normal practice of the time, especially as a way of providing for a tenth child of a noble family! From an early age she had mystical experiences and visions, and from her early forties had her experiences written down by a monk called Volmar, and she became something of a prophetess to a troubled European Church and political community.



When her teacher and confidante Jutta von Spanheim died, Hildegard became leader of the spiritual community, and, although claiming to be uneducated, and merely a channel for God’s voice, she published several books on the Gospels and the Benedictine Rule; she also wrote books on natural science and the human body which show considerable perceptive observation.

Many of the texts for her musical compositions were in praise of Saints, including Rupert, whose monastery Hildegard refounded after it had been destroyed by the Normans. The music itself argues a high standard of musicianship within the houses that Hildegard ruled, even though a fair amount of guesswork is included in both the pitch and the accompaniment.

Strictly, Hildegard does not qualify to appear on this page. Attempts were made to canonise her in the thirteenth century, but there were official holdups in the process (red tape delays – nothing changes!!) and an unusual circumstance: when someone is considered for canonisation, a Devil’s Advocate is appointed, who has to argue the case against the proposed Saint. In Hildegard’s case, this officer, John Peckham (yes, an Englishman!) was so good at his job that canonisation was turned down.

Hildegard’s anniversary, though, has long been celebrated as a feast day in parts of Germany – and, since she was considered in her time as a significant prophetess, as influential for good in troubled times, and left behind some gloriously moving music, perhaps this minor infringement of the rules can be excused!

*Hildegard of Bingen, bronze sculpture by Karlheinz Oswald, outside Eibingen Abbey in a garden with red roses and trees, in the distance the Rochus Chapel of Bingen.*

Gerda Arendt, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

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## Readings for September 2023

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

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

### September 10<sup>th</sup> - Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Ezekiel 33.7-11; Psalm 149; Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

### September 17<sup>th</sup> - Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Genesis 50.15-21; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

### September 24<sup>th</sup> - Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jonah 3.10-end of 4; Psalm 105.1-6, 37-end; Philippians 1.21-end; Matthew 20.1-16

### October 1<sup>st</sup> - Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Green) - Harvest Readings

Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or 28.1-14; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9.6-end; Luke 12.16-30 or Luke 17.11-19

#### Or non-Harvest Readings

Ezekiel 18.1-4; 25-end; Psalm 78.1-7; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

## The role of the Churchwarden

*People are often unsure about the role of a churchwarden, what they do, what responsibility they have for their church, and how they relate to the minister. Here is what the Church of England says about the role.*

Churchwardens are the bishop's lay officers in a parish. It is a volunteer role, and Churchwardens are vital to the health and wellbeing of our church communities.

The role of a Churchwarden is a statutory one, with ancient origins. The rights and responsibilities are laid down in ecclesiastical law under the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

The Bishop's Visitation takes place annually for all churchwardens whether new or re-elected. Each year the churchwarden is admitted to the roll in the presence of the Bishop by the Registrar, and makes the declaration of service.

Their first and direct responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. Together with the parish priest, they are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of a parish.

Today the role is very varied, but generally involves matters to do with church life, governance, buildings and worship. Churchwardens work closely with Archdeacons and their offices.

Churchwardens are essential to help everyone in their respective parishes - if you are interested in finding out further information, please contact any of the churchwardens listed at the beginning of each benefice.



A Measure passed by the General Synod of the Church of England to make fresh provision with respect to churchwardens in the Church of England. [10th April 2001].  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2001/1>

# The United Benefice of Brown Clee

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Priest-in-Charge: Rev'd Joe Simons.</b> The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ<br>01746-599271   07872-464276 <a href="mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com">browncleebenefice@outlook.com</a> |   |   |
| <b>St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill &amp; Loughton</b><br>CHURCHWARDENS<br>Carole Smith: 01746-712474      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 |

## September Message

It seems like quite a while ago since my Installation at St John the Baptist in Ditton Priors, and I think that is probably testimony to how welcome both Karen and I feel living and working in the Brown Clee Benefice. We feel so loved and cared for here.

The Service which was led by Bishop Richard was memorable in so many ways, and as you can see from the photograph below, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Service was of special significance as it marked the end of a very happy curacy in Cleobury Benefice and the start of my first title post, the end of a long vocational journey. It is the culmination of years of prayer, reflection, divine providence, and grace, (along with a bit of hard work), that I am here waiting to serve you and our communities, as together we share the good news of Christ's love.

The Interregnum has been a time of spiritual growth and exploration for many of you as you have developed different forms of worship and liberated giftings which were waiting to be used. Whilst the absence of a priest has been challenging, I sense that the whole community across the Benefice are well placed to move forward, armed with the resilience that is a clear trademark of you all.

As God's people reaching into our communities, we are so well placed to move into new areas and explore new opportunities for ministry.

Matthew in the Sermon on The Mount said:

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.'

Love for others and the hard work that I have seen from so many of you is truly wonderful, this teaching from Jesus gives us an invitation for us all to push on in our faith, but linked to that a reassurance that we will find answers to our prayers, to our hopes and expectations. It is not always as quickly as we would like, Jesus does speak of searching, but in that searching we will find what it is that God is calling us into here in Brown Clee Benefice.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of you that have made Karen, the dogs and me so welcome. It is a joy and a privilege to serve you here and I pray for God's wisdom as we seek to nurture and grow his Kingdom in this place.

**Rev'd Joe Simons**





# Brown Clee Services during September

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Trinity 13

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

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 14

|       |            |               |
|-------|------------|---------------|
| 09:45 | HC / MP ** | Ditton Priors |
| 11:30 | HC         | Chetton       |

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15

|       |                                   |               |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 09:45 | MP                                | Ditton Priors |
| 11:30 | HC / MP **                        | Neenton       |
| 18:00 | Pet Service<br><i>see page 11</i> | Wheathill     |

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 16

|       |       |                |
|-------|-------|----------------|
| 08:30 | BCPHC | Ditton Priors  |
| 10:15 | GpHC  | Cleobury North |

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Trinity 17

|       |         |                 |
|-------|---------|-----------------|
| 10:00 | Harvest | Ditton Priors   |
| 18:00 | Harvest | Aston Botterell |

***HC – Holy Communion***

***GpHC – Group Holy Communion***

***BCPHC – Book of Common Prayer  
Holy Communion***

***MP – Morning Prayer***

***Where a service is marked \*\*, this means that  
the type of service to be held will be determined  
by the health of the Revd Simons.***

Pictures – top, Kate Jewell / Winter wheat growing near Bingham, right, after harvest, Neenton, CCJ



## Brown Clee Churches

### Harvest Celebrations 2023

**Ditton Priors – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 10am,  
Harvest Service.**



**Aston Botterell - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 6pm,  
Harvest Service with Auction of Produce.**



**Chetton – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 11.30am,  
Harvest Service, followed by Lunch at Church House.**



**Loughton - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6pm,  
Harvest Service.**



**Neenton - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 4pm,  
Harvest Service with Refreshments in The Pheasant.**



**Cleobury North - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023  
11.30am, Harvest Service.**



## Special Service of Thanks to Rev Preb Mark Daborn and Alex

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Ditton Priors Church hosted a special service on behalf of Brown Clee Benefice to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to Mark Daborn and his wife Alex for all the support, advice, provision of clergy and officiating at services during the two years of interregnum.

The service was organised by the Local Ministry Development Group, led by Brown Clee Reader Dot Cartwright

### Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

Rank me with whom you will:

Put me to doing;

Put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for you;

Exalted for you

Or brought low for you.

Let me be full;

Let me be empty.

Let me have all things;

Let me have nothing.

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

To your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You are mine and I am yours.

So be it.

And the covenant made on earth

Let it be ratified in heaven.

together with the help of Mike Teague and Marjorie Jones. The hymns were specially chosen to reflect the time Mark and Alex have spent working tirelessly to ensure services, weddings, baptisms and funerals have taken place when required. The Group Choir assisted in raising the roof to reflect the wishes of the residents of all the parishes in the Brown Clee Benefice to thank them both for maintaining the morale of the people. The final hymn was The Irish Blessing which closed the service.

Included in Dot's talk was a Covenant Prayer (*left*), which completely summed up Mark and the way he has spent his time in ministry. This was followed by a presentation of a gift by Charles Gill on behalf of Brown Clee to Mark and Alex who also received a bouquet of flowers.

As they walked down the aisle following the presentation, Mark and Alex looked happy and relaxed, looking forward to the new era in their lives.

The evening was completed by everyone mingling and enjoying a glass of wine and nibbles and catching up with old and new friends in the benefice from all the parishes. This gave individuals time to thank both Mark and Alex for their input during the two years.

**We wish Mark and Alex a peaceful and blessed retirement.**

## Brown Clee Group News

### Heartfelt thanks

**ANNIE PINSON** would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their incredible care and kindness extended to her during her illness and stay in hospital and for all the help she is now receiving since coming home.

**You have all been wonderful! Thank you.**

## The Future for Brown Clee Surgery – update

*Tina Ranson writes:*

The next Patient Group Meeting is planned for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – please keep the date free, contact Tina for details, or watch out for posters locally.

## September Pet Service at Wheathill Church



## 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

|                                      |                                       |                                     |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ● Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – | Mr & Mrs Tony Brown                   | ● Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September | Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell |
| ● Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September  | Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd | ● Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October    | Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones  |
| ● Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September  | Mr & Mrs Graham Russell               |                                     |                                       |

### Future dates for your Diary

**Pimms and Puds Social** - We are still hoping to go ahead with this event if we can get a good weather forecast. Ticket holders will be notified, and posters renewed – here's hoping!



**Ride and Stride – Saturday 9th September.** Do consider taking part in this event. If you feel unable to stride, then visiting churches by car can make a pleasant trip. Sponsor forms available in church or phone Marjorie (712423)

**Music evening – Saturday 9th September at Ditton Priors Village Hall** – see flyer on the back page of this edition of WN. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets £8 in advance or £10 on the door including tea, coffee, and cake, from the DP Post Office or [dittonpriorsocial@btinternet.com](mailto:dittonpriorsocial@btinternet.com).

**First Saturday** of the Month Coffee Mornings, 10:30 – 12:30 in the church. There is no charge for this, and it is open to everyone! 9<sup>th</sup> September (**please note change of date** due to a Baptism on 2<sup>nd</sup> ), 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November. **Please come and join us for this happy social occasion.**

**Harvest Supper: Saturday 7th October in the Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm at the village hall. A popular event, so please book your tickets early. £12 per person from Marjorie (712423) music from Penny and Alan.**

**Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir – Saturday 28th October**, in the Village Hall. Full details in the October Wheatland News.

## **And events already enjoyed**

### **Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent**

I would like to thank all who gave so generously in the way of cakes and sandwiches. We had a splendid selection for sale at the Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, not to mention Reg May's pies and pastries which are always popular. My thanks to all who helped with transporting, setting up, helping all day, and packing up afterwards. It does seem like moving everything bar the kitchen sink, but we had a most successful day despite our worries about the weather.

### **Tea Party in the Churchyard**

We were lucky with the weather and had some sunshine. A very pleasant afternoon with good company.

## **St John the Baptist 100 Club results for August**

- £20 – Revd Jenny Rowland
- £10 Trish Shotton
- £5 each to: J & S Ballard, Charles Hunter, and Alan Jones.

## **Ditton Priors Local History Group**



*John Coles writes:*

### **DPLHG September meeting**

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

## **Wheathill & Loughton News**

*Marjorie Jones writes*

### **Church services during August**

- ✚ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 6:00pm at Wheathill Church. A 'pet service' led by Revd David Poyner. Please bring the children along with their pets (but preferably not the wild or poisonous type). This will be an informal service of thanksgiving and blessing for our beloved pets, who give us so much love and pleasure. Come and find our lovely little church in the lanes – signposts will be put up and we hope to advertise at school when term begins. See page 11.

## Looking after Wheathill

This lovely little church is in sound order but just needs some loving care on a regular basis. Ruby, after many years of devoted service as a churchwarden, has to stand down now for health reasons and we need to find someone to take over from her – **urgently!** Please ring Ruby on 01584-823234 or Marjorie Jones on 712423.

## Restoration work at Loughton Chapel – Good News!

We now have the necessary Archdeacon's Certificate giving permission for repairs to the floor and another for repairing the steps at the entrance to the churchyard. We have this work 'booked in' with our builders/landscapers and trust that they can fit it into their busy schedule as soon as possible.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 11:30am, Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 6:00pm, Harvest Service

### Car Treasure Hunt!

Our roving reporters tell us that Anne's Car Treasure Hunt on 31<sup>st</sup> July was a great success. But try as we might, there is no information forthcoming about the treasure hunt itself – so we think it was a great excuse for a fabulous banquet!!

*And Sally Russell writes:*

My Daddy's Hat Ride, Stride & Drive Scavenger Hunt can be done completely without moving from your armchair, but will cost you £5 to enter! You could also drive, with friends, to the churches listed on the entry form and have as much fun as Anne's Car Treasure Hunt gave us last month!

Just send YOUR phone number, by text, to Sally (077477 88429) and she will get back to you with the arrangements!



## Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

### Margaret Olive Moreton

It is with great sadness we report that, after a long period of illness, Margaret passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, aged 88 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul, Martin and Ian and their families at this sad time.

Margaret's funeral will be held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 11:00am in All Saints' Church, Neenton.

**May she rest in peace**

A tribute to Margaret will be published in the October edition of Wheatland News.

### Services at All Saints' Church, Neenton

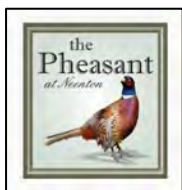
- ✝ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 11:30am – Holy Communion / Morning Prayer. All welcome. The type of service will be determined according to the health of Revd Joe Simons.
- ✝ Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October – 4:00pm – Harvest Service followed by refreshments in the Pheasant. Donations of Produce and items for Bridgnorth Food Bank will be gratefully received, together with assistance to decorate the church before the service. Further details in October WN.

### All Saints Tote

**The first draw of the new Tote year will take place in October**, subject to Subscriptions, which are now due, being received, please!! Sue Hale or Dot Cartwright will be very happy to take these from you!

### Neenton Fete and Duck Race

**Saturday 2nd September, 2:00pm – 5:00pm.** Come along and enjoy the activities on Beech Green and in the Pheasant garden. **Sponsor a duck** for just £2. First duck home – the lucky sponsor will win £100, and there will be prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ducks. **Live music**, as in previous years, will be performed by David Busby.



#### Opening times

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

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

## Chetton News

*Pam Downing writes:*

### Services at St Giles' Church

- ✝ Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – 11:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ **Our Harvest service** will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am. This will be followed by lunch at Church House courtesy of Charles & Lisa. **Let us know** if you wish to join us, all welcome.

#### Flowers and Cleaning

Anne, Elizabeth and Sheila

## “Thank you” messages

We send a big thank you to Revd Mark Daborn and Alex for all their work and support during the recent vacancy. We have very much enjoyed their services and good company and will miss their presence in the Benefice. We wish them both a very happy retirement.

Thank you also to our very own Mike Teague who has worked incredibly hard organising our services, printing, sorting problems and generally keeping us all going with good cheer! We now look forward to getting to know Joe and Karen, and wish them some very happy times here.

**100 Club Winners** - £15.00 to Otilie Kidson no 97, and £10.00 to Sarah Andrews no 47.

## Chetton Village Hall – Autumn Exercise Classes

- Pam's Pilates on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 9:30am
- Chetton Fitness-4-All. We have received a grant from National Grid to support Chetton Fitness 4 All. The class will run on Mondays from 2pm and will follow the same principle as Chetton Active Friends, exercise followed by refreshments for a donation of £1.00 per person per session.
- Zumba – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm

## Flicks in the Sticks

For the Autumn season we welcome Paul and Sarah as our projectionists! The first film will be held on Friday 1st September at 7.30 pm. Doors open for refreshments at 7pm. We are showing **‘Mrs Harris goes to Paris’** with Lesley Manville. This film will be held free of charge and takes you behind the scenes at Christian Dior. We will continue our season on the first Friday of the month, and all being well our next film will be **‘The Railway Children Return.’**

Village Hall and activities enquiries – Sue on 01746-789239

## Chetton Bells are ringing again!!

In mid-May, the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers received an enquiry from a group of new and lapsed ringers who wanted to get Chetton church bells ringing again. The bells hadn't been rung for several years, so on 14th June, Darren and Jools from Broseley popped over to check the bells over (pictured below). Fortunately, no problems were found. Practices were started up again on Tuesday evenings. Ginette then began the task of teaching the new learners and helping the existing ringers to regain their confidence. Despite usually only having one teacher to four learners, the new ringers are progressing well and it is expected that the band will be able to ring independently by the end of the year. Sue Robinson, our Master Elect, kindly drives over from Bromyard to look after things when Ginette is on holiday. One of the returned lapsed ringers, Vikki, is now helping to teach the learners which should help to move things along even faster.

Anyone interested in supporting the new band is welcome to visit Chetton on a Tuesday evening.

Practices start at 7pm and are usually followed by a drink in the church.

*Article reproduced from the  
Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers  
(<https://hdqb.org/?p=1431>).*

*Technical information on the bells, and further information about the location and the church can be found via the link on that webpage.*



# Molecule of the Month - Thrombospondin-1



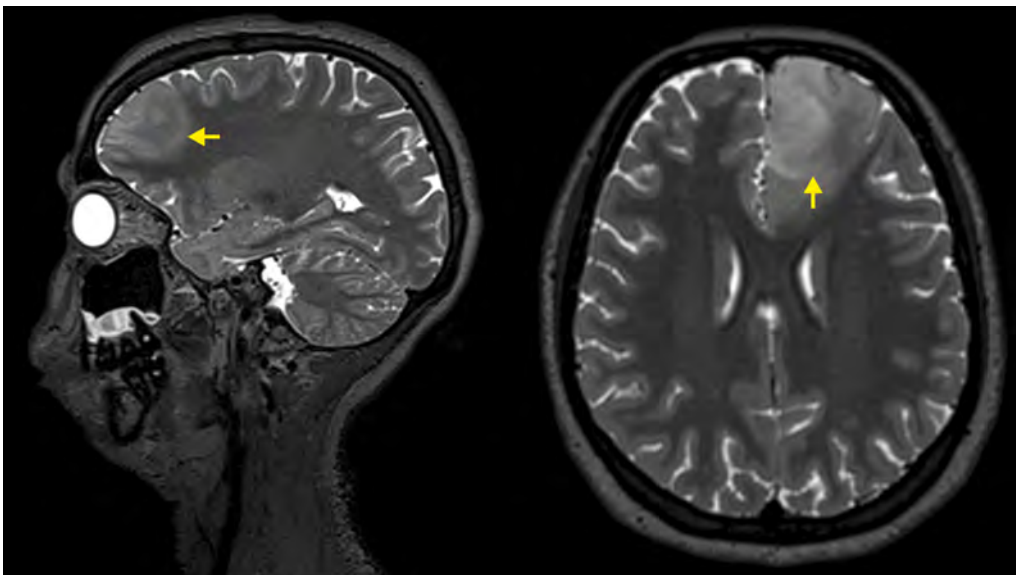
This month's molecule has never been at the forefront of my thinking. I first came across when I was an undergraduate. Being young and keen, I was working one evening in the library of the Physiology Department during the final year of my degree. I came across an article on the biochemistry of blood clotting, in particular how blood cells called platelets release proteins that cause blood to clot. I was briefly fascinated by how this protein was involved; it bound to molecules on the surface of other cells to help stop bleeding. But this was just the scientific equivalent of a one-night stand; I quickly found other areas of science more interesting and came to see my dalliance with Thrombospondin as just a youthful indiscretion. Until May this year...

Malignant glioma is an especially unpleasant brain cancer. As with all cancers, the problem is a set of cells that grown uncontrollably; these may eventually kill the unfortunate individual. Broadly speaking, there are two types of cells in the brain; nerve cells, which "do" the "thinking" and other cells, known as glia, which act to keep the nerve cells working properly. In a glioma, it is the supporting cells that are out of control. But despite the fact that the nerve cells are not involved, patients with malignant often behave as though the nerve cells are malfunctioning; they no longer think properly and start behaving in unusual ways. Needless to say, this can be very distressing both for them and their loved ones and carers.

Recent work has given clues as to why this might happen. It seems that when the glial cells start to grow, they send signals to the nerve cells which cause the nerves to change how they are "wired"; how they connect and communicate with each other. The wiring of nerves is vital to how they work; if this changes, then the way we behave will also change. The nerves, instead of talking to other nerves, now communicate with the cancerous glial cells and this in turn makes the glial cells grow faster. Actions that stimulate the nerves involved will make them more active and so send more signals to the cancer.

The molecule responsible for this seems to be thrombospondin-1. In the 40 years since my flirtation with it, a lot more has been discovered about it. It is not just released by platelets to stop bleeding; many other cells use it to help them interact with their neighbours. These include glial cells; here it helps them to form connections with nerve cells. Sure enough, in malignant glioma, the glia make more thrombospondin-1. And in simple models of how glia and nerves interact, adding a drug called gabapentin, known (amongst many other actions) to block the action of thrombospondin, can reduce contact between the nerves and glia. We are a long way from being able to use this clinically, but it will open new avenues of research into how malignant glioma may eventually be treated. And for me, it shows just how the adventures of youth are not always wasted.

DRP



*CT scans of a glioma invading the brain*

[\(Astrozytom und Oligodendrogliom | Neurochirurgie Inselspital\)](#)



# 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, Highley</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Canev Clayton | <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, <a href="mailto:laura@laj.me.uk">laura@laj.me.uk</a> |
|--|---|--|--|

**If there are errors or omissions in the information for the Severn Valley Churches, please let the editor know and we will be pleased to make corrections. Thank you. [robertajarvis@btinternet.com](mailto:robertajarvis@btinternet.com)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b></p> <p>9:30 MW St Peter's Chelmarsh</p> <p>10:30 HC (CW) St Mary's Highley</p> <p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p>9:30 HC (CW) St Peter's Chelmarsh</p> <p>10:30 IS St Mary's Highley</p> <p>6:00pm ES St Mary's Billingsley</p> <p>Harvest</p> <p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p>9:30 MW St Peter's Chelmarsh</p> <p>10:00 HC (CW) St Bartholomew's Glazeley</p> <p>Harvest</p> <p>10:30 HC St Mary's Highley</p> <p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p>8:00 HC (CW) St Mary's Billingsley</p> <p>9:30 HC (CW) St Peter's Chelmarsh</p> <p>10:30 IS St Mary's Highley</p> | <p><b>Services at Severn Valley Benefice Churches during September</b></p> <p><b>HC (CW) – Holy Communion Common Worship</b></p> <p><b>MW – Morning Worship</b></p> <p><b>ES – Evening Service</b></p> <p><b>IS – Informal Service</b></p> |
|---|--|

## Time for Mission

*Canev Clayton writes:*

On Thursday the 20th of July in the evening a team of missionaries came to the Severn Valley Benefice. They had been brought together from all over the UK by a faith organisation called "Through Faith Missions". They came to serve the community, and to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



There would not be enough space to share with you everything that happened over our time with them. I will try and give you a flavour of events.

On Friday and Saturday, the team based themselves at the Highley Miner's statue, and with some of our St Mary's folks were able to chat with the local people of Highley, sharing the gospel encouraging and offering to pray with them. It was a faith building and stretching time.

On a practical note, we were able to do a litter pick around the main High Street, this created quite a bit of curiosity and led to some in depth conversations.



On Saturday morning people were given an invitation to come and enjoy an afternoon tea at the Parish Hall. There was a happy and relaxed atmosphere. This even extended to outside where some passers-by sampled the treats.

In the evening we held a healing meeting and people had opportunity to hear testimonies of God's grace, and provision, and to experience being prayed for, with the laying on of hands.



On Sunday we had our usual service with some of the team sharing testimony and an encouraging message. In the evening the team and some of the St Mary's congregation went to meeting at Willowdene Farm Fellowship. This was very encouraging and we have now good links.

We look forward to releasing some news of an upcoming event soon!

## Glazeley News

*Marion Corfield and the Revd David Poyner write:*

I am pleased to report that the ceiling in the church has finally been repaired! For the last few years your assistant curate has bravely entered the pulpit just beneath where lumps of plaster have fallen down, praying that his words may indeed be acceptable to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, the defective boards have now been replaced, thanks to the efforts of Richard and Martin, our contractors. They have also cleaned the gutters and down-spouts for us and will check the tiles on the roof. Our next jobs are to fix the heating and also to investigate some damp next to the porch, which has caused a joist under the floor to rot. Maintaining a church is a long game...

Our next service will be **harvest**, on the 17<sup>th</sup> September at 10am, which I will take. Rachael Davenhill will play the organ and the church will be decorated specially for the service. Please do join us if you can for this. We are also planning future events and we are keen to see the church used more for community events. These might include periodic coffee mornings or exhibitions. Please contact myself, Laura ([laura@laj.me.uk](mailto:laura@laj.me.uk)) or Marion ([marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net)) if you have any ideas! We also open to suggestions for services; a pet service?

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

**David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638**  
Email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk)

**Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585**  
[Marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:Marion.corfield@talktalk.net)

# Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

At our evening service on 13<sup>th</sup> August we said farewell to Sue, our treasurer and Phil, who has effectively been our resident engineer for the last years. The whole community of Billingsley owes much to Phil and Sue; Sue has also chaired the parish council. They are moving to Audlem to be nearer their grandchildren but we are so grateful for the time they have spent with us. Our loss is most certainly Audlem's gain! But we are delighted to welcome Diane Stepney who has stepped in to take over as treasurer and also as organiser of the 100 Club. Diane and Mark live next to the church and already do a lot to help keep the church and the churchyard tidy.

One of Diane's tasks is to send reminders about the **100 Club**. For those who do not know, for £48 a year, you purchase a number that is entered into a monthly draw. Half the money goes in prizes (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and the rest is used for the upkeep of the church and also to support community events. The money paid for the Jubilee party we organised for the village last year and has also allowed us to repair the church roof and repoint the gable end of the building. The money from the 100 Club is really valuable to us; if you are not a member, please consider joining. Forms are available at [100 Club - St Mary's Church Billingsley \(stmarys-billingsley.org.uk\)](http://stmarys-billingsley.org.uk)

We have a coffee morning at Fairfield (Ellen McConnell's house on the main road) on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September from 10am. This is always an excellent event; all welcome! In September we have Harvest Festival on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm and Holy Communion at 8am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, both to be taken by myself.

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

## And Daddy's Hat came to Billingsley!



On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August, Billingsley church hosted the latest Daddy's Hat concert, with music provided by the wonderful **Clee Liberty Band**.

They entertained us with a repertoire ranging from Puccini to George Formby, Edith Piaf to Adele. We were also treated to a steady stream of jokes; don't worry if you missed them as I will be recycling them in my sermons. The versatility of the musicians was amazing. It Clee Liwas who said that Sammy Davies Junior could get a tune out of a radiator: Penny, in the best tradition of skiffle bands, went one better, to get music from a washing board. The band clearly have great fun with their music and

they transmit that to their audience - so many thanks! And the audience

was truly national. We had a couple from Northampton, who just had just popped into the church to visit it on their way to their holiday destination and stayed for the concert. We had two women who were visiting the church to admire the tapestries; again they stayed to enjoy the music and the refreshments afterwards. And the Holy Spirit danced through the church as the music lifted our spirits heavenwards; even "When I'm cleaning windows" and "Just one cornetto" can do that.

**DRP**

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)

# Wheatland Diary

|      |    |      |  |
|------|----|------|--|
| Fri  | 1  | Sept | Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH – Mrs Harris Goes to Paris 7.30pm. See page 15                        |
| Sat  | 2  | Sept | Neenton Fete and Duck Race, music from David Busby – Pheasant Inn, 2:00-5:00pm see page 14             |
| Sat  | 9  | 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                                |
| Sat  | 9  | Sept | Music Evening at Ditton Priors Village Hall – see back cover or page 11 for details                    |
| Sun  | 10 | Sept | Car Boot / Tabletop Sale – Three Horseshoes, Wheathill, 11:00 – 2:00 - see page 13                     |
| Sat  | 16 | Sept | Piano and Saxophone music - Daddy's Hat – Church of St Mary the Virgin, Jackfield, 3:00pm. See page 20 |
| Thur | 21 | Sept | Ditton Priors Local History Group – evening with Clive Gwilt, Ditton Priors VH – see page 12           |
| Tue  | 3  | Oct  | Brown Clee Surgery Patient Group Meeting – details from Tina Ranson – see page 10                      |
| 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                                       |
| Fri  | 7  | Oct  | Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH – The Railway Children Return, 7:30pm. See page 16                    |
| Wed  | 18 | Oct  | Coffee Morning in aid of Severn Hospice, Damson House, Middleton Scriven. See page 24                  |
| Sat  | 21 | Oct  | Daddy's Hat at Aston Botterell Church, 3:00pm – see page 19  |
| 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                                       |



## Daddy's Hat in September 2023

**Richard Fox on Piano** will be joined by **Saxon Fire Quartet**

3:00pm on Saturday 16th September  
at the Church of St Mary the Virgin,  
Church Rd, Jackfield, Telford TF8 7ND

by kind invitation of the Revd Justin and Sarah

**This promises to be a great crescendo to a marvellous season of Daddy's Hat events.**

**Saxon Fire** is a Telford-based saxophone quartet formed in 2017 as an opportunity to challenge four musicians who spend most of their time teaching others! **Richard Fox** is an old friend of the Hat, known as an organist, pianist, and the author of the best history book ever written! He plans to perform a recital including Gershwin and Debussy. World-class music from local musicians!

The acoustics promise to be amazing In this magnificent Victorian building designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, with its goldmine of history to savour as well.

Do come and join us – donations to the Hat to cover costs, free refreshments afterwards. What better way to spend an hour on a Saturday afternoon?



# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: *post vacant on Mark's retirement from 4th September:*  
 so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens as below  
 or in an emergency call the Rural Dean, Revd Jeannetta Stokes

Telephone: (01746) - 716698 or email: worfieldvicar@yahoo.co.uk

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>St Mary, Stottesdon</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007      | <b>St Giles, Farlow</b><br>CHURCHWARDENS<br>Nigel Savage-Bailey - 07989-308599                                | <b>Holy Trinity, Sidbury</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149                         |
| <b>St Mary, Cleeton St Mary</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583 | <b>St John, Middleton Scriven</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>vacant – so call<br>Revd Jeannetta Stokes (01746 716698) | <b>St Michael, Silvington</b><br>CHURCHWARDEN<br>vacant – so call<br>Revd Jeannetta Stokes (01746 716698) |

## September Message – Valete!

This is a brief final message as I finish my tenure as Rector in the parishes of Stottesdon with Farlow, Cleeton St Mary, Silvington, Sidbury and Middleton Scriven. During the vacancy that follows, responsibility for oversight of the parishes rests with the Rural Dean, Revd Jeannetta Stokes and the Archdeacon, Ven Fiona Gibson. They are both people with a deep concern for the pastoral care of those in their charge – with the added bonus that the Archdeacon's PA lives in one of our parishes! Between them, they will look after you all through the vacancy process and the decision-making for the future.

So thank you all for the warm welcome we received when we moved here, and the support we have received during our time here. My special thanks to those who have served on PCCs or as PCC officers through this time. Your support has been unflinching and generous. We little thought when we brought two of our children round to Stottesdon for their first happy years of schooling that we would one day be living in the house across the road; nor could we imagine the privilege it has been to serve the communities and the two lovely schools in these parishes.

So, in the words of St Paul to the people of Philippi: **'I thank my God in all remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.'**



Mark and Alex



# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Sunday 3rd September                      10:30 Stottesdon:  
**Benefice Thanksgiving**  
 with Readings and Music  
 in celebration of Mark and Alex's ministry among us

## Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches - September 2023

|  |  |                 |   |   |
|--|--|-----------------|---|---|
| -  | -  |                 | - | - |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 14</b> |  |                 |   |   |
| 09:00  | HC with AD Ven Fiona Gibson                  | Cleeton St Mary |   |   |
| 10:30  | HC with AD Ven Fiona Gibson                  | Stottesdon      |   |   |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15</b> |  |                 |   |   |
| 09:00  | HC with AD Ven Fiona Gibson                  | Stottesdon      |   |   |
| 10:30  | HC with AD Ven Fiona Gibson                  | Sidbury         |   |   |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 16</b> |  |                 |   |   |
| 10:30  | GpHC for St Michael with Revd John Daniels   | Silvington      |   |   |
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Trinity 17</b>    |  |                 |   |   |
| 10:30  | HC with Revd Justin Bailey                   | Stottesdon      |   |   |
| 6:30pm   | Harvest Celebration with Nigel Savage-Bailey | Farlow          |   |   |
| -  | -  | -               | - | - |

**HC**  
**Holy Communion**

**GpHC**  
**Group Holy Communion**

~

During the interregnum there will be some changes to the usual service pattern - these times are 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.

**The deadline for the October edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Thanks!**

**If you are, or someone you know is, in need of prayer or a visit, or Communion at home or elsewhere, then please contact your churchwarden (details on page 21 above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.**

## From the Registers

**Silvinton: 5th August** – wedding of David Morgan and Amy Gardner

## Mark's Benefice Pilgrimage for Ride and Stride 2023

Mark and corgi Meri completed another long, uphill, Pilgrimage walk from Middleton Scriven to Cleeton via Sidbury, Stottesdon, Farlow and Silvinton – pausing at each church to sign in, recite a Psalm and rest awhile. Alex and corgi Seren were close at hand in the little blue car – the equivalent of the support dinghy for cross-Channel swimmers!



The 'Just Giving' page for your sponsorship donation to mark this achievement is open until 10th September – so please sign up using the link below and support Shropshire Historic Churches Trust: Donations are shared 50/50 with our churches and the Trust.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/stottesdon-benefice-pilgrimage2023>

## Benefice website

We will be trying to keep this updated as necessary during the coming months, so if you need something added to it - or spot an error which needs correcting- please get in touch by email to [chris@stottystores.co.uk](mailto:chris@stottystores.co.uk)



## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

**Thank you,  
farewell  
and good  
luck to  
Mark and  
Alex!**



Their last service here was held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August followed by a shared community supper. A huge thank you to all who came, all the delicious foods, raffle prizes, and to all who helped clean the church, set up and clear away and donated the fabulous flowers.



## Church services at Middleton Scriven

✝ Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Harvest Celebration

### Coffee mornings

**Our next coffee morning in church** will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10:00am till 12 noon.

**Coffee Morning in aid of Severn Hospice** from 10am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Damson House, Middleton Scriven the home of John and Ann Williamson Everyone welcome. Call 01746 789616 or look for details in the next edition of WN.

**Church updates – thank you** ....to the Preece family for the renovation of the church gate! The roof has also now been fixed with all the slipped tiles safely back in place.

**Welcome** to Matt and Donna Picken who moved to our village recently. Best wishes in your new home.

## Silvington – an appreciation

**Annette Metcalfe penned this lovely tribute to Mark and Alex before the Metcalfes moved to pastures new – we print it here as it surely echoes the thoughts and thanks of people throughout the Benefice**

“Heavy hearts and gratitude” are words that seem to sum-up the thoughts and feelings of people in Silvington, when hearing of the retirement of Mark and Alex. We have been so blessed with their dual Ministry. They have been true friends to all and are going to be sorely missed.

Mark has given everything to his work in the Benefice - and beyond - with generosity beyond measure. His Ministry to us has been one of great kindness, understanding, unlimited patience, spiritual guidance, inspiring sermons, compassion, humour and appropriate informality. On practical matters of church maintenance, faculty applications and financial matters, Mark has provided sound advice and guidance... for which the PCC is particularly grateful.

There are so many examples of ways in which Mark and Alex have given support and loving Christian care over the last ten years. I will refer to one aspect of their combined Ministry: one that provided a beacon of Hope... and comfort. This was during the Coronavirus Pandemic and relates to the “Outside Broadcasts” which they filmed at locations throughout the Benefice. They battled appalling weather conditions, mastered technology... and gave us words of hope, encouraged trust in Faith and brought us together, by revealing that the Light of Christ was shining during the darkest of times.

We all have special memories of Mark and Alex. Thank you to them both for being them... and for being here. Words cannot express how much they will be missed nor the depth of our gratitude. Hearts will be heavy, but we are glad that they will have some well-deserved rest to enjoy their new home, and time to pursue other interests and activities.

We wish them “Godspeed” as they move on to the next adventure. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.

“As you go, dear Friends, you travel with Christ at your side...

His Light will show you the path and be your Guide.”

May the Lord Bless you and keep you and bring you Joy.

**“Amen to all that!!” [Ed]**



## Stottesdon News

*Clare Tibbits writes:*

**Stottesdon 100 club** - Congratulations to winners – Jenny Everingham, Harry Marsh and David Powell.

### **Reports of a busy Summer of fundraising activities continue to come in:**

With vegetable gardens full of (later than usual) produce and trees weighed down with fruit, what better way to ‘re-home’ local surplus produce than set up a table in the village and invite people to take some away in exchange for a donation to the Severn Hospice?

Well, over a couple of weeks that just what Den, Sarah, Peter, Clare, Tony, Wade and Clive did – beans, plums, giant carrots, pot leeks, fresh eggs, chestnuts and more just flew off the little stall in Stottesdon – and we raised over **£530 for Severn Hospice.**

So on that theme, here’s news from Ann Williamson of a future Hospice fundraising event –

**Coffee Morning in aid of Severn Hospice** from 10am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Damson House, Middleton Scriven the home of John and Ann Williamson Everyone welcome. Call 01746 789616 or look for details in the next edition of WN.

### **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 Autumn we’ll be ready to share the story of St Mary’s and it’s many, splendid heritage treasures – filming for a series of ‘video shorts’ taking a peek ‘behind the scenes’ is well advanced. These will be the centrepiece of our digital ‘Explorer Trail’ which will be readily accessible on a smartphone or tablet – using a special dedicated “wifi” network unique to the church. New leaflets and display boards are being produced too – so everyone can browse and be fascinated.

The new visitor Welcome and Interpretation centre is to be set up by the organ (Baptistry side) and we are also creating a display of archaeological “finds” (unearthed during the extensive drainage works in the Spring) nearby to the Saxon Tympanum at the base of the tower – though there is a deal more clearing up and cleaning to do there first!

On the planned toilet facility, several generous donations have come in recently to help fund the cost of this but [and there always seems to be a ‘but’ doesn’t there?] we are still well short of the **£14,000** target. Please get in touch with Clare if there’s any help you might offer – and meanwhile we’ll keep on working hard for any grants or other sources.

## Farlow News

*Janice Howells writes:*

**“Save the date”** - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October will be Harvest celebration at St Giles Church. All very welcome – please contact Nigel for any more information you need.

**August 100 Club winners – will be published next month!!**

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

**The PCC would like to say a very big thank you** to Gill Jordan for all her hard work as church treasurer over the past eight years, and we are very grateful to her. Also thanking Tony Gilbert for taking on the role, and wishing him well with his duties.

### July 100 Club Results

- £20 Sharon Ortel No 101
- £10 each to Kieran Martin No 47 and Mike Worrall No 76
- £5 each to Di Bowen No 30 and Linda Jones No 9.

## Sidbury

Regrettably, we have no news this month from Sidbury.

## Our Community Noticeboard

### Cleobury Country Farmers Market – 16<sup>th</sup> September

...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   |



## Ditton Priors Village Hall

# MUSIC EVENING

**Traditional, pop, folk and rock from:**

- 🎵 **3<sup>rd</sup> Age Ukes**
- 🎵 **Laurelle and Her Harp**
- 🎵 **Vintage Buzz**

**Saturday, 9th September 2023**  
**7.00pm (for 7.30 start)**

**Come and listen, sing and dance!**

**Glass of wine and nibbles on arrival**

**Raffle**



Tickets £8.00 in advance, £10.00 on the door  
Available from Ditton Priors Post Office or  
email [dittonpriorssevents@btinternet.com](mailto:dittonpriorssevents@btinternet.com)

In aid of the Playing Field and Pavilion refurbishment and maintenance.

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

# RIDE+STRIDES

for churches

## SHROPSHIRE CHURCHES OPEN DAY



**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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