

# WHEATLAND NEWS

October 2023



*Window from the medieval church at Dalhem, Gotland.*

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

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# Editorial

This month's magazine has many articles and information about the Harvest services taking place across the benefices.

When sitting in doors watching the torrential rain during the last few weeks two sayings from my childhood came to mind - 'Rain, rain go away, come again another day' and 'Incy, wincy spider climbed up the spout, down came the rain and washed the spider out, out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain, incy, wincy spider up the spout again!' Knowing that this is now the time when spiders come indoors I felt sorry for them in this topsy turvy weather pattern we have at present. A difficult time to know what to do and where to be! This brought more memories and the problems of the people working in any form of harvest – the farmers who took advantage of the recent very warm days and nights and who spent most of the time trying to catch up with haymaking, silage and planting, not getting much sleep, only to find that a few days later the rains came again and in some parts of the country the newly sown seeds and even potatoes were washed away in the torrential downpours and subsequent floods. Then there are the wine makers whose vines have been lashed with the storms, trying to get the grapes harvested to start the fermenting process. The bee-keepers whose bees were unable to get out to collect the pollen to make the honey. Then there are the people in villages and towns which have had severe flooding and in some cases contamination of the water supply. In the Bishop's message this week he said we should – "give thanks *in* all circumstances but not *for* all circumstances.....".

This month we shall be celebrating the Harvest in services across the country, singing hymns and praying for the people who work tirelessly to make sure we have food and fluid to continue to live the life to which we have become accustomed. As we enjoy the fruits of the land let us think about the people who toil and the long hours they work and, in the light of the changing weather patterns, not take anything for granted.

If you are a patient of Brown Clee Medical Centre please see the information on page 10 about the future of the Practice and the Road Shows available for people to ask questions about the progress of the Working Group and the purchase of the buildings.

Wheatland News reaches another milestone as it publishes the 30<sup>th</sup> Molecule of the Month on page 17 with an interesting article about the Tasmanian Devil.

## Ed

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for contributions for the November 2023 edition of WN will be **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

**Advance warning** about the December edition – as usual, we will have a single edition to cover both December 2023 and January 2024. Lots of contributions for a bumper Christmas edition will be welcome!

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	
Chetton	Pam Downing - <a href="mailto:pamdowning61@gmail.com">pamdowning61@gmail.com</a>
Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - <a href="mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net">marion.corfield@talktalk.net</a> 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

### October Newsletter from the Dean of Hereford



#### On being stuck behind a tractor!!!

**Hoorah!!** It is harvest time again!!

There you are, hurtling through the lanes in your car on some mission of huge national importance, muttering venomously at cyclists in helmets shaped like wasps' bottoms, inconsiderate enough to want a bit of your road, rounding a bend and coming up behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer. On closer inspection over the next ten minutes, you conclude that it is actually a convoy of three tractors and two trailers and the glory of the aforementioned ponderous majesty begins to wear a bit thin! Hoorah. It is harvest time again. And I would wager a considerable sum that most of you do not at this point start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for his generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates!

**So here is your challenge for harvest and beyond.** I've learned to do it and if I can manage it anyone can. If you get stuck on your travels behind a tractor or a combine or a plough or any other mysteriously shaped implement of the sod, (by which I mean, of course, the soil!) take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should you bother? Firstly, because praising God for what he gives us should become a matter of habit in all of us and secondly because as a nation we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken totally for granted by most of us who have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food.

We cannot and must not take national food security as a given. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs. The situation in Ukraine is calamitous for the food security of millions in vulnerable nations. Global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need. Political mismanagement and the power of global enterprise in the inherently local business of food production are putting countless family farms out of business.

So when you get stuck behind that tractor take a deep breath, smile and wave at the farmer, even if he does stare back at you with blank amazement and ask for God's blessing on his family and work. Reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land as the God given source of all our well-being and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

And if the vicar rushes in late to take your service on a Sunday morning you will understand why!

Happy harvest to you all. I hope to see some of you at your harvest service.

**Rev'd Canon Sarah Brown**  
Dean of Hereford



In his weekly video message Bishop Richard offers some powerful thoughts about thanksgiving in all its forms and circumstances.

Listen to him on YouTube Hereford Diocese, or on the Diocese website, where the transcript also appears.

**Garden alert!!** A lot of the hints and tips for our churchyards are just as relevant and useful for our own gardens!

The Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) team has just launched a series of online talks (webinars) that look very useful and interesting. Seven talks are on offer over Zoom between 17<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> December and each one will be available for 2 weeks if you can't be available at the broadcast time. The webinars are, at present, free of charge though CfGA would always appreciate a voluntary donation!

[Book your webinars](#) through this link to the CfGA site!

## Caring for God's Acre - Spying on your secret visitors!

Would you like to know what creatures visit your local churchyard when no one is about? How about setting up a simple camera trap to find out. These can be purchased at specialist suppliers - the Natural History Book Service or NatureSpy for example, costing between £100 and £200. Perhaps a cluster of churches could buy one together?

To set up a trap, first find your location. It needs to be low to the ground so as to pick up small animals such as hedgehogs. Short grass is best, to avoid waving vegetation which will set off the camera which is activated by movement. The camera itself needs to be attached to something robust such as a tree, pole or building. Find a relatively secluded place where it is unlikely to be noticed by visitors, these cameras tend to be in camouflage colours and are rarely spotted, particularly if surrounded by vegetation or deadwood. Try to locate the camera in a place that animals are likely to use, along the line of a hedge or wall for example. Placing the camera to face a shallow dish with water in it might reveal many creatures stopping for a drink or a bathe, particularly in hot weather. You may even put out some food such as cat food or peanut butter to attract hungry visitors!

There is plenty of information on using camera traps on the internet, a little research will help you choose the right one for you. Once in place the camera will need checking and the video footage or photos can be downloaded and batteries recharged. Seeing what has visited is great fun, particularly enjoyable for people who might have reduced mobility so are less able to watch wildlife directly. Of course once purchased the camera need not only be used within your churchyard, it will shed light on the wildlife to be found in other churchyards or cemeteries, in gardens, school grounds and other locations, particularly at nighttime. You might expect to see birds and mammals such as mice, voles and squirrels. Foxes are likely visitors and hedgehogs cover a large area in the night so may well stop by, particularly if you are offering something tasty to eat!

If you do run a camera trap, please have a go at using the footage to make biological records via iNaturalist or iRecord, that way we can build a better picture of how important churchyards are for wildlife, and churchyard management can be tweaked to support the animals that you discover, many of which may depend on this special place.

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**



## Readings for October 2023

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

Psalm 100; John 6.25-35

Or

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

### October 8<sup>th</sup> - Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 19; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-end

### October 15<sup>th</sup> - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Isaiah 25.1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

### October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 99; 1. Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

### October 29<sup>th</sup> - Last Sunday after Trinity - Bible Sunday (Green)

Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 8-12; Psalm 119.9-16, 37-end; Colossians 3.12-17;

Matthew 24.30-35

### November 5<sup>th</sup> - Fourth Sunday before Advent - All Saints' Day (Gold or White)

Revelation 7.9-end; Psalm 34 1-10; 1. John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12

## Wheatland Diary

Tue	3	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Group Meeting – details from Tina Ranson – see page 10
Fri	6	Oct	Flicks in the Sticks at Chetton Village Hall – “The Railway Children Return” at 7:30pm - see page 16
Sat	7	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 11
Sat	7	Oct	Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 11
Sun	8	Oct	Harvest Lunch at Church House Chetton – please contact Lisa – see page 16
Tues	10	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery Roadshow, 6:00 – 8:30pm, Chorley Village Hall – see page 10
Sat	14	Oct	9:00am Breakfast at The Down, with Glazeley Church – see page 19 for details of tickets and arrangements
Wed	18	Oct	Coffee Morning in aid of Severn Hospice, Damson House, Middleton Scriven - see page 25
Sat	21	Oct	Daddy’s Hat at Aston Botterell Church, 3:00pm – see page 13
Sat	21	Oct	Concordia Choir singing in concert at Chetton Village Hall – see page 16 for details of tickets etc.
Sat	28	Oct	Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir at Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 11
Thurs	2	Nov	Guy Fawkes meets Hallowe’en at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 14 for details
Thurs	2	Nov	Autumn Fair at Chetton Village Hall, 10:00 – 1:00pm, entry £2 – see page 16
Fri	3	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks at Chetton Village Hall – “A Man Called Otto” - see page 16
Sat	4	Nov	Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 11
Sat	2	Dec	Ditton Priors Christmas Fair and December Coffee Morning at The Pavilion – see page 11
Mon	4	Dec	Christmas Celebration Dinner, Church House, Chetton - see page 16 for details of tickets and arrangements.
Fri	15	Dec	Live music from Dirty Rocking Scoundrels, 9:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 14
Sun	22	Dec	Live music from Bluze Box, 9:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 14
Mon	1	Jan	Live music from Call of the Kraken, 5:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 14

# Saint of the Month for October - St James the Deacon

By Revd Joe Simons

On 11<sup>th</sup> October we celebrate the life and work of  
James the Deacon.



*\*Aidan Hart Sacred Icons*

James is man who has particular resonance for a church that sees ministry and mission as the calling of the whole Church of Christ. He is the saint for any lay person who has stepped in to lead their church when the clergy are far away, something which we have become accustomed to across a few of our churches in the past and likely to in the days to come.

Pope Gregory had sent Paulinus, Bishop of York, on a mission to take Roman Christianity to Northumbria: James was likely to have been part of that group. James became a figure of constancy and reliability, at a time of political instability.

The foundations of the mission were successful. Edwin the king of Northumbria was converted, and Roman Christianity in Northumbria was established and began to grow. It was not all plain sailing: in 633 Edwin died in battle against the King of Mercia Penda, a ruthless pagan king. A backlash followed and the queen and her son fled for Kent, joined by the bishop Paulinus.

James was the only vestige of Roman Christianity left in Northumbria, now a solitary deacon.

Despite the dangers of Penda, James took his stand and stayed in a village near Catterick, often risking his life as he cared for the Christians and continued to preach the gospel.

His efforts were recognised when the Northumbrian mission returned several years later and found an active Christian community still in Northumbria. James had been a faithful and true servant to the gospel.

Once Penda died, and Christian rule was re-established in Northumbria, James taught music, including Gregorian Chant, to the young churches in the area. Bede acknowledged him for his honour and integrity. James was present at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which met to discuss the differences between the Celtic Northumbrian Church of the North, and the Roman Church of the South.

When James died, sometime late in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, he had left his mark and his passing was deeply mourned by the ordinary Christians of Northumbria, both Celtic and Roman. He had never deserted them in their time of need and had continued to proclaim Christ despite the dangers.

JS

# The United Benefice of Brown Cleve

<p><b>Priest-in-Charge:</b> <b>Revd Joe Simons</b></p>		<p>The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ <b>01746-599271 07872-464276</b> <a href="mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com">browncleebenefice@outlook.com</a></p>	
<p><b><i>St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill &amp; Loughton</i></b> CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474    Mark Smith: 01746-712394</p>		<p><b><i>St Michael &amp; All Angels, Aston Botterell</i></b> CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237</p>	
<p><b><i>St Giles, Chetton</i></b> CHURCHWARDEN Sheila Millington: 01746-789443</p>	<p><b><i>SS Peter &amp; Paul, Cleobury North</i></b> CHURCHWARDENS Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676 Jane Bufton: 01746-787298</p>	<p><b><i>All Saints, Neenton</i></b> CHURCHWARDEN Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093</p>	

## October Message

The world seems such a busy and frenetic place and easy for us to get caught up in all that we need to do and forget about the importance of a time for prayer and reflection. It is possible for us to pray in so many ways, but it is also likely for us to maybe forget especially when prayer is not something that comes naturally to us and requires an effort of will to turn into reality.

I would encourage you to set time aside, to allow God the space to speak into your lives. To say thank you at this time of Harvest for God's gracious bounty, albeit that this has been a challenging year for farmers, due to the lateness of the season and the weather, which is so unpredictable. We thank all involved in bringing us our daily bread from farm to fork.

From a global perspective, climate change provides all of us with challenges about how we live and how what we do can impact the lives of others in so many ways, you only have to follow the news to see the consequences.

In our churches giving recognition to the source of our Harvest is part of our rhythm of life; the offering of the first fruits and the final harvest are ancient festivals with strong biblical roots. This connectivity to the created world and God's order is part of who we are as Christians, it grounds us in dependence on our creator but also on one another. As a community with such a strong connection to the earth, both its beauty and as a source for our very existence, may we never cease to give thanks for God's love for all of us and ever mindful of our call to generosity of spirit and resources.

Please do come and join at one of our Harvest services across the benefice to celebrate once again our dependence on the gracious love of God.

Revd Joe Simons



## Brown Clee Services during October

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

08:30	Said HC	Ditton Priors
10:00	Harvest	Ditton Priors
18:00	Harvest	Aston Botterell

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 18

09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
11:30	Harvest	Chetton
18:00	Harvest	Loughton

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 19

09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
16:00	Harvest	Neenton

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Trinity 17

08:30	BCPHC	Ditton Priors
09:45	HC	Chetton
16:00	Harvest	Cleobury North Village Hall

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 17

10:15	GpHC	Neenton
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### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
11:30	HC	Aston Botterell
16:00	Memorial	Ditton Priors

**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.**

## Brown Clee Benefice – from the Registers

- ✝ **Ditton Priors** - 2<sup>nd</sup> September - baptism of James David Edwards
- ✝ **Ditton Priors** - 16<sup>th</sup> September - baptism of William James Read
  
- ✝ **Neenton** – 31<sup>st</sup> August – funeral of Margaret Olive Moreton aged 88
- ✝ **Aston Botterell** - 7<sup>th</sup> September - funeral of Jean Howells aged 90
- ✝ **Ditton Priors** - 18<sup>th</sup> September - funeral Monica Anne Thornton aged 87
- ✝ **Chetton** - 19<sup>th</sup> September - funeral Georgina Mary Rutherford aged 79
- ✝ **Chetton** - 25<sup>th</sup> September - funeral of Jean Alice Watkins aged 87

## Brown Clee Group News

### Friends of St John the Baptist church Ditton Priors.

Thank you for your continuing membership and support of the Friends of St John the Baptist church Ditton Priors.

We welcomed our new vicar Joe Simons at our last meeting and will work closely with Joe and the PCC to make repairs and improvements to our beautiful church. To make the church a better usable space enquiries into the laying on of water are being made.

Our next fund-raising evening will be a quiz and supper early next year.

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 4pm  
Harvest Service in Cleobury North Village Hall with  
Refreshments.**

## The Future for Brown Clee Surgery: October diary dates

*Tina Ranson writes:*

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 7:00 – 8:00pm – Patient Group Meeting at Ditton Priors Village Hall**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – 6:00 – 8:30pm – Roadshow at Chorley Village Hall**

**Patient Group meeting** – your opportunity to hear the latest Surgery news from Dr Bassett, and about initiatives being driven forward by patients. If you want to attend this meeting, please give Tina a call on **07790-230038** or email her at [tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:tina.ranson@outlook.com) to book your seat (places limited to 100), or if you are unable to come, your apologies will be recorded.

**Roadshows** - your opportunity to examine proposals to achieve ownership of the GP Surgery premises for the Community. These are 'drop in' events so you can call in at any time and stay as long as you need, asking questions of members of the Committee who have been drawing up the plans. These will also be your opportunity to register your interest in getting involved in the acquisition process.



## Brown Clee Benefice Group Choir – afternoon tea!

Choir members were delighted to welcome Revd Joe and Karen to a certain soprano's elegant, lakeside garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, where our favourite, joyful songs rang out after plentiful, pretty, china cups of tea and a fabulous array of treats, served in the sunshine.

Most of the regular group choir were able to share in the warm hospitality of Suzanne, Clive and their lovely daughter, who gave us an extra degree of understanding, as she guided us through the orchard garden to the lakeside. I'm now able to appreciate the level of amount of hard work required, to cultivate such a serene landscape, whilst fully respecting the needs of wildlife habitat; it has to be heard about to be believed! Thank you to all involved. SAR

## 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 (two churchyards) and I know everyone likes to see them looking neat and tidy. Donations please to Revd Joe, to churchwardens, or to Marjorie. **THANK YOU**.

### Cleaning rota for October

▪ Sunday, 1st October	Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
▪ Sunday, 8th October	Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
▪ Sunday, 15th October	Mr & Mrs John Ballard
▪ Sunday, 22nd October	Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
▪ Sunday, 29th October	Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
▪ Sunday, 5th November	Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd

### Future dates for your Diary

**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. Please bring your own drink and glasses!

**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! 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November, and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> December Coffee Morning is to be combined with the Christmas Fair at the Pavilion. Please come and join us for this happy social occasion.**

**Pimms and Puds Social** – Regrettably we were unable to re-arrange this summer social. We have put it off until next year (perhaps get good weather?).

**Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir – Saturday 28th October**, in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Please be seated prior to 7.30 pm start. Licensed bar available. Tickets £12.50 to include light refreshments – contact Marjorie on 01746-712423).

### St John the Baptist 100 Club results for September

£20 – Catherine Price, £10 - Eloise May, and £5 each to: Frank Waterworth, Paul Wilson, and Pam Dicer.

# Wheathill & Loughton News

*Marjorie Jones writes*

## Church services during October

- ✝ Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October – 6:00pm Harvest Service at Loughton Chapel
- ✝ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – 2:30pm Remembrance Service at Wheathill Church.

**Pet Service – 17th September.** Revd David Poyner led a friendly and informal service which was well received by all – especially the pets! We welcomed 6 dogs, 2 guinea pigs and 1 teddy bear. The pets were well behaved and shared the refreshments with us. THANK YOU ALL!

## Looking after Wheathill

I am pleased to say that we have two volunteers to help Joyce with the cleaning etc. Thank you so much for your offers of help.

We now have received the architect's quinquennial report. Whilst there are some issues which need attention shortly, the overall picture is good.

## Restoration work at Loughton Chapel

As I write this report the builders / landscapers are working on the chapel. The slipped tiles and floor have been fixed and replacing the steps is happening now (Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September). My thanks to all involved in seeing this work underway.

## Cleobury North News



Due to a problem with the ceiling in Cleobury North Church, the September service took place in Cleobury North Village Hall. Father Justin, supported by the Brown Clee Benefice Choir, was joined by a good congregation who all enjoyed the great acoustics and atmosphere of this rather special village hall.

**A plea:** does anyone have a pair of matching vases for our altar? They need to be quite substantial in size to accommodate altar flowers and so they can be easily seen by the congregation.

## Cleobury North & District Village Hall

For those who have never been to an event in CNVH, the main hall is pictured above, looking through to the small hall with the kitchen and servery, and leading off the hallway are the changing rooms and other facilities! Over many years it has hosted many many wonderful community events – suppers, concerts, sales, polling for national and local elections, rehearsals, lectures, comedy evenings and so on. No doubt wedding receptions too! Parking is excellent, and there are very few neighbours to be disturbed.

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 1<sup>st</sup> October, 6:00pm, Harvest Service.

### Car Treasure Hunt

On 30<sup>th</sup> July we had a wonderful afternoon following super clues written by Anne and Shelia. The typical British weather didn't dampen our spirits, we had a lot of fun and a lot of laughs along the way (only a couple of wrong turns!). Then, back to Middle House Farm for delicious refreshments. Huge thanks to Anne and Sheila for organising a wonderful afternoon. A great way to raise much needed funds for our community church.

### Lottery winners

Many thanks to everyone who supports our lottery. You have kept our little church open for another year.

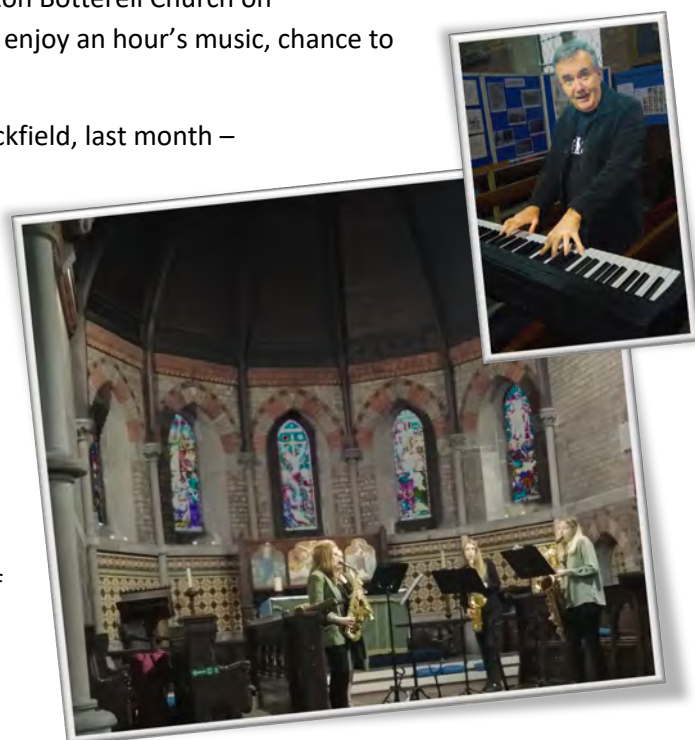
August	September
1 <sup>st</sup> – Colin Hadley	1 <sup>st</sup> – Jackie Derricutt
2 <sup>nd</sup> – Glen Lycett	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Hazel Scott
3 <sup>rd</sup> – Glenis Thomas	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Jane & Paul Doyle, and Marjorie Jones

## Daddy's Hat returns to Aston Botterell

**The Hat's final appearance for 2023** will be at Aston Botterell Church on **Saturday 21st October at 3:00pm – do come** and enjoy an hour's music, chance to chat, and light refreshments, all for free!!

**DH hit the absolute heights** at St Mary's Church, Jackfield, last month – grateful thanks to Father Justin (who himself made an appearance taking the Cleobury North service on 24<sup>th</sup> September in Cleobury North Village Hall – see page 12) for his hospitality.

Huge waves of applause echoed around the wonderful rafters of this building both for Richard Fox's performance on keyboard, and for Saxon Fire's stunning saxophone medley. Words cannot describe the joy and emotions they inspired ... and the church itself, an early design of Sir Arthur Blomfield, who was responsible for other churches in the WN area, is in itself a very special and uplifting place, a real privilege to visit.



# Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

## Services at All Saints' Church, Neenton

- ✝ 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. The church will be decorated from 10:30am to 1:00pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October – if you have an hour to spare, please join us!!
- ✝ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service – 4:00pm, with mince pies and mulled wine in the Pheasant afterwards!

## Margaret Moreton – 1935 – 2023



Margaret's funeral took place in All Saints' Church at the end of August, and she was buried next to her husband Edwin in our churchyard. The church was packed – standing room only - with many friends from throughout her whole life. Many WN readers will remember Margaret: her sons Paul, Martin and Ian shared this extract from the eulogy with us.

“Margaret was a big fan of playing card games, listening to “Dick Barton Special Agent” and “The Archers” on the radio, and going to the local dances held at the village hall. She also spent quite a lot of time all the way up until when she died watching sports on the TV, including football, cricket, horseracing and tennis.

This love of sport runs all the way through the family, including her grandchildren. She had seven grandchildren – Sarah, Katie, Sophie, Bethany, Harvey and Oscar; as well as two great-grandchildren: Arrabella and Payton. She would regularly go to watch her grandchildren playing sport, including cricket, horse riding and swimming. Anytime any of these sporting achievements made the paper, she always ensured to cut out a copy of the article as a keepsake and kept all of these safe for her to look through and share with others.

Another of Margaret's favourite things to do involving her family was the regular family get-togethers, especially at Christmas. Sometimes this would involve going to the Down, or at one of the family's homes, where there was often a fantastic spread of food, mostly put together by Margaret (especially her cakes and trifle) but also by her daughters-in-law for the whole family to enjoy together.

In her later years, Margaret and Ed moved into a bungalow, where Ed sadly passed away in 2015. It was during this time that Margaret started to become ill, so Ian moved in to help her, and other family members also helped out in a number of ways where needed. It was here that she stayed up until her death in August and she will be very much missed by family, friends and various members of the community.”

## Important Dates for your Diary:

- **Thursday 2nd November – 5pm** - combined Fireworks & Halloween evening – Fancy Dress competition – Best boy, Best girl, Best Adult – Fireworks 7pm
- **Friday 15th December – 9pm** – live music from Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels
- **Sunday 22nd December – 9pm** - live music from Bluze Box
- **Monday 1st January – 5pm** - live music — Call of the Kraken

## Neenton Fete and Duck Race – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Neenton enjoyed another lively afternoon with activities in the Pheasant garden and on Beech Green accompanied by music from our entertainer - David Busby.

The stalls and games in the Pheasant garden together with the Beech Green activities resulted in fierce competition enjoyed by all age groups. The results from the activities on Beech Green were combined to culminate in a prize for the best performance overall.

Congratulations to Ella Jones who proved to be very accurate in her aim at the targets!

The stalls and games in the Pheasant garden also proved very popular with people lining up for the tombola, raffle, skittles, hook-a-duck, splat-the-rat and face painting to name but a few. The BBQ, as always, kept people fed with delicious sausages and burgers. The Duck Race gave the spectators further exercise with a walk down to the Rea Brook to witness the flurry of yellow passing down the course.

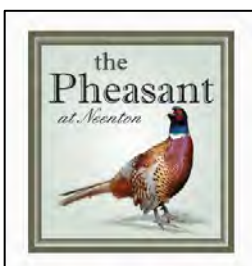
Winners of the various competitions are too numerous to mention – congratulations to them all!

A big 'Thank you' to everyone who helped make this event a success after the uncertainty following the weather forecasts for the previous dates, for the setting and clearing up teams and the people who took charge of the stalls and games, for the collecting and donation of prizes, for the supply of the food, for the music and for the use of the Pheasant garden and to all those who supported the afternoon. A total of **£1483** was raised for church funds and a donation to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

## All Saints' Tote – September

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Toni Cartwright
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Martin Moreton

YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE, PLEASE!! £12 for the year's entry, from Sue Hale or Dot Cartwright.



### 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

<p>✝ <b>Our Harvest service</b> will be on <b>Sunday 8th October</b> at 11.30am. This will be followed by lunch at Church House courtesy of Charles &amp; Lisa – All welcome, but please let Lisa or Sheila know for numbers.</p> <p>✝ <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Holy Communion, 9:45am.</b></p>	<p><b>Flowers and Cleaning</b> Marilyn and Sylvia</p>
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At the end of August we celebrated the **Baptism of Bertie Lewis** along with a large congregation of family & friends. A lovely occasion.

We also welcomed a team of bell ringers from North Devon last month: it's good to hear the bells ringing out and we now have our own team practicing weekly. New members are always welcome.

On a sad note, the funeral was held last month for Georgina Rutherford from Faintree Hall. Georgi was always a great supporter of Chetton Church. Only a few years ago we held a Silent Auction at Faintree which was one of our most successful events. We will miss her enthusiasm and kindness. Our thoughts are with Andrew and all the family.

We have lost two more well-loved Chetton residents recently, Mrs Jean Watkins and Mr Bryan Bason. There will be more details next month.

## Dates for your diary

We are holding an **Autumn Fair** with a wide range of stalls at Chetton Village Hall on **Thursday 2nd November**, 10am to 1pm. Come along and browse or buy your Christmas gifts early, or just come along to enjoy coffee and cakes. Entry £2.00.

On **Monday 4th December**, we have our annual **Christmas celebration dinner**, again at Church House. This is a three-course meal (bring your own wine/drinks) and always a very jolly evening along with Carols around the piano. Again let us know numbers please.

**100 Club Winners** - £15.00 to Bianca Chambers no 44, and £10.00 to Hannah Lloyd no 76.

## Chetton Village Hall

### Flicks in the Sticks

The film season continues with **'The Railway Children Return'** on **Friday 6th October** at 7.30 pm doors open for refreshments at 7pm. Tickets £4.00, refreshments £2.00, tea, coffee and cake, or a drink only £1.00.

On **Friday 3rd November** we are showing **'A Man Called Otto'**, with Tom Hanks.

**Village Hall and activities enquiries** – Sue on 01746-7892

### Date for your diary – Concordia in Concert

We have the Concordia choir singing for us on **Saturday 21st October**, 7.30pm tickets £7 for details please contact Sarah Crawford-Clarke.

### Autumn Exercise Classes

- Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am for older adults.
- Chetton Fitness-4-All. The class will run on Mondays from 2pm.
- Zumba – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm



# Molecule of the Month - a vaccine to save Tasmanian Devils!



Generally, in this column I focus on molecules that are relevant to human health. However, we are encouraged to think more broadly about the importance of all species that are part of the natural world; using vicar's jargon, the "created" world, even if I recognise the creation of different plants and animals has taken place by the forces behind evolution. So this month, spare a thought for the Tasmanian Devil.

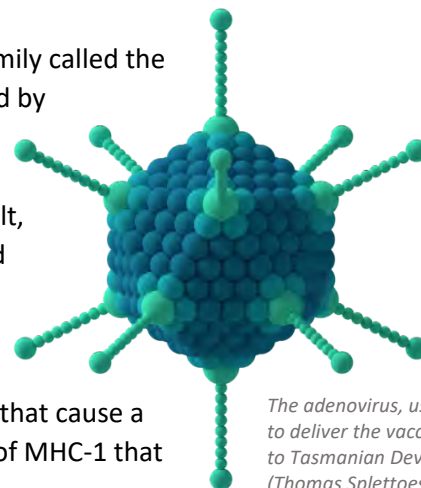


1 The Tasmanian Devil (Wayne McClean, Wikipedia)

As its name suggests, the Tasmanian Devil is a rather fierce animal that lives on the island of Tasmania, off the coast of Australia. Like all native mammals found in Australia is a marsupial; it bears its young in a pouch, like a Kangaroo. The Devil can be thought of as an equivalent to a wild hunting dog or a wolf, neither of which are native to Australia. It is a meat eater (carnivore) and will hunt and kill other animals or birds for food, although it is equally at home eating animals that have already died. Indeed, whilst it can take livestock such as sheep from farms, it can perform the farmer a useful service by completing devouring the carcass of any animal that has died. The Devil is the largest surviving marsupial carnivore.

The Devil seems to have originally been found all over Australia but was hunted to extinction; it now only survives on Tasmania. It was made a protected species in 1941 and has become a symbol of the island. However, over the last thirty or so years it has come under threat from an disease, Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). This is an unusual disease; it is an infection that is spread from one animal to another when they bite and scratch each other in fights over food but it is also a form of cancer. The animals develop large growths on their faces which eventually kill them. The disease has spread and there are real fears it could cause the Devils to become extinct.

Normally cancerous cells express a protein on their surface belonging to a family called the Major Histocompatibility Class 1 (MHC-1). The MHC-1 proteins are recognised by cells of the immune system and signal to it cells that are abnormal and need to be destroyed. However, the tumour cells express very few MHC-1 proteins, meaning that the immune system cannot recognise them. As a result, the tumour goes unchallenged. Building on technology used to develop Covid vaccines, scientists from Hobart in Tasmania have now used adenoviruses to transfer DNA into tumour cells to make them produce large amounts of MHC-1. The adenovirus is a fairly harmless virus that is used by scientists to introduce DNA into target cells; the DNA contains the molecular instructions that cause a cell to produce any protein that the scientists chose. In this case, it is a form of MHC-1 that causes the immune system to destroy the tumour cells.



The adenovirus, used to deliver the vaccine to Tasmanian Devils (Thomas Splettoesser / Wikipedia)

So far, the approach has only been used in small scale tests, but the results are promising. To scale it up, it is hoped to lace food with the adenovirus, so that when the Devils eat this, they will also take the virus into their bodies and inoculate themselves.

Science often works in unpredictable ways; a disease that has killed millions of humans worldwide may now give us tools to save an endangered species. **We are an Eco-church at Billingsley....**

DRP

Photo - Aussie Ark



# Severn Valley Group of Parishes

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

## Services at Severn Valley Benefice Churches

Our apologies – we have insufficient information to be certain that we are getting this correct! Please check with your churchwardens.

## Glazeley News

*Marion Corfield and the Revd David Poyner write:*

I am delighted to report that the church ceiling has now been repaired; preachers no longer need to wear hard hats when venturing into the pulpit. We also took advantage of the scaffold to attend to some tiles that had slipped. Many thanks to Richard and Martin, the local builders who did the work for us. Our next project is to investigate damp underneath the floor in the refreshment/play area at the back of the church. Once this has been fixed, we can move onto the electric heating. At some point we also hope to bring the bell back into operation; it has seized on its bearings.

As I write we are planning harvest festival, on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Weather permitting, this will take place in and outside the church, so we can bless the fields, the trees and hedges and the livestock that surround the churchyard. We have Deuxhill wool, Billingsley grain and (hopefully) Glazeley hay.

As we had no “ride & stride” volunteers this year we are sending a donation to Shropshire Historic Churches.

Looking further ahead, the PCC met in early September to discuss future events. We are looking towards a joint event with Billingsley - a flower festival with an exhibition of old photographs. We also hope to have a coffee morning next year in the church.

Our next **Breakfast at The Down** will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 9am. All are welcome. The cost is £8.00: please let Marion ([marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net)) know if you intend to go. 01746-764585 or 07918-559043.

<b>David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638</b> Email <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a>	<b>Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585</b> <a href="mailto:Marion.corfield@talktalk.net">Marion.corfield@talktalk.net</a>
<a href="#">Glazeley &amp; Deuxhill: St Bartholomew - A Church Near You</a>	

## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

We had a very successful coffee morning on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, organised by Ellen McConnell at her home at Fairfield. It was well supported, with former residents coming from the Cotswolds and Audlem and we made **£300** for church funds. More importantly, the event brought people together.

Harvest festival took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September, with Stewart Page from Highley as the visiting preacher; Stewart took the theme of “the debt of love” and applied this to our harvest offerings. Many thanks to Diane for decorating the church for us, to the Marsh family and George Moreley for grain and wool from their farms and Sue for apples from her orchard next to the church. We were able to celebrate our local produce and our local farmers. Our harvest charity this year is Shropshire Rural Support, who provide support for those experiencing stress in rural communities.



Next month, we have our final 6pm evening service of the year, when, in keeping with our theme this year of journeys, we welcome back Bonnie Garvey, who will speak about her visit to South Africa to work with Singakwenza, a charity that provides educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and training opportunities for their mothers. We have previously supported Singakwenza as our harvest charity.

**Can I urge people to consider joining the Billingsley and Glazeley 100 club?** For £4 a month, you can purchase a number that is put into a monthly draw; half the money goes in prizes (a first and two second prizes) and the rest is used to support the churches in either Billingsley or Glazeley (you can chose which) and our work in community events, such as the jubilee party last year. Please contact Diane if you are interested; [dstepney@ymail.com](mailto:dstepney@ymail.com) or myself ([d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk), 0780 100 9693).

[Billingsley: St Mary - A Church Near You](#)

[\(20+\) St Mary's Billingsley | Bridgnorth | Facebook](#)

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

## Billingsley tiles telling a tale

Some Victorian wall tiles were dumped in Billingsley churchyard many years ago; we had to dig some of them out whilst clearing a flower bed. They may have once been on the wall behind the altar.

Biblical references to tiles are few and far between, but there is an intriguing verse in the Book of Exodus, where Moses, Aaron and others are summoned to the top of Mount Sinai for an encounter with God. There, the floor of Heaven appeared as though it was tiled with sapphire.

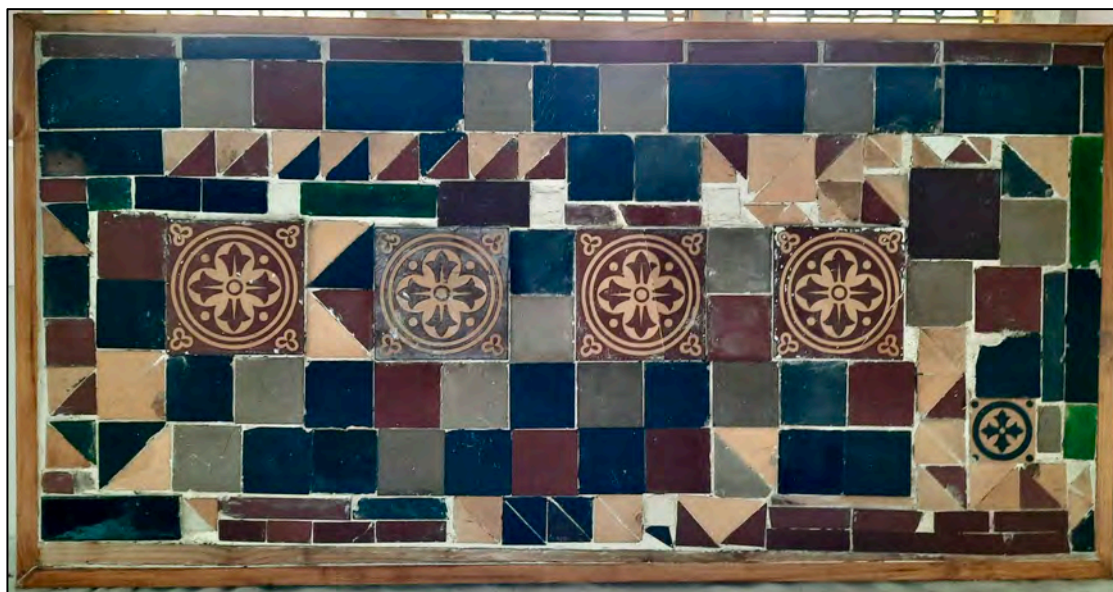


Photo: 1&2 by Donna Adams

Our tiles are some way from sapphire, but after mounting some on a board and placing them back behind the altar, perhaps they may remind some of the splendour and majesty of God and how we, broken and divided, are restored and brought back together when we share bread and wine at the altar.

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

## October Message

### **“Keeping the show on the road during vacancy”**

With church life in the Benefice adjusting to uncertainty as we come to terms with being ‘in vacancy’ (again), perhaps we could all aspire to embrace four silver threads to help us maintain a flourishing Christian presence in our six parishes, our two schools and in the wider communities which we serve?

1. Let's celebrate and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens and members of the six PCC's;
2. Let's thank and assist the volunteers (visiting clergy and local worship leaders) who will be facilitating Sunday services and other worship;
3. Let's work in partnership with Rural Dean Jeannetta on arrangements for flexing clergy cover and service patterns over the months ahead;
4. Let's collaborate closely with each other as we work with Archdeacon Fiona to discern/achieve the most appropriate future for our Benefice.

We can all draw encouragement in this process from the fact that, by the time you read this, initial meetings to build relationships and agree methods of working together will have already happened with both Fiona and Jeannetta.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

## Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches – October 2023

-	-		-	-
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>				
10:30	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon		
6:30pm	Harvest Celebration with Nigel Savage-Bailey	Farlow		
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>				
09:00	Harvest Celebration with Revd David Poyner	Cleeton St Mary		
10:30	Harvest Celebration with Revd David Poyner	Stottesdon		
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>				
9:00	HC with Revd Preb John Daniels	Stottesdon		
10:30	Harvest Celebration with Revd David Poyner	Sidbury		
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>				
9:00	Harvest Celebration with Revd David Poyner	Silvington		
10:30	HC with Revd David Poyner	Stottesdon		
6:30pm	Harvest Celebration with Ann Constable	Middleton Scriven		
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>				
10:30	GpHC with Revd Preb John Daniels	Stottesdon		
-	-	-	-	-

**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.**

### From the Registers

There were no new entries to report as this edition went to press.

**If you are, or someone you know is, in need of prayer or a visit, or Communion at home or elsewhere, during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden (details on page 20 above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.**

**The deadline for the November edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Thanks!**

**Advance warning about the December edition – as usual, we will have a single edition to cover both December 2023 and January 2024. Lots of contributions for a bumper Christmas edition will be welcome!**

## Benefice Pilgrimage for Ride and Stride

With many, many thanks to all who contributed, the final tally for this year's pilgrimage was a magnificent **£400** which will be shared as usual 50/50 between the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and participating churches.

Thanks too to those churches which successfully opened their doors to receive R&S visitors!

## 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)

## A message from Mark and Alex

Mark sent this message across not long after we enjoyed their final service at Stottesdon on 3<sup>rd</sup> September – an occasion of mixed emotions, and contented smiles, as recorded in the lovely picture below:

**“This is a very big thank you to everyone who contributed to so many lovely and generous gifts for us on our leaving the Stottesdon Parishes. We have been completely overwhelmed by your kindness, and will have the best set-up house and garden in north-west Herefordshire!**

**As we settle in here and take stock of the nine years we have spent ministering in Stottesdon, Farlow, Cleeton St Mary, Silvington, Sidbury and Middleton Scriven, we give thanks to God for all his blessings; most of all, for all the good people we have got to know in the communities and the warmth and welcome we have been shown from the first day to the last. May God bless you richly in all that you do, and in all the service that you give to each other and to Him, who loves us all.”**

**Mark and Alex**



## Middleton Scriven News



### **Congratulations to Ann!**

The editor writes:

### **Ann Constable has been formally commissioned by Archdeacon Fiona as a Local Worship Leader**

The Certificate shown in this picture reads: "Commissioned as a local worship leader to serve the benefice of Stottesdon with Farlow, Cleeton St Mary, Silvington, Sidbury and Middleton Scriven. For a period of 3 years."

This is a tremendous achievement, Ann, and must have involved a lot of hard work and study.

Ann will now be able to lead some of our services, including the Harvest celebration at Middleton Scriven on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and also the Christmas Eve Carols.

### **Sharing historic news with our neighbouring parishes, Chetton and Glazeley:**

In Middleton Scriven church a beautiful wreath was laid by the family of Sgt. William Shepherd (Uncle Willy) to commemorate his tragic death on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, 80 years ago. The wreath was in memory of five young airman (3 British, 1 Canadian and 1 Australian) who lost their lives in a tragic aircraft crash at Eudon Mill, Bridgnorth on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1943. The crash site lies in the Chetton parish, and is close to both the adjacent parishes of Middleton Scriven and Glazeley.

The young men were:

- ✝ Sgt. William Shepherd. RAF (Pilot) from Edinburgh
- ✝ Sgt. Francis George Wells. RAF (Navigator) from Birmingham
- ✝ Sgt. George D H Morrow. Royal Canadian Air Force (Bomb aimer), from Saskatchewan, Canada
- ✝ Sgt. Walter Henry Lawrence. RAF. (wireless, air gunner) from Walthamstow, Essex
- ✝ Sgt. Norman Leslie Wachter. Royal Australian Air Force (Air Gunner) from Kenmore, Queensland, Australia.

This flight was due to have been their last training flight before converting to Lancasters and going on operation. It was a training flight from RAF Chipping Warden, for their Wellington 111 aircraft, which took off at 21:52 on a night cross country bombing / navigation exercise.

Their flight plan should have taken them to from Chipping Warden, Somerton, Port Isaac, Somerton, Chipping Norton, Conway Castle, Leominster then back to base, where they were due back at 02:52.

Their last message was received at 23:43. At 00:29 the plane crashed. No distress call had been received.

It was reported to have dived vertically into Eudon Mill and exploded. This was on the land now owned by John Fox. All died, and sadly only three bodies were recovered. Two are remembered with honour on the Runnymede memorial and three have war graves in Chester (Blacon) cemetery.



It is reported the crew had a short leave just prior to the accident. Francis Wells had met his mother in a pub in Shrewsbury. William Shepherd, the pilot, was 21 on the day he died.

The subsequent court of enquiry stated various factors that might have contributed to the crash. Historically it is now known that it was sadly a time when many aircraft were in a sorry state, and many airmen had recent flying duties which amounted to a very large amount of hours.

The names of these five young men are read out at the Remembrance service at Glazeley church each year now thanks to the research on the crash completed by our local historian Lyn Parnaby.

## Church services at Middleton Scriven

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

### Coffee mornings

**Our coffee mornings in church** will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 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 for more details. See mini-poster on page 25.

### Community Harvest Supper – joining together to celebrate the harvest

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 6pm in church - 2 course supper. £15 per person. Bring your own drinks. Raffle. To book please contact Ann C or Sally Y.

## Stottesdon News

*Clare Tibbits writes:*

### 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 has resumed.

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. More on the fruits of these researches next month.

On the planned toilet facility, several very generous donations have come in recently to help fund the cost, and discussions are continuing with funders to 'close the gap'. Meanwhile, do please get in touch with Clare if there's any help you might offer.....

#### News from THE FIGHTING COCKS INN

With the BBC reporting that TWO pubs close on average EVERY day in the UK, it is great to report that Stottesdon's very popular establishment is changing hands as a going concern!!

*Hannah and Darren Bailey will have departed to pastures new in the Forest of Dean, after a brilliant leaving party, when you read this.....*

**The new proprietors Annie and Rob are opening  
from 5pm on Wednesday 4th October.**



**Stottesdon 100 club** - Congratulations to winners – Eunice and Mick Evans, David Tibbits and Shirley Humphries.

## Update on a busy Summer of fundraising activities as more money came in!

With vegetable gardens full of 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 the final total was a fabulous £610 for Severn Hospice!**

**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.

## Silvington News

*Kate Hickman writes:*

Just a quick note to say ‘sorry’ to everyone that we had to cancel the Group Service on 24<sup>th</sup> September at such short notice – we look forward to seeing you all soon.

✝ **Our Harvest Celebration** will be held at 9am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## Farlow News

*Janice Howells writes:*

✝ **Harvest Celebration at St Giles’ Church – Sunday 1st October.** All donations gratefully received and will be auctioned off following the service (children love this bit!). All welcome.

**Our PCC is in need of new members.** Anyone interested in finding out what's involved please contact churchwarden Nigel, or Pam on 01746 718 745.

## 100 Club winners

The first draw of the new year is on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Many thanks to people of the parish in supporting their church and village hall, and special thanks to friends and family for supporting us.

**COFFEE MORNING**  
In aid of  
**SEVERN HOSPICE**  
**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
10.00 – 12.30  
**CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
**CAKES, GIFTS, RAFFLE,**  
**BRING & BUY, BOOKS**  
(Any donations of cakes etc greatly appreciated)  
**DAMSON HOUSE**  
**MIDDLETON SCRIVEN**  
**WV16 6AG**  
(ANN & JOHN WILLIAMSON)  
01746 789616  
**COME AND ENJOY A CUPPA**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## 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.

### August 100 Club Results

- £20 – Brian Hardy no 92
- £10 each to Stanley Weston no 13 and Eliot Muscat no 116
- £5 each to Celia Brown no 8 and Daniel Booth no 111.

Thanking everyone for coming back in the new 100 Club draw, 'good luck' to all!

## Sidbury

Regrettably, we have no news this month from Sidbury.

## Our Community Noticeboard

### Cleobury Country Farmers Market – 21<sup>st</sup> October

...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.....

#### **A great way to re-home Harvest Celebration gifts!**

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. A varied programme of entertaining talks, crafting and events is arranged. 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 - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
<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:dittonpriors@dittonpriors.org">dittonpriors@dittonpriors.org</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



# Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October is Apple Day

Featuring displays, juice and cider making, apple recipes



bring your apples & pears to press  
and clean bottles to take your juice home

at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon  
12noon to 3pm admission FREE\*

\*minimum £5 donation on the day to the help towards the cost of providing & maintaining the apple milling and pressing equipment