

# WHEATLAND NEWS

November 2023



*Photo by Quaritsch Photography on Unsplash*

## Remembrance

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

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# Editorial

October has been a good month for fundraising activities together with the Harvest Services. This edition of Wheatland News brings reports from most of the harvest services across the benefices. There are one or two which have not yet taken place so we shall hold the photographs for the next edition - which is the bumper December/January copy - to bring all the communities together in these celebrations. We have omitted the Contacts Page due to the wealth of contributions this month - it will be back in December.

The wet weather reported last month and the devastation it was causing is now forecast to return and produce more problems with further flooding on the saturated ground. During this time it is important we remember to check with neighbours and friends to help in any way. Thanks to all those who were able to assist with some of the flooding which occurred in various premises across the area.

November is the time when we remember all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflict over many generations. We have two poignant articles from the memories of people who have experience of WWI and WW2 which their families have shared with us. See pages 12 and 22.

This month we are printing two new logos – one for Brown Clee Benefice and the other for The Severn Valley Group of Parishes. We look forward to seeing one for Stottesdon when they have successfully appointed a new incumbent.

We send congratulations to all the people who received The Order of St Ethelbert from Bishop Richard in Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October for their services to their communities.

Following a long break in WN Committee meetings due to Covid, the Brown Clee interregnum and the retirement of Preb Revd Mark Daborn, it was very good to welcome Revd Joe Simons to the 2023 AGM as the new Chair of the WN Committee! The Committee decided that, due to the increase in the cost of printing the hard copies of the Wheatland News, the subscription for the 11 editions during 2024 must be £18. A form will be attached to the paper copies for return to your distributor. Email copy and downloads from the various social media sites will remain free of charge. Donations, if you would like to help with the cost of the printed copies, would be gratefully received!!



And finally.....for the Bee people, my apologies for saying in October edition, bees make honey from pollen, it is, of course, nectar. Delighted to know that at least one person reads the WN from cover to cover! Thank you.

**Ed**

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The **deadline** for contributions for the **DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024** edition of WN will be **noon on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

**Don't forget!** 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 so that we all have a good read over the holiday!

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	The Editor
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

### November Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Ludlow



Each year, the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Festival focuses on a different aspect of honouring those who have served the Crown and country in the armed forces. This year the theme is Service, not just of those deployed on active service, but the unseen service of those who love them. We're encouraged to remember the impact that their absence, and their homecoming, can have not just on the service personnel but on their loved ones.

Those are the hidden costs of serving in the armed forces. Those at home, whether they be parents, partners, spouses, or children, carry a load of anxiety for their loved one. There's the weight of managing without them and then of re-shaping lives and routines around them when they return. If they return, of course. If not, there's the burden of grief which will be carried life-long.

If they do return, they're forever changed by what they've experienced in combat or on peacekeeping duties. They may carry physical and mental scars, and not know how to express them except among their comrades, who don't need words because they just get it, because they've seen and heard and smelled the same things. That can have an impact on loved ones too.

I often tell the story in Remembrance services of a man I knew in my home church who had been a prisoner of war in Burma during World War II. He'd seen and experienced unimaginable things but would never talk to his wife about them. He didn't want to. He didn't want those images to be spoken of in his home back in England. They weren't to invade that precious space, that haven. But that didn't mean he'd forgotten, or that those memories didn't trouble him. He and his wife learned to live with them, and with the fact that some things just remained unspoken.

Perhaps in this year's season of Remembrance, as well as remembering and giving thanks for the sacrifice of those who fought and died in service of our nation and of peace, we can also remember to pray for those still serving now, for those who love them and support them, and for healing of the seen and unseen scars of war.

*God of healing and of peace, in whose service is perfect freedom,  
we hold before you those who serve our nation in His Majesty's Armed Forces, and those who love them.  
We pray that during times of separation you would protect their relationships.  
We pray that during times of reunion you would ease the transitions and be present in homecomings.  
We pray for healing of bodies, minds, and spirits broken by experiences of combat, and for healing of grief  
for those who will never return.  
Hold and guard all who serve on behalf of others, and their loved ones, we pray.  
Amen.*

**Ven Fiona Gibson**  
Archdeacon of Ludlow



#### **The Bishop's weekly video message**

This week, Bishop Richard highlights his thoughts on the award this week of the Order of St Ethelbert to those who have served the Diocese.

*Watch him on YouTube Hereford Diocese  
or on the Diocese website, where the transcript also appears.*

## Readings for November 2023

### November 5th – All Saints' Day (Gold or White)

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

### Or as Fourth Sunday before Advent (Red / Green)

Micah 3.5-end; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 24.1-14

### November 12th - Third Sunday before Advent (Red / Green)

Amos 5.18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13

### Or as Remembrance Sunday – Ditton Priors & Cleobury North (Red / Green)

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; John 15.9-17

### November 19th - Second Sunday before Advent (Red / Green)

Zephaniah 1.7,12-end; Psalm 90.1-8, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

### November 26th - Christ the King, Sunday next before Advent (Red or White)

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95.1-7; Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end

### December 3rd - Advent Sunday (Purple)

Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end

## Wheatland Diary

Thurs	2	Nov	Guy Fawkes meets Hallowe'en at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 13 for details
Thurs	2	Nov	Autumn Fair at Chetton Village Hall, 10:00 – 1:00pm, entry £2 – see page 14
Fri	3	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks at Chetton Village Hall – “A Man Called Otto” - see page 15
Sat	4	Nov	Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 10
Sat	11	Nov	Workshop – Christmas Table Decorations, Ditton Priors – see page 10
Sat	11	Nov	Ditton Priors Firework Party, 6:00pm, see page 10 and poster on page 17
Sat	11	Nov	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 – 12:00 – see page 25
Sun	12	Nov	Brown Clee Young Farmers' Charity Rugby Tournament, Clee Hill Rugby Club, 1:00pm – see page 17
Tues	14	Nov	Ditton Priors Local History Group – Detectorist talk! Ditton Priors VH, 7.30pm, see page 16
Sat	18	Nov	Breakfast at The Down, with Chetton Church – see page 14
Fri	24	Nov	Ladies' Lunch – Manor Farm Deuxhill, for Glazeley Church – see page 20
Sat	25	Nov	Christmas Fair, Cleobury North VH in aid of church repairs appeal – see page 11
Sun	26	Nov	Pre-Christmas Afternoon Tea – Chetton Village Hall, 2.30pm – see page 14
Thurs	30	Nov	Christmas Lights illuminated at Ditton Priors – 6:30pm – see page 9
Fri	1	Dec	Flicks in the Sticks – 'A Christmas Carol' (filmed in Shrewsbury) – Chetton VH, 7.30pm - see page 15
Sat	2	Dec	Ditton Priors Christmas Fair and December Coffee Morning at The Pavilion – see page 10
Sat	2	Dec	Nearly New Clothes Sale – Cleeton St Mary & Silvington VH, 10:30 – 1:00pm See mini-poster on page 26.
Mon	4	Dec	Christmas Celebration Dinner, Church House, Chetton - see page 14 for details of tickets and arrangements.
Thurs	7	Dec	Learn to make Christmas table decorations! Ditton Priors – see page 10
Sat	9	Dec	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 – 12:00 – see page 25
Fri	15	Dec	Live music from Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels, 9:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 13
Fri	22	Dec	Live music from Bluze Box, 9:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 13
Fri	22	Dec	Brown Clee Young Farmers' Carols on the Street – 7:30pm opposite the Howard Arms, Ditton Priors. See p17
Mon	1	Jan	Live music from Call of the Kraken, 5:00pm at The Pheasant, Neenton – see page 13
Sat	6	Jan	Ditton Priors Church Coffee Morning – 10:30 – 12:30 – see page 10



## Saint of the Month for November - Saint Andrew the Apostle

by Revd Joe Simons

**On 30th November we celebrate the life and work of Saint Andrew, one of the earliest of Jesus Christ's disciples in the first century.**

Andrew was a fisherman he lived and worked on the Sea of Galilee in Northern Israel.

He was one of a number of Jesus' disciples who were in the fishing business, I believe he was a young man when he became a disciple, and rather like his fellow disciples, his life and success was governed by his own hard work and his ability to read the signs about where the fish were most likely to be found.

Like most fishermen and farmers who rely heavily on the elements, good fortune and experience, he placed his trust on factors that were outside his gift to influence. I suspect that he knew and understood the whole issue of trust and dependence on God.

Andrew was originally a disciple of John the Baptist and attracted by curiosity he went to see whether what he was told about Jesus was true. His curiosity pushed him further on to tell others including Simon/Peter.

There is an element of risk and curiosity which pushed the early disciples to want to join Jesus and to follow his example, right the way through to the Last Supper, Andrew was one of the first to witness and share life with the risen Lord. He was, along with his fellow disciples driven by a desire to be changed to live a new life, a different life one centred around Jesus and all he taught them.

It is good to be curious and be open minded: it is often then that we discover more of ourselves and who we are. Many a discipleship journey, like Andrew's, starts with a desire to know more and through that to become changed and shaped for who and what we can become.

For those of us who have encountered and welcomed Jesus into our lives we too can share the message so that our initial curiosity can spark the imagination of others, to see what and who it is that we believe in.

Along with being the Patron Saint of fisherman, sailors and spinsters Andrew is also the Patron Saint of Scotland and Greece.

JS

The churches of Brown Clee Benefice are now active on [www.facebook.com/browncleechurches](https://www.facebook.com/browncleechurches) and proudly sporting a new logo – which we hope you like. It would be great if you followed our page, which is full of the latest information about what is happening throughout the seven churches.

### Eucharist Tokens

We have a new initiative that you will see appearing in all of our churches. It is a token to be used by those who have committed to give by direct debit/standing order. The tokens are available as you enter the church for a Service. They can then be used in the collection plate to enable you to 'give' at the time and for us to bless your kind donation.



# Brown Clee Parishes



**Priest-in-Charge:**

**Revd Joe Simons**

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ

**01746-599217 • 07872-464276**

[browncleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com)

**St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton**

CHURCHWARDENS

Carole Smith: 01746-712474 • Mark Smith: 01746-712394

**St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell**

CHURCHWARDEN

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

**St Giles, Chetton**

CHURCHWARDEN

Sheila Millington: 01746-789443

**SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North**

CHURCHWARDENS

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676

Jane Bufton: 01746-787298

**All Saints, Neenton**

CHURCHWARDEN

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

## Brown Clee Services in November

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November – All Saints</b>		
09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
11:30	HC	Aston Botterell
16:00	Benefice Memorial Service (see page 8)	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance</b>		
10:00	Remembrance	Cleobury North VH
15:00	Remembrance	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – second before Advent</b>		
09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
11:30	HC	Neenton
14:30	Remembrance	Wheathill
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King</b>		
08:30	BCPHC	Ditton Priors
09:45	GpHC	Chetton
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Switching on the Christmas Lights!</b>		
18:30	Lights	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent Sunday</b>		
09:45	HC	Ditton Priors
11:30	Carols	Aston Botterell
16:00	Christingle	Ditton Priors

**HC – Holy Communion**

**GpHC – Group Holy Communion**

**BCPHC – Book of Common Prayer**

**Holy Communion**

*This table is correct as WN goes to press, but please note that the type of service to be held will be determined by the health of the Revd Simons – please check online or with your churchwarden.*

## Benefice Memorial Service - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 4:00pm

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November we are holding a service to invite families from across the Benefice to join us for a service to remember their loved ones. We hope that by joining together with others you will know that you are not alone in your grief and that you will receive comfort from the prayers offered.

During the service, in a time of special prayer, we will mention by name all those whose funerals and memorial services have been conducted in the Benefice over the past 12 months, together with any other names given in before the service begins. Later in the service, everyone will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones as a sign of remembrance.

We hope that you will be able to join us, bringing with you any friends and relatives that you wish to support you.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Emma Haywood** Benefice Administrator



### Water Aid - a BIG THANK-YOU!

Mike Teague writes:

**I want to say thank you to all who gave to our Harvest Appeal for Water Aid.**

You may remember that I suggested that if we raised £400 that would buy 10 rolls of water distribution pipe and install two tap stands. Those tap stands would make a world of difference for other families.



*Picture taken from WaterAid website illustrating a project in Ethiopia.*

**I am very pleased to say that we raised £413! from our collections at Chetton and Neenton. Thank you!**

It is not too late to give - if you would like to make a contribution to help the 771 million members of God's human family who do not have access to clean water close to their home – to donate please follow this [link](#) to the WaterAid website – search on WaterAid Donation - or contact Mike Teague 01746 789592.

**“Every two minutes a child under five dies from diarrhoea caused by dirty water”**



# Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

## Remembrance Sunday, All Souls – Church Services in November

- ✝ Memorial Service - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 4pm at Ditton Priors Church – see page 8
- ✝ Remembrance Service - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 3pm at Ditton Priors Church
  
- ✝ First Carols – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm at Ditton Priors Church. We look forward to switching on the Christmas Lights in the Churchyard and singing our carols of the Advent season. This is a great community gathering joining with the Parish Council. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and snacks for all to enjoy.
  
- ✝ Christingle Service - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (Advent Sunday ) 4pm Ditton Priors Church. Please bring along the children to this colourful gathering, to hear about the first Christing with the Children’s Society and to make your Christingle to take home. There will be a collection for the Children’s Society.

## Cleaning rota for November

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November | Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd |
| ▪ Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November | Mr & Mrs Graham Russell               |
| ▪ Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November | Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell |
| ▪ Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November | Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones  |

## In recognition of services to the Diocese

It’s unique for WN to get a journalistic scoop and this one is a cause for great celebration.



On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Marjorie Jones was admitted to the Order of St Ethelbert. This is an honour in the gift of the Bishop of Hereford, awarded to people who have given sustained and faithful service to the Diocese over very many years.

Hereford Cathedral was packed with recipients, friends and family for this joyous occasion, and we are sure that all readers will join with us in offering Marjorie the warmest congratulations on receiving this well-deserved award.



## Harvest 2023

**We welcomed about 70 people to our Harvest Supper** on 8<sup>th</sup> October and the evening was a great success – happy faces, delicious food and the pleasure of good company. A big ‘THANK YOU’ to all who donated and prepared food and to those who ‘set up’ and ‘cleared up’ afterwards. Much appreciation also to Penny and Alan for their lively music, which rounded off the evening nicely. A profit of **£670** was raised for church funds.

**The Harvest Services** have been well received and supported, not least by the group choir who enhance our joyful singing. This is especially appreciated by the smaller churches, whose numbers are fewer, with the singing resounding in the smaller spaces.

## **First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings**

There is no charge for this – it is open to everyone and is a real community event. 10:30am – 12:30pm in church on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The **Coffee Morning on 2nd December** is to be combined with the **Christmas Fair** at the Pavilion – stalls, Christmas hamper, raffle etc. Please come and join us for this happy occasion!!

## **Ditton Priors Halls Committee - dates for your Diary**

The Committee has arranged some events to enjoy and to raise funds for the Village Hall and Pavilion:

- **Saturday 11th November:** Come and spend the evening with us at our annual **Firework Party** at the Pavilion Recreation Ground. See posters on page 17 for full details of this and the Young Farmers' events.
- **Thursday 7th December: Christmas Table Decoration and wreath making workshop.** Full details soon.
- **Sunday 23rd June 2024: Open Garden Day.** Fancy showing off your garden next year and helping us raise some funds? We're giving you lots of time to plant up that new border or add some new colour to your garden. Let us know if you'd like to join in. Your garden doesn't need to be large or immaculate or packed full of plants- we just like to see your lovely plot! Please email [dittonpriors@btinternet.com](mailto:dittonpriors@btinternet.com) to provisionally put your garden on the list.

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

£20 – Lara May, £10 – Jeanette Coles, and £5 each to: Ann Howells, Clive Mason and Caroline Snell.

## **Wheathill & Loughton News**

*Marjorie Jones writes*

### **Church services during November**

- ✝ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – 2:30pm Remembrance Service at Wheathill Church
- ✝ Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – 6:00pm – Carol Service at Loughton
- ✝ Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 7:00pm – service at Wheathill.

As in previous years, there will be no services in January, February or March 2024. But we look forward to resuming in April 2024 with Holy Communion at Loughton Chapel.

### **Restoration work at Loughton Chapel**

The repairs to the roof tiles and to the chapel floor at Loughton have been completed. It was so good to have all the pews available for use at the harvest service. The steps to the churchyard have been reset, but we await a handrail and grids and gravel to make access easier. A good bit of tidying up needs to be done, but we are slowly getting there. We understand from our builder that the roof is in very poor condition and that it needs to be replaced, which rather dampens our elation.

## **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!).

## Cleobury North News

Please see the **APPEAL** poster on the back cover of this edition of WN. The fabric of this very beautiful and historic church is in deep trouble and is crying out for help.

**Christmas Fair** - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 10.30am until 1.30pm - at Cleobury North Village Hall with Refreshments. Organised in aid of **Cleobury North Church Repairs Appeal. Tables £10 each.** Donations for Tombola welcome. Volunteers needed to help with refreshments, bake cakes, set up the hall etc. Please contact Dot Cartwright for further information or **to book your table** on 07854 559474.

## 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

*Anne Preece writes*

### Church services

✝ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November -All Saints – 11:30am, Holy Communion.

### Harvest festival and news from Aston Botterell

Harvest festival was directed by Bobbie and Mike....with the choir leading the singing. It was a lovely evening service with refreshments afterwards and the produce sold in between by our enthusiastic auctioneer Tim Preece in a very lively atmosphere. It was lovely to see our new vicar Joe and his wife Karen supporting us in the congregation.

A big thank you to everyone who donated items for sale and towards the refreshments and decorated the church and of course to those who generously bought the produce afterwards.

We do have some lovely comments from visitors about our church and it would not happen without your support in keeping it going.... Thank you to Colin and Dave for keeping the church yard looking tidy, anyone willing to help Dave would be a great help now ...please.

Anyone wishing to join our **50-club** to keep this beautiful building in good repair, please contact Anne Preece, Janet E Preece, or Mike Vernon - thank you.

It was with sadness that Mrs Jean Howells passed away recently and her funeral and burial took place in Aston Botterell Church on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Our condolences go to the family in their grief. An extract from the eulogy given by her daughter in law appears on page 12.

We wish Jessica Berry good luck in her next stage of education and also my granddaughter Alena Preece in passing her driving test.

### Lottery winners

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

£20 - June Preece - 139	£5 - Des Dorrell - 123
£10 - Reg & Christine Steele -121	£5 - Anne Evans - 1

### Daddy's Hat

Storm Babet regrettably caused the cancellation of DH here on 21<sup>st</sup> October, but at least everyone was safe at home. We look forward to hearing Andrew Johnson's talk about church organs at a DH next spring.

## Jean Howells – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1930 – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

WN is privileged to have been given permission by Jean's family to share with readers the Tribute that was read at her funeral in September.

Jean was a lifelong diarist, and the extract below, describing her early life and war years in Ingardine, was written by Jean for the family tree. The rest of her lovely story will appear in later editions of WN.

I was asked to write about my life - I will try - it's not very exciting but I have been happy and contented and mostly busy - no time to get bored.

I have been blessed with very good parents and a happy home with Mother always there and usually the aroma of something good she was cooking for us. I remember particularly the aroma of the yeast buns she made every few days.

I was born in 1933 and my brother Michael in 1935.

I remember playing hide and seek in the garden where we lived, in the farm cottage. My Grandfather and Aunt Hilda (Dad's sister) lived at Norton farm and my Dad used to ride his bike there every day about a half a mile away. He earned 30 shillings a week which is £1.50 in today's money. Their luxuries were a packet of 6 Woodbine cigarettes for Dad and The Woman's Weekly Magazine for my mum. They never went out but they were a good team and worked hard together.

When I was five, I started school at Loughton and I had to walk about a mile each way, the same as all the children. I wore nailed boots and took sandwiches for lunch. When I was six, we moved to Norton farm, which meant an extra half a mile to walk to school! This was the year the Second World War broke out and the War Agricultural Committee came round the farms ordering the farmers to plough up extra land. My grandfather was having none of it so handed over the farm to my father.

Norton is a tenanted farm on Lord Boyne's Burwarton Estate. I remember we had good summers and bumper crops of wheat in the war years. We had double summertime for a few years too which meant we had daylight for longer in order to get the work done. It was however, a job to get the ducks in, especially if a wet night because they would be grubbing many fields away and didn't take much notice of being called, especially at 11 o'clock at night!

It was very difficult to get anyone to work on the farms because the best towns men had been called up to join the forces. We had one or two that were useless and left the cottages in a right old mess. We had a land girl from Sheffield, who stayed on after the war because she married a local farmer. It must have been hard for them after living and working in towns. Her father was an undertaker back home in Sheffield, so a big change for her. There were several more land army girls that worked on the local farms and they all lived at Burwarton about 6 miles from us. My uncle married another one, she came from Nottingham, so this got some new blood into the area.

We also had two evacuees come to live with us from Wallasey. They didn't much like the country especially walking one and a half miles to school. They only stayed a month and I don't think we were sorry when they went home. By this time, we also had to carry our gas masks as well as our lunch to school.

We considered ourselves lucky that we always had enough to eat during wartime – mainly because there were 9 or 10 of us each with a ration book, so that helped a lot. And there were also plenty of rabbits which granddad caught in wires and we had hens and eggs and killed our own pigs which were salted and hung. And of course, the mouth-watering sausages, faggots, and pork pies that my mother delighted in making. I particularly loved the scratchings!

We had to black out the windows and had only a hurricane lamp to work around the buildings. It didn't give off much light at the best of times and even that was supposed to be blacked out!

# Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

## Services at All Saints' Church, Neenton

- ✝ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Holy Communion 11.30am with Revd David Poyner;
- ✝ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service – 4pm – followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Pheasant.

## Harvest Celebrations

We had a lively Harvest service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October in a beautifully decorated church. For two days prior to the service the church and churchyard were buzzing with people helping to clean, decorate and prepare for the service. The windows were full of vases of flowers and donations for Bridgnorth Food Bank.

The food was delivered to Bridgnorth Food Bank on the Monday following and the collection was sent to **Water Aid**. As part of our support to the Food Bank a donation of **£300** was sent from the Fete held earlier in the year.

The font was decorated by three friends in memory of Sarah Leith who always loved this service. Thanks are due to all those who donated and helped in any way to make this service so enjoyable, to the Benefice choir, and to The Pheasant team who supplied the delicious stew to round off the evening.



## Important Dates for your Diary:

- **Thursday 2nd November – 5pm** - combined Fireworks & Hallowe'en evening – Fancy Dress competition – PRIZES for the best entrants!!! – BBQ - Fireworks 7pm
- **Friday 15th December – 9pm** – live music from Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels
- **Friday 22nd December – 9pm** - live music from Bluze Box
- **Monday 1st January – 5pm** - live music — Call of the Kraken

## All Saints' Tote – September

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Anne Evans                      2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Anne Pinsent

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

	<h3>Opening times</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3pm, 6pm – 11pm</li><li>Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11pm</li><li>Sunday lunch 12 noon – 4.30pm</li></ul> <p>Please call 01746-787955 or email <a href="mailto:info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk">info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk</a> to discuss times and your requirements or book direct on the website.</p>
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# Chetton News

*Pam Downing writes:*

## Services at St Giles' Church

<p>✝ <b>Just one service this month: Sunday 26th November, 10:15am – Group Service – Holy Communion.</b></p> <p>✝ <b>10th December at 4:00pm – Carol Service</b></p>	<p><b>Flowers and Cleaning</b></p> <p>Sheila and Mo</p>
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## From the Registers

We said goodbye to two well-known and respected villagers recently.

**Jean Watkins** was born, and spent all of her life in and around Chetton, before moving into Bridgnorth to be nearer to her daughter Wendy. Jean worked at the Down school for many years and was popular and well loved by staff and children. She was always very involved in village life and a great supporter of Chetton Church.

**Brian Bason** farmed in Chetton until moving to Arden Grange for the last few years of his life. He had wonderful knowledge of farming and stock and was well known in all the local stock markets for his good humour. In his latter years he loved to stroll up the lane to Chetton and was always ready with a cheery greeting. Both will be much missed.

We send condolences to both families.

## Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest Festival last month and it was good to have Revd Joe Simons take this celebration at Chetton for the first time along with Karen. We were blessed with a very warm October day and enjoyed a delicious harvest lunch courtesy of Charles and Lisa. Many thanks to them for their wonderful hospitality.

## Dates for your diary

On **Thursday 2nd November** we have our **Autumn Fair at Chetton Village Hall**, 10am - 1pm. Do come along for coffee and cake and browse the many stalls. Crafts, jewellery, pottery, books etc.

On **Saturday 18th November** we are getting together for the popular **Down breakfast, 9:00am start**. This is always a great start to the day. Let Sheila know if you wish to join us.

The **annual Christmas meal** will be held as usual at Church House on **Monday 4th December**, 7pm for 7.30. This is a three-course feast (bring wine if required) and such a joyous start to the Christmas season. Again, let Sheila or Lisa know if you wish to come along - £20.00 per person.

**Finally** don't forget our **Chetton Carol Service** on **Sunday 10th December** at 4pm. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

## Chetton 100 Club

- £15.00 Bobbie Jarvis no 63
- £10.00 Jessica Ralph no 40

## Chetton Village Hall

**Afternoon Tea!** The committee are putting on a pre-Christmas afternoon tea from 2.30 pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Tickets £7.00 from committee members.

**Village Hall and activities enquiries** – The hall is available for hire at modest rates. Enquiries to Sue on 789239.

## Autumn Exercise and Dance 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
- Beginners Ballroom Sequence Dancing will now commence from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. Telephone Angie Moore on 01746 789430 for further details.

## Flicks in the Sticks

The season continues with 'A Man Called Otto' starring Tom Hanks, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The doors will be open at 7pm for refreshments and the film will commence at 7.30. Film £4.00, refreshments from £1.00. Our last film for this year will be the 1984 version of 'A Christmas Carol'. This was filmed in Shrewsbury, and will be shown on December 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Caring for God's Acre - Bountiful Berries!

Have you ever noticed how many holly berries there are in November but not by the time you may be wanting to use them for Christmas wreaths and other decorations? Autumn is the best season to enjoy berries and this year seems to be particularly rich, with hawthorn trees glowing a colourful orange. The combination of a dry, warm spring with a wet summer has led to this plethora.

Berries are a crucial food source for many birds and animals that are building up their energy reserves before winter, so between now and Christmas a great many get eaten. Rodents such as mice, voles, shrews and squirrels eat a range of berries as do less obvious animals including foxes, badgers and hedgehogs. Deer love plants from the Rosaceae family which includes roses and brambles and will delicately pick off berries and hips. Birds love berries and can make quite a mess! Look out for members of the thrush family including song and mistle thrush as well as blackbirds. Winter migrants arrive in the autumn so you may see both redwing and fieldfare in your churchyard feasting on yew and other berry-bearing trees such as holly, hawthorn and rowan. Brambles carrying blackberries are popular and feed a range of birds, animals and also insects. You can often find the next stage of the food web with spiders spinning webs to catch creatures attracted to the berries.

If you are planting shrubs within your churchyard how about choosing berry-bearers, particularly native species such as spindle and guelder rose. If you already have shrubs or a hedge then try and delay any pruning work until the berry feast is over. The end of winter is a good time to cut back hedges and other shrubs, this gives birds and animals food, plus shelter from the winter weather (and from predators such as cats), whilst getting things under control before birds start to build nests in the spring.

We'd love to know what creatures you see eating the berries in your churchyard, please put a record onto iNaturalist or let us know by email.

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



## Ditton Priors Local History Group



**More than 60 people** came along to the Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September to learn about Bridgnorth's and Ditton Priors' role in WWII from Clive Gwilt, a local historian and author of several books about Bridgnorth.



Responding to questions from LHG Chairman Paul Wilson, Clive took us through the preparations for War, including the building of the Naval Armaments Base in Ditton Priors and the RAF Training Camp at Stanmore, and some of the notable events, including bomb damage in Bridgnorth and Planes shot down. And sure enough, the German map featuring key infrastructure, displays a cameo of Bridgnorth as having particular interest. We shall never know what the significance was or what Hitler might have done if he had invaded so it will always be open to speculation.



As with any village gathering it was also a welcome social event for many who stayed on afterwards, and had plenty of time to look at the extraordinary selection of WWII pictures and document that Clive was able to share.

*All the information is in Clive's book, Bridgnorth in WWII ISBN 9781846744204*

## The next event in the DPLHG calendar is on Tuesday 14th November.

This will be a talk by local detectorist David Rann along with a presentation of a number of his discoveries from around Ditton Priors.

David has worked, with permission of landowners, to discover some incredible archaeological finds that help define our understanding of the area through the ages. From simple day-to-day household items like shoe buckles and buttons to an 11th Century stirrup mount and even a small hoard of mediaeval silver coins. Some of the actual items will be on display at the event.



David will also cover the fascinating process of detecting and how he works with Shropshire's Finds Liaison Officer to determine age, authenticity, rarity and ultimately whether the coroner's office decides a find is classified as 'treasure' and is acquired by the British Museum.

It promises to be a very interesting evening and could get you digging around in your own back garden! You never know what you might find!

We hope to see you on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Ditton Priors Village Hall starting at 7:30pm.

Entry is free for History Group members and £3 for non-members. Full details and updates can be found on the [Group's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/people/Ditton-Priors-Local-History-Group/100081457013273/) (https://www.facebook.com/people/Ditton-Priors-Local-History-Group/100081457013273/).

## Supporting Ditton Priors Village Hall and Pavilion

The Committee has organised some great events to raise funds for these facilities, which are enjoyed by people Ditton and from surrounding villages. **See the list of what is to come, on page 10 and in the Wheatland Diary.**



# Brown Clee Young Farmers Club



Stay up to date with what local club BCYFC are up to the next 3 months!  
Come along and give us some support as we raise money for our four chosen charities, which are:

Severn Hospice, Shropshire Rural Support, Lingen Davies & Midlands Air Ambulance

→ **Charity Log Lug, Sunday, 29th October, £5 per barrow**

On Sunday 29th October, BCYFC have arranged their first charity fundraiser of the year, their annual Log Lug. We deliver locally to ditton priors and stottesdon and surrounding villages! It's £5 per barrow, to order your wood, message James 07940222986

→ **YF Charity Rugby Tournament, 12th November at Clee Hill Rugby Club, 1pm**

On Sunday 12th November, BCYFC have organised their first rugby tournament at Clee hill rugby club starting at 1pm, there will be lots to offer there, bar including mulled wine and hot food! We will also have a raffle going and lots of kids games! Its £3 entry on the gate with under 14's to come in for free, come along and support us!

→ **Carols on the street, Ditton Priors, 22nd December, 7:30pm.**

On Friday 22nd December at 7:30pm, BCYFC are going to have there carols on the street in ditton priors, outside the church oppsite the Howard arms, we will have mulled wine and mince pies on offer to keep you nice and warm! come along for a great social and to give us some support!



Any support is greatly appreciated, if you have any enquiries please don't hesitate to get in touch!

James (Tomo): 07940222986 or Katie: 07500599419

# Ditton Priors Firework Party

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Gates open 6.00pm

Fireworks 7.00pm (approx.)

Adult £5 / Child (under 16) £1

BBQ Burgers, Sausages & Jacket Potatoes  
Beer Buz Licensed Bar • Mulled Wine • Milkshakes  
Buz Beats Radio Show • Starlight Balloons  
Cakes, Ice Lollies & Sweets • Popcorn  
Coffee, Hot Chocolate & Baileys

**CASH ONLY**



**No unaccompanied children under 14  
Absolutely no Sparklers or your own Fireworks**

# Nobel Prize of the month - mRNA Vaccines



The annual announcement of the Nobel Prizes is always a time of excitement in the scientific community; disappointingly Stockholm again seems to have lost my telephone number, but it is always interesting to see what work has been highlighted. For myself, this is particularly the case for the prizes in Chemistry and Medicine, the areas I know something about. A few years ago, I was organising a conference and had got a provisional acceptance from a very eminent speaker from the United States. Then I got a very apologetic email from him, saying he could not attend in person but could he send another person from his lab? A couple of days later I found out why he could not attend; he had just been told he had won a Nobel prize and my conference was going to clash with the awards ceremony. I graciously accepted his apology and his colleague gave us an excellent talk.



This year the prize has been awarded to Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko for their work on mRNA vaccines. These have featured previously in Molecule of the Month and I suspect virtually all of us have benefitted from these, for these are what are used to protect us against Covid. A vaccine works by directing the body to produce antibodies that bind and neutralise harmful organisms, such as the Covid virus. They actually recognise proteins that are found on the outside of the virus or bacterium; this is known as the antigen. Traditionally, an inactive form of the virus was injected into a person; this would still have the protein

visible on its surface so it could be recognised by antibody producing cells and so they could react against it. However, this was an inefficient process, it was often hit-or-miss as to whether the right protein would be recognised and an appropriate antibody produced.

The antibody-producing cells actually need to take the antigen, the target for the antibody, inside them so it is processed properly (I am simplifying the process here; technically this is done by antigen presenting cells, but that is a detail). It would be far better if a way could be found to ensure that the correct protein is already present in these cells. Cells naturally produce proteins from instructions found in another molecule called mRNA. With mRNA vaccines, it is the mRNA that contains the instructions for the cells to make the target protein (antigen) that is actually injected. This is a much more efficient and reliable way to get the correct antibodies produced and is the reason why scientists were so confident that they could get effective vaccines within a year of the identification of the appropriate target protein in the Covid virus.

Weissman and Kariko laid the foundations for the Covid vaccine by discovering how mRNA could be injected into subjects without any harmful side effects. mRNA itself is a delicate molecule, that is quickly broken down when it is injected in the body. They discovered that by replacing one of the building blocks of mRNA called uridine with a substitute called pseudouridine, the mRNA will still tell antibody cells to produce the correct protein, but the mRNA itself was stable enough to be injected into people and not destroyed.

There have been other technical hurdles with mRNA vaccines that it has been necessary to overcome. The mRNA needs to be wrapped in a coat of special, fatty molecules called lipid nanoparticles. Solving this problem has been as important as the work of Weissman and Kariko. However, many people have contributed to this so the Nobel Committee could not identify just the one or two innovators they need to award a Nobel prize. However, we should all be grateful to the unglamorous work of the formulation scientists who work alongside the biochemists and pharmacologists; remember them alongside Weissman and Kariko in your prayers.

DRP

# The Severn Valley Group of Parishes



Severn Valley Benefice

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw

[Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com](mailto:Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com)

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister

Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email

[D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk)

**St Mary, Highley**  
CHURCHWARDEN  
Canev Clayton

**St Mary, Billingsley**  
CHURCHWARDEN  
Vacant

**St Peter, Chelmarsh**  
CHURCHWARDEN  
Vacant

**St Bartholomew, Glazeley**  
CHURCHWARDEN  
Laura Jones – 07714-  
432836, [laura@laj.me.uk](mailto:laura@laj.me.uk)

## Invitation to our Annual Memorial Service



We are holding our annual Memorial Service for those who would like to remember loved ones who have passed away. Please join us.

3 pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

At St Mary's Church, Highley

## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

We have had our final evening service of the year. The services have been loosely themed around journeys, starting with an account of a trip to Antarctica and then three trips around the world. For our final service we were hoping that Bonnie Garvey, our former churchwarden, would be able to join us and speak about a recent trip she has made to South Africa in connection with the charity Singakwenza, which provides pre-school education in Zulu communities. Unfortunately Bonnie was unable to join us due to ill-health and so I stepped in with a talk about some of my experiences as a hill walker; mountains in the British Isles I have been lost on... We will reschedule Bonnie's talk for next year when she is better.

On a recent Friday morning visit to the church, I found two of our stalwarts tidying up after harvest. As we left, I was aware that a car drew up. Another stalwart got out, to tidy the church before the service that Sunday. And then yet another car arrived, yet another volunteer who had come to help tidy the church. The church is of course much more than a building but sometimes buildings can be focus of communities and bring people together, as the body of Christ. Caring for God's Acre will be at Billingsley cutting the grass in the churchyard on the 24<sup>th</sup> November; anyone is welcome to come and help, or simply talk to Alex, who leads the work, about Caring for God's Acre.

We hope that there will be a very brief act of remembrance in Billingsley church just before 11am on Remembrance Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, as we name those from the parish who died in the First World War. All are welcome.

[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)

## Glazeley News

Marion Corfield and the Revd David Poyner write:

We had 21 people attend our harvest festival - something of a record attendance, at least in recent times. Rather than a sermon, we went around the church, the churchyard and the adjacent field to bless the all the fruits of harvest; plants and animals and their produce, as well as the implements that we use to work the land. I hope the ducks appreciated our efforts... We were also joined by visitors from New Zealand, guests and distant relatives of the Davenhill family. They were accompanied by Jill and Rachael and after the service we visited and prayed in Picklebatch, the cottage owned by the family which will soon be entering a new phase of its life when they sell it.

For the first time since lockdown we will have a service in church for Remembrance Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November. This will begin at 10.15 and at 10.45 we will move to the War Memorial for the act of remembrance. The memorial has the names of all those from Glazeley, Deuxhill and Eudon Burnell who fought in the two world wars, not just those who were killed. All are welcome, to the church service or just the act of remembrance.



**FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**  
**ANITA MORLEY - MANOR FARM, DEUXHILL**  
**is hosting a LADIES' LUNCH**

**This is a HOT 2-course lunch with pudding plus**  
**a GLASS OF WINE on arrival & TOP UP AT TABLE**  
**Including tea or coffee**

**There will be a raffle (Donations of prizes**  
**welcome)**

**For your ticket please contact Marion Corfield**  
**Mobile:- 07918559043. or L/L 01746-764585**

**Proceeds in aid of**  
**St Bartholomew's Church, GLAZELEY**

Visitors to the church may have noticed a hole in the floor in what is the kitchen area. This is where a floorboard has rotted, probably because of lack of ventilation. We have made the area safe and the floor has dried out; we will now be in a position to carry out repairs, perhaps by replacing the current chipboard flooring with solid timber boards.

**Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585**

[Marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:Marion.corfield@talktalk.net)

**David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638**

Email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk)

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

## Chelmarsh News

Elizabeth Bebb writes:

First of all, apologies for the lack of reports during the Summer. We hope that this one contains all that has happened during that time.

Our Sunday services are now held each week (no remembering to mark the calendar to ensure you have the right week – hurrah!) They have been moved to 9.30am at St. Peters to ensure that the ministers can attend all the churches in the Benefice. We have been lucky enough to hear sermons by all of our clergy as well as talks by their supporting 'trainees'. Anita and Shell have each led and spoken in services, and Canev (Highley Churchwarden) recently led morning prayer.

## Church dates for your diary

- ✝ Memorial service – in memory of those who passed during the year – November 5<sup>th</sup>
- ✝ Remembrance Day Service (Revd Canon Rose Lawley) – November 12<sup>th</sup> 10.45am
  
- Church cleaning – Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> 2pm
  
- ✝ Christmas Crib Service (Children's Service) – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 4pm
- ✝ Christmas Carol Service – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 5pm
- ✝ Christmas Eve Midnight Service – Communion – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm.

## Harvest Supper

A delicious Harvest Supper was held in Chelmarsh Village Hall at the end of September to celebrate the bringing in of the Harvest. Over 60 people attended, it was lovely to see so many familiar faces. Thank you to all those who came and helped us raise over **£900** for the Church and other charities. It was wonderful to see you all and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you again to all the ladies and gentlemen in the church who make this possible.

## Harvest Service

In a change to the norm the Harvest Service was held at 9.30am on the Sunday post the Harvest Supper, we had a good attendance, and it was a lovely service led by Revd Canon Rose Lawley.

## In appreciation:

Can I also thank everyone who helps us in so many seen and unseen ways at the church, those who take on formal duties but also those that do informal ones, those that wind clocks, clean guttering, mow, clean, refurbish, bake, flower arrange, everything you do is truly appreciated.

**St. Peter's Chelmarsh 100 Club** - Please keep an eye on your postbox! We will be delivering the invitations to participate in the 2024 100 Club in November/early December. We drew two draws for the 100 club at the Harvest Supper: the final draw will be held at Christmas. Congratulations to all the winners:

	<b>Draw 2</b> (of the year)	<b>Draw 3</b> (of the year)	
£100	96 – Steve Jackson	96 – Steve Jackson	<i>Yes, it isn't a typo, Steve really did come out of the bag twice for the £100 draw...it just proves we put all the balls back in and the odds are fair! Congratulations Steve!</i>
£50	112 – Becky Maiden	121 – Barbara Howells	
£25	36 – Joan Lewis	1 – Richard Bebb (F)	
£25	81 – Richard Bebb	71 – Mike Tranter	

## Baptisms

We were fortunate to welcome Erin Derry into the family of God over the summer. May God's joy, love and peace accompany her forever.

## Weddings

Congratulations to both our newly married couples who chose St Peter's Chelmarsh to say their vows:

- Richard Cook and Becky were married at the start of September: the weather held up, it was a gorgeous day.
- Martin Childs and Lynn Walker were married in mid-October, another wonderful celebration.

## Funerals

**Iris Byrne** – It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Mrs Byrne. Iris was a stalwart of all things Chelmarsh. She was a dedicated Dinner Lady at Chelmarsh School, a member of the WI, of the Parish Hall Committee and rarely missed the dancing classes. She will be fondly remembered by her friends and former pupils in the area.

**Jenny Bradley** – Our sincere sympathy is with her husband Colin and all the family. Jenny was an enthusiastic supporter of the music evenings at the Sports and Social Club, where she and Colin impressed everyone with their jiving moves. She will be missed by all of us.

## Armistice Day echoes from France – 11 November 1918

The reality of war remains very close to us today, through the news media, the experience and stories of service people, the migration of refugees and the impact of war on their countries, though the science and technology of warfare have changed beyond all recognition over the 105 years since the Armistice was signed in 1918. There is no living memory, now, of the events of WW1. The 'war to end all wars' laid the foundations for the events that have become part of our culture, of how we remember the sacrifices not only made by those killed but also by the survivors of that war and all wars since, who returned to help build the 'land fit for heroes'. The Register of Memorials maintained online by the Imperial War Museum contains, to date, information on 1030 memorials in Shropshire, ranging from Memorial or Victory Halls through to church windows and Books of Remembrance and plaques dedicated to the memory of individual service people.

Within our Wheatland area, every parish holds its own Remembrance services, meeting the needs of its own congregation. All have one or more war memorials in our church or elsewhere within our parish. Several of the Wheatland parishes have Commonwealth War Graves within their cemeteries.

Though badly needed to work on his farm at home, Dick Page was called up late in the war, spending much time in Ireland before finally being sent to France with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry, where his brother Bill had already served for much of the war. Both brothers eventually returned home to Shropshire.

Dick wrote to his sister Mary on Armistice Day 1918. His daughter, Margaret Crawford-Clerk, has very generously shared this with WN readers. It is transcribed here for ease of reading, though the immaculate almost-copperplate would have rendered this unnecessary had it not been written in lead pencil.



### *My Dear Mary*

*I hope your thoughts are not troubled concerning me at not having heard for so long. I have been on the move ever since I returned from leave, started on the Thursday and have been on the move ever since, so you know why I have not written. As you see I am with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and I saw Fred Jones as soon as I joined them. We started for the line this morning between 7 and 8 o'clock and were met about a mile out with the news that peace was signed so we turned about and came back to billets in a small town.*

*What is going on in Shrewsbury tonight, I should like to see it.*

*We stayed in Cambrai one night, it has been a fine town, but is knocked about badly. I have a rotten cold at present but it is only what I could expect roughing it out here. There has been a football match here today between our Company and D in a ploughed field full of shell holes, our company won 2-0. The French are returning to their old homes or ghost of homes. Well I will be like Jerry now and pack in.*

*Wishing you the best of luck, I am your loving brother, Dick.*

# 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)

## November Message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 2

Two months into the interregnum in our six parishes, there is a fair bit to report around the 'vacancy process' for recruiting our new rector. There is the excellent news that a new rector will be appointed – and, if all goes smoothly, they should be licensed here by Bishop Richard next July.

Our Vacancy Community Consultation meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> October with each of the PCC's contributing ideas for inclusion in the 'Parish Profile'. This will form the basis of the new rector's job spec and recruitment adverts; it is being drafted now by a small Steering\* Group - for sign-off by all the PCCs before presentation for formal approval by Archdeacon Fiona and colleagues.

If you'd like to know more, or contribute to this important piece of work, just get in touch with a Group\* Member – Kay Downes, Clare & Chris Tibbits, Nigel Savage-Bailey, Andrew Sierakowski – meanwhile let's all strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, two schools and in the wider communities we serve?

And, as we do all that, may we take some time to

- celebrate and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens and members of the six PCC's;
- thank and assist the volunteers (visiting clergy and local worship leaders) who will be facilitating Sunday services and other worship;
- work in partnership with Rural Dean Jeannetta and Archdeacon Fiona on arrangements for flexing clergy cover and service patterns in the months ahead.

*Clare and Chris Tibbits*

**The deadline for the DECEMBER / JANUARY edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Thanks!**

We will be trying to keep the **Benefice Website** 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)

# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

## Services in Stottesdon Benefice Churches – November 2023

-	-		-	-
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>				
09:00	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow		
10:30	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon		
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>				
09:00	Remembrance – Lay led	Cleeton St Mary		
10:30	Remembrance – Lay led	Stottesdon		
10:30	Remembrance – joint service for Glazeley and Middleton Scriven, with Revd David Poyner	Glazeley		
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>				
10:30	Morning Prayer – Lay led	Stottesdon		
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>				
10:30	Benefice Holy Communion with Revd Neil Patterson	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 25 above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.**

## Farlow News

*Janice Howells writes:*

✝ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at St Giles' Church – 9:00am, Parish Communion with Revd Justin Bailey.

**100 Club winners** – results from the first draw of the year will appear next month.

## 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.



## Sidbury

Regrettably, we have no news this month from Sidbury.

## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### Church services at Middleton Scriven

- ✝ Remembrance Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10:30 at Glazeley church – where we join our neighbouring parish for this annual commemoration service;
- ✝ Christmas Eve service – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 6:30pm at Middleton Scriven. Christmas Carols followed by wine and mince pies. Please let Ann Constable know your favourite carols or Christmas readings/ poems so they can be included in this parish-led service.

**Sad news** - Peter Smith, from The Cottage, Middleton passed away on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Our love, thoughts and prayers go to his wife Tina and all the family.

### Coffee mornings

**Our coffee mornings in church** will be on Saturdays 11<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am till 12 noon.

### Severn Hospice Coffee Morning

**Ann Williamson writes:** I would like to **thank** everyone who came to, and supported, the Severn Hospice coffee morning held at Damson House on 18<sup>th</sup> October. We raised a total of **£1627.16** which was amazing and very much appreciated. Thank you also to those who helped on the day, brought cakes, raffle prizes, bring and buy goods and donated towards this figure. If anyone still wishes to support the hospice, I will have a stock of cards up until December. Many thanks again for your support. Ann - 01746 789616



### Community Harvest Supper – we joined together to celebrate the harvest!

Fortunately the floods from Storm Babet had subsided so we could join together for our celebration of the harvest. This year we used a different format which featured sharing food together along with reflections on the harvest, poetry and giving thanks for our life here in such a peaceful, rural location.

**A huge thank you to all who**

came, helped set up and serve foods, brought flowers to decorate church, cooked delicious food, (much made from local meat and produce) and wrote a quiz. Our church was filled with laughter, chatter, friendship and fellowship. Our reordered church certainly helps us create this community spirit!



## Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

### St Mary's Church Past Present and Future Heritage Project – BREAKING NEWS!

As we all know, St Mary's like many other heritage buildings has long been listed as "Heritage at Risk" on the official Historic England register of such places. The breaking news (which may just get a mention in the media on 9<sup>th</sup> November) is that our investment of time and money in restoration and conservation work has officially paid-off ... we have 'rescued' our church; **it is no longer classed as 'at risk' !!** So with thanks to everyone who supported the project, and especially to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other funders, we are delighted with this fabulous outcome – way, way beyond our wildest dreams when the planning started (back in 2015....).

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/19240>

Alongside the building restoration work, we have funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to research our remarkable building – we'll be launching the fruits of these labours in the run up to Christmas, so watch this space for more news.....

On the planned toilet facility, one or two more generous donations have come in recently to help fund the cost, and discussions are continuing with funders to 'close the gap'. Do **please get in touch** with Clare if there's any help you might offer.....

### Stottesdon 100 club - Congratulations to winners –

Ellen McConnell, the Overton family, and Mark & Karen Dayus.

## Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

### Church Service

- ✝ Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November: - As no clergy cover for the vacancy is available this week, we will be gathering at 9:00am for reflection and prayer to mark the fallen of the parish.

### St Mary's Churchyard

As a precaution, due to slipped tiles causing a hazard, parts of the churchyard near to the building are taped-off as a 'no go zone' pending remedial work to the roof. **In the interests of personal safety, please do not attempt to enter the close-off area.** Thank you for your understanding.

### September 100 Club Results

- £20 – Joanna Gibbon No 11
- £10 each to Keiran Martin No 47 and Sue Valletts No 33
- £5 to Eve Wagg No 16

### Save the Date

**ARE YOU having a pre-Christmas clear-out? Need space in your wardrobe?**

Look no further than donating to the **Nearly-New Clothes Sale** at Cleeton St. Mary & Silvington village hall on Saturday 2nd December, from 10.30 - 1pm.

A group of parishioners from the Cleeton St. Mary area are helping to raise funds for **Cleeton Church Roof** Repairs and can offer a shopping session with coffee morning with a raffle and good company.

There will be a sale of good-quality used clothes and bric-a-brac as well as a tea/coffee and cake to help you relax while shopping. **All proceeds from the sale will go towards the church roof fund** and any left over items will be donated to the Severn Hospice shop in Cleobury, thus helping two charities in one go! Win/win!

We are asking people who may be able to donate unwanted items to contact us and we will arrange collection during the week before the sale. So, if you have good quality items looking for a new home, and want to help good causes, please ring or text:- Julie on 07469 930027 or Clare on 07980 592314 and we will ring you back the week before the sale to arrange pick up. Many thanks. The village hall at Cleeton St. Mary will be open to all 10.30am - 1pm for this very special fundraiser!!

## Our Community Noticeboard

### Cleobury Country Farmers Market

...on 18<sup>th</sup> November 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.

## 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

### Press Release –

### Launch of South Shropshire Climate Action’s new website

South Shropshire Climate Action’s (SSCA) new website gives the people, communities and businesses of South Shropshire up to date tips on how to reduce their carbon footprints, save money, promote their health and wellbeing and enhance the natural environment.

Have a look at <https://www.southshropshireclimateaction.org/>

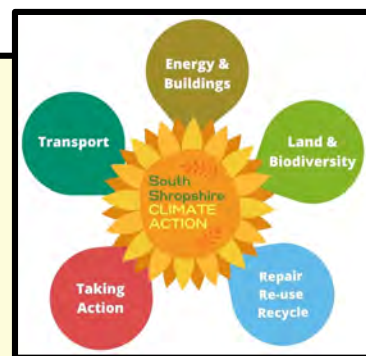
SSCA published its “Next Steps” Climate Action Plan in 2021 to help the Ludlow Constituency reach net zero by 2030. The website helps to put that carbon reduction plan into action providing information and advice tailored to Shropshire.

No one needs to be convinced of the seriousness of the climate emergency, but much more help is needed to know what to do about it, and this website is focused on the actions we can all take, as individuals, communities, schools, town and parish councils and businesses. There are four main themes: energy & buildings, land & biodiversity, transport, and reuse – repair – recycle, each featuring a wealth of useful information, toolkits, videos and local examples to inspire you.

If you want to find help near at hand, there are links to the wide range of groups and activities already available in Shropshire. These include local repair cafés and climate action groups, household energy surveys provided by Lightfoot, Stretton Climate Care and Marches Energy Agency, Save Our Shropshire’s carbon literacy workshops, and the many organisations supporting Shropshire’s wildlife.

By signing up to SSCA’s newsletter we can also keep you fully informed of the opportunities happening locally including the latest news of forthcoming events. By working together, sharing our resources and ideas, we can make a real difference.

We welcome feedback, email Nick and Fiona at [ssca@mea.org.uk](mailto:ssca@mea.org.uk).



*South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) is a network of climate and environmental groups within South Shropshire who wrote the Next Steps Climate Action Plan. Two staff members (Nick Read and Fiona Morgan) are employed by the Marches Energy Agency to help the network deliver the plan, so that the Ludlow Constituency can reach net zero carbon by 2030.*

*Net zero is a term that means achieving a zero balance between the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, and those being removed. It recognises that some processes will always produce excess carbon, but others such as storing carbon in soils, may help remove carbon from the atmosphere.*

*Marches Energy Agency is a charity (Charity No 1070942) and Company (Company No 3443349) specialising in energy reduction measures and addressing fuel poverty in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin, Derby, Derbyshire and the Black Country.*



Farlow & Oreton Hall &  
Melville Chapel  
invite you to our joint



# Festive Village Market

At

Farlow & Oreton Village Hall

Sat 11th November 10.00-2pm

Local handmade crafts,  
gifts & produce stalls

Refreshments, Cakes &  
Raffle

Come along to grab a local bargain & get  
ahead with your Christmas shopping

Check our Facebook pages for the final  
stall line up

Ring Lucy on 01746 718642 for more info

<https://www.facebook.com/farlowandoreton>

<https://www.facebook.com/melvillechapefarlow>



## URGENT Repairs Appeal for Cleobury North Church

**Our beautiful, historic church is  
under threat!**

Following the recent collapse of part of the ceiling in our  
beautiful church, we have discovered that we have **dry rot**  
in the roof and a **roof that needs substantial repairs.**

**Please HELP – we need to raise thousands of  
pounds for these repairs.**

If you are able, please give generously.

Make a Donation by scanning this QR Code.



or use the link below:

[https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4ee8e5cd-a823-46bf-9c9b-  
eb6e389c5879](https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4ee8e5cd-a823-46bf-9c9b-eb6e389c5879)

Thank You for Your Support