

# WHEATLAND NEWS

February 2024



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

# Contents

<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Editorial</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Diocese of Hereford</b> .....	<b>4</b>
February Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford .....	4
Energy saving for rural churches .....	5
News from abroad.....	5
<b>Christmas Letter from Simon and Sarah Cawdell</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Readings for February 2024</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Wheatland Diary</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Saint of the Month - Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna c69AD - c155AD</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Brown Clee Parishes</b> .....	<b>9</b>
New Year Message .....	9
Services in Brown Clee Churches during February 2024.....	10
News for all Brown Clee Churches.....	11
Brown Clee Local News.....	12
Patient Participation Group - Brown Clee Medical Practice .....	12
Future Plans for the History Group.....	12
Ditton Priors News .....	13
Wheathill & Loughton News .....	15
Aston Botterell News .....	16
<b>Burwarton &amp; District WI – Programme for 2024</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Cleobury North News .....	17
Cleobury North & District Village Hall .....	17
Chetton News .....	18
Neenton News .....	19
<b>Molecules of the month – Drugs created by Artificial Intelligence</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>The Severn Valley Group of Parishes</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Billingsley News .....	21
Glazeley News .....	21
Chelmarsh and Highley.....	22
<b>Introducing Shropshire Churches Tourism Group</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>The Stottesdon Group of Parishes</b> .....	<b>23</b>
February message.....	23
<b>Stottesdon Benefice Group News</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Services for February in the Stottesdon Churches – .....	24
Stottesdon News .....	24
St Mary’s Heritage Project.....	25
Farlow News .....	25
Middleton Scriven News .....	26
Cleeton St Mary News .....	26
Sidbury and Silvington .....	26
<b>Community Noticeboard</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Useful Community Contacts – updated August 2023</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Caring for God’s Acre- a Parliament of Rooks</b> .....	<b>28</b>

# Editorial

Here we are in February and everyone is saying ‘Where did January go?’ Certainly the weeks seem to fly by. But it’s good to be back getting WN ready for everyone again, seeing the pictures of Christmas and looking forward to the year to come.

During January there were several events which continued as part of the traditions of clubs and associations, one in particular was the tractor runs across Shropshire which brought tractors of all shapes, sizes and ages out on some cold winter’s days but enjoyed by their owners and the people who saw them passing through the villages. These remind us that life continues on the farms and brought to mind a tradition which is no longer celebrated formally in most places except Dorset, Norfolk, Exeter and Chichester, namely Plough Sunday!

Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year that has seen some revival over recent years. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday! This has changed over the centuries. However, it is another aspect which can be overlooked – the vital role of agriculture in sustaining communities – a key part of the economy in the Church of England’s most rural diocese.

A reminder that Shrove Tuesday is on the 13<sup>th</sup> February when pancakes are a tradition to be enjoyed prior to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

It’s good to see community events starting up again – especially the Knit and Natters and Coffee Mornings at the various churches. If you’re at a loose end, why not give these a try, meet different people, discover new possibilities.....?

**It’s not too late** to place your order for a printed copy of WN – just contact your distributor to arrange for your subscription to start with the March edition!

Another spell of cold weather could be on the way so remember to check with family, friends and neighbours that all is well with them and remember the birds need looking after too!

## Ed

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

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# Diocese of Hereford

## February Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



**Dear Friends,**

Ash Wednesday this year will fall on the 14<sup>th</sup> February which of course is also St Valentine's day! Ash Wednesday is traditionally the beginning of Lent, and this has been marked over the years as a period of self-discipline, fasting and spiritual journeying. It is a period of penitence and self-examination and seeing ourselves from God's perspective. Even if we don't have a strong faith, we have learnt through the work of Educational Neuroscientists that intentional self-reflection helps us to learn and enhances how we apply, transfer, retain and recall new ideas and information.

The bible recognises that as we go through life we will be tempted and tested and that our response to those times will help to shape the depth of our spiritual lives. I am often astounded by the way many Christians have been shaped by sermons and theology that promise good things but never talk about the cost of following Jesus. The writer and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this a theology of cheap grace.

**“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”**

Lent gives us an opportunity to realign our lives with God's values, it gives us a prolonged and focussed time to reflect and pray and to read the bible and deepen our faith. The 40-day period is time enough to build in new habits and actions into our lives, which will have a lasting effect.

With ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel & Hamas and so much uncertainty in our world I am finding that there is a great deal of anxiety in society about the future and a sense of aimlessness and general anger and tiredness. Lent gives us as Christians an opportunity to give these feelings back to God and to ask him to heal and restore us. It is also, as Paul reminds us, a time to recognise that our human experiences are common and that whilst heightened by the personal challenges or world events, are not unique to us but the difference is that our faith will endure.

**“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”**

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

As Christians, whilst we can use this time for reflection, we also know how the story ends and we have an enduring hope within us because Jesus has conquered death and brought forgiveness to us. We are forever Easter people who live in the light of the resurrection and we can mark Lent because of his sacrifice for us. The rhythm of the spiritual and liturgical year is a helpful tool to remind us that there is a cost and a purpose to our faith, which is not about self-benefit and self-fulfilment but about generosity, servant heartedness and a simple humbler faith. As Christians, we have a message of hope for a better future and Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to share the good news.

Ven Derek Chedzey  
Archdeacon of Hereford



## The Archbishop of Canterbury visited churches in Hereford Diocese on Saturday 9 December as part of the Year of Prayer.

The Archbishop's visit has included an opportunity to meet local people, share his passion for regular prayer, participate in prayer-walking across the city centre and join in the weekly prayers for peace at Hereford Cathedral. Prayers for peace, which is a weekly event, is usually attended by a small group led by the Dean, The Very Revd Sarah Brown. Today, numbers swelled to a congregation of nearly 200 who came to join in the prayers at which, Sasha, a young Ukrainian girl who is living and studying in the city, read a poem she wrote for peace.

The Archbishop is encouraging Christians to pray as he explains: "it's the most fundamental thing I can do in my job as leader of the Anglican Church." Speaking following prayers for peace, he explains that in the beautiful cathedral surroundings: "you could genuinely sense people's desire for peace in our world." In an earlier conversation at St Peter's Church in the city centre with The Bishop, the two senior church leaders discussed the challenge of finding time and space to pray every day. The Archbishop also shared how when he prays for peace it is not just about seeking a solution to global conflicts but is also finding peace in everyday relationships with each other.

He sums up:

**Today has been hearing about further progress on the new city University which I visited in 2019 as well as learning about growth in some of the tiny rural churches which make up Hereford Diocese. I'm here to encourage others to pray and in doing so, I hope they will find the faithful God who through Jesus Christ comes close to us."**



### The Bishop's weekly video message

Bishop Richard talks about how God's extraordinary grace in Christ is also an inspiration for us to show such grace to others – and reflects upon the lessons that he will take with him as he enters the House of Lords this week.

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

## Energy saving for rural churches

Two churches in Hereford Diocese have installed technology to help with keeping heating costs down! Check out their experiences on the Diocese website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/two-rural-churches-make-progress-with-energy-saving-heating-installations.php>

**News from abroad** – WN readers may know of the work of the Revds Simon and Sarah Cawdell, who were, until autumn of 2022, at St Gregory's Church, Morville having spent 25 years as clergy in the Deanery of Bridgnorth. We're pleased to bring you, on the next page, their Christmas Newsletter from the mission field in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

## Dear Friends

It is the season for Christmas letters, so we bring you our round up of the month's news. Thank you for sending news to us, it is always good to hear from you.

It is Sunday today, and the builders are working hard on the chapel. They are eager to finish now, and go home for Christmas. Whilst they are working here they have been sleeping in one of the classrooms, and home comforts beckon strongly. The chapel roof is now on – blue iron sheets, matching the library, and the walls are plastered outside and in; the doors and windows are in place, and it seems dry enough to think about painting and finishing. The workers have been hard working and always glad to show us the latest development. Watching them work as a team to get the A frames of the roof in place was very exciting, but just as skilled has been their putting in the ceiling and plastering, all without any motorized tools.



In the college Stephen, the mason who is also a student, has completed the piggery, and we now have seven piglets, with the promise of three more. They are looked after by Morris who comes three times a day to feed and water them. I take down some sweet potato vines, or cabbage leaves in the morning to supplement their maize bran diet. (Maize bran is the rough grindings when the maize itself is ground for flour for the students food. It is good food for pigs, and for chickens).

Simon has enjoyed working with colleagues in the Diocese to plan the Rooted in Jesus conference which will be held in Gulu Primary School just up the road, at the end of January. The books have gone to the printers and the proofs are now corrected. Do pray that the right people come from each church in the Diocese so that the course can be initiated successfully.

We don't yet quite know what we will be doing for Christmas, but as the cob oven is now finished and, after three attempts, we have actually made a passable pizza, and some nice bread, I am sure that Christmas dinner will involve pizza rather than turkey, and cake rather than pudding. One way or another we will, in this culture that is strange to us, celebrate the one who left the glories of heaven for the difficulties and strangeness of life in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth. We give thanks that the Word of life, which spoke all creation into being became silenced in his mother's womb, and learnt language from those around him. We wonder at the love of one who became a refugee in the world which he had made and gave us hope for home coming at the end of all time.



We have enjoyed three weddings on campus this month, which should help the college generate funds, if only there weren't so many repairs after the event. On December 28th the college is host to the wedding of Ivan and Niccole. Ivan is the artist who has made two pictures of Jesus for the chapel so far, and has become a close acquaintance over the last few months. We have enjoyed getting to know them both as they plan for their future, and look forward to celebrating the great day with them and all the guests.

The students return from January 4th and will see significant developments to the college. We hope and pray that during the course of this term the registration application which we have now handed in to the National Council for Higher Education will be processed. Please pray for us as we make the necessary upgrades to the college buildings, like putting doors on the toilets and bathing areas. Pray for us as we inaugurate the new chapel, and adapt the former chapel back to a classroom. We will need new chairs and tables for that space and all the internal furnishing for the chapel. Pray for the Rooted in Jesus conference to run smoothly, and that the course may be an effective tool for discipleship in the Diocese. Pray too for the planning and execution of the Diocesan Convention planned for January 22nd – 26th.

As I conclude this we have just been sent an answer to prayer: enough funds to bring the buildings up to scratch. I hardly dared ask for these funds for very mundane purposes, yet God has provided. I am so very grateful.

We pray for you a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a blessed New Year. Love and blessings from Sarah and Simon.

## Readings for February 2024

4<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday before Lent. Presentation of Christ at the Temple.  
Candlemas. Gold or White.

Malachi 3. 1 - 5; Psalm 24. (1 - 6) 7 – end; Hebrews 2. 14 – end; Luke 2. 22 - 40

11<sup>th</sup> February – The Sunday next before Lent (Green)

2 Kings 2. 1 – 12; Psalm 50. 1 – 6; 2 Corinthians 4. 3 - 6; Mark 9. 2 – 9

14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday (Purple or Lent array)

Isaiah 58. 1 – 12; Psalm 51. 1 – 18; 2 Corinthians 5. 20b – 6.10; Matthew 6. 1 – 6, 16 - 21

18<sup>th</sup> February – The First Sunday of Lent (Purple or Lent array)

Genesis 9. 8 – 17; Psalm 25. 1 – 9; 1 Peter 3. 18 – end; Mark 1. 9 – 15

25<sup>th</sup> February – The Second Sunday of Lent (Purple or Lent array)

Genesis 17. 1 – 7, 15 -16; Psalm: 22. 23 – end; Romans 4. 13 – end; Mark 8. 31 – end

3<sup>rd</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent (Purple or Lent array)

Exodus 20. 1 – 17; Psalm 19 (or 19.7 – end); 1 Corinthians 1. 18 – 25; John 2 13 - 22

## Wheatland Diary

Fri	2	Feb	Flicks in the Sticks, "The Good Liar" Chetton VH, doors open 7:00pm – see page 19
Sat	3	Feb	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00 All welcome, see page 14
Sat	3	Feb	Future of Loughton Chapel – meeting at the 3 Horseshoes, Wheatill – see page 15
Sat	10	Feb	Breakfast at the Down – with Chetton Church, 09:00. See page 18
Sat	10	Feb	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven church, 10:00am – 12:00noon. All welcome, see page 26
Tue	20	Feb	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group Meeting – DPVH – see page 12
Thur	22	Feb	Lent Lunch – Ditton Priors – see page 14
Fri	1	Mar	Flicks in the Sticks, "The Shawshank Redemption" Chetton VH, doors open 7:00pm – see page 19
Sat	2	Mar	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00 All welcome, see page 14
Sat	9	Mar	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven church, 10:00am – 12:00noon. All welcome, see page 26
Thur	14	Mar	Ditton Priors History Group – "Mapping Shropshire – a History" – DPVH. See page 12
Sat	16	Mar	DATE TO BE CONFIRMED - Breakfast at the Down – with Glazeley Church, 09:00. See page 22
Sat	16	Mar	Quiz Night – Middleton Scriven – see page 26
Sat	6	Apr	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00 All welcome, see page 14

# Saint of the Month - Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna c69AD - c155AD

by Revd Joe Simons



Polycarp was one of the Apostolic Fathers and was a bishop in the early church in a place called Smyrna which is in Turkey close to the Aegean Sea in former Asia Minor.

He was one of the earliest church leaders and continued the work of the early apostles, in particular John whom he had known personally, in spreading the gospel.

His faith was unshakeable at a time that the early church was being persecuted for its beliefs.

In one of his letters, he states:

*“Eighty-six years I have served him (Jesus), and he never did me any injury. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?”*

It was said by contemporary writers that when men came to arrest him,

*"he did not hesitate, but immediately gave orders that a table should be spread for them. Then he invited them to partake of a bounteous meal, and asked of them one hour that he might pray undisturbed. And when they had given permission, he stood up and prayed, being full of the grace of the Lord, so that those who were present and heard him praying were amazed, and many of them now repented that such a venerable and godly old man was about to be put to death."*

He refused to recant his faith in Jesus Christ and he was sentenced to death by being burned alive. He would not be nailed to the funeral pile, he told his executioners that his Saviour would give him strength to remain in the fire. So, they merely bound him with rope.


It was said that as he burned in the flames, he appeared not as flesh which is burnt, but as bread that is baked, or as gold and silver glowing in a furnace. Ultimately Polycarp was not killed by the fire but was put to death with a dagger.

Whilst our faith may not lead us in the martyrdom of Polycarp it is a reminder that remaining faithful and trusting even through difficult times is key to who we are.

We sometimes think of these martyrs as great, heroic figures. They were tremendous, courageous people. But there was also substance in their courage and faith a combination of sacrifice and joy. These were the seeds of the early church and the same combination that will also bring its growth in the future.

JS



		<h2 style="text-align: center;">Brown Clee Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priest-in-Charge:</b> <b>Revd Joe Simons</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ <b>01746-599217 07872-464276</b> <a href="mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com">browncleebenefice@outlook.com</a></p>	
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## New Year Message

After the celebration of Christmas, it is easy for us to take a dip, in how we feel emotionally and physically. In fact, the 15<sup>th</sup> January is referred to as “Blue Monday” and whilst there is no scientific basis for this, the darkness and cold can induce feelings of sadness, emptiness, and a lack of energy. Quite rightly it does make us think about issues of mental health and especially the importance of recognising the signs in ourselves and in others.

The image of the Christ child fades in our hearts and minds, our hopes are replaced by a realisation that really everything in the world is as it was before the coming of Jesus. But I would urge you to remain this year in the hope and expectancy that comes with Christmas; in the promises of peace, reconciliation, and wholeness, all summed up in Jesus’ message of love. A love built on humility, respect, caring and generosity towards one another and towards those that we may find challenging.

Jesus says in John’s gospel Ch13.v34

**"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."**

Jesus is the embodiment of God’s love a love for the world that took him to the cross. A love that led to restoration of our relationship with God, one that released in all the potential to be agents of that love, to bring a new and transformed way of being, a whole new reset to the world.

I pray that the message of Christmas is one that you carry in your hearts throughout the year and that 2024 may be filled with possibilities and opportunities to grow in relationship to one another and in so doing build a brighter future for all.

Revd Joe Simons

## Services in Brown Clee Churches during February 2024

<b>Sunday 4th February – second before Lent</b>		
9.45am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11.00am	Coffee & Prayers	Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell
<b>Sunday 11th February – last before Lent</b>		
9.45am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Chetton
<b>Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday</b>		
10.00am	Holy Communion & Ashing	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 18th February – Lent 1</b>		
9.45am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Neenton
<b>Wednesday 21st February</b>		
10.00am	Morning Prayer	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 25th February – Lent 2</b>		
8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
9.45am	Holy Communion	Chetton
11.30am	Holy Communion	Cleobury North
<b>Wednesday 28th February</b>		
10.00am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 3rd March – Lent 3</b>		
9.45am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

## News for all Brown Clee Churches



### Carols on the Street

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December we were very happy to welcome Brown Clee Young Farmers, with so many of their friends and families, to sing 'Carols on the Street' at St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors. It was a really lovely evening with wonderful accompaniment on the accordion from Jan Williams. Their Carol Singing during the week raised an amazing £750.00 for their chosen charities; Lingen Davies, Shropshire Rural Support, Midlands Air Ambulance and Severn Hospice. Watch out for more events during the year!

### Pew sheet

Our weekly pew sheet is available by email and at every church service. It has been really well received, with requests to be added to our electronic mailing list! It has the readings for the week and upcoming Benefice events for your information. Please let us know if you would like to be added, or if you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy by email and you have their permission to send in their details, again please contact us on 01746 599217 or [browncleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com)

### Plans for 2024

Our 2024 Benefice wall planner is starting to fill up! If you have an event in your church that you would like us to advertise let us know. Or, if we can be of any help with posters or flyers, please don't hesitate to ask.

Watch out for the new Benefice postcard! They will be available at all church services. These are to encourage everyone to reach out should they need a listening ear.



### Gifts at Christmas

This year there was a new initiative of 'The Follow the Star Join the Song' booklets which provided 12 days of Reflections from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5<sup>th</sup> January). Thank you to everyone who brought one and to those who brought a booklet forward so we could make them available to those families and new friends who joined us at our Advent Services. Also, tea lights of reflection were given out to the congregations at all our Advent services during the Christmas week. Which shone a light on the importance of this magical time of year.

## Brown Clee Local News

### Patient Participation Group – Brown Clee Medical Practice

*Tina Ranson writes:*

The PPG's first meeting of 2024 will be on **Tuesday 20th February**, starting at 7.00 pm, in Ditton Priors Village Hall. These meetings are always very well-attended, and as the hall has a limit of 100 people, it is necessary to book a seat in advance!! Please contact [Tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:Tina.ranson@outlook.com)

The Agenda goes out to all those patients who are on our mailing list. If you are a Brown Clee patient and would like to receive information about the fast-moving developments in the Medical Practice, and an invitation to the four PPG meetings each year, just send an email to the Chair: [Tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:Tina.ranson@outlook.com)



### Future Plans for the History Group

*Robin Greenwell writes:*

**The Ditton Priors Local History Group** is looking forward to 2024 and already planning events for the year ahead, as well as improvements to the Local History Centre in the village.

Following on from the successful events of last year, that included a number of well-attended talks and presentations by guest speakers, the Group hopes to present at least 5 events through 2024. The first has already been diarised for the evening of **Thursday 14th March** and has a working title of **'Mapping Shropshire – A History'**. This will be presented by Dr Patricia de Haan, an expert in early maps of Shropshire, and will include a focus on our local area.

A major project for the Group's committee this year is the refurbishment of the History Centre interior. Group Chairman Paul Wilson explained "This will include, a complete redesign of the wall displays, grouping them in three key sections that have helped define the history of Ditton Priors, as depicted in our new logo; namely the hill, the church and agriculture." Paul added "It's a 12-month project and we'll have to phase it as available funds allow, but it will be a big step forward in helping attract visitors to the centre."



You can keep up with the Ditton Priors Local History Group at their Facebook page. Events normally take place at Ditton Priors Village Hall and are open to everyone. There's a charge of £3 for non-members or why not become a member for just £12 per year then all events are free. (For membership details contact [markgregory963@gmail.com](mailto:markgregory963@gmail.com)).

# Ditton Priors News



*Marjorie Jones writes:*

**Greetings this New Year and all good wishes** – especially to those who have been poorly over the Christmas period.



It was good to see so many in church for the Christmas services, and new faces too. The new pew sheets are very welcome and together with the Facebook page we endeavour to keep everyone in touch with what's going on.



*The church – and the faces - have been positively aglow in the candlelight!*



*Huge thanks to Karen for these and all her other*



*lovely pictures of all the Christmas events across the Benefice.*

*Pictured left – highlights from the Carol Service on 20<sup>th</sup> December.*

*Pictured right – scenes from the Crib service on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.*

## First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings

10:30 – 12:00 noon in church. There is no charge for this community event – and it is open to everyone! Next dates are Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### In church:

- ✝ **Ash Wednesday, 14th February** marks the start of Lent. A 10am Group communion service will be held in Ditton Priors church.
- Following this service there will be a **fundraising meeting** for Ditton Priors members at approx 11:00am, to plan social events for the year.

**Lent Lunch - Thursday 22nd February**, 12.30 – 2pm in the village hall. A simple lunch of soup and rolls, cheese and crackers. There will be a raffle, No charge but donations welcome.

## Cleaning Rota for February

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Mr & Mrs Graham Russell

## Church Flower Rota

The **blank** Rota for 2024 is now up in the porch. If you have an anniversary you wish to celebrate or a birthday or even just like to have flowers in church, **PLEASE** put your name against the date on the rota. Vases and water are provided. Everyone enjoys seeing flowers in church. Enquiries 01746-787457

## The Churchyards

**Thank you** to those who donated last year to the upkeep of our churchyards. **Maintenance costs** go up each year and we have to have a dangerous tree felled shortly. We need your continued support to keep the grounds in good order. Donations please to Revd Joe, the church wardens or to Marjorie. **THANK YOU**

## St John the Baptist 100 Club results

December 2023	January 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ £100 - David Lowe</li><li>▪ £20 - Caroline Howson</li><li>▪ £10 - Trish Shotton</li><li>▪ £5 each to Anita Casswell, Jenny Collingridge, and Sally Green</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ £20 - June Vaughan</li><li>▪ £10 - Yemmi Agbebi</li><li>▪ £5 each to: Patricia Glover, Tony &amp; Deb Jones, Sue &amp; Phil Robinson</li></ul>

# Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes

## Carol services



For carols at Wheathill on Christmas Eve, 13 of us gathered in the beautifully decorated church, with Sue and Mike singing the new rendering of the 'First Nowell'.



The carol service at Loughton was attended by 23 in all, with lights, mince pies, and a joyful atmosphere.



## Church services April - May

- ✝ Sunday 21st April - 6.30pm at Loughton
- ✝ Sunday 19th May - 6:30pm at Wheathill



### The Future of Loughton Chapel of Ease

**IMPORTANT MEETING** on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2pm – 4pm at the Three Horseshoes.

To discuss the future of the Chapel of Ease in Loughton – to establish possible community use of the building, with a view to obtaining grants for a new roof etc. **ALL WELCOME**



## Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes

It is with great pleasure we welcome Ben and Angela Upton back to live in the village, and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

George and Shirley Hill have retired into the Innage Grange now and we wish them well and hope they have settled in.

**Cleaning / flower rota** .....we have a vacancy in December ,which is only once a year for a volunteer. ....It helps everyone else and we are so grateful for their help People do comment on our church - how it

is looked after and cared for - and it's all down to the kindness and generosity of our helpers.

If you have relatives buried in the church yard, perhaps you could help out a bit clearing around the graves please?

Thank you to everyone who helps - it is much appreciated.

**Fund raising** - We shall be organising a **breakfast** and a **car treasure hunt** to raise money for the church repairs etc.

We have had more floors renewed in the church, which look lovely! Thank you to Roger.

**APCM** – Date for your diary! This will be at Middle House farm on **Monday 19th February at 7pm.** It will be a chance to meet Joe, our new vicar ..... tea / biscuits, everyone welcome.

Thank you to all of you who support us from other areas at our services. It is lovely to have you and a chat after the service.



*It has been a real pleasure putting Karen's photographs together for this edition of WN – the churches had all been decorated with such care and were looking their very best, and the faces of the people were seasonally joyful. One can almost hear the singing.....*

## Church services

✝ Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Coffee Morning Service at Middle House Farm at 11:00am.

✝ Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

## Lottery winners

£20 – David Roberts – no 234
£10 – Anne Evans – no 117
£5 – Chris Lloyd– no 102
£5 – Mike & Shirley Baugh – no 222



**BURWARTON  
AND DISTRICT  
WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTE**



**Programme for 2024**

**Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at Cleobury North Village Hall, WV16 6RW - 2.30pm**

**President – Mrs Marilyn Maiklem – 01746 789666**

**Vice Presidents**

Mrs Sue Hale – 01746 7867650

Mrs Pippa Martin – 01746 712395

**Secretary – Mrs Helen Groves – 01746 712466**

**Treasurer – Ms Sharon Janes – 07545 393717**

**Programme Secretaries**

Mrs Nerissa Parker

Mrs Hilary Wright

**Committee**

Mrs Ruth Davies

Mrs Jane Wright

Mrs Sue Rimes

<p><b>January 9th - Games afternoon</b> at Thorneycroft, The Hedgerows, Ditton Priors. Bring a plate of food – Sharon Gregory</p>	<p><b>May 15th - Wednesday - Art activity</b> with Christine. Tea hostesses, Mrs Pippa Martin, Mrs Helen Groves</p>	<p><b>September 10th - Graphology.</b> What your handwriting reveals about you. Anne Cummings. Tea hostesses, Mrs Pam Farquhar, Miss Sandra Cartwright</p>
<p><b>February 13th - Book Review.</b> Author Rob McNeil talks about his book 'The Fifth Suspect' part of the DCI Fleming series. Q &amp; A session. Visitors</p>	<p><b>June 11th - Garden Party</b> at Beech House, The Hedgerows, Ditton Priors</p>	<p><b>October 8th - History of Dance.</b> Maggie Love. Tea hostesses, Mrs Sue Hale</p>
<p><b>March 12th - The accuracy of eye-witness testimony.</b> Bev Harris. Tea hostesses, Mrs Jane Wright, Mrs Ruth Davies</p>	<p><b>July 9th - Air crashes on the Clew Hills.</b> Bernard O'Connor. Tea hostesses, Mrs Rosemary Sadler, Mrs Hilly Lee</p>	<p><b>November 12th - AGM</b></p>
<p><b>April 9th - Afternoon tea</b> at Crow Leasow farm. £20.</p>	<p><b>August 13th - Outing to Hampton Court</b></p>	<p><b>December 10th - Christmas Lunch</b></p>

## Cleobury North News

✝ 25<sup>th</sup> February 11:30am – Holy Communion in church

## 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!).

# Chetton News

*Pam Downing writes:*

## Services at St Giles' Church in February

- ✝ Sunday 11th February 11:30am, Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 25th February – 9:45am Holy Communion

**Flowers and Cleaning** - Anne, Elisabeth and Sheila

**Looking back**, we would like to thank everyone who helped at our services over Christmas. We welcomed a congregation of well over 50 on Christmas Day, it was wonderful to see many from other parishes joining us in celebrations.

**Looking forward**, we have a Down breakfast booked for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 9:00 am. Do come along and join us, it's a very friendly social occasion, let Sheila know numbers and please bring your "dinner money" in cash!



## Chetton 100 Club

If you're a member, just a reminder that 100 Club subscriptions are due. If you're not in it, you can't win it! If you would like to join, it's £10.00 each for the year with prizes of £10.00 & £15.00 each month.

Profits all go to St Giles Church in Chetton and is an ideal way to support us for non-taxpayers and others as well.

January winners - £15.00 Sue Teague no 77,  
£10.00 Jonty Bayliss no 43.

February winners - £15.00 Steve Vaughan no 29,  
£10.00 Mo Verney no 73.

## EASYFUNDRAISING has helped us with £2,000

in donations over the past 8 years, and we would like you to investigate it and join as a your New Year resolution. Check out the website which is [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and there it is all explained in far greater detail. BUT if you sign up many retailers will pay a small percentage of your spending via their websites accessed via Easyfundraising to a nominated Charity. We hope that you could nominate St Giles Church Chetton as your choice. This does not cost you a penny and the retailers get a brownie point for supporting local worthy causes.



## Chetton Village Hall

### Flicks in the Sticks.

We are showing 'The Good Liar' starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30 pm, Doors open for refreshments at 7pm.

The film to be shown on March 1<sup>st</sup> is 'Shawshank Redemption' starring Morgan Freeman.

## Chetton Active Friends

We had a visit to Chetton Active Friends from Barchester Healthcare, who run the Wheatlands Care Home. They recently supported Chetton Active Friends with a grant and brought along two residents to join us for the afternoon. We meet from 2pm on Monday.

<b>Village Hall Diary for 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.</li> <li>■ Chetton Active Friends, Fitness-4-All. Monday afternoons from 2pm.</li> <li>■ Women's Institute meetings, second Wednesday of the month, 7pm.</li> <li>■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Zumba with Lisa – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm</li> <li>■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.</li> <li>■ Chetton Folk dance club the last Wednesday of the month 7pm.</li> </ul>
<b>Village Hall enquiries</b> – for activities or hire at modest rates, contact Sue on 789239.		

## Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

**Thank you** to everyone who has helped in the church and churchyard during 2023. We now have the quinquennial results and can focus on what is needed to keep our church open and in good shape.

The **Carol Service** was well-attended, and everyone enjoyed the warm atmosphere at the Pheasant together with the mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks to Mark and Sarah and the team for continuing to support the community spirit within Neenton.

The first service in January also had an increased congregation, led by Revd Joe. Many thanks to Ragni for providing the guitar music.

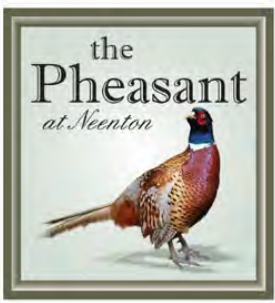
**Future fundraising events** – these are currently under discussion and a list will be published in the March issue of Wheatland News.

### Service at All Saints' Church

✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Holy Communion at 11:30am.

### All Saints' Tote – January

➤ 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Anne Pinsent      2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Sally Russell

	<b>Opening times</b> <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>	<b>Dates for your Diary – don't forget:</b> <p>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Valentine's Day, Classic Pheasant menu</p> <p>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday – please ring for table bookings!</p>
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# Molecules of the month – Drugs created by Artificial Intelligence



I am particularly fascinated by proteins, the big molecules the form most of our cells and which are mainly responsible for making them living structures. I have spent all its working life looking at proteins and chemicals that interact with them and I share this obsession with the drug industry, the source of most of the pills we take to treat illness. Whilst proteins may be endlessly fascinating, they are also endlessly complicated, which makes trying to understand them hard.

Proteins are made of building blocks called amino acids. There are twenty of these and typically several hundred of these will be joined together in a precise way to form a distinct protein. Since the late 1970s we have had the technology to work out the order in which these amino acids join together; this is called the sequence of the protein. Unfortunately, that does not help very much in trying to understand how proteins work and how their function can be changed by drugs. A chain of 100 or more amino acids will fold to form a unique shape; this is known as its structure and is what makes the protein functional and allows drugs to bind it. If the protein loses its structure, by for example, heating, it is said to be denatured because it has lost its essential nature (as an aside, cookery is largely the art of denaturing proteins making them easier for us to eat). Trying to work out the structure of a protein is a demanding task; it is much easier than it used to be, but it still is a significant undertaking. We now know the sequence of most proteins in the human body, but we do not have experimentally-defined structures for the vast majority of these.

Back in 2021 there was a major breakthrough. For the first time a computer programme became available that was very good at predicting the structure of proteins. This was called AlphaFold. It has been used to predict the structure of every protein in the human body and most of these predictions are likely to be pretty accurate. It is easy to use; I have managed to use it to predict the structure of a number of proteins I am interested in that are found in fish and I believe the results.

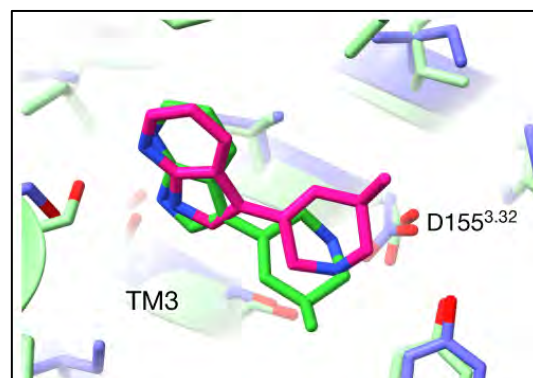
In principle, once the structure of a protein is available, it should be straightforward for chemists to predict how drugs could bind to the protein molecule. Computer-aided drug design has been around for two or more decades and recently has had some notable successes. Whilst most drug companies will have perhaps several 100,000 chemicals in what they call “libraries”, these are only a fraction of possible drugs; making and testing all of these would be impossible.

Companies have now started to use computers to design a far wider range of potential drugs and then see how well they interact with all the new protein structures that are available. In August, a company called Recursion reported how they had screened 36 billion potential drug structures against 15,000 predicted protein structures and identified 2.8 quadrillion interactions. (*a quadrillion is 1 with fifteen zeros after it .....*). So is it party time for drug discovery, perhaps using some newly discovered happy pills?

Not quite. The overwhelming number of interactions predicted by Recursion are just that; computer predictions and not tested in a laboratory. Experience suggests that a lot of these will be false positives. A particular weakness is that proteins and drugs are flexible; as they interact with each other, they change their shape. It is not clear how Recursion have not dealt with this. My colleague at Aston University, Dr John Simms is working on this problem, as are numerous other scientists, but we still have some way to go.

So we have not yet eliminated the need for bench scientists testing drugs. But let us not be too negative; the world is moving fast and my guess is that within a few years, our computer predictions of drug binding to proteins will be as good as are our predictions of protein structure. We are living through a revolution in drug discovery.

DRP



*Computer modelling in action. The picture shows how a computer predicts a drug (in green) should bind to a protein compared to how it actually binds (purple). The drug is being developed to treat depression (Kaplan, A.L., Confair, D.N., Kim, K. et al. Bespoke library docking for 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor agonists with antidepressant activity. Nature 610, 582–591 (2022)).*

# 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)

<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> CHURCHWARDEN Laura Jones – 07714-432836, <a href="mailto:laura@laj.me.uk">laura@laj.me.uk</a>
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## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

We had a small turn-out to the carols at Lincoln Fields, before Christmas, but those who came enjoyed plenty of mulled wine and mince pies; many thanks to Donna and Ellen for helping. On Christmas Day the church was decorated and we had a good turn-out for our 10:00am communion service. This was supported by people from Billingsley, other nearby parishes and we also had some visitors to the village. Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church and make this service a success. Until March we will have just a single service a month; **Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday of the month at 8am**. Once the evenings are lighter and the weather is warmer, we will add a monthly evening service at 6pm. We are working on plans for these; Sue Bates, of blessed memory, has volunteered to come down from Audlem to talk about a trip she and husband Phil are planning to the Himalayas this Spring. Those who heard Sue speak about her trip last year to Antarctica will know that her talks are always full of interest.

<a href="#">Billingsley: St Mary - A Church Near You</a> <a href="#">(20+) St Mary's Billingsley   Bridgnorth   Facebook</a>	David Poyner – Associate Minister Tel 01562-68638 or 0780-100-9693	email <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a>
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## Glazeley News

### Services at St Bartholomew's Church

✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00 am Holy Communion

### Christmas

There was a good turn-out to our carol service on 18<sup>th</sup> December. We were pleased to welcome back Rachael Davenhill from Spain to play the organ for us and we supporters from far and wide. A big thank you to Judy, Catherine & Lyn for decorating the tree so beautifully and also Anita for the lovely decorated windows.

After the service we enjoyed refreshments in the Old Rectory, thanks to Andrew and Laura. With only a single Christmas service, there is always the problem of what to do with the Christmas tree after the service. A number of people suggested that this year we tried to find a home for it after our service. Anita contacted Oldbury Grange Care Home, who were delighted to accept it and thanks to Richard D'Arcy it was duly delivered to them. It was excellent that we were able to reach out to the community and help in this way.

## Breakfast at The Down

There was a marvellous turn out for the breakfast on January 6<sup>th</sup> with **44 people** enjoying the buffet breakfast. A total of **£140.00** was raised for the church. Chetton are holding the next breakfast on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am (see page 18) and the next one for Glazeley will hopefully be on 16<sup>th</sup> March - yet to be confirmed!!

**Best wishes** - Wishing a speedy recovery to Jane Duncan after her recent fall.

## Church repairs - update

We have had a visit from the church architect to investigate the hole in the floor boards at the back of the church. He has suggested that we either replace the current floor with oak floor boards or use tiles to match the rest of the floor. We will discuss this at our next PCC meeting and then invite the architect to draw up specifications for the work. We will also be undertaking work to make safe some ash trees growing in the churchyard next to the road.

Revd 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](#)

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

## Chelmarsh and Highley

We have no updates from Chelmarsh or Highley this month.

**Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group – please see page 12 re meeting on 20th February.**



## Shropshire Churches Tourism Group

.....is a successful membership organisation which helps churches to attract visitors to their buildings.

Tourism contributes more than £500 million to the County economy. Our buildings are already part of the Tourist offer in Shropshire, just because they are there!

Run on a voluntary basis, SCTG helps churches become visitor friendly, produces 30,000 full colour brochures, distributed all over Shropshire and surrounding areas and offers support through the website and Facebook and direct person response if needed. Next membership starts again in 2024, covering 2024/2025/2026 at a cost of £60. Renew, or if not already a member, then come and join us. [www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk](http://www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk)



# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: *post vacant* so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens as below

<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 contact Parish Rep Ann Constable	<b>St Michael, Silvington</b> CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman
<b><i>In an emergency, please call Rev Joe Simons (01746-464276) for advice.</i></b>		

## February message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 4

Several months into the interregnum in our six parishes, there is much activity ‘behind the scenes’ as the recruitment process for our new rector gears up:

- our Steering Group members have completed the ‘Parish Profile’ which is a key element of the recruitment adverts – which are being placed this month. Copies of the Profile will soon be posted on the Benefice ‘a church near you’ web page.
- a representative from each PCC has been appointed so that all six churches can play its part in the candidate selection process in the weeks before Easter.
- we are on track, if all goes smoothly, for the Rector’s planned licensing in July.

As we said before Christmas, none of this is supposed to be ‘easy’ - so it’s great to report that the PCCs are finding new energies, a truly collaborative spirit and a very healthy ‘good humour’ - as volunteers use new skills to ‘keep the show on the road’: organising clergy cover; choosing readings, music and hymns; dealing with on-going buildings issues, as at Cleeton and Farlow. Focuses the mind on just how much we depend, in more normal times, on our parish priest!

So as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, two schools and in the wider communities we serve, let’s all take time-out to:

- **celebrate and support** the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens and members of the PCC’s; and to
- **thank the volunteers** (the visiting clergy) who are facilitating our Sunday worship, and Joe Simons for being ‘next door’.

*Clare and Chris Tibbits*

**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 above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.**

### 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) . Thanks!

# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

-	-	-	-
<b>Friday 2 February - Candlemas</b>			
<b>Sunday 4 February</b>			
9:00	HC with AD Fiona Gibson	Farlow	
10:30	MP with AD Fiona Gibson	Stottesdon	
<b>Sunday 11 February</b>			
09:00	HC with Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary	
10:30	HC with Revd John Daniels	Stottesdon	
<b>Sunday 18 February</b>			
10:30	IW with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	
11:45	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Sidbury	
<b>Sunday 25 February</b>			
09:00	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington	
10:30	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	
<b>Sunday 3 March</b>			
09:00	HC with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow	
10:30	MP with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	
-	-	-	-

## Services for February in the Stottesdon Churches -

**HC**  
**Holy Communion**

**MP**  
**Morning Prayer**

**IW**  
**Informal Worship**

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.

## Stottesdon News

*Clare Tibbits writes:*

### Carols by Candlelight Concert - Thursday 14th December

The different format "not a Carol Service but a fundraising Carol Concert" organised by the Friends of Stottesdon School seems to have worked very well: 89 adults and 40 children attended and, after expenses, **£150** was donated towards the cost of the new toilet at St Mary's.





## Churchyard Christmas Wreaths

With Candlemas imminent and Ash Wednesday already approaching, can we please remind everyone that now is the time for clearing up and taking away of any remaining Christmas Wreaths in St Mary's churchyard? Many of these are now looking very tired after weeks of awful weather. Many thanks!

## Stottesdon PCC – new member

We were delighted to elect Julia Evans to the PCC at the November meeting.

## December 100 Club winners –

Congratulations to Beverley & Terry Montague, Henry Marsh, and Mary Overton.

**100 Club Subscriptions for 2024.** Renewal notices will be sent out shortly and to make up for the lack of a January draw we hope to have an extra 'double money' prize month later in the year!! Be sure to return yours quickly to enter the February Draw. Many thanks.

## St Mary's Heritage Project

*Chris Tibbits adds*

Further research by our Archaeologist, George Nash, using photographic techniques pioneered by NASA, has turned up evidence of early wall paintings in the Chancel - these images, other 'finds' and yet another explanation of the early Medieval 'Tympanum' [as featured in The Shropshire Star] are likely to be available for display in the new Heritage Interpretation area under the Tower - from later on this Spring.

Profession filming of 'behind the scenes' and 'time-team'-like analysis of aspects of the heritage building has just been completed. Later this month, we will be signing off those 40 specially commissioned 'video-shorts' which will then be free to view in the church - once they are all uploaded to the dedicated "V BOX" visitor wi-fi. This, and the new interpretation displays and printed self-guided tour booklets, have been financed from the Lottery Heritage Fund grant. The aim is to have the majority of this 'up and running' by Easter – the traditional start to the tourist and visitor season.

We'll let you know how we get on with all this in the next edition, by email and on the Stottesdon Community Facebook page.



*Thanks to Mark Forster  
for catching these first  
snowdrops in St Mary's*

## Farlow News

*Janice Howells writes:*

**Everyone says** 'many thanks to Nigel for a lovely Christmas Morning Service!' And Vera, Pam and Janice would also like to say a special "**thank you**" to Nigel for all of the extra hard work and dedication he gives to our church, we would be lost without him!

## 100 Club Winners

- December 2023 - £20 – Richard & Katherine Howells, £10 – Sylvia Jackson / Ann Sutton £5 – Marlon Bache / Nigel Savage-Bailey
- January 2024 - £20 – Graham Kirkpatrick, £10 – Julia Howells / Sarah Hazel, £5 – Linda Turner / Richard Jones

## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### Community events

**Coffee mornings** 10am – 12noon in church on Saturdays 10<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to see anyone who can make it. Bring and buy cakes, plants or produce.

**Thanks** to everyone who supported the **Burns Night Supper** and to all those that organised a taste of Scotland here!

**Date for the diary** -Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> - Quiz night - Look out for further details! We look forward to seeing you there.

*Ann Williamson adds-*

### Severn Hospice

To everyone who so generously supported Severn Hospice again this year by buying cards, coming to our coffee morning at Damson House and donating items and money, I am delighted to say cheques for **£2742.18** have now been forwarded to Severn Hospice. Thank you all for your generosity and hopefully you will be able to support this worthy cause again next year.

**I wish you all happy and healthy 2024.**  
**Ann**

## Community Noticeboard

### Farmers Market on 17th February

is “under and around the crooked spire” at St Mary’s Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the THIRD SATURDAY each month from 09.30-12.30.

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

### New activities and events in the church

**NEW Knit and Natter** every Wednesday in the church 10:00 till 12:00.

**NEW Saturday Coffee** morning (10<sup>th</sup> February) in church 10:00 till 12:00.

### 100 Club Results

- £20 Elliot Muscat No 116, £20 Sue Breakwell No55, £10 Sharon Ortel No100,
- £10 Joanne Gibbon No 11, £10 Sandra Harris No 91, £10 Joyce Howells No54,
- £5 David Walker No 26, £5 Carien Gilbert No119
- £20 Christmas extra: William Gibbon No 20

## Sidbury and Silvington

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

**Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group – please see page 12 re meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

### Our Local Food Banks

Both are always in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services: and never more so than at Christmas!!

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER

## 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:dittonpriorsfalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsfalls@gmail.com</a>
<b>Domestic Abuse Hotline</b>	Telephone Number 08448-044999
<b>Fun &amp; Fitness for 50+</b>	Cleobury North Village Hall - low impact fitness programme working the whole body every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.15am. Contact 01584-823640
<b>Knowle Sports Club</b>	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
<b>Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors</b>	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wendy Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549
<b>Short Mat Bowling</b>	Every Monday & Thursday 2.30 – 4.30pm at Cleeton & Silvington Village Hall, October to end of April. Pam 01584-89261
<b>Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors</b>	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm except the second Wednesday in the month when it will be Thursday at 8.00 – 10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
<b>Stoke St Milborough Dance</b>	Mike 01746-712774 - Betty 01746-77515
<b>Stottesdon &amp; District W.I.</b>	Meets in various venues on the 3rd Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746 718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
<b>Stottesdon Gateway Nursery</b>	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
<b>Tae kwon-do</b>	Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday 5.45pm. 07969-996055



Although February usually feels far from spring, it is the month when rooks usually start to build their nests, although sometimes they start in January. Many churchyards contain rookeries, situated within tall deciduous trees and a great deal of fun can be had in watching the antics of the rooks. Rooks make their nests from small branches and twigs and can be seen flying in with suitable material but also pinching particularly nice ones from the neighbours! A winter storm can seriously disrupt this nest building activity and send them back to the beginning with a great deal of chatter and fuss.

Rookeries may contain a few nests or sometimes up to a thousand and, once established, a rookery may last for centuries in the same location. Rooks are sociable and as well as nesting together they often feed in groups, eating a wide variety of foods including invertebrates pulled from the soil by their large, strong beaks. They will also eat fruit, seeds, acorns and grain and can visit garden bird feeders, taking hold of them with their feet rather like a parrot. Mixed flocks of rooks and jackdaws can be seen flying around, calling prior to going to roost. The collective nouns for a group of rooks are a parliament, congregation or clamour!

Rooks and crows can appear quite similar until you look and listen closely. A rook has a domed forehead and greyish face, its leg feathers give it 'baggy trousers'. Crows are sleeker, tend to nest singly and are often seen in twos or threes but rarely in larger flocks. Both birds have a cawing call, but crows have a harsher note and tend to repeat the call three times, whilst rooks use a wider variety of sounds and pitches including some clicks and wheezing sounds. Rooks and crows belong to the Corvid family which also includes ravens, jays, magpies and choughs. Take a look at the Caring for God's Acre website for a Spotter's Guide to Corvids [HERE](#).

Please let us know if you have a rookery within your local churchyard or cemetery and take a moment to think how many generations of rooks may have nested there.

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