

# WHEATLAND NEWS

June 2024



“Let there be Light”

~

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

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# Editorial

As this month's edition of Wheatland News goes to press – early, due to the start of better weather and planned holidays – we have a splendid photograph on the front cover of the Northern Lights taken by a resident of a parish in the Wheatland News area. News has just broken that we should see more during the next few days so if we are lucky to have clear skies there may be more glorious colours dancing across the skies.

The warmer weather combined with occasional rain in the night has brought an abundance of different colours in our countryside and in this month's magazine we have reports of plant sales, tractor runs and outdoor activities including a service in a large barn together with events starting to raise funds for our churches and various charities.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the articles and reports in the shortened timescale.

Enjoy the warmer weather, take care and keep safe.

## Ed

*WN thanks Ann Constable for her superb 'Northern Lights' which is this month's front cover picture!*

### Wheatland News Local Coordinators

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below.

The **deadline** for getting your contributions for the **JULY 2024** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - <a href="mailto:rll.langham@btinternet.com">rll.langham@btinternet.com</a>
Aston Botterell	<a href="mailto:AnnePreece@icloud.com">AnnePreece@icloud.com</a>
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 01746-787298
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

### June Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Ludlow



#### Dear Friends,

As I write this, I'm about to embark on a four-week period of interim study leave to complete (God willing) my PhD thesis. By the time you read it, we'll know whether or not I have succeeded!

The work focuses on one of the seven deadly sins, not necessarily the most popular of topics when the idea that human beings might be sinful creatures in need of a Saviour has rather fallen out of favour in our society. Even more obscurely, the sin I'm writing about is the one most people have never heard of: acedia. It's most often translated 'sloth' which is usually associated with laziness, and laziness isn't normally seen as much of a sin. An annoying characteristic, maybe, but not a sin.

But as I've studied this topic over many years (too many years; I've often felt like my own case study in acedia) I've come to realise it's far more complex than that, and may even be the prevailing sin of our time, all the more insidious because we've largely forgotten it even exists.

Acedia, according to the early theologians I've been reading and engaging with, is a toxic combination that occurs when desire and anger become disordered. It makes us either withdraw into inactivity or hide in restless over-activity, in an effort to avoid engaging with God, or with fellow human beings, or with the tasks God has given us to do. That's why I'm suggesting this is the hidden but very real sin of our time.

One theologian calls it the container of all other vices because it triggers other the other deadly sins. So far from sloth being almost trivial it appears it's potentially lethal for our spiritual lives, if left unchallenged.

But, thanks be to God, it needn't be. Like any other sin with which we battle acedia has been overcome by Christ on the cross. In our individual lives and struggles against sin we can know God's grace, forgiveness, and strengthening in the daily battle against the sins we know all too well and this sin of acedia, whose name we may never have heard of but now may recognise.

Recognising it is the first step in overcoming it. I love the deeply realistic means of grace which our ancient predecessors in faith suggested as prescriptions for those suffering from acedia. They were written more than 1500 years ago, but could have been written yesterday:

First, pray short prayers, not long ones. The mind can wander and fall prey to acedia when praying long prayers.

Second, set yourself a short task, and don't get up or do anything else until you've completed it.

Third, physical work. That can snap us out of an acedia attack in the mind.

Fourth, try a warm bath (yes, really!). That one's a bit less practical if acedia strikes while you're at work.

Fifth, the one that usually makes people sigh in startled relief: tears. Because tears break down the shell that acedia has built around the soul, and bring healing.

I could write a lot more on the subject, which is just as well as I have 80,000 words plus footnotes to hand in, so for now I must bid you farewell for a few weeks as I stop procrastinating and get on with the work of writing about acedia and how, by the grace of God, we may overcome it.

AD Fíona



### The Bishop's weekly video message no 200

This week, Bishop Richard illustrates the power of the Holy Spirit by its parallels with our favourite household lubricant!

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



### Ride + Stride, on 14<sup>th</sup> September, is a chance for YOU to raise money for YOUR CHURCH!

David Hardham writes:

'Ride + Stride' is a national event by the National Churches Trust and we, at SHCT, are pleased to support it. R+S is NOT an event where church visits are centrally organised. The Trust does not have a 'central team' that plans any walking, cycling, or car rides. NO ... It's something that Churches do for themselves.

Anyone can join in - collect sponsors, then plan your own route - walk, bike, or car - visit some churches - enjoy the day. The basic idea is twofold:

1. Churches try to be open for visitors on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from about 10am to 6pm, ideally with light refreshments - biscuits, squash, cake maybe!
2. You can visit as few or as many churches as you wish.
3. Go anywhere ... on foot, by bike, or by car, using our Sponsorship Form to collect sponsorship for your church and for the Trust.
4. If you can't Ride + Stride on 14<sup>th</sup> September then you can go on any other day - which is what a lot of people do.

The sponsorship money is split 50/50 between your local Church and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), which uses it to award grants for repairs and improvements to our Churches and Chapels. **So 100% goes to our Churches.**

**September may seem like a long way away, but time flies.**

You can get a Sponsorship Form from our website [www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk). Or contact me and I will get one to you. You can still go and visit other churches, even if your own church is closed due to builders, lack of staff, etc.

**The county raised £37,082 last year! 100% goes to our Churches**

**I hope you can participate this year. Help preserve our Churches in good repair; and help to keep them open for the future.**

David Hardham

(Trustee and County Organiser for Ride + Stride)

dhardham@yahoo.co.uk      01588-650362

# Saint of the Month – Barnabas

An Early Apostle 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD – Patron  
Saint of Cyprus

by Revd Joe Simons

Barnabas is identified in scripture as one of the very earliest followers of Jesus and was a leader in the emerging church.

He was born in Cyprus and is described in Acts 4:36-37, where he is referred to as Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means ‘son of encouragement’). He sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” His title as a ‘son of encouragement’ sits well with his behaviour and actions. This simple act of sharing with others was testimony to that.

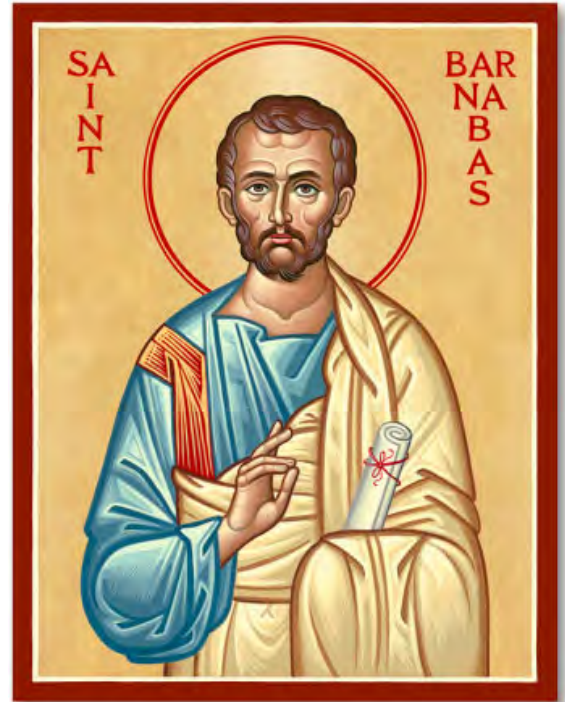
Later on in Acts Barnabas is described as a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. It goes on to say that he brought a great many people to faith.

Barnabas was also a man that was prepared to take risks, not least of which was the response to a call guided by God to help and support the evangelist Paul. Many were dubious of Paul’s conversion having persecuted many early Christians.

Barnabas followed his calling to serve the Lord initially in Antioch where a great many people became Christians – indeed it was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called ‘Christians’. Barnabas later decided to find Paul so the two could work together for the faith. The church grew steadily under their leadership and whilst there was disagreement at some stage over the qualities of a ministerial colleague, they can be rightly credited with a great deal of success in spreading the Gospel.

This tenacity and an ability to take calculated risks is what we can all learn from. For Christians today a desire to serve through encouragement and generosity to others, coupled with a passion to see others thrive in spreading the Gospel even at the expense of our own reputation is part of our calling. Not all are called to evangelise in this way but we are called to look for where the Holy Spirit is at work to nurture and encourage and on occasions to take risks.

While the Bible does not mention how Barnabas died, he reportedly was martyred for his faith, like some of the other apostles; he was either stoned or burned to death in Salamis, Cyprus in AD 61.



JS

# The United Benefice of Brown Clee



**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**

CHURCHWARDENS

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

**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

## June Reflection

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May the church celebrated the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the early disciples. Its transformative power enabled the early disciples to talk in different tongues opening up the good news of Jesus to the widest audience possible. Enabling the disciples to share the good news of the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit is a paradox, by its very nature it is unruly and disruptive. Like the wind, it blows where it will. It opens our eyes, it brings new life, new strength never allowing us to be lazy or to rest on our laurels. Yet with it comes peace, comfort, love and reassurance and a strength that comes from beyond ourselves, to bring hope in our hearts, and new life into our world.

This year let us ask the Holy Spirit to fall on us afresh, bringing renewal in our lives, may we be alive to the work that we are called into in our community, to witness to its wonderful power in and through the love of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*Revd Joe Simons*

## News for all Brown Clee Churches

### From the Registers

- **3<sup>rd</sup> May** - Funeral Service of Mr. David Charles Spencer Jones at Ditton Priors.
- **16<sup>th</sup> May** - Funeral Service of Mr. Graham James Till at Ditton Priors.

### Brown Clee Benefice Prayer Group

Our informal prayer group – which anyone is welcome to join, has proved to be a very special way of joining together in a loving and caring way with a daily prayer and thoughtful messages. Please do let me know if you would like to be added by sending me your details on 07748-987318. God Bless, Karen Simons.

## Old Glasses for Uganda

Following a request for your old reading glasses we were thrilled to be packing up over 50 pairs to be sent out to Sarah and Simon Cawdell in Gulu. They will be taken by their daughter Pippa on her visit in June so hopefully will be put to good use shortly afterwards – Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause. It is appreciated.

## Services in Brown Clee Churches during June 2024

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Cleobury North
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Neenton
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Loughton
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Chetton
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	11:30am	Group Holy Communion	Chetton
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

## Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

*Mark Gregory writes:*

An Open Meeting of the Brown Clee Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group (PPG) was held at Ditton Priors Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, with approximately 65 members attending. Caroline John (committee member) stood in as Acting Chair for the meeting as the PPG Chair, Tina Ranson, was incapacitated due to an equestrian injury. Also in attendance were committee members Linda Jackson, Bill Lewis and Mark Gregory.

Dr Bassett gave an update on recent developments in the succession planning for the practice, most notably that Dr Wendy Matthews is now holding two consulting sessions each week at Brown Clee, with a view to making a permanent and full time move once she has had a chance to familiarise herself with the practice and the patients. Furthermore, additional recruitment of another doctor to join the Practice is actively being pursued. To provide additional support to the doctors, Dr Railton is providing a 'telephone triage' service. And Dr Bassett laid to rest any rumour that Dr Jones is soon to retire – emphatically he is not!



Practice Nurse, Di Foster, gave a very informative and interesting talk about the many healthcare services provided at the Practice, especially diabetes monitoring and care, a service in which the Practice has risen over the last three years from a relatively low placing with respect to other local surgeries, to its current rating in first place in the area!

The meeting expressed its appreciation of and gratitude to Dr Bassett, Di Foster, and all of the Practice staff with rounds of applause.

Mark Gregory then presented the new constitution for the PPG, explained its role in formalising and democratising the function of the PPG and the committee, and proposed it to the meeting for ratification. The meeting approved the constitution by unanimous show of hands. Copies of the Constitution have been circulated to members and are available on request from the PPG – email address in the Local Contacts list on page 31.

The next Open Meeting of the PPG will take place at Ditton Priors Village Hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July this year, starting at 7:00pm. Closer to that date, communications will be sent via the usual channels requesting members to reserve places at the meeting. The AGM and the autumn Open Meeting will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Readings for June 2024	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Psalm 139. 1 – 5, 12 – 18; Deuteronomy 5. 12 – 15; 2 Corinthians 4. 5 – 12; Mark 2. 23 – 3.6
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Psalm: 138 Genesis 3. 8 – 15; 2 Corinthians 4. 13 – 5.1; Mark 3. 20 – end
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Psalm: 20. 92. 1 – 4, 12 – end Ezekiel 17. 22 – end; 2 Corinthians 5. 6 – 10 (11 – 13), 14 – 17; Mark 4. 26 – 34
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Psalm: 107. 1 – 3, 23 – 32 Job 38. 1 – 11; 2 Corinthians 6. 1 – 13; Mark 4. 35 – end
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Psalm: 130 Lamentations 3. 23 – 33; 2 Corinthians 8. 7 – end; Mark 5. 21 – end
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Psalm: 123 Ezekiel 2. 1 – 5; 2 Corinthians 12. 2 – 10; Mark 6. 1 - 13

## Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

### Church Services in June

- ✝ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6:00pm – Evening Prayer
- ✝ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July - 9:30am – Holy Communion

## Cleaning Rota for June

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones

### St John the Baptist 100 Club results – May 2024

- £20 – Norman Fenn
- £10 – Revd Jenny Rowland
- £5 each to Trish Shotton, Alan Jervis and Karen Simons

Friends of St John the Baptist Church Ditton Priors will be holding their AGM on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm, at Beech House, The Hedgerows, Ditton Priors.

## Events and dates for your diary!

### First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings

10:30 – 12:00 noon in church. There is no charge for this popular community event – and it is open to everyone! Next dates are Saturdays 1<sup>st</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

### Sponsored Walk for Church Funds – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

In aid of Church funds, and starting from Church at 11am. Sponsor forms available from Church or Marjorie.

A light lunch will be served in Church for walkers at approx. 12 noon onwards. Do come and join us - all abilities welcome - choose your own route - and think of the benefits of all that fresh air and exercise!

### Pimms & Puds Social Evening – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July....

.....in the vicarage garden, 5pm onwards. Tickets £12.50 each from Marjorie (712423).

### ...And later in the year:

- ⇒ Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent
- ⇒ Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August – Teas in the Churchyard
- ⇒ Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Ride and Stride – Shropshire Historic Churches Trust – see also page 5
- ⇒ Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Supper in Ditton Priors Village Hall
- ⇒ Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Christmas Fair at the Pavilion

### ...And events already enjoyed!

#### Roast Lunch on 28<sup>th</sup> April

Over 50 people enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Village Hall. Reg May's beef was delicious, with the usual trimmings, and the home-made desserts went down a treat! Many thanks to all who worked hard to make this event a success.

## Church Fete on 18<sup>th</sup> May

Despite the worries about the scaffolding and the weather forecast, the day was fine. And we had a super fete!

Our thanks to the 'Black Eyed Susans' for their great music; to Darren and family for the excellent BBQ; to Andy who played the organ; to the Art Group for their display; and, of course, to all the stall holders. We had so much help to set up and to dismantle the shelters and our thanks go to all who helped in any way. Thanks also to the Playing Fields committee for lending tables and chairs.

An excellent profit was raised for Church funds.

## Community events

**Beer and Bangers Fun Day – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**, **please note change of venue** – this will now take place on the Playing Field and NOT at Ditton Priors Village Hall.

**Craven Arms Big Band – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October** in Ditton Priors Village Hall.

## A message from Margaret!

Margaret Griffiths generously extended an open invitation to a party on 4<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Here is her 'thank you' message to you all, for the pleasure that she shared and gifts that she received.

**"I would like to thank everyone who came to the party in the village hall and say how lovely it was to see so many friends and family.**

**Thank you, too, for the lovely cards and beautiful plants. They are still giving me pleasure.**

**Thank you, Pat, for doing the tables and the flowers – they were just as we wanted – wild flowers are very pretty.**

**I just hope you all enjoyed the afternoon as much as I did.**

**Margaret"**

Revd Joe Simons adds his own tribute to Margaret

**"We would like to thank our faithful servant and server – Margaret Griffiths, who celebrated her 100th Birthday in May.**

**She has and continues to play an active part in all that happens in the Church."**



*Margaret pictured in church with the Revd Joe*

# Wheathill & Loughton News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

## Church services

- ✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – 6:00pm - Evening Prayer at Loughton.
- ✝ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July – 6:00pm - Holy Communion at Loughton

See the article on page 13 where Sue Crichton, local champion of sustainable land management, describes the richness of churchyard wildlife.

# Aston Botterell News

*Anne Preece writes:*

## Church services -.

- ✝ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 11:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July – 11:30am – Holy Communion

I would like to thank all those that help and care in keeping the church and the churchyard looking tidy. We have some lovely comments. It is there for everyone to enjoy.

## Thoughts and prayers

For Dorothy Williams (Anne's mother) who is very poorly in Shrewsbury hospital. She is being well looked after by the hard-working staff. Dorothy will celebrate her 98th birthday next month.

We send condolences to Richard Digwood and family on the loss of his father.

## Welcome

I would like to welcome new neighbours in Haymore, Aston Botterell and look forward to meeting them soon.

## Breakfast at The Boyne

Our breakfast held on 13<sup>th</sup> April was greatly enjoyed so we are planning another - please contact Anne for more details.

## 50 Club Results

- £20 - Pippa Whiteman. no 84
- £10 - Brenda Howells. no 162
- £5 each to Hazel Scott no 157 and Vera Jones no 60

## Bells at Aston Botterell

We are having a stave fitted to one of our bells and are looking forward to hearing the bells ring out again in Aston Botterell. We hope the Chetton Clangers will test them for us when they are complete to encourage new recruits to learn to ring to keep them pealing in the future.

## Car Treasure Hunt

On 16<sup>th</sup> June we are holding a car treasure hunt, starting at 1.30pm from Middle House, Aston Botterell. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the run when prizes will be presented to the winners. Teams of four. £11 per team. This gives you the opportunity to test your observation and Ordnance Survey skills! This will be a fun event driving through the beautiful countryside.

## Fundraising – Quiz and Buffet Evening –

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, when we are holding a Grand Raffle, £1 a ticket or £5 a book. Further details in July Wheatland News. Put the date in diaries now!

# Surveying our local Churchyards

Sue Crichton writes:

**Churchyards can be wonderful refuge places for wildlife.**

They have often never had chemicals sprayed on them, areas are left uncut and with just a few mown paths through them.

The result is a rare, natural, biodiverse, habitat home to a wide variety of our native species.

A Kingdom for Wildlife is being created.

**Abdon Wildlife Group has recently been and surveyed two of our local Churchyards, Cleobury North and Wheathill.**

**Cleobury North** was a wonderful, special place.

- **87 species were recorded** and a second visit in July will easily record another 30.

The variety of plants there is helped by having an adjacent woodland next to it and there is damp ground there too.

WaterAvens, Wood Sedge, Lady's Smock and Golden Saxifrage were all seen flourishing.



**The old church of Wheathill in its farmyard setting, recorded 60 species.** Again in the summer we hope to add another 20.

Of special note here were the Crossworts, a plant decreasing throughout Shropshire. The Goldilocks Buttercup we found is an axiophyte, an indicator of good habitat, alongside Pignut, a sign of good pasture.

What treasures they are. have a walk around and see what you can spot there too.

If you are allowing your lawns to go wild, you are helping to create these really special Kingdoms to flourish at home.

**No Mow May is a UK initiative, backed by David Attenborough,** to help bees and insects find nectar and pollen in our lawns.

If you can learn to love untidy, why not avoid mowing until August?

Mow alongside your borders and a mow a path through the areas you need to reach and you will be creating a wonderful texture of grasses and flowers, buzzing with life.

Your personal special pasture giving home to wildlife.

**Give it a go!**





Another wonderful year for

## Burwarton & District Gardening Club!

**And it's not over yet!**

May's meeting of the gardening club is the AGM and plant sale. The AGM is an opportunity to review the events of the past year, to make changes for the future and to thank those who make our club a success.



The club's year runs from October to August and May's is the final formal meeting at the village hall. This year we have had a varied range of speakers, all of whom were excellent.

In October we had Mike King from Shropshire Sarracenias, who holds the national collection and he was both fascinating and informative.

November's talk was from Diane Clement, a judge and lecturer for the Alpine Garden Society, who told us about 'Alpines in the Wild and Cultivation'. We enjoyed Diane's talk so much that she is joining us again in November.

We finally got to meet Ingrid Millington from Hill View Hardy Plants in February this year. Ingrid had been thwarted by the weather last year and her long-awaited talk on 'The Dry Garden' was most enjoyable and worth the wait.

*Pix clockwise from top right:  
Geranium sanguineum 'Canon Miles'  
The AGM Plant Sale  
Erigeron karvinskianus 'Lavender Lady'*

Our final speaker this year was Meriet Duncan 'The Queen Bee' who amused, informed and entertained us with stories of her beekeeping.

December's meeting was two members' talks on their own gardens which were well received, a Christmas quiz and a Christmas decorations competition.

Our post-Christmas luncheon at The Down Inn was as always a lovely occasion which was well attended, so we will no doubt be returning again in January 2025.

The spring show in April was a great success and was good fun as always.

Looking back over the year, we feel that it was a very enjoyable programme of events and well worth the hard work by everyone who makes our gardening club such a success.

The AGM was followed by our annual plant sale. It is always interesting to see what members bring along, as it gives an insight into what they grow themselves in their gardens and greenhouses. I always find something new and this year was no exception. Geranium sanguineum 'Canon Miles' and Erigeron karvinskianus 'Lavender Lady' are now establishing themselves in my garden.

Our summer meetings begin in June when we are visiting David Austin Roses in Albrighton and have been granted a special tour of the private gardens there, as well as the public roses gardens. Members will also have a wander through the nursery and gift shop and then finish with refreshments in the restaurant or tearoom.

In August we are very excited to be visiting Judy Robertson's wonderful garden, with its stunning views of Clee Hill, for our club picnic. This lovely event finishes off our programme for the year.



If you would like to join our small, friendly and very active gardening club, please get in touch and I can give you more

If you would like more information about our gardening club, please contact me. ☺  
Bev Harris ☺      bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk ☺      01584-841845 ☺

# Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Church Service in June

✝ Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June – 11:30am – Holy Communion

✝ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July - 11:30am – Holy Communion

# Cleobury North & District Village Hall

*CNVH Management Committee writes:*

Many thanks to those who completed and returned the survey form about the Village Hall. We are collating all the feedback and will publish a summary in a future copy of Wheatland News.

Although the number of forms returned was low, we have an encouraging number of offers of help and lots more ideas too. When we've taken stock of everything, we'll organise a meeting to review the responses and discuss ways forward. Thank you again for taking the time to complete and return the survey.

**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

✝ Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Holy Communion, 11:30am

✝ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Group Service of Holy Communion, 11:30am, followed by lunch at Church House.

**Flowers and Cleaning** – Jill and Nick.

**Chetton 100 Club** - £15 – Bobbie Jarvis no 53

£10 – Nick Tofiluk no 58.

## From the Registers

The marriage took place last month of Mark and Charlotte Archer from Chetton. Several locals attended the wedding in Leicestershire and had a wonderful day. We wish them, and Henry, all best wishes for the future.



## Community events

**Breakfast at The Down** - There will be another Down breakfast on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 9:00am. Please let Sheila know if you would like to come along.

We have a **Group Service** on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am. This will be followed by lunch at Church House. Please let Sheila or Lisa know if you wish to come along.

## Midland Oil Engine Club event – 12th May

We would like to thank everyone who came along to the Midland Oil Engine club show. It was a great success.

We were blessed with a dry sunny day to enjoy the wonderful display of engines, vintage vehicles and a few aircraft.

The day started with a tractor run organised by Tony Maiklem, and our thanks to Mike Teague for sending them on their way!



The route took them through Ditton Priors and through some of the Burwarton Estate, courtesy of Lord Boyne. This was followed by a beautiful service in a barn on the farm, organised by Joe. Thank you to him, and Richard Fox for the music. A big thank you also to all the helpers on the day, a great team effort. Proceeds will go to the Midland Air Ambulance, St Giles Church, Chetton, and the Midland Oil Engine Club.

*And many thanks to Sally Russell for the photos. Ed.*



## Chetton Village Hall

**An evening of folk music** - on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October we have 'The Hooded Crow', a folk duo, performing at the hall. Supper will be available. 7pm start. Further details to follow.

### Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

<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, Monday afternoons from 2pm.</li> <li>■ Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.</li> <li>■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm</li> <li>■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.</li> <li>■ Chetton Folk dance club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.</li> </ul>
<b>Village Hall enquiries</b> – for activities or hire at modest rates, contact Sue on 789239.		

## Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

### Service at All Saints' Church during June

✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June - 11:30am – Holy Communion

### Pentecost – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May

We welcomed Revd Val Smith to our service for Pentecost on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

This is one of only a few services when the colour red is used within the church calendar.

Thank you to Sally for capturing this beautiful photograph of the flowers, the altar and of Revd Val.

Thank you to all who took part in this service.



## Promise Auction –

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at The Down

To raise funds for repairs to the stonework around the stained glass East Window in All Saints’ Church – our registered village memorial to the three men who lost their lives in the Great War, and which descendants still visit to pay their respects.

Made by the studios of William Morris, installed and dedicated in 1921, the window appears in the catalogue of Morris creations, which also lists the glass-painters.

**“Promises” have been very generous** – from businesses, local people and friends to all of whom we send a big ‘thank you’, and the gifts for which you might bid include all manner of items, large and small – something for everyone!

The auction itself will be most ably conducted by Mr Alan Venables, who, he assures us, has turned his new gavel on his own lathe for the occasion.

Tickets – great value at just £25 per person, to include a 2-course meal – to book yours please contact Jo on 07885-671335. There will be a raffle and lucky ticket prize too. Come along and join in what ‘promises’ to be an interesting, convivial, and great fun evening in the ever-welcoming atmosphere of The Down.



## Neenton Fete and Duck Race – Saturday 14th September

### All Saints’ Tote – April

➤ 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Audrey Colebatch

2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Toni Cartwright

<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>	<p><b>Opening times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌀 Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3pm, 6pm – 11pm</li> <li>🌀 Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11pm</li> <li>🌀 Sunday lunch 12 noon – 4.30pm</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Date for your diary – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – live music from Innocent Criminals – 5.00pm</b></p>		

# Ticket to Heaven – God and the Railways



Rev'd Poyner concluded his warm and light-hearted service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May (of which more in a future WN) with this Prayer for Railroaders. Adapted by American railroader Michael Murray from a Railroader's Prayer, supposedly appearing first in 1895 in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Monthly Journal, it was later published by Steve Sweeney to honour railroaders past and present, especially those who had served and died in military service.

## Almighty God

After creating the world and everything in it, you challenged us to subdue the earth –

to ready the road of the Lord,  
to make straight God's paths,  
to fill every valley,  
to conquer every mountain,  
to straighten the crooked  
and to level the rough.

Once again, I report for duty in my unique way of continuing the ongoing work of salvation.

Just this day, be it as a life-long engineer, a conductor in training, a track inspector, a dispatcher, a signal maintainer, a shop mechanic or a road foreman, bless me with the gift of situational awareness at each and every present moment.

Help me learn when to throttle out –  
help me learn when to throttle back.

Guide me in my attempts to manage the inevitable slack in myself and others that is part and parcel of life.

Give me the intuition I need to anticipate hazards before my eyes can see them.

Give me the fortitude to deal with the hazards that no one could have seen coming.

Help me to be respectful of both trainmen and trespassers alike.

Assist me in my attempts to operate both safely and efficiently as I move commodities and consumables that enhance human flourishing.

Be my fire in ice.  
Be my warmth in snow.  
Be my calm in wind.  
Be my dew in heat.  
Be my guide in the noonday sun.  
Be my refuge on a moonless night.

Where possible, line up my route with clear indications.

When necessary, help me to endure the inevitable stop signals, slow orders terminal delays, separated air hoses and pulled knuckles that come with the job.

At the end of the day, help me to be grateful for the people I have met, the things I have moved, the circuits I have restored, the signals I have maintained and the false partial activations I have repaired.

Remind me to leave the bulletin in the lead locomotive, to secure the reverser and to leave the cab clean for the next crew.

After I mark off, give me restful sleep – help me to mark on tomorrow with renewed vim, vigour, and a sense of purpose.

At the end of my run, I hope to meet the Superintendent and shake his hand.

I hope to hear him speak the words, 'Well done, good, faithful, safe and dedicated servant.'

I hope to see many of my colleagues and friends who made my journey possible, who have enabled me to see many wonderful things and places along the way and who have helped me arrive safely at my home terminal.

WN thanks Ron Hynes for permission to publish this photograph.





Severn Valley Benefice

# The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - [Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com](mailto:Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com)

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email [D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk](mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk),  
Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work);

<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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## Glazeley News

*The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:*

There was an enforced change of Sunday in May, when we had to hold our service on the second Sunday of the month. We coupled this with the annual parish meeting. I am pleased to report that the current PCC are all happy to serve for another year, with Laura Jones as churchwarden and Andrew Jones as co-opted treasurer. I am very grateful to all who help run the church, both with administration but also the practical aspects; the flowers before a service on a Sunday make such a difference. We are back to our normal third Sunday of the month in June for our 10am service and of course there are the monthly breakfasts that Marion co-organises with our friends from Chetton.

**The big event in June** will be the Open Gardens at Glazeley, kindly organised by the Gabb family, with the profits divided between ourselves, Chelmarsh Church and Kidney Research UK. This year the event will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. This is a wonderful spectacle and a great social event, so please do come along if you can!

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)

## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

Water continues to loom large in the life of Billingsley Church. The good news is that the river that was running down the drive past the church now seems to have dried up; it is something that periodically comes and goes. The less good news is that the water system in the church itself is not working, a fact discovered by the cleaning party as they prepared the building for the monthly evening service. Fortunately we can manage for the moment with bottled water; the toilet is functional but use some of the bottled water to refill the cistern after flushing. We will get a plumber to fix the problem. **[Stop Press – WN learns that Revd David and Diane Stepney have now restored the water supply!]**

The most recent evening service took the theme of “God, vicars and railways” and much to my surprise, we had 10 people who turned up to be entertained by my railway pictures. Even more remarkably, judging from the conversation afterwards, people enjoyed themselves; some when I was talking, perhaps more when I stopped talking...

Revd David Poyner – Associate Minister - Tel 01562-68638

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

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

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



Next month, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm, Stephen Lomas will be bringing the Tasley and Astley Abbots choir for a musical service. We also have regular walks on the third Sunday of the month, at 2.30; in June we will do a walk from Glazeley Church around Tedstill.

It was good to see so many people from both Billingsley and Glazeley at the vintage rally on the Millingtons' farm at Lower Cockshutt on 12<sup>th</sup> May; both on the field and on tractors. Whilst this is strictly an event for Chetton Church it is a great afternoon out and a good chance to mingle and admire everything from stationary engines to a Harrier Jump Jet.

*Enthusiasts Bob Preece (sitting on the frame) Ben Griffiths and Graham Tranter, stopped for lunch at Marsh Farm, at the back of the hill between Abdon and Clee St Margaret. Thanks to Ellen McConnell for the photo.*

## Chelmarsh News

*Elizabeth Bebb writes:*

What a welcome relief the weather brought in May, some sunshine and some warmth, enough to make the gardens bloom and the grain grow. We are thankful for the respite from the rain.

During the month we welcomed two new members into the church family. Tabitha was christened in early May followed by Holly a week later. We are delighted that their families chose to have them christened and especially that they chose Chelmarsh as the venue. We wish the new members and their families a lifetime of joy, faith and love.

We acknowledged the passing of James Brown whose ashes were interred into the church yard and were placed in his wife's grave. We express our condolences to his family.

During May we held a Rummage sale at the village hall to raise funds for the upkeep of the church. Thank you to all those who attended, donated or helped on the day. Following the event we tend to have some rummage items left over, last year some of these items were donated to the Midlands Air Ambulance

who wrote a lovely letter and said they had made over **£70** from our donation.

An update on the Louvres for the bell tower – We are currently seeking quotes from local specialists who could do the repair work on the louvres. Once these have been obtained, we will then approach the faculty for permission to do the work. We are aware that as the works require scaffold, they will be quite expensive.

### June events:

**Woodlands Hall Garden opening** - We are very pleased to be able to tell you that the wonderful Gabb family have offered to open their garden again this year to support Chelmarsh and Glazeley churches. Those of you that have previously been to this event will know just how special and wonderful this garden is and the huge amount of work Caspar, his family and his small team put into it to every year to get it looking amazing. Caspar is an award-winning gardener at Chelsea: unfortunately we at Chelmarsh are not in his league to help him with this work, however we do help with the teas and the cake-making (some might say this is our speciality). There will also be plants for sale. We very much look forward to this event.

# Molecule of the Month – Starch!!

Prof David Poyner writes:

**My colleague at work, Ros,** offered me an exotic sweet from one of her PhD students who had been on holiday. It was a kind of Arabic version of Turkish Delight; about the size of a Welsh Cake but thickly coated in a starch. I gratefully accepted and took a small bite, not too sure what to expect. The sweet itself was quite pleasant. Then I looked down, to discover the (ahem) zip region of my trousers were now coated in the white starch powder. I refused Ros's offer to help brush the starch away; with some rather delicate dusting I eventually managed to reduce the visual impact to something that would not get me arrested when I left the building. However, to the best of my knowledge this is the first report that starch is a biohazard.

Starch is produced by plants and is the main way they store energy. The main energy-generating chemicals in the body are sugars; molecules consisting of carbon with oxygen and hydrogen atoms joined to each other. This oxygen-hydrogen unit is called the hydroxyl group and effectively it is half a water molecule. Chemically it is reactive and so sugars both dissolve in water and also are broken down inside the body to release energy, which cells use to perform other chemical reactions. However, there is a problem with storing sugars (such as glucose or fructose). They attract water through a process called osmosis. Thus if a cell is full of sugars, it will draw in water which leads to numerous complications. By contrast, if the sugars are chemically joined to each other, they are less attractive to water. In humans, we join together glucose to form a substance called glycogen, which can exist harmless as granules inside our cells. Plants do the same thing, but join up the glucose molecules in different ways to form starch, which also exists as granules. If the glucose molecules are joined “nose-to-

tail” they form amyloid starch, but a single glucose molecule can join two adjacent ones to form the branched amylopectin.

Plants can easily break down starch to release the glucose when they wish to produce energy. We cannot make starch, but we have some ability to break it down. Saliva in the mouth contains an enzyme called amylase, which starts the process. In the small intestine, beyond the stomach, another version of amylase is released, along with other enzymes to continue the process. Once in the large intestine, the final part of the gut, microbes can also break down what starch is left. We find it easier to

digest the simple amyloid starch rather than amylopectin.

Cooking helps us to break down starch; processed foods also typically have more starch that can be easily digested than non-processed foods. This may explain why eating too many processed foods can cause problems; the easy breakdown of starch can lead to too much sugar being released into the small intestine, resulting in high blood sugar.

Starch historically has been used as a thickening agent, forming a stiff paste when mixed with water; hence the starched shirts of an earlier generation before synthetic fibres. The main industrial use of starch paste today is in paper-making. Starch is also a valuable material in

biotechnology, both in high-technology versions but also in its traditional forms, as in malting. Barley grains are allowed to germinate in malt houses, where they convert their starch to sugar. This is then extracted with hot water and supplied to yeast to turn into alcohol in its various forms. And of course, it is used in confectionary and by evil professors to ambush unwary colleagues.

DRP



**Figure 1;** *The consequences of an uncontrolled release of starch into the environment (Unpublished data, Prof Ros Bill).*

# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

<b>Rector:</b> <i>post vacant</i> so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens or volunteers as below		
<b>St Mary, Stottesdon</b> <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007</i>	<b>St Giles, Farlow</b> <i>CHURCHWARDENS</i> <i>VACANT – please contact key holder Pam Phillips</i>	<b>Holy Trinity, Sidbury</b> <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149</i>
<b>St Mary, Cleeton St Mary</b> <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583</i>	<b>St John, Middleton Scriven</b> <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact</i> <i>Parish Rep Ann Constable</i>	<b>St Michael, Silvington</b> <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep</i> <i>Katie Hickman</i>
<b>In an emergency, please</b> call the Rural Dean, Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698		

## June message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 8

You can check the latest news on the process for the appointment of our new Rector with your Churchwarden or the Rural Dean Jeannetta. Whilst there is a continuing and disappointing delay, there is activity ‘behind the scenes’ as the recruitment process is under way.

So, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, in the two schools and in the wider communities we serve, please make time 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 volunteer visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship.

**Clare and Chris**

From the Registers

**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 or volunteer (details above), who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.**

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

### 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!

**The deadline for the July 2024 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Thanks!**

# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

	<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow	
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	
	<b>Sunday 9 June</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary	
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Stottesdon	
	<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
10:30	Informal Worship with Revd David Poyner	Stottesdon	
11:45	Holy Communion with Revd David Poyner	Sidbury	
	<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington	
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	
	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
10:30	<b>Group Holy Communion</b> with Revd John Daniels	Middleton Scriven	
	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow	
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon	

## Services for May in the Stottesdon Churches

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.

## Parish News from around Stottesdon Benefice

### Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

#### 100 Club

Congratulations to all our lucky winners over the last three months:

- **Easter Double-money Draw** – Tony & Alison Williams, Emma Figloila, Maylin Ware
- **April** – Richard Overton, Mike Williams, Sarah Price
- **May** – Roger Cook, Ray & Denise Ingram, Jenny Everingham



## Forthcoming events

**Stottesdon Community Fete** will be on **FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE** – Bar, BBQ, Grand Raffle, Sideshows, Entertainments and more! Details soon on the Community Facebook page, posters and at the school.

**Stottesdon vs Kinlet 40th Anniversary Cricket Match** is at Kinlet Hall on **SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE**. Details from Roger Cook on 07770 910927 or at rogerbcook@btinternet.com



## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### Church Service in June

✝ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 10:30 am - Benefice Holy Communion at St John's, Middleton Scriven

### Middleton Scriven community events



**Our Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** held on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> was a very busy occasion indeed, raising a massive **£474**. A massive Thank you to all those attending and to those donating plants including: Emma, Sue, Jessica, Adj, AnnW, Kate, Lyn . Thanks to all the helpers, cake makers, raffle donors, to Philip for running for coffee and cake stall. A special thanks to Bannuttree Farm shop, Cutnall Green for supplying bedding plants and plant donations for the raffle.

**Middleton Scriven Annual Parochial Church Meeting** was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. After over 30 years' service Linda Phillips has retired from the PCC. A massive thank you to Linda for all her hard work over the years especially as church warden, and all her support for our events. The church and community are greatly indebted to you!!

We look forward to seeing Linda and John at future community and church events.

# Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

## Activities and events in the church

- **Knit and Natter** every Wednesday in the church 10:00 till 12:00.
- **Saturday Monthly Coffee** morning in church 10:00 till 12:00 – next is **8<sup>th</sup> June**.

## April 100 Club Results

- £20 – Rita Howells no 94
- £10 each to – Stanley Weston no 13 and Joyce Price no 107
- £5 – Trev Broome no 49

## Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group – Open Meeting held on 21st May

Please see the report on pages 8 and 9

## Farlow, Sidbury and Silvington

We have no news to pass on from Farlow, Sidbury or Silvington this month – apologies to all if our early print deadline took everyone by surprise – blame the typist for going on holiday!

## Community Noticeboard

### Farmers' Market on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

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.

## 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 today!!**

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

## Daddy's Hat

The DH schedule for this summer is proving to be somewhat fluid! Owing to illness, the event planned for 18<sup>th</sup> May at Neenton had to be cancelled – Sally hopes to reschedule for later in the year. Meanwhile, we wish those involved a speedy recovery.

And there may well not be a DH in June, to avoid clashes with so many local events that are important in our parishes and of such value in fund-raising.



**But very exciting is the plan for Saturday 20th July, when DH will make a return visit to St Mary’s Church, Jackfield** – an exceptional church building, well worth a visit even without a great concert to enjoy - with performances from the great Saxon Fire saxophone quartet, from Benjamin Richards, a very talented young cellist and a previous winner of Shropshire Musician of the Year. More details in July WN.

For any enquiries about DH events, please call Sally on 01746-787419 and leave a message: she will always call you back.

# News from the Nightingale Nurse Fund

Rosemary Abbiss writes:

It is well over 20 years since our local District Nurses saw the need to start a branch of the Nightingale Nursing Fund in this area. There were once several branches in Shropshire under the umbrella of Dr Barritt at Bayston Hill Medical Practice. During recent years the other branches have all closed leaving just our local one in the Stottesdon and Cleobury Mortimer area.

How the world has changed since we started! We do not have the same role for District Nurses going into patients' homes to see the need when there were changes in patients' health that needed additional care beyond what they provided. The fund was used for paying nurses, carers and palliative care nurses in times of a medical crisis.

We, the trustees of the fund, have changed to accommodate these additional challenges. Covid, dare I mention it, has changed the world. Since then, the trustees have found the fund has not been accessed as much and therefore a rethink was needed as we had considerable monies in the fund.

We hope that you will agree we have come to the correct conclusion:

The trustees felt that the money had been raised locally and it should

benefit the patients it was intended for. As the NNF is registered with the Charity Commission we had to follow the constitution--- which was that, on closure, the funds should go to registered nursing / caring charities.

**So the decision was made** to donate £20,000.00 to the Severn Hospice at Home (charity number 512394) for their work in our local community with the remaining £10,939.67 donated to "CoCo" [Cleobury Compassionate Communities] which has now registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1206755) for their caring work in the local community.

We, the trustees, would like to say a huge thank you to all who have supported the fund and raised monies in the past. Due to confidentiality we have never been able to disclose who has benefited, but there are many grateful patients and their families who have appreciated the extra care we have been able to fund.

Kind regards to all that have been involved in the fund over the years!

The Trustees - Gill Shorter, Treasurer; Debbie Brown, Secretary; Rosemary Abbiss, Chairman.



*Thanks for this news Rose, and many thanks to you and all involved in the amazing work of NNF over the years – best wishes The Editors, W.News*

## Prayer Letters from Uganda – 1 - From Revd Sarah Cawdell

This time last year I, Sarah, was just settling into my first full semester as Principal, and now that I am starting the second full year of teaching from next week I am aware of how much I have learnt. This gives rise to a sense of vision and direction as I lead college community. Although the registration process is still the dominant drain on our energy and finances there are ways in which we can see developments in college life and begin to set a creative direction for the future.

I submitted the revised paperwork for registration last week, and look for a response at least by the end of May. All through the last month masons have been at work upgrading the dormitories, the electrician has rewired, and the painter has decorated. I attach some pictures to show the progress. The windows are no longer burglar proof, but they can be used as emergency exits (priorities change with time), each room has been divided into four rooms so that the students have a little more privacy, the ventilation has been improved, and the fresh paint and repaired beds with poles attached to hang mosquito nets mean that the place looks as good as new.

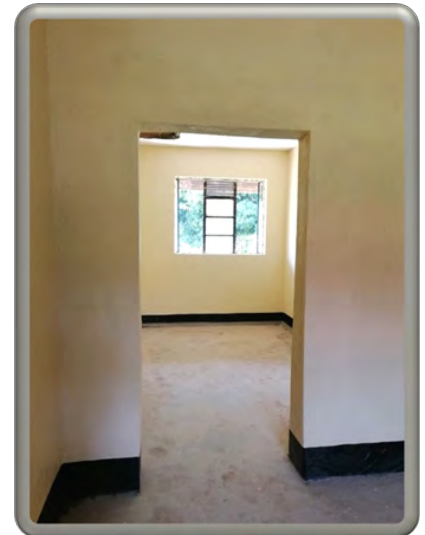
On the educational front I have been able to employ two more part time staff to help us teach the new first years who should be arriving at the start of next week, along with the returning students. This brings our staff team up to twelve either full or part time.

The addition of first years means that we have three year-groups – the full complement, and with three of the new diploma students coming from the Karamoja region in the north east, another diocese and language to add to the mix. I am sure that where we can work for unity and understanding across cultures that is part of the Holy Spirit's work and will strengthen the church.

This semester I also hope to use the Discipleship Groups on a Tuesday afternoon to explore different ways of praying with the students, and work with them to demonstrate some of the rich resources of prayer in the historical and worldwide church: using the imagination to inhabit Scripture and Lectio Divina being the most obvious examples.

In the last month Simon has been working on the development side of his portfolio, using part of a generous donation to set up some income generating agricultural projects on diocesan land. The next hope is for a poultry project, for which he is currently writing a grant application, and the development of a farming centre on the land, so that the produce can be stored safely and effectively and someone can keep an eye on the chickens. He has really enjoyed working with the local community as they have worked with him on planting and weeding

soya, maize, sunflowers, bananas and cocoa, and these have now gone through the process of 'first weeding.' The money we have been able to pay them for this work has enabled a lot of school fees to be paid amongst other things. The work also gives inroads for relationship building and the spread of the gospel in what is a poorer area of town. Please pray for the security and fruitfulness of these crops. As the land is a bit far from the Diocesan centre it is not well guarded.



I, Sarah, have been enjoying the Bible Project podcasts as I prepare lessons on the non-Pauline epistles for my new teaching this semester. If you haven't come across these study notes and podcasts you might like to have a look at the website. It even makes Leviticus interesting!

Do keep us in touch with the work God is doing in your lives and churches, and we will continue to pray with you.

## Love and blessings – Simon and Sarah

### 2 - From Archbishop Janani Lowym, Theological College, and the Diocese of Northern Uganda.

Dear Friends and Prayer Supporters - Praise God. Thank you for your prayers and love and support. We thank God every time we remember you, and know that your continuing support is essential to our ongoing mission here. The joys and challenges are constant, but we do push on in wisdom and love because you stand before the throne of God with us. Thank you.

### 3 - From Revd Sarah Cawdell

Thank you for your prayers. This is quite bland prayer letter in comparison with this morning. Let me sketch for you:

There was a storm last night. The roof of a neighbour's house blew onto the power line for the college, though our house has power.

So the man who is welding the poles to hold mosquito nets to the beds has carried the beds up here, and has used an extraordinary collection of cables (health and safety?) to connect the house electricity supply to the grinding machine and the welding machine.

But the person who is cutting iron bars from the windows at college has had to go home for the day, because the generator won't stretch to that degree of power.

And the mains water is off again, and the borehole overcrowded so the women who are cleaning the dormitories of cement dust etc are using our home rainwater supply (another couple of weeks before we get the college rainwater harvesting connected up).

And part of the boundary wall has fallen down onto Rev Jane's ground nut field, so we have to find and employ two young men to clear those bricks.



And the fallen wire had to be reported in person so David went off to do that and then we needed more maize for grinding.

And the banana, avocado plantation has suffered in the storm,

And the pigs are undermining their food troughs, so we need to repair.

The drain for the men's bathing area seemed to have blocked again, but it was only that the users didn't know that they had to clear our new traps! Amos made easy money today!

But what I am actually doing today is writing a library collection policy, and the library users' manual.

I am so glad that I learnt juggling skills at university - though that was more entertaining somehow! Please laugh with us. We are glad to be well, and not under attack. We pray for the people of Gaza, Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan. Thank you for your love and laughter. God is faithful and keeps us in love.

#### *Pictures from the beginning:*

- *Freshly-cleaned dormitory with fire escape windows*
- *Weeding in progress!*
- *David inspecting the fallen boundary wall*
- *Young banana!*





# Wheatland Diary

Mon	27	May	Live music from Innocent Criminals at The Pheasant, Neenton, 5:00pm – see page 18
Sat	1	June	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	1	June	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Night! Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 10
Sun	2	June	Stottesdon vs Kinlet 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cricket Match at Kinlet Hall – see page 25
Sat	5	June	St John's Church Ditton Priors – Teas in the Churchyard – see page 10
Sat	8	June	Coffee morning, Cleeton St Mary church – 10:00 to 12:00 – see page 26
Sat	15	June	Promise Auction at The Down – for promises, bookings, tickets etc see page 18
Sat	15	June	Sponsored Walk for Ditton Priors Church funds – see page 10
Sat	15	June	Gardens open – fundraising – The Woodlands Hall, Glazeley, WV16 6AB – see back cover
Sun	16	June	Car Treasure Hunt – 13:30hrs from Aston Botterell. Contact Anne Preece – see page 12
Mon	17	June	Friends of St John Ditton Priors – AGM at Beech House, 7:30pm – see page 10
Fri	21	June	Stottesdon Community Fete – see page 25
Sat	22	June	Breakfast at The Down – for Chetton Church – 9:00 see page 16
Sun	30	June	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning – Middleton Scriven church, 10:00am to 2:00pm – see page 25
Sat	6	July	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	6	July	Pimms & Puds Social Evening – Ditton Priors – 5:00pm - see page 10 for tickets etc
Sat	13	July	Beer & Bangers Fun Day – Ditton Priors Pavilion – see page 11
Fri	19	July	Fundraising Quiz, Raffle and Carvery at The Down – contact Anne Preece – see page 12
Sat	20	July	Daddy's Hat St Mary's Jackfield, with Saxon Fire (sax) and Benjamin Richards (cello) – see page 26
Tue	23	July	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting, DPVH, 7:00pm
Thurs	1	Aug	Burwarton Show Day! Refreshment tent - see page 10
Sat	3	Aug	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Thurs	15	Aug	Ditton Priors - Teas in the Churchyard – see page
Sat	7	Sept	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	14	Sept	Neenton Fete and Duck Race – see page 18
Sat	14	Sept	Ride + Stride – see page 5 for preliminary information
Sat	12	Oct	Chetton VH – folk duo The Hooded Crow – Supper – see page 17
Sat	12	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors VH – see page 10
Sat	19	Oct	Craven Arms Big Band – at Ditton Priors VH – see page 11
Tue	29	Oct	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting, DPVH, 7:00pm
Sat	23	Nov	Christmas Fair at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors
Sun	22	Dec	Aston Lumiere – church and houses decorated for the carol service at Aston Botterell – 5:00pm

**Delighted to have space, this month, to take the Diary right through the rest of 2024. We can't always do this – so please don't imagine that events have been cancelled when we publish just those over the coming couple of months!**

# Useful Community Contacts – updated June 2024

<b>Brown Clee Surgery PPG</b>	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email <a href="mailto:BrownCleePPG@gmail.com">BrownCleePPG@gmail.com</a> , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
<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 from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact secretary Ms Bev Harris on 01584-841845, <a href="mailto:bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk">bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Burwarton &amp; District WI</b>	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Wives Group</b>	Meeting 8pm first Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
<b>Chelmarsh Bowling</b>	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
<b>Chelmarsh Games Group</b>	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
<b>Chelmarsh Jubilee Club</b>	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
<b>Chelmarsh Parent &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
<b>Chelmarsh Parish Hall</b>	Available for hire - <a href="mailto:booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk">booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk</a>
<b>Chelmarsh Walking Group</b>	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
<b>Chetton &amp; Glazeley WI</b>	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
<b>Cleobury North Village Hall</b>	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
	National Centre for Domestic Violence <a href="https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/">https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/</a> Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
<b>Daddy’s Hat Music &amp; Poetry</b>	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you <b>will</b> get a call-back!
<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 History Group</b>	Please contact <a href="mailto:paul.wilson8992@gmail.com">paul.wilson8992@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ditton Priors Village Hall</b>	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - <a href="mailto:dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com</a>
<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 Wende Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services <a href="https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk">https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk</a> – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
<b>Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors</b>	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
<b>Stottesdon &amp; District W.I.</b>	Meets in various venues on the third 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>	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055

# Woodlands Hall

Glazeley  
WV16 6AB



Will be opening its gardens at  
2:00pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June  
By kind permission of Caspar Gabb and family



You can .....

- ⇒ **Walk** in the woodlands!
- ⇒ **Ponder** by the ponds!
- ⇒ **Chill out** with a coffee!
- ⇒ **Club together** for a plate of cakes!
- ⇒ **Risk** a ticket for the raffle!
- ⇒ **Buy lots of super plants!!!**



A lovely family day out  
And there is plenty of  
parking space



Proceeds will be divided between  
Kidney Research, and  
Glazeley and Chelmarsh churches