

# WHEATLAND NEWS

August 2024



“But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand”

~

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

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Diocese of Hereford</b> .....	<b>4</b>
August Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford.....	4
<b>Wheatland Diary</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Saint of the Month – Maximilian Kolbe</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Molecule of the Month – Promethium</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Brown Clee Churches</b> .....	<b>8</b>
August Reflection.....	8
Services in Brown Clee Churches during August 2024 .....	9
Readings for August 2024 .....	9
<b>Brown Clee Benefice News</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Ditton Priors News.....	10
Wheathill & Loughton News .....	12
Aston Botterell News.....	12
Cleobury North & Burwarton News .....	13
Cleobury North & District Village Hall .....	13
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Garden Club</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>St Mary’s Church, Jackfield, hosted Daddy’s Hat!</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Ride and Stride in September!</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Neenton News.....	16
<b>The Severn Valley Group of Parishes</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Glazeley News .....	17
Billingsley News .....	17
Chelmarsh News.....	18
<b>The Stottesdon Group of Parishes</b> .....	<b>19</b>
August message .....	19
<b>Stottesdon Benefice Group News</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Services for August in the Stottesdon Churches.....	20
<b>Parish News from around Stottesdon Benefice</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Stottesdon News.....	21
The Bells of St Mary’s .....	21
Middleton Scriven News .....	23
Cleeton St Mary News .....	23
Sidbury and Silvington .....	23
Farlow News.....	23
<b>Community Noticeboard</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Goodbye to the Swifts!</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Ditton Priors Local History Group</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Latest news from the mission field in Uganda</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Useful Community Contacts – updated June 2024</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Caring – in action!</b> .....	<b>28</b>

# Editorial

As this edition goes to press the weather has certainly warmed up, school holidays have started and the Olympics are about to start! The global crash of the IT systems has caused much anxiety and disappointment and the delays are starting to build up on the roads, airports and ferry terminals. In spite of this it is great to know that barbeque weather is here and we can start enjoying some balmy evenings, many villages and towns are getting ready for their Annual Fetes and other events and people are looking forward to some time to relax.



Time seems to fly by these days and weeks seem to be shorter than they used to be – the following poem was handed to us at a church service and seems to fit well with the mood of the moment and echoes the Bishop's video message – see page 5.

In this month's magazine we have more interesting articles and reports from various events. We look forward to many more next month.

We've been reminded of the dangers of jumping into cold water and playing near the railway lines. Shropshire Council's "Stay Safe This Summer" page gives lots of helpful advice and links:

<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2024/07/stay-safe-this-summer-advice-for-young-people-and-parents-carers/>

Enjoy the summer.

**Ed**

## 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 **SEPTEMBER 2024** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 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

## August Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



**Dear Friends,**

One of the challenges of our present age is our understanding of history. This August marks 90 years since the death of President Hindenburg and Adolf Hitler becoming dictator of Germany, which led to the events of the Second World War. 70 years ago Alexander Fleming received the Nobel prize for discovering Penicillin. 50 years ago in August 1974 Richard Nixon resigned as President of the United States after the Watergate scandal. Each of these dates, we understand to be part of history but arguably, they all still influence our lives today.

Yet history is certainly more than remembering dates, places and names, although if you are a child in school, it might seem it is all about the Tudors! The book '1066 and All That' and the TV show 'Horrible Histories' take a sideways glance at British history and in a humorous way tried to make it both memorable and fun. Some historians write from the perspective of a neutral observer, others make no bones of the fact that history is inevitably political.

When we approach the Bible, we should recognise that it is written for a purpose just like history. When we look at the Old Testament, we find that it was written by numerous authors, who interpreted events through the perspective of faith, religion and even politics. The so-called history books like Kings and Chronicles are as much about God's interaction with His people as they are about recording factual events. Although perhaps surprisingly for a religious text we find that on occasion it fits perfectly with the archaeological record, but even then, events are interpreted for an audience of faith. It certainly is not history, as we would now define because it is telling the story of salvation. It is history from the perspective of a people's interaction with God.

I love history and I believe we should continually look back to learn from the past and this in turn helps us discern the future.

It is only when we understand where we have come from that we can truly understand the present and future. The writer of Hebrews understood this as they lay out for the early church the whole of the history of salvation and God's interaction with his people.

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." Hebrews 11:32-40.

History is never neutral. People will inevitably look back in years to come and interpret these days in ways we cannot imagine. The appointment of a new Prime Minister, the War in Ukraine or the violence between Hamas and Israel and countless other events, which are part of our everyday experience and appear to us normal, may well be reinterpreted by future generations through the cultural lens of a different time.

As Christians our anchor and fixed point is the cross - the death and resurrection of Jesus and we need to interpret the actions and activities of our time through this lens. We need to learn to see history, politics and culture through the eyes of faith and if we are Christians, we cannot pretend that we are neutral. Jesus accused the religious people of his time of failing in their responsibilities because whilst they understood the environment but missed the spiritual realities of life around them. (continued overleaf.....)

“He replied, ‘When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”  
Matthew 16:2-3

**So, whether you love history or prefer to think about the future make sure you know how to interpret the times.**



The Venerable Derek Chedzey

### The Bishop’s weekly video message no 210

In his final message before taking his summer break, and speaking from his garden, Bishop Richard offers us a fascinating and timely lesson about rest – which we may not perhaps interpret as did Jesus!

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

## Wheatland Diary

Thurs	1	Aug	Burwarton Show Day! Refreshment tent - see page 11
Sat	3	Aug	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	10	Aug	Coffee morning – 10am – noon, Middleton Scriven Church – see page 23
Thurs	15	Aug	Ditton Priors - Teas in the Churchyard – see page 11
Thurs	15	Aug	Pimms, Teas and Cakes – Ditton Priors Churchyard – see page 11
Sun	18	Aug	Daddy’s Hat at Stottesdon – see page 21
Mon	26	Aug	Music from Call of the Kraken at the Pheasant, Neenton – 5:00pm – see page 16
Fri	6	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – “Oppenheimer” at Chetton VH - see page 13
Sat	7	Sept	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	7	Sept	Farlow School Grand Fete and Show – Farlow & Oretton VH – 2:00pm – see page 23
Sat	14	Sept	Neenton Fete and Duck Race – see page 16
Sat	14	Sept	Ride + Stride – see page 15
Sat	14	Sept	Coffee morning – 10am – noon, Middleton Scriven Church – see page 23
Tues	24	Sept	Coffee Morning & Raffle, The Old Rectory Cleobury North, for church repairs – see page 13
Tue	3	Oct	DP Local History Group, DPVH – the rifle and Shropshire’s regiments – see page 25
Sat	5	Oct	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	12	Oct	Chetton VH – folk duo The Hooded Crow – Supper – see page 13
Sat	12	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors VH – see page 11
Sat	19	Oct	Craven Arms Big Band – at Ditton Priors VH – see page 11
Sat	19	Oct	Promise Auction at the Down for Neenton war memorial – see page 16
Tue	29	Oct	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting, DPVH, 7:00pm – see pages 9 & 19

# Saint of the Month – Maximilian Kolbe

Born 8<sup>th</sup> January 1894, died 14<sup>th</sup> August 1941



by Revd Joe Simons

This month I want to share with you the story of Maximilian Kolbe, a story of bravery and love for those around him.

At Oswiecim in southern Poland the Nazis in 1940 establish a concentration camp which they called Auschwitz.

Prisoner 16670, Maximilian Kolbe a Catholic priest, was brought there on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

Priests in Auschwitz were treated especially badly.

Kolbe was once horsewhipped 50 times and left for dead in a wood.

He recovered some of his strength, and continued his work in comforting his fellow prisoners, insisting that everything, even suffering, comes to an end, and the way to glory was through the Cross. He was known discreetly to give his own food to other prisoners, even as his own health crumbled; to hear confessions; and, in the face of stern prohibitions, to celebrate mass.

One day a prisoner escaped and in reprisal the guards chose 10 men who they planned to starve to death. One of these was a married Parish man Francis Gajowniczek. Kolbe begged the commandant that he should take his place and the request was granted. 'I am', he argued a 47-year-old priest, 'old and useless.' Maximilian Kolbe comforted each one of his fellow prisoners as they died. He was the last to die.

His guards could not believe his composure throughout, finally speeding his death by injecting him with carbolic acid.

Maximilian Kolbe was beatified as Confessor by Paul VI in 1970, and canonized as Martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Maximilian Kolbe was a brilliant scientist, mathematician and religious journalist.

His final letter to his mother read:

**"Pray that my love will be without limits"**

A man utterly focused on others and bringing comfort and relief even at the expense of his own life.

JS

# Molecule of the Month – Promethium

Prof David Poyner writes:

## Prometheus bound, Polo mints and batteries



### Bear with me, this will all eventually hang together...

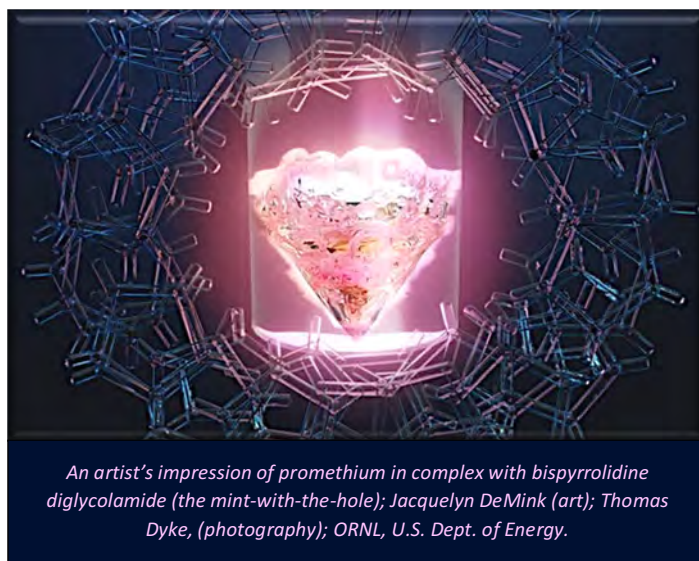
Firstly, a brief resume of Greek Mythology for those whose knowledge of the classics is a bit rusty. Prometheus stole fire from the Gods from there dwelling on Mount Olympus and brought it back to earth for humans to use. Humanity greatly admired Prometheus for his pluck and daring; the Gods, especially Zeus, were less impressed. When Zeus eventually caught up with him, he bound him to a mountain with a chain so that each day an eagle could pluck out his liver; Zeus, as he was chief of the Gods, conveniently ordered matters so that Prometheus regenerated his liver each night so the eagle would not go without a meal the next day.

Next, some chemistry. Hidden away in the list of elements (the periodic table if anyone remembers that), are a group called the “rare earths”. They are called that because they are rare (or at least, historically were difficult to isolate) and so were not widely studied, until recent times. Then it was discovered that they were very useful in making batteries and various electronic devices. Now they are much in demand. Most of these can now be obtained without too much difficulty, but there is one particular exception: the element promethium. It is radioactive and was initially just a theoretical prediction. It was not actually observed until 1945, when the by-products of a nuclear reactor were examined. It was called promethium after plucky and daring Prometheus because of the pluck and daring of those who first predicted that it must exist. It is a metal and was first (briefly) isolated as such in 1961 but its chemistry has remained virtually unexplored in the lab. The issue has always been that chemists like to work with compounds when they are dissolved in liquids; this makes it much easier to study them. It was hard enough to get promethium at all; when the chemists had a sample, they could not find any way of getting it or its chemical derivatives to dissolve in any liquid.


The classic way chemists try and solve this problem is to design a molecule that will sit round the entity they want to dissolve. Basically the idea is to design concoct something like a Polo mint: the target, in this case promethium, fits in the hole in the middle. The outside of the “mint” interacts with the liquid and so dissolves.

Earlier this year, researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee (the same lab that first identified promethium back in 1945) managed this trick. The “mint” is formed of three molecules called bispyrrolidine diglycolamide; these come together to surround the promethium (for the technically minded, the positively-charged promethium III ion) so that it now dissolves. At last its chemistry can be properly investigated. So far, there have been no great surprises but the important thing is that we now know how to handle it.

So far, promethium has had very few uses, because it is so hard to handle; it has been used in some specialised batteries and also as a trace component in fluorescent lights. But now it may well be that new applications are found for it, particularly in more common batteries and other power sources. The binding of Prometheus in Greek Mythology was good news only for Zeus’s favourite eagle; the binding of promethium by bispyrrolidine diglycolamide may be good news for mortals.



DRP

			<h2 style="margin: 0;">The United Benefice of Brown Clee</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"> <b>Priest-in-Charge:</b>  <b>Revd Joe Simons</b> </p> <p style="margin: 0;">The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ</p> <p style="margin: 0;"> <b>01746-599217 07872-464276</b>  <a href="mailto:browncleebenefice@outlook.com">browncleebenefice@outlook.com</a> </p>		
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## August Reflection

One of the principal tenets of faith in Jesus Christ is to give away knowledge of him and his saving love to others.

At the end of Matthew's gospel, Jesus calls on his disciples to share the good news of his love to all. This is referred to as the "Great Commission." This responsibility is one that we as Christians should seek to live out on a daily basis and is not restricted to those that sit in the pews of the church but outside the doors of the church.

This passage of scripture is often used by me as the basis for my homily at a baptism and links the person being baptised into a continuity of this charge.

For many, the act of reaching out to others to bear witness to God and to proclaim his gospel seems like too much of a challenge. Some may say that they are not smart enough or not adequate enough to communicate God's word effectively and even not bold enough to share Christ's love and mercy with others. But it is worth reflecting on who the disciples of Jesus were.

They were not well educated, they were not well connected, for the most part they were common ordinary labourers. Yet God chose them, filled them with his Holy Spirit and sent them out into the world armed with the truth that not even the Roman Empire could prevail over them.

So, for all who are called by the Lord to be his disciples, whether into ordained ministry or not, whether you feel you are adequately equipped or that you do not have sufficient influence, know that God has a purpose for you to live out and talk about the gospel of Christ.

*Revd Joe Simons*

## From the Brown Clee Churches' Registers

### Funeral

- 27<sup>th</sup> June – Funeral Service of Mrs Dorothy Williams at Telford Crematorium
- 25<sup>th</sup> July – Funeral Service of Richard Glover at St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

### Wedding

- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – The marriage of Graham Johns and Rebecca Green at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors.



## Services in Brown Clee Churches during August 2024

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Songs of Praise	Aston Botterell
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Chetton
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>	9:30am	BCP Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Neenton
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Wheathill
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	10:00am	Group Holy Communion	Cleobury North
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

## Readings for August 2024

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Green	Psalm: 78. 23 – 29; Exodus 16. 2 – 4, 9 – 15; Ephesians 4. 1 – 16; John 6. 24 - 35
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Green	Psalm: 34. 1 – 8; 1 Kings 19. 4 – 8; Ephesians 4. 25 – 5.2; John 6. 35, 41 - 51
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Green	Psalm: 34.9 – 14 Proverbs 9. 1 – 6; Ephesians 5. 15 – 20; John 6. 51 – 58
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Green	Psalm: 34. 15 – end; Joshua 24. 1 – 2a, 14 – 18; Ephesians 6. 10 – 20; John 6. 56 - 69
<b>Sunday 1 September</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - Green	Psalm: 15; Deuteronomy 4. 1 – 2, 6 – 9; James 1. 17 – end; Mark 7. 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23

## Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

The Patient Participation Group held a successful Open meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July – there will be a write-up about this in the September edition of WN, as copy date loomed too close this month! Thank you to everyone who came, including Dr Bassett and Luke for sharing very useful and interesting information about the Practice. The next Open Meeting, together with the AGM, will be held in Ditton Priors Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> October. More information nearer the time.



# Brown Clee Benefice News

## Frog Racing??

Brown Clee Young Farmers and Brown Clee Benefice held a hugely enjoyable night at Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> only was there the excitement of seeing the frogs leaping through the air towards the finish; the hot

The Frog Race on June. Not

dogs, cakes and drinks, but there was a real community spirit bringing the two 'sides' together. We are looking forward to our next joint venture.....



## Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

Yesterday I attended the **Brown Clee School Leavers' Service**, held in our Church at Ditton Priors.

It was so good to see the church full of children and teachers, parents and grandparents and the "Open the Book" team. We were treated to lively music and song together with performances on keyboard, guitar and drums - a message here that Church doesn't have to be always solemn and boring as some youngsters may think. The 22 Leavers read out their memories of school life and also their own prayers. They were presented with Bibles by Revd Joe.

**We asked God for his Blessings on children everywhere** and especially for those 22 leaving us for new beginnings. The main school made their way back to school but the Leavers and their families stayed for drinks and cakes in the sunshine outside church. **What a happy occasion.**

## Church Services at St John's in August

- ✝ Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August - 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August - 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August - 9:30am – BCP Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – 10:00am – Group Holy Communion at Cleobury North
- ✝ Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September - 9:30am – Holy Communion

## Cleaning Rota for August

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones

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

- £20 – Mark Smith
- £10 – Dot Cartwright
- £5 each to Bobbie Jarvis, Richard Jones, Elizabeth Wade.

## Friends of St John the Baptist Church Ditton Priors

**Thank you** to everyone who came to our quiz evening. We shall use the money carefully to help with the upkeep of the church. Membership of the Friends is £10 for the year and £5 concessions. Leaflets are in the church or contact the secretary Helen Groves on 01746 712466.

## Sponsored Walk on 15<sup>th</sup> June

The sum of **£706** was raised for Church funds. An excellent result and a big 'Thank You' to all involved.

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

Well, the sun did shine on us eventually - long enough for us to have a very happy gathering in the Vicarage Garden. The Pimms and Puds were well received and we especially thank Revd Joe and Karen for their hospitality.

## 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 everyone is welcome!  
Next dates are Saturdays 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August

We hope for a little more sunshine and a little less mud than last year! Do come and find our Refreshment Tent and support Church.



**Pimms, Teas and Cakes in the Churchyard – Thursday 15th August, 3pm onwards.** There will be a Bring & Buy stall and Raffle and hopefully lots of sunshine - inside church if not.

**Ride and Stride – Saturday 14th September.** You are invited to join in this sponsored event, raising money for The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and your own church. Enjoy visiting the local churches on foot, bicycle, pony, car etc. - it makes a good morning out - and then pop along to the Fete & Duck Race at Neenton!

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

- ⇒ Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Supper in Ditton Priors Village Hall
- ⇒ Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Christmas Fair at the Pavilion



### Next Community Event –

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October - **Craven Arms Big Band** at Ditton Priors Village Hall!

# Wheathill & Loughton News

*Marjorie Jones writes:*

## Church services

- ✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – 6:00pm – Evening Prayer at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 6:00pm – Evening Prayer at Loughton
- ✝ Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October – 6:30pm – Harvest Festival at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October – 6.30pm – Harvest Festival at Loughton

**Thanks** to Kerry Godfrey for raising **£37** on a Tombola Stall recently.

**We are in need** of funds to cover the Insurance, Electricity and Mowing costs.

- If you can help in any way please contact Marjorie or Revd Joe.
- If you feel you could contribute by Standing Order on a monthly basis this would help a great deal and I have the appropriate forms available for your Bank. Please phone me ( 01746 712 423 )

# Aston Botterell News

*Anne Preece writes:*

## Church services

- ✝ Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August – 11:30am -Songs of Praise – with the choir and a few words of memorial for my mother, Dorothy Williams, during the service. Everyone is welcome - light refreshments.

## And services later in the year:

- ✝ Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Service, with our fun sale after the service.
- ✝ Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Illuminated Carol Service with a brass band and a visit from Father Christmas for the children! Refreshments will be served.

## George Hill

It is with sadness that we learned that George Hill has passed away. Before moving to the Innage in Bridgnorth, George was my neighbour in Aston Botterell. He was a wonderful gardener, and also gardened for Lord Boyne. Rest in Peace.

## Quiz and Buffet – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at The Down.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July we held a quiz and buffet at The Down Inn hosted by our quiz master Ben Upton...It was a lovely evening with lots of fun answering all the questions ...only easy if you knew the answer. Many thanks to all who supported the event, and to The Down for a delicious buffet. We held our grand raffle on the same evening and a big thank you to the people who kindly donated the many prizes we received and for the help organising the event. The money raised is for repairs to the church.

## 50 Club Results for July

- £20 – Lynn Morgan, no 24
- £10 – Susie & Kevin Scott, no 46
- £5 each to Suzanne Preece, no 230 and Anne Evans, no 117.

# Cleobury North & Burwarton News

## Church Service in August

✝ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – 10:00am - Group Holy Communion here at Cleobury North

*Jane Bufton writes:*

Our church service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July at Cleobury North was a lovely occasion. Revd Val Smith was officiating, and we welcomed the return of Carol Radnor to play the hymns and other music – it was a pleasure to hear the organ being played again. Refreshments were served which gave the congregation time to talk to different people and the Church restoration group had a meeting to discuss the progress being made on the repairs.

## Date for your Diary

**Tuesday 24th September 2024 – Coffee Morning and Raffle** at the Old Rectory, Cleobury North, by kind invitation of David and Penny. All monies will go towards the repairs to keep Cleobury North Church open.

## Lottery results – July

First prize to Anne List, Second to Brian Charnock, and Third to Julia Rose. Thank you to everyone for supporting our Lottery! It is a substantial part of our income.

# Cleobury North & District Village Hall

*CNVH Management Committee writes:*

**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:*

## Service at St Giles' Church

✝ Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Holy Communion, 11:30am – just one service this month.

**Flowers and Cleaning** – Zena and Sheila.

## From the Registers

**Burial of ashes – Eric Evans.** Eric and his wife Joyce enjoyed several happy years in the Parish at Faintree and both liked to support our Church and the community. He is sadly missed by his family.

**A date for your diaries.** We are holding a Craft Fair at Chetton Village Hall on Saturday 2nd November. We have several tables reserved already with unusual crafts and gifts for Christmas. If anyone would like a stall, please contact Lisa or Sheila.

**Chetton 100 Club** - £15 – Doreen Massey no 68  
£10 – Richard Pugh no 95.

## Chetton Village Hall

**Flicks in the Sticks** - "Oppenheimer" will be shown on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm. Tickets are available ahead at £4 or on the door. Refreshments available beforehand. Doors open at 7pm.

The duo '**Hooded Crow**' will be performing on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There will be a supper available: more details to follow.

### Chetton Active Friends

- Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.
- Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm.
- Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.
- Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm.
- Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm
- Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.
- Chetton Folk dance club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

**Village Hall enquiries** – for activities or hire at modest rates, contact Sue on 789239.

# Burwarton & District Garden Club

A quiet time for the club – although not quiet in the garden!

*Dr John Bell and Bev Harris write:*

**Who does not love the foxglove?** There is something quite magical about them and John uses his medical knowledge and expertise to enlighten us about the use of this common but versatile plant in modern medicine.



The name 'foxglove' is a very ancient name - as old as the time of Edward III. In Wales it is thought to be the hideout of fairies and so is called 'fairy folks finger' or 'lamb's tongue leaves'. In Scotland, it is called 'bloody fingers' and moving further north 'dead men's bells'! The Scandinavian legend regarding the prefix 'fox' tells that mischievous fairies gave the fox flowers to muffle his paws as he prowled around village hen houses.

Digitalis is a genus of about 20 species, mainly herbaceous perennials, shrubs and biennials. It grows over fairly large areas of the world and the best-known species is the Common Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*. It thrives in acidic soils in partial sunlight to deep shade, commonly found where the ground has been recently disturbed. Country lore advises its use in companion planting, where it is suggested that placing it around apples, tomatoes and potatoes simultaneously, stimulates growth of these plants.

In 1775, Dr William Withering working at the new Birmingham General Hospital, was treating a patient for heart failure: the treatment was obviously failing. The patient sought an herbal remedy from a gypsy woman and recovered - which aroused Dr Withering's interest. He found a woman in Shropshire and learned from her the concoction of herbs which included the foxglove. This was at the time the traditional cure for dropsy, a condition suggested by the swelling of the tissues due to the poor action of a failing heart. He knew that the extract from foxgloves was potentially fatal. He spent the next ten years experimenting to find a safe standard dosage, sometimes trying the infusions on himself. In 1885, he published his research with over 150 successful cases, and it followed that an extract of powdered leaf was used for treatment in medicine. Prior to this date, going back some 100 years, foxgloves were recommended for skin complaints with the leaves applied directly to wounds as a poultice. The entire plant is toxic, including the roots and seeds, but Dr Withering used the *Digitalis purpurea* extract containing cardiac glycosides which increase the contractile muscle power of the heart, as well as being an antiarrhythmic agent to control the heart rate. It is thought that this was the beginning of modern therapeutics. *Digitalis lantana* is grown commercially for pharmaceutical use. Though there are over 20 species of digitalis in cultivation, only a few enter the plant catalogues and hence into private gardens.

*Edited from an article previously published by the Garden Club - - with thanks to Ms Harris and Dr Bell*



*Clockwise from top left –*

- *D purpurea Pam's Choice;*
- *D purpurea Apricot;*
- *D ferruginea Rusty;*

If you would like to join our small, friendly and very active gardening club, please get in touch and I can give you more details. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Bev Harris, Secretary, 01584-841845, 07933-724728, bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk

# St Mary's Church, Jackfield, hosted Daddy's Hat!

*Caroline John writes*

**Daddy's Hat has been fun. It has been good. It has been excellent. It has always brought people joyfully together. But on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July it scaled the heights of the sublime!**

Warmly welcomed by Revd Lynda Lilley, new to the Broseley / Barrow / Jackfield benefice since DH's first visit last summer, going on for 60 people plus a couple of dogs sat in pin-drop, jaw-drop silent attention for an hour of thrilling music.



Saxon Fire sax quartet led off with a medley of contrasting numbers, designed to harmonise gently at one moment, and at the next to give each of the individual saxophonists their chance to take centre stage. The sounds echoed joyfully all around the glorious brickwork of this fabulous church.

Benjamin Richards then gave us music which was a contrast in every way. Just coming up to his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, and looking forward to going to the Royal Academy of Music in London in the autumn, Ben's playing was flawless, fluid, and appeared completely effortless. Appearances, of course, deceive – hiding a lifetime of hard work and commitment.



The mutual admiration and respect between the musicians – Saxon Fire and Ben had never met previously – was a delight. All this in a marvellous building which, although less than 200 years old, holds a wealth of social and architectural history. Far too much to include here, but we may tell the story with lots of pictures in the quieter WN times. Meanwhile, if you haven't yet tried DH – there will be another two or three this year at various churches, the next in Stottesdon on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August, followed by Neenton on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. And if you haven't visited Jackfield – then it's one for everyone's bucket list!

Ride and Stride Reminder!



**Don't forget ....**

**2024 Shropshire Ride and Stride** will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September!

The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust is just one of the 33 historic churches trusts across England and the Isle of Man which holds a Ride and Stride event to raise funds to care for many wonderful buildings.

**Remember to get your Sponsor Form from your Churchwarden!!**

# Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

## Service at All Saints' Church

✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Holy Communion – 11:30am

## Vital dates for your diary!

Neenton Fete and Duck Race - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September - 2:00pm - 5:00pm

### Fun for all the Family!

#### Bar-B-Que

Beech Green Games

Bouncy Castle

#### Face Painting

Hook-a-Duck

Raffle

Skittles

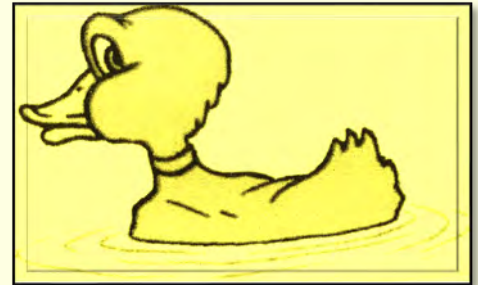
Tombola

#### Sponsor a Duck for

£2

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £100

Come and enjoy  
relaxing in the  
Orchard Garden or  
in the pleasant  
surroundings inside The Pheasant



Promise Auction at The Down - NEW DATE - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

To raise funds for repairs to the area around the Stained Glass window in All Saints Church, which is our village memorial for Frank Amies, John Leath and Harry Yapp who lost their lives in the Great War - 1914/18.

Details of the **LOTS for the AUCTION** will be displayed at the **DUCK HEADQUARTERS** at the Fete and Duck Race! To complement the auction there will be a raffle and lucky ticket prize. Enquiries to 01746 787093.

**Tickets** - £25 per person to include a 2-course meal, on sale at the Fete and Duck Race, and from 01746-787093.

Thank you to everyone in the Fun & Fundraising Group (FAF) who is involved in the planning of these events and to those who have generously offered 'promises' and prizes for both events.

## All Saints' Tote - July

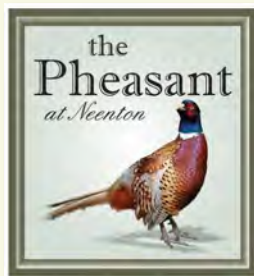
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Bethany Moreton

2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Dawn Moreton

### LIVE MUSIC from

## Call of the Kraken

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August -  
5:00pm



### Opening times

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

Please call 01746-787955 or email

[info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk](mailto:info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk)

to discuss times and your requirements, or book direct on the website.





# 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);

## St Mary, Highley

CHURCHWARDEN  
Canev Clayton

## St Mary, Billingsley

CHURCHWARDEN  
Vacant

## St Peter, Chelmarsh

CHURCHWARDEN  
Vacant

## St Bartholomew, Glazeley

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

## Glazeley News

*The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:.*

### We were all deeply saddened to learn of the death of Caspar Gabb.

Caspar was a very good friend to Glazeley Church, most especially by opening the gardens of the Woodlands and donating some of the proceeds to ourselves, along with Chelmarsh Church and Kidney Research UK. The latter was a cause very close to his heart and both he and his mother suffered from kidney disease.

Caspar was an award-winning gardener and so the Woodlands Open day was always something special. Only a month ago he masterminded this year's event, which raised over £1600 in spite of threatening weather. Caspar drew the prize-winning tickets in the lottery for us. It was a deep shock to learn of his death just two weeks later. We extend our sympathy to Toni and the children, brother Rollo and father Roger. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Revd David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638

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

Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew -  
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10533/>

Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585

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



**Kidney disease ends here.**

In July we laid to rest the ashes of **Morris and Margaret James**, in the grave of Margaret's mother. They were married in Glazeley Church, had the reception in the long-demolished parish room and Morris spent his working life on Manor Farm. Around 30 people attended the interment of ashes, which is tribute to the respect and love felt for them in the community.

**Our services continue** with Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday of the month, at 10am.

Please note – there will be **no breakfasts in August!!** These will be resumed in September.

## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

As I write, we are anticipating a **visit from the Caring for God's Acre team**, who will scythe the grass in the churchyard. This traditional way of managing the grass encourages the abundant wild flowers, insects and birds that find a home in our churchyard. At this time of year, the churchyard is a cacophony of

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](#)

sound from insects and birds. We also will soon be putting down new stone on the path in the churchyard, paid for from the 100 Club. When we can identify a suitable contractor, we will also replace the gate post and rehang the gate. *Ample evidence of this great day's work is on this month's back cover! Ed.*

**Billingsley church members have recently taken part in two excursions.** Three of us walked up Snowdon; the two more senior members of the party had a combined age of over 150 and we were by far the oldest party on the hill that day. Just a few days later, a slightly different party did a pilgrimage, by walking from Llanthony Abbey to Capel y Ffin in the black mountains, a round trip of about 10 miles. Amazingly, we had excellent weather on both days. We are planning further excursions...

**Our evening services continue on 11<sup>th</sup> August** when I will be speaking on "A trip to Tiree"; the inner Hebrides in Scotland as I am sure everyone knows. We start at 6pm, refreshments afterwards.

DRP

## Chelmarsh News

*Elizabeth Bebb writes:*

First of all, apologies for crossover with last month's news. It is always difficult when writing editorial in the middle of the month to fully reflect the months happenings, therefore from time to time we will have some overlap in the updates. This month is no exception.

July was difficult for many, wet weather doesn't help either our farmers trying to bale hay or start combining Barley or our cricket and bowls players amongst others who have to dodge the elements to enjoy their summer pursuits. However it has helped the gardens, and with no hose pipe bans yet, perhaps we will see green lawns for much of the summer. Every cloud....

The children finally finished school and are now enjoying their long summer breaks. I note that there are various activities planned at the leisure centre in Highley (and I am sure elsewhere), the outdoor pool is open and is always lovely and warm.

During the month Rachael Carter and Nick Davies were married at St Peter's. Rachael grew up in the village with her sisters and Nick is also local from Highley. We wish them much happiness and many blessings for the years to come.

Elsie Jones, was baptised during July. We are pleased to welcome her into God's family at Chelmarsh. We have been blessed with many baptisms this year, it is so wonderful to be able to celebrate these happy occasions. We wish the family much love, happiness and joy.

We were deeply saddened this month to hear of Caspar Gabb's passing, many of you will know Caspar and his family from their wonderful generosity in

opening Woodlands Hall to raise money for charity. We send the family our warmest wishes of peace and comfort at this difficult time.

100 club winners:

The 100 club was drawn on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June (too late to make July editorial), we congratulate the winners:

£100 – Mrs S Grantham (30); £50 – Ms. L. Radford (31); £25 - Ms. D Davies (15); £25 – Mrs J. Kenny (61)

A special thank you goes to Lyndsey Radford, who very kindly donated her winnings back to the church, we appreciate her generosity.

Our project to replace the loose louvres is ongoing, once we have some quotes we can start to apply for help funding the project.

To start things rolling Glenys, Janet and Barbara are all taking part in the Ride and Stride on 14th September. This event is held annually in September to raise funds for our local church and Historic Churches Shropshire. Please consider sponsoring them (either see them in person or add your name to the forms available in the church) to help us raise money for both St. Peter's Church Chelmarsh and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust who provide grants for repairs and improvements to local Churches and Chapels.

Thank you to everyone who attended our plant sale during the month – the last total was £730 raised at the event, however thanks to the generosity of everyone involved this may now be higher. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

I will update on the afternoon tea next month.

As always please keep an eye on the village notice boards for further details of future events.

**Cleaning rota: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2pm**

# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

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

## August message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 10

By the time this edition is published, our appointed Parish Reps will have met with Archdeacon Fiona to hear about the process and timetable for the second recruitment round as we move forward to appoint our new Rector. More on this next month.

Meanwhile, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in the parishes, our 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 Tibbits**

### From the Registers in July

- Cleeton St Mary**    Funeral Office: Rosemary Phillips RIP  
                                  Funeral Office: Hazel Wellings RIP
- Farlow**                    Funeral Office: Joan Evans RIP (*latterly Church Warden*)
- Stottesdon**              Wedding of Leah (née Bubb) and Luke Phillips

### Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

The Patient Participation Group held a successful Open meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July – there will be a write-up about this in the September edition of WN, as copy date loomed too close this month! Thank you to everyone who came, including Dr Bassett and Luke for sharing very useful and interesting information about the Practice.

The next Open Meeting, together with the AGM, will be held in Ditton Priors Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> October. More information nearer the time.



# Stottesdon Benefice Group News

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
12:00	Group Holy Communion with Revd Jeannetta Stokes	Stottesdon
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
10:30	Informal Worship with Ann Constable	Stottesdon
11:45	Holy Communion with Revd David Poyner	Sidbury
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>		
10:30	Group Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington**
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow
10:30	Morning Prayer with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon

## Services for August 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.

\*\* Due to a wedding taking place at Stottesdon, we are joining Silvington for Communion at 10:30 on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**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.**

### 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 September 2024 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August - Thanks!**

# Parish News from around Stottesdon Benefice

## Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

**100 Club** Congratulations to all our lucky winners for July – Julie Whitehouse, Janet Williams, and Babs & Tony Brown.

### Events – future and past!

#### Stottesdon's first ever performance by Daddy's Hat – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August



After a superb concert at Jackfield in July, August will see 'the Hat' at St Mary's in Stottesdon. For the uninitiated, this will start at 3pm for an hour of talented musical performances, followed by an opportunity to meet the musicians over tea and cake.

There is no charge but proverbial Hat will be passed around, collecting monetary appreciation for the music and for donations to the church. Everyone will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there – car parking at the school and, for patrons, at The Fighting Cocks ... so what's not to like? Live music in church and then pub garden refreshments to follow!

#### June's Community Fete – our 'best ever' fundraiser!

We knew it was a pretty good one on the night but, once the bills were settled and we all caught up on some sleep, it turned out to have been a best ever result. So with thanks to everyone who helped and who came along – we raised an amazing **£3,240** which will be shared, as usual, between St Mary's church and the Primary School.



#### Stottesdon Open Gardens

Over the years, Stottesdon Village Open Gardens have raised ££'s tens of thousands for the **Nursing and Hospice Charities supported by the NGS.**

**Decision time for a possible 2025 opening is fast approaching so we need to check the availability of**

- ⇒ **\*village gardens which would like to open, and**
- ⇒ **\*new volunteers help on making it all happen**

No experience necessary, but a sense of humour helps!

**For more information and to register your interest please call Wade (718753 or Clare (718007) by Monday 12th August.**

## The Bells of St Mary's .....

### Church clock falls silent until early August – and the Restoration of St Mary's Treble Bell

Bell restoration work in July (see article and photos below) meant that the clock's chiming mechanism had to be temporarily disconnected – the Tower Team expect to have the heaviest (Tenor) bell back in position by early August. The clock chime will then be reinstated - and normal bellringing on three bells resumed. **So what happened to the Treble Bell during July? Read on....**

The Treble Bell (the smallest of the four at St Mary's) was disconnected as planned, lowered down through the tower's three floors and loaded into a van for the journey to Taylors in Loughborough for repair. Simple eh? No way!

**Project Lead, Clive Jackson, explains** step-by-step what was actually involved in this most delicate operation:

1. We took the bell wheels off the Tenor and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had to do this to get the treble to move from its pit to the trapdoor. Of course the wheel was also removed from the treble, as well as the treble headstock and clapper.
2. We removed the bearing bolts from the tenor, and tilted the tenor out of the way.



3. The clock chiming has been taken off, as we can't have it striking the tenor with the bolts out!



4. We successfully moved and lowered the treble bell down through the succession of trapdoors, from the bell chamber to the ground floor of the tower.



5. Thanks to Will and John Povall who came with their teleporter tractor and lifted the bell from the West Doorway and into Taylor's van.

6. Taylors also took away the wheel, the old headstock and cross braces for use as guides or templates for the manufacture of replacement, new components.

7. Then came the difficult bit. All of the extraneous timber added a couple of hundred years ago was removed. We removed the big main cross brace under the frame next to the tower south window; rot was found under this beam, and resin filling will be required before reinstatement.

8. The entire operation was recorded by Peter (the church Project's filmmaker) and this will soon be added to the existing excellent suite of heritage films (free to watch on a smartphone or tablet using the church "V-Box" system – pop in and see for yourself!).



*Pictures show: Tower Captain Derek Overton and his team of Mike Musgrove, Clive Jackson and Roger Cook – with John Povall. Will Povall was keeping a low profile in the teleporter cab. Plus of course Andrew Ogden of Taylors' Bell Foundry.*

Thanks, Clive – you make it sound 'easy' but it was evidently a very tricky job, and dirty too, with centuries of accumulated dirt, dust and grease in the bell pit (perhaps dating back to 1752 when the Treble was last moved?!). Chris.

# Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

## Church Service in August

- ✝ Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – We have no service at Middleton Scriven this month, but Ann is leading the Informal Worship at Stottesdon Church today at 10:30.

## Coffee Mornings

10am – noon in church on Saturdays 10<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Come and enjoy a cuppa and catch-up!

At the **August** coffee morning, please bring along a vase or small bouquet of **flowers** that are flowering in your garden that day... A prize for the most plant species flowering!!



And **Save the Date** – 23<sup>rd</sup> October - for a Coffee Morning at Damson House, Middleton Scriven, in aid of Severn Hospice. More details to follow.



# 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.

**June 100 Club Results** - £20 – Kieran Martin No47; £10 each to – Carol Hardy no 108 and to Phoebe Condliffe ; £5 to Doreen Dolphin no 72

# Sidbury and Silvington

We have no news to pass on from either Sidbury or Silvington this month.

# Farlow News

*Caroline Bilton writes:*

## 100 Club Winners for July

- £20 to Graham Kirkpatrick
- £10 each to Pam Phillips and Hazel Scott
- £5 each to Jennie Wall and Shelly (Workhouse)

July was our last Draw until October. Thank you everyone who entered. We will be collecting monies again in August / September for anyone wishing to enter 2024 – 2025.

## Save the date! Farlow School PTA - 55th Grand Fete and Show

Farlow School PTA presents the 55th Farlow **Grand Fete on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024** between 2-5pm at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall. Completion of entry forms to Farlow School by Wednesday 4th September 2024 please!

# Community Noticeboard

**Farmers' Market** on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 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



## Goodbye to the Swifts!

Swifts are one of our most enigmatic birds, and if you live in an area where they are still nesting then the last three or four months may have been characterised by their breathtaking aerodynamics and their shrill screams.

Cuckoos and swifts are the earliest of our migrants to leave the UK but whilst cuckoos do not rear their young, swifts do so quickly, starting to breed in May, feeding young until they fledge in July or August, at which time adults and young head south!

By August most are en route for the warm south stopping to refuel in southern Europe and they will travel about 7,000 miles to Equatorial or even Southern Africa. Swifts are fantastic fliers, living entirely on the wing apart from when nesting. Swifts feed on tiny flying insects and spiders, often going to great heights to find them and bringing back a ball or bolus of food in a throat pouch for their young. They have been known to fly high and fast, travelling up to 70 mph and soaring over the Himalayas in Ladakh when on migration. They eat, sleep, bathe and mate on the wing and cannot take off from the ground as their legs are small and set far back on their bodies. Instead, they launch from a high-up hole or ledge, swooping straight into flight. In nature they nest in holes in tall trees or cliffs and our buildings make a good alternative with churches and chapels particularly good for swifts as they are tall and have space around the building for the swift to launch in to. Swifts can nest on the top of the wall under the eaves or within the tower or spire, perhaps in a swift box behind the louvres of the tower windows or in a small hole or crevasse.

It is quite possible that swifts nest on your nearest church without anybody knowing, as unlike swallows and martins (with which they are often confused), they rarely visit their nests and leave no droppings below. Swifts will fly around screaming as the evening draws in and then quickly swoop into their nests in a split second and so sharp eyes and patience is required to spot them.

Swifts need our help, they have reduced in number by over 60% since 1995, in part due to improvements in our buildings, making them more weather-tight and better insulated. This good work can have the unfortunate effect of removing swift nesting sites so installing nest boxes is a great idea. If your church does not have swift boxes in the tower and you know that there are swifts in the area then perhaps you might try and arrange for a box to be installed over the autumn and winter, in time for next year's epic migration. You'll find information on swift boxes on the Caring for God's Acre website and take a look at the website of Swift Conservation to learn more.

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 **diomem2**

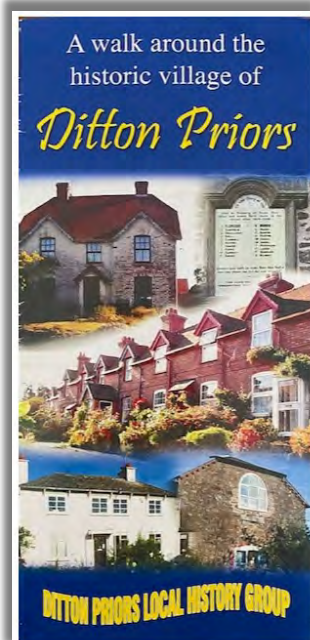


# Ditton Priors Local History Group

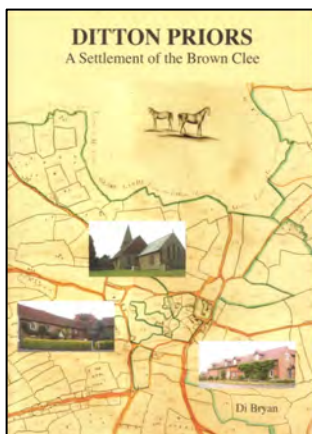
Ditton Priors History – Walk and Talk with Di Bryan – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 10:30am

Back by popular demand! The irrepressible Di Bryan will be returning to Ditton Priors on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August for another History Walk & Talk. It was very popular last time (as can be seen by the photo) so save the date!

Start time will be 10:30am on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August at The History Centre (behind The Willows Café).



Di is the author of 'Ditton Priors, A Settlement of the Brown Clee', a thoroughly researched history of the village and surrounding area from its earliest beginnings through to the 1960's. Di will be taking us on a stroll through village and its history in her inimitable, enthusiastic and humorous style. Don't miss it this time!



Join DPLHG on Facebook! Ditton Priors Local History Group now has over 200 people who follow the Group on Facebook. In

addition to lots of useful information about upcoming events, members of the Facebook group can also post old photographs and memories. So if you're on Facebook just search for 'Ditton Priors Local History Group' and click the 'Join' button.

**Become a Member!** We're looking to grow the History Group because by doing this the more we can invest in the History Centre itself – improving displays and presentation of artefacts for the education and enjoyment of all. And it's not just for people who live in Ditton; we're keen to include all the surrounding villages in order to share our interlaced history of the area. So, if you'd like to join the History Group just get in touch with Mark or Sharon Gregory at [markgregory963@gmail.com](mailto:markgregory963@gmail.com)

Annual membership is just £12 and gives you FREE admission to all our events (we try to put on 5 through the membership year May - April) ...and most importantly, you'll be helping improve and develop the History Centre for the benefit of everyone.

## Dates for your Diary!!

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - when we'll be joined by **Richard Gough, Director of 'The Soldiers of Shropshire Museum'** based at Shrewsbury Castle. Richard will be talking about the history of the rifle and the part it played in Shropshire's Regiments.

In November (date to be confirmed) **Chris Cannon from the Wenlock Olympian Society** will be coming to Ditton to talk about the history of the Olympic Games from its birth in Much Wenlock.

# Letter from Uganda

Greetings from Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College and the Diocese of Northern Uganda.

*A thought from Psalm 119:25. 'My soul cleaves to the dust. O give me life according to your word.'*

I am struck by how easy it is for us to cleave to the dust, to see the frustrations, the work not done, and miss the signs of the life giving God at work through his word. This month the students have gone out with tutors to pray, people have been healed and delivered from demons, others have come to salvation. Students on placement in schools have brought their students to Sunday evening service and they have shared songs and testimony with us. Children have gone to school because their parents have been employed in the fields. Surely God is at work, and you will be able to say the same where you are. I so easily become anxious and miss these constant miracles.

We are half way through July, and have delayed to write because in some sense, nothing is happening. The inspection is not progressing. Although the money has been sent to pay for the visit it has not yet been released to the inspectors!! We are still unable to have our first year students admitted to the University, and therefore to register them for the exams which start on August 5<sup>th</sup>. In that sense life is utterly frustrating. The second and third year students are going to have to go to Arua for their exams, which is



expensive and inconvenient, but cannot be avoided. However in another sense so much is happening. In the last month another six laptops have been added to the college supply thanks to visitors, and our trip to UK. These are now being used by students. We now have a secure cupboard in the computer lab where these are kept, and they can be signed out by students for research purposes. Thank you to those who provided the laptops, cupboard and funds. Also in the last month we have installed an early

dream, a water harvesting system from the classroom roof. The students now use this supply for laundry and bathing, and the college water bill has gone down. In addition our pigs are now mature, and two of the sows are living with a boar each, so we hope for piglets in September.

Simon has planted and weeded 27 acres, and the harvest is imminent. We thank God who has given sufficient rain, and the coffee and cacao are establishing nicely. Like farmers the world over we are now praying for a switch to some sunshine to ripen and dry the crops. We are presently preparing the tools and storage necessary for the harvest so that we can maximise the crop when it is ready.



In June we were very grateful for a visit from our youngest, Philippa, who gave us a good excuse to tour the country, and enjoy seeing gorilla, zebra and some beautiful countryside. We were also privileged to fly to UK in order to be present at the priesting of our son, and during that week to see most family members.

We look forward to hearing news from you and sharing in prayer with you. Thank you for your emails which give us news of friends. As I began, so we conclude with a reiteration of God's faithful provision for our needs, everyday and extraordinary, and we give thanks in all circumstances.



Revd Sarah Cawdell

# 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:dittonpriorsalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsalls@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



## Caring – in action!

CfGA at work in Billingsley

Caring for God's Acre is a charity based in Craven Arms that helps maintain burial grounds across the country. It particularly specialises in small country churchyards.

At Billingsley, we get three visits a year from Alex Logan, the conservation volunteer manager. Sometimes Alex has volunteers to help him; in his most recent visit it was just him and myself. Ellen, one of our parishioners, kindly left delicious refreshments in the church as she could not join us herself.

Alex cuts the grass with a scythe; this is the traditional way of managing churchyards. The grass was allowed to grow long as though it was in a meadow, then in July it would be cut for hay. As the churchyard belonged to the vicar, it was his hay. This was in the days when the vicar was also a farmer, working the land attached to the vicarage for his income. Whilst we no longer turn the grass into hay, this method of management encourages the growth of wild flowers, in turn attracting insects and birds.

If you go into Billingsley churchyard on a summer day, you will not find silence; instead you will be accompanied by the hum of insects and the chatter of birdsong. The earth is the Lord's and all they that dwell therein, including plants, invertebrates and birds.



*Pictures – clockwise from top right*

*Alex – keeping the blade sharp...*

*....And carefully scything the grass, cutting neatly around stems of flowers that are still attracting pollinators.*

*Revd David Poyner raking the cut grass into heaps....*

*Alex taking a well-earned breather...*

*And the CfGA explanation of what it's all about.*