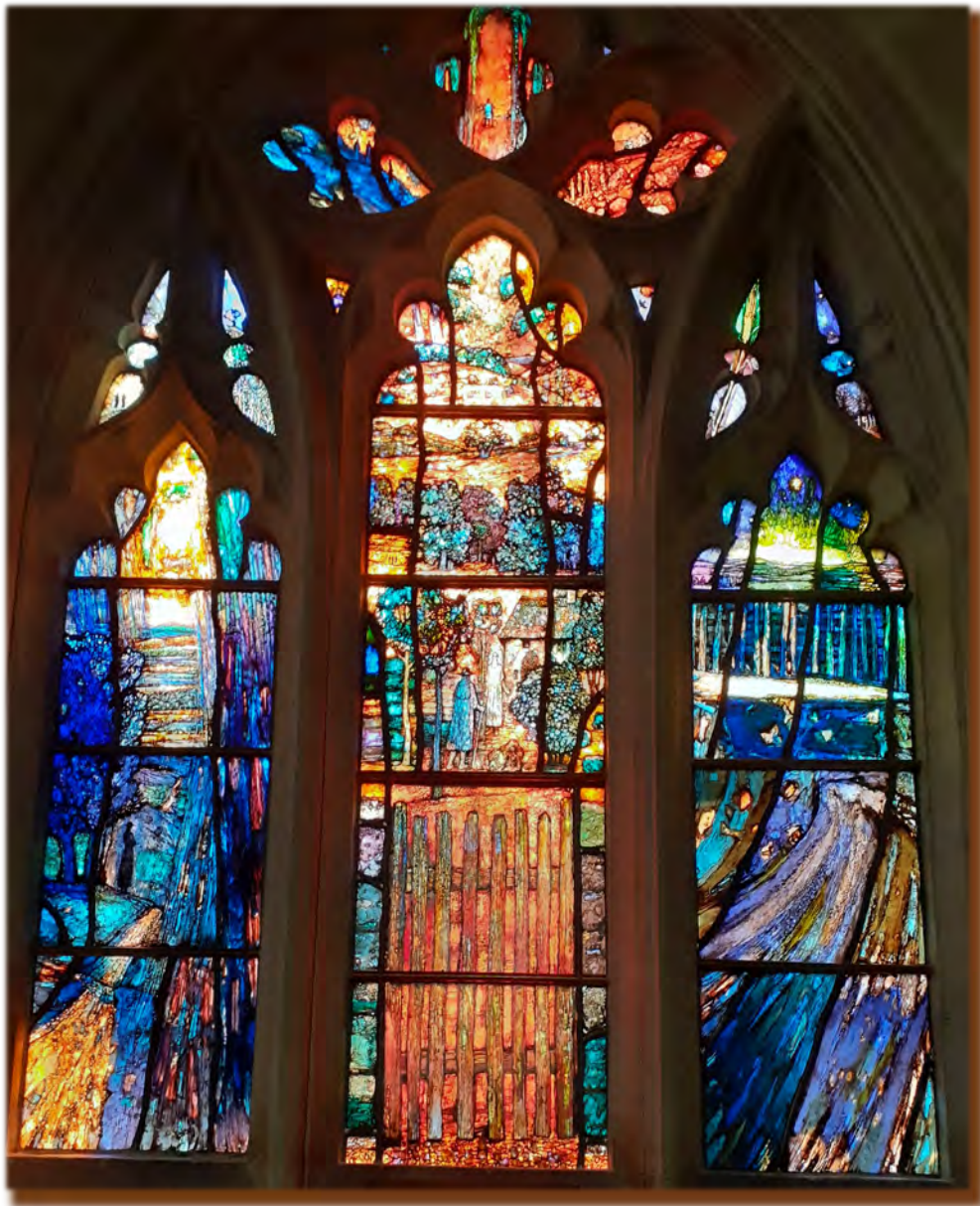


WHEATLAND NEWS

September 2024



“Come down, O Love Divine”

~

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

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Editorial

'Time flies when you are having fun'!

The summer holidays are coming to an end and schools are beginning to prepare for their return. It seems only a few days since we were writing in the last Wheatland News about the excitement of the coming holidays.

We are now seeing the colours starting to change in the countryside. The combine harvesters have been out in the fields and harvest has started in many areas. There are still events planned throughout the region, see individual parishes in this month's magazine and preparations are being made for the Harvest services which reminds us of the importance of celebrating the gathering in of the crops to give us food for the future. Many crops have not survived the torrential storms earlier in the year and are in short supply. In areas throughout the world we should remember the shortness of rain which causes similar problems for the people.

Thank you to all the people involved in bringing communities together, not only in the farming community making sure we have food for the tables but in all the other ways the parishes are supporting the people and presenting opportunities to get together.

WN celebrates community, and the good times that we have together, especially during the summer. But our thoughts and prayers go out to all those for whom times may be sad or difficult.

We regret that the Contacts list, which appears almost every month, has had to be left out this month due to lack of space!

And a little puzzle to finish with - Can you make a connection between "Come down, O Love Divine", the stained glass window on our front cover this month, and the church shown in this small picture? Find the answer somewhere in this WN!



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 **OCTOBER 2024** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Friday 20th September 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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Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk



Diocese of Hereford

September Newsletter from
the Archdeacon of Ludlow



Dear Friends

We're three-quarters of the way through our Year of Faith, which seems like a good point to pause and reflect. Building on last year's Year of Prayer, we've been encouraged throughout the year to develop our confidence in our faith, and in the fact that people are actually hungry to hear the stories of our faith and what it means to us.

Of course, by the grace of God we'll carry on growing in faith and confidence as we go into 2025, just as we've carried on growing in prayer in 2024.

But what is faith, really? I reflected on this with Churchwardens at the Visitations in the Ludlow Archdeaconry in the summer. Faith isn't believing six impossible things before breakfast. Faith doesn't require us to remove our brains as we enter church, leaving them in a box ready to collect on our way out of church and back into our everyday lives. Faith isn't a vague nebulous matter – faith has to be in something or someone.

Faith is, according to the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." There's a paradoxical firmness in that. We can't physically see the outcome of the promises we receive by faith, but we can have an unshakeable conviction that they are true, and that what we now receive by faith we shall one day know by sight.

We can be so certain because we know and trust the one in whom our faith is placed. We know God's character and faithfulness. We know, as the well-loved hymn puts it, "As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be." God has proved it time and again in the pages of Scripture, in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, and in our own lives.

When we know the one in whom our faith is placed, we know our faith is not in vain. When my children were young, my very adventurous daughter climbed the tree in our back garden. She got stuck. She was only two, and she became scared. She called to me for help, but first on the scene was her older brother, aged four. "Don't worry," he soothed his frightened sister. "I'm here. I'll help get you down." My daughter paused momentarily from her crying and then resumed her loud pleas for help. Not because she didn't trust her brother, but because she knew he didn't have the height or the strength to deliver on his well-meaning promise. Only when I rushed down the garden did she begin to calm down, because she knew I could actually help.

Our faith is not in vain because we know the one in whom we have trusted. We know that he is at work in the seen and in the unseen, and that he is at work building his Church whether we shall ever live to see that time of growth and harvest or not.

So let's keep telling one another and those we meet day-by-day the stories of faith, and of the utter reliability and certainty of the gospel and of the God who makes it all possible. For faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not [yet] see.

Ven Fiona Gibson
Archdeacon of Ludlow

Bishop Richard's video messages will resume after his holiday – in time for the October edition of WN.



Saint of the Month – Gregory the Great

September 3rd

Died 604 BCE

by Revd Joe Simons

Gregory the Great was pope for fourteen years between 590 and 604.

The early part of his life was as a civilian administrator, rising to be a prefect in Rome. In 574 he transformed his home into a monastery where he lived his life as a monk.

This way of life he lived out for several years, until Pope Pelagius II ordained him and appointed him as one of his seven papal deacons.

Between 579 and 585 he was the pope's agent in Constantinople now Istanbul.

On his return to Rome he became abbot of his monastery, after sometime he was lured away from Rome with a desire to convert the English. Apparently, he had seen some Saxon slaves for sale in Rome, and learning they were called Angles he thought they were to become 'angels'. During his trip to Britain, he was recalled to Rome to help counteract the plague, which in fact killed the pope. Gregory was elected in his stead; he entrusted the conversion of the English to St Augustine of Canterbury and forty other monks from his own monastery.

Gregory was a tirelessly energetic pope, and a charitable one, he abolished fees for burials, he looked after those suffering from famine, he would not allow injustice to Jews. He wrote many hymns, reformed the church's worship, and introduced what we call today Gregorian chant. He wrote prodigiously – over 800 of his letters survive, he also wrote rules for the life of a bishop, a commentary on the Book of Job and the lives of many Italian saints.

Gregory wrote in one of his letters:

'The Holy Bible is like a mirror before our mind's eye.

In it we see our inner face.


From the Scriptures we learn our spiritual deformities and beauties.

*And there too we discover the progress we are making and how far we are from
perfection.'*

He described the office of pope to be 'the servant of the servants of God'

In his striving for perfection, it was in service to others that he made his progression in his discipleship journey.

JS

			<h2 style="margin: 0;">The United Benefice of Brown Clee</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"> Priest-in-Charge: Revd Joe Simons The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ 01746-599217 07872-464276 browncleebenefice@outlook.com </p>		
St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: ---- Mark Smith: 01746-712394		St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN 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			

September reflection

There have been times in the recent past when we have read stories of people preparing for the future by storing up things, stores of water, food or even toilet rolls! I believe these people are called “preppers” prepared for all eventualities. Storing up stuff is sometimes the cause of shortage in the first place and ends up making shortages even more acute.

There is plenty in scripture about preparing for the future, planning ahead, to care for the needs of our families. In Genesis we read about Joseph storing up food in Egypt during the seven years of plenty, food that was distributed in the lean years to feed not only Egypt but his family also.

But this is not the norm, often storage is about self-preservation, not about sharing abundance with others. However, Paul talks of the Macedonian churches: faced with severe challenges to the safety and financial prospects, they begged for the favour of helping other believers who are struggling to make ends meet (2 Corinthians 8.4). In giving sacrificially out of their own need they were laying up “treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6.20) and manifesting the generous giving heart of Christ.

Now I can understand that we can get very exercised as we become concerned about lack of provision for ourselves, yet this should not control us. We as Christians need to rest on Christ’s promise of provision for the future. His promises and his provision during difficult times give us an opportunity to show to the world the goodness and grace of God.

This is seen in our generosity especially in circumstances where the conditions make self-preservation such a natural response. There is no greater example of that generosity than the one we read in Luke’s gospel 21.1-4, where Jesus speaks of the widow’s offering.

Jesus said:

“All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth:
 but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on”

Revd Joe Simons

Services in Brown Clee Churches during September 2024

Sunday 1st September	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
Sunday 8th September	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Chetton
Sunday 15th September	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Neenton
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Loughton
Sunday 22nd September	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Cleobury North
Sunday 29th September	10:00am	Group Holy Communion	Wheathill
Sunday 6th October	9:30am	Harvest Festival	Ditton Priors
	5:30pm	Harvest Festival Followed by light refreshments and sale of produce	Aston Botterell

Readings for September 2024

Sunday 1st September

14th Sunday after Trinity - Green

Psalm: 15; Deuteronomy 4. 1 – 2, 6 – 9; James 1. 17 – end;
Mark 7. 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23

Sunday 8th September

15th Sunday after Trinity - Green

Psalm: 125, 146; Isaiah 35. 4 – 7a; James 2. 1 – 10 (11 – 13) 14 – 17;
Mark 7. 24 - end

Sunday 15th September

16th Sunday after Trinity - Green

Psalm: 19; Isaiah 50. 4 – 9a; James 3. 1 – 12; Mark 8. 27 - end

Sunday 22nd September

17th Sunday after Trinity - Green

Psalm: 1, 54; Jeremiah 11. 18 – 20; James 3. 13 – 4.3, 7 – 8a;
Mark 9. 30 - 37

Sunday 29th September

18th Sunday after Trinity - Green

Psalm: 103. 19 – end; Revelation 12. 7 – 12; Hebrews 1. 5 – end;
John 1. 47 - end

Harvest Readings for 6th October

Psalm 126; Joel 2. 21 - 27; 1 Timothy 2. 1 – 7; Matthew 6. 25 - 33



Harvest Thanksgiving in Brown Clee Churches



- ✝ Sunday 6th October – 9:30am, St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors
Harvest Supper – 12th October, Ditton Priors Village Hall
- ✝ Sunday 6th October – 5:30pm, St Michael & All Angels', Aston Botterell
Followed by light refreshments and sale of produce
- ✝ Sunday 13th October – 11:30am, St Giles, Chetton
Followed by Lunch at Church House – please let Sheila or Lisa know if you would like to join them
- ✝ Sunday 13th October – 6:00pm, Holy Trinity, Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 20th October – 4:00pm, All Saints' Neenton
Followed by refreshments in The Pheasant, courtesy of Mark and Sarah
- ✝ Sunday 20th October – 6:30pm, Loughton Chapel of Ease
- ✝ Sunday 27th October – 6:00pm, SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North
Followed by Refreshments

Brown Clee Benefice News

From the Registers

- Sunday 4th August - Interment of Ashes – Mrs Dorothy Williams at St. Michael and All Angels, Aston Botterell.

Heartwarming events in Brown Clee Benefice

Revd Joe Simons writes

We have had two events in the last few weeks that have both been very heartwarming.



First, as reported in last month's Wheatland News, we had the pleasure of hosting the Year 6 Brown Clee School Leavers Service.

It was a wonderful time, when the leavers could share their memories and hopes for the future. They entertained us with some music, received their Bibles and then enjoyed the sunshine in the churchyard with their families.

The second event was a presentation of a cheque from **Brown Clee Young Farmers**, who had so kindly donated the profits from our Frog Racing Night to the Benefice.

Outgoing Chairman James and Secretary Katie presented Revd Joe with the cheque, for which we were extremely grateful. We now look forward to the next year working together.



Brown Clee Surgery – PPG

Tina Ranson writes:

Great news – huge thanks to Yemmi for offering help to any patients who want to put the NHS App on their smart phones and use it to make appointments, view their records, and request repeat prescriptions from the Surgery! TEN PATIENTS have signed to join a small group training sessions, which will be held from early September onwards. In order to install the App you need the following: a smartphone, a photo ID (passport or driving licence) and to know your NHS number.

To put your name on the list for this training, just contact brownclepppg@gmail.com

And a reminder about the AGM and Open Meeting – the PPG AGM is fast approaching! Your PPG will need more Committee Members! **Please put yourself forward by 15th September** by emailing or calling Tina Ranson. You don't need to be proposed by another member – just let the PPG know and provide a very brief note about yourself to be circulated to all PPG members. We particularly want to ensure that we get some representation from the Stottesdon / Chorley area too, so that the needs of Stottesdon branch surgery are understood much better in the future.

Look forward to seeing you at the PPG on Tuesday 29th October.

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Yesterday I attended the Funeral and Thanksgiving Service of our friend Anne Pinson. Anne was a bright spark in our midst, and she will be sadly missed. Rest in peace, Anne, and God bless you always.

Pictured right is Bertie, Anne's dog, leading Vandra (Bertie's 'new' mum) into church to attend Anne's funeral.



We've had a very busy month, starting with **Burwarton Show** on 1st August. The day was fine (no mud) and it was good to have Revd Joe next to us with the Benefice outreach tent. Although not as much coffee sold (warm day) we made a handsome profit. A big 'Thank You' to all who provided food and those who set up and dismantled our tents. A marvellous joint effort.



L to R - – Revd Joe with Marjorie Jones, on the Brown Clee Benefice stand; the very smart Ditton Priors tea tent; Revd Joe, as Show Chaplain, was able to mingle and hand out our new Benefice brochures, Our thanks to Revd David Poyner and Karen for the photographs.

Not so lucky with the weather for **Teas in the Churchyard** on 15th August, but it didn't spoil the day. – Well-attended and dry in Church and umbrellas at the ready to visit Revd Joe's Bric-a-Brac under the Event shelters. **£400** was raised for Church funds. Well done everyone.

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over, and we now have to remember to switch on outside lights if we go out in an evening and take torches with us.

Events still to come!

First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings - 10.30 - 12noon in Church. There is no charge for this popular community event - and everyone is welcome. Next dates are Saturdays 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December - miss January and begin again on 1st February 2025.

Ride & Stride for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust - Saturday 14th September. Sponsor forms are in Church and I hope a few will join me on my walks up to Neenton (or, of course, ride). Half the sponsor money is returned to our Church to help us to care for the fabric.

Don't forget the **Fete & Duck Race at Neenton** at 2pm, also on Saturday 14th September.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 12th October, 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Remember to book early as we always sell out quickly. (Tel. Marjorie on 722423).

And finally – for now – the **Christmas Fair!!** on Saturday 23rd December 10.30am onwards at the Pavilion.

Church Services at St John's in September

- ✝ Sunday 1st September - 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 8th September - 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 15th September - 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 22nd September – 9:30am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 29th September – 10:00am – **Group Holy Communion at Wheathill**
- ✝ Sunday 6th October - 9:30am – Harvest Festival

Cleaning Rota for September

- Sunday 1st September Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
- Sunday 8th September Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 15th September Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 22nd September Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 29th September Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen

St John the Baptist 100 Club Results for August

- £20 - Tom Casswell
- £10 - Yemmi Agbebi
- £5 each to Esther Piper, Mr J. Richardson, and Terri Norman

Ditton Priors Local History Group - Dates for your Diary!!

- Thursday 3rd 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.
- On Tuesday 12th November **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.

Ditton Priors Community Events

Craven Arms Big Band - at Ditton Priors Village Hall, 19th October

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

We are taking part in the
WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING
on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Friday 27th September 2024
The Pavilion, Vicarage Road, Ditton Priors
11am - 1pm
In memory of Anne Pinson



In addition to tea, coffee & cakes there will be a plant stall & raffle with all monies raised to be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Any offers of help, cakes, plants & raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated. For all enquiries please contact Tony Brown - 01746-712532 or anthonybrown100@icloud.com

Wheathill & Loughton News

Church Services during September 2024

- ✝ Sunday 15th September – 6:00pm – Evening Prayer at Loughton
- ✝ Sunday 29th September – 10:00am – Group Holy Communion at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 13th October – 6:00pm – Harvest Service at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 20th October – 6:30pm – Harvest Service at Loughton

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes

It was great to see so many in church for our Songs of Praise service and also afterwards for the memorial for the burial of Mum's ashes. Thank you, Dot and Revd Joe, for officiating at this service. Thank you to those who donated cakes and refreshments following the service.

The churchyard was looking splendid with thanks to those who took the time to mow and thank you to those who care for the church. We are a small and close knit community and very lucky to be living in this quiet, scenic village.

Everyone loved to hear the **bells** being rung, our thanks to Chetton bell ringers. **If anyone would like to learn**, and to ring them for Aston Botterell, please get in touch with Anne who will pass on your name.

It is with sadness we report that Chris Berry lost her brother and we hold her in our thoughts in her loss together with the rest of her family.

- ✝ Reminder of our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 6th October at 5.30pm. Come along, join in with well-known harvest hymns and enjoy the evening. Following the service there will be light refreshments and while enjoying these our well-known Auctioneer, Tim Preece, will be selling the produce. We welcome some youngsters to bargain with Tim, which adds to the fun of the evening. Donations of produce of any kind and cakes, pies, preserves etc welcome to decorate the church and auction following the service. Thank you.

This month you'll find **a brief history of Aston Botterell Church** on the back cover of this WN, and next month I hope to be adding more info from early 1900s, written by Revd Edwin Lipscomb when he was rector of Aston Botterell.

August Lottery Results

- £20 - Lily & Zoe Pountney - No 2
- £10 - Sonia Scott - No 44
- £5 each to - Alan Jones - No 8 and Albert Whiteman - No 87

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!).

Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Coffee morning and raffle – at the Old Rectory, Cleobury North – Tuesday 24th September, by kind invitation of David and Penny. All monies will go towards the repairs that will keep Cleobury North church open!

Burwarton & District Wives' Group

We are a Ladies' Group of all ages that meets on the first Wednesday of each month from October through to July for talks or visits on various subjects. We are a non-profit making group which, through the season, holds raffles or bring and buys and donates the proceeds at the end of each season to a chosen charity. There is a small annual subscription to join.

If this sounds of interest to you, please join us for the first meeting of our new season on Wednesday 2nd October at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors Playing Field at 7.30pm when we shall have a Social Evening with wine and nibbles. A warm welcome awaits you with a chance to meet new and old friends. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact Debbie Jones (01746 712421), Gill Severn (01746 712231) or Margaret Bill (01746 712030).

Chetton News

Church service in September

✝ Sunday 8th September, 11:30am – Holy Communion

Flowers and Cleaning – Mo & Paul

We are well into summer now! I hope those who have had holidays have enjoyed them.

Here are a few **dates for your diaries**. We have a **breakfast at the Down**, 9am on Saturday 21st September.

Our **Harvest Festival** is on Sunday 13th October, 11.30am. This is followed by **lunch at Church House**, courtesy of Charles and Lisa. Contact Sheila or Lisa if you would like to join us at either event, all very welcome.

Looking forward to Saturday 2nd November, we are holding a **Christmas Fair in Chetton Village Hall**, 10am - 2pm. This is the third time we have held this and there will be lots of new stalls to browse.

Hundred Club

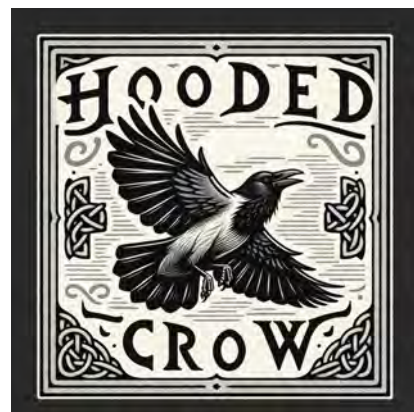
- £15.00 Anne Mottershead - no 37. £10.00 Helen Dunn - no 1.

Chetton Village Hall

Music from Hooded Crow

An evening of Irish Dance and Song and Supper from this multi-instrumentalist local folk duo!

Tickets are available for Saturday 12th October for an evening of live music, dancing and supper. £15.00, from Marilyn on 789666 and Sue on 789239.



Embroidery Workshop - For "12 days of Christmas" bunting. All levels of experience, all materials provided. 7-week course on Wednesday afternoons, from 6th November to 18th December. Enquires, by text message please, Jo on 07851 603408 or email cottagecraftsjos@gmail.com

Aldridge Shed comes to the help of the Clangers

Phil Buggins writes:



With a broken wooden stay on the treble bell at St Giles Chetton, the Chetton Clangers were reduced to ringing on only five bells. However, the expert woodworking skills of the Aldridge Shed (<http://www.aldrigedshed.co.uk>) – whose motto is “**A shared place for making, mending and mingling**” – were brought to bear to solve the problem. In no time, a new stay was made. It was fitted and worked perfectly, enabling the Chetton Clangers to continue producing their ‘melodious’ output on all six bells.



The Aldridge Shed is one of a number of Men’s Sheds nationwide (<https://menssheds.org.uk>), which encourage people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities, improving wellbeing, reducing loneliness and combatting social isolation.

The Shrewsbury Shed also seems very active – follow them on Twitter to see what goes on – Ed!

Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

<p>Village Hall Diary for 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.
<p>Sadly, after 44 years, the Chetton Folk Dance Club are hanging up their shoes, with their final evening in November. This was started by the late Robin Lamb, and we thank them for their support.</p> <p>We have three evenings of Sound bath for an hour of total relaxation. The dates are - Fridays 20th September, 25th October and 22nd November.</p>		
<p>Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire at modest rates, contact Sue on 789239.</p>		

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Service at All Saints’ Church during September

✝ Sunday 15th September – Holy Communion – 11:30am

All Saint’s Tote – August winners

- Ruth Munday and Caroline John



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

Forthcoming events in Neenton

We are busy preparing for the **Duck Race & Fete on Saturday 14th September** – many thanks to those who are ‘stepping up’ to prepare for the day and help with the various stalls, games etc.

Ride & Stride takes place on the same day so we hope to see visitors from other parishes who may be raising funds for Historic Churches Trust by visiting churches in the area and can combine this with a visit to The Pheasant garden.

Promise Auction – Saturday 19th October – more details in the next edition of WN.

Burwarton & District Gardening Club

Rain dampened the garden, but not our spirits!

We had hoped for fine weather for the final event of the gardening club calendar for 2023-24; the garden picnic, but sadly it rained. However, gardeners are a hardy bunch, so we decided to go ahead.

Judy Robertson hosted the picnic in her lovely garden with its stunning views of Titterstone Clee Hill, although heavy rain and low clouds meant that the views were not as impressive as usual. Despite the rain we managed a stroll, clad in macs and wellies and enjoyed Judy’s varied and extensive garden. Our spirits were not dampened as we gathered in Judy’s kitchen/diner to enjoy afternoon tea, a cuppa and a good old chat with other members. Our thanks to Judy for hosting the picnic and well done for making the brave decision to go ahead in the rain.



The new programme of meetings for 2024-25 is now organised and we are looking forward to our first speaker on 10th October. Claire Tatler will be giving us a behind the scenes look at gardening in private and public gardens and the horticultural comprises that she has to make, in her talk ‘Gardening in historic places’. Claire began as a trainee at Combermere Abbey in Whitchurch where she became Assistant Head Gardener. She moved to Elton Hall in Ludlow to take up a Head Gardener position and then took up the position of Head Gardener with the National Trust. Claire has trained at Hampton Court Palace and Arley Hall and has been part of a team that won a silver medal at RHS Tatton for their show garden. With all that experience and knowledge, Claire’s talk promises to be fascinating.

More details of our programme for 2024-25 will be in next month’s article. If you are interested in coming along to our gardening club, we meet in Stoke St Milborough Village Hall on the second Thursday in the month from October and all are welcome, regardless of gardening interest or ability. Talks start at 2.30pm, but the hall is open from 2.00pm to allow members to get a cuppa and have a chat before we begin. Annual membership is £12, but if you wish to come along to selected events which are advertised each month in this article, we charge £2.50 for a single visit. Why not just come along to enjoy a cuppa and meet other gardeners? If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you would like more information about our gardening club, please contact me. 📧

Bev Harris 📧

bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk 📧

01584-841845 📞



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email 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

Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

Our next Sunday service at Glazeley will be harvest festival, on 15th September at 10am. We had no breakfast at the Down in August, but we will start again in September, so please check the church website for details. We have also started planning for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas (!); more details in forthcoming columns.

I am pleased to say that all equipment in the church has been successfully tested for electrical safety. The electrician is also attending to the wall heaters, to replace the defective elements. Hopefully this coming winter the church will be much warmer. We are also awaiting permission from the diocese to repair the hole in the floor in the corner of the church and install new ventilation so the problem does not happen again.



Away from the church, the Burwarton Show was a triumph for Glazeley and Chetton WI, with it being amongst the “medal” positions in the various WI competitions. Particular congratulations to Marion, who scored a perfect 20 for her card and also to Ellen McConnel from Billingsley and part of the WI who also got a 20 for her cake.

Congratulations also to Graham Tranter for his awards in the horticulture section. It is good to see church members being so active in the community.

Also at the show, Tomos Pearce, Marion’s grandson, led the tractor parade in the main ring along with his colleagues who took part in the John O’Groats to Land’s End vintage tractor run; this splendid



achievement was highlighted by the commentator and I

am pleased to say that the total they raised for their charities is continuing to grow.

Many thanks to Revd David for a wonderful array of pix from the Burwarton Show! And congratulations to the worthy prizewinners too - Ed

Revd David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638

Email 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

Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

It was good to welcome supporters from the Brown Clee benefice to our evening service in August, a look at the island of Tiree in Scotland and how the landscape has shaped the faith of those who live or simply visit it. As important as the service is the opportunity to talk afterwards; as is often the case, people stay to chat for at least as long as the service itself. This is particularly valuable when the service brings together people from different congregations; in August we had people from 5 different churches coming together. Our next evening service will be on 8th September, when I will be talking about the churches Ellen and I plan to visit as part of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride" event on the 14th; see below. We also get people from a similar range of churches at our 8am Holy Communions on the fourth Sunday of the month.

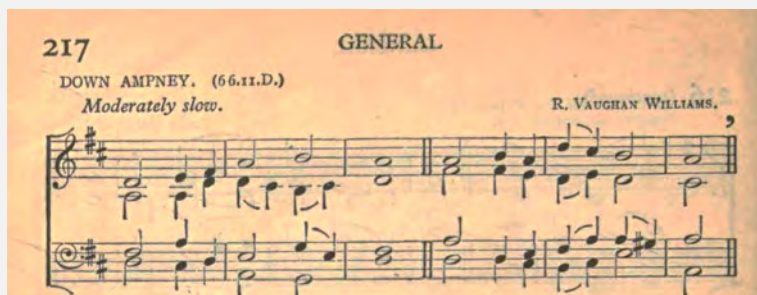
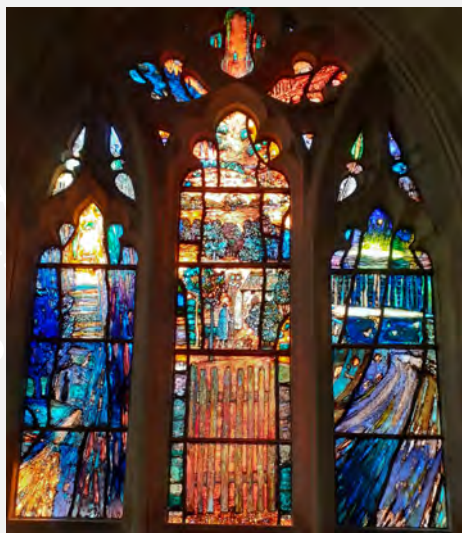
On Saturday 7th September, Ellen McConnel will host a coffee afternoon at her house at Fairfield; the bungalow on the left on the Bridgnorth Road immediately before Lincoln Fields, when approaching from Bridgnorth. It may be easiest to park in the former Cape car park. This is both a fund-raising event (cakes and produce on sale, bric-a-brac, Lyn's cards and a raffle) as well as a social event, open to all. Please come along if you are able.

On Saturday 14th, Ellen and I intend to walk round all the churches in our benefice as well as Middleton Scriven and Sidbury to support the Shropshire Churches Historic Trust "Ride and Stride". We will start from Highley about 10am and finish back at Billingsley some considerable time later. We would welcome sponsors or, even better, fellow walkers either for the entire walk or just for part of it.

Revd David Poyner – Associate Minister
- Tel 01562-68638

Email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

[Billingsley: St Mary - A Church Near You](#)
[\(20+\) St Mary's Billingsley | Bridgnorth | Facebook](#)



Answer to the WN Front Cover Puzzle

This month's cover picture (taken by Revd David Poyner on a recent adventure) is of the RVW – Ralph Vaughan Williams – Window in All Saints' Church, Down Ampney. Made by craftsman Tom Denny, the window was dedicated in 2022 by the Bishop of Gloucester to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of RVW. The church pictured here is of course All Saints', Down Ampney, and the tune generally chosen to accompany "Come Down, O Love Divine" was composed by Vaughan Williams and is entitled 'Down Ampney'.

<https://www.ampneychurches.info/down-ampney-all-saints-church>

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

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

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

September message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 11

There is very positive news about our search for a new Rector: the post will be re-advertised as a permanent, salaried role – you can read **Archdeacon Fiona's statement**, which explains this welcome new arrangement, on the next page.

Meanwhile, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in the parishes, our two schools (back for their new year this month!) 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 PCCs; and to
- thank the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

If you are, or someone you know is, in need of prayer or a visit, or Communion at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden 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 Thanks!

The deadline for the September 2024 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Thursday 22nd August - Thanks!

Statement from Ven Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow

Next Steps on filling the vacant post of Rector for the Stottesdon Benefice

After the disappointment following the initial round of advertising of a 'house for duty' post for the six parishes in the Stottesdon Group, the Bishop's Staff team and the Rural Dean have devoted a period to reflection and prayer to discern and design an alternative model for this post.

The new model embraces two principal changes from the initial proposal and it will be a pilot for possible adoption in other places too:

- the new Rector will be appointed to a full time, permanent post
- this new post will have two distinct roles in plurality:
 - Benefice role as the Rector of the six Parish (50%, 0.5 FTE*)
 - 'Rural Church Missioner' in the Deanery (50%, 0.5 FTE) This is one of the half-time posts that form part of the Diocesan strategy, and this part of the role will be funded by the Diocesan Board of Finance, not by Parish Offer

The model was shared with, and positively received by, the appointed Parish Representatives and others at a Benefice consultation meeting which was held at short notice on 25th July.

It will be adopted as the recruitment progresses over the coming Autumn months.

Particular points for clarification were raised in discussion around the consultation and it is worth recording them here for others to see:

- A. the Parish role will have absolute priority of the Rector's time on Sundays and around major Church Festivals
- B. adopting the 'Festival Church' model for small rural parishes, where the service pattern may move to be six occasions per annum – as Middleton Scriven has done – is a matter for individual PCCs to determine and decide (with initial guidance and support available from the Rural Dean, Jeannetta Stokes)
- C. the 0.5 FTE parish post proposed is not dissimilar to the previous incumbent's 0.7 FTE post.
- D. re-iterating the position from the beginning of the vacancy, there is no discussion nor a plan to close any of the six churches. Proposals for consultation over closure only ever come from the PCC, not from the Diocese.

My continued thanks go to the Churchwardens and others who are working so hard to maintain the worship and witness of the parishes in the ongoing vacancy. Please join me in praying for the person of God's choosing to be found to fill this new role.

Ven Fiona Gibson
Archdeacon of Ludlow

26th July 2024

* FTE = Full Time Equivalent

Ladybirds:

Tiny Heroes in Polka-Dot Armour

The ladybird, with its stylish and cheerful polka dot outfit, holds a special place in our hearts.

Few other insects, apart from perhaps the butterfly, evoke as many positive emotions and

superstitions as the ladybird. Many cultures believe that ladybirds are a symbol of good luck and new beginnings. In fact, the belief that ladybirds are associated with positive qualities is nearly universal – from Slavic, European, and Asian cultures to Native Americans.

There are 46 different species of ladybirds in the UK and about 5,000 species worldwide. While some sport the classic red with black spots look, others come in shades of yellow, orange, or even black with red spots. All ladybirds are beetles and have a larval and adult form with the classic round and colourful ladybird being the adult whilst the larvae tend to be thin and black.

Many species of ladybird hatch from pupae in August or September so look out for a new generation of adults feeding up ready to overwinter. Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests, serving as natural pest-control agents and helping to keep plants healthy. In fact, a single ladybird can devour up to 5,000 aphids and other plant-eating pests in its lifetime, making them invaluable allies to gardeners and farmers alike.

Despite their diminutive size, ladybirds are not without their challenges. Predators, parasites, and even rival ladybirds pose threats to their survival. Birds, spiders, and other insects prey on them. They do have defences against predators however, their bright red colour is a warning that they don't taste nice and when attacked they give off a yellow liquid which is rich in toxic alkaloids.

Churchyards and cemeteries can be great for ladybirds as they tend to be free of insecticides and full of food. There are lots of places where ladybirds can find a safe place to spend the winter, often in large clusters where they remain inactive until about March when they emerge to feed and breed. Monuments including chest tombs, gaps made by tree roots, wood piles, spaces beneath flaking bark, leaf litter, tussocky grass and drystone walls are full of potential places to overwinter.

With their rounded bodies and distinctive markings, ladybirds are easily recognisable. If you see a ladybird, take a photo, count its spots and make a note of both spot and background colours. The spot number indicates which species it is, not some people believe, how old it is. Please let us know what you find in your local churchyard or cemetery and enjoy hunting for these iconic creatures.

All the best,

Harriet Carty – Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk – individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**



Stottesdon Benefice Group News

From the Registers

Stottesdon Funeral Office – Teresa Walton – RIP

Wedding – Millie (nee Whitehouse) and Matt Davies

Services for September in the Stottesdon Churches

Sunday 1st September		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Farlow
10:30	Morning Prayer (BCP) with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
Sunday 8th September		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd John Daniels	Stottesdon
Sunday 15th September		
11:45	Group Holy Communion with Revd David Poyner	Sidbury
Sunday 22nd September		
09:00	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
Sunday 29th September		
10:30	Group Holy Communion with Revd Val Smith	Middleton Scriven
Sunday 6th October		
10:30	Harvest – with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
4:00pm	Harvest – with Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary
6:30pm	Harvest – lay-led (NS-B)	Farlow

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.

Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Please see the important note about the October meeting and candidates for the Committee, on page 9 of this WN.

Parish News from around Stottesdon Benefice

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

100 Club Winners:

Congratulations to our lucky winners for August: Alan Bamfield, Rachael Allen and Jane Dayus.

Daddy's Hat

Stottesdon's first ever "Daddy's Hat" performance took place on Sunday 18th August!

Another well attended musical afternoon as Sally and 'the Hat' – along with performers Stephane Verma and Kit Mc Cafferty- filled St Mary's with song, verse and bass guitar – plus tea and cake after a thoughtful blessing from Rev David Poyner...



Reflecting on Daddy's Hat from the performer's angle, Stephane Verma writes:

"Having only met Sally by chance outside Ludlow Library a few weeks prior, I found myself singing tenor songs in St Mary's Church in Stottesdon on Sunday 18th August to a warm and appreciative audience, as part of the Daddy's Hat series of concerts around South Shropshire.



I had sung in concert before, however since moving to Ludlow to teach music in a local secondary school in 2019, I had found myself concentrating more on the education of the young rather than my own singing practise. This was an opportunity for me not only to reconnect with my own passion but also to share the stage with other musicians and artists.

Having begun with French art song by Claude Debussy and Gabriel Faure, I then performed a song by Paolo Tosti called *Non t'amo piu*. Next was a section of songs from the musicals, *We'll gather lilacs* and *Smoke Gets in your Eyes*.

My fellow singer Terrence Mullett joined me for the first popular song, *Careless Hands* by Des O'Connor and he then sang a little known but wonderful cover version of Edith Piaf's *Hymne a l'amour*, called *If you love me* by Vince Hill.

Kit MacEachmarcaigh (pronounced McCafferty) then joined me with his 5 string fretless bass – he played the solo line of *Cavatina* by Stanley Myers before adding walking bass lines to my piano and singing renditions of

Beyond the Sea and *Cest si bon*. Kit is well known in Ludlow for playing classical guitar in and around the market square and it was a treat for me to play with Kit. My daughter Gaia then performed *How Far I'll Go* from *Moana* to conclude the concert.

A lovely occasion for all concerned, and wonderful to learn of the restoration of the church roof, and that we were the first performers to grace that amazing building since completion of the works. Clare and Chris Tibbits had worked really hard to gather a good number to come and hear the music and this really made the day for myself and all the performers."

**Daddy's Hat will be at Neenton on Saturday
21st September, with its friends Marcia & Ami!**





Stottesdon Open Gardens

Over many years the National Gardens Scheme has been the principal source of fundraising for nursing and hospice charities around the country. Stottesdon Open Gardens have regularly contributed to this great effort

Following our appeal to gardeners and helpers in last month's WN, it is great to report that the level of interest people have shown means that **there will definitely be a Stottesdon Village Open Gardens event next summer.**

Date and details being worked on – watch this space!

Meanwhile, further volunteers will be most welcome – please register your interest with Clare (01746 718 007) or Wade (718 753)

Apple Day 2024

With some trees groaning under a bumper crop (others are bereft!), it's time to gear up for our annual community fruit juicing and cider pressing event in The Fighting Cocks' garden. Full details nearer the time on Facebook and posters – so save your fruit and bottles to bring along on **Saturday 5th October** from about 12 noon – 3pm.



Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Church service:

✝ Sunday 29 September 10.30 Holy Communion - a Group service for all our six churches

Celebrating our gardens

At our August coffee morning we shared flowers from our garden - it was incredible to see what was flowering. Congratulations to Tricia Ward Jones and Sally Yates who were winners in the most species flowering on that day! Thank you to Jessica for her fabulous flowers to decorate church too.



Rowley family visit

I was delighted to meet Mark Rowley and his family when they visited the church and graves of The Reverend Dr Thomas Rowley and family. Dr Rowley was vicar here in 1822-1852, was born in Middleton Scriven to Reverend Richard Rowley, also vicar of this parish.

Dr Thomas Rowley funded the updating of the church in 1845 to its current form.



He was due to be one of the first settlers in New Zealand, but at the last minute sent his sons instead. Mark

Rowley is a direct descendant of this New Zealand family and was born himself in New Zealand but now lives in UK.



Dates for the diary

Community event - Coffee Mornings 10:00am – 2:00pm in church on Saturdays 14th September and 12th October.

Harvest festival supper: Friday 18th October - look out for more details and how to book.

Severn Hospice fundraiser: Ann Williamson invites you to a coffee morning at Damson House on Wednesday 23rd October, 10:00-12:30 – save the date, more details next month!

Farlow News

Caroline Bilton writes:

- ✝ Nigel Savage-Bailey will be leading an **Informal Worship for Harvest** on Sunday 6th October at 6.30pm followed by a Harvest Auction of produce, which is always entertaining. Donations are welcome (note: no morning Communion service in October).

Joan Evans

The late Joan Evans was a PCC Member, Churchwarden and Treasurer for many, many years. She gave the church hours of her time and nothing was too much trouble. Joan loved the church decorated and always got the bracken for the windows at Harvest. She was involved in all our village activities; she was a true village icon and is greatly missed and much remembered. Thoughts and prayers are sent to her family.



The church will be open for the **Ride and Stride** on Saturday 14th

September. The Church Registers will be open for anyone interested and refreshments made available.

55th Farlow Grand Fete

Farlow School PTA presents the 55th Farlow Grand Fete on Saturday 7th September 2024 between 2:00 – 5:00pm at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall. Completed entry forms to Farlow School by Wednesday 4th September 2024 please!

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes

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

July 100 Club Results

- £20 Carol Howells No 81,
- £10 Chris & Sam Howells No 82, and to £10 Carien Gilbert No 119 ,
- £5 Pam & George Downs No 64

Sidbury and Silvington

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

Community Noticeboard

Farmers' Market on Saturday 21st September 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 at Harvest-time !!

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

Of interest to the farming community?

WN has been asked to pass on this information from a local business about the availability of free advice to farmers.

THE CHANGING FACE OF AGRICULTURE – FREE ADVICE funded by Defra*

Is your farming business ready for what is happening? Is the land that you manage going to continue providing you with the income you have come to expect? Do you need to make changes?

For **FREE* tailored strategic business advice from a trusted adviser**, perhaps to discuss these questions and devise an action plan, please register with DJM Consulting via www.theruralbusiness.co.uk/register-for-free-advice.php, 01746 714089, djmc@theruralbusiness.co.uk

*funded by Defra's Future Farming Resilience Fund

Flora Farrell

DJM Consulting, The Rural Centre, West Farm, Aston Eyre, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6XB

t 01746-714089



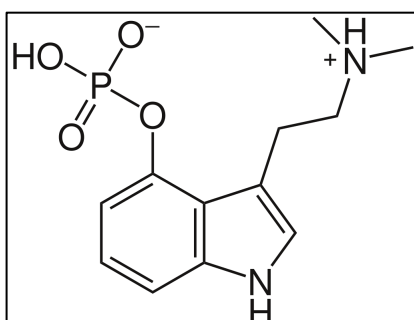
Molecule of the Month – Psilocybin

Prof David Poyner writes:



I recall a discussion at vicar school, a few years ago. One of my colleagues, of a certain age, was telling us about a moment of awakening she had in the early 1970s, when she felt at one with all of humanity. “Yes, I remember feeling like that as well” remarked another colleague, of a similar vintage, before adding; “then I realised it was all the pot I had been smoking....”.

There are some chemicals that have remarkable effects on our brains. Cannabidiol, the active ingredient in the cannabis plant (“pot”) is one such chemical. But psilocybin, found in “magic mushrooms” has probably even more dramatic effects and the mushrooms have been known since antiquity for their remarkable effects. Hallucinations and altered levels of consciousness are not particularly helpful where logic and clear thinking is required; I would not like to meet a car driven by someone who had recently taken one of these agents and today they are controlled substances which cannot be legally taken under normal circumstances. However, they often do have therapeutically useful actions. In the case of psilocybin, it has shown powerful effects in treating individuals with severe mental illness such as chronic depression. These people seem trapped by their own thought patterns and conventional drugs and therapies appear unable to break these. The evidence remains limited, not least because since use of the agents was made illegal around 1970, it has been very difficult to do any experiments on them. However there is now increasing interest in their use and new data is appearing.



Psilocybin (By en:User:Cburnett - Own work in kdrawchem and tweaked with Inkscape, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5785906>)

Psilocybin is a simple molecule; it is a derivative of serotonin (also known as 5-hydroxytryptamine, 5HT), a chemical naturally made in nerve cells and released as a transmitter, when one nerve cell communicates with a neighbour. Serotonin activates its target nerves cells by binding to a protein found on the outside of the cell. There are numerous different types of these; psilocybin produces its effects by binding to a version known as the 5HT_{2a} receptor. One attempt to exploit its therapeutic potential has been make versions of it that activate this receptor but do not cause the psychedelic effects and this has recently made progress (as described in a previous MoM). However, an alternative view is to regard these effects as having positive benefits, in which case the drug itself could be given under medical supervision.

Recent work has looked at how psilocybin causes psychedelia, the changed experience of consciousness. It seems to change the pattern of communication between nerves in the brain; to use an analogy from computers, it “reboots” the brain. It seems particularly effective at resetting patterns of activity that are believed to contribute to our self-awareness. This is more-or-less what therapists try to achieve when they attempt to reset the thought patterns of people with long-term mental illness; to root out the negative thoughts. Thus there is now a possible rationale for the potential effectiveness of psilocybin in psychiatry.

As a vicar, I have additional interests in psilocybin and related agents. Many who have taken it have described the effects as a spiritual experience and there is evidence that magic mushrooms were taken in ancient times as part of religious rituals. I do not lace communion wine because there is no need to do this, but in a deep religious experience, there is often a reset of the brain; new paths of communication between nerves occur as the person comes to see the world and themselves in a different light. Research on psilocybin gives us insight into what happens in our brains in our deepest moments of prayer.

DRP

Wheatland Diary - Complete for all known events as this edition goes to press!!

Fri	6	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – “Oppenheimer” at Chetton VH - see page
Sat	7	Sept	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	7	Sept	Coffee afternoon with Ellen McConnel – Billingsley – see page 17 for full information.
Sat	7	Sept	Farlow School Grand Fete and Show – Farlow & Oreton VH – 2:00pm – see page 24
Sat	14	Sept	Neenton Fete and Duck Race – see page 15
Sat	14	Sept	Ride + Stride! See individual parish information, or check the website!
Sat	14	Sept	Coffee morning – 10am – noon, Middleton Scriven Church – see page 24
Sun	15	Sept	Midnight deadline for volunteering for the BCMP PPG Committee – see page 9
Fri	20	Sept	WN Editor’s copy deadline for October edition, please!! See page 3
Sat	21	Sept	Breakfast at The Down, 9:00am – for Chetton Church – see page 13
Sat	21	Sept	Daddy’s Hat – Marcia and Ami play at Neenton Church, 3:00pm – see page 22
Tues	24	Sept	Coffee Morning & Raffle, The Old Rectory Cleobury North, for church repairs – see page 13
Fri	27	Sept	World’s Biggest Coffee Morning – MacMillan – Pavilion, Ditton Priors – 11am – 1pm - see page 11
Wed	2	Oct	Burwarton & District Wives’ Group – Pavilion, Ditton Priors, 7:30pm – see page 13
Tue	3	Oct	DP Local History Group, DPVH – the rifle and Shropshire’s regiments – see page 11
Sat	5	Oct	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	5	Oct	Apple Day at the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon, noon – 3:00pm – see page 23
Thur	10	Oct	Burwarton & District Garden Club – new season – Stoke St Milborough VH 2:00pm see page 15
Sat	12	Oct	Chetton VH – folk duo The Hooded Crow – Supper – see page 13
Sat	12	Oct	Coffee morning – 10am – noon, Middleton Scriven Church – see page 24
Sat	12	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors VH – book early!! see page 10
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 15
Wed	23	Oct	Fundraiser coffee morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 24
Tue	29	Oct	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting, DPVH, 7:00pm – see page 9
Sat	2	Nov	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	2	Nov	Christmas Fair – Chetton Village Hall – 10:00am – 2:00pm – see page 13
Wed	6	Nov	1 st Embroidery Workshop 7 weeks course – Chetton VH – see page 13
Tue	12	Nov	DP Local History Group, DPVH – The Olympics and Much Wenlock – see page 11
Sat	7	Dec	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10
Sat	23	Dec	Christmas Fair at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors – see page 10
Sat	1	Feb	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 10

And as a finale, a fabulously atmospheric moment from the Shrewsbury Steam Fair at Onslow Park on 25th August – thanks again to Revd David Poyner.



St Michael and All Angels - a potted history, taken from notes made by Revd Edwin Lipscomb (1831 - 1923), sometime Rector.

The first mention of Aston Botterell Church was made in 1168 but it is not until 1291 that there is anything concrete to say about it. This Church was expressed of having a value of £10.

This church was grander than its neighbours Cleobury North and Burwarton. There is an original window in the chancel and this, coupled with the style of the priest's doorway, indicates that it belonged to a transitional period between Norman and Early English periods.

Most of the chancel furniture is Jacobean and generally is very fine. The pews and rails are something special, heavily carved and embossed. The Minister's seat by the altar is most elaborately carved, a splendid piece of craftsmanship of an earlier age. The choir seats and pews are of a similar standard with very fine carvings of poppy heads and misericords. Generally it is quite superior for a small country church.



One of the highlights of the church is William Botterell's canopied tomb, depicting himself, wife and three children - two girls and a boy [*his image is out of our view, at the end of the tomb*].

The tower was rebuilt in 1883 but the tower arch is still the original 12th century Early English. It is said that the tower is large enough for 8 bells but it has never had 8 full-sized bells. It has three large bells, which date back to 1767 plus one small bell. The porch was added in 1639 and the buttresses were all renewed in the 19th century except for the north corner of the chancel, which is original 15th century. There was a great outpouring of wealth in the second half of the 19th century, and it is almost 100% certain that they have undertaken some massive reconstruction during the late Victorian era.



William Botterell's tomb, drawn on 11th June 1795 by Revd Edward Williams
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St Michael's today