


WHEATLAND NEWS

October 2024



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

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Editorial

The Harvest season of thanksgiving and celebrations has arrived. Dates for services which often include auction of produce or donations to food banks are listed in this month's magazine. The year has proved very difficult for all types of farming and produce growing, not forgetting the local flower farms, with the torrential rain we have experienced during the sowing and reaping months. However, the churches will be decorated, and hymns will ring out in thanksgiving for our countryside and all the creatures, large and small, who inhabit the beautiful countryside of Shropshire. Put the dates in your diaries and enjoy the various different ways in which we can enjoy our land!

The front page of this month's Wheatland News is a copy of an original painting by David Spencer Stoves who visited the Annual Duck Race & Fete at Neenton (report on page 18). If you look carefully you will see silhouettes of people as he saw them during the sunny afternoon.

David Spencer Stoves spent his childhood in South Shropshire. He attended Shrewsbury School of Art and went on to Loughborough College of Art and received a BA Hons in Textiles and Fashion design. Throughout his career as an artist David taught life drawing, watercolours, anatomy textiles and embroidery, at Ludlow Collage, Kidderminster School of Art, Hay-on-Wye Art Centre. His most powerful influence is Rembrandt. David studied his technique of painting and is now very practised. He is inspired by Rembrandt's love of humanity and seeks out his own through the works of the great Master.

David lived in Selbourne, Hampshire, for many years, where he predominantly painted landscapes and wild flowers. He moved to Normandy mid 2000's, inspired by place and nature. On a recent visit to the UK he revisited Neenton where, as a young man, he spent many hours playing cricket with the late Edwin Moreton and was able to talk to members of Edwin's family and also caught up with other friends from his early painting days. We are delighted to be able to reproduce his painting of the Orchard garden at the Pheasant on one of the warmest and sunny days of this year. Thank you, David.

Ed

Important note from the editor:

As everyone knows, WN does not print adverts nor accept money for anything that is printed in it. Nevertheless, organisations are catching on to WN and other parish magazines to promulgate information about their services. When these are appropriate, we are glad to include them to help our readers, and we will start to produce an 'alternative' local contacts list to ensure that their details remain available.

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 **November 2024** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Friday 25th October 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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Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
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Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk



Diocese of Hereford

October Newsletter from the Archdeacon of Hereford



Dear Friends

As I write this in early September the shops are filling up with Christmas cakes and mince pies but alongside these are Halloween goods. When I was growing up Halloween was barely mentioned, and Trick or Treat was something the Americans did on Greenham Common Airbase. We had Guy Fawkes nights, with fireworks, parties and 'Penny for the Guy'. Whilst Halloween celebrations have become a feature of our culture it has become associated with spooks, ghouls and witches and things that go bump in the night! Yet it is actually a Christian festival, All Hallows' Eve - this is the traditional title for what we now call Hallowe'en.

Hallowe'en has its heart in the Old English word 'hallowed' meaning holy or sanctified. In the Christian tradition it was a day of preparation and fasting prior to celebrating All Saints' day. It certainly wasn't associated with pranks, spooks, ghouls and witches but much more about preparing our hearts and minds to remember the Saints and those Christians who had died and joined the Communion of Saints. The festival that followed was deliberately designed to counter some of the superstitions surrounding the old end to summer and the coming of winter - the old Celtic festival of Samhain. Within church history it was only later that the commemoration of the dead, All Souls followed All Saints. It has become today an opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed and to give thanks for lives well led. As Christians we can rejoice that those who die in faith are now at rest and peace with God.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

In more recent liturgical thinking this season now marks the beginning of the Kingdom season when we reflect on what it means to be citizens of heaven. However it is the idea of setting aside a day of fasting and prayer which struck me. I think somewhere along the way we have lost the real art of fasting not least because various slimming companies have rather stolen the idea to simply mean going without food! Fasting is not simply about going without food or giving something up, it is primarily about taking something on, it is about giving ourselves space and time to allow God to speak with us and to shape who we are. It also isn't about telling everyone that we are doing it to draw attention to our spiritual well-being. Jesus was clear that fasting is something we do quietly and privately.

Fasting in biblical terms is also a call to action. It is a moment when we draw near to God but we also look out to the world in acts of love and service. Fasting in the scriptures is always for a purpose beyond ourselves and for the benefit of others. It is part of the mission of the church that we are called to serve those who we live amongst and to reach out with God's love to our world. Seen through God's eyes fasting is a call to action and mission.

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, ..." Isaiah 58:6-7

As October brings autumn on and the nights draw in let us not forget to pray, give thanks for loved ones we see no longer and remember that we are called to serve our communities.

*Ven Derek Chedzey
Archdeacon of Hereford*

Bishop Richard's weekly video message

We mourn with Bishop Richard for the recent death of his father.

In his first video message since before the summer break, recorded during his attendance at the annual College of Bishops' meeting in Oxford, Bishop Richard describes how Jesus reveals God to us, and welcomes us into His family for all eternity.

All of the Bishop's messages, and transcripts, can be found on the Diocese of Hereford website, at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/bishop-of-herefords-message/>, and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@hfddiocese>



Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group and Brown Clee Health and Well-being Community Society Ltd (BCH&WBS) 3rd Public Update August 2024

Many of you will be aware that the Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group have been working on developing a strategy to purchase and run the Brown Clee Medical premises at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon.

As a result of much research and consultation, a new community benefit society has been registered by the name of Brown Clee Health and Well-being Community Society Ltd. This entity will replace the former unincorporated entity, the BCMP Community Group, which will be formally wound up at a Special Meeting on 24th September 2024 at 1800 hrs in Ditton Priors Pavilion.

The Society will apply for grants from various sources, followed by a Community Share offer allowing members to purchase shares in the Society. The money raised will enable the community to purchase the premises at Ditton priors and Stottesdon, thereby securing their future for the community. It is Dr. Bassett's express wish that the premises are owned and run by the local community rather than by a commercial, limited company who's prime consideration would be returning a profit to their shareholders.

The Committee has also come to the conclusion that this project provides an additional opportunity to help fund and manage other health related services and activities within the Practice catchment area. Therefore, the Objects of the BCH&WCS Ltd are wholly charitable with the intention to obtain charitable status with HMRC at a suitable point in the future.

There is currently no firm date when the purchase of the properties will happen, although it is unlikely to be before the fourth quarter of 2025. This timescale should allow the Society time to accumulate sufficient grant and share ownership funds to proceed with the purchase.

As with the previous Community Group, Membership of the BCH&WCS Ltd will be open to any patient of the Brown Clee Medical Practice. Membership will be attained through the purchase of shares. Further information will be communicated in due course. Meanwhile, anyone wishing to receive a copy of the committee minutes and updates from the new community Group may do so by emailing bchealthandwellbeing@btinternet.com

Saint of the Month – Saint Teresa of Avila

1515 – 1582

15th October

by Revd Joe Simons



Ecstasy of St. Teresa, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, 1647-1652

Teresa was born to an aristocratic family in Avila, Spain.

She was educated by Augustinian nuns in the town. During her time there whilst she was recovering from illness, she studied the works of Jerome, which were written to the early church providing instruction on a Christian moral life. He often focused on how women should live a life devoted to Jesus. This influenced her decision to become a nun and she entered a Carmelite convent at Avila in Castile when she was aged twenty.

A year later she fell ill a second time, and was treated outside the convent, but returned again three years later after she had recovered. During her time within the order she experienced divine visions, including a remarkable experience as if a spear of divine love were piercing her heart.

In 1568 she founded her own reformed Carmelite monastery at Durelo. She went on to found 17 more convents with the support of her close friend Saint John of the Cross.

All these communities were disciplined and poor, with an emphasis on the priority of the sisters to pray.

She wrote a treatise called "The Way to Perfection" for her nuns. She was a warm and tender person with a sense of humour. Being small in stature she described herself as 'half a friar'. She also wrote to an ally that, 'God treats his friends terribly, though he does them no wrong in this, since he treated his Son in the same way.'

Although she was a strict adherent to the discipline of prayer, she was a cheerful person. Saint Teresa travelled extensively and fought against opposition to reform the whole Carmelite order.


She continued to write producing an autobiography many letters and a second spiritual work, "The Interior Castle".

Her lasting legacy was to underscore the importance of a reflective and contemplative living, and for a simple life of service.

She wrote:

'Though we do not have our Lord with us in bodily presence, we have our neighbour, who, for the ends of love and loving service, is as good as our Lord himself'.

JS

		<h2>Brown Clee Churches</h2> <p>Priest-in-Charge: Revd Joe Simons</p> <p>The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire WV16 6SQ</p> <p>01746-599217 07872-464276</p> <p>browncleebenefice@outlook.com</p>
<p>St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton</p> <p>CHURCHWARDENS</p> <p>Carole Smith: Mark Smith: 01746-712394</p>	<p>St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell</p> <p>CHURCHWARDENS</p> <p>Anne Preece: 01746-787237</p> <p>Ben Upton: 07870-160039</p>	
<p>St Giles, Chetton</p> <p>CHURCHWARDEN</p> <p>Sheila Millington: 01746-789443</p>	<p>SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North</p> <p>CHURCHWARDENS</p> <p>Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676</p> <p>Jane Bufton: 07716-877421</p>	<p>All Saints', Neenton</p> <p>CHURCHWARDEN</p> <p>Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093</p>

October reflection

As we get older, we can suffer from a heightened state of anxiety. We can worry about our health, our financial situation, how will we be cared for as we become infirm, the list goes on..... Unfortunately, we do not have the elixir of life: we can't stop the biological clock from doing what it does, despite the best efforts of billionaires to cryogenically freeze themselves to be revived in the future.

But with growing old comes a greater sense of clarity, of identifying real and true priorities. It allows us the time and the space to 'be' and not always to 'do'. All those aspects of the past that we may have held dear now have a true and more grounded perspective. What becomes most important is our love for others and our relationships with those around us. The baggage that we carry can be let go, and we can be free again to come to who we are and what we are in simplicity of heart.

What that engenders within us is personal to us, we are still able to give of ourselves before we approach our creator. There is a myriad of opportunities for us to help and love others, within the voluntary sector or indeed across our community locally. We can share our experiences allowing others to learn from them and we can offer wisdom, guidance and insight to others who need help and support.

Whilst our time for climbing Snowdon may have passed, now there is always time enough to witness to the Kingdom of God. Like Peter we might be scared to step out of the boat, but when Jesus beckons, we are never alone and always supported, besides you have got nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Revd Joe Simons

From the Registers of Brown Clee Churches

Monday 19th August	Funeral Service of Ms Yvonne Margaret Anne Pinson at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors
Saturday 14th September	Baptism of Maddison Joy Bick at All Saints Church, Neenton
Sunday 15th September	Baptism of Sienna Rose Lloyd at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

Services in Brown Clee Churches during October 2024

Sunday 6th October	9:30am	Harvest Festival	Ditton Priors
	5:30pm	Harvest Festival	Aston Botterell
Followed by light refreshments and sale of produce			
Sunday 13th October	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Harvest Festival	Chetton
	Followed by Lunch at Church House – please let Lisa or Sheila know if you wish to join		
	6:00pm	Harvest Festival	Wheathill
Sunday 20th October	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	4:00pm	Harvest Festival	Neenton
	Followed by Refreshments at The Pheasant		
	6:30pm	Harvest Festival	Loughton
Sunday 27th October	10:00am	Group Holy Communion	Chetton
	6:00pm	Harvest Festival	Cleobury North
Followed by Light Refreshments			
Sunday 3rd November	9:30am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
	11:30am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
	4:00pm	All Souls	Ditton Priors

Readings for October 2024

Harvest Readings for 6th October 19 th Sunday after Trinity – Green	Psalm 126 Joel 2. 21 – 27, 1 Timothy 6. 6 – 10, Matthew 6. 25 – 33
Sunday 13th October 20 th Sunday after Trinity – Green	Psalm 90. 12 – end Amos 5.6 – 7, 10 – 15; Hebrews 4. 12 – end; Mark 10. 17 – 31
Or Harvest readings	Psalm 126 Joel 2. 21 – 27, 1 Timothy 6. 6 – 10, Matthew 6. 25 – 33
Sunday 20th October 21 st Sunday after Trinity – Green	Psalm 91. 9 – end Isaiah 53. 4 – end; Hebrews 5. 1 – 10; Mark 10. 35 – 45
Or Harvest readings	Psalm 126 Joel 2. 21 – 27, 1 Timothy 6. 6 – 10, Matthew 6. 25 – 33
Sunday 27th October The last Sunday after Trinity – Green	Psalm 126 Jeremiah 31. 7 – 9; Hebrews 7. 23 – end; Mark 10. 46 – end
Or Harvest readings	Psalm 126 Joel 2. 21 – 27, 1 Timothy 6. 6 – 10, Matthew 6. 25 – 33
Sunday 3rd November All Souls – Gold & White	Psalm 24. 1 – 6 Isaiah 25. 6 – 9; Revelation 21. 1 – 6a; John 11. 32 – 44

Brown Clee Benefice News



Tea and Toast

NEW!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR TEA & TOAST
After School/Nursery drop off!

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 & then
ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH 9.00AM - 10.00AM
AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,
DITTON PRIORS



Everyone welcome. No charge for entry.
We look forward to seeing you!

We have had four very rewarding events this month to report on!



A beautiful new bench for the Churchyard at Ditton Priors, in memory of Mick Hamling. We had a short blessing before Libby and her family were able to sit and enjoy the late autumn sun.

We wanted to give a big shout out to Callum Watkins he has been helping us



out around the Church school holidays as part of his silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

It has been an absolute honour to see a young man throw himself in to this voluntary work - we even had our gate repaired and some extra trimming carried out by Callum's Dad, Dan Watkins.

A huge thank you, and well done.



ALL SOULS SERVICE
Sunday 3rd November 2024
at St. John the Baptist Church,
Ditton Priors, at 4.00pm

This year we will again be holding our 'All Souls' Service' to commemorate and hold in our memories those we love but see no longer. We will be getting in touch with all those who we have contact details for, who have lost loved ones over the past 18 months. However, we would be so grateful if you could let us know of anyone you feel would like to hear from us (and you have their permission to do so). It is such a comforting and special Service and brings great solace to all who attend. During the Service candles are lit by families and friends, or if you would rather sit quietly Revd Joe will light the candle for you. Afterwards if you feel able to stay, light refreshments will be served.

Further details to follow soon. Thank you. ♥

And there have been two Baptisms in the Benefice.

The first for **Maddison Joy Bick** at Neenton Church where she was supported by her parents Paul and Katie and three sisters; Lucie-Mae,

Arabella
and Payton



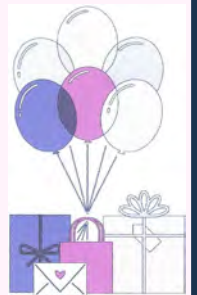
.....and the second for **Sienna Rose Lloyd** with her parents Michael and Zena, and older brother Jack, at Ditton Priors Church.



To celebrate Maddison's birth and baptism, her sister composed this poem for her new baby sister and their whole family, and recited it during the service.

A Gift From God Above

On March 29th
Started a new chapter in our book,
Little Maddison said Hello,
We fell in love with just one look,
An early gift from heaven
what a precious baby girl
Arriving safely with tiny toes,
And lots of hair to curl.
Such big blue eyes,
That you open all so wide,
Your smile, wriggles and giggles,
Make us burst with pride.
Your middle name is Joy,
And that's undoubtedly fitting,
Sprinkling sunshine on our lives,
Making every day uplifting.
And when the dark nights come,
With you drifting fast asleep,
Thinking of big adventures,
On the pathway of your dreams.
And now it's your Christening Day,
This brings a special prayer,
That God will always keep you safe
In the shelter of his care.
You're the final part,
Our family is now complete,
I promise to hold your hand so tight,
As you start to find your feet.
Everyone is here today,
To share their endless love,
For you Maddison Joy Bick,
A gift from God above.





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 & 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 wish
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 Surgery – Patient Participation Group

Tina Ranson writes:

The last open meeting of 2024 is on **Tuesday 29th October 7:00 – 8:00 pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall**. Hope to see lots of you there for our first ever AGM, followed by an Open meeting where we hope to meet Dr Matthews for the first time, and also – still to be confirmed – another interesting talk about hitherto unsuspected aspects of our healthcare services.

The NHS App training sessions at the Willows Café were a big success, and further sessions can be put on if there is demand – you can find out more at the October open meeting.

We are still trying to find more 18 – 30-year-olds who will give us their perspective on the services they get from the Practice – no need to attend any meetings, it can all be done electronically. Please volunteer!

Lots happening and please contact us if you have questions, ideas or comments: browncleeppg@gmail.com

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

I still feel a little stiff after my walk up to Neenton last Saturday (a week ago) however it was a lovely day and I feel a great sense of achievement. Thank you to all who sponsored me, supporting The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and our own church.

Harvest Services

- ✝ We begin our harvest thanksgiving services with a Harvest Eucharist at Ditton Priors 9.30am on Sunday 6th October and a 5.30pm Harvest service at Aston Botterell. Further services are listed elsewhere.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 12th October, 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please bring your own drinks and glasses, and **PLEASE** remember to book early as we sell out quickly! Tickets at £15 from Marjorie on 712 423.

Anne Pinson

Sally Yates writes:

Sincere thanks are extended to all those friends who helped to provide care and support for Anne, particularly over the last 12 months.

Many thanks also to all who attended Anne's funeral and wake. Special thanks to Revd Joe Simons for his support and guidance in preparing and delivering a fitting service as per Anne's wishes. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way - be it decorating church, preparing for the wake, making cakes or washing up! It was all very much appreciated, and Anne would have thoroughly enjoyed it!

The generous donations amounted to around **£600**, to be divided between Battersea Dogs' Home and St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors.

Cleaning Rota for September

- Sunday 6th October Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 13th October Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 20th October Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 27th October Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
- Sunday 3rd November Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths

St John the Baptist 100 Club Results for August

- £20 - Les Wall
- £10 - Dot Cartwright
- £5 each to David Lowe, Richard May, and Les Parker

Events still to come!

A new term at School and our 'Open The Book' team presented our first Bible Story on 11th September. It is always fun working with the children who take part and our next visit will be on 9th October.

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 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December - miss January and begin again on 1st February 2025.

British Summertime ends on Saturday 26th October. Don't forget to change your clocks (back 1hour). I'm sure we'll appreciate the extra hour.

Christmas Fair - Saturday 23rd November (not December) 10.30am - 12.30pm. at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors. Coffee & Cakes, Stalls and the Raffle of our Christmas Hampers. All very welcome.

Switching on the Christmas Lights - Thursday 28th November, 6.30pm in Church.

- ✝ Christingle Service - Sunday 1st December, 4pm in Church
- ✝ Crib Service - Tuesday 24th December, 4pm (Christmas Eve)

The Ditton Priors Halls Committee

Louise Tyson writes:

You will have noticed that there is lots of work going on at the Pavilion at the moment. Thanks to your support at our fundraising events and to the Ditton Priors Parish Council, new play equipment will be installed in October. We have also installed insulation and new heaters in the Pavilion with thanks to a grant from the STCE and much hard work by Helen and Richard Golding and volunteers. We have some exciting fund-raising events lined up for your enjoyment and support.

Ditton Priors Community Events

- 🌀 Saturday, 19th October: Craven Arms Big Band at the Village Hall. This jazz and swing band was a regular show pre Covid and are excited to be joining us again. Tickets from The DP Post Office and Parkers Garage.
- 🌀 Saturday, 9th November: Fireworks Party – 6:00pm at the Ditton Priors Recreation Ground: our usual fun evening with BBQ, Music, Bar and lots of fireworks!
- 🌀 Saturday 14th December: Christmas Wreath Making: at 10am at Ditton Priors Pavilion. A fun way to start the Christmas festivities.

Ditton Priors Local History Group

Robin Greenwell writes:

On Thursday 3rd October, DPLHG is delighted to be welcoming Soldiers of Shropshire Museum director Richard Gough to Ditton Priors Village Hall.

Richard will be presenting a talk on 300 years of infantry weaponry and its connections with Shropshire's soldiers, their campaigns and sacrifices. **But this is not just a talk!** Richard will also be bringing an array of rifles from the museum's significant collection which you will be able to handle and inspect for yourselves. This is a rare opportunity to see a presentation that is normally reserved for museum events only.

Start time is 8pm. Entry is FREE for History Group members and any under 18's. £3 for non-members - or take out an annual membership on the night for just £12!!

Di Bryan's Ditton Priors History Walk and Talk

What a fantastic morning we had! The sun was shining as around 40 people met at the history centre for the History Walk & Talk with Di Bryan!

Highlights this year included a visit to Hall Farm - built in 1627 and home to the then Lord of the Manor, Catherine Barker. Now home to Alan & Penny who made us so welcome! We are most grateful for their hospitality and for allowing the group into their unique home. Also a big thank you to Trish Shotton for letting the group visit the cruck-frame barn of Botwood Farm that features timbers with a felling date of 1477!

Last but by no means least, a huge thank you to Di Bryan for coming back (again!) to Ditton and guiding us through the village's remarkable history in her inimitable style. And also of course to our committee chairman and walk 'co-presenter' Paul Wilson.



Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event, we hope you enjoyed the morning and left with just a little more knowledge than you arrived with!



On Tuesday 12th November at 8:00pm, 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.

Wheathill & Loughton News

Church Services during October 2024

- ✝ Sunday 13th October – 6:00pm – Harvest Service at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 20th October – 6:30pm – Harvest Service at Loughton

Ragni and Ethan at Loughton's September evening service

A new musician in the making?

Ethan's family now lives in the cottage previously occupied by Jim Hurford and his family for the 40 years that he was churchwarden of Aston Botterell. Jim and Ethan's mum have enjoyed sharing many memories of the cottage and life in the village.



Daddy's Hat – Riding and Striding

As well as its music and occasional poetry on the third Saturdays of the summer months, the Hat also took part in Ride and Stride this year, with ponies and people journeying from Wheathill to Loughton along the newly-restored bridle-way (BOAT).



It doesn't seem to matter whether the Hat draws a big crowd or just a small gathering – those who come always have a good time!

This month at Neenton, Marcia and Ami played their fourth performance for the Hat. Sally reported that "They said that we were a 'willing' audience' (!) and sang 'Tunes from around the world in 40 minutes'. Marcia sang in her deep, strong voice whilst also playing the accordion with style and flourish. Ami treated us to brilliant rhythms and melodies, including 'Duelling Banjos', which has earned him more pints of Guinness, lined up on bars, than he could possibly drink safely in one go."



As one member of the audience remarked, "What a lovely, friendly group, presenting tunes unheard for years, in a gorgeous building!" Another added "Just a small group of people in a lovely church everyone was very welcoming. Lovely company, excellent musicians, soooo much fun. Shame not more people knew about this; it was magic".

Daddy's Hat in October – for its final outing of 2024, the Hat will be giving its first ever performance at Cleobury North, bringing with it an all-star line-up including Ragni, Bob, and

Richard Fox. 3pm, Saturday 19th October.

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes

- ✝ Reminder of our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 6th October at 5.30pm. Donations of produce to sell, and cakes etc for refreshments would be gratefully received. Please contact me, Anne Preece, to let me know. Everyone is welcome to decorate the church, windows, etc – every little helps!

It is with sadness that we include the news that Mike Baugh of this parish died on 10th September in Telford Hospice. Our prayers and condolences are with Shirley at this sad time.

September 50 Club Results

- £20 – Des Preece – No 148
- £10 – Chris Lloyd – No 102
- £5 each to – Hughes family (for grandchildren), No 67, and Jake Muff – No 129

This month, Anne has given us **Part II of a brief history of Aston Botterell Church**, Part I of which appeared on the back cover of the September WN. **These events were recorded by the Revd Edwin Lipscomb** during his time as Rector of Aston Botterell.

“The Rectory

The first house was built 1844. The last Duke [of Cleveland] told me that he and his late brother contributed to two houses, then the Revd Forbes Smith de Heriz, not finding the front part sufficient for his purpose, made an appeal to Raby Castle and with a loan of £800 a new front was erected, the back part undisturbed, This would be about 1860.

Cottages

There are two ancient cottages, one known as Cockshall which my late brother, the Cannon - an authority - said was ‘decidedly Elizabethan’. The other on the road to Norton Brook, built about the time of Charles 2nd.

The parish clerk Benji Wellings of the forge have been as a family in the parish quite 200 years.

The oldest farmer who has held his farm longest is Mr G. Radnor - "The Ford" His late father going back about 60 yrs, Every other farm is held by farmers who have lived in the parish not sooner than 1884.

During my absence from Aston Botterell. 1884-1900 (my benefice being sequestrated near bankruptcy), the Rev A.J Warren was in charge.

The two previous Rectors of the parish:

The Revd Warwick Oben Gurney MA, born 1779 - D. 1849 instituted about 1805 (*actually in 1823, the Revd Edmund Dana having been the Rector from 1805 until his death in 1823*). He was curate to his father in a Cornwall parish and assisted him in the Benefice. W. O. G. visited occasionally to Aston Botterell. None of the old parishioners remembered him.

The Revd Forbes Smith de Heriz (surnamed de Heriz later) born 1814 D 1882, patron the Duke of Cleveland. Raby Castle Co. Durham.

My father told me (his father Chaplain at Raby 1780) that the Shropshire came to the Vanes from the Pulteneys, how he did not know. This would account for all the Vanes having property at Bath where there is Pulteney street.”



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!).

Coffee Morning – fundraising for CNVH! Friday 4th October, 10:00 – 12 noon at CNVH.

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! Report in November WN!

Burwarton & District Wives' Group

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 services in October

- ✝ Sunday 13th October, 11:30am – Harvest Festival
- ✝ Sunday 27th October – 10:00am – Holy Communion, Group Service

Flowers and Cleaning – Helen & June

Pam Downing writes:

We are now looking forward to our Harvest Festival and hope by then that "all is safely gathered in", although it's been a difficult year for our farmers due to the wet spring and lack of sunshine this summer. We always make sure St Giles is well decorated at this time and we have plenty of berries about to help. If anyone would like to lend a hand, do contact Sheila or Lisa, help would be very welcome.

We have several events to look forward to!

There will be a **lunch at Church House after our Harvest Festival**: all are welcome. Again, let Sheila or Lisa know if you can join us.

On **Saturday 2nd November** 10am to 2pm, there will be a **Christmas Fair at Chetton Village Hall**. We have lots of varied craft and gift stalls. Entry £2.00 to include coffee/tea & biscuits.

On to December and we hold our **annual Christmas dinner (feast!)** again at Church House, on **Friday 6th December**. More details about this in next month's news.

Hundred Club

- £15.00 - Jonathon & Rupert - no 83. £10.00 - Grace Downing - no 100.

Chetton Village Hall



Music from Hooded Crow on Saturday 12th October

An evening of Irish Dance and Song and Supper from this multi-instrumentalist local folk duo! This is a ticket-only event and numbers are limited! £15.00 for an evening of live music, dancing and supper, 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

Flicks in the Sticks

We are showing ‘**One Life**’ on Friday 4th October, starring Anthony Hopkins.

Our film on Friday 1st November is ‘**Wicked Little Letters**’.

On Sunday 24th November we are showing ‘**South Pacific**’. This is a special event starting at 1pm for the first half of the film, when we will break for Coronation Chicken Lunch with Veggie/vegan option, and the remainder of the film afterwards. **Pre-booking for this is essential** and the cost per person is £10.00.

This concludes the Autumn season: Flicks will resume in February 2025.

Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

Village Hall Diary for 2024	<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.
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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.

On Friday 25th October Sarah Haden is holding a **sound bath** at the hall, between 7 and 8 pm.

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

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Services at All Saints’ Church during October

✝ Sunday 20th October – Harvest Festival – 4:00pm, followed by refreshments in The Pheasant.

Decorating the church will take place on Friday 18th October. **Donations of non-perishable food** gratefully received which will be delivered to the Food Bank, Bridgnorth during the following week.

Put the date in your diary and come along to raise the roof and enjoy singing the familiar harvest hymns with friends and family.

Happy occasion – Baptism

We welcomed Maddison Joy Bick into the church family on Saturday 14th September – a beautiful service which filled Neenton church with family and friends of Paul and Katie Bick and the well-known local Moreton family (Katie is Martin Moreton’s daughter, and she and Paul were married in All Saints on a beautiful summer day some years ago). The poem on page 10 was written by Maddison’s sister and read by her during the service.

All Saints’ Tote – September results

Winners are Richard Jones and Sarah Mottershead.

Neenton Duck Race & Fete

We were blessed with beautiful weather on Saturday 14th September when the Orchard Garden at The Pheasant came alive with people of all ages enjoying the stalls and games whilst being entertained by Ben singing familiar songs. The Ducks took to the water just after 4pm and gave great delight to the children who braved the cold water to help them on their way to the finish line.

The stalls including "Hook A Duck" and "Splat the Rat" caused great merriment while the favourites tombola, skittles, raffle and treasure map tested the skills and endurance of those taking part. The BBQ fortified people with delicious sausages and beef burgers provided by the Pheasant and suitably cooked and served by members of the organising team (FAF).

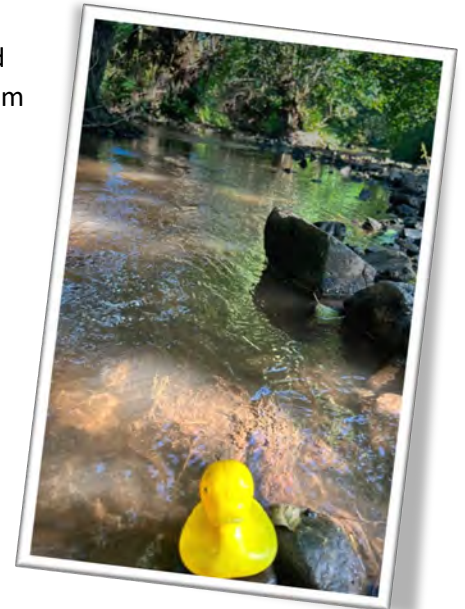
We realised the splendid sum of **£1499** for church funds. Thanks go to all those who spent

many hours setting up the garden with the gazebos and skittle alley, to those who donated prizes for the tombola, raffle and winners of the various games and to the Pheasant team for their constant attention throughout the afternoon.

Unbeknown to many people there was an artist in attendance whose interpretation of the afternoon is reproduced on the front of this edition of Wheatland News. His comment at the end of the afternoon was **"this could be a film set, it is so full of energy and enjoyment"**. More about him in the Editorial!

Ride & Stride

Throughout the same day as the Duck Race, Ride & Stride was taking place across churches in the area and several visitors combined this with a visit to the Fete and Duck race. Ride and Stride is a sponsored annual event to raise funds for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to churches for maintenance and restoration. Each rider or strider chooses the church that they want to support, and the money that they raise from their sponsorship is split 50/50 between their chosen church and the central SHCT fund. Dot Cartwright took part for All Saints Church, Neenton.



Opening times

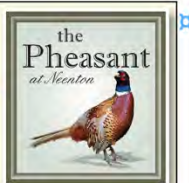
Wednesday & Thursday —
12 noon — 3pm, 6pm —
11pm

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.



Promise Auction

Saturday 19th October at The Down Inn

Tickets just £25 to include a 2-course meal and lucky ticket prize

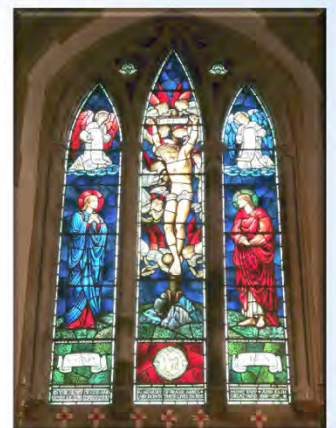
Raffle with many interesting prizes

Promises of all descriptions have been generously donated by individual people and local businesses.

Funds are in aid of restoration of the Stained Glass Window in the church which is the village memorial in memory of the three young men who lost their lives in the Great War.

Enquiries and tickets from Bobbie Jarvis - 01746 787093

Come along and enjoy a fun evening with friends old and new!



Burwarton & District Gardening Club

Programme for 2024 – 2025. Another year of gardening club meetings gets underway this month and once again we have a full and varied calendar of events. Meetings are held in the Village Hall in Stoke St Milborough, SY8 2EQ on the second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 2.00pm to give members time to have a cuppa and a chat, before the speaker begins at 2.30pm. This year's programme is as follows:

- 10th October Claire Tatler; Gardening in Historic Places
- 14th November Diane Clement; A garden for all seasons
- 12th December Members' talks, Christmas afternoon tea and quiz
- 9th January 2025 Annual Luncheon (usually held at The Down Inn)
- 13th February Nancy Lowe; Gardening with wildflowers
- 13th March Richard Ralling; History of walled gardens
- 10th April The Spring Show, quiz and photograph competition
- 8th May AGM and Plant Sale
- 12th June Garden Visit. Location will be announced in the Spring
- July/August Garden Picnic held at a member's garden at a date to be decided

If you would like to join us, the annual membership fee is £12. If you do not want to join our club but would like to come along to any of the above meetings then please just turn up. We charge £2.50 for a single visit. I will be providing more information about our events on this page in the coming months. If you would like to find out more, please contact me, Bev Harris on bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk or 01584 841845. We look forward to welcoming members, current and new in 2024-2025.

Wheatland Diary

Wed	2	Oct	Burwarton & District Wives' Group – Pavilion, Ditton Priors, 7:30pm – see page 16
Thur	3	Oct	DP Local History Group, DPVH – the rifle and Shropshire's regiments – see page 13 and Back Cover
Fri	4	Oct	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH, "One Life", starring Anthony Hopkins – see page 17
Fri	4	Oct	Cleobury North Village Hall – coffee morning, 10:00 – 12 noon – see page 16
Sat	5	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 12
Sat	5	Oct	Apple Day at the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon, noon – 3:00pm – see page 27
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 16
Sat	12	Oct	Coffee morning – 10am – noon, Middleton Scriven Church – see page 27
Sat	12	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors VH – book early!! see page 11
Fri	18	Oct	Middleton Scriven Community Harvest Festival Supper – see page 27
Sat	19	Oct	Craven Arms Big Band – at Ditton Priors VH – see page 13
Sat	19	Oct	Promise Auction at the Down for Neenton war memorial – see page 18
Sat	19	Oct	Daddy's Hat Music at Cleobury North Church, 3:00pm – see page 14
Wed	23	Oct	Fundraiser coffee morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 24
Wed	23	Oct	NEW!! Tea and Toast – St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 9:00am - 10:00am, then monthly – see page 9
Wed	23	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Middleton Scriven – 10:00 – 12:30 - see poster on page 27
Sat	26	Oct	British Summertime ends tonight!!
Tue	29	Oct	Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting, DPVH, 7:00pm – see page 11
Fri	1	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH, "Wicked Little Letters" – see page 17
Sat	2	Nov	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 12



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

Severn Valley Benefice Rode and Strobe!



Revd David Poyner writes:

The Highley benefice took an unusually large part in this year's Ride and Strobe event, the main fund-raising event for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

Highley played host to Bishop Richard and the Ride and Strobe co-ordinator, David Hardham as they toured churches on the Bishop's Harley-Davidson motor bike. A small party greeted them at Highley Church. We await news of whether they successfully made the ton going down the Chelmarsh straight.....

Elsewhere, participants took more sedate means of travel.



Chelmarsh drove around a number of churches; Glenys Williams had what seemed to your correspondent a very long list of targets.

Glazeley and Billingsley planned to join forces with Stottesdon for an extended walk round local churches. Due to a flat battery, the planned rendezvous did not happen, so the Glazeley party did their own walk to Middleton Scriven, in time for their regular coffee morning.

Ellen McConnell, Diane Marsh and I walked from Chelmarsh to Billingsley via Glazeley, Middleton Scriven and Sidbury. The weather was fine, the refreshments at the churches we visited were first-class, the scenery was splendid, and the company was excellent.



Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

We are making progress with the repairs to the floor on the church. Before we can do anything, we need to get approval from the diocese. Our plans have been approved in outline, we were asked for some minor modifications (to use lime mortar so the walls can "breathe" and not accumulate damp).

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

We have now submitted these back to the diocese. Our next step will be to see if we can get a grant from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust to help pay for the work. We will also be carrying out maintenance on some trees, cutting back branches close to the main road. We are also installing new heating elements; our heating system is currently only working at half-power. We hope that this work will make the church much warmer over the winter.

Our harvest festival on 15th September was memorable for a number of reasons, not least a fallen cable meaning we had no electric power to the church. That however is not the same as no energy in the building; we had 18 people, generously supported by Chetton and the hymns were sung lustily without the organ. Rachael Davenhill spoke movingly about the seasons of life; she is about to sell her childhood home at Picklebatch in Glazeley, but will continue to support us as an organist when she can. She has opened a retreat house next to her home near Hope Bagot which we hope to visit. Thanks also to all who decorated the church.

The monthly breakfasts at the Down have now resumed. These are held on a Saturday morning at 9am and nominally we alternate between ourselves and Chetton Church as to who does the organising. There is always a raffle to raise money for ourselves and Chetton. All are welcome, whether you normally come to church or not.

Our monthly Sunday services continue to be well-supported. In August, we had 14 people; not bad for a community of just a little over 200! If anyone cannot get to church and would like to see a vicar, either for communion or simply to talk, please contact me, d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk or 0780 100 9693.

Billingsley News

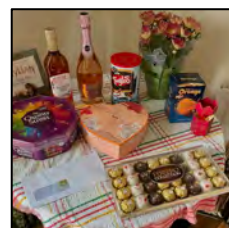
The Revd David Poyner writes:

The big event in Billingsley in September was the coffee afternoon, on Saturday 7th September, kindly organised and hosted by Ellen McConnell in her bungalow in Billingsley, aided by a small team of volunteers. It was

wonderful to welcome back ex-Billingsley residents Sue Bates and Bonnie and Mike Garvey; we miss you!



Ellen estimates around 30 people packed themselves into her house; I suspect there may have been a few more. In addition to the long-distance visitors, we welcomed friends from Chetton, Stottesdon, Middleton Scriven, Neenton and other locations. In purely financial terms, the event was a great success as we raised around **£500** for church funds; however, the real value is in bringing people together, especially those who may not have known each other previously.



Our most recent Evening Service highlighted the work of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

We get no funds from either the state or the Church of England for the maintenance and upkeep of our churches, so when any repairs or maintenance is needed, the church needs to find all the cash itself. The Historic Churches Trusts are the main provider of grants; the money they give can unlock a lot of other sources of finance.



Our final evening service for the year will be Harvest Festival, on Sunday 13th October at 6pm, with refreshments afterwards.

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](#)

Chelmarsh News

Glenys Williams and the Revd David Poyner write:

Chelmarsh is proud of its organ.

It was built around 1880 by Nicholson's of Worcester specially for the church. It is small, but has a beautiful sound and is in excellent



condition. It has two manuals and a set of pedals. If you want to hear it and learn more about it, watch a video recently put on YouTube by local organ guru, Hugh Walker (pictured left); [The Nicholson organ of St Peter's Church Chelmarsh - Organ Demonstration - organist Hugh Walker \(youtube.com\)](#). However, we very rarely hear it apart from weddings and funerals as we have no organist. Is there anyone who could come and play for us, even occasionally, so we can use it at our regular 9.30 Sunday services? Please contact myself if you are interested, d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk, 0780 100 9693, or Glenys Williams, glenys-w@hotmail.co.uk

News from St Peter's

Elizabeth Bebb writes:

Harvest is always a wonderful time of year at St. Peter's Chelmarsh. We spend the summer in the village watching the harvest being gathered in from the fields and picking fruit and vegetables from gardens, trees and hedgerows. The celebration in September seems incredibly timely and draws the local community together to appreciate what nature has provided and the hard work of the community. We are lucky at St. Peter's that the church is always decorated beautifully, and our PCC and their helpers always arrange a delicious harvest supper in the local village hall. As always this was well attended, and we thank everyone for their kind donations and for their part in the harvest and the celebrations. The 100 club draw was taken, however it was too late for publication this month, please see the noticeboards or next month's magazine for more details.

Glenys, Barbara and Janet took part in the Ride and Stride on 14th September. This was an opportunity for anyone to visit churches in the area and raise money via sponsorship. The sponsorship money is split and 50% goes to the local church with 50% going to Historic Churches Shropshire. This is especially close to our hearts this year as we are hoping to apply to the trust for funding to help us repair the bell tower (more on that below).

From the Registers

Funeral: **Nigel Palmer** was buried in the churchyard with his parents. He lived in Highley in recent years.

Baptisms: **Elsie Jones** was baptised in July. The family live in Highley but have close ties to Chelmarsh and St. Peter's. It was lovely to welcome Elsie to the church family on such a joyous occasion.

Tilly Jennings was baptised in August. Her grandparents are long-standing members of the church and the community here and her mum Katie Jennings (nee Price) grew up here. It was lovely to welcome her and her wider family to St. Peter's Chelmarsh for such a special occasion.

Update on the bell tower and bells:

The bell tower project is ongoing. We have secured the area with red and white tape to alert people to the potential danger. We will soon be able to apply to the faculty for permission to do the work. We also aim to apply for funding for the project, which is likely to be expensive due to the need for good quality materials and scaffolding to access the area.

Additionally we have had the bells checked by Ashley from Hereford. This has led to some bad news as the bells cannot be rung at the present time. The gudgeons (a useful word for scrabble) and one clapper are loose and bolts need

tightening which could lead to issues if we use them. We have a plan to get them back up and running, and aim to do this as soon as possible. Again this may require an application for additional funding.

We hear that - a kerfuffle was caused in St. Peter's at Communion during the month... as a member of the congregation went to pray, he had a shock: a four-legged friend hopped by. At the end of the service a search was made for the amphibian which had made a bid for freedom towards the back of the church and was spotted by Phoebe Strong who has very sharp eyes for her age. The brown toad (very well camouflaged on the wooden floor) was removed from the church. However in the porch 5 tiny brown toads were discovered and one larger green one. All were moved to safety... perhaps a rendition of 'All things bright and beautiful' attracted them?

For anyone wondering who constitutes our current PCC (excluding the main clergy). We have a robust committee which includes Michael Draper, Barbara Theobald, Glenys Williams, Janet Kenny, Anita Manley, Michelle Russon, Les Hall, Liz Bebb and Pam d'Arcy. Please feel free to approach any of us with comments or requests about the church and we will be able to point you in the right direction.

Church cleaning day is Wednesday 23rd October 2024.



Caring for God's Acre



By October, the areas of long, meadow grass within a churchyard or cemetery will have been mown short and raked, making it is easy to wander around and look for colourful fungi.

Old grasslands, like those found in burial grounds, have a fabulously complex web of life beneath the sward, of which fungi are a key part. These grassland fungi, which are different species from those found growing on trees or on deadwood on the ground, are 'indicator species' showing an observer that this grassland is precious, has not been ploughed, fertilised or treated with chemicals for a long time (if ever).

The mycelium of the fungi is the part below ground, this consists of thread-like 'hyphae' which may be connected to a range of grasses, mosses, trees and flowering plants. After rain, and often in the autumn, the mycelium pushes up the fungal equivalent of a fruit above the ground where we can see it. Fungi are largely made of water and so can appear quickly, pumped up by hydrostatic power. The purpose of this is to spread the species far and wide, with a single mushroom able to contain vast numbers of microscopic spores. In the grassland the fungi you find might be waxcaps and pinkgills both of which are shaped like a small mushroom, or spindles and earth tongues, both of which are long and thin. Many fungi are long-lived and may not fruit every year, some only fruiting once in a decade so are rarely seen. They continue to grow and spread beneath the ground however.

Grassland fungi have long captured our imaginations as their names indicate. Look for scarlet, parrot, snowy, butter and ballerina waxcaps. How about skinny club, crested coral, golden spindles or hairy earthtongue.

Grassland fungi need our help so please look after them. Always rake off the cuttings after mowing, strimming or scything grassland, whether it is long or short grass. This helps to keep the soil fertility low which the fungi need, as do the wildflowers. Avoid any chemicals and keep grasslands managed with regular cutting so that they don't turn become coarse and rough.

You may be rewarded with a scattering of colourful fungi looking like jewels across the sward. As well as looking pretty and adding to the richness of biodiversity they, and the other plants, lichens, invertebrates and microbes are all storing carbon in our soils, one of the many natural solutions to climate change.

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**

Molecule of the Month – Semaglutide



Prof David Poyner writes:

Two are better than one:
a new combination for treating weight-gain.

One of the areas of particular interest at the moment in drug development is for medicines to deal with obesity; being overweight. The “obesity crisis” affects most developed countries; our bodies evolved to deal with long periods of starvation and cannot adapt to the situation in the West where food is in surplus, particularly “fattening” foods. The result is a growing medical problem; a few days ago I was talking to a 33-year old, just diagnosed with diabetes, a condition which is often associated with obesity. The medical evidence is that for many people, dieting is not good at long-term control of weight, at least by itself. In obesity, the biological signals that tell us to stop eating usually do not work; hence people find it very hard not to eat. Consequently there is enormous interest in drugs that can be used alongside life-style changes such as exercising and diet, to help weight control.

Over the last decade there has been a lot of interest in mimicking hormones called “incretins” to reduce weight loss. An incretin is a hormone released after a meal to help the body process the meal; part of this is to send signals to tell the person to stop eating. I have a colleague in Cambridge, Professor Graham Ladds, who has done much work on this and we have sometimes collaborated over the last 15 or so years. One of the most important incretins is called GLP-1. It is a peptide; in other words, a mini-protein and acts on a class of receptors that I have studied all of my career. Peptides do not normally make good drugs, as they are easily broken down in the stomach, although they can be injected (as happens with insulin) and there are other tricks that can make them easier to use. Consequently, GLP-1 analogues such as semaglutide are now showing great promise in reducing weight.

No matter how good one drug is, there is always the desire to find something that works better. Some years ago, it was discovered that GLP-1 and semaglutide bind to nerves in the brain; these send signals to tell the body to stop eating. These nerves also respond to glutamic acid, a chemical released from surrounding nerves; the glutamic acid activates nerves to tell the body to eat more. So, in theory, combining GLP-1 or semaglutide with another drug that would stop glutamic acid from working should lead to even more weight loss. There is however a problem; there are drugs that stop glutamic acid from working, but they also produce hallucinations and various psychological problems. This issue is that glutamic acid acts on many nerves in the brain; what was needed was just to direct the blocker to the same nerves that semaglutide acted on, which just stop us eating.

In a piece of simple-minded chemistry, that I would have predicted would not have worked, the glutamic acid blocker, an agent called MK801 which has been around since the 1980s, was physically attached to GLP-1. The theory was that the GLP-1 would send the blocker only to the nerves involved in eating, as these are specifically recognised by GLP-1. Much to my surprise, a recent paper shows that this works; the combined drug really does out-perform GLP-1 and semaglutide in reducing weight, albeit in mice. The next step will be to carry out clinical trials on humans. If the large-scale clinical trials go well, we will have a new and effective agent to help control weight within a few years.

DRP

Wheatland Diary – continued from page 19

Sat	2	Nov	Artisan Christmas Fair – Chetton Village Hall – 10:00am – 2:00pm – see page 16 and Back Cover
Wed	6	Nov	First Embroidery Workshop 7 weeks course – Chetton VH – see page 17 and Back Cover
Sat	9	Nov	Fireworks party – Ditton Priors Recreation Ground, 6:00pm – see page 13
Tue	12	Nov	DP Local History Group, DPVH – The Olympics and Much Wenlock – see page 13
Sat	23	Nov	Christmas Fair at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors – see page 12
Sun	24	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH, “South Pacific” + lunch – booking essential – see page 17
Thur	28	Nov	Ditton Priors – Switching on the Christmas Lights! - see page 12
Fri	6	Dec	Annual Christmas Dinner, Chetton – see page 16
Sat	7	Dec	Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 12
Sat	14	Dec	Christmas Wreath-making – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 10:00am – see page 13

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 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 Parish Rep Ann Constable</i>	St Michael, Silvington <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman</i>

In an emergency, please call the Rural Dean, Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698

October message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 12

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 November 2024 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on **Thursday 24th October - Thanks!**

Brown Clee Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Please see the important note on page 11 of this edition of WN, about the October AGM and Open meeting taking place in Ditton Priors Village Hall on Tuesday 29th October at 7:00pm.

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Sunday 6th October		
10:30	Harvest celebration	Stottesdon
16:00	Harvest celebration	Cleeton St Mary
18:30	Harvest celebration	Farlow
Sunday 13th October		
09:00	Holy Communion	Cleeton St Mary
10:30	Holy Communion	Stottesdon
Sunday 20th October		
10:30	Informal Worship	Stottesdon
11:45	Holy Communion	Sidbury
Sunday 27th October		
10:30	Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
18:30	Harvest celebration	Silvington

Services for October 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.

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

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.

100 Club – news of the lucky winners will be in the November WN.

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).

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes

- ✝ Sunday 6th October at 4:00pm - Harvest Festival, followed by Auction of Produce

July 100 Club Results

- £20 – Toby Dolphin (32),
- £10 – to Beryl Davies (23), and to Ian Jordan (95)
- £5 – to Sue Jordan (90).

Congratulations to all our winners during the year. Thank you for your support and also to the new members who have joined us.

Watch this space for news of Coffee Mornings!

Sidbury and Silvington

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

Community Noticeboard

Farmers' Market on Saturday 19th October 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 are both 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

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Brenda Yates – former church warden and long-time supporter of our church, died on 31st August. Our prayers go out to the Yates family. A longer obituary will appear in the November WN.



Thank you - to the large group from Shropshire Historic Churches



who visited our benefice on 31st August. We were delighted that you enjoyed your visit and tea. Thanks to Rachel and Kate for the scrumpy cakes.

The **September coffee morning** hosted by Matt and Donna for the first time was a great success. Thanks to Emma, Sally, Tricia and Ann W for the produce and Matt and Kate for delicious cakes.

More dates for the diary!

Community Harvest festival supper:

Friday 18th October – 7:00pm in the Church. 2-course meal plus cheese! Harvest quiz. Raffle. Bring your own drinks and glasses – just £17:50 per head. We are limited to 24 places – closing date for booking is Sunday 13th October. **Book your tickets with Kate NOW – on 07810-831539!! Payment by cash in advance** to Kate or by BACS to Middleton Scriven Parochial Church Council, 20-53-22 00624888. We look forward to seeing you there!



Coffee Morning – 10:00am – 2:00pm in church on Saturday 12th October.



Severn Hospice
here and at home

☯
COFFEE MORNING ☯
In aid of ☯
SEVERN HOSPICE ☯
WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER ☯
10.00-12.30 ☯
CHRISTMAS CARDS ☯
CAKES, PLANTS, RAFFLE ETC ☯
DAMSON HOUSE, ☯
MIDDLETON SCRIVEN ☯
WV16 6AG ☯
ANN & JOHN 01746 789616 ☯
EVERYONE WELCOME ☯
☯




**CHETTON ARTISAN
CHRISTMAS FAIR**
SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 10AM-2PM
IN CHETTON VILLAGE HALL- WV16 6UE

**Autumn Events
for Everyone!**

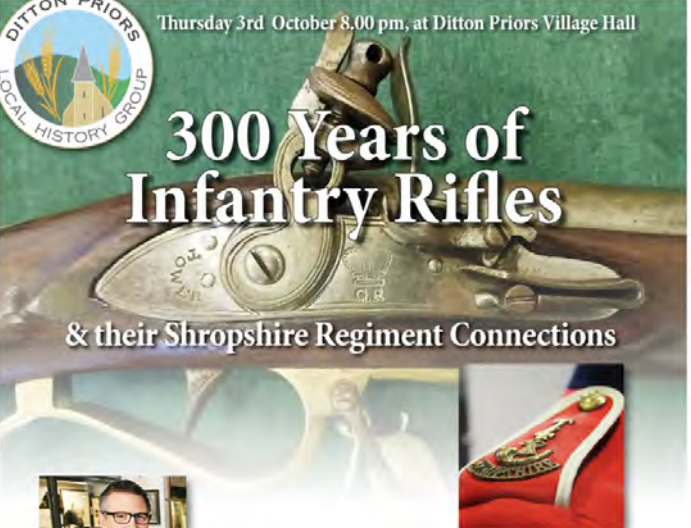


Christmas embroidery stitch along!
Join me weekly to create your own 12 days of Christmas bunting.
Wednesday afternoons 1:30-3:30 at Chetton village hall 6th November- 18th December.
All materials provided! £10 per session (includes refreshments)
If interested email Jo on : cottagecraftsjos@gmail.com

Thursday 3rd October 8.00 pm, at Ditton Priors Village Hall

300 Years of Infantry Rifles
& their Shropshire Regiment Connections



Richard Gough, Director of the Soldiers of Shropshire Museum in Shrewsbury Castle, talks you through over 300 years of Infantry Weapon Evolution and its connections with the Shropshire Regiment.

FREE EVENT

Dementia Information Day

An event for people affected by dementia across Shropshire.

Feeling lost about dementia? Find clarity, support and a pool of resources all in one place through a multitude of organisations we've called together to guide and help you.

COME ALONG!
FREE ON-SITE PARKING

Friday 22nd November
10.00am - 3.00pm
Bridgnorth Rugby Club
Edgar Davies Ground
Bandon Lane
Bridgnorth
WV15 5AD

Get in touch to find out more | 01743 245555
karen.corcoran@radfieldhomecare.co.uk



Save money, save carbon
Visit energy efficient homes
For free!



Green Open Homes
October 19-20 and 26-27

See how you can save money on your energy bills, make your home more cosy, reduce your carbon footprint – and enjoy a great day out!

If you would like to open your green home there's still time to join in.

Green Open Homes nearby!
Scan and use the postcode search to find homes near you and plan your visits.
www.greenopenhomes.net

