

WHEATLAND NEWS

November 2024



Commonwealth War Graves in Shrewsbury General Cemetery

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

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Editorial

November is the month of Remembrance when communities come together to remember and honour those who have lost their lives in conflicts past and present.

The cover picture is taken at the Commonwealth War Graves in Shrewsbury. There are 274 named service people who died between 1914 and 1947. They came from 53 different forces or units, predominantly from the UK but including some overseas Allies, as well as service people from the Axis powers. Their ages at the time of their deaths were not always known: the youngest recorded was a 16-year-old boy, 2nd class, from the Royal Navy, and the oldest a 60-year-old private from the Royal Defence Corps. Two men were holders of the Military Cross, and one held the Military Medal.

There will be services across the Wheatland Area in memory of those we have lost in our villages, often held at the memorials outside and inside churches.

'We will remember them'

In this month's magazine there are many interesting articles. We are very pleased, too, to have a report from Sidbury to bring you in this month's edition, including their lovely Christmas fundraising offer – see page 24. And we hope to hear about your events leading up to and during the Christmas period with a bumper magazine covering both December and January next month.

Subscriptions will be due after Christmas! Printed copies of Wheatland News will still be available for those who wish to purchase 11 copies per year for £18. Please contact your distributor for more information. And WN in full colour is always available on the benefice websites and through ACNY.



Please remain safe during the celebrations of Halloween and Guy Fawkes with the bonfire and fireworks and remember to keep animals safe from the noise.

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 **December 2024 / January 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Friday 22nd November 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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Bishop Richard's Weekly video message

This week Bishop Richard continues his exploration of the Creed and the work of the Holy Spirit.

You can read the transcript, and watch the video, on the Diocese website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/bishop-of-herefords-message/-bishop-richards-weekly-video-message--transcript-24102024.php>



November letter from the Bishop of Hereford

Dear Friends

A Christian poet once wrote, "History repeats itself; it has to, no-one listens!"

These are words we do well to remember in our current international climate, with wars in the middle east and Ukraine. As we remember the great conflicts of the 20th century and the political context that led to those wars there has been some progress, in the west at least. A lot of the warlike rhetoric and posturing; the appeal to patriotism, and the sense of our individual identities being tied up with national ones seems strange and dated. At the time, these attitudes combined with the arrogance of empire were a toxic combination that led to the horrific conflict with the loss of so many lives. However, elements of these attitudes remain. We always prefer our own tribe. There is an alienation that has opened people to the rise of the far right with its attempt to blame all our ills on immigration. A knowledge of history shows where these things can end up.

Christians are instructed to pray for our political leaders and to live in peace where we can, but one of the things that got the early Christians into trouble was their political subversion. There will always be elements of our culture and politics we want to affirm, but there will be others we want to challenge. Early Christian worship declared that Caesar wasn't Lord: Jesus was. That sort of talk could (and did) get them killed. The personal security that sustained this courage was a conviction that they were first and foremost citizens of heaven. In Jesus they had experienced the power of the other country breaking into their experience. We will remember our national tragedies and sacrifice on Remembrance Day. But every Sunday we remember a tragedy and sacrifice that turned into a glorious victory. Christ's death It points us to the ultimate powerlessness of violence to achieve real change. It subverts the doctrine that might is right. Sadly, it may take a lot of bloodshed for that to come home to Hamas, Hezbollah, the Israeli government and the Russian army.

With best wishes

+ Richard

What is the real meaning of 'Allhallowtide'?



As retailers nationwide thrust Halloween and Trick or Treating on families, we look at some old and new ways of participating more deeply in the season of 'Allhallowtide'.

You may not have heard the term 'Allhallowtide' before, but it has been around since the 15th century at least. Broken down, it simply means the 'time of all saints', and it begins on 31st October, All Saints' Eve or All Hallows' E'en - otherwise known as Halloween.

Allhallowtide enfolds All Saints' Day on 1st November, All Souls' Day on 2nd November, and ends, nowadays, after Remembrance Sunday or Remembrance Day, 11th November, whichever is the later. What connects all of these, clearly, is a remembrance of the dead.

Some people call it a 'thin' time – when the boundary between heaven and earth becomes more permeable, similar to a 'thin place,' a concept in Celtic Christianity used to identify sacred spaces. Times and places where we might encounter God in fresh ways that startle us out of our inattention, and we are often transformed by the experience. Might this be an opportunity not to be missed for the church?

In Latin American cultures, churches set up Offrendas in the run up to the Day of the Dead, 2nd November, where local people place photos and memorabilia of their lost loved ones, amid ornate floral tributes, candles and 'sugar' skulls (pictured below). Some traditions for All Souls' Day include bell-tolling, lighting candles, visiting graves or reading the names of the recently-departed in church.

A recent phenomenon in the Christian community is the advent of Light Parties instead of Halloween celebrations such as Trick or Treating. Children are invited to participate in games and there may be some 'light' Christian messaging around – well – Jesus as the Light of the World.

In Church Stretton this year on Sunday 3rd November at 3pm there will be a special service in St Laurence called "The God of All Comfort", where we remember before God those who have died in the past year and prayers are offered for those who mourn, with refreshments following the service. In Abbeydore, there will be a Hedgerow Communion and Samhain Celebration at 6pm on 31st October, at Snodhill Castle, led by Revd Simon Lockett - bring a candle in a jar!

The Venerable Derek Chedzey, Archdeacon of Hereford writes, "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

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.





The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Priest-in-Charge:
Revd Joe Simons

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CHURCHWARDENS

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All Saints, Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

November reflection

“Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Mark.14:9

I suspect that most of us want to leave a mark or a legacy when we are gone, in that it says that our life was not wasted and that what we did in this world counted for something. People may devote their lives to getting it right in all kinds of ways, others may simply not worry about it.

This small verse, above, is part of a longer passage in Mark's gospel and speaks of a woman who anointed Jesus's head with a jar of expensive ointment called nard. This was an act of extravagant generosity, not one calculated to make her look great but to honour Jesus.

Jesus says of her act of generosity that her memory will live in his gospel and indeed that is the case, for this act of kindness recorded in all four of the gospels, has stood the test of time. This act of self-giving love stands throughout all ages as a beacon of love and adoration.

Whoever she was, and some speculated that her name may have been Mary, all she had in her heart was to serve Jesus nothing else mattered and everything else was secondary.

For Christians the best way for us to show an eternal, steadfast and enduring legacy is to honour Jesus in the best way we can.

As our world seems to be spiralling into conflict it is worth reflecting that it is our love and dedication to Jesus which will be a permanent legacy. When all else has vanished that will remain.

Revd Joe Simons

Mission work at Ditton Priors

We are looking to revive our mission work in the care homes in Ditton Priors. This would involve a short service within the homes once a month or on special occasions such as Easter, Remembrance and Christmas.

If anyone is interested in helping out with this, either regularly, or just on the odd occasion, please contact; Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474 or Emma at the Benefice Office on 01746 599217. Thank you so much. We look forward to hearing from you.

Services during November in Brown Clee Churches

Sunday 3rd November

- 9:30am Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11:30am An informal service of Worship – Aston Botterell
4:00pm All Souls' Memorial Service - Ditton Priors

Sunday 10th November

- 8:30am Holy Communion – Ditton Priors – **please note earlier time**
10:00am Remembrance – Cleobury North
3:00pm Remembrance – Ditton Priors

Monday 11th November

- 10:45am A simple act of Remembrance and observed silence at Neenton

Sunday 17th November

- 9:30am Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11:30am Holy Communion – Neenton
2:30pm Remembrance – Wheathill

Sunday 24th November

- 9:30am Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11:30am Holy Communion – Chetton

Thursday 28th November

- 6:30pm Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors

Sunday 1st December

- 9:30am Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11:30am Holy Communion – Aston Botterell
4:00pm Christingle – Ditton Priors

Readings for November

Sunday 3rd November

All Souls
Gold & White

Psalm 24. 1 – 6

Isaiah 25. 6 – 9; Revelation 21. 1 – 6a; John 11. 32 – 44

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance. The Third Sunday before Advent
Red or Green

Psalm 62. 5 – end

Jonah 3. 1 – 5, 10; Hebrews 9. 24 – end;
Mark 1. 14 – 20

Monday 11th November

Armistice Day

A simple act of Remembrance and Silence observed

Sunday 17th November

The Second Sunday before Advent
Red or Green

Psalm 16

Daniel 12. 1 – 3; Hebrews 10. 11 – 14 (15 – 18) 18 – 25;
Mark 13. 1 – 8

Sunday 24th November

Sunday next before Advent – Christ the King
Red or White

Psalm 93

Daniel 7. 9 – 10, 13 – 14; Revelation 1. 4b – 8; John 18. 33 – 37

Sunday 1st December

The First Sunday of Advent
Purple

Psalm 25. 1 – 9; Jeremiah 33. 14 – 16; 1 Thessalonians 3. 9 – end; Luke 21. 25 – 36

From the Brown Clee Registers

Funeral Service at Telford Crematorium - Friday 11th October – Funeral Service of Mrs Jillian Fiona Barker.

Brown Clee Benefice News

Open the Book – Taking Bible Stories into Brown Clee Primary School

"Delightful * Rewarding *

A Real Pleasure * Joyful * Fun"

These are just a few of the words Open the Book team members use to describe their experience over the last 8 years.

The team visits the school every month during the academic year, usually on the morning of the second Wednesday. We enlist the help of a few children who take an enthusiastic part in acting out the story – they and the whole school, who form the audience, enjoy hearing the bible stories and pay attention to them. It is so rewarding to hear of their favourite stories!

We use props and costumes to help bring the stories to life which makes it more fun for both the children and the team.

Each visit is always a rewarding and happy interaction with the children and staff at the school.

After 8 years of storytelling we are looking for new team members and a new leader to carry this important work forward. Want to know more? Read on...

Wanted!!!

1. Team Leader (Voluntary) to give a few hours each month to coordinate and oversee the activities of the Open the Book Team as they prepare for and complete the monthly assemblies in Brown Clee C of E Primary School. This involves liaising with Revd Joe Simons, the school and Open the Book team to arrange dates, select stories and preparation.
2. Team Members (Voluntary) to join the existing Open the Book Team to help tell dramatised Bible Stories at monthly assemblies

Both posts will receive training to be a Storyteller as well as Safeguarding training.

If you are interested, a Role Description and Application form are available from Ditton Priors Church, or from the Vicarage, or by emailing browncleebenefice@outlook.com or please contact Emma Haywood by emailing browncleebenefice@outlook.com, Revd Joe Simons, or Mike Teague 01746 789592, email m.k.teague@btinternet.com.



We would love you to join us at our new monthly Wholeness Café.

We are offering a space to get together over a cup of tea or coffee in a gentle, reflective time, where we can offer friendship and support, to help one another in times of need

If you want any more details, or help in getting to the café, then please contact Revd Joe or Karen at the Vicarage.

The Wholeness Café is for everyone in our Benefice so come along to gather as one family. You will be made very welcome.

Our first café is on Wednesday 20th November at Cleobury North Village Hall, 10am – 12.00 noon. No charge

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Our Harvest Services of thanksgiving are at an end now and have been well attended.

The **Harvest Supper** was a great success, and many thanks go to all who helped prepare and those who provided the delicious food. It was much appreciated. The sum of **£800** was raised for Church funds. This will go towards our mowing costs – yet to be billed.

The chill of autumn/winter has truly set in, and our churches need some serious heating. Do remember to pile on the layers when you attend a service as we can never get our large buildings really warm, however hard we try, and nobody wants to be cold.

Now the clocks have changed back to GMT - remember your torches!

Special services in St John the Baptist Church during November

- ✝ All Souls - Sunday 3rd November - 4pm in church.
- ✝ Remembrance - Sunday 10th November - 3pm at Ditton Priors Church.
- ✝ Switching on the Christmas Lights -Thursday 28th November 6.30pm in Church. Singing Carols followed by light refreshments.
- ✝ Advent Sunday - Christingle Service 1st December at 4pm in Ditton Priors Church.

Events still to come

- First Saturday of the Month Coffee Mornings 10.30am - 12noon in Church There is no charge for this popular community event and everyone is welcome. Next dates are Saturdays 2nd November and 7th December- miss January and begin again on 1st February 2025, 1st March and 5th April.
- Tea and Toast - Wednesday 13th November - 9 - 10am in Church.
- Christmas Fair - Saturday 23rd November - 10.30 - 12.30 at the Pavilion

Cleaning Rota for September

- Sunday 3rd November Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 10th November Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 17th November Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 24th November Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 1st December Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd

St John the Baptist 100 Club Results for August

- £20 – Annie Bamford
- £10 – Mark Childs
- £5 each to Audrey Goulden, Ann Lawrence, and Robert Peach.

MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Tony and Babs Brown write:

A truly magnificent morning was had by all at The Pavilion Ditton Priors on Friday 27th September. Supporters of this wonderful charity came from far afield and financially contributed to the unbelievable amount raised: **£1883.95** - an incredible sum of money and many thanks to all traders who donated such super gifts to be sold or raffled. Also, many thanks to the army of volunteers who helped in various ways to put the coffee morning on. In short, a memorable morning supported 100% by a wonderful community which we are all privileged to be part of. Again, thank you all.



Community Events

- Saturday 9th November: Fireworks Party – 6:00pm
- Saturday 14th December: Christmas Wreath-Making - at 10am at Ditton Priors Pavilion. A fun way to start the Christmas festivities.

Burwarton & District Wives' Group

We are a Ladies Group of all ages that meet 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 who through the season have raffles or bring-and-buys, and donate 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 our next meeting on **Wednesday 6th November** at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors Playing Field at 7.30pm when we shall have a Talk and Demonstration on **Spinal Flow Techniques by Lilly Jones**. 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).



Ditton Priors Local History Group

Robin Greenwell writes:

Ditton Priors Local History Group hits the mark with another fascinating talk...

What an interesting event at Ditton last month! Guest presenter, Richard Gough, director of the Soldiers of Shropshire Museum in Shrewsbury, delivered a polished, educational and often humorous talk that hit the mark with the audience.

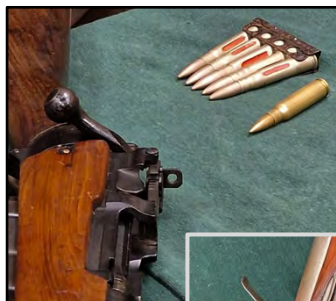
Richard covered the evolution of infantry rifles, and their connection with Shropshire's regiments through the conflicts of the past 300 years.

We learnt not only how, but why, the weapons have evolved as they have, about infantry battle tactics through the ages and many other fascinating facts along the way! Even how some everyday phrases are linked to the British rifle: 'flash in the pan', 'keeping your powder dry', 'going off half cocked', and also how the term 'sideburns' came into being (ouch!) And this definitely wasn't a "do not touch" occasion; Richard encouraged the audience to handle the rifles and see for themselves how it must

have felt to be armed with them. The event was very well attended - many thanks to everyone who came along, hope you all had an enjoyable evening.

The next DPLHG event is on Tuesday 12th November at 7:30pm in the village hall.

Guest speaker is Chris Cannon from the Wenlock Olympian Society, who will be telling the story of how the Wenlock Olympic Games in 1850, and the Doctor behind it, inspired the modern Olympics of today. See poster on this WN's back cover.



Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Church Service during November 2024

✝ Remembrance Service - Sunday 17th November 2.30pm at Wheathill Church.

The Harvest Service at Wheathill - the first for very many years - was well attended, the Church decorated beautifully and lovely refreshments afterwards. The flowers and produce were auctioned, resulting in a good collection for church funds.

Loughton Harvest was unfortunately less well attended. However, we sang our thanksgiving with gusto. Carol Radnor accompanied us on her keyboard and Sue and Mike sang an Anthem.

Christmas Services to be announced next month.

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes

On Sunday 6th October we held a lovely **harvest service** led by Rev Joe, Mike and the choir. After light refreshments were served, Tim Preece sold the produce adding a lot of fun to the sale. My thanks to all who helped provide cakes etc and supported our service. We are so grateful to be able to keep this lovely church in our community going.

New flooring

My thanks go to Roger Preece who has completed the flooring in the church. It looks lovely. Several pieces were rotten, so hopefully this will last for a very long time. Currently the electrics are being updated. Thank you to all who donate money in different ways, it has been put to good use in our church making it look lovely.

Musical Evening!

On December 22nd we are holding a musical evening with a brass band playing carols and the congregation singing along! The service will be led by Revd Joe, and Father Christmas will be in attendance – children note!! Light



refreshments to follow the service. We would be grateful for people to let us know if they are coming so it gives us an idea on numbers for catering and for Father Christmas. Thank you

We just want to have a lovely Christmas so this will be a good start. The church will be decorated inside and out. Any donations towards refreshments will be much appreciated!

And please - can we all decorate our places in Astonilluminated



Don't forget Meg Hawkins Xmas things / shopping...at Burwarton.

October 50 Club Results - £20 – Debbie Jones no 10, £10 – Lord Boyne no 112, £5 each to – Iris Meredith no 72, and David Green no 213.

More insights into the history of Aston Botterell

Anne Preece recounts:

The following dates may have been of general interest to the parishioners of Aston Botterell and are to be found recorded in the minute book 1894—1949

December 1899.....Her Majesty's Jubilee fund 1887 (50 yrs reign) still unspent - to be used on folding oak doors between the vestry and church...

June 1900.....Permission given for a light railway to be built through a portion of the Parish.

1909.....proposed balance of Jubilee fund 1887 be towards a mission room. Suggested rented room.

June 23rd 1911.....Coronation celebration in the Parish - sports. Knife-and-fork tea. Mr Williamson presented a new penny to each child. Also given a Coronation Mug, brooches, children's procession etc. This particular event makes very enjoyable reading in the minute book.

1914...cottage given up - due to lack of repair - much against the wishes of. Rev Lipscombe

1916...Jubilee fund proposed to be spent on brass lectern - also door into the Vestry.

Nov 1923...Rev Lipscombe died.

1924....Organ purchased from Delbury church for £10. Removing and installing for £20..... dedicated to the late Rev Lipscombe. Old organ sold for £4.10

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!).

Regular coffee mornings are being held in the Hall, in aid of CNVH funds – please contact Julia in Cleobury North shop for information on dates and times.

Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Coffee morning and raffle held on Tuesday 24th September

Jane Bufton writes:

Thank you to David and Penny for their kind hospitality at the Old Rectory, and for the generosity of the people who supported this event, including the helpers. A grand total of **£630** was made for church repairs.

Daddy's Hat went to Cleobury North

Revd Kina Robertshaw writes:

The day began with a dreary, rainy morning. As we made our way to breakfast at the Down Inn, my colleague observed that the weather seemed indecisive, unsure if it would rain or clear up. Fortunately, the sun finally appeared just as we bade farewell to the folks and set off for our next adventure—the Chelmarsh Christmas Craft Fair.

Later that afternoon, we concluded our day by attending the Daddy's Hat concert arranged by Sally Russell at St. Peter and St. Paul, Cleobury North Church. Walking into the ancient building, I initially felt the cold, but as the music began, the warmth filled the space, creating an unforgettable experience.



The Daddy's Hat team at Cleobury North – l to r: Ragni, Bob, Richard Fox, Andy Johnson, Revd Kina, and Sally at the front.

The music was stunning, with performances including "Suzanne" and "Are You Going to Scarborough Fair?" by Ragni and Bob; "Hearts of Oak" and "Leave Her, Johnny"; and Debussy's "Clair de Lune" and "Arabesque No. 1," performed by Richard Fox. Andy Johnson, the organist, beautifully played "Land of My Fathers" and recited "A Song of the Weather" by Flanders and Swann.

The church's historic architecture and tranquil atmosphere provided the perfect backdrop for the concert. Despite not being a Sunday service, the music filled the sacred space with a profound sense of community, giftedness, and passion. It's truly remarkable how music can unite people and nurture a spiritual connection.

Revd David Poyner also recited a poem by Revd Malcolm Guite, "St Francis Drops in on My Gig," adding a touch of poetic charm to the evening. The organist played softly in the background as we enjoyed tea and cake, fostering sweet fellowship from our connections.

At the core of our human experience lies the ability to connect with others; without these connections, we miss the chance to share the good news of

Christ. Daddy's Hat concert is an excellent opportunity to invite people, meet new friends, and enjoy God's gift of music and poetry. Thank you, Sally, for your passion for entertainment!

Daddy's Hat will be back in 2025!

Chetton News

Church service in November

✝ Sunday 24th November, 11:30am – Holy Communion

Flowers and Cleaning – Jill & Nick

Pam Downing writes:

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully for our **Harvest Festival** and to Revd Val and Mike for a lovely service. This was followed by a delicious lunch at Church house, a special thanks to Charles and Lisa and to everyone who helped with food etc.

We are holding our **Christmas dinner also at Church House** on Friday 6th December! This will be a hearty beef casserole followed by a variety of homemade puddings, cheese, biscuits and coffee - £20.00 per person. We conclude the evening around the piano for Carols. Again, contact Sheila or Lisa if you would like to join us.

We have another popular **Down breakfast** on Saturday 23rd November, 9am, contact Sheila or Lisa if you would like to book a place.

Our **Carol service** will be held on Sunday December 8th at 4pm, we look forward to seeing you there.

Chetton Village Hall

Many thanks to everyone for their help and attendance at the **'Hooded Crow'** event. We had a successful evening and have received positive feedback.

Flicks in the Sticks

Our film on Friday 1st November is **'Wicked Little Letters'**. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments and the film commences at 7.30 pm. Tickets £4.00, refreshments- tea/coffee, £1.00, cake £1.00.

On Sunday 24th November we are showing **'South Pacific'**. The film commences at 1pm, and at 2pm in the interval, we are serving Coronation Chicken or a vegetarian option followed by cake. The film will recommence around 3pm.

Pre-booking for this is essential and tickets are £10.00, for the film and lunch. Tickets from Sue on 01746 789239 and Marilyn on 01746 789666.

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.■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.
Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 789239.	

The folk dance club hold their final evening in November, and we thank them for their support over the last 44 years.

We have received a grant from The National Lottery, Awards for All, Community Fund to resurface the car park and replace the fencing around the hall. This is a much-needed improvement, and we are very grateful for their generous support.

Burwarton & District Garden Club

Egle to the rescue!

Bev Harris writes:

Imagine my panic, when two weeks before our first meeting of the gardening club programme, the speaker cancelled her talk with us. However, always the optimist, I quickly found a replacement speaker and what a success that was. Egle de Serra (Zinkute) joined us to talk about her role as Head Gardener at Millichope Park, Munslow.

Egle was studying for an MA in Theology and Ethics when she decided that perhaps horticulture was where her passion lay. She now has a BSc in Horticulture from the Dublin Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and Dublin City University. She is a member of the Professional Gardeners' Guild and was nominated for The Young Horticulturist of the Year. Once qualified, Egle worked for a short while at Trentham Gardens before being tempted away to become Head Gardener at Millichope Park in 2018. Egle gave us a brief history of Millichope Hall, but the main focus of her talk was about the surrounding formal gardens and parkland.

The gardens around Millichope Hall consist of a stunning parterre herb garden, a terrace with views across the Corvedale, a lower terrace level with floral borders and beautiful Mediterranean gravel beds. The parkland has a number of wildflower meadows rich in primroses, yellow rattle, common orchids, ox-eye daisies and other wild flower species. Egle showed us stunning photos of the extensive system of lakes and cascades, which create picturesque reflections of the landscape and architecture like the Temple and Obelisk. The woodland areas in the parkland offer treats throughout the seasons. In spring there are aconites, snowdrops and woodland anemones, followed by daffodils and the native English bluebell.



Much of the restoration and improvement of the gardens around Millichope Hall was undertaken by Sarah Bury in the 1970s, whose extensive knowledge and careful selection of trees, shrubs and planting has produced the beautiful gardens that are open for visitors on three occasions during the year. The Millichope website gives details of these events; www.millichopepark.com.



We were so impressed by Egle's talk about Millichope Park that we will hopefully be visiting in the summer of 2025.

Our next meeting of the gardening club is on **Thursday 14th November in Stoke St Milborough Village Hall**. Our speaker will be Diane Clement who joined us last year to talk about Alpines of which she is a keen exhibitor, judge and she lectures for the Alpine Garden Society. Next month's talk is about a garden for all seasons.

If you would like to join us our 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. Bev Harris, Secretary, bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk or call 07933 724728 or 01584 841845. See October WN for the full Programme!

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Services at All Saints' Church during November

- ✝ Monday 11th November – 10:45 - A simple act of Remembrance and observed silence in the Church.
- ✝ Sunday 17th November – 11:30 am – Holy Communion.

The weekend of 19th / 20th October proved to be very busy with the Promise Auction and Harvest Festival taking place over the two days.

Promise Auction at The Down



This was an entertaining and productive evening with everyone enjoying the well-known carvery at the start of the evening. Thanks to Steve and his team at The Down for the hospitality.



The carvery dinner was followed by the raffle of varied prizes donated from many local people and businesses around the area - grateful thanks to all. With everyone well settled into the evening the auction commenced with Charles Gill showing great talent as the auctioneer, ably assisted by Graham Dean who made sure the items were seen by the audience. The variety of items gave everyone the chance to bid and in the words of Charles "if your lips move, I shall take it as a bid" caused great merriment. All the items were donated, again, by local people and businesses in the surrounding area and our thanks go to all who supported this venture.



To complete the evening the lucky ticket owner was presented with a splendid hamper donated by Liz Dean. Thank you to everyone who supported this evening and special thanks to the members of the Fun & Fundraising Team who worked tirelessly to make this a success. The splendid sum of over **£2,600** was realised towards the repairs required to maintain the WW1 Stained Glass Memorial Window which commemorates the three young men who gave their lives for their country.

A huge 'Thankyou' to everyone involved in this special evening, and to John Pickup for the photographs.

Harvest Festival



This was held on the day following the auction – the church was full. The service, led by Dot Cartwright, filled the church with singing of the Harvest hymns which raised the roof with joyous sound. Refreshments (Mark's stew) were served in The Pheasant afterwards.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this harvest celebration and to the team at the Pheasant for their hospitality.

Donations of produce and non-perishable food were delivered to the Food Bank, Bridgnorth during the following week



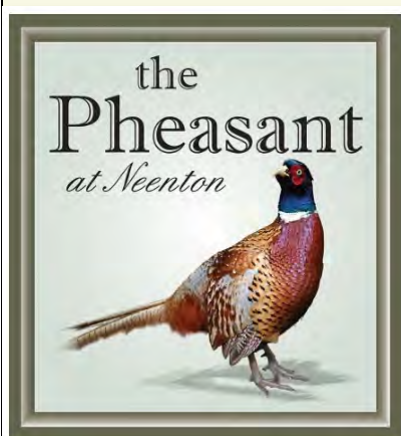
November at the Pheasant

Dates for your Diary!

Thursday 31st October –
Spooky Firework Party!
From 5:00pm – BBQ,
fancy dress, spooky fun
and games

Friday 29th November –
Fish Friday

Friday 20th December –
Live music from
Dirty Rocking Scoundrels
– 9pm



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.

Well done, Beatrice!

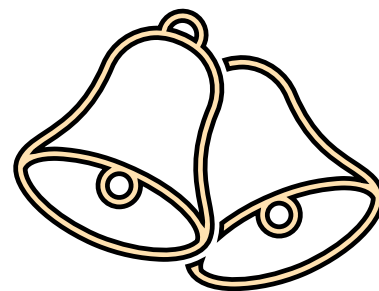


Congratulations to Neenton lady Bea Fraser, who completed the York Marathon on 19th October and raised funds for Behet's disease.

This is a rare condition which has many wide ranging and general symptoms. It can affect different areas of the body, including resulting in painful, stiff and swollen joints.

Running and completing a marathon is a great achievement.

Wedding Bells!



Warmest congratulations to Sarah and Mark, who were married at Ludlow Castle on 5th October.

On 15th November they will also be celebrating with us the 10th anniversary of the reawakening of the Pheasant as our Community Pub – booking essential!





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 <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Canev Clayton	St Mary, Billingsley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Laura Jones – 07714-432836, laura@laj.me.uk
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Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

Our congregation for harvest festival was boosted by friends from Chetton and elsewhere, so we had 18 people in church. We had to improvise for the service itself as high winds during the night had brought down a power cable so there was no electricity to the church.

As a result, unfortunately we could not use the organ (I do not think there are any manual bellows) but the singing was still lusty. The congregation was obviously deeply distressed that instead of tea and coffee after the service, we could only offer sherry, but they took this disappointment bravely, using it to wash down slices of pork pie generously provided by Rachael Davenhill and home-made from churchwarden Laura.

A number of trees in the churchyard have been trimmed as there was a danger that branches would fall on the road. All the cuttings were quickly removed and it is now difficult to spot where the work has been done.

After the August break, the monthly breakfasts at the Down have resumed. **Our next breakfast will be on Saturday 23rd November at 9.00.** We will have a break in December and resume in January.

Our next service will be on Remembrance Sunday 10th November. This will be at the war memorial, starting at 10.45am and will be taken by the Rev Richard Law, with refreshments in church afterwards. There will be no service the week after. Our Christmas Carol service is scheduled for Sunday 15th December at 10.00am.

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.

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:

Billingsley church was beautifully decorated for our harvest service, with the help of some recycled sheaves of wheat from Chelmarsh, used at their service a couple of weeks before. They are a sight to delight any church mouse. I did wonder how many people would brave a dark and rather chilly evening for the service, but in the event, the congregation was in double figures which was very pleasing. I thought the Wurzels theme worked rather well although I did notice more people seemed to join in with the hymns and “To be a Farmer’s Boy” than “I’ve got a brand new combine harvester” or “I am a cider drinker”.





Harvest concludes our programme of evening services for the year. I have enjoyed putting these together: we have had a choral evensong, a talk about the fashion industry from our rector Kina and I have pontificated about the Isle of Tiree and vicars and railways. It has been particularly good to see people from other churches joining us, including some from congregations in the Brown Clee benefice. Our 8am communion service continues on the fourth Sunday of the month and I hope that the names of Billingsley's fallen will be read in church and the two minute silence observed at 11am on Remembrance Sunday.

We have a visit from Caring for God's Acre scheduled for the end of November, to cut the grass and the hedges in the churchyard and then in November, a tree surgeon will be coming to deal with a potentially dangerous tree in the hedge and also trim back others. I suspect it is a long time since the hedge was pleached, so the work is needed.

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](#)

News from St Peter's, Chelmarsh

Revd David Poyner writes:

✝ On the 10th November, we will hold our annual Remembrance Sunday service. This takes place in Chelmarsh Church as the war memorial is in the back of the church. Unusually this includes photographs of the fallen; these men are not just names. This year it will start at 10.30 with a brief service before the act of remembrance.

Chelmarsh organ – the power of prayer and publicity!!

Following his plea in October WN for an organist for Chelmarsh, Revd Poyner was delighted to receive a phone call with an offer to play for the service.

Current affairs

Rachel Davenhill brings news of a film that may be of interest:

FILM SHOWING: "SHANSHULA"
DIRECTED BY MUSHEIR EL FARRA FROM GAZA
TO ILLUSTRATE THE LIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN
FISHING COMMUNITY IN THE GAZA STRIP

FREE ADMISSION



"Shanshula" is a 33 minute film documenting the struggles of Gaza's fishing community amid attacks from the Israeli Navy. Featuring interviews with fishermen and a rare fisherwoman, the film captures their daily hardships, losses and resilience. Filmed between 2022 and 2024, it includes footage from post-October 7th evacuations and was directed by Musheir El Farra.

Saturday 30th November. 6-8.30pm

Ludlow Methodist Church, Broad Street, Ludlow, SY8 1NH
FREE ENTRY (ticket required) Film - Food - Friendship. Donations welcome
Tickets on request from: rdavenhill@gmail.com / 07792776836

Wheatland Diary – continued from page 20

Fri	6	Dec	Annual Christmas Dinner, Chetton – see page 13
Sat	7	Dec	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	7	Dec	Coffee Morning – Cleeton St Mary Church – 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Sat	14	Dec	Christmas Wreath-making – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 10:00am – see page 10
Sat	14	Dec	Coffee Morning – Middleton Scriven Church – 10:00am – 12noon – see page 27
Fri	20	Dec	Live music at the Pheasant – Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels – 9:00pm – see page 16
Sun	22	Dec	Musical Evening – Aston Botterell – see page 11
Sat	25	Jan	Burns Night – Middleton Scriven Church – 7:00pm – see page 26
Sat	1	Feb	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sun	2	Feb	Candlemas – please ensure that you have removed wreaths from the churchyards!
Sat	1	Mar	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	26	Apr	Stottesdon Open Gardens – 12noon – 4:00pm – see page 23

Tributes to friends and fellow scientists



During the last few weeks, Prof David Poyner has had the privilege and sadness of writing obituaries for two friends and colleagues, which he generously shared with WN for this Remembrance edition

Dr Ian Martin, Emeritus Professor, Aston University, Birmingham, died in Cambridge on September 11th 2024. He was 80 years old.

It is conventional to start an obituary of a significant scientific figure, such as Ian, with an outline of his career and his achievements. This obituary does of course cover this. However, as friends of Ian, we have chosen to begin with an anecdote, which we think captures much of the spirit and genius of the man.



It was 1990, the coffee room in the MRC Neurobiology Unit in Cambridge. With a colleague, now an FRS, one of us (DRP) was looking blankly at data on the iron-binding affinities for a series of ligands. Ian walked in and greeted us with a smile; "Haven't you boys sorted that trivial little problem yet?". The trivial problem had floored us for several weeks. Ian listened to us, looked at the data, drew heavily on his pipe and then queried us; "Isn't it obvious?". He gently explained to us what a stability constant was, drawing on his training as a chemist and what it implied for our work. Our eyes were opened; the data now made sense, and a paper eventually resulted. We asked Ian if he wanted to be author; of course he declined; it was reward enough for him that he had been able to help us. This incident could be

multiplied a thousand-fold over Ian's working life; a distinguished scientist in his own right, he helped and mentored all those who worked around him with his kindness, wisdom and gentle support.

Ian was born and raised in Stockport, England. After obtaining his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Bristol, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 3 years with Pfizer in Sandwich, Kent. He joined the MRC Neuropharmacology Unit at the University of Birmingham in 1969 and while there completed his PhD. In 1980, he joined the MRC Neurochemical Pharmacology Unit in Cambridge as an MRC Scientist and was subsequently promoted to MRC Senior Scientist. In 1992, Ian moved to the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology. After serving 5 years in that position, he moved back to England, taking up a position as Professor and Head of Pharmacology in the Pharmacy School, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Aston University in Birmingham. He became an Emeritus Professor upon his retirement from Aston in 2009 and moved to Wicken, Cambridgeshire. He was elected an honorary fellow of the British Pharmacological Society in 2010, for his contribution to the discipline.

Ian was well known internationally for his elegant research on the structure and function of receptors involved in anxiety disorders, particularly for his work on benzodiazepines and the GABA-A receptor. This latterly expanded to cover a range of ligand-gated ion channels. Because of his expertise and enthusiasm, he established productive collaborations with scientists not only in the United Kingdom but in several other countries. His papers variously drew on classical pharmacology, electrophysiology, behavioural models, protein chemistry, molecular, structural and computational biology. A talented educator and administrator, he was respected widely by trainees and peers alike for his common sense, approachable manner and great sense of humour. He took a deep interest in the training of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and many of them became his lifelong friends. His favourite sayings (for example, "the data does not lie", "two things float to the top and only one of them is cream") remain cherished by those who heard them. His care for his colleagues was exemplary; he would fight for all he was worth to defend their interests when that was necessary. For those in pressing need, he and Alison would offer themselves unstintingly to give them space to recover.

A funeral service for Ian was held in Cambridge on October 3rd 2024 and was attended by family and many former friends and colleagues in person or online. Ian is survived by Alison, his loving wife of 58 years, and by his daughter Anna (James Kirkup), son Andrew (Andrea) and grandchildren William, Annika and Henry.

Glen Baker (University of Alberta) and David Poyner (Aston University).

Dr Sheila Handley, late senior lecturer in Pharmacology

It is with sadness that I recently learnt of the death of **Dr Sheila Handley**, a senior lecturer in pharmacology at the time of her retirement from Aston around 20 years ago.

Sheila did a pharmacy degree at the School of Pharmacy in London, where amongst others, she was taught by Mike Brown, who was later her Head of Department at Aston. She did have some stories of those days to share...

Sheila followed a career in research, specialising in behavioural pharmacology and for many years ploughed a lone furrow at Aston as a neuropharmacologist. She began her research at Allen and Hanbury's neuropharmacology research group working under Paul Spencer and when he came to Aston in 1966 as head of Pharmacology, he recruited Sheila as a junior lecturer.

Sheila was much respected in her field, being particularly interested in how metabolites of tryptophan and imadazoline influenced behaviour. For many years she kept the discipline of neuropharmacology alive at Aston until new appointments in the 1990s. I suspect that today she would have been awarded a chair; she had in excess of 100 publications and she has very recently featured in a list of the 22 Aston academics whose work is in the top 2% of all cited papers. Sadly the university had a particularly blinkered approach in those times to promotion. None-the-less, Sheila did not shrink her duty and was acting head of pharmacology from the retirement of Professor Brian Ferry to the appointment of Professor Ian Martin.

Sheila showed me much kindness when I arrived at Aston and gave me my first experience of examining a PhD. She also provided sound advice. She enjoyed the banter of the lab, giving as good as she got and was loyal to her colleagues. I remember particularly her delight when a member of staff in another school, assuming she was male, accused her of sexism; the individual was never quite the same again... Outside of work her passion was her horse; she was an accomplished rider. I remember her fondly.

David Poyner – with thanks to Professor Keith Wilson for help with this tribute.

Wheatland Diary – cont'd on page 18

Fri	1	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH, "Wicked Little Letters" – see page 13
Sat	2	Nov	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
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
Wed	6	Nov	Burwarton & Dist Wives Group – Spinal Flow Techniques – Ditton Priors Pavilion 7:30pm – see page 10
Sat	9	Nov	Fireworks party – Ditton Priors Recreation Ground, 6:00pm – see page 1-
Sat	9	Nov	Coffee Morning – Middleton Scriven Church – 10:00am – 12noon – see page 25
Sat	9	Nov	Pepper and Honey – Farlow & Oretton VH – ArtsAlive – 7:30pm – see back cover.
Tue	12	Nov	DP Local History Group, DPVH – The Olympics and Much Wenlock – see page 10 and back cover
Wed	13	Nov	Tea and Toast, 09:00 – 10:00, St John's Church, Ditton Priors – see page 9
Thur	14	Nov	Burwarton & D Garden Club, Stoke St Milboro' VH – garden for all seasons – see page 16
Fri	15	Nov	10 th Anniversary of the Pheasant, Neenton as a Community pub – see page 15
Sat	23	Nov	Christmas Fair at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors – 10:30 – 12:30 - see page 9
Sat	23	Nov	Breakfast at The Down – for Chetton & Glazeley Churches – 9:00am – see pages 13 and 17
Sat	23	Nov	Christmas Market at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall – 10:30am – 2:30pm – see page 23
Sun	24	Nov	Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH, "South Pacific" + lunch – booking essential – see page 13
Thur	28	Nov	Ditton Priors – Switching on the Christmas Lights! - see page 9
Fri	29	Nov	Christmas wreath-making – Middleton Scriven Church, 7:00pm – see page 26

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: <i>post vacant</i> so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens or volunteers as below		
St Mary, Stottesdon <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	St Giles, Farlow <i>CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT – please contact the key holder, Pam Phillips</i>	Holy Trinity, Sidbury <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583	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		

November message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 13

As October and the Hunter's Moon wane, and you are reading this, advertisements for the new combined post of Rector of Stottesdon and Deanery Rural Church Missioner will have appeared in The Church Times and on C of E websites. Copies along with the latest Parish Profile, will also be on the Benefice webpage soon.

Meanwhile, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in the parishes, our two schools and in the wider communities we serve, please:

- **celebrate and support** the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens and members of the PCC's; and
- **thank** the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers

Middleton Scriven – Funeral Office – Brenda Yates RIP – see page 25.

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 are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added to it, 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 21st November** – Thanks!

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

Sunday 3rd November		
09:00	Holy Communion – Revd Neil Dunlop	Farlow
10:30	Morning Prayer (BCP) – Revd Neil Dunlop	Stottesdon
Sunday 10th November		
09:00 REM	Remembrance - Revd John Daniels	Cleeton St Mary
10:30 REM	Remembrance - Revd John Daniels	Stottesdon
Sunday 17th November		
10:30	Morning Prayer (Taize) – Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
11:45	Revd Justin Bailey	Sidbury
Sunday 24th November		
09:00	Holy Communion – Revd Justin Bailey	Silvington
10:30	Holy Communion - Revd Justin Bailey	Stottesdon
Sunday 1st December		
09:00	Holy Communion – Revd Neil Dunlop	Farlow
10:30	Christingle – Revd Neil Dunlop	Stottesdon

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:

Traditional Seasonal services – advanced notice of December dates for your diary:

- ✝ Christingle - 10.30am on Sunday 1st December - families and children all very welcome!
- ✝ Carol Service - 7pm on Tuesday 10th December – mince pies and mulled wine served afterwards!
- ✝ MIDNIGHT COMMUNION - 11.30pm on Christmas Eve – ringing-in Christmas Day.



Seasonal Churchyard wreaths

Traditional 'Christmas wreaths' are welcome in 2024 as usual on family memorials - do please respect the precious Churchyard Environment by eliminating any use of plastics such as 'oasis' foam and especially note 'no artificial flowers' please.

Your wreaths should be removed, for recycling, composting or disposal at home, no later than Candlemas - which is Sunday 2nd February next year. Thank you!

News from the Tower!

As some already know from hearing them, the Bellringers have advanced their Friday practice session: this now starts at 5pm. Sharp-eared listeners may also be the first to know when the Treble Bell (which has been away at Taylors' bell foundry, Loughborough for restoration) is re-hung and back in regular use – with 'full circle ringing' again - hopefully later this month!

National Gardens Scheme

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 national effort.



Stottesdon Village Open Gardens for 2025 will be a celebration of Spring on Saturday 26th April 12-4pm.

Further volunteers and helpers will be most welcome – please register your interest with Clare (01746 718007) or Wade (718753)

Farlow News

Caroline Bilson writes:

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Harvest Service and Produce Sale. An enjoyable evening and money was raised to support the church.

The church will be having a table at the **Christmas Market on Saturday 23rd November** between 10:30 to 2:30pm at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall. The proceeds of a Prize Draw will be given to Charity, and other 'goodies' will be donated to the Church funds. This is usually a very popular event and everyone is most welcome!

October's 100 Club Winners:

- £20 – Richard Jones
- £10 – each to Ben & Emily, and to Lucy & James Shier
- £5 – each to Edward Howells, and to Yvonne & Steve Jones.

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin and Sue Burbidge write:

Many thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the **Harvest Festival** service; it was a

very successful and great fun was had at the auction afterwards! We were very lucky a few days later to experience some spectacular displays of the Northern Lights.

Looking ahead, **Knit and Natter** continues every Wednesday at 10am in church and in our continued efforts to raise funds and publicity for repairs to the church roof we are having a stall at the Farlow Xmas Fair, on 23rd November, selling our handmade crafts including some excellent Christmas presents and cards.

The next in our series of successful **Coffee Mornings** will be on Saturday 7th December 10 - 12 in Cleeton St Mary Church. Excellent homemade cakes and wonderful company available!

September 100 Club Results

- £20 – to Poppy Welding (83)
- £10 – to Phoebe Condliffe (87) and to Hannah Morgan (110)
- £5 – to Chris Cuthbert (25) and to Mike Worrall (76).

Thanks to everyone for renewing their fees, and welcome to new members, good luck to all!

Sidbury

Andrew Sierakowski writes



We had a very well-attended and enjoyable Harvest Festival at Sidbury on the 29th September with Revd David Poyner taking the service for us and blessing the tractor - provided by George and Roger Williams - for the harvest.



This was followed by a lovely Harvest Supper (actually a lunch), hosted by Louisa and Hubert van den Bergh, with an amazing selection of wonderful food provided by the congregation. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon.



SIDBURY CHURCH FUNDRAISER!

We are selling some merchandise to raise funds for Sidbury Church. We have a beautiful painting of the church that will be available on the following items;

Pack of 10 cards with envelopes £10
A5 notepads £5
Mugs £10

For more information or to place an order please contact Meg Williams
07583046139

All profits will be donated to the Church



Revd David Poyner adds:

On the 20th October at Sidbury we had our usual 11:45 Holy Communion with a small but enthusiastic congregation. These services are simple, not much more than half an hour but are important in maintaining the regular rhythm of prayer and worship that has been taking place on this site 1000 or so years. There were only three of us present on the 20th, but our prayers join those of the hundreds of the faithful who we follow in going to this Church.

Silvinton

We have no news to pass on from Silvinton this month.



Brenda Yates RIP

Churchwarden at St John's for over 20 years, Brenda Yates of Birch Hall, Middleton Scriven, passed away on 31st August at the age of 84, having spent her last two years at Oldbury Grange, Bridgnorth.

Brought up in Alveley, Brenda's father Cyril Jukes owned the first milk tanker in the district, with the depot being at Fort Pendlestone. After attending school in Kidderminster, Brenda trained as a Primary School teacher at Shenstone College.

Brenda married Henry in 1961 and they lived at Trefoil Farm, Snitton, Ludlow. She taught at Munslow and Bitterley Primary School, recounting how she arrived home from school then to go and turn hay or wash eggs for sale. They had 10 happy years there before wishing to expand and buying Manor Farm, Middleton Scriven in 1971. Brenda subsequently carried out supply teaching at Worfield and The Down Schools.

Brenda was a loyal member of Bitterley, and then Chetton & Glazeley, WIs for many years. She was also Secretary to the Ladies' Committee of Burwarton Show. Brenda was a huge supporter of St John the Baptist Church at Middleton Scriven, for which she would host a garden fete every summer to raise funds and was Churchwarden for over 20 years, and PCC member for many more. Brenda was always at the heart of the community and her cheery disposition ensured much respect from her neighbours and peers.

Brenda was also one of the founder members of the Severn Hospice fundraising committee, being present when the first sod was cut to build the Hospice. Over the years, as Chair of the Wheatland Support Group, she helped to put on many events raising tens of thousands of pounds.

Thank you

The family of the late Brenda Yates would like to express their sincere thanks for all the kind messages of sympathy, love and support received.

Many thanks also to all who attended Brenda's Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving and Wake.

The generous donations amounted to over **£800**, to be divided between St John the Baptist Church, Middleton Scriven Fabric Fund and The Severn Hospice.

Ann Constable writes:

✝ Tuesday December 24th: 6.30pm - **Christmas Eve Carols, followed by wine and mince pies.**
Favourite carol? please contact Ann for your choice to be included.

Community activities in church:

Coffee mornings: 10-12 in church, on Saturdays November 9th and December 14th - plus a Christmas Bake sale.

Wreath making evening: Friday November 29th: 7-10pm in church.

£25 per person including all wreath making items. Mulled wine and mince pies on arrival and coffee and stollen / nibbles during the evening. Bring your own secateurs and any additional items you wish to add to your wreath.

Anna will demonstrate ideas for Christmas wreaths, then it's over to you! To book please contact Donna Picken on 07724-125358 / message via WhatsApp. Cash / BACs payment in advance please.

Burns Night Supper – Saturday January 25th, 7:00pm.

News from our community:

New chairs in church: Thanks to considerable fundraising over the years, together with a very generous legacy from Mrs Brenda Yates, we were delighted to purchase new chairs for our church / community space. These were “christened” at our Harvest celebration.

Community Harvest celebration:

Thank you to everyone who supported this very successful event. A wonderful hot meal was enjoyed by 31 people; delicious homemade desserts were a real treat and then a cheese course very kindly donated by Linda and John Phillips. The church was full of chatter and laughter that evening, and even paused slightly for an entertaining Harvest quiz. Thank you to the Fund Raisers committee for organising this event raising approximately £400.

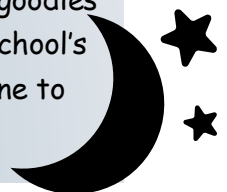


Community Noticeboard

Farmers' Market on Saturday 16th November 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: Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER.

The Cleobury Food Bank were 'over the moon' to receive a veritable mountain of gifts and goodies collected up during Stottesdon Primary School's Harvest Festival on 4th October. Well done to all involved in that stupendous effort!



Caring for God's Acre - Hedgehogs!



People love to visit churches, chapels and cathedrals. Recent visitor surveys have shown that more people are visiting cathedrals this year, with an increase in visitors of 17% since 2022. They come for a variety reasons, attending services and concerts, enjoying the heritage and history and visiting exhibitions. This increase in visitors is the result of hard work and lateral thinking, focussing on making these special places appeal to those who may not be regular attendees.

Actually, it's possible that even more people are visiting burial grounds, be they churchyards, chapel yards, cemeteries and of course cathedral grounds. A survey in 2018 found that more than half the visitors to churchyards were neither entering the church building or visiting a particular grave, they were there to enjoy the peace, tranquillity, bird song, flowers and history of these special outdoor places. They were also making use of facilities such as surfaced paths, benches, ramps and other accessibility features. For those of you who care for and love your local churchyard, can you help to make it even more welcoming for visitors? Is there any information on the more interesting memorials to be visited, the locally famous or infamous or perhaps particularly beautiful stone carving? Could you put up a list of the wildlife to be seen at different times of year or steer people to spend time in the presence of a veteran tree and think how long it has been growing there?

Managing a churchyard for both people and nature really creates a space that looks cared for, is accessible but still full of the peaceful and enriching sights and sounds of wildlife that people so enjoy. By the autumn, all of your grassland areas will be cut short but can you leave a small patch of tussocky grass, nettles and hogweed around the back, perhaps by a compost heap, so that insects and other invertebrates have somewhere to overwinter? This will be used by frogs, toads, newts and slowworms who will be feeding on these invertebrates as well as by small mammals and birds. Hedgehogs in particular need shelter like this as well as food such as worms, slugs and beetles.

Do you have any berry bearing shrubs or hedges? Could they be left until the late winter before pruning or trimming in order to feed and shelter birds and small mammals? If there is ivy present you may have noticed the buzz of ivy bees on the flowers in September, flowers which have now been replaced by small black berries. Birds such as thrushes, blackbirds, pigeons and blackcaps love these berries which are rich in fat so good winter tuck! Autumn is a great time to make deadwood piles from windblown twigs and branches, pile up autumn leaves to rot down and perhaps erect some bird and bat boxes.

All of this work will enhance your churchyard so that it is teeming with even more life next spring and summer, giving pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

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**

FARLOW & ORETON VILLAGE HALL
WITH MELVILLE CHAPEL

JOIN US AT OUR

CHRISTMAS

MARKET

SATURDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER
10.30-2.30

LOCALLY PRODUCED
FOODS, CRAFTS, GIFTS
RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

Tues 12th November
at 7.30 pm

DITTON PRIORS
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

presents...

Wenlock Olympian Society & the revival of the modern Olympic Games

A talk by
Chris Cannon
Wenlock Olympian Society

Wenlock Olympian Society

*"If the Olympic Games
still survives today, it is due,
not to a Greek, but to
Dr. William Penny Brookes"*
Baron de Coubertin

Brown Clee Benefice is looking for
volunteer Team Leader and Team
Members for the **Open the Book**
initiative - see article on page 8.

PEPPER & HONEY

Notnow
Collective

By Kristina Gavran

★★★★★

The Stage

★★★★★

Reviews Hub

"A beautifully written story"
"There was not a dry eye in the house by the end"

Saturday 9th November, 7.30pm
Farlow & Oretton Village Hall, DY14 OTP
Tickets £12.50 / £7.50
www.artsalive.co.uk | 01746 718642

Spooky Firework Party

31st October
Free entry
From 5pm (fireworks at 7pm)
B.B.Q
Fancy Dress Competition
Spooky fun & Games

Opportunity!

Clerk to Chetton Parish Council

After many years of loyal service, the current Clerk to Chetton Parish Council is to retire.

If you are interested in this part-time (5 hours per week) role then please email Paul Verney (paul.verney@gmail.com) for full details.

Applications required by 11th November.