

# WHEATLAND NEWS

March 2025



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

# Contents

<b>Editorial.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Diocese of Hereford .....</b>	<b>4</b>
March letter from the Archdeacon of Hereford .....	4
Study Course for Lent 2025 – a reminder .....	5
<b>Caring for God’s Acre – Update .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Daddy’s Hat .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Brown Clee Benefice .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Lent reflection .....	7
From the Brown Clee Registers.....	7
Readings for March .....	8
Services in Brown Clee Churches during March.....	8
Ditton Priors News .....	9
Ditton Priors Halls committee – forthcoming Community Events .....	10
Burwarton & District Wives’ Group .....	10
Wheathill & Loughton News .....	10
Aston Botterell News .....	10
Cleobury North & District Village Hall.....	13
Cleobury North & Burwarton News .....	13
Burwarton & District WI.....	13
Chetton News.....	13
Neenton News .....	15
<b>The Severn Valley Group of Parishes.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Glazeley News .....	16
Billingsley News.....	17
<b>The Nicene Creed.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Caring for God’s Acre – Lovely Lichens!.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Molecule of the Month – Metronidazole .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>The Stottesdon Group of Parishes.....</b>	<b>20</b>
March messages .....	20
From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers.....	22
Stottesdon News.....	22
Farlow News.....	23
Cleeton St Mary News.....	23
Middleton Scriven News .....	23
Sidbury News .....	24
Silvington News.....	24
Community Noticeboard.....	24
<b>Wheatland Diary.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>An irreverent look at cricket – or garden gnomes?.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Useful local contacts – updated March 2025.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>The Rotundas played to a packed house at Cleobury North Village Hall .....</b>	<b>28</b>

# Editorial

When writing this it appears that March has 'come in like a lamb' with bright sunshine and little wind! We shall wait in anticipation to see if it goes 'out like a lion'! In the meantime there is a lot of planning taking place for activities throughout the year.

This edition of WN reflects the extent to which February is a real low point in our calendar but **the diary dates are filling up rapidly!** This month we've included every date so far known for 2025! While it's scary to see Christmas Lights so close, we hope that this will help all the Wheatland parishes to plan their events, make the most of dates and prevent clashes. Keep them coming! We can't always publish in full, but again, a complete version is always available on request by email.

After the long Brown Clee and Severn Valley interregna of recent years, our hearts go out to the Stottesdon benefice, and to Clare, Chris, and others both clergy and lay who are shouldering the load in the meantime. We hope that Stottesdon will be as fortunate as its fellow-benefices when the time finally comes.

And there are some bright sparks on the horizon! Great news about the launch of Stottesdon's heritage website as the huge project of restoration comes to an end – see page 22. Daddy's Hat is about to emerge from the cupboard too – see page 6!

**Decluttering road signs!!** Joyce Barrow, chair of the Economy and Scrutiny Committee, has announced that, under a review of street clutter, Shropshire Council is to remove redundant or unlicensed temporary road signs. If you have some in your area that should go, we suggest that you call Shropshire Council on 0345-678-9000 to ask for this service!

**Clothing donation scheme to help hospital patients** is now open to the public! If you are popping into one of our main hospitals then please consider taking a donation of clothing with you! Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals are appealing to the public for clothes to help to motivate patients who may not have access to their own clothes during a hospital stay. Wearing clothes such as trousers, joggers and tops during the daytime rather than pyjamas encourages patients to get up, get dressed, and get moving! Maintaining their normal routine can also help to prevent "deconditioning" in hospital.

The theme for the **2025 International Women's Day** on 8<sup>th</sup> March is 'Accelerating Action'. IWD is an annual global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and marking a call to action for accelerating women's equality. IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. **IWD is not country-, group- or organisation-specific.**

*Cover pic – looking forward to the Green of the Spring – the knot garden at Moseley Old Hall.*

## 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 **April 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - <a href="mailto:rl.langham@btinternet.com">rl.langham@btinternet.com</a>
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - <a href="mailto:pamdowning61@gmail.com">pamdowning61@gmail.com</a>
Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - <a href="mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net">marion.corfield@talktalk.net</a> Revd David Poyner - <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a>
Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - <a href="mailto:D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk">D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk</a>
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - <a href="mailto:Chris@stottystores.co.uk">Chris@stottystores.co.uk</a>

## A personal message from Karen Simons

I would like to thank all of the numerous people who have shown me so much care and consideration over the last few weeks of my illness. Revd Joe and I have been bowled over by the kindness in word and deed that has surrounded us (and the dogs!). It makes all the difference to know you are loved and thought of - so Thank You from the bottom of my heart.

Karen Simons





# Diocese of Hereford

March letter from  
the Archdeacon of Hereford



As we begin Lent you might think that there is nothing new to say about this period of the church year. As I was reflecting on what I would write I was reminded that March 2025 also marks the twentieth anniversary return of one of my favourite cultural icons. Doctor Who returned to our television screens on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2005 and a whole new generation of children and adults were introduced to what has and continues to be a British cultural phenomenon on a par with Sherlock Holmes. Even if you don't like it and science fiction isn't your thing it has even generated entries in the Oxford English Dictionary with Dalek and Tardis now part of our language.

You might be thinking what has Doctor Who and lent have in common and to be fair on the face of it very little! Yet at the heart of Doctor Who is the important idea of 'regeneration' by which the Doctor changes his or her appearance and is completely renewed. The Christian faith also has regeneration at the heart of its message. Lent is an opportunity for each of us to open ourselves up to the power of God to bring spiritual regeneration in our lives. Lent is traditionally a period of self-reflection, abstinence and discipline which are not words which create a lot of excitement in our very instant society yet it is these very straightforward spiritual disciplines that lead to spiritual growth and help us to deepen our faith in God. St Paul writing to the early church in Rome challenges us to be renewed and regenerated:

**"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."**

The New Testament writers recognised that it is only when our inner spiritual life is brought to life that a pattern of behaviour, thoughts and way of living is radically changed to become more like Jesus. Lent allows us the space and time to reflect on how we live and seek God's forgiveness and strength to turn our lives in a different direction. The bible calls this repentance but in effect it means turning our lives in a completely new direction and living God's way rather than our own way. God will never force us or compel us to choose to live according to the rules of the kingdom but instead he stands ready to bring us spiritual regeneration when we turn to him. This is what is meant by John in his gospel when he talks about being born again. This is not some evangelical American term but the words of Jesus to Nicodemus when he enquires about how to live God's way.

**"Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."**

John 3:1-3

As you approach this coming Lent why not give yourself the time to examine your life and faith and allow the Holy Spirit to challenge and change you to be more like Jesus. It is only when we invite God to help us to live according to his values and to help us lay aside the things that hinder our journey with him that we can truly begin to become the people that God has created us to be and to fulfil the potential he has given us. This is true regeneration that is life changing and life affirming and enables us as followers of Jesus to be signposts of the kingdom in our communities. Paul in his letter to Titus sums this up perfectly:

**“But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward us appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ...”**

Titus 3:4-6

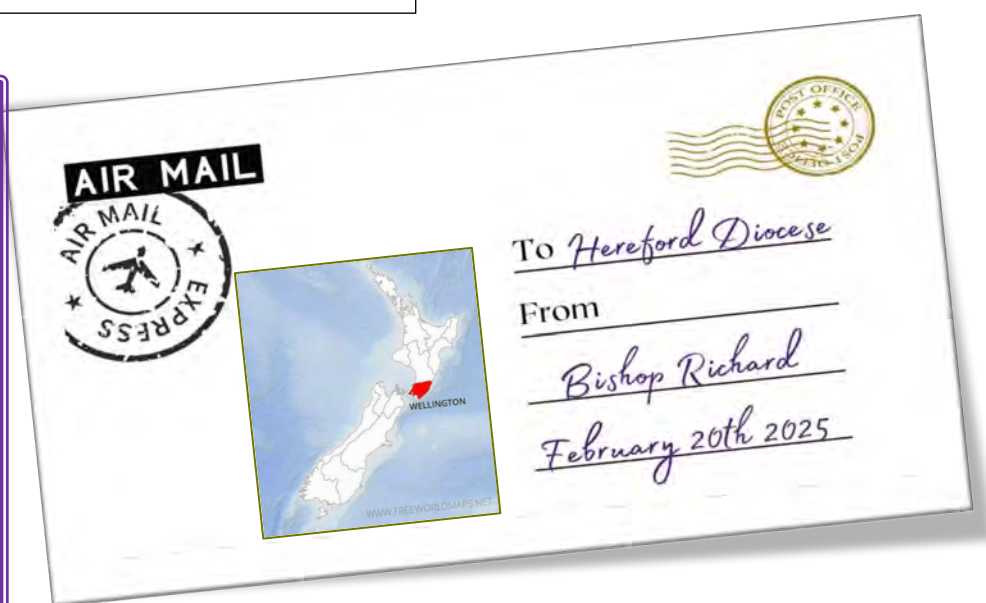
As we begin our Lenten journey, rather than give something up, we should instead seek to take something up and ask God to begin afresh the process of regeneration in each of us as we seek to journey together and grow in our faith.

Ven Derek Chedzey  
Archdeacon of Hereford

Bishop Richard's 'postcard' features his conversation with the Archbishop of New Zealand, Revd Justin Duckworth, about church growth in a rural setting.

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>



## Study Course for Lent 2025 – a reminder

Dear All,

Lent will start on Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, and as is traditional, we will all be following a new study course over the following 6 weeks until Easter.

This year marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Nicene Creed**, the great poem that we recite every communion service which explores what we and virtually all Christians have believed over those centuries: the text appears in full on page 24 of this WN.

To celebrate this anniversary and also to understand more about the basis of our faith, this Lent our existing Severn Valley benefice study groups (Tuesday Bible Study, Wednesday Ladies Group, Wednesday Zoom Group) will be looking at the creeds. We will follow a course developed some years ago; [Pilgrim: The Creeds Book 5 \(Grow Stage\) by Jane Williams, Paula Gooder, Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, Robert Atwell, Graham Tomlin, Martyn Snow, Mary Gregory - Paperback - 9780715144442](#) The cost is £4 if anyone wishes to buy a copy of the book, although this is not necessary to follow the course.

**Even if you do not normally follow one of our study groups, please consider joining us for our Lent journey this year. We are also working with our friends in the neighbouring Brown Clee Benefice on the same course.**

Revd David Poyner

# Caring for God's Acre – Update

There is a lot of news from CfGA this month! The website is always well worth a visit: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk> – and offers discounts for members too!

But meanwhile here are some more snippets to enjoy.

**The CfGA March article** on page 19 is Lichens – our churchyards are full of them! This grave marker is at Buildwas Church.

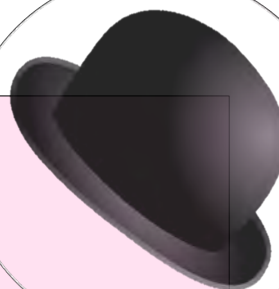


**February WN featured “Love Your Yew” Week!** CfGA has a gallery of photos of venerable yews, all shapes and sizes, sent in from various parishes. **There is still time, they say, to submit a photo of a yew tree that you might know and love**, whether in your churchyard or another churchyard – just email to [enquiries@cfga.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cfga.org.uk)

There is also help with managing veteran trees of species other than yew.

**Love Your Burial Ground – Churches Count on Nature** will run from 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June. Registration opens on 17<sup>th</sup> March: this enables each Count event to be added to the listing and to the map. **Find the registration form via CfGA website.**

## Daddy's Hat



**The Hat is brushed and polished for another great season of music in our local churches!**

The opening event is at the Hat's 'Spiritual Home' of Aston Botterell Church on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, when organist and raconteur Andy Johnson will be entertaining – with some surprise guests. Poetry, cakes, tea and vicars will be provided as available!!

Do join in for an hour.



Spring Highlight on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 3:00pm will be Saxon Fire and 'cellist Benjamin Richards at St Mary's Church Jackfield – together again because they so much enjoyed meeting and playing together for the first time at DH last year

# Brown Clee Benefice

**Priest-in-Charge - Revd Joe Simons**

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ

01746-599217      07872-464276



***St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill and Loughton***

CHURCHWARDENS:

Carole Smith

Mark Smith: 01746-712394

***St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell***

CHURCHWARDENS:

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

***St Giles', Chetton***

CHURCHWARDEN

Sheila Millington: 01746-789443

***SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North***

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676

Jane Bufton: 07716-877421

***All Saints', Neenton***

CHURCHWARDEN:

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

## Lent reflection

Lent has its derivation in the "lengthening of days" and has at its heart the old English word meaning Spring. It was observed as a period of preparation for those approaching Baptism at Easter. In more recent times it is a period during which Christians remember the events leading up to the death of Jesus Christ. We contemplate his testing in the wilderness, his life, and his teaching.

It is also an opportunity for Christians humbly to examine their lives and through prayer, study of scripture and acts of self-denial, to restate and renew their love for God. This spiritual spring clean can be a testing time. Through reflection, we can see more quickly who we are and what we hold most dear to us. It can also bring to the fore some aspects of who we are that are less than perfect.

Many still see Lent simply as a time of self-denial when we give up this or that as a form of penance, but Lent is so much more than self-denial. It also a time for liberation, for setting ourselves free of all that gets in the way of being the person that God would want us to be.

Whether you are a Christian or not, it is a good time just to take stock of where you are, and in which direction you are heading. For Christians, whose lives are rooted in the love of Jesus and in moving close to him, Lent helps to put aside all that gets in the way, and to put Jesus front and centre.

I would urge you this Lent to make time to just 'be' and to focus on whether those things we hold most dear to us have the proper place in our lives.

*Revd Joe Simons*

## From the Brown Clee Registers

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Funeral Service of Mrs Rosemary Ann Evans at Shrewsbury Crematorium
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Funeral Service of Mrs Maureen Anne Speed at St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors Funeral Service of Mr Andrew Rutherford at Chetton Church
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for Mr Andrew Rutherford at Chetton Church
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Funeral Service of Mrs Jackie Bradbury at Telford Crematorium

Readings for March	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March -</b> Sunday next before Lent - Quinquagesima - Green	Psalm 99 Exodus 34. 29 – end; 2 Corinthians 3. 12 – 4.2; Luke 9. 28 – 36 (37 – 43a)
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March -</b> Ash Wednesday	Psalm 51. 1 – 18 Joel 2. 1 -2, 12 -17; 2 Corinthians 5. 20b – 6. 10; Matthew 6. 1 – 6, 16 – 21
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March -</b> First Sunday of Lent - Purple	Psalm 91. 1, 2, 9 – end Deuteronomy 26. 1 – 11; Romans 10.8b – 13; Luke 4. 1 - 13
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March -</b> Second Sunday of Lent - Purple	Psalm 27 Genesis 15. 1 – 12, 17 – 18; Philippians 3. 17 – 4.1; Luke 13. 31 - end
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March -</b> Morning Prayer	<i>Readings to be selected on the day</i>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March -</b> Third Sunday of Lent - Purple	Psalm 63. 1 – 9 Isaiah 55. 1 – 9; 1 Corinthians 10. 1 – 13; Luke 13. 1 - 9
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March -</b> Morning Prayer	<i>Readings to be selected on the day</i>
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March -</b> Mothering Sunday - Purple	Psalm 127. 1 – 4 Exodus 2. 1 – 10; Colossians 3. 12 17; Luke 2. 33 - 35
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April -</b> Morning Prayer	<i>Readings to be selected on the day</i>
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April -</b> Passiontide	Psalm 126 Isaiah 43. 16 – 21; Philippians 3. 4b – 14; John 12. 1 – 8

## Services in Brown Clee Churches during March

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10:00 am	Group Holy Communion and Ashing	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Chetton
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10:00 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Neenton

<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Wheathill
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10:00 am	Group Holy Communion	Cleobury North
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>		
10:00 am	Morning Prayer	Ditton Priors
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell



## Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes*

**The first six weeks** of this year seem to have flown by. Sadly, so many people I know have been poorly and have yet to really embrace the new year. Our hopes for a speedy recovery to all and especially to Karen Simons, Margaret Griffiths and Bobbie Jarvis - get well soon.

On a happier note, the days are getting longer, and the winter dreariness is on the decline. Don't forget the CLOCKS go forward, I believe on 29<sup>th</sup> March this year. We look forward to Spring and Summer and much socialising.

**"First Saturday" Coffee Mornings:** 10:00 am - 12noon in Church – Saturdays 1<sup>st</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June. There is no charge for this popular event, and everyone is very welcome.

**Lent Lunch** - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 12 - 1pm (Prompt as Table Tennis class follows!) in Ditton Village Hall. Home-made Soups will be served with bread rolls, followed by Cheese & Biscuits. No charge will be made but donations will be welcomed. There will be Raffle and last year we donated £50 to the 'Smile' charity.

**Easter Coffee Morning** - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 11 - 1pm at the Pavilion Ditton Priors. Stalls, Easter Bonnet Competition and Easter Egg Hunt.

## Dates For Your Diary in 2025

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Church open for Coffee & Cakes 11 - 1pm
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Church Fete - 1pm -4pm
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Pam's Plants - 11am
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Sponsored Walk from Church -11am
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Pimms & Puds - 5pm
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August - Burwarton Show
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August - Teas in the Churchyard 3pm
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Ride & Stride and Flowers & Crafts Fair in Church - 10am. - 6pm
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Supper
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Lights & Carols - 6.30pm
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion - 11am
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Punch, Pies & Carols, Ditton Priors Village Hall

## Cleaning Rota for March

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March Mr & Mrs Graham Russell

## St John the Baptist 100 Club results for February

- £20 - Mark Childs
- £10 - Pam Gennard
- £5 each to Sue Carpenter, Mark Smith, and Margaret Bill



### Easter Lilies

As in other years, we hope to have a display of lilies in church. This is made possible thanks to the generosity of so many.

If you would like to donate towards the lilies, please give to a church warden or to me, Shirley Wall 07530-089808. Thank you.

## Ditton Priors Halls committee – forthcoming Community Events

- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Music Bingo at Ditton Priors Pavilion
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July: BEERFEST at Ditton Priors recreation ground

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Burwarton & District Wives' Group

*We are a Ladies Group of all ages that meet on the first Wednesday of each month 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 5th March** at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors Playing Field at 7.30pm when we shall have a talk entitled '**These feet are made for walking**' by Julie Lucas a foot care practitioner. There will also be a raffle during the evening. 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).

## Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes:

### Please note a change in the Service for March:

- ✝ Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 11:30am Holy Communion at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm Evening Prayer at Loughton

## Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:

- **Services are held at Aston Botterell Church on the First Sunday every month at 11.30 am.**  
Please check in Wheatland News and on Pew Sheets each month for details.

In February we held our church service in our home at Aston Botterell as the church is cold. A warm fire, coffee and Janet's shortbread were enjoyed after prayers from Rev Joe and Jo (yes another one) from Neenton, were very welcome. Thank you both and to everyone who came and supported us.

## Volunteers needed!!

Anyone who would like to help with cleaning, putting flowers in our church and keeping it welcoming for visitors would be warmly welcomed and we would be very grateful. We are very proud of our church and have many lovely comments from visitors. A big thankyou to the current small team who help now and keep our community spirit alive. In the words of a well-known saying '**Every little helps**'!

*There are indeed some extraordinary and very beautiful features inside Aston Botterell Church - Ed*

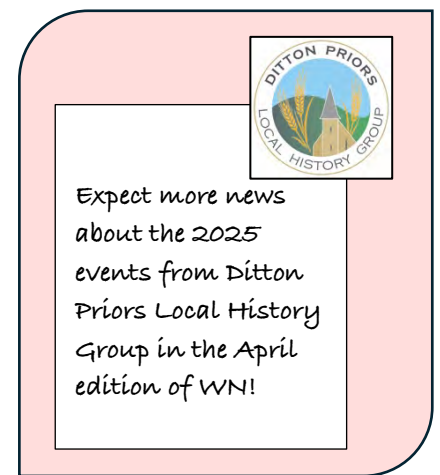
**Coming soon** a quiz and meal - see April Wheatland News!

## Aston Botterell Draw

- £20 - June Preece – 139,
- £10 - Gill Wilding – 173
- £5 each to - John Derricutt – 58 and to Wilf & Sue Pountney – 17

12

**More gems overleaf from the story of Aston Botterell – quarried by Anne from the records in the Parish Chest**



# Spotlight on our history

Further extracts from the notebooks of the Revd Edwin F Lipscomb, (1831 – 1923), Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Aston Botterell, from 1883.

Charlcot - this is an ancient part of our parish. The families of King Hinskerk ( the charity of Mrs H Povey comes from ... in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier there was a paper mill on the bank of the stream below the house ... then on Cinder Hill are remains of Furness oven still to be seen ... and scattered about are debris which show they have been fired ..A hundred years ago there was quite a hive of men in this corner of Aston Botterell.

The Bold Farm - the archaeological society stated that on the site of the Bold was a nunnery, which went the way of all these religious houses at the reformation ..... it was its said to have been affiliated to White Ladies which gave shelter to Charles 2nd.

A grange took the place of the nunnery and was occupied for a century or two by well-known families in our registers.

The late J ,Sparrow Esq. the last owner told me he had found human remains in his orchard .... the cemetery of the religious house.

The Fox inn is now 1 and 2 Fox cottages

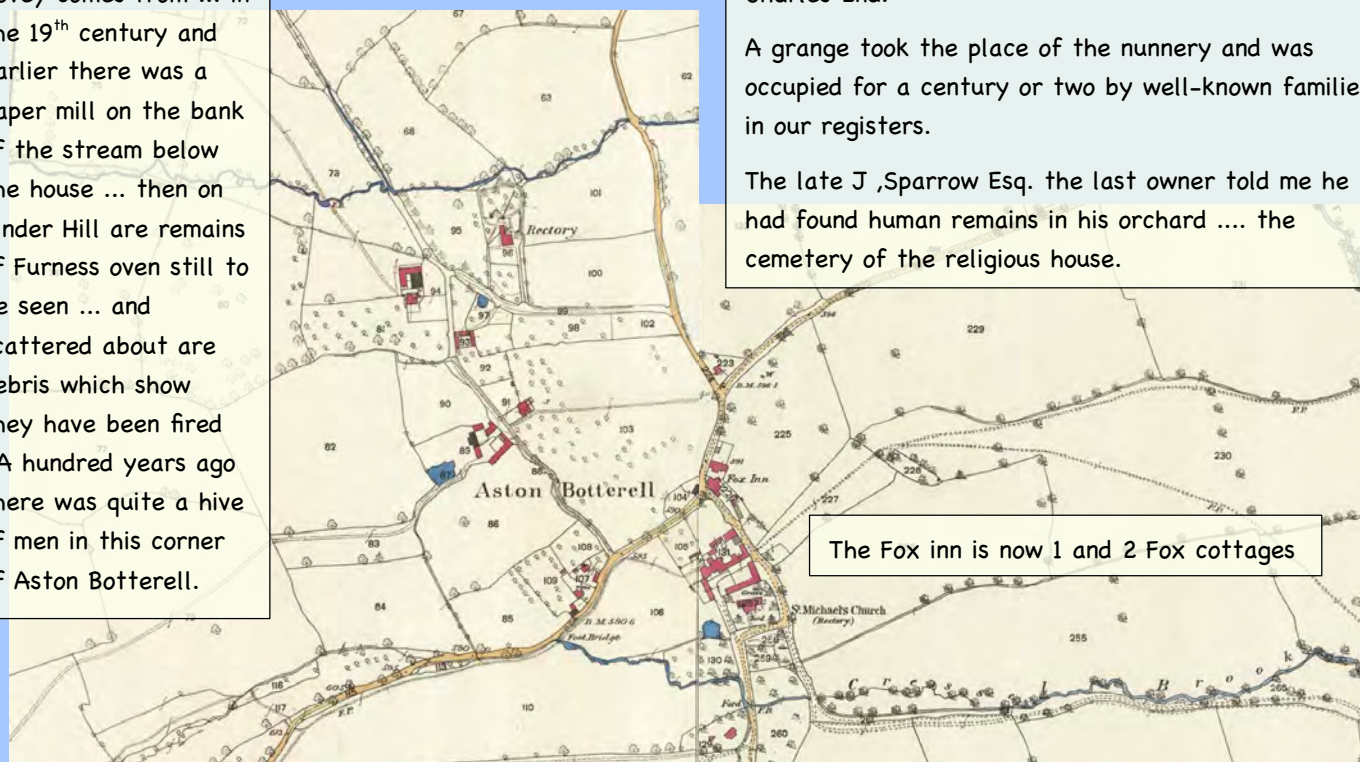
Alms houses - these stood in a field about ¼ mile from the forge. ( Benj Wellings) and fell into decay about 40 years in age...there were no funds to maintain them .. and there is no trace of them now.

Manor farm - part of the house may be two centuries old .. the ancient family of Kinnerish ... formerly resided here ... part of the moat is still to be seen

The Hall Farm - now known as the Manor House ..The home of the de Botterells is part Elizabethan and some on the ground floor date 1571 with carvings initials N A B at the back of the manor ...

In a field adjoining are mounds and in the summer of 1901 it was visited by miss Auden, a member of the archaeological society and notes .. which pointed out these mounds are on the site of the Saxon fort of the de Botterells who were left undisturbed at the conquest in order to guard against Wales.

Outside the field is what remains of the ancient way from the Titterstone hills to Bridgnorth



## Well-behaved wildflowers only, please!!

**D**espite the cold in February, Nancy Lowe, The Natural Gardener, visited our gardening club and cheered us up with her infectious passion for wildflower gardening.

Nancy explained that growing wildflowers in our gardens can be challenging! Many are sadly too boisterous to grow in this way and will create a lot of work for us, as we try to protect our traditional garden variety plants that are sharing their space.

Wildflowers have a range of behaviours that they use to allow them to grow amongst a diverse community of other plants, perfect for meadows, but not ideal for areas such as garden flower beds. However, Nancy explained the benefits of growing wildflowers for wildlife and suggested that careful selection of 'well behaved' wildflowers make it possible to incorporate them into our vegetable plots as well as our beds and borders.

Amongst the suggestions for planting in our borders are Foxgloves, Nigella, Sweet Rocket and Honesty. These are self-seeders and they can be easily weeded out or transplanted to places where there are gaps they can fill. If they have a spreading root system, they don't spread too quickly and again can be removed without trouble if plans for a bed change and they need to be either moved or removed.



Nancy also recommended the Milky Bellflower (*Campanula lactiflora*). It is related to Harebells, but this type of bellflower grows much taller, to around 80cm, with multiple spires of bell-shaped flowers in either white, blue or pale pink. Nancy highly recommended Gladwyn Iris which flowers in late Spring. These native woodland irises do well in a shady spot, even tolerating the dry shade beneath trees and shrubs or close to house walls. Their strap-shaped leaves have a handsome presence all year round, so put them where you are able to stop and admire their flowers as they bloom.

For the vegetable garden, Nancy recommended Borage, Calendula, Chamomile, Lambs Lettuce, and Fat Hen. These are all beneficial annuals which can be easily weeded out, but will attract birds and insects into your garden and can be used to provide a tasty and colourful salad bowl.

Nancy also explained the benefits of letting grass grow long, and when to mow. Even without being a wildflower-rich lawn, simply having long grasses will be supporting a whole host of wildlife garden visitors. This includes butterflies like the Meadow Brown, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet butterflies. Their caterpillars need native grasses to feed on and these are present in most garden lawns. There was so much information in Nancy's talk that I could not possibly include it all here, but if you are interested in Wildlife gardening, then take a look at Nancy's website; [www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk](http://www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk).



Our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March sees the return of Mick Poultney. Mick is known as 'The Compost King'. He is a speaker, judge and expert composter. Mick has written a number of books and has appeared at Gardeners World live. He will be talking about 'Cannas for beginners'.

If you would like to hear Mick's talk or attend any of our meetings, you would be made very welcome. We meet at Stoke St Milborough Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00pm. Why not come along, have a cuppa and a chat with our small but friendly group of gardeners. You do not need to be an expert, just have an interest in gardens. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know more.

**If you would like more information about our gardening club, please contact me:**

Bev Harris

[Bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk)

01584-841845 or 07933-724728



## Cleobury North & District Village Hall

*CNVH Management Committee writes:*

### The Rotundas – see also the photoshoot on the back cover!

An evening of music and stories of folklore from around the Black Country and Birmingham was enjoyed in CNVH on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

When the entertainers arrived, they were amazed at the decorations and the atmosphere which set the scene for the evening. This was supported with food being delivered during the evening from The Willows, Ditton Priors – big 'thankyou' to them, also to Ian and Pam for keeping the bar working throughout the evening and to those who donated raffle prizes.



The Village Hall 'events' committee would like to thank all those who supported this hugely enjoyable evening and will be organising following events as suggested in the survey we conducted in 2024 to maintain the upkeep of this valuable asset for the area. Watch this space for future dates!

**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

### Burwarton & District WI

*Helen Groves writes:*



*We have an interesting programme for 2025 with speakers, social afternoons and outings and would welcome everyone to come and have an enjoyable time with us.*

We have monthly meetings at **Cleobury North Village Hall** on **Tuesdays**, from October to March at 2.30pm and from April to September at 7.30pm. Visitors pay £3. For more information please ring Helen Groves on 01746 712466 or e mail me on [groves.helen5@gmail.com](mailto:groves.helen5@gmail.com).

## Chetton News

### Church service in March

- ✝ Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March – 11:30 am – Holy Communion
- ✝ We are looking forward to our **Palm Sunday group service** on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10:00am. Lisa and Charles will be hosting lunch afterwards, so please let us know if you wish to join us.

### Flowers and Cleaning - Sheila

*Pam Downing writes:*

### From the register

A funeral service was held last month for Andrew Rutherford. Andrew was a well-respected member of our community and a committed family man, well-liked by everyone. He will be sadly missed.

## Dates for your diary

There will be a Coffee Morning at Church House on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Coffee, cakes, refills, bric a brac, £5 entrance. We would love to see you there.

## 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their 100 club subs for this year. New members are always welcome, and it is a fun way to raise money for St Giles' Church. Subscription is £10 a year per ticket with a chance of winning £15 to £10 each month.

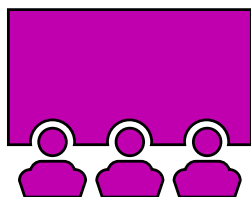
## Chetton Village Hall

We are having our **village hall car park resurfaced** and re-fenced at the end of February and thank the National Lottery 'Awards for All' and the 'Peoples Postcode Trust' for the grants enabling this work to go ahead.

### Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

Village Hall Diary for 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.</li><li>■ Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm.</li><li>■ Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.</li><li>■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm.</li><li>■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm</li><li>■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.</li></ul>
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Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 789239.



### Flicks in the Sticks –

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are showing '**The Critic**' starring Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton and Lesley Manville. Doors open at 7:00pm for refreshments, and the film commences at 7:30pm. Tickets £5.

**Village Hall Curry and Quiz Night** - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March starting at 7pm for 7.15 pm. Proceeds to be shared between Farm Africa and Chetton Village Hall. Teams of six. To book please email [talletboxer@gmail.com](mailto:talletboxer@gmail.com). Please submit a team name and numbers and if people want to be added let us know, adding any dietary requirements. Tickets £12.50 - bring your own drinks. Organised by Sarah Crawford-Clarke.

Sarah Haden's **Sound Bath** takes place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March: to book, please email [2sarahhaden@googlemail.com](mailto:2sarahhaden@googlemail.com)

The Vicar was sitting in his study thinking about his sermon for next morning  
His children kept coming in  
He then had an idea. He saw a map of the world, which he cut up, and asked  
his children to put it back together.  
Ten minutes later they were back with the world complete  
He asked why they had been so quick.  
The children explained that on the back was a picture of man, which was easy  
to put back together.  
The vicar had his sermon.  
Get the man right and the world will be right.

## Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

**Thank you** to all those who have helped in any way throughout the last few months. Many of our neighbours in Neenton are experiencing sickness or ill health and are grateful for the help being offered – a little help etc.....

**Congratulations** to Liz Dean, she is the star of Neenton following her performance in 'The Maid from Dagenham' – we have hidden talent in this small village.

**This month we start the preparations for Easter** even though it is another month away! **if anyone has half an hour** to spend to help with cleaning, sweeping the porch or pulling up weeds on the path please contact Bobbie Jarvis.

### All Saints' Tote

- December - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Harvey Moreton, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Pam Pickup
- January - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Sue Teague, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Richard Jones
- February - 1<sup>st</sup> prize Margaret Griffiths, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Richard Jones

### Date for your diary:

Neenton Duck Race & Fete – Saturday 21st June 2025 – will mark the start of our fundraising events for the year, to help fund repairs to the stained glass window and surrounding stonework.

**Volunteers wanted:** We would like to revive the Beech Green Games on Duck Race Day this year. Looking for 4 – 6 energetic people to manage this area. If you wish to get involved in a community event and would like more information, please contact Bobbie Jarvis on 01746 787093.

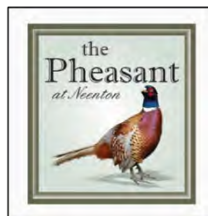
## The Pheasant at Neenton

### Opening times –

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

### Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – live music – Cooper & Davies at 5pm
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday lunch – 12 – 4pm
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday – Fish Friday
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday lunch - 12 – 4pm



Please phone 01746 787955 or email:  
info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and requirements.

## And all because of the railway .....

Back in 1995 I was weekly-commuting from Shropshire to Leeds, by train, to my then civil service base, where we were preparing to be TUPE'd out into a new organisation.

Usually, the journey was from Ludlow via Manchester, but for once, on this particular day, I went via Birmingham.

A very tiny, frail-looking elderly lady sat opposite to me across a table, and next to her a young woman. They got talking and it quickly emerged that they knew many people in common. I was absorbed in work on my laptop, juggling with the heated discussions running on the proposed arrangements for the new organisation - but their conversation became so interesting that I started to pay attention and from time to time I joined in.

The elderly lady described some of the work in which she had been involved over her lifetime. Among other things, as a member of the General Synod, she had drafted the first consultation document on the ordination of women, and had travelled to many countries to gather information and learn about their take on the question.

**"You must always," she said "know the strength of other people's arguments".**

If ever there was a God-sent message for me, this was it. Active listening – not just hearing, not just preparing for my own riposte to whatever another person said. It completely hit the nail on the head of the question that I was grappling with back then.

30 years later I am only just out of kindergarten on all this. It is very difficult, and hard work, and I often forget or fail. I think this lady taught me to try my best to listen, but more than that to probe and explore for the reasoning behind the positions that people take – whether I instinctively agree with them or not!

Just before the lady left the train, struggling with her tiny suitcase, she introduced herself to us.

She was Dame Christian Howard, of the Castle Howard family. The Guardian carried an obituary on this extraordinary woman in 1999.

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/1999/apr/26/guardianobituaries>

ccj



# The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

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

~

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

St Mary, Highley CHURCHWARDEN Canev Clayton	St Mary, Billingsley CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley CHURCHWARDEN Laura Jones – 07714-432836, <a href="mailto:laura@laj.me.uk">laura@laj.me.uk</a>
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## Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

## Church Service

✝ Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> - Holy Communion at 10:00am

The latest breakfast at the Down was almost standing room only, as around 40 of ourselves and about 90 in a shooting party shared the attention of the hard-working staff. As ever, they coped magnificently and I think all enjoyed themselves; we certainly did. The next breakfast will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 9am; please let Marion know if you want to attend; [marion.corfield@talktalk.net](mailto:marion.corfield@talktalk.net).

Revd David Poyner – Tel 01562-68638

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

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

Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585

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



**Our services continue** on the third Sunday on the month at 10am, when we have Holy Communion followed by refreshments, which often last longer than the service itself.

We also continue to plan events to **celebrate the 150th anniversary** of the rebuilding of the church, which we will mark over the summer.



## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

At the moment we just have a Holy Communion service on the fourth Sunday of the month at 8:00 am. Even in the depth of winter, a small group of us gather for the service; a splendid start to a crisp winter morning...

Elsewhere, work around the church is largely on hold until the spring. However, I continue my weekly rounds, usually on a Friday, in Billingsley and Glazeley. I am always happy to call on people, either to give communion or simply to talk.

We are running a **Lent Group by Zoom** jointly with the Brown Clee benefice, at 7pm on Wednesday evenings for 6 weeks from 12<sup>th</sup> March. We are looking at the Nicene Creed and **all are welcome to join**; the link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3592851895?pwd=cksyL0t5TlhFUURRenpxMG9yQTVhUT09>. Each session will last about an hour; no prior knowledge is needed!

Revd David Poyner – Associate Minister - Tel 01562-68638

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

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

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

## The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation he came down  
from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary  
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.*

*Amen.*



## Lovely Lichens!

**Churchyards are the ideal place for a lichen enthusiast to while away many happy hours. Lichens can be found on walls, monuments, trees and, if you have ancient grassland there may be lichens within the sward as well.**

To the uninitiated lichens can look broadly similar with subtle mosaics of colour, often greys and yellows forming expanding circles as they increase in size as the years go by. There is more to lichens than meets the eye however. Firstly they are two or more organisms living together as one, usually a fungus and an algae. Fungus forms the visible part of the lichen and within, protected by threads of the fungus, are cells of algae and/or cyanobacteria which photosynthesise. So the fungus provides a home and the algae provides food. Lichens reproduce through microscopic fungal spores which, if they find a suitable partner, can colonise surfaces which are not too shaded or too smooth. These spores are released from structures which look rather like tiny jam tarts, flasks or pimples!

Lichens are fantastic at surviving where other life cannot. Provided there is enough light and moisture lichens are able to grow on bare stone, not needing cracks or soil to root into. Some lichens grow very slowly, perhaps half a millimetre per year whilst others grow more quickly. Many lichens are long-lived so the lichen you see in a churchyard may be almost as old as the wall or gravestone it is growing on. Astonishingly there are over 2,000 different lichen species and it is not unusual for a single churchyard to contain more than 100 different types.

Churchyards are particularly rich in lichens as they contain so many old stones with a variety of types; limestone, sandstone, granite to name a few. Some stones are smoother, others rough and they may have differing amounts of shade, wind and moisture depending on where they are within the churchyard, which side of the monument the lichen is on, whether they are vertical, leaning or flat. The carving of the inscription itself provides microclimates with different amounts of light and moisture within the lettering. All of these changes in conditions will suit different lichen species. They are also found on trees, wooden fences and gates, grassy areas, pathways and even dustbin lids!

Most lichens offer protection to the surface they grow on and it may be easier to read lettering which is lichen-covered rather than bare, eroding stone. They do not need much care but do avoid the use of any chemicals near to lichens and definitely don't try and remove them. Lichens can die if shaded out so try and keep ivy or other climbers from encroaching over them too.

If you have never taken a closer look at a lichen then why not take a hand-lens or magnifying glass and give it a go. Lichen colonies have been described as minute, self-maintaining gardens, providing a natural cladding for the stone. They are beautiful and endlessly fascinating and if you like a challenge, why not look up the British Lichen Society website and find out more about how to identify them.

All the best, Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor



*Picture - Grotesque face at St John the Baptist Church, Albrighton*

# Molecule of the Month

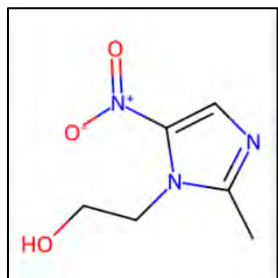
## – Metronidazole

Revd David Poyner writes:



### The original wonder drugs were antibiotics.

First discovered around a century ago, they allowed what seemed to be the near miraculous recovery of people from infections which would have otherwise killed them. They remain a cornerstone of modern medicine, although there is always a battle between medicinal chemists and the organisms being targeted as the later evolve new forms of resistance. The key to success is “selective toxicity”; the antibiotic must kill the harmful organism but not the person who has the infection. That is why patients are not given disinfectants, a point famously lost on a US president during the Covid pandemic... The selectivity can come in a number of ways. Penicillin and its more modern successors work by stopping bacteria from making their outer covering, the cell wall. Our cells do not have this outer covering and so there is no chance of the antibiotic harming us directly. Other antibiotics exploit more subtle differences in biochemistry. Sometimes the selectivity comes from exploitation of basic chemistry.



Metronidazole is an antibiotic used to treat deep-seated infections; places where harmful bacteria have attacked parts of the body that have a poor blood supply and so have little oxygen (which is carried around the body in the blood). The bacteria which do this positively welcome the absence of oxygen, because they themselves do not use it, they are “anaerobic”, which means that they generate their energy by chemical reactions that do not use oxygen. By contrast we need oxygen because we cannot generate the power to keep our cells alive without it.

Oxygen-using (aerobic) and anaerobic bacteria are no friends of each other; they do not grow well together. Thus the oxygen-using bacteria sometimes produce chemicals that kill their anaerobic cousins. Metronidazole was developed from one such chemical. It resembles one of the building blocks of DNA, the material that all living organisms bar some viruses use to direct their activity. By itself, it is harmless. However, it can be converted to a chemical form known as a “free radical”. A free radical can be thought of as an out-of-control dodgem car; it collides at random with any molecule it meets, destroying it. In the case of the free-radical form of metronidazole (technically, hydroxymetronidazole), the target is DNA; if this is damaged, the cell will die.



The key to the selectivity is that metronidazole is turned into the free radical by a protein only found in anaerobic bacteria and this reaction only happens where there is little oxygen (as is found inside these organisms). They take the antibiotic up as it looks like a useful building block for their DNA and then they unwittingly activate it to the free radical form that kills them. This does not happen in humans, as we cannot turn it into its killer version and our cells have a lot of oxygen inside them. Thus this antibiotic is very useful in treating infections where other antibiotics will not work.

DRP

*We often put diagrams of molecules in the ‘Molecule of the Month’ feature. In case readers aren’t familiar with how these work, here is a bit of explanation.... With apologies to all who can explain much better than can your typist..... don’t blame DRP, please!*

*Where capital letters such as N, O, P, or S appear, these are atoms of nitrogen, or oxygen, or phosphorus, or sulphur.*

*Where there is an angle where two black lines join, it means that there is a carbon atom at that point, which holds the whole thing together.*

*Single lines between atoms mean single bonds, double lines mean double bonds – just how the individual atoms ‘hold hands’ with their neighbours.*

*Molecules aren’t flat, as shown in these diagrams: each type of atom has its own angles at which it reaches out to hold hands with its neighbours, which gives rise to interesting shapes that can be capable of clever and sometimes shape-altering gymnastics!*

# The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

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

## March messages

### On 4th February the Archdeacon of Ludlow wrote:

Dear friends

You will be aware that the closing date for the latest round of advertising for the combined full-time role of Rector of the Stottesdon Benefice and Rural Church Missioner was Monday 3rd February.

It is with great regret that I need to let you know that we had no applications for the post.

I realise it will come as little comfort to you to know that you are far from alone in this situation. The recruitment picture across the Church of England as a whole is very difficult at present whether roles be single or multiple parishes, urban, rural, full-time, part-time, or combined. The failure to attract applicants does not say anything negative about you as churches, nor about the attractiveness of the role in and of itself.

I would like to invite PCCs to meet me, with the Rural Dean and Lay Co-chair, to pray, to listen, to discern where we go from here, and to work out together how we support you in what is now a longer vacancy than any of us would have wished. A mutually convenient date will be found as soon as we can manage it.

Please know that I share your disappointment and sadness, though I realise you will be feeling it more keenly than I.

This comes with the assurance of my ongoing prayers.

With all good wishes in Christ

**Fiona Gibson**

Archdeacon of Ludlow - 4th February 2025

Clare and Chris Tibbits write, for WN, on 21 February:

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 15

So, there were no applicants this time for our vacancy – recruitment for church roles in rural areas is proving just as difficult as it is for new doctors and teachers. The PCCs and Archdeacon now have to take stock and determine the way forward.....

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:

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

*Clare and Chris Tibbits*

### Pastoral Visits and support

If you or someone you know need a visit or communion or other support at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden or other volunteer (see above) who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.





**FARLOW & ORETON VILLAGE HALL**

# **Spring Market**

**Sat 22nd March**

**10.00-2.30pm**

**Local Fresh Produce  
Arts & Crafts**

**Come along to shop local &  
support your village hall**

**Teas, cakes, raffle**



**F&OVH Serving the community for 100 years**

## From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers

+ Stottesdon – Funeral Office for Roger Simmonds, RIP.

## Services for March in the Stottesdon Churches

March	Celebrant	Stottesdon	Other parishes
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Neil Dunlop	10:30 - Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	FARLOW: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	John Daniels	10:30 - Holy Communion	CLEETON: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Informal Worship	SIDBURY: 11:45 with David Poyner
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Holy Communion	SILVINGTON: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bailey	<b>Group Service for Mothering Sunday</b>	
April			
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bailey	10:30 - Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer	FARLOW: 09:00 Holy Communion

During the continuing interregnum there will be some changes to the 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 your churchwarden.

## Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

**The Stottesdon Heritage website** – created as a final part of the church restoration project and featuring our stained glass image Eadwine – **is now online** for those ‘in the know’ ahead of a launch later in the year .....



...with copies of the new church guide, church and village self-guided tour plans, links to the virtual tour of 40+ video shorts, and access to historic documents and some of the research generated by the Lottery-funded programme 2022-24.

The research includes new evidence for the early medieval wall paintings which once have graced the walls of St Mary's church – and an intriguing new interpretation of the Saxon carvings on the stone tympanum above the tower's internal 'east' door.

Have a look for yourself at [www.stottyheritage.co.uk](http://www.stottyheritage.co.uk)

**Stottesdon St Mary 100 Club:** 2025 Membership details were sent out during February and many thanks indeed to all who have already renewed their subscriptions. **There's still just time to get yours done in time to be entered into the March double-money draw.....**

**A few Christmas's wreaths await collection and removal:** Please remember that yours should be removed, for recycling, composting or disposal at home, before Lent – Ash Wednesday is on 5<sup>th</sup> March - Thank you!





## National Garden Scheme

Over many years the National Garden 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 26<sup>th</sup> April 12 noon – 5:00 pm.

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

## Farlow News

*Caroline Billson writes-*

### Farlow & Oretton VH and St Giles Church 100 Club, February's winners:

- £20 Peter & Glynis Harman (22);
- £10 Violet Link (25) and Paul & Steph Evans (97);
- £ 5 Abkats (Poppy) (37) and Clare & Chris McKnight (28)



*Stock image!*

### Market Day is back again at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall...

A Spring Market is being held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March between 10:00 and 2:30pm. There will be local fresh produce and Arts & Crafts items for sale, teas, cakes and raffle. **We welcome you to come along and shop local, your support is very much appreciated!!**

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

**Knit and Natter** continues every Wednesday at 10:00 am in church.

### January 100 Club results

- £20 Don Dolphin No 38
- £10 Mike Worral No 76 and £10 Nigel Gibbon No 7,
- £5 Gemma Pritchard No 115 and £5 Kayleigh & Jack Brooks No 96

## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### Church services this Spring

- ✝ **Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon – Holy Communion with Revd Justin Bailey**
- ✝ **Easter Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 with Ann.**

### Community events:

**Coffee mornings** - at 10:00 am -12 noon on Saturday and 8<sup>th</sup> March ... then Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April for our Easter coffee morning and bake sale.

## Sidbury News

Rev'd David Poyner writes:

### Service at Sidbury during March

✝ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March – 11:45 am

Rev'd David Poyner

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

01562-68638

It has been a quiet month as far as the church is concerned in Sidbury. Our most recent service was unusual as none of the regular attendees could attend. Rather than cancel the service, I and a parishioner who had been with me at Glazeley (where I had previously done a service) said Morning Prayer in the church, following the order of the Book of Common Prayer. I suspect it has been quite a few years since that service was last heard in the church.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a service with ashing in Highley Church at 7pm; anyone from Sidbury (or indeed elsewhere in the Stottesdon benefice) is welcome to attend.

Lent is also traditionally when churches offer a study course. This year marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nicene Creed, the great poem that we recite every communion service which explores what we and virtually all Christians have believed over those centuries. To celebrate this anniversary and also to understand more about the basis of our faith, this Lent the Highley and the Brown Clee benefices will work together to look at the creeds.

I will be hosting an online group on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm by Zoom, starting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3592851895?pwd=cksyL0t5TlhFUURRenpxMG9yQTVhUT09>

(Meeting ID: 359 285 1895 Password: 512607).

All are welcome to attend. You can find more about the course at [Pilgrim: The Creeds Book 5 \(Grow Stage\) by Jane Williams, Paula Gooder, Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, Robert Atwell, Graham Tomlin, Martyn Snow, Mary Gregory - Paperback - 9780715144442](#). For the enthusiasts, a course book is available for £4 from Church House Publishing but there is no need to have this to join the course.

**The full text of the Nicene Creed appears on page 17 of this WN.**

## Silvington News

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

## Community Noticeboard

<b>Spring Farmers' Market</b>	On Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 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.
<b>Our Local Food Banks need your help</b>	Both are 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.



# Wheatland Diary

**Everything we know so far for 2025!**

**Do make sure we put your dates in, to maximise numbers at all the events, and to help avoid clashes!**

Sat	1	Mar	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	1	Mar	Breakfast at The Down – for Chetton Church with Glazeley Church – see page 16
Wed	5	Mar	First of the Lent course on the Nicene Creed – see page 24
Wed	5	Mar	Burwarton & Dist Wives Group – “These feet are made for walking” – talk – see page 10
Fri	7	Mar	Flicks in the Sticks – ‘The Critic’ – Chetton Village Hall, 7:00pm – see page 14
Sat	8	Mar	Coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00 am – 12 noon – see page 23
Wed	12	Mar	Lent Group - First of 6 weekly ZOOM meetings – 7:00pm – see page 24 for link to join online
Thur	13	Mar	Burwarton & Dist Garden Club –the Compost King – Stoke St Milboro VH, 2:00pm see page 12
Sat	15	Mar	Daddy's Hat – music at Aston Botterell Church – 3:00 – see page 6
Sat	15	Mar	Spring Farmers' Market – Cleobury Mortimer – see page 24
Thur	20	Mar	Lent Lunch – Ditton Priors Village Hall – 12:30 pm – see page 9
Fri	21	Mar	Lunch at Hall Farm, Deuxhill – for details, tickets, prices etc see page 16
Sat	22	Mar	Chetton VH Curry & Quiz Night – 7:00pm – teams of 6 – for booking details and tickets see page 13
Sat	22	Mar	Spring Market – Farlow – see poster on page 21
Sun	23	Mar	Cooper and Davies – live music at The Pheasant, Neenton, 5:00pm – see page 15
Wed	26	Mar	Coffee Morning at Church House, Chetton – 10:00am – 1:00pm – see page 14
Sun	30	Mar	Clocks go forward at 1:00 am
Sat	5	Apr	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	5	Apr	Music Bingo – Ditton Priors Pavilion – see page 10
Sat	12	Apr	Easter Coffee Morning – Ditton Priors Pavilion – see page 9
Sat	12	Apr	Easter Coffee Morning and Bake Sale – Middleton Scriven Church – see page 23
Sat	12	Apr	Daddy's Hat – St Mary's Church Jackfield, 3:00pm, Saxon Fire & Ben Richards – see page 6
Sat	26	Apr	National Garden Scheme – Stottesdon – 12 noon – 5:00pm – see page 23
Sat	3	May	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	17	May	Ditton Priors Church Fete – 1:00pm – 4:00pm – see page 9
Mon	31	May	Pam's Plants – 11am – in Ditton – see page 9
Sat	7	June	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	14	June	Sponsored Walk from St John's Church, Ditton Priors – see page 9
Sat	21	June	Neenton Duck Race and Fete – see page 15
Sat	5	July	Pimms and Puds – 5:00 – in Ditton – see page 9
Sat	12	July	Beerfest! At Ditton Priors Recreation Ground – see page 10
Thur	7	Aug	Burwarton Show!
Thur	21	Aug	Teas in St John's Churchyard, Ditton Priors – 3:00pm – see page 9
Sat	13	Sept	Ride and Stride
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page 9
Thurs	27	Nov	Christmas Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors – see page 9
Sat	29	Nov	Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am – see page 9
Sat	13	Dec	Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 9

## Start of the Cricket Season



The  
groundsman  
is preparing  
the wicket ...

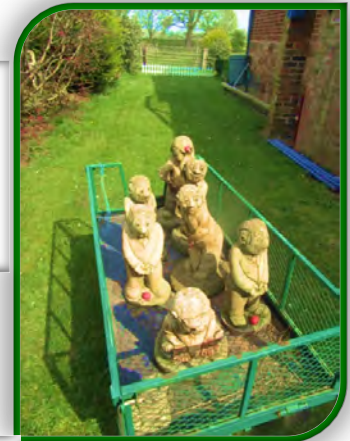


... and  
declares the  
pitch to be  
match-ready



The  
umpire  
inspects  
the  
pitch

The team  
arrives in  
the Team  
Bus



First Ball of  
the Season...  
Blocker Bill  
facing  
Whirlwind  
Willy ....






A few spectators turn up  
to cheer the team on

And see Slippery Sam  
drop an easy catch.



# Useful local contacts – updated March 2025

Please let us know if you have any corrections to this list, or you want to suggest additions – thank you

<b>Brown Clee Surgery PPG</b>	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email <a href="mailto:BrownCleePPG@gmail.com">BrownCleePPG@gmail.com</a> , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
<b>Brown Clee Walkers</b>	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Garden Club</b>	Meets on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact secretary Ms Bev Harris on 01584-841845, <a href="mailto:bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk">bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Burwarton &amp; District WI</b>	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
<b>Burwarton &amp; District Wives Group</b>	Meeting 8pm first Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
<b>Chelmarsh Bowling</b>	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
<b>Chelmarsh Games Group</b>	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
<b>Chelmarsh Jubilee Club</b>	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
<b>Chelmarsh Parent &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
<b>Chelmarsh Parish Hall</b>	Available for hire - <a href="mailto:booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk">booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk</a>
<b>Chelmarsh Walking Group</b>	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
<b>Chetton &amp; Glazeley WI</b>	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O’Sullivan 01746-868225
<b>Chetton Folk Dance Club</b>	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
<b>Chetton Village Hall</b>	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
<b>Chorley Village Hall</b>	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
<b>Cleobury North Village Hall</b>	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
	National Centre for Domestic Violence <a href="https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/">https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/</a> Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
<b>Daddy’s Hat Music &amp; Poetry</b>	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you <b>will</b> get a call-back!
<b>Ditton Priors Art Group</b>	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
<b>Ditton Priors History Group</b>	Please contact <a href="mailto:paul.wilson8992@gmail.com">paul.wilson8992@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ditton Priors Village Hall</b>	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - <a href="mailto:dittonpriorsfalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsfalls@gmail.com</a>
<b>Knowle Sports Club</b>	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children’s Football Field 01584-890644
 <b>Little Explorers Pre-School Ditton Priors</b>	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact 01746-712506 <a href="mailto:littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com">littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com</a>
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services <a href="https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk">https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk</a> – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
<b>Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors</b>	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
<b>Stottesdon &amp; District W.I.</b>	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
<b>Stottesdon Gateway Nursery</b>	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
<b>Tae kwon-do</b>	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055



# The Rotundas play CNVH

Who knew that CNVH could  
look like fairyland's answer  
to the Ritz? What  
elegance!! What an  
atmosphere!!



And a great time was had by all!

