

# WHEATLAND NEWS

April 2025



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

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# Editorial

When this edition of Wheatland News hits the airways the clocks will have been turned forward and everyone is looking forward to the continuing episode of warm weather so that we can start enjoying the lighter evenings.

Easter services and the lead up to Good Friday are listed within the News from each Parish together with the functions and events taking place across the area.

We have an interesting update from Sarah Cawdell – it is great to see how the groups are developing and working towards their goal by making bricks. A lot of hard work in a hot atmosphere.

The Easter Bunny seems to have appeared in one Parish – can you find reference to him?

Ditton Priors Local History Group is showing the videos Voices of the Past, well worth seeing and hearing the voices of people who lived through the experiences.

Our WN Diary is a FULL PAGE this month! Nobody could ever say that they can find nothing to do in the Wheatland area! Some really super events for all ages and all tastes. Look forward to publishing your pictures and reading about what happened on the days.

Enjoy the sunny weather!

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 <b>May 2025</b> edition of WN to the <b>EDITOR</b> will be <b>noon on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.</b> 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:rll.langham@btinternet.com">rll.langham@btinternet.com</a>
Aston Botterell	<a href="mailto:AnnePreece@icloud.com">AnnePreece@icloud.com</a>
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>





# Diocese of Hereford

April letter from  
the Dean of Hereford



**W**e talk a lot about failure. It is something we are super sensitive about. We have all had our failures. I am no exception and struggle most days with a fear of failing family, colleagues, church and God. Fear of failure is the reverse of what the gospel teaches but we are all extremely susceptible. It causes leaders to become risk averse and instinctively protect the institution, sometimes shamefully at the expense of the vulnerable. Farmers have told me that they don't want to be the one that lets the farm go under and church people vow to battle on because 'this mustn't fail on our watch'. The pressure of the ancestors, of tradition, of the sheer hard work of those who have gone before is colossal. Believe me, I do not want to be the Dean of Hereford under whose leadership a millennia of cathedral life goes horribly wrong. When Christ's Church fails, it is particularly heartbreaking, for it implies to others the failure of God.

The shame that accompanies personal and institutional failure scars us and trains us to count the cost, play it safe, and fear the unknown. Yet we know from experience that often failure leads to change and growth. Fear of failure among those called to live by the Spirit in the discomfort of risk leads to a lack of trust in God that literally asphyxiates His ability to create fresh possibilities, the most powerful of which is resurrection.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sweated over His anticipated cup of suffering, begging the Father to take it from Him. In the end, he chose to enter into the tragedy of his crucifixion. The long-awaited Messiah ended his mission in what looked like abject failure. Yet His willingness to trust God and submit to that failure led to the unimaginable expansion of God's kingdom. Even if our model of mission today also seems doomed to failure, we are called to step into it and trust in a fruitful future because that is what God promises and what Jesus did.

The physical resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning is both concrete testimony that God accompanies His people into the very depths and a blueprint for his plan to show that His love is stronger than all our faults, fears and failures. The Resurrection shows His capacity to redeem and make new life even out of death itself.

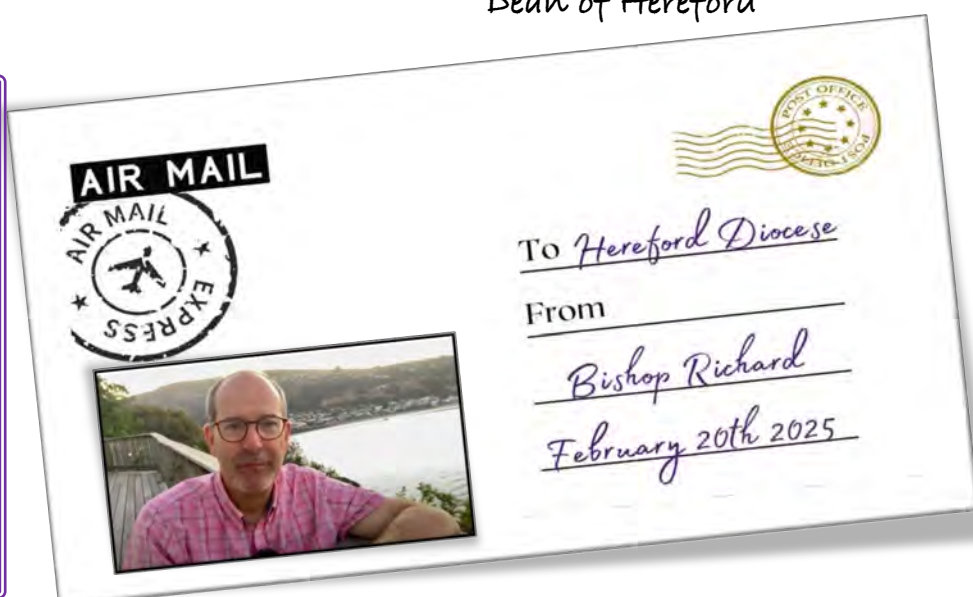
In these difficult times let us live and die as people who believe in Resurrection not out of naïve optimism but because we have seen the Risen Christ. If God can do that then all bets on personal and institutional failure are off and as Peter Pan observed, 'to die may be an awfully big adventure'

Very Revd Sarah Brown  
Dean of Hereford

In his 'postcard' video this week, Bishop Richard talks about desire, and the role of Lent in helping us with the ongoing process of reordering our desires.

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>



# 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

## Easter reflection

**I love team sports and especially the game of rugby.**

I watched transfixed at the recent England vs Wales match in the Six Nations with a mixture of happiness and sadness in equal measure. It is almost inevitable, at least for me, as I recognise that in any team sport so one sided, you can't have one without the other.

There is something about watching a team sport like rugby or cricket which draws me in. Maybe it's the mutuality and camaraderie that goes with it, sharing in success or failure, striving to improve, identifying giftings and talents within individuals and maximising the benefit for the whole team. I suspect there is something about sharing a burden to win a prize. All parts contributing towards the whole, with no part less important than the other.

How teams develop takes time and practice. They may change the way they play, they might even change formation, the whole way they are set up. None of this is important so long as they keep their eyes on the prize of being successful and growing, and in their ability to operate as a team.

To be successful it is not necessary to win. It is good to win, but it is not necessary in order to be successful.

In our work as the church here in Brown Clee we want to be successful, to grow our churches, but above all to remain focused on the prize that is Jesus. Everything we say or do is ultimately about the prize, a prize that we know we have won. The object for us is to grow as a team, but also to grow the team itself.

Success comes from compromise, through dialogue, through change and being adaptable to changing conditions. This is not easy stuff especially if we have played in the same position for a long time, or we are not confident about playing in a new position and maybe we don't recognise those gifts within us that we have been blessed with.

Lent is a good time to look at who we are as the Body of Christ, to listen to the voices around us but also from within, and pray for discernment and wisdom about how we grow as a team. Jesus's team played in many positions from fisherman to evangelists, from a persecutor of Christians to a great teacher. Over the years disciples have played upfront, others have played in defence, but the important thing in all of this is a willingness to play and to be successful as a team.

*Revd Joe Simons*

Readings for April	
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Purple or Lent Array	Psalm 145. 8 – 18 Isaiah 49.8 – 15; John 5. 17 – 30
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b> Purple or Lent Array	Psalm 126 Isaiah 43. 16 – 21; Philippians 3. 4b – 14; John 12. 1 – 8
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> Purple or Lent Array	Canticle: Bless the Lord Daniel 3. 14 – 20, 24 – 25, 28; John 8. 31 - 42
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday – Liturgy of the Palms – Holy Week</b> Red	Psalm 118. 1 – 2, 19 – end (or 118. 19 – end) Isaiah 50. 4 – 9a; Philippians 2.5 – 11; Luke 22. 14 – end of 23; or Luke 23. 1 – 49
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Evening Prayer</b>	Psalm 25 Lamentations 2. 8 – 19, Colossians 1. 18 – 25
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Evening Prayer</b>	Psalm 55 Lamentation 3. 40 – 51; Galatians 6. 11 – end
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Stations of the Cross</b>	
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday – Passover Meal</b>	Psalm 116.1, 10 end (or 116. 9 – end) Exodus 12. 1 – 4 (5 – 10) 11 – 14; 1 Corinthians 11. 23 – 26; John 13. 1 – 17, 31b – 35
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday</b> Hangings removed, Red for the Liturgy	Psalm 116.1, 10 end (or 116. 9 – end) Exodus 12. 1 – 4 (5 – 10) 11 – 14; 1 Corinthians 11. 23 – 26; John 13. 1 – 17, 31b – 35
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – Easter Eve</b> Hangings removed	Readings to be chosen
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Day</b> Gold or white	Psalm 118. 1 – 2, 14 – 24 Acts 10. 34 – 43; 1 Corinthians 15. 19 – 26; John 20. 1 – 18
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday after Easter</b> White	Psalm 118. 14 – end (Exodus 14. 10 – end; 15. 20 – 21); Acts 5. 27 – 32; Revelation 1. 4 – 8; John 20. 19 – end
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Second Sunday after Easter</b>	Psalm 30 (Zephaniah 3. 14 – end); Acts 9. 1 – 6 (7 – 20); Revelation 5. 11 – end; John 21. 1 - 19

## From the Brown Clee Registers

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Funeral Service for the late Mrs. Minnie Elizabeth Hamling at  
St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors



**APRIL SERVICES  
AT BROWN CLEE BENEFICE**

**We do hope that you will be able to join us during this very special time in the Church Calendar**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

10.00am – Morning Prayer – Ditton Priors

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Passiontide**

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

11.30am – Holy Communion – Aston Botterell (To be held outside if the weather is fine!)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00am – Holy Communion/MP – Ditton Priors

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday**

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Chetton.

Followed by lunch at Church House, Chetton. Please let Lisa or Sheila know if you would like to join.

6.00pm – Evening Prayer – Loughton

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm – Evening Prayer – Neenton

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm – Evening Prayer – Aston Botterell

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm – Stations of the Cross – Chetton

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday**

6.00pm – Passover Meal, Cleobury North Village Hall

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday**

2.00pm – 3.00pm – Reflection – Ditton Priors

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Eve**

6.00pm – Reflective Compline & Vigil – Ditton Priors

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day**

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

9.45am – Holy Communion – Chetton

11.30am – Holy Communion – Wheathill

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

11.30am – Holy Communion – Aston Botterell

## **Brown Clee Surgery – Patient Participation Group**

*Tina Ranson writes:*

Progress is being made towards creating a tranquil garden space around the Surgery in Ditton Priors, as many patients are volunteering to grow plants from the specified list provided by Ade Robinson. There have also been some donations to the specifically for the project, and the PPG Committee has submitted a bid for funding of the hard landscaping materials – we are waiting to hear if it has been successful. There will be more news on this, and other

developments at the Practice at the **next PPG meeting on Tuesday 1st April, doors open 6:30pm at Ditton Priors VH** – report to appear in the May edition of WN. Any patients who are not already on the PPG mailing list, can ask to join by contacting: [browncleeppg@gmail.com](mailto:browncleeppg@gmail.com).





## Brown Clee Churches



### Passover Meal

**Bringing The Last Supper To Life  
through  
Readings, Songs and Food!**

**Maundy Thursday  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 6pm  
At Cleobury North Village Hall**

**Featuring**

**The Open the Book Team  
Revd Val's legendary Lamb  
Hot-pot!**

**(Vegetarian option available)  
Bread and Hot Cross Buns**

**No Charge  
(Please make a donation)**

**You are warmly invited  
to join us.  
Booking Essential for Catering  
Purposes**

**Booking List at Back of Church,  
alternatively contact the Vicarage 01746  
599217 or Mike Teague 01746 789592**

## Ditton Priors News

*Marjorie Jones writes*

**The Lent Lunch** on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March went very well and the delicious Soups were enjoyed by all. Well done and thanks to the cooks. Donations were generous and we are sending **£100** to the 'Smile' charity (as advertised on the TV).

✝ **Easter Day** - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April - 10am. Holy Communion - Group Service at Ditton Priors. Do join us for this special service of celebration. All welcome.

**Easter Coffee Morning** - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 11am - 1pm at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors. Coffee, Cakes, Raffle and usual stalls, but the highlights will be the Easter Bonnet Competition and an Easter Egg Hunt around the Church. So, get decorating your bonnets and please bring lots of children along to join in the fun. All will be very welcome.

### Friends of St. John the Baptist Ditton Priors

This Trust was set up some 25 years ago to raise money specifically for the upkeep and maintenance of the Church Building and Monuments. Membership fees and donations for 2025 are now due and I will be collecting shortly. Please contact me, Marjorie, on 01746 712 423 if you are interested in joining.

### May Day - Bridgnorth Walk

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Bridgnorth Junior Walk now starts at Cleobury North, so not so many people about, but the walkers still come through Ditton Priors. The Church will be open from 11am - 1pm for Coffee and Cakes.



## Church Fete

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May - 1pm - 4pm in and around the Church. BBQ Tombola, Raffle, Stalls, Games, Teas and Cakes. All contributions for stalls, etc. very welcome and we will need help with setting up tables and shelters. We hope for sunshine and some music too. Offers of help please to Carole, Mark, Marjorie or Joe.

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

## Dates For Your Diary in 2025

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Church open for Coffee & Cakes 11 - 1pm – Bridgnorth Walk Day
- 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

## Cleaning Rota for April

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April        Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April     Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April     Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April     Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May        Mr & Mrs Tony Brown

## St John the Baptist 100 Club results for February

- £20 – Robert Peach
- £10 – John & Sarah Ballard
- £5 each to Mrs J Evans, Peter Slater, and Revd Joe Simons

**The 100 club starts this year on 1st May.** £12 pa per number for 12 monthly draws. Due to the closure of our local Lloyds banks, it would be helpful (but not compulsory) to pay by standing order or direct bank payment. I hope members will continue to support our lovely church. If you require more information, please contact me. Thank you - Shirley Wall. 07530-089808

## 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!



## Ditton Priors Local History Group

*Robin Greenwell writes:*

**Ditton Priors Local History Group is "planning to build on the successes of 2024"** says Chairman Paul Wilson, as it develops ideas for events and for the History Centre itself, over the coming months.

"Approximately 25 new display boards are currently being designed and printed, and the first four or five of these will be revealed for the first time at our AGM on Tuesday 15th April" continued Paul. "...we are very grateful for the

generous support we have received from both the Parish Council, and individuals in the community. This is helping us produce the boards to a high professional standard."

The display boards have been divided into three key aspects that have helped shape the village through history - The Church, Farming, and The Hill. In addition there will be other themes such as Ditton at War and Ditton at School.

**If anyone else would like to sponsor a display board please get in touch.**

## Annual General Meeting

The Group's AGM will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall.

A highlight of the event will be a special video presentation '**Voices from the Past**' featuring extracts from video interviews with Ditton Priors residents made around 25 years ago. Wally Garbett, Jim Parker and Rene Childs, all sadly no longer with us, shared their memories of life in village many years ago. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM (only members can vote however during the formal proceedings). Admission is free for members and £4 for non-members.

## Memberships & Membership Renewals

The membership fee will remain the same as last year at £12. New members will be welcomed to join at the AGM and pay their first subscriptions! Current members wishing to renew are asked to do so by bank transfer to Ditton Priors Local History Group, sort code 30-99-50, account no 71395468, before the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

## 2025 Events

Plans for this year's events are well underway and the calendar is shaping up with some interesting ideas:

- AGM & "Voices From the Past" - Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Chetton Heritage Museum Guided Tour - Late May, (date tbc)
- Patricia De Haan's 'Maps of Shropshire II' - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm
- Roman Ditton - October (date tbc)
- Ditton Now & Then - November (date tbc)

As always, posters will be placed around the village priors a couple of weeks prior to events and also on Facebook. Events will be open to everyone, admission for members and under 18s is free and £4 for non-members.

## Burwarton & District Wives' Group is 60 years old!!

It is 60 years since Burwarton & District Wives Group was first formed so we are **planning to celebrate** this Diamond Anniversary on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May with a two-course meal at The Boyne, Burwarton starting at 6pm for 6.30pm.

Obviously this is a very special milestone and we would love as many present and past members as possible to join us for the evening. If you are interested in further information and meal choices for this event please contact Debbie Jones (07966 707118) or Gill Severn (01746 712231) by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the latest. We do hope as many as possible will join us and if you do know anyone who might be interested please spread the word.

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors Playing Field at 7.30pm when we shall have a fun evening of Bingo Quiz. There will also be a raffle during the evening. New members or visitors are always welcome and if you would like any further information please feel free to contact Debbie Jones (07966 707118), Gill Severn (01746 712231) or Margaret Bill (01746 712030).

## Wheathill & Loughton News

✝ Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm Evening Prayer at Loughton

*Of the March service at Wheathill, Sally Russell wrote:*

Wheathill's congregation was inspired this morning to see Ruby, welcoming Annie into her natural habitat, and to hear Rev'd Joe's meaningful words, prayers and his great, spontaneous choice of the hymn "He Who Would Valiant Be" from our childhoods. 'There's no discouragement' so let us indeed 'Follow the Master'!



Burwarton & District Garden Club

## Canna you do this??

**Once again** we were entertained and inspired by a talk from Mick Poultney in March. This was his third visit to our gardening club and Mick wanted to share his new passion and latest project which is growing Cannas and so he joined us to talk about **'Canna for Beginners'**.



What first drew Mick to cannas was the beautiful foliage and the stunning range of colours and sizes. He told us of his research to find a good source of healthy cannas, as it seems that they are all too often infected by viruses. The advice was to grow cannas from seed as this avoids virus contamination and we were reassured that they would flower in their first year. Mick showed us how to prepare seeds for sowing by filing the hard outer layer until the white inner layer is visible and then soaking them in rain water which should be changed every few days. Once shoots appear then they can be potted on into compost with vermiculite. Cannas grow from rhizomes and we were shown how to divide them and then seal the cut with runny honey and spray with neem oil to kill off pests. This should be done at the start of the season and then they should be stored in a greenhouse at around 10 degrees centigrade; they must be kept frost free. Mick has trialed leaving cannas outside over winter with mixed results. Some survived with protection from a wall and a heavy mulch whilst others failed. Therefore growing cannas in plastic pots which can be easily taken in and out of overwintering protection was recommended.

There are over 30 types of canna and Mick began by growing Durban which is one of his favourites, but he also recommended 'Tropicana Var Phasion which has leaves that are variously striped in green, purple, orange and pink, creating a dazzling effect that is further enhanced when the orange flowers appear. Mick's passion for cannas has also encouraged him to try to grow them as a house plant which he has successfully done by giving them much light from a south facing window and keeping them moist.

Mick's talk was as always entertaining, interesting and inspiring and I would not be surprised if cannas began appearing in the gardens of members this summer.

**Our next meeting** is on Thursday 10th April where members have a chance to showcase their horticultural achievements in our Spring Show.

If you would like to join us then we meet in Stoke St Milborough village hall at 2.00pm for a cuppa and a chat with friends and then the show judging begins at 2.30pm. Why not come along and find out what we do. More information about our club can be found on the Stoke St Milborough website: [www.stokestmilborough.info/village-hall](http://www.stokestmilborough.info/village-hall) or by contacting me [bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bevharris15@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07933724728.

Bev Harris - Secretary



## 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.
- ✝ **Service to be led by the Bishop of Hereford** - we have had confirmation that on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July Bishop Richard is coming to take a service at Aston Botterell which will be most welcomed after his journey to New Zealand for his Sabbatical.....more information from Rev Joe and pew sheet etc.

**Congratulations to Dan and Amber** on their lovely daughter named Eden Wren Plank, so nice to have a new-born baby in the village.

### Daddy's hat

It was a pleasure to welcome Daddy's Hat back here again. Although it was cold, everyone welcomed our organist Andy Johnson with his poems and witty short tales and of course his music, and by popular demand our local pair Ragni on the guitar singing accompanied by Bob.

Debbie Rose from Ludlow, sang in harmony with her lovely voice giving us all a very entertaining afternoon.

Thank you all, and also to the many people who came along to support us, tea and cakes were served after.

Thank you Sally Russell who started Daddy's Hat during the Covid pandemic and got local musicians to play in churches and now it has grown to more churches and finding more singers and musicians. ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING OR PLAY, please get in touch with Anne.



### Car Treasure Hunt 2025

Following last year's success, this will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – entry £10 to include light refreshments. Please contact Anne on 07966-459806 to book your team's place. **A good afternoon of fun!**

### Aston Botterell Draw – March

- £20 - John Preece – 195,
- £10 – Sarah Fisk - 205
- £5 each to – Richard Fisk – 186 and to Lisa Gill – 154

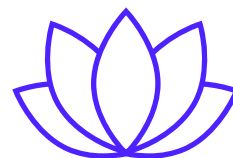


## Cleobury North & District Village Hall

*CNVH Management Committee writes:*

### New Weekly Yoga Class coming to CNVH soon!

Starting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May! Join us for chair-based yoga 4:30-5:15pm or mat-based yoga 5:30-6:30pm weekly on Wednesdays at Cleobury North Hall - WV16 6RP.



Both will include mindful movement, focus on the breath and relaxation - no experience / flexibility necessary! Those with limited mobility or who prefer a more meditative practice will benefit more from the chair yoga class. Please bring your own mat if attending the mat session. Contact Marie via email: [wildwolfmovement@gmail.com](mailto:wildwolfmovement@gmail.com) for full details and to book your place.

**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 Wives' Group is 60 years old!!

An exciting birthday celebration is planned for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – please see full information on page 10.

## 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

*Pam Downing writes:*

### Church services in April

- ✝ Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – 10:00 am – Palm Sunday Service. We hope for a fine day for our Palm Sunday service as we will be processing into Church as we did last year. Afterwards everyone is invited to lunch at Church House, just let Sheila or Lisa know beforehand. The daffodils are looking a picture at the moment, so let us hope they're still in bloom.
- ✝ Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 6:00pm – Stations of the Cross

## Flowers and Cleaning – Sylvia and Marilyn

### Dates for your diary

We are in the process of planning a few social events for the summer, so watch this space!

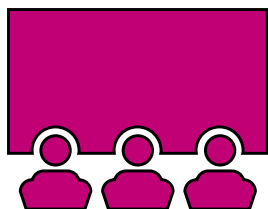
	March	April
<b>100 Club – winners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£15 – Flossie &amp; Hugo Durston, no 27</li> <li>£10 – Rita Lewis, no 85</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£15 – Fiona Mundy, no 61</li> <li>£10 – Daisy Berry, no 21</li> </ul>
<i>Thank you to everyone who has 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.</i>		

<b>Chetton Heritage Museum</b> This is a small museum displaying local aviation relics and World War II militaria. Sadly, several aircraft crashed into the Brown Clee and surrounding areas: there are artifacts and also stories about the brave airmen who flew these planes. Entrance is free, but donations for St Giles Church Chetton and Midlands Air Ambulance are gratefully appreciated.		
<b>The Museum is open from 11:00am until 4:30pm on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</li> </ul>	<b>You will find us at</b> Lower Cockshutt Farm Nr Chetton Bridgnorth WV16 6RF <a href="https://www.millingtonengines.co.uk/chetton-heritage-museum/">https://www.millingtonengines.co.uk/chetton-heritage-museum/</a>	

## Chetton Village Hall

We have received a grant from The Edward Cadbury Trust for the redecoration of the hall. We thank the trust for their generous donation.

Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions	
<b>Village Hall Diary for 2025</b>	<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>
Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 789239.	



### Flicks in the Sticks – end of the season

We conclude this season of Flicks with the film '**Conclave**'. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments and the film will commence at 7.30 pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Many thanks to Paul and Sarah, who give up their Friday evening once a month to deliver this service, and without their input these evenings would cease.

## Annual Plant Sale

We are holding our annual plant sale on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 10:00 am and noon. Refreshments are available and we hope to have a diverse selection of plants.

## Neenton News

*Bobbie Jarvis writes:*

Neenton has been very quiet throughout March with the road closures on the B4364 and in the surrounding villages. This has been noticeable with the lack of heavy vehicles passing through the village causing less problems at the various narrow parts of the road. It has been a pleasure to see the daffodils slowly blooming in the churchyard planted by previous residents, Tony Garratt and Caroline John, many years ago. A splendid array as you pass through the village.

Volunteers are still needed to clear the churchyard of debris and tidy up around the church walls. Half an hour spent doing one small job would make a big difference.

## Church Services

✝ Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 6pm - Evening Prayer

See services throughout Brown Clee Benefice on page 7.

## All Saints' Tote - April 2025

1st Prize – Sue Teague, 2nd prize – Paul Garbett

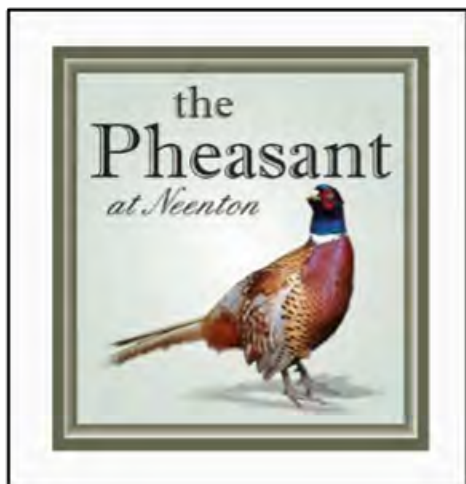
Thank you for your continuing support – Tote subscriptions are £12 for the year – there is still time to join and, who knows?, you may be a winner!

## Date for your diary:

### Duck Race & Fete – Saturday 21st June

Our fund-raising events to maintain the church and to raise money for the repairs to the stained glass window will continue throughout the year with our Duck Race and Fete starting the major events.

**Volunteers wanted:** We would like to restore the Beech Green Games 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.



## Opening times –

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

## Dates for your diary:

- 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](mailto:info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk) to discuss your requirements



# 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 <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, <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:*

As I write this report - we will be enjoying a Ladies' Lunch at Anita & George Morley's lovely farmhouse at Deuxhill, Nr Bridgnorth. This is in aid of St Bartholomew's church. Around 35 people will be enjoying the 2-course lunch served with plenty of glasses of wine.

## Church Service

- Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Day - Holy Communion at 10:00am followed by refreshments

**We extend our sympathy** to the families of Mr Chris Byng and Mr John Oliver, both of whom have recently died.

**May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

## Date for your Diary!

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Open Gardens at Woodlands Hall, Glazeley.

## Appreciation and an opportunity!

Our current treasurer, Andrew Jones, will be stepping down at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. We are very grateful for Andrew's help: he has been able to advise us on how to bring our working practices as a PCC in line with best practice.

We will however need a new treasurer after May when Andrew stands down. The treasurer is essential for the us but does not need to be a PCC member and does not need to come to church. The person is there to advise us on our finances and keep the church accounts. If you know anyone who might be able to help, please ask them to contact me for an informal discussion.

**Our next Breakfast at The Down will be on 26th April.**



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)



## Billingsley News

*The Revd David Poyner writes:*

At our last 8:00am communion, Kina preached and attracted a record turn-out! Admittedly, it was only 8 and that included Kina and myself, but just a few years ago the regular congregation was just 3, including myself. Many thanks to all who are now supporting us!

We have had a visit from a heating engineer who has advised on the best way of restoring heating to the church. Since the oil-fired boiler became life-expired a few years ago, we have relied on a single portable heater, which on a frosty winter morning does not really offer much cheer. We hope this will change...

**Our 6:00pm evening services restart in April**, this year on Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April. We will begin with the Easter Bunny; where did he come from and what does he have to do with Easter? We are not afraid to ask the hard questions at Billingsley.... Please come if you are free to be educated, entertained and possibly even helped in your faith. There is also Holy Communion at 8am on Easter Morning.

Revd David Poyner

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

01562-68638

## Latin and the value of the useless

We have recently nominated a Wednesday lunchtime at work as a time to meet over a cup of tea and chat about whatever we want. Sometimes it may be about science, when people can share their joy (or disappointment) at their latest results. However, this week I had a lengthy conversation with a colleague about Latin. It arose out of some banter we had shared earlier in the week, about the word "viva", used in universities to mean an oral examination, but which is a Latin term. It turned out that both of us had done Latin at school; I took it for O-level, my colleague wanted to do the same but her parents thought it was of no use and made her do German instead. Quite a few years later, she still has a passion for Latin but has forgotten most of her German. I also enjoy Latin; I am not very good at it, but being able to get some sense from a Latin inscription written hundreds of years ago helps me connect with the person who wrote it. Of course, I do not have to do this, but I enjoy it. My colleague is thinking about taking up Latin again as she loves it so much. We owe our identity not just to the "useful" things we do, the objectives which can be measured, but to all our activities including the "useless". These things make us rounded people and they are vital (note the Latin root). As the 2nd century Christian teacher Irenaeus wrote (in Latin), "The glory of God is a human being fully alive".

## Letter from Uganda

*Revd Sarah Cawdell writes:*

**Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College, Gul**

**3 March 2025**

**Dear Friends,**


Praise God. It is a while since we wrote to you, and there has been some excitement, and then also setbacks – in the normal way of life.

To start with the excitement and progress, Simon has been working with an organisation: Texans and Ugandans in Mission, to bring water to the Diocesan Land, so that the coffee can be irrigated, and in time a poultry project also set up, and a house for a farm manager. The initial survey showed that a borehole was possible, the paperwork followed: an inspection from National Water, a letter of no objection and then finally a letter of permission. So last week the borehole drillers set up camp in the field with smart green tents, and expensive equipment.

The surveyor authorised the position and drilling commenced. They struck water at 17 metres, and continued again through another layer of rock until at 57 metres they came through the rock to an



At college term goes on well. The National Council for Higher Education didn't find space for us on the agenda in January, so College is still unregistered and will have to take the students to Arua for exams which is an expensive waste of resources, but there we are. I believe that the Council might meet again in April as they meet once a quarter. We are not yet informed. The students are resigned to the inevitable and it only remains to find the money to transport and feed them in Arua. Alongside this we have some of the inevitable problems of living in a community: some small thefts within, and one night the fence was cut and a student's motorbike was stolen. (Motorbikes are the main mode of transport here for getting to church, and visiting the parish). On the other hand we have been able to work together with some to make about six thousand bricks towards building the new classrooms. We have to try and use them before the rains set in, so we hope to dig and build the foundations before Easter.



Our third years leave in April. This is about half the college in effect. The twelve from Nebbi Diocese will be ordained in June, and others from this Diocese in November. They have become fellow pilgrims and we will miss their presence. I don't know yet whether we will take on a new first year, but we pray that God will open a way.



We have had a good run of visitors this year, including Simon's sister and brother-in-law. We are always glad to see people and share the developments in the college and on the land. There have been some noticeable changes in time we have been here thanks to your generosity and the gifts from the Presbyterian church in Korea.

The pigs are doing well. We had an interesting time recently with an invasion from a feral boar who broke in and attacked one of our boars. After trying to find the owner and checking with the authorities and feeding it for some days we slaughtered the offender and sold some pork to recoup the costs of the damage, allowing the remaining kilos to offer a 'balanced' diet to the students and staff. We are not being as successful as we hoped in selling on the weaned piglets as it is the dry season and food is not plentiful. We hope for rain soon, and then the market will pick up. Farming is more complicated than the theory would have us believe!

From time to time Simon visits the Archdeaconaries with Rev'd Opiyo Geoffrey to assess the progress of the Rooted in Jesus groups. In one recent visit they found a good number of groups with about 300 people using the Rooted in Jesus material over the three parishes. There was some wonderful testimony of deepened faith, and more consistent Christian living. The programme has taken hold across the Diocese and is making a good difference to the commitment and lives of Christians.

Thank you for your love and prayers as we continue here. We have now been here for two years and this time next year will be coming back to England, at least for six months leave. Please pray for us as we discern God's will for the following three years whether to return here, or find work in parishes in England. Pray for the students as they prepare for exams and the third years as they prepare for ordination. Pray for the release of funds from Operation Wealth Creation, or other sources so that the coffee mother garden, and plantation can be developed on the Diocesan Land.

We pray for you as you negotiate the difficulties and delights of life in your places.

God bless you and give you peace

Love and blessings from Simon and Sarah





# Fifty Years a Farmer



In the summer of 1954, Richard Jones, a fifteen-year-old agricultural student came home to Heywood Farm, from Shrewsbury Technical College, to work for his parents. He had been born, and lived all his young days on the farm, where his parents began in 1938, and he has kept a diary ever since. It offers a fascinating insight into farming experiences over nearly six decades, evoking long forgotten memories of changing machinery and finances, among the almost timeless repetition of seasons, animals, landscapes and weather conditions.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1954 there is a record of 24½ gallons of milk, in three churns, being bowled down to the milk stand on the side of the road. The milk would have gone to Fort Pendlestone, on the Bridgnorth – Telford road, which has since been converted from the old dairy. Before 1947 the cows had been milked by hand and Richard's mother had given him a quiet one to milk himself. Then the bucket milking machine came and twenty one cows could be tied up at any one time, in two cowsheds. They were all individually named, by Richard's mother, who also did the paperwork, always an important part of the farm routine. There was Granny Grey

One (because she went grey with age), Blue Light, Beauty, Judy, Blossom, Iris and many more names, which would have reappeared in the calving records kept by Mrs Jones. Heywood Farm on the Burwarton Estate was a 190-acre home to 21 sheep, 80 ewes (Clun Forest and Kerries), 1 Shropshire and 1 Oxford Down ram and 128 lambs. As well as the sheep, there were beef calves and arable fields for feed crops. Many interesting facts emerge from Richard's records...

5<sup>th</sup> August 1954 – Richard's father did the milking in the morning, before going to Burwarton and District Agricultural Show, where he was a steward having put up the sheep pens the day before. It was raining most of the day. Uncle Ben Price stayed on the farm, cleaning weeds from the mangold plants, which had previously been hoed by hand. At the show Mr Jones was exhibiting a Fordson Major diesel tractor, at the request of Herbert Bale Ltd of Kidderminster. It had been bought just previously, so the Burwarton Show was a perfect opportunity to show off their modern manufacturing. The family at this time were also using an Allis Chalmers baler, which produced little round bales, no longer seen. During 1954 about 3000 bales were made from approximately 30 acres, going well into August, showing just how wet that summer was.



7<sup>th</sup> August – “went to Ditton Priors Auction to see the trade”.

14<sup>th</sup> August – “went thistle cutting in the barn field and in the afternoon Dad and Uncle Ben went hedge brushing”. A ‘hedge bill’ was used for the hedge trimming and a scythe and mowing machine for the thick patches of thistles.

21<sup>st</sup> August – “walked the lambs up to the Three Horseshoes market, they made £7 3s each. 40 lambs fetched £286.” A lamb used to pay a man's wages for a week: now it takes four or five lambs.

*Thank you to Richard for sharing his photographs and memories with Wheatland News. Richard still lives on the farm, now run by younger members of his family.*



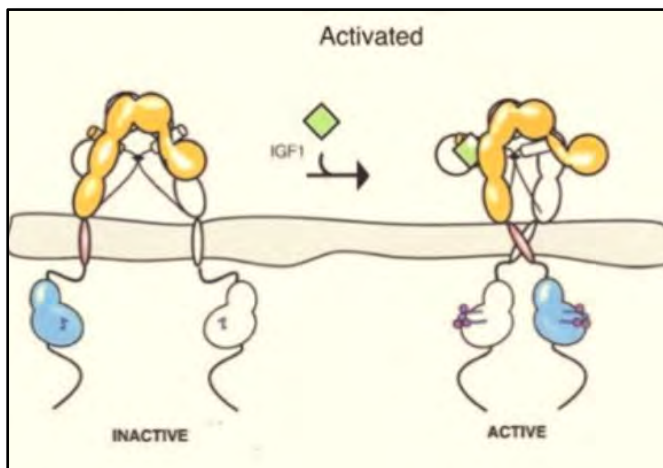
# Molecule of the Month:

## Insulin, its receptor – and the ballet dancer



*Revd David Poyner writes:*

When I was an undergraduate, specifically 1981/2 in my final year, I became particularly interested in how insulin works. Insulin, as I am sure most people know, is one of the great triumphs of biomedical science over the last 100 or so years. It is sometimes called the “hormone of plenty” as it is released after we eat. Our food is digested and broken down into its component parts, sugars such as glucose and also lipids, the building blocks of fat. These pass into the blood but then they need to be taken up by our cells, where they are needed. The snag is that most of these building blocks, especially sugars such as glucose, cannot enter cells without some help; the cells need what are called “transport proteins” to take them up. This is where insulin comes in; it stimulates cells to produce these transporters. Without them, glucose accumulates in the blood but our cells starve to death. This is what happens in uncontrolled sugar diabetes. In juvenile diabetes, so called because it is apparent in children, the body can no longer produce insulin. The great breakthrough came after insulin was discovered and it was realised that it could be extracted from animals and given to diabetics as injections. Suddenly a previously fatal disease was treatable. Today, human insulin produced in a laboratory is normally used.



Back in 1981/2, following a lecture, I became fascinated as to how insulin worked. Insulin needs to interact with our cells and does this by binding to a protein that they make and which is found on their outer surfaces. Insulin binds to this and changes its shape; that in turn is detected by other proteins inside cells and causes two smaller proteins the production of the glucose transporters. I discovered that the insulin receptor was actually made of, it subunits. Both of these straddled the cell membrane, the “wrapper” around a cell. The head of both of these subunits were outside the cell and recognised insulin, the feet were inside and, by various mechanisms, indirectly activated the glucose transporters. Over the years I followed developments in the story of what was happening inside the

cells; for a period I worked with a colleague at Aston University to research this, but nobody really seemed to have any clear ideas on how insulin actually caused this.

My research interests eventually turned to other things. However, the science continued to move forward and I am writing this article just after returning from a seminar by a visiting scientist from Germany. After hearing this, now I finally know how insulin does its job!

The two subunits of the insulin receptor (yellow/blue/white) in the membrane of a cell (grey). On the right it has bound a molecule of insulin (green).

The two subunits of the insulin receptor initially come together to form an inverted V (See figure); they are in close contact outside the cell but are splayed apart inside the cell. What the most recent structures show is outside the cell there is not only the equivalent of a head and a body, but there are two arms, stuck closely to the “torso”. Inside the cell are the equivalent of legs, splayed well apart. When insulin approaches the receptor, it flings its arms open to catch the molecules. At the same time, the legs come together and this movement is recognised by other proteins inside the cell, leading eventually to the activation of the sugar transporters.

**And the connection with ballet?** The speaker compared the receptor to a ballerina. At rest, her arms are by her side and her legs are apart. As she dances, she opens out her arms and brings her legs together. A beautiful analogy for some beautiful science that has brightened my morning!

DRP





## Caring for God's Acre - flowers and the Church Calendar

**I**n the past, plants were more important for people in charting the passing year than they are now. Many flowers have names that link their flowering time to that of the church calendar with several associated with Eastertide.

Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) was also known as Easter Bell and Good Friday Grass is still a commonly used name for Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Good Friday Grass is a frequent component of churchyard grassland, particularly in places with either acid or lime-rich soils. Its brush-like flowers are quite subtle but always appear in time for Easter. Another name for it is Sweep's Broom due to the shape of the flowers.

Another small but beautiful plant to look out for at this time of year is Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) which has several names including Cuckoo's Bread and Cheese, Granny's Sour Grass and Alleluia as its delicate white flowers appear between Easter and Whitsun, and its trefoil, shamrock-shaped leaves bring associations with the Holy Trinity.

Pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) also blooms at Easter time, the name Pasque meaning 'of Easter'. It is now rare in the wild, found in a few places where there is ancient, undisturbed grassland on limestone. It is often associated with old earthworks such as barrows, hillforts and boundary banks and there was a legend that it grew where the blood of Danes or Romans had been spilt. \*

It's not only flowers that chart the passing months and the Christian calendar. St Mark's Fly (*Bibio marci*) is a long, black, shiny fly which hatches around St Mark's Day, April 25th. Large numbers of flies can be found in woodland edges, hedgerows and fields often mating in mid-air giving then the alternate name of Love Bug! They fly rather aimlessly with dangling legs, usually surviving as adults for about one week and getting eaten in large numbers, providing a ready food source. They are also an important pollinator of early flowering trees such as many fruit trees.

As you watch the spring unfurling, spare a thought for our ancestors who used nature as a calendar and lived much closer to a profusion of plants and animals than we do now. Perhaps this could be an inspiration to get involved in nature recovery in our much-depleted land.

All the best,

Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

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

## April message

### Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 16

So, Spring has sprung and by the time you read this the six PCCs will have met Archdeacon Fiona to determine the next steps on the road to recruiting our new Rector. Ask your Parish Representative for any feedback on that ....

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 PCCs;
- ✝ thank the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

## From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers

**Stottesdon**

Funeral Office for Paul Crawford. RIP.

### 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.

**Benefice website (A Church near you: Stottesdon)** We are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added – or spot an error - please get in touch by email with [chris@stottystores.co.uk](mailto:chris@stottystores.co.uk)

**Wheatland News –the deadline for the MAY 2025 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – Thanks!**

## Services for March in the Stottesdon Churches

### Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

April	Celebrant	Stottesdon	Other parishes
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bailey	10:30 - Morning Prayer - Book of Common Prayer	FARLOW: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday	Archdeacon Fiona Gibson	10:30 - Holy Communion & Palms	CLEETON: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Holy Communion	SIDBURY: 11:45 with David Poyner
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Informal Worship	SILVINGTON: 09:00 Holy Communion
May			
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Dunlop	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.

**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 - many thanks indeed to all who have renewed their subscriptions. Results from the March double-money draw will be published in the May edition of WN.



## 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 26th April 12 noon – 5:00 pm.**

**A combined admission ticket to all the gardens is just £7.50 and children go free.** Teas, refreshments and homemade cake and plant sales in aid of St Mary's will be available in the Parish Church.

**Car Parking in the Pound Lane field** by kind permission of Mick and Eunice Evans.

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



## Farlow News

*Lucy Shier writes*

### Musical Comedy Live – from Victor and Albert!

With details of the Victoria & Albert Show at Farlow & Oretton VH on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – see the back cover of this WN - which is a music comedy mayhem duo, suitable for all. Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets from Lucy or James on 01746 718642.

<https://www.timandroly.com>

<https://artsalive.co.uk/live-performances/show/?id=11396>

**The show is all part of celebrating the Hall's 100th anniversary!** We will also be having our main event over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June with a Big Community Picnic Party, live music, fun & games on the Saturday and a huge historical over both days!!

## Sidbury News

### Service at Sidbury during April

- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day – 11:45 am

*Revd David Poyner writes:*

At the March service, I sang morning prayer in a church empty of people but in the presence of all of the Company of Heaven. We never worship alone.

**On Easter Sunday there is Holy Communion at 11.45; mortals are welcome to join myself and the Angelic host as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.**

Revd David Poyner

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

01562-68638



## Middleton Scriven News

*Ann Constable writes:*

### Church Service

- ✝ Easter Day Celebration on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30am, led by Ann Constable

### Community events:

#### Coffee mornings:

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April for our **Easter coffee morning** and bake sale.

If you are not able to join us, donations are always welcome to help keep our community space open.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 2pm: **Annual Plant Sale** and coffee morning.

Donations of plants for this event - if you are dividing plants or planting seedlings, any surplus plants would be wonderful for our plant sale.

## Cleeton St Mary News

*Sue Dolphin writes:*

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

### Cleeton 100 Club results

- £20 Diane Broome no 68
- £10 Chris Lewis no 27, Carol Howells no 81
- £5 Gill Jordan no 19, Paul Rutter no 74

## Silvington News

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

# Community Noticeboard

<b>Spring Farmers' Market</b>	On Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 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!**

Tue	1	Apr	Brown Clee Surgery PPG Open Meeting – Ditton Priors Village Hall, 6:30 pm for 7:00pm – see page 7
Wed	2	Apr	Burwarton & District Wives' Group – Bingo Quiz at Ditton Priors Pavilion – 7:30pm – see page 10
Fri	4	Apr	Flicks in the Sticks – 'Conclave' at Chetton VH, 7:00pm – see page 14
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 9
Thur	10	Apr	Burwarton & District Garden Club – Stoke St M VH, 2:00pm – see page 11
Sat	12	Apr	Daddy's Hat – St Mary's Church Jackfield, 3:00pm, Saxon Fire & Ben Richards – see page 12
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 25
Tue	15	Apr	Ditton Priors Local History Group AGM and 'Voices from the Past' – 7:00 pm DPVH – see page 10
Thur	17	Apr	Passover Meal – Cleobury North Village Hall - 6:00pm – see page 8
Sun	20	Apr	Chetton Heritage Museum at WV16 6RF – open day – see page 14
Sat	26	Apr	Glazeley Church – Breakfast at The Down – see page 16
Sat	26	Apr	National Garden Scheme – Stottesdon – 12 noon – 5:00pm – see page 24
Fri	2	May	Victor and Albert – musical comedy at Farlow & Oreton VH – see page 24 and back cover of this WN
Sat	3	May	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Mon	5	May	Bridgnorth Walk Day! See page 8 for arrangements in Ditton Priors
Wed	7	May	Burwarton & District Wives' Group – 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at the Boyne – see pages 10 and 13
Wed	7	May	First of the new weekly yoga classes – Cleobury North VH – see page 13
Sat	17	May	Annual Plant Sale & coffee morning, Middleton Scriven Church, 10:00am – 2:00pm – see page 25
Sat	17	May	Daddy's Hat with Richard Fox and Suzanne Millington – venue tba – 3:00 pm as always
Sat	17	May	Ditton Priors Church Fete – 1:00pm – 4:00pm – see page 9
Sun	18	May	Chetton Village Hall Annual Plant Sale – 10:00am – noon – see page 14
Sun	25	May	Chetton Heritage Museum at WV16 6RF – open day – see page 14
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	14 & 15 June – Big Community Picnic Party – Farlow & Oreton VH – see page 24
Sat	14	June	Open Garden at Woodlands Hall, Glazeley – details in May edition of WN – see page 16
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
Sun	22	June	Chetton Heritage Museum at WV16 6RF – open day – see page 14
Sat	29	June	Car Treasure Hunt – Aston Botterell – please book your team with Anne - see page 12
Sat	5	July	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 9
Sat	5	July	Pimms and Puds – 5:00 – in Ditton – see page 9
Sat	12	July	Beerfest! At Ditton Priors Recreation Ground – see page 9
Tue	15	July	Ditton Priors Local History Group – Patricia de Haan's Maps of Shropshire part 2 - 7:00 pm DPVH – p 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
Thur	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

# 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:bev_harris15@yahoo.co.uk">bev_harris15@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:dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com">dittonpriorsshalls@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 Stage \*\*\*\*\*The List \*\*\*\*\*Broadway Baby  
\*\*\*\*\*Three Weeks \*\*\*\*\*One4review

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