

Aston Botterell,  
Burwarton,  
Chetton,  
Cleobury North,



Ditton Priors,  
Loughton,  
Neenton,  
Wheathill.

**Revd Joe Simons, Rector**  
**The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire. WV16 6SQ.**  
**01746 599217 / 07872 464276**

*.....the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel .....*

**As a Church we pray for those who are ill and in need and for those recently departed and their families.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Second Sunday after Christmas –**

**Epiphany – Gold or White**

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

**Revd Val – Hymns 41, 564, 193, 103**

11.00am – Coffee & Prayers

at Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**The Baptism of Christ – Gold or White**

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

**Revd Joe**

11.30am – Holy Communion – Chetton

**Revd Joe**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Second Sunday of Epiphany – White**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany - Green**

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

11.30am – Holy Communion – Neenton

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Conversion of Paul**

**Third Sunday of Epiphany - White**

10.00am – Group Holy Communion –  
Cleobury North



**Activities & News**

**throughout the Benefice**

more info in Wheatland News or online at  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/Brown-Clee-Benefice](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Brown-Clee-Benefice)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

Please remember The First Coffee Morning of the Month will be back in Feb!

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am**

**“Not Socks Again!”**

Ditton Priors Village Hall

St. John the Baptist's First Fundraiser of the Year – Bring & Buy Stall & Raffle. We would love you to bring along any surplus Christmas gifts!

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – 10.30am – 12.00noon**

Julia's First Get together Coffee Morning of 2026 at Cleobury North Village Hall. Weather permitting! Lovely refreshments and a very warm welcome!

Benefice Office: Open Monday & Wednesday 9.30am – 1.30pm

Email: [brownkleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:brownkleebenefice@outlook.com)

Follow us on Facebook for all the news and pictures on our churches – [www.facebook.com/brownkleechurches](http://www.facebook.com/brownkleechurches)

### **Collect for the Day**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star to worship  
the Christ-child: guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom  
the nations seek: may we who with the  
wise men have been drawn by your  
light discern the glory of your  
presence in your Son, the Word made  
flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Readings for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

#### **Psalm 72 (1 – 9) 10 – 15**

#### **Isaiah 60. 1 - 6**

#### **The Ingathering of the Dispersed**

Arise, shine; for your light has  
come, and the glory of  
the Lord has risen upon you. For

darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your  
dawn. Lift up your eyes and look  
around; they all gather together,  
they come to you; your sons shall  
come from far away, and your  
daughters shall be carried on their  
nurses' arms. Then you shall see  
and be radiant; your heart shall  
thrill and rejoice, because the  
abundance of the sea shall be  
brought to you, the wealth of the  
nations shall come to you. A  
multitude of camels shall cover  
you, the young camels of Midian  
and Ephah; all those from Sheba  
shall come. They shall bring gold  
and frankincense, and shall  
proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### **Ephesians 3. 1 - 12**

#### **Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

This is the reason that I Paul am a  
prisoner for Christ Jesus for the  
sake of you Gentiles— for surely  
you have already heard of the  
commission of God's grace that  
was given to me for you, and how  
the mystery was made known to  
me by revelation, as I wrote above  
in a few words, a reading of which  
will enable you to perceive my  
understanding of the mystery of  
Christ. In former generations this

mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.



## Matthew 2. 1 - 12

### **The Visit of the Wise Men**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it

stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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Don't forget! Hard copies of The Wheatland News are available for 2026 by completing the form on this month's edition – they are excellent value at £18 for eleven copies and are a must have for all households!!



Do you love singing?  
Singing is SO good for you!  
Why not start a new hobby in 2026 -  
We would love to welcome you!

Our Choir is a very friendly group who meet during the week at St. John's, Ditton Priors. You do not need to read music, only to have enthusiasm for singing and an understanding that the purpose of the choir is to serve the congregation in its worship.

Why not come along to one of our practices – we guarantee you will be given a warm welcome and have a really enjoyable time.

For further details please contact Emma at the Benefice Office (see page 1!)

## Join us for: Brown Clee Benefice Vision Afternoon

A gathering to discuss and agree a vision for our Benefice and to spend time reflecting, including in prayer, on how we move this forward.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026 2-4pm at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors.**

Please let Revd Joe, Karen or Emma know if you are able to come along!

01746 599217 or [brownkleebenefice@outlook.com](mailto:brownkleebenefice@outlook.com)

Everyone welcome - Light refreshments.

