

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

....A Saviour, who is the Messiah.... a child lying in a manger....

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

We especially pray for the family of the late Mr. Reg May.

A Service of Remembrance to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday 27th December, at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors at 12 noon.

Wednesday 24th December
Christmas Eve - Purple

4.00pm – Crib Service – Ditton Priors - **LMDG**

7.00pm – Carol Service – Wheathill
Revd Joe

11.15pm – Midnight Mass – Ditton Priors
Revd Joe

Thursday 25th December
Christmas Day – Gold or White

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Chetton
- **Revd Joe** – **Hymns 403, 554, 199, 357**

Sunday 28th December
The Holy Innocents - Red

10.00am – Group Holy Communion
– **Ditton Priors** - **Revd Joe**
Hymns 395, 33, 542, 357

Activities & News

throughout the Benefice

more info in Wheatland News or online at

www.achurchnearyou.com/Brown-Clee-Benefice



Please don't forget if you would like a time of peaceful reflection over the holidays. Our beautiful Hunter/Steele votive stand is in St. John's, Ditton Priors. You are so welcome to come in and light a candle, to sit and have some quiet thoughts xx

Saturday 3rd January 2026

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

Sunday 4th January

9.30am – Holy Communion –
Ditton Priors – **Revd Val**

11.00am – Coffee & Prayers at Middle House Farm, Aston Botterell.
Everyone welcome to come along

Saturday 24th January – 10.30am

“Not Socks Again!”
Ditton Priors Village Hall 
St. John the Baptist's First Fundraiser of the Year – Bring & Buy Stall & Raffle

Benefice Office: Open Monday & Wednesday 9.30am – 1.30pm
Email: brownkleebenefice@outlook.com

Follow us on Facebook for all the news and pictures on our churches – www.facebook.com/brownkleechurches

Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer for Christmas Day

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Collect for Sunday 28th December

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 28th December

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Readings for
Wednesday 24th December
Christmas Eve and Thursday
25th December Christmas
Day are as one

Psalm 96

Isaiah 9. 2 - 7

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and

he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace, for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Titus 2. 11 - 14

Teach Sound Doctrine

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 2. 1 – 14 (15 – 20)

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,

keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this,

they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Readings for Sunday 28th December - The Holy Innocents

Psalm 124

Jeremiah 31. 15 – 17

The Joyful Return of the Exiles

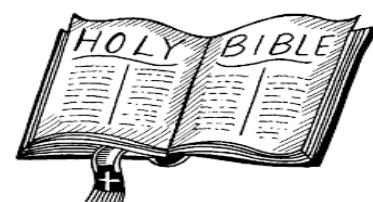
Thus says the Lord:
A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping
for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.
Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your

eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

1 Corinthians 1. 26 – 29

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.



Matthew 2. 13 - 18

The Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

The Massacre of the Infants

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

A message from Revd Joe

During the last year it has been a real joy to have been your rector.

There is so much happening across all our communities and I feel certain that God in his grace has great plans for us in 2026. Can I thank all that have helped across our churches, at our social events, the special services, with our school and pre-school not forgetting the young farmers.

I would also like to encourage you all in your efforts which will be fruitful in ways we don't yet know, so keep it up.

Finally thank you to all that have attended all our services and events and we are looking forward to seeing you in the future.

Thanks and every blessing to you and your loved ones.

Joe

Answers to our Christmas Quiz!

1. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?

It was sent in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole – he commissioned an artist to design it as a quicker way to send holiday greetings to friends instead of writing long letters!

2. Which ruler allegedly banned mince pies in Britain in the 1600s?

Oliver Cromwell. His Puritan government banned festive celebrations.

3. Who served up figgy pudding in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?

Mrs Cratchit, Bob Cratchit's wife.

4. Name all nine of Father Christmas's reindeer? Are you ready!

Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen.

5. How many gifts in total were given in the 12 days of Christmas?

There are 364 gifts!

*Join us for:
Brown Clee Benefice
Vision Afternoon*

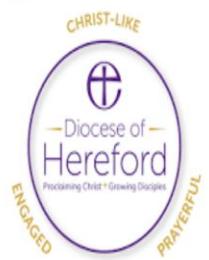
A gathering to discuss and agree a vision for our Benefice and to spend time reflecting, including in prayer, on how we move this forward.

Saturday 21st 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

Everyone welcome - Light refreshments.



SERVICES IN BROWN CLEE BENEFICE AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

Sunday 4th January

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11.00am – Coffee & Prayers – Middle House Farm,
Aston Botterell

Sunday 11th January

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11.30am – Holy Communion – Chetton

Sunday 18th January

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11.30am – Holy Communion – Neenton

Sunday 25th January

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Cleobury North

Sunday 1st February

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors
11.00am – Coffee & Prayers – Middle House Farm,
Aston Botterell