

Aston Botterell,
Burwarton,
Chetton,
Cleobury North,



Ditton Priors,
Loughton,
Neenton,
Wheathill.

Revd Joe Simons, Rector
The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire. WV16 6SQ.
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.They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said 'see how he loved him!'.



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 Mrs. Mary Rowlands whose Memorial Service will take place on Tuesday 24th March, at St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, 1.00pm. Also Margaret Griffiths in Telford Hospital.

Sunday 22nd March - Passiontide

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

Hymns – 426, 499, 53, 269

11.30am – Holy Communion

Cleobury North – Hymns 426, 499, 53, 269

2.30pm – Evening Prayer – Loughton –

LMDG/DC/MJ

Wednesday 25th March

10.00am – Morning Prayer – Ditton Priors

LMDG/MJ

Sunday 29th March

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Chetton

Revd Joe

Activities & News

throughout the Benefice

more info in Wheatland News

or online at

www.browncleebenefice.org.uk

www.achurchnearyou.com/Brown-Clee-Benefice

Our Lent Course runs every Thursday night until 26th March and Easter week at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors, 6.00pm

Monday 23rd March, 7.00pm

Brown Clee Young Farmers Charity

Quiz & Curry Night at Ditton Village Hall

Numbers have been confirmed with the caterers and there are 14 teams!! Please watch out for our next joint event.

Thursday 26th March, 8.30am

Now at Church House, Chetton!

Gentlemen's Breakfast – please let Emma know if you would like to attend.

Friday 27th March, 10.30am – 12 noon.

Julia's Get together Coffee Morning at Cleobury North Village Hall. All welcome.

Saturday 28th March

Chetton Breakfast at The Down, 9.00am

Please let Sheila know if you would like to go!

Saturday 28th March, 10.30am

At The Pavilion, Ditton Priors

Easter Coffee Morning, Egg Hunt & Decorated Easter Hat Competition

Please see back page for further information - Watch out for Revd Joe's top secret hat design!

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

Email: browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Website: www.browncleebenefice.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/browncleechurches

Collect for the Day

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen

Readings for Sunday 22nd March **Passiontide begins**

Psalm 130

Ezekiel 37. 1 - 14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O

Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath¹ in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8. 6 - 11

Life in the Spirit

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11. 1 - 45

The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that

Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their

brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not

have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Lent Course

Our weekly Lent course continues each Thursday at 6pm in The Pavilion, Ditton Priors. It runs until Thursday 26th March and the Easter Week. **Please do let us know if you are interested in joining us for any of the sessions. Thank you.**

Saturday 28th March at The Down, 9am

Chetton Breakfast – please let Sheila know if you would like to attend on 01746 789443

Easter Coffee Morning, Egg Hunt and Decorated Hat Competition

**Saturday 28th March,
10.30am – 1.00pm at**

The Pavilion, Ditton Priors.

Last year was amazing! Wait until you see Revd Joe's 2026 Hat design! We can't wait to see yours! There will be stalls and delicious refreshments and a very egg-citing Easter Treasure Hunt! We do hope that you can join us!



This month we have been delighted to publish the Wedding Banns between Kate Mottershead and Daniel Tolley who will marry at St. Giles, Chetton in May. This Sunday will be the third and final Reading.

Friends of St John

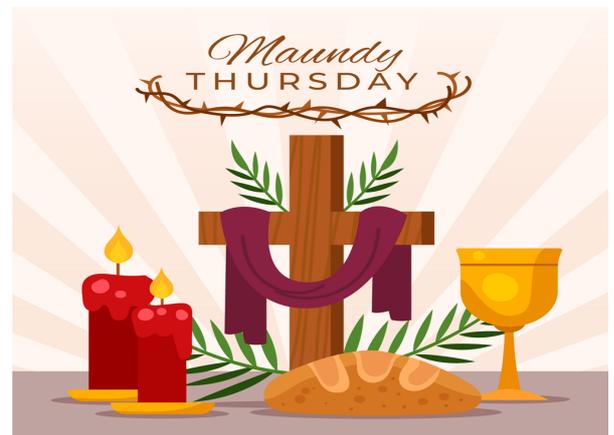
The Friends support our church and look to fund projects such as the new toilet and drainage, and improve the heating. The annual subs are due and the Friends will be at our Spring Fete or pick up a form from the Church.

Chetton Coffee Morning

Wednesday 1 April 10am–1pm: Chat, coffee & cakes & Bric a Brac, everyone welcome! Please do let Lisa know if you would like to donate anything for the bric a brac table.

**Maundy Thursday – Passover Meal
At Cleobury North Village Hall on
Thursday 2nd April at 6.00pm.**

Everyone is most welcome but numbers are needed for catering purposes. Please confirm with Emma at The Benefice Office. We do hope that you can join us! Please see on next page for further details.



Maundy Thursday Passover meal preparations!

Revd Val would be grateful for help with the following:

- Setting up the hall-opening and closing, tables, chairs and heating
- A kitchen team to clear away afterwards
- Setting up a data projector, DVD player and screen for a DVD clip
- Food preparation
- Advertising in the Community

Please do contact Revd Val on or Emma at The Benefice Office by any of the usual ways! Thank you very much.

Brown Clee Benefice - The next Gentlemen's Breakfast!



This month it will be held at Church House, Chetton
on Thursday 26th March at 8.30am.

This is always a lovely event and we do hope you can come. For catering purposes please contact either Emma in the Benefice Office or Charles Gill

The answers to last week's quiz.....

1. What is the old name for Easter? Pascha/Paskha refers to the Christian Passover.
2. In the original Roman calendar which month was March? Martius was the first month of the year, named after Mars, the Roman god of war.
3. Which of these occurs in March: a solstice or an equinox? An equinox.
4. What is the first book of the New Testament? The Gospel according to Matthew.
5. What nationality was Charlie Chaplin? British.
6. What is the chemical symbol for gold? Au.
7. What is the most abundant gas in the Earth's atmosphere? Nitrogen.
8. What colour do you get when you mix blue and yellow? Green.
9. Which country is credited with inventing ice cream? China.

Brown Clee Churches

Invitation to



Join our Passover Meal

Maundy Thursday
2nd April 2026 at 6.00pm
Cleobury North Village Hall

You are warmly invited to bring the
Family to join us as we bring
The Last Supper to life through readings, songs and food.

Featuring
Lamb hotpot
(Vegetarian option available)

There is no charge – if you are able, please make a donation.
Proceeds to support Brown Clee Benefice Mission.

RSVP – Booking essential for Catering Purposes.

Booking list at the back of church, or alternatively please contact the
Benefice Office on 01746 599217 or browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Please advise of any dietary needs



Brown Clee Benefice Easter Services

Wed 18 th March 10 am	Morning Prayer	Chetton
Wed 25 th March 10 am	Morning Prayer	Ditton Priors
Sun 29 th March 10 am PALM SUNDAY	Group Holy Communion	Chetton
Mon 30 th March 6 pm	Evening Prayer	Neenton
Tue 31 st March 6 pm	Evening Prayer	Aston Botterell
Wed 1 st April 6 pm	Stations of the Cross	Chetton
Thursday 2 nd April 6pm MAUNDY THURSDAY	Passover Meal Cleobury North Village Hall	
Friday 3 rd April 6pm GOOD FRIDAY	Reflection	Ditton Priors
Saturday 4 th April 6 pm	Compline Vigil	Ditton Priors
Sunday 5 th April 10am EASTER SUNDAY	Group Holy Communion	Ditton Priors

We do hope that you are able to join us!