

WHEATLAND NEWS

December 2020



‘The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.’

John 1:14

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

Editorial

The postman delivered a surprise this morning in the form of a flat box containing a small Christmas tree, together with soil for planting, lights, baubles and tinsel. What a lovely gesture from someone who thought it would be something for me to do which would connect us together in a practical way. This made me think of the little things which we can do to make our lives more meaningful and fulfilled during this time when social distancing means we cannot physically be with the people who are dear to us. I shall look at the [ActionforHappiness](#) Kindness Calendar on the back page of this WN for ideas.

In this issue of Wheatland News we have interesting articles from the parishes covered by our distribution and have added further pieces to give readers ideas for the season – including a fresh perspective on YouTube from one of our readers! Technology isn't for everyone, and it can be a real pain, but especially during Covid it has been a lifeline to many. I hope we might encourage some of the less enthusiastic to dip a toe in the water – they might be surprised at how it can enrich our lives.

Updating the Community Contacts Page

Do you 'own' one of the contacts in the list on page 25? Do you know of an organisation that should be listed, but isn't? We'd like to make sure that the list is as useful as possible for all readers in time for 2021, so if you could spare a few moments to run your eyes down it, and email any **changes / corrections / suggestions** to us at wheatlandsnews@hotmail.co.uk then it can be revised for January 2021. Many thanks!

January 2021 Deadline!

Please would you send all contributions for the January 2021 edition of WN to your contact, as below, no later than Monday 21 December 2020?.

Brown Clee and Ditton Priors	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 rl.langham@btinternet
Aston Botterell, Cleobury North & Burwarton, and Wheathill & Loughton	Alison Greenan, 01746-787032 greenan6qx@btinternet.com
Chetton	Pam Downing pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley	Rev Mike Harris Highleyrector@gmail.com
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield or Rev David Poyner marion.corfield@talktalk.net D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Billingsley	Rev David Poyner D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Stottesdon Benefice – Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbets Chris@stottystores.co.uk

I'm off to plant my Christmas tree now!

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas

Ed

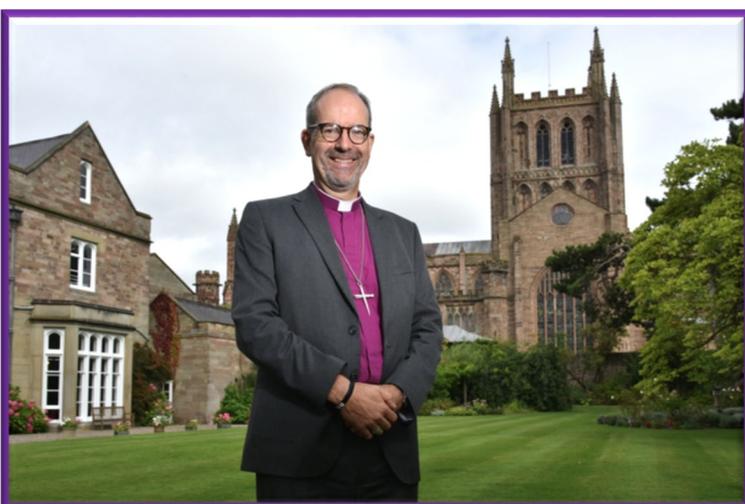
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Diocese of Hereford

December message from the Bishop of Hereford

Most human beings have a natural sense of justice. We don't think it right that people can commit crime and get away with it. It was important at the end of WWII that those guilty of war crimes were seen to be punished. The Nuremberg trials did not accept excuses that they were only obeying orders. It was essential that those accused accepted personal responsibility and its consequences.



In the story of the Garden of Eden in the first book of the Bible, one of the characteristics of sin was evading responsibility. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and then they ran and hid when God showed up. The story is a powerful one. It identifies a defining human characteristic. When we are bang to rights, we all tend to try to excuse and blame someone else for our misdoings.

Advent is for Christians a season where we seek to reflect on our own responsibility and accountability before God. For many people, being accountable in this way sits uncomfortably with popular myths about what God is really like. We are comfortable with a cosmic grandfather or Father Christmas type figure, whom we expect to keep the good times rolling. However, we get cross if he doesn't do his job properly and things like COVID happen, or heaven forfend, he expects something of us.

Religion can be terribly abused if people's distorted view of God leads them to think they can do his job of judgement for him. ISIS is a case in point. However, faith can be a powerful corrective if we recognise our accountability. Christians sum it up in the creed that says, "one day he will return to judge the living and the dead". To have our inner secrets exposed in this way would be a frightening thing. But it's this bad news that led Christians to describe the message of Jesus as such very good news. There is judgement, but with Jesus there is also forgiveness. Advent anticipates the former, but prepares us for Christmas when we rejoice in the gift that sets us free.

Blessings

+Richard



Bishop Richard's weekly video messages

Bishop Richard and other members of the Hereford team, continue to give weekly video messages – find the latest on the [home page of the Hereford Diocese](#) website.

Transcripts of each of message, together with many other items, are on the [Diocese Talking Points](#) page. The videos themselves are on YouTube – just search for Bishops of Hereford.

In his message for this last week in November, Bishop Richard mentions a video Advent Calendar – we have to 'go to press' before it is on the website.



New Prebendary appointed

The Bishop of Hereford has appointed The Revd Nick Read OBE as a Prebendary and member of the College of Canons.

Nick has a degree in agricultural science, and a postgraduate degree in forestry. He was the Food Policy & Research Adviser for the National Farmers Union before being ordained in 1995. He was first: a (non-stipendiary) agricultural chaplain with Oxford Diocese and combined chaplaincy with starting a national charity helpline called the Rural Stress Information Network, which he ran for four years. Nick came to Hereford Diocese in 1998 to be the stipendiary agricultural chaplain and from 2007 onwards combined it with the role of diocesan environment officer.



In 2011 he left the Church's employment to head up the Bulmer Foundation, a sustainable development charity based in Hereford (now called the Brightspace Foundation), but carried on as a volunteer chaplain. For the last two years Nick has been half-time with Brightspace and half-time chaplain with Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy (an Anglican-Methodist collaboration). He is co-chair of Herefordshire Green Network and chair of Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership, and has been a member of a working group for the last 12 months, attempting to write a strategy to make Herefordshire carbon neutral by 2030, in response to the climate and ecological emergency. He heads the land-use section of a similar initiative for South Shropshire Climate Action. Nick is married to Julie, incumbent in the Kingsland group, and they have three grown-up children and one grandson.

The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Rector: Revd Terry Mason The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ Telephone 01746-712636		
St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474 Mark Smith: 01746-712394		St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237
St Giles, Chetton CHURCHWARDENS Sheila Millington: 01746-789443 June Preece: 01746-789211	SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North CHURCHWARDENS Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676 Jane Bufton: 01746-787298	All Saints, Neenton CHURCHWARDENS Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093 Sue Hale: 01746-787650

Brown Clee Group News

Brown Clee Churches Website has moved!!!

Brown Clee Churches website is now within A Church Near You.

We have used the Ditton Priors pages to establish a **Benefice Information Hub** including a calendar of services and events for all churches in the group, and a social and fundraising page so we can advertise events.

We are sorry that it will take a little effort for you to find the new page for the first time.

To find the Benefice Information Hub:

Type this link into your browser <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10502/> and you have arrived at our homepage! Please save the link to this page in your browser Favourites. Please take time to explore and let me know if I have missed anything!

Alternatively, I will gladly send the link to you by email – just drop me an email at m.k.teague@btinternet.com.

There are pages for all of our churches but we intend to use the Benefice Information Hub as the main source of information for services and events.

We have taken the decision to move because A Church Near You is more secure, is supported centrally, will help us grow congregations, offers us a long-term future, and it is free to parishes!

Finally, if anyone feels that they would like to help keep these pages up to date please contact me – I would welcome some help.

Mike Teague

Email - m.k.teague@btinternet.com

Phone – 01746 789592



NEW BROWN CLEE CHURCH SERVICES ROTA

December 6th

9.45am Ditton Priors*
(*Christmas Lights will be turned on)
6.30pm Loughton Christmas Service

December 13th

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Chetton
4pm Neenton Christmas Service

December 20th

10.15am Ditton Priors
Christmas Service
6.30pm Aston Botterell
Christmas Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Crib Service (Limited seats TBC)
7pm Cleobury North Christmas Service
11.15pm Ditton Priors

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.15am Chetton Christmas Service

December 27th

10am Ditton Priors

2021 - HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 3rd

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30 Aston Botterell

January 10th

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Chetton

January 17th

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Neenton

January 24th

8.30am Ditton Priors
9.45am Chetton
11.30am Cleobury North

January 31st

10.15am Ditton Priors

February 7th

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Aston Botterell

February 14th -

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Chetton

February 17th

Ash Wednesday

7pm Communion Service
(Ditton Priors)

February 21st

9.45am Ditton Priors
11.30am Neenton
2.30pm Wheathill
(Evening prayer)

February 28th

8.30am Ditton Priors
9.45am Chetton
11.30am Cleobury North

Ditton Priors News

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for November

- £20 Val Roberts
- £10 Jutta Langham
- £5 each Margaret Bill, Ann Howels, and Doreen Cottam

Christmas Greetings

To all my friends in the Benefice I wish a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every Blessing for 2021.
CATHERINE

Aston Botterell, Burwarton, Wheathill & Loughton, and Cleobury North,

WN has received no specific news items this month, but all our contributors join with wishing WN readers a very happy Christmas.

Cleobury North Village Hall

We plan to open under Tier 2 regulations after the end of this lockdown on 2 December. Please make **enquiries** for use of the Hall to 01746-787093.

Chetton News

From Pam Downing



Services in December

- 🔔 Sunday 13th December, 11.30 am - Holy Communion
- 🔔 Friday 25th December, 10.15am – Christmas Day Service

Flowers & cleaning

- 🔔 Volunteers.

Here we are in December, what a difficult year it has been. We do now have some good news & hope on the horizon with a vaccine in sight.

Thank you to all our Church helpers, flower and cleaning ladies (men are welcome too!) everyone who gives up their time to keep our Churchyard tidy. Thanks to Joe for his excellent mowing skills Phil for helping with the mower etc. A new fence has been put up opposite the porch which has tidied up the area and given us more of a view. We now have two new heaters installed above the choir pews, thank you to Mike and Paul for dealing with all the admin and installation. Winter services will be much cosier from now on!

We have missed all our social and fundraising events this year but hopefully in 2020 we will be able to get back to normal enjoy some time together. We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a happy New year.

100 Club November winners

- £15.00 – Sue Hale (87), £10.00 – Eileen Reynolds (30).

Chetton Village Hall

We hope to reopen the hall in December, following the latest lockdown, within the permitted government guidelines. Many thanks to all who have supported the hall, and I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a healthy, less fraught New Year. **Inquiries**, Sue Bayliss on 789239.

Neenton News

All Saints Church

Remembrance services were very different this year and even though Neenton did not have a formal service the attached photograph shows the decoration placed in memory of the three young men who lost their lives in the Great War and also to remember those lost in conflicts before and since. The poppies were knitted by a former resident of Neenton, red for the people and, this year, purple for the animals lost in conflict have been added.



Christmas Service

Will be on Sunday 13th December, 4pm. Arrangements are still being finalised, but we are hoping to take advantage of the guidelines on singing. If you are thinking of coming, please ring one of the Churchwardens (numbers on page 6) for details nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you.

Tote

Subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months. Please send to Sue Hale. £12 for the year. The results Draw for the last 4 months of 2020 will be published in January.

Update – [Diabetes UK One Million Steps Challenge](#)

Will Buxton, who took this challenge, was one of the top fundraisers in this region by achieving over **£1,336** in donations. Overall, £1,956,581 was raised with Gift Aid and participants completed 12,283,500,596 steps equivalent to walking to the moon and back 9 times!!!



This challenge has raised vital awareness of diabetes and will contribute to funding pioneering research to help campaign for life-changing new technology and better care.

Will thanks everyone who supported him during his early morning steps in all weathers.



An autumn walk round the churchyard

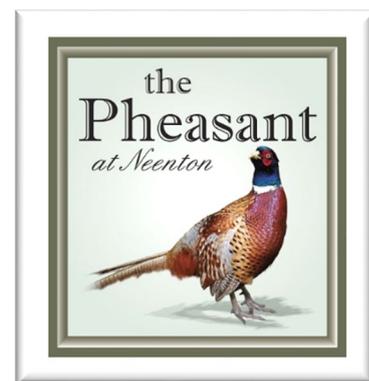
Amazed to see this perfect 'fairy ring' last week, complete with a great display of its "toadstool" fruiting bodies. Can any nature experts tell us what sort they are?

The Pheasant at Neenton.

Thank you to all our customers for your understanding during this time of uncertainty.

We are planning to open under Government guidelines (currently **Tier 2**), and bookings are now available for tables.

To find out dates and times of opening and to discuss your requirements please email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk or telephone 01746 787955.



Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Mike Harris The Rectory, Highley, Day off – THURSDAY		Revd David Poyner, Curate Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
St Mary, Billingsley CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh CHURCHWARDEN Derek Arnold: 07956-844854	St Bartholomew, Glazeley CHURCHWARDENS Vacant

Services in December

The Rev Mike Harris writes

December will soon be upon us and once more, we pray, an exit from the latest lockdown.

It is my belief that the Archbishops, and CofE in general, would not be willing to be in lockdown again over Christmas, so I am hoping the plan I've put below will stand the test of time.

There are hopes and aspirations about Carol singing which are currently not possible to confirm, but these will be communicated as and when decisions can be made. Suffice it to say that we hope to be about in the churchyard and possibly, the streets of our communities with the Good news that Christmas will never be cancelled, because at the heart of it is the Saviour of the world!

10am (unless otherwise stated)

-  6th December: Highley, Mike & Angie, (FC & virtual).
-  13th December: Chelmarsh, HC, David P, Mary R (& virtual).
-  20th December: Glazeley, HC, Val & Keith (& virtual) with carols.
-  24th December, 4pm: Highley – Christmas in a Bag'; Mike, Mark, Amy, Angie & Mary H. (Mark - ideally streaming) at 4pm.
 - 11pm: Chelmarsh, Christmas Communion, Mike H. & Rose (preach).
-  25th December, (Friday) Highley: FC: Mike (Maybe recorded?).
 - 10am DP HC or Family Service at Billingsley
-  3rd January, Covenant Service – Highley (MH?)

Thanks again for all you do in these difficult and challenging days,

Mike

Rector

Severn Valley Benefice

01746 862837

Billingsley News

The Rev David Poyner writes:

Due to the lack of a war memorial, we could legally not meet outside at Lincoln Fields at Billingsley on Remembrance Sunday. However, Sue and Phil Bates marked the start and end of the two-minute silence by ringing the bells whilst Amanda and Dave Prescott read out the names of those from Billingsley who died in service. See the clip on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/videos/281101999902768> (113 views so far!).

We remember by name those from Billingsley who were killed or died as a result of the
First World War:

Lt Harold Walter Gibbs, died of wounds

Pt Frederick William Mole, died of illness

Pt John Leonard Brown, died of illness

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

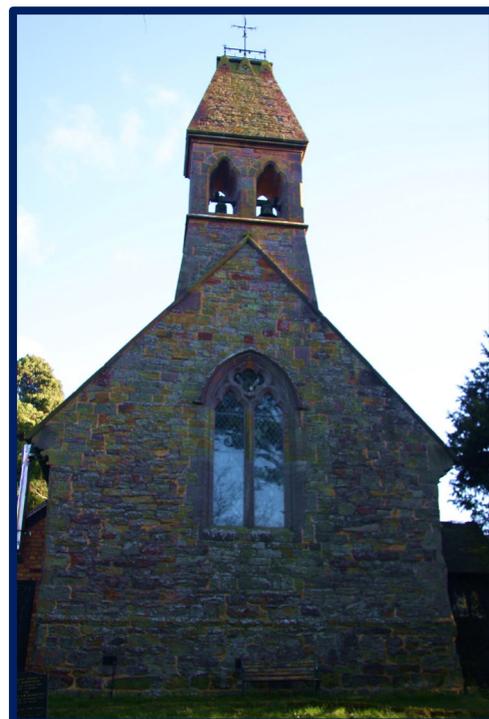
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Another three people shared over £100 in prizemoney for our 100 Club draw in November. For the Christmas draw, the prize money will be worth approaching £250. Numbers are available by applying at <http://www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk/friendsofbillingsley100club/> The proceeds go to the upkeep of the church and organising projects of community benefit. We have already used some of the money to provide new heating in church and we are looking at using more of it for essential maintenance of the building. Please support us if you can!

Our next service will be on Christmas Day at 10.00am.

David Poyner, assistant curate, Severn Valley Benefice.

Tel 01562 68638; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/> or our websites, <http://www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk> , and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/>



Chelmarsh News

Eleanor Haddon writes:

Remembrance

Because of new instructions in the wake of the 2nd wave of coronavirus, the Remembrance Service looked very different this year. Led by Rev. Rose Lawley, a shortened, socially distanced service was held outside the church.

The service began with opening sentences, followed by the laying of the RAF wreath by Rob Rollings who served 2 terms in Iraq in 2003, on the grave of George Dudley, who served as an Aircraftman in WW2. An article in the Bridgnorth Journal commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the deaths of the two Dudley brothers, Arthur and George, who grew up in Chelmarsh.

Rob then read the names of the fallen, helped by his 9-year-old son Henry.

After the silence and Act of Remembrance, Maisie Rollings aged 12, read a very moving poem that she had written about war and its consequences. The poem can be found at the end of this report.

The service ended with prayers for peace everywhere and the National Anthem was sung.

Our sincere thanks go to the Rollings family for their wonderful input into our service this year.



December services throughout the Benefice

- | | |
|--|---|
| 🔔 Sunday 6th December | Highley 10am |
| 🔔 Sunday 13th December | Chelmarsh Holy Communion 10am |
| 🔔 Sunday 20th December | Glazeley 10am |
| 🔔 Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve | “Christmas in a Bag” - Highley 4pm |
| | • Chelmarsh - Midnight Communion - 11pm |
| 🔔 Friday 25th December Christmas Day | Highley 10am |
| | • Billingsley 10am |

It is also hoped to hold a short, socially distanced service of carols and prayer outside the church in Chelmarsh at 3pm on a day before Christmas TBA. More information will be publicised on the notice boards in the village, so please look out for that.

100 Club Draw

Our November winners are:

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| ➤ No. 5 | John Roberts |
| ➤ No.46 | Dave Beresford |
| ➤ No.30 | Sue Grantham |

Last, but not least HAPPY CHRISTMAS to everyone.

Chelmarsh Friends

A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website with details of the date Friends will resume in 2021

Chelmarsh Walking for Health

Chelmarsh Walking for Health meets every Monday from the Village Hall at 10am. A short walk is available and we are trying to limit the other walk to 1½ hours. We are hoping to provide refreshments in the near future providing there are no further lockdowns. For details contact Eleanor Haddon on 01746 862884

WWI – inspired poem

The fields are full, crowded, crammed
The crosses amongst them no closer to grand
Then the bodies under them, side by side
Of our friend and foe who fought and died
Those of us that are left stand and stare
Our comrades gone, no longer there
To stand beside us, brave and strong
Watching, listening all day long
For the signal that told us the war was won
But the signal never came, instead the sound of a gun
As bullets streaked the silence, one by one they'd fall
The price of these men, to our leaders, so small
But to us these were friends, their lives now lost
To fight for our country, at a great cost
Their families at home would never know
Of the poppies that would come to grow
Upon the graves of those no longer here
As they stayed at home, shaking with fear
And still the war continued, more men would come
Who marched on the battlefield to the sound of a drum
None were expecting the devastation they saw
As the doubt inside them began to gnaw
At the pride they'd once had to be part of the fight
And the honour that they might
Be able to stop the suffering back home
And stand with others, no longer alone
But now they wish they'd stayed back, not joined up with the rest
Because what they saw was a lot to digest
The fields were full, crowded, crammed
The crosses amongst them no closer to grand
Than the bodies under them, side by side
Of our friend and foe who fought and died.

Glazeley with Deuxhill News

The Rev David Poyner writes:



As Glazeley has an established war memorial, we were able to gather around it on Remembrance Sunday to mark the event. As usual we remembered by name all those on the memorial, which lists all who served in both World Wars, as well as the fallen from Billingsley and also those killed in air crashes in the area. We had a very good turnout and were able to work successfully within Government guidelines to hold the service. It was especially good to be able to sing at a service for the first time since March! I am particularly grateful to Marion and Lyn for helping to organise the service and Roger Gabb, Eileen Reynolds and Sam Leather for reading.

Our next service, Covid rules permitting, will be on the 20th December at 10.00am. This will be Holy Communion with carols, led by the Rev Val and Keith Smith. The church and churchyard remain available for anyone to visit for prayer or reflection; visitors may use the cark park.

David Poyner, assistant curate, Severn Valley Benefice.

Tel 01562 68638; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/> or our websites, <http://www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk> , and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/>

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and New Year

Marion Corfield – 01746-764585

marion.corfield@talktalk.net



The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Mark Daborn

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE

Telephone 01746-718127. Email mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk

Day off – FRIDAY

December Message

‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’

John 1:14

Writing this at the end of November, we are still very unsure of what will be allowed for Christmas. We have a programme of services drafted for December across our six churches, which includes a Communion service, an Advent service and a Christmas service for each church. What form these will take remains to be seen as new regulations are produced. There are no Carol Services scheduled, as it is unlikely that singing will be permitted for a while yet, and latest advice is that encouraging gatherings across the generations is the worst possible thing to do. We shall see.

The social side of Christmas, traditionally such an important family time, is also likely to be affected. Members of our family have suggested an online Christmas dinner – each in our own homes, with the computer in the corner of the room, so we can be ‘together’ on Christmas Day.

Most of us have probably got used to all the online screen conversations and meetings (*Oh! The meetings!!*) that have characterised this last nine months. Not my dog, though. We had an online conversation with No 1 son and his family a few days ago; the dog was in the kitchen with us, and James called her from the computer screen. She looked at the screen, then went under the table to see if he was the other side of it, then out of the back door to see if he was there. Some of us begin to feel the same sense of unreality about these wonderful technological communications!

There have even, at times, been dire warnings that ‘Christmas will not happen this year.’ At this point I have to object indignantly: Christmas will happen.

It may not be the way that we’re used to, but we can and will find different ways of celebrating it and rejoicing in it. Because Christmas is the celebration of the creating Word of God becoming flesh, dwelling among us and showing us the nature of God’s love through the life of Jesus. We may even, with lower key celebrations, find time to ponder more deeply the miracle of this familiar and most lovely story set in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem.

May you have a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas this year.

‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth.

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

St Mary, Stottesdon CHURCHWARDEN Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	St Giles, Farlow CHURCHWARDENS Joan Evans (01746-718619) Nigel Savage-Bailey (07989-308599)	Holy Trinity, Sidbury CHURCHWARDEN Andrew Sierkowski Sarah Crook
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary CHURCHWARDENS Sue Dolphin: 01584 890583 Gill Jordan: 01584 891082	St John, Middleton Scriven CHURCHWARDEN vacant – so for now your contact is Rev Mark Daborn (01746-718127)	St Michael, Silvington CHURCHWARDENS George Millichamp: 01584-891030 Annette Metcalfe: 01584 890161

The Rev Mark Daborn writes:

Services in our Churches and Online during December 2020

We published lists of services for last month only for them to be swamped by the second lockdown; so this listing is what we *hope* to provide for December. At the time of writing, new regulations for after the lockdown are not yet available, and particularly with regard to singing – so Carol Services as we have enjoyed them may well need to be completely different this year. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for further information.

It is still really important that nobody feels they *must* go to church if they feel the slightest bit nervous of going out amongst other people. Our online services will continue through the email list, on Facebook: “Stottesdon Benefice”, on You Tube: “Stottesdon Benefice” and on the website (“A church near you” and your parish name). There will in any case be restricted numbers according to the size of the churches and fitting folks in at 2 metre distancing. Please note that it remains *mandatory* for face masks to be worn for public worship [except for the exemptions].

Services in Church for December	6th		13 th		20 th		24 th		25 th	
	Second of Advent		Third of Advent		Fourth of Advent		Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	
Cleeton St Mary			HCA	1600			XM	1600		
Farlow	HCA	0900							XM	0900
Middleton Scriven					HCA	1030	XM	1830		
Sidbury					EPA	1600			XM	1030
Silvington			EPA	1830					XM	1000
Stottesdon	EPA	1630	HCA	1030			XHC	2330		
HCA Advent Holy Communion		EPA Advent Evening Prayer			XM Christmas Service			XHC Christmas Midnight Communion		

*** Sunday 29th December – Benefice Holy Communion at 10.30 in Stottesdon ***

Churches open for Private Prayer during December

approximately 10 am to 4.30 pm:

Monday – Middleton Scriven

Tuesday – Cleeton St Mary

Wednesday - Farlow

Thursday - Silvington

Saturday - Sidbury

Sunday – Stottesdon

Morning Prayer will be read *before opening* and Evening Prayer *after closing* at the open church. If there is a Sunday service within three days before or after the private prayer day, that church will not be open for its private prayer day, to allow for cleaning 'quarantine' time.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer or a visit or Communion at home or elsewhere, then please contact Mark direct, or ask your churchwardens to help you to arrange this.

From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers

Stottesdon: 11th November Funeral Office for Brian Hamilton-Russell R I P

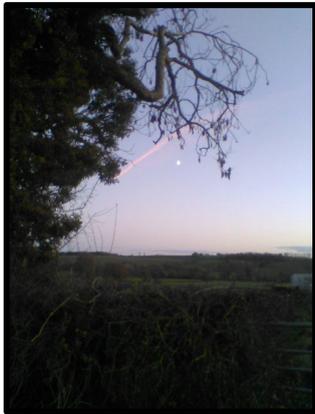
Cleeton St Mary: 14th November Burial of Ashes of Sarah (Sally) Price R I P

Lectionary for December 2020

Sunday 6 th	Sunday 13 th	Sunday 20 th	24 th / 25 th	Sunday 27 th
Second of Advent	Third of Advent	Fourth of Advent	Christmas	John the Evangelist
Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple / White	White
Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:8-end II Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-4;8-end Psalm 126 I Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8;19-28	II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Magnificat Romans 16:25-end Luke 1:26-38	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14	Exodus 33:7-11a Psalm 117 I John 1 John 21:19b-end

The **Deadline for the January 2021 edition (Stottesdon Benefice and Parishes)** is to get copy to Chris by first thing **Monday 21st December**. Thanks!

Autumn celebration from Mark Daborn



Prescott Ford
Half moon
Jetstream over the Clee

Titterstone Clee
Remembrance Sunday
Autumn hedgerow flowers
Autumn foliage on Brown Clee



Silvington News

Annette Metcalfe writes:

Advent greetings from St Michael's!

A reminder that the church is open for **private prayer** on Thursdays during December (except 24th), from 10.00 am till 4.30 pm approximately.

At the time of writing, the hope is that, after the second lockdown, services will be permitted again, albeit in abridged form and with necessary social-distancing provisos. During this season of Hope and Expectation, we look forward with optimism to worship at the following services:

Sunday 13th December Evening Prayer for Advent at 6.30pm.
Christmas Day Christmas Morning Service at 10.00am

Whether or not Holy Communion can be celebrated on Christmas Morning will depend on circumstances at the time. The churchwarden will contact parishioners when there is more information available.

100 Club Winners for October – congratulations to:

Richard Jones, Mart Millichamp, Helen Wallis, Carl Brookes, Neville Carter, Taylor and Amelia

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to everyone. May the gifts of **JOY**, **PEACE** and **HOPE** be yours this Christmas. With very best wishes for health, strength and happiness in the year ahead.

From the congregation of St Michael's, Silvington.

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

All are very welcome at our planned **December Services** - Holy Communion for Advent at 4pm on Sunday 13th and our Christmas Service at 4pm on Thursday 24th.

St Mary's Church will also be open for **Private Prayer** every Tuesday (except 15th), from approximately 10am to 4.30pm.

October 100 Club Draw

- £20 to Matthew Gibbons No 14
- £10 each to Phoebe Cunliffe No 87 and Pam Phillips No 106
- £5 to Madeline Hamilton No 1 and Eileen Cunningham No 80

Christmas wishes

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during this difficult year and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Keep safe and let's hope that next year will bring better things.

Lockdown 02

In a month that many of us, in previous years, would have had a change of scene, winter sunshine, family “get-togethers” or even a visit to British coast, who would have thought it would now be so hard to even cross the border into Wales! Christmas plans are also going to be different this year but we will no doubt find solutions in how to be together in some way or another in December 2020.

Christmas greetings from St John’s

Sending Christmas greetings and prayers and wishing everyone a peaceful, very healthy and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2021 when the Covid pandemic will not dominate our lives. Keep safe and healthy!

Ann’s thoughtful contribution this month concludes with ...

“a little prayer inspired by a September 2020 Welsh visit and reflects on storms in our lives”

Peace and rest. Calm and joy.

Lord, we are always in need of your help.

We are always in need of someone to talk to and someone to listen to us.

As we stand on the beach of life, amazed by power of the sea, we realise the power of God.

We think about the rhythm of the waves,

The storms passing over us, with calmer times ahead.

We know that you will help us in whatever storm we find ourselves.

Help us not to get lost in the wild winds and stormy seas, or in the very high tides and the destruction caused by the storms.

Help us not to get lost in the stress, anxiety and deep concerns of a world with so many different storms.

We pray that we may find strength, peace and rest; calm and joy as we come together in prayer.

We live in a world full of nature’s wonders.

Help us appreciate them even more, and protect them further from the storms we are creating.

Remember the colourful palette of a rainbow or sunset,

The autumn colours in our trees

The blue sky and blue seas

Or A holly tree laden with red berries.

These are all Gods creations

And they can bring us such peace and rest; calm and joy.

In the coming days let us open our hearts and minds further to God and let us walk with him or follow him on the beach of life.

We know this route can bring us peace and rest; calm and joy as we come together in prayer.

And finally, more of Ann's lovely photographs



Stunning winter trees

Alpaca and autumn colours

Winter visitors – fieldfare sharing our hedgerows

Winter sunrise



Farlow News

Planned services this month are Holy Communion for Advent at 9am on Sunday 6th and our Christmas Morning Service at 9am. The church will also be open for private prayer on Wednesdays from approximately 10am to 4.30pm.

The Wardens and PCC of St Giles, Farlow, wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Sidbury News

As the new Wardens continue to find their feet, Chris writes:

Planned services this month are Evening Prayer at 16.00 on Sunday 20th and the Christmas Day service will be at 10.30. Holy Trinity church will also be open on Saturdays 5th and 12th December for private prayer (approximate times 1000-1630).

Hopefully, we'll have news and other copy from Sarah and Andrew next month?

Stottesdon Church Parish Notices and News

Clare Tibbits writes:

St Mary's Private Prayer day this month is from (approximately) 1000-1630 on Sunday 20th as there is no planned service in the church that day.

Latest news from St Mary's Church 100 Club -

Congratulations to our November winners:

- Val Craig, Mary Overton and Lester Gittens

As November's draw was the last in the 100 Club year, please look out in the coming weeks for letters inviting your **membership renewals** for the next 12 months. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the new club year will start, with double money prizes, in the first weeks of January 2021. Thanks so much for your continued support!!

Stottesdon Community Noticeboard



Bridgnorth Food Bank can now accept monetary gifts via Internet Banking and this a very easy way of getting your donation direct to those in desperate need of our help at this very difficult time. To give online, please use the following details – Bridgnorth Community Trust, sort code 20-85-46, account 73700445 and quote 'Food Bank' as the reference.

If you'd like an acknowledgement of your gift, please advise the volunteer team that you have sent a donation - by email to: khbowley@googlemail.com

We hope this 'community news service' will be backearly in the New Year!.....

In praise of YouTube

Especially at ChristmasHave you ever dreamed of having a glowing, glimmering log fire constantly bringing your living room to life – but one that didn't involve going out in the rain to fetch fuel, cleaning up the dust and detritus from the logs, tutting at the small burn holes appearing in the hearth rug, evicting the woodlice, running from the spiders? Where are you on the yardstick between arachnophobe and technophobe? Give me an iPad any day! Well, look no further than YouTube!



How? Ever so easy.

- Go into the main [YouTube](#) site on your computer or tablet.
- Create an account (yes, I know, everyone wants you to have an account, but it's easy and **FREE**). Use your Google (Gmail) account to sign in, if you already have one. Now you're up and running!
- Still on your computer or tablet, find the things you love. Hereford Cathedral, of course, comes at the top, followed by Log Fire!. Hereford Cathedral, like much of YouTube's content, has its own little area – so click 'Subscribe'.
- So then Hereford Cathedral will appear in the column on the left of your browser, under the heading of Subscriptions. Once there, new material appears automatically

But here's the best bit

- If you have a Smart TV, open the YouTube app on the TV, and sign in with the password you've just created on your computer or tablet.
- And there are your subscriptions, waiting for you. The speakers on a TV are generally much better than on a computer, and the picture is better too.
- Once you've found your favourite log fire and added it to your playlist, library etc, that'll be there too, under a different heading in the left hand column.
- Some log fires have crackling flames as their soundtrack. Others have music – jazz, classical, guitar, and CHRISTMAS MUSIC.



And you can be enjoying YouTube on your TV whilst browsing through more YouTube content on your tablet, adding to your playlists and subscriptions. The privacy is great too. I wouldn't necessarily tell my friends about my subscriptions – which range from Hereford Cathedral and Hereford Diocese through Anton Du Beke TV, Alan Price, Jake Bugg and the Sweet..... And I've just added the [Organ Voluntary](#) played on the organ of [St Martin in the Fields](#). Or try the [Nunc Dimittis](#), which also gives better pictures of the inside of this wonderful church too. YouTube takes me to places that I've loved in the past – like St Martins, to which my great grandparents eloped to be married in 1886, where I went to many an evensong in the 1960s, and, most recently, where I have enjoyed the Transport for London annual carol services.

As I type this, I'm watching and listening to [Jonathan Lee](#), Hereford Organ Scholar, playing a selection of pieces on one of the Hereford organs only this summer. What a delightful and talented young man. It's fascinating to see his hands on the keyboard - reminded me of typing on a golfball typewriter years ago – the timelag between pressing a key and something happening on the paper. One so seldom sees the organist playing. And later I'll have my favourite [fire with Christmas music](#). Can you resist?

Finally – I hope I've got the instructions correct. And that, especially if you're alone, or away from family at Christmas, you might find things on YouTube that will warm the heart and bring a smile to your face as you sing along with your favourites. I swear that the log fire does actually warm my feet

Useful Community Contacts

Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District WI	Meets in Cleobury North Village Hall. The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm. Contact 01746-712466
Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wendy Lloyd 01746-712506 / 787549
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Contact 01584-823723 for details of topic and venue
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Chelmarsh Crown Green Bowling Club	Welcomes old and new members. Contact Sue Jackman 01746-862850
Chelmarsh Indoor Short Mat Bowling	Welcomes old and new members. The sessions are every Tuesday evening from 7.30-10.00pm. Further details Sue Jackman 01746-862850
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Parish Hall 01746-86525 Jean Davis
Chelmarsh Walking for Health	Monday 10.00am except Bank Holidays. Parish Hall. Eleanor Haddon 01746-862884. 2 levels of walking available
Chelmarsh Friends	Meet every 2nd Wednesday 7.30pm Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Jenny Green 01746-862191
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
Tae kwon-do	Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday 5.45pm. 07969-996055
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
Chetton & Gazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O’Sullivan 01746-868225
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact Jenny or Charlie on 01746-718437
Short Mat Bowling	Every Monday & Thursday 2.30 – 4.30pm at Cleeton & Silvington Village Hall, October to end of April. Pam 01584-89261
Cleeton & Silvington V H	Zumba - Thursdays 6.30pm 7.30pm all year Ula 01584-890200
Fun & Fitness for 50+	Cleobury North Village Hall - low impact fitness programme working the whole body every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.15am. Contact 01584-823640
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Mrs Denise Davies 01746-712521
Short Mat Bowling	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm except the second Wednesday in the month when it will be Thursday at 8.00 – 10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact 01746-712157
Ditton Priors WI	Meets in Ditton Priors Village Hall on 2nd Wednesday each month at 7.15pm 01746-712473
Ditton Priors Local History Group	The Local History Centre, next to the Willows Café, opens 12.00-2.00 on Saturdays, and at other times by arrangement. Contact 01746-712850
Ditton Priors Parent & Toddlers Group	Meet in the Pavilion, Playing Fields, Ditton Priors Thursday 9.30 -11.30 am everyone welcome for a coffee and play.
Ditton Priors Book Club	Jenny -01746-712665
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children’s Football Field 01584-890644
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the 3rd Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746 718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stoke St Milborough Dance	Mike 01746-712774 - Betty 01746-77515
Domestic Abuse Hotline	Telephone Number 08448-044999



KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated
14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Give away something that you have been holding on to	19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat
21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021	<p>Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters</p> 		

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

#DoGoodDecember

www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind