

WHEATLAND NEWS

March 2021



*'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me'*

Mark 8:34

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

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Editorial

We are now, officially on March 1st, at the beginning of meteorological Spring! In this edition of WN we have stunning photographs of the area recording some of the signs of the season. With the prospect of coming to the end of lockdown over a period of time, we can look forward to resuming some semblance of normality in our social and indeed, working lives! Face to face contact on Zoom and by other technical and media means has been invaluable to continue to keep in touch at work and with our family and friends, BUT, nothing beats seeing someone in person, to be able to talk and laugh together. This from someone who is one of the many people living alone!

We must, however, remain vigilant during each period of easing lockdown, in our wearing of masks and social distancing to ensure the vaccination programme can work to its full and we can control the spread of COVID-19. The Road Map details are printed on page 24.

Speaking of being vigilant, three of our parishes have reported strange and potentially criminal activities recently. One had an attempted dog-napping which was unsuccessful but the police were involved and are fully aware. Another had an incident of a stranger videoing a private house from the road. And a third was an incident of a large black vehicle which drove into a farm yard with its boot open and left in a hurry when seen by the owner. Please keep dogs, cats and any other pets safe. This also applies to sheep and lambs and other animals. Keep eyes open for anything unusual happening and report suspicious activities to the police around animals and properties.

We have had a very good response indeed to our request for articles. In this edition, you'll find another instalment of the Brook Cottage story, another Saint of the Month, and extraordinary revelations about one of our Wheatland clerics!

Local, and Police and Crime Commissioner, elections will be held on 6th May. Please see April's WN for locations of polling stations in the Wheatland area.

We will all be receiving notices very soon to ask us to fill in our census forms: yes, it's 10 years since the last one! Wherever possible, we'll be asked to do it online, but there will be options for those who aren't keen on the web. The [Census2021](#) website is already available, but we'll need our unique access codes to get in and fill in the form. Census day is 21 March. We are required by law to provide the information, from which government compiles [anonymised statistics](#) that inform for a whole raft of important planning purposes. But my friends tell me that by far the most important reason to toe the line and fill in our forms is for the benefit of people in 100 years' time, when the records are released for public view, who will be researching their family and local history, just as we expect the 1921 census to be released next year.

Many of us would, I'm sure, have been saddened at the death of Captain Tom. He really has been a beacon in a wilderness time – but what a fantastic finale to his life! What memories he has left us, and, more important, his family, who have put a book of condolence online for anyone who wants to express their feelings about his contribution. This website tells the story of his life, and provides opportunity to read about and donate to the [Captain Tom Foundation](#).

Since the fantastic achievement made by Captain Sir Tom Moore there have been many people taking up their particular challenge to raise funds for charities which are suffering from lack of funds due to the closure of their shops and no fundraising events, both of which are part of our social scene when we can meet others and also find that bargain which could change your life! If anyone reading this magazine is doing their own challenge or knows someone who is raising funds for a particular charity, please let us know so that we can promote the event. wheatlandsnews@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes – Ed.

April edition deadline!

Please would you send all contributions for the April 2021 edition of WN to your contact, as below, no later than Thursday March 25th

Brown Clee and Ditton Priors	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 rl.langham@btinternet.com
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 Tibbits Chris@stottystores.co.uk



Diocese of Hereford



March message from the Ven Derek Chedzey Archdeacon of Hereford

As I write this we are approaching the start of Lent. Easter this year falls very early and it feels like only yesterday that we finished celebrating Christmas. One impact of COVID-19 and the pandemic is that time can feel somewhat stuck. It can feel like we are trapped between events rather like a strange Science Fiction world where we are caught up in an endless cycle of repeating the activity. It reminds me a little of the film 'Groundhog Day' where the main character is trapped in a world where he simply repeats February 2nd over and over again! I think if we are not careful our spiritual lives can get stuck too, with little opportunity to worship together in church and limited social interaction, we can very easily become dislocated from our faith and from each other.

Lent traditionally has been seen as a time of self-examination, self-discipline and fasting although interestingly it didn't include Sundays as these were feast days and celebrations. It took its form from the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism. It also marked the traditional beginning of Spring and the word Lent is based on the old English word for 'Spring season'. As part of that preparation and self-denial, we have traditions of giving things up for a season and abstinence. In more recent times we have been encouraged to take something up that is of spiritual benefit to ourselves or general benefit to others instead. One of the things we have perhaps lost sight of is it was also a season of spiritual generosity and almsgiving.

When I did some research as part of some studies into what helps churches to grow one of the common themes that emerged was that growing churches were generous churches. They held lightly to their money and buildings, giving of time, talents and money for the 'Common Good' through acts of service and generosity. They saw money as a resource to be used for the Kingdom rather than hoarded for a rainy day that never came.

This Lent is a prime opportunity to set time aside to realign our spiritual lives. John writing his Gospel gives us a wonderful picture in chapter 15 of the vine and its branches. In that Jesus says to his disciples:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15 5-8

If we are going to be effective disciples, we need our lives to be rooted in Jesus. We have to learn not just to listen to Jesus' words but live them out. I think one of the reasons many of us find the pandemic restrictions so hard is that the Christian faith is primarily lived out in the community and is not a solitary or individual activity.

If we are going to make the most of Lent then we need, as a church, to rediscover a communal faith which looks outwards. To put our faith not in an institution called 'church' but instead in the person of Jesus who longs to change us into the people God created us to be.

However you use these coming weeks, why not discipline yourself to spend a few minutes each day to reflect on your spiritual journey and your relationship with God, to offer yourself to Him that we might become more like Him, as CS Lewis said:

“We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.”

from Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer, chapter 4

Derek



Yet more warm, kind and inspiring weekly video messages from Bishop Richard during February – enjoy them all, and of course the new ones that will arrive every week during March - on the [Hereford Diocese](#) website, or on [Youtube](#).



Dewi Fawr – St David - Saint of the Month for March

By Mark Daborn

In one of Ellis Peters' novels of Brother Cadfael, the detective monk of Medieval Shrewsbury Abbey, Cadfael describes himself as 'Welsh as Dewi Fawr'. There can be no other possible place to start with March Saints than the Patron Saint of Wales, especially when his feast day falls on March 1st.

Lots of people seem to take breaks in Pembrokeshire, so we went down for a few days between Christmas and the New Year a couple of years ago, and I can see why. On the way back, a visit to St David's was essential: how could one resist the smallest city in Britain? I'd been there once before quite a while ago, and attended a midweek evening prayer – three of us, including the young canon leading the service, in the one lit corner of a darkened cathedral!

Dewi Fawr, which means David the Great, was a Welsh monk and bishop in the sixth century, before one can really talk about anyone being Welsh: his people were the British inhabitants of this island before they were driven into the hill country of the west by the Saesneg.

A Life written in the eleventh century says that David's father was a chieftain in Cardigan called Sant, and his mother was St Non. Non is commemorated near St David's in an old ruined chapel and a holy well both named after her. His principal monastery was at Mynyw, or Menevia, now St David's, although he founded others, and there are numerous dedications to him: these are mostly in south Wales, but there are some in the West Country and Brittany, the old Celtic communication route.

According to the Life, he was chosen as primate of Wales at a council at Brefi, in Cardigan, where he had preached eloquently against the Pelagian heresy; and moved the seat of the See from Caerleon to Mynyw. He is also reported to have made the pilgrimage to Rome, and to have been consecrated as bishop whilst he was there. His best-known miracle happened at the council at Brefi: whilst he was preaching, the ground on which he stood rose to form a small hill, and a dove descended on to his shoulder – the dove becoming his emblem. These stories are to be treated with respectful caution, as the Life was written to establish the claim that the Welsh bishops were independent of Canterbury.

Dewi was evidently a man of great influence through his monastic foundations, and several Irish saints are cited as having been his pupils or to have visited Mynyw. Certainly the minute city of St David's has that unique feel of a place that has earned its place in the history of faith, and the rugged coastline it nestled behind is just what one would expect of the Celtic tradition of monasticism.

St David's Day comes on a Monday this year, after the Second Sunday in Lent; leeks are permitted during a Lenten fast!

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

Please see the Rev Terry's panel on page 9, which is relevant to everyone in the Brown Clee Benefice.

Ditton Priors, Aston Botterell, Burwarton, and Wheathill & Loughton News

We have no specific news from these parishes this month, so enjoy instead some local landscapes – thank you Jutta!



*Our hills are endlessly fascinating,
changing from day to day, hour to hour.*

2021 - March Worship Rota - Brown Clee Churches

2021	WEEK 1 Sunday 7th March Lent 3		WEEK 2 Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday	T U E	WEEK 3 Sunday 21st March Lent 5	T U E	Week 4 Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday	T U E
8-30 am								
10 am	Ditton Priors Communion		Ditton Priors Communion		Ditton Priors Communion		Ditton Communion	
10 am		Ditton Priors 9/3/21		Cleobury North 16/3/21		Ditton Priors 23/3/21		Cleobury North 30/3/21
11-30 am	Aston Botterell Communion		Chetton Communion		Neenton Communion		Cleobury North Communion	
2.30					Wheathill Communion			

(Services marked in Pink are currently suspended)

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the on-going issues surrounding the COVID virus, all services in the Benefice remain suspended with the exception of Ditton Priors where a weekly Communion Service will be held each Sunday in March at 10am



Cleobury North and District Village Hall

CNVH will be a polling station for Local Elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections – Thursday 6 May 2021. Further details in next month's Wheatland News.

Other than for these elections, Cleobury North Village Hall remains closed until further notice. For enquiries about booking and using the hall, please call 01746-787093.



More seasonal pictures from Jutta1



Chetton News

From Pam Downing

St Giles's Church and Parish

It is good to hear that Covid numbers are decreasing. Hopefully this will continue with more people receiving the vaccine. Our Church is still closed but we look to the Spring when we may be able to open again.

If any of you are doing some early Spring cleaning at home, we are welcoming any **bric a brac** for our coffee morning, which we hope to hold when life is a little safer.

Chetton St Giles 100 Club winners - February

- £15 – June Preece
- £10 – Arthur Ralph

Thank you to everyone who has kindly paid their subs already, any outstanding can be paid to Lisa please.

Chetton Village Hall

With little prospect of any income for some time to come, I have registered with HMRC Charities online, to claim gift aid from the last four years. If anyone who has supported the hall in the past would like to help by signing a gift aid form, please would you email me at wallsbatch@gmail.com.

A Church Near You

Don't forget to look at the Benefice website – A Church Near You, on the [Ditton Priors Church and Benefice Information Hub](#) page, to see what is going on in all the parishes too.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

All Saints Church

The church will remain closed throughout March and hope to reopen in April. There will be a service every Sunday in March at Ditton Priors – see Rev Terry Mason's item on page 9.

Spring is Here!

It has been uplifting to see the sun in the last few days of February and we look forward to the continuing warmer weather for March. Not only have the snowdrops been showing us that the year is moving on but we can now see the daffodils in bud and some other flowers starting to burst forth. People have been taking advantage of the climate and have been seen walking in the fields, woods and down the lanes. Dogs have been a good excuse to exercise and are forming their own social group, suitably distanced, of course. There have, however, been reports of attempted and in some cases successful dognapping in the area so please keep an eye on your pets.



Tote

- Bebert – No 29
- Marjorie Jones – No 1

Congratulations to our February winners. Why not join in and have a chance of winning? Contact Sue Hale or Bobbie Jarvis for details.

The Pheasant at Neenton - Mothers' Day Treat

12th & 13th March

For Mothers' Day Mark and Team are creating a Pheasant Classic Box to include a little bit of all of their most popular dishes

The price is £25 per person/per box

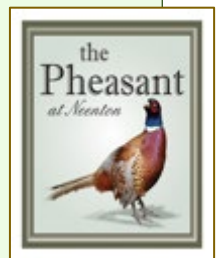
Collection is on Friday 12th 4 – 6pm

Delivery is on Saturday 13th 4 – 6pm

Menu and further details will be available nearer the time

Please book as soon as possible on 01746 787955 and leave a message or email:

info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to place your order.



The February Treats have been very popular: feedback has included - 'the whole Valentine's meal was just wonderful, thank you ...highlight of 2021', 'thank you Mark and team for the special Thai menu, lovely flavours', 'deliciosa tapas! Muchas gracias!'

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 March

The Rev Mike Harris writes

As Lent begins we also begin our series on **Hard Questions** which will take us through to the end of March.

Members of our congregations have considered areas of life and faith they are unsure of or have their own opinions about, but want to see what a broader Christian and Biblical perspective on the subject might be. So, below you will see who is leading (first), who is preaching and then the subject matter for each week.

This is exciting and gives our team a real opportunity to get their teeth into something new, fresh and invigorating, always being mindful of the season we are in and the culture we are expressing our faith in and without attempting to give all the answers.

Benefice churches

The other aspect in all of this, is whether or not our churches will be open. We are dependent for this on information not currently available. The churches in which we will be worshipping at 10am, often with Communion should we go back, are in brackets, below. Please look at our [St Mary's Highley](#) web site for all relevant and up-to-date information and virtual service access.

The **Hard Questions talks** are accompanied by an opportunity to express your own thoughts on each subject on the Wednesday evening following via Zoom at 7pm (approximately 1 hour). On 3rd March Bishop Richard will be joining in the debate/reflection on Faith and Culture, tackled in the service on 28th Feb. Contact David Poyner for an invitation d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk or see the link with our weekly notices and on our [website](#). All welcome.

- 7th March: (Highley) – Mike Harris and Mary Rayner. David & Mary Rayner's last Sunday with us. Subject: **Where did the water go after the flood? What did the big cats eat on the ark?**
- 14th March: (Chelmarsh) – Val and Keith Smith. Subject: **I can't love myself, so how can I love my neighbour? I can't forgive a murderer.**
- 21st March: (Glazeley) – Angie Forster and David Poyner. Subject: **How do you think that God would judge on issues of war, specifically what side would he favour in World War 2 - the Hitler regime or rest of Europe?**
- 28th March: (Highley) – Mark & Amy Williams. Subject: **Does Factory Farming violate Christian principles?**

Every blessing this Lent and with thanks for your work for His Kingdom.

Mike

Rector, Severn Valley Benefice

01746 862837

Glazeley and Billingsley News

The Rev David Poyner writes:

We were saddened by the recent death of Annie Gabb from The Woodlands in Glazeley. She was a good friend of Glazeley church and community. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Roger and Caspar.

There are still no services at either Billingsley or Glazeley, although I hope with the good progress being made locally with the vaccine, we may soon be able to resume public worship. I have been very impressed by the professionalism of all the staff involved in the vaccination programme at the Bridgnorth Medical Centre; they deserve our thanks.

Billingsley church remains open for visits, to pray or simply sit and think. Of course, the churchyards at both Billingsley and Glazeley can be visited at any time; members of Glazeley have been busy tidying the churchyard recently. They are both worth visiting to view the snowdrops, powerful symbols of renewal and rebirth as well as being very photogenic!



Snowdrops in Billingsley and Glazeley



Mike and Bonnie with this month's winning numbers in Billingsley

We held our monthly 100 club draw on Friday 5th February. This time the draw was held in Bind Lane and the three winning numbers were picked by Mike and Bonnie Garvey. We still have plenty of numbers; visit our website both for details of winners and also for application forms if you wish to join:

<http://www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk/friendsofbillingsley100club/>.

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:

There has been no report from Chelmarsh St Peter for this month.

Chelmarsh Friends

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

Chelmarsh Walking for Health

Chelmarsh Walking for Health meets every Monday from the Village Hall at 10am. Walks are still suspended, but a notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall website when lockdown/tier restrictions are lifted. For details contact Eleanor Haddon on 01746 862884



Covid and a Scientist

- the Other World of the Rev David Poyner



Many readers will know that in addition to being an assistant curate in the Severn Valley Benefice, I am also a scientist. I lecture and carry out research in pharmacology at Aston University. Pharmacology is the study of how drugs work.

Although I work at a University, I have to apply to outside bodies for money to carry out my research, and convince them that it is a benefit to society. Currently I have funding to carry out two projects.

Project One is a novel way of developing antibodies to recognise proteins that are found on the surface of cells. New antibodies can be used as drugs.

Project Two is about how nerve transmitters switch cells on and off. The transmitter binds to a protein called a receptor on the surface of a cell, and changes its shape. A better understanding of how receptors change shape will help us design new drugs which bind to them. We are using computers to understand how receptors change their shape to switch cells on and off.



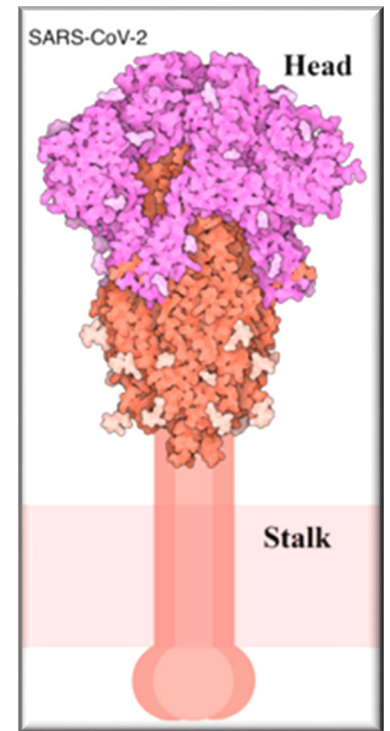
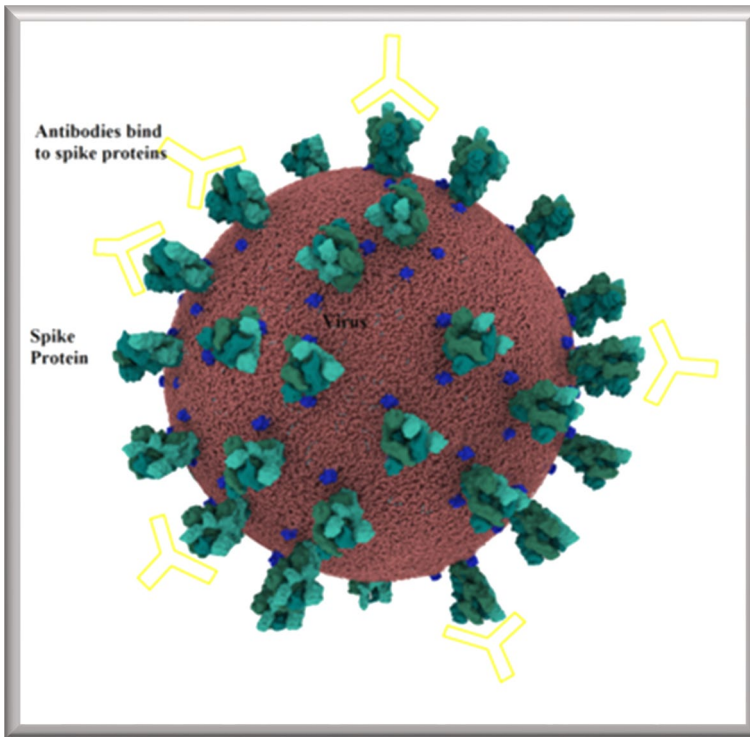
Modern science is a team effort, and both of these projects are being carried out with my long-term collaborator and friend, Professor Mark Wheatley at Coventry University (pictured left). The second project is being driven by another friend and colleague, Dr John Simms (pictured right), at Aston University.



Our research is some distance away from producing drugs that can be given to patients: we are interested in the underlying science. We are not directly doing Covid research: others are much better placed to take the lead on this. However, ultimately our research may feed into therapies to treat Covid.

Continued on next page





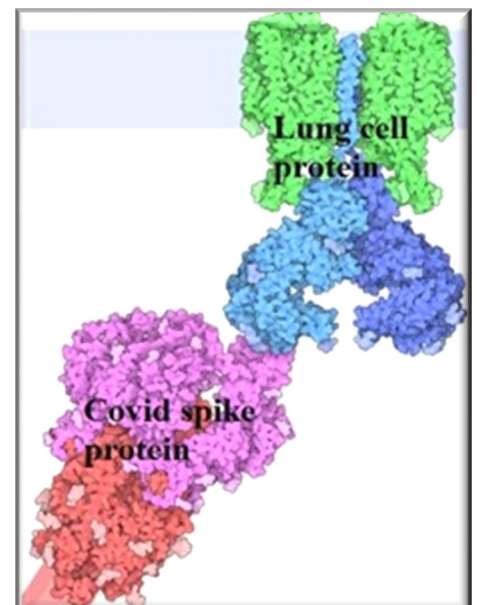
The Covid virus, (pictured above left) attaches itself to our cells by means of the “spike protein”, which exists on the outside of the virus. This is a large protein shaped like a mushroom (pictured above right). The spikes are the bits that stick out of the spherical virus that we are all familiar with.

The “headgroup” (*the purple bit in the picture above, right*) of the spike protein sticks out into the blood of the person who is infected. This headgroup is able to recognise a protein that is found on the surface of cells in our lungs – the “lung protein”.

This lung protein normally makes a substance that helps control blood pressure: unfortunately, it also sticks tightly to the headgroup of the Covid spike protein. When the two bind, the Covid spike protein changes shape and pulls the virus against the surface of the lung cells allowing the virus to enter and damage these cells. It also reproduces inside the cells, so the infected person can then pass new virus to other people.

Vaccines work by getting our immune system to produce antibodies that bind to the headgroup of the spike protein, so stopping it from sticking to the protein on our lung cells and entering them (*see the picture, previous page, of the ball-shaped virus, and round it, in yellow, the antibodies bound to the spike proteins*).

The technology we are trying to develop for new antibodies may provide novel ways of making vaccines. Our work on how proteins change shape may help us to understand both how changes to the spike protein can alter its properties and also to develop drugs to block it from bringing the virus into contact with the surface of lung cells.



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

March Message

‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’ [Mark 8:34]

The ordination course that I trained on was for the Church of England and the Methodist church. We therefore had Anglicans and Methodists working alongside each other with a sort of wary eye for the places where we differed – not theologically, we could all cope with that ok – but in practice. I recall one of the aspiring Methodist ministers saying to me ‘We Methodists can never understand why you Anglicans take all the flowers out for the churches in Advent and Lent.’

I bluffed a bit, because I hadn’t really thought this one through: something about paring down to essentials and so on... He wasn’t convinced, and neither, to be honest, was I. But it’s really good to get this kind of comment, because it forces you to acknowledge the situation and either justify it or abandon it.

Now I am, I hope, a good Anglican – that is to say, a staunch supporter of the Church of England and all it stands for. Up to a point. Part of the whole concept of the Church of England is that it should be inclusive and embracing: it doesn’t always manage that, by a long chalk, but it generally does make the effort. Which means that, as a good Anglican, I can justify not having flowers in church in Advent and Lent, but also happily abandon the practice when it seems appropriate.

The point of it is that these are times of serious thought in preparation for the great feast of Christmas and Easter. So the churches are cleared of distractions and kept down to the needful necessities. This has the additional benefit of allowing us to appreciate the loveliness of old stone, the beauty of the buildings themselves, that have served communities for hundreds of years and have a majesty of structure, a majesty of purpose and a majesty of story about them. Flowers can adorn this majesty, but can also distract from it sometimes.

At the same time, when the organiser of the flower rota says pleadingly ‘Can we have flowers in church for the Carol Service?’ or for Mothering Sunday, or other celebrations during these seasons, the answer is ‘Of course we can!’

Denying ourselves and following Jesus should not be a dreary and oppressive business; it should be the joyful liberation of being held in God’s love and sharing that love with everyone we ever come across. Denying ourselves may be about denying our own preoccupations and looking beyond our own horizons; and carrying our cross may be about bearing a load freely and cheerfully for someone else.

Sometime when you’re at a loose end, pick up a copy of Mark’s Gospel and see how many times Jesus is mentioned as being at a meal, as guest or as host. And remember, too, his words in John’s Gospel: ‘I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.’

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 - 07934-714149
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:

Churches in March

Now that we have a government plan to lead us out of lockdown, we will re-open the churches for private prayer and worship as soon as it is felt to be safe, which should not be long now; *at the time of writing*, PCC officers are consulting on setting dates and we will publicise information when government and Church of England guidance has been carefully considered.

Services will also continue to be recorded that you can pick up where and when may be convenient for you, either on the [Stottesdon Benefice](#) website, on the [Stottesdon Benefice Facebook](#) page, or on YouTube, which you can find on this link: [Stottesdon Benefice – YouTube](#).

God is not waiting for us to come back to the churches; he is with us out here, whenever and wherever we may worship, offer prayer or be still in his presence.

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

- ◇ 8th February – Gladys Doreen Rudd RIP
- ◇ 16th February – Norman Sidney Gittens RIP (service at Wyre Forest Crematorium).
- ◇ 24th February – Brian Herbert Shropshire RIP

Silvington

- ◇ 25th February – George Leonard Millichamp RIP (service at Wyre Forest Crematorium).

Lectionary for March 2021

Sunday 7 th	Sunday 14 th	Sunday 21 st	Sunday 28 th
Third in Lent	Fourth in Lent	Passion Sunday	Palm Sunday
Purple	Purple	Purple	Red
Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Exodus 2:1-10 Psalm 34:11-20 II Corinthians 1:3-7 Luke 2:33-35	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-13 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Liturgy of the Palms Psalm 118:19-end Mark 11:1-11

The **deadline for the APRIL 2021 edition (Stottesdon Benefice and Parishes)** is to get copy to Chris by first thing **Monday 22nd March** Thanks!

Silvington News

Annette Metcalfe writes:

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of GEORGE MILLICHAMP on 26 January 2021. George and his late wife, Pam were a mainstay of our little village and church community. George served St Michael's for nearly 50 years as Churchwarden. We will all miss his friendship, kindness and humour and will remember with gratitude, his faithful service to the church. He was a true Christian gentleman.

May he rest in peace.

As "incomers" to the village 19 years ago, we were kindly received by our neighbours and the church community. Now we find ourselves the new custodians of the old church records and other documents. They are gems... but only copperplate snapshots.

It is a regret that I have missed opportunities to get more of a picture of the parish in years gone by... stories that would have given life and colour to the dry facts. When oral history is lost and forgotten, it cannot be retrieved for posterity (or interested incomers.)

To sum up... "It's good to talk." (British Telecom advert, 1994)

and... "Don't leave it too late to ask Granny."

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

100 Club results 31st January:

- £20 to Jennifer Hewitt No 86
- £10 each to Joyce Price No 107 and Sue Dolphin No 62
- £5 each to Jeff Dolphin No 58 and Megan Smith No 41

Farlow News

There is no report for Farlow, Oretton and district this month.

Sidbury News

Due to lockdown, there is no report from Sidbury this month.

Stottesdon Church Parish Notices and News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Notice of death

Judith Helen Rushton (née Brettell) formerly of Alton Cross Cottage, Gorst Hill, Rock. Loving wife of the late George Rushton; wonderful Mum & Grandmother. Judith's ashes are to be brought back to Stottesdon to be interred in the grave of her mother, Mollie Selena Brettell, in St Mary's churchyard.

St Mary's Church 100 Club – February draw winners

- Richard Overton, Sam Williams & Rachel Cooper, and Pam Warren.



Middleton Scriven News

Another bumper edition from Middleton Scriven for everyone to enjoy – thank you Ann! Stotty Ed

Ann Constable writes:

Our Lent Lunch

22 people, in their own homes, shared a "Lent lunch at home", thanks to the wonderful catering from Willows Cafe in Ditton Priors. It was a lovely lunchtime treat. Thank you to everyone who supported this and for all the raffle prizes. We raised **£158** for our church and Cuan Wildlife Rescue.



Prayers from Middleton Scriven

In a peaceful moment, enjoy the two beautiful prayers, composed by Ann and by Berry Northern, and more Middleton photographs – thank you Ann!



DARKNESS –by Berry Northern

I am on a journey, a long journey.
The train goes so fast

I don't have time to look at the fields, the hills and trees.
To see the beauty of life.

We go into a tunnel, still whizzing along

Then the train slows, and stops - and the lights go out.
We are in complete darkness.

The man beside me gasps and his breathing is fast I think he's afraid of the dark.

A baby cries - soothed by his mother
As she puts him to her breast.

We wait and wonder - time seems to stand still.

Then, a flickering light is coming
Someone has candles - one for each table!

"These candles, I bought them as gifts, But the need is greater here"
Says the donor coming nearer.

What is your name? I ask

"I have two names" she smiles
"They are Faith and Hope" she says as she passes me by
And continues on her way.

TOGETHER WITH NATURE – by Ann Constable

Together, let us pray for the natural world
As it helps us heal in so many ways.



Lord, Your creations help us keep motivated, inspired, positive, calm and at peace in these difficult times. Help us all to see and appreciate what nature has done and will continue to do for mankind.

Let us together give our thanks. Thank you Lord for all the seasons and the different weathers which sustain our lives: such as grey skies, wet winter days, snow and frost, freezing fog, all bringing valuable water or blue skies and bright sunny days bringing sunlight and warmth for growth.

Help us pause more, breathe slowly and calmly and see nature in its full winter glory.

Together, Lord, let us never stop praising and admiring Nature's colour palette. In this time when there are so many negatives around us, help us to once more see the natural beauty and all its positives and help others to feel the healing power that it can bring.

Thank you Lord for the Winter sunsets and sunrises; Hoar frost on trees against a blue sky; Icicles in a stream; Foxes in the garden; Goldfinches on our bird feeders; Deer in neighbouring fields and Winter Views across gardens or our local area.

Thank you Lord for the healing power we find in Nature's Cathedrals, in our woods; And for all the medicines that are derived from the natural world. Together we pray for all the work of scientists as they strive to find more medicines.

Please help us to take a break from the electronic world all around and open our eyes and hearts so we can see and feel the healing power from simple sights happening around us: the beauty of the first snowdrop flowers opening or bright yellow of the Aconites against the bare ground; seeing a flash of blue as we glimpse a kingfisher, watching a black and white Dipper, dipping by rocks in a fast flowing stream or having the privilege to see a Starling murmuration.

Together, as we stay at home, staying apart from those we love, Lord help us care for and cherish the natural world which you created. We pray for wisdom and guidance for our government's decision making towards a greener future, so it can be one in which we can preserve and nurture what you have created and not destroy further.

Together, let us pray for the coming of spring. Pause and pray for your help to get us to a different place, a better place, when the peaks of the pandemic have passed. Let us pray for patience as we wait for the light at the end of the tunnel to get brighter and a time when more interactions can take place, together with the magic of hugs.

Amen



Brook Cottage - a Local Story - part 3

More from Andy Johnson

There's an interesting old gravestone under the Yew tree in Middleton Scriven churchyard which commemorates the life (and death) of one of the Parish's Victorian residents. The monument, which is of polished black stone, carries a relatively lengthy inscription which hints at what befell the grave's only occupant, causing his early demise.

The grave is that of William Tomkins, a one-time inhabitant of Brook Cottage where he lived with other members of his family. His epitaph reads: "In loving memory of William Tomkins who died 23rd June 1893 aged 58 years". A four-line poem follows:



"In health and strength I left my home
Not thinking death was near.
It pleased the Lord to bid me come
And in his presence to appear".

'Home' does not really rhyme with 'come' and the last line does not scan very well, but, hey, not bad for a one-off attempt.

It would appear that the unfortunate William met his untimely demise when riding a horse to Bridgnorth for reasons now unknown. Upon his return, whilst descending Glazeley Long Bank, near the Eudon Burnell junction, it is believed his horse was startled by something. Obviously not a motor vehicle in 1893 although it could have been a steam traction engine, noisy fire-breathing monsters of the time. Anyway, whatever it was, the horse shied throwing William to the ground where he reputedly struck his head on a hard surface which, sadly, killed him. Hence the words on his headstone.

Tragically, too, his son, who was living at Halfway House, Eardington at the time, met a similar fate when he was killed at the age of 51 by a boy on a bike who collided with him on a stretch of the same road when walking between Halfway House and Bridgnorth. He died two days after the accident in 1927.

The Tomkins family continued to live in Brook Cottage until the turn of the 19th/20th century when the Lucas family took up residence. But that's a story for another time.

Yes please, Andy! Ed

A simple guide to the Steps Out of Lockdown

STEP 1: 8 March

 Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.

 Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person. No household mixing indoors.

 Wraparound childcare.

 Stay at home.


 Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6).

29 March

 Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.

 Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.

 Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).

 Minimise travel. No holidays.

 Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.

 Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.

 Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.

 Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.

 Libraries and community centres.

 Personal care premises.

 All retail.


 Outdoor hospitality.

 All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

 Domestic overnight stays (household only).

 Self-contained accommodation (household only).

 Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).

 Minimise travel. No international holidays.

 Event pilots begin.

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.

 Indoor entertainment and attractions.

 30 person limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).

 Domestic overnight stays.

 Organised indoor adult sport.

 Most significant life events (30).

 Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).

 Remaining accommodation.

 Some large events (except for pilots) - capacity limits apply. Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%. Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%. Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.

 International travel - subject to review.

STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June. By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following (subject to review):

 No legal limits on social contact.

 Nightclubs.

 Larger events.

 No legal limit on all life events.



From Mark Daborn

*From top right,
Brown Clee in snow*

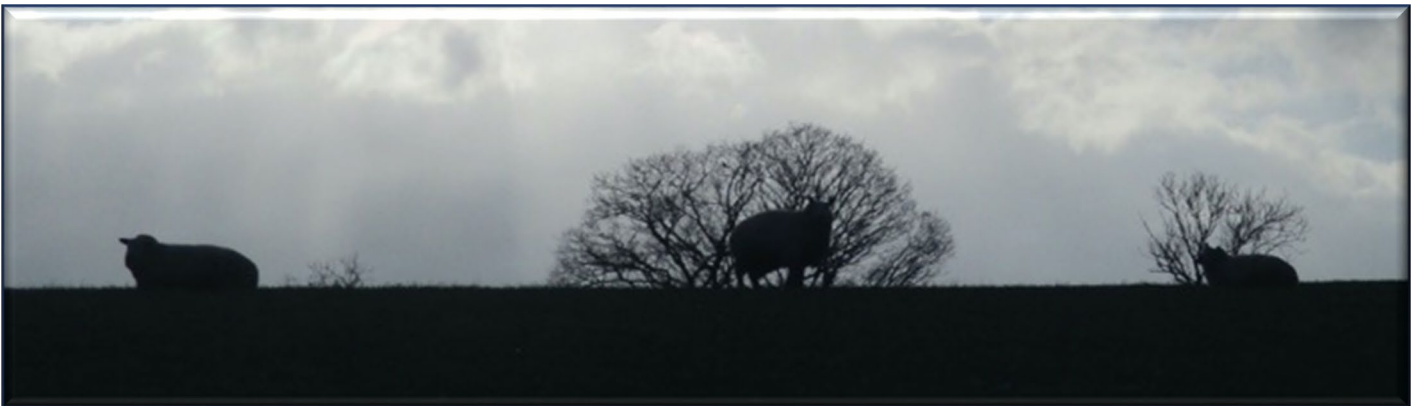
*Spring
approaching (2)*

Silhouette sheep

*High tide in the
vegetable garden!*

*Taking delivery of
our Lent Lunch in
Middleton Scriven*

*Titterstone Clee in
snow*



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, ^[SEP]sort code 20-85-46, ^[SEP]account 73700445, ^[SEP]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 ^[SEP]to: khbowley@googlemail.com



Useful Community Contacts

Brown Clew 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