

WHEATLAND NEWS

May 2021

The interior of Holy Trinity Church, Sidbury – photo by Mark Daborn



*'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.'*

[Matthew 28:19]

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

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Editorial

According to the weather forecasters, last month has been hailed the frostiest and driest April for many years with lovely sunny days accompanied by cold north and east winds, and only about 10% of the average April rainfall. As we go to press this has suddenly come to an end when we woke this morning to a damp, grey day with water butts filled to the brim from the overnight rain. We are, however, promised variable weather over the Bank Holiday weekend so will make the most of the sun when it returns. The nights will continue to be cold with frosts in some areas, but if the skies are clear we may be lucky to see the 'pink moon' during the next few days.

When we look around it is often difficult to see the beauty of our countryside and the fauna and flora accompanied by the animals and insects, all of which depend on our seasons even though they may be changing in subtle ways. Thinking about the predictions of some of the older members of the community the saying 'if the oak is out before the ash we shall only get a splash' may well come true this year as the oak trees are beginning to show evidence of their leaves while the ash is still very bare.

In optimism for the days to come and in appreciation of our surroundings we look forward to joining our friends and making new memories of life after lockdown. And a big 'thank you' for all the lovely contributions of articles and pictures for this edition of WN – it's a real pleasure, seeing what arrives, and trying to do it all justice. Hope you like it as much as we do.

Enjoy the spring!

June edition deadline!

Please would you send all contributions for the June 2021 edition of WN to your contact, as below, no later than **Tuesday 25th May.**

Brown Clee and Ditton Priors	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 rll.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



Frosted sheep and lambs – pic by JT

Diocese of Hereford

May message from the Archdeacon of Hereford



Pentecost or more traditionally Whitsun is I think the Cinderella of Christian festivals, it has never really had the impact of Christmas and Easter. It doesn't have the same traditions or social events around it which make it stand out in the wider culture either. I think increasingly the church doesn't really know how to mark the occasion and even the recent 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer campaign which has actually taken off across the churches in recent years doesn't really make much of Pentecost itself. Yet Pentecost is perhaps one of the most exciting of the church festivals for it marks the moment when God started the church! It is in effect the Church's birthday, the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower ordinary Christians to do extraordinary things for Him.

The Holy Spirit is given freely to all of us as a free gift from God. Jesus promised his disciples that we would receive this gift so that we might know his presence with us as we live out our faith on a daily basis.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforter to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you..."

- John 14:15-16

The problem is when most of us think of comfort we think of the luxuries of life, or being wrapped up in a warm blanket or duvet. We also think of comfort as something that consoles us when we are upset or in need. Whilst all these things are true the word used in the New Testament has a completely different meaning to those we might expect. The word comfort is the same word that we find in relation to prodding, strengthening or stirring into action. The Bayeux Tapestry has a wonderful panel of Bishop Odo, forcing his men into battle, at the end of his battle club, with the abbreviated Latin words: which when translated means: "Here, Bishop Odo, comforts his troops." As individuals we might not find such 'comfort' comforting but the Holy Spirit is given to equip and spur us into action! In fact, the word comfort has traditionally also meant to give or add strength to someone or to encourage, urge or exhort. When we see the coming of the Holy Spirit in that way it makes much more sense of both Jesus words and what we see in the book of Acts as the early church begins to emerge.

The Holy Spirit also empowers us to be the people God created and knows us to be, in that sense the Holy Spirit fills us with God's wisdom and power for the tasks which he has called us to. On the day of Pentecost it is the Holy Spirit that takes the group of timid and bewildered disciples and equips them to declare the gospel message. Jesus before his Ascension had promised them that they would receive the Holy Spirit to equip them as His witnesses throughout the world.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Acts 1:8

This power that comes with the Holy Spirit is very real and is available to us just as it was to the first disciples. It is power to live our lives as God intended, power to encourage us and to strengthen us for acts of service. It is

not to make us feel better, or for our own benefit but it is the power to build one another up and to inspire the Church. So as Pentecost approaches perhaps we need to re-evaluate this slightly misunderstood Christian Festival and celebrate the birthday of the church with a bit more style and flair! Our prayer certainly needs to be 'Come Holy Spirit!'

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. Amen.

Derek Chedzey, The Venerable the Archdeacon of Hereford

The new Archdeacon of Ludlow

The Venerable Fiona Gibson became Archdeacon of Ludlow on 25 April, when she was collated at a special service in Ludlow St Laurence. She will be made a Prebendary alongside Revd. Nick Read, OBE at a service to be held at Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 2 May. *[You can watch a [short video of the highlights of the collation service](#) on YouTube].*

Fiona was ordained in St Albans Diocese in 2011 and has served all her ministry in that diocese. As well as receiving her training there, Revd Fiona has been responsible for two curates in training. She served on General Synod, the Church of England's elected governing body, for St Alban's diocese. Her other interests include being on the board for the Verulam House Fund Trust (awarding modest bursaries and project grants promoting education, spirituality, witness and service), the Oak Hill College Council, Vice Chair of the national committee of The Junia Network (formerly AWESOME - a group for evangelical Anglican female clergy), she also sits on the Transformations Steering Group and is a member of the CPAS Council of Reference.



Her experience of rural ministry is what particularly attracted her to her present role as Archdeacon of Ludlow as well as the opportunity to strategically shape mission and ministry beyond parish boundaries.

Fiona lives in Craven Arms, South Shropshire with her husband Dave. She and Dave have two young adult children, both at university.

Alongside her general responsibilities, Archdeacon Fiona intends to focus on supporting churches in finding fresh ways to share the message of the gospel, on supporting clergy, particularly in rural areas where they have multiple parishes, and on encouraging families and children to discover for themselves the difference that a relationship with Jesus can make to their lives.

The Bishop's weekly video message

[Bishop Richard's weekly message is also on YouTube.](#)



Saint of the Month – Matthias – 14th May

By the Rev Mark Daborn



contains the feasts of Augustine of Canterbury and the Venerable Bede, both of whom are enormously tempting. But in this month that contains the story of the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost it's right, I think, to return to the beginning of the story, and revisit Palestine of the First Century *Anno Domini*. So we go to one of the stories told in the opening chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the 'sequel' to Luke's Gospel.

Before Jesus left them for the last time to return to the Father, he told the disciples wait in Jerusalem for the Comforter. This was the coming of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate this year on the feast of Pentecost. Whilst they were waiting, Peter suggested that they should find a replacement for Judas Iscariot. Judas had been one of the original twelve picked by Jesus to be his closest associates in his work, and to carry it on after he had gone. But Judas, bribed by the Sanhedrin, had betrayed Jesus and then, in apparent remorse, hanged himself.

Two candidates for the vacant twelfth-man post were put forward; they were men who, as Peter had stipulated, had 'been with us from the beginning.' It was important that the apostles should have been eye-witnesses of Jesus mission, so that the witness they bore to the world was from their personal experience. The two were Joseph Barsabbas, surnamed Justus – and Matthias.

The choice was made by lot. That is to say, they made it a matter of chance rather than choice, entrusting the judgement to God, not the values of fallible men. 'The lot,' says the story, 'fell on Matthias' – an expression that gave my RE teacher at school continuous cause for innocent merriment.

Having been chosen to this position of eminence, Matthias disappears from the story completely. He is not mentioned at all again in the New Testament, nor are there any definitive legends about him that can be separated from some kind of confusion with St. Matthew. It may be that he was martyred by crucifixion, and a lost non-canonical Gospel put out in his name has now been lost.

All of which, in a way, is heartening. He evidently set about his own task of witness, made little fuss about it, and goes down in that great and wonderful company of the unsung heroes. But next time you see carvings in wood or stone of the twelve apostles, look out for Matthias on the end of the line. Reflect upon the fact that the man who betrayed Jesus gets more 'press' coverage than the man who took his place as an apostle and did the job the way it was meant to be done.

MD

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 8, which is relevant to everyone in the Brown Clee Benefice.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings - APCMs

The dates for the APCMs are also shown on the Rev Terry's panel. All are welcome to attend these. There is a description of the purpose of an APCM on the Hereford Diocese website.



Ditton Priors News

St John the Baptist 100 Club

Our winners for April were:

- £20 – Sally Manton
- £10 – Irene Jones
- £5 each to Jonathon Jones, Margaret Bill, and Richard Fox.

2021 - May Worship Rota - Brown Clee Churches

2021	WEEK 1 Sunday 2nd May	WEEK 2 Sunday 9th May	Ascension Day 13th May	WEEK 3 Sunday 16th May	Week 4 Sunday 23rd May Pentecost	Week 5 Sunday 30th May Trinity Sunday
8-30 am					Ditton Priors Said Communion	
9-45 am	Ditton Priors Communion	Ditton Priors Communion		Ditton Priors Communion	Chetton Communion	
10.15 am						Aston Botterell Group Service <u>10.15am</u>
11-30 am	Aston Botterell Communion	Chetton Communion		Neenton Communion	Cleobury North Communion *APCM	
2.30 pm				Wheathill Communion <u>2.30pm</u>		
Other			Ditton Priors 7.30pm Evening Prayer			

(Tuesday Services are suspended at present)

DATES FOR APCM's BROWN CLEE CHURCHES

ALL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE NAMED CHURCH

Sunday 23rd May - Cleobury North w Burwarton

Commencing 12.15pm followed by PCC Meeting

Monday 24th May – Aston Botterell

Commencing 7pm followed by PCC Meeting

Tuesday 25th May - Neenton

Commencing 7pm followed by PCC Meeting

Wednesday 26th May - Chetton

Commencing 7pm followed by PCC Meeting

Thursday 27th May – Ditton Priors w Wheathill & Loughton

Commencing 7pm (in Ditton Priors) followed by PCC Meeting

Sunday 23rd May - Cleobury North w Burwarton

Commencing 12.15pm followed by PCC Meeting

These dates are subject to any changes in the COVID Rules.

For any information please contact the Vicar on 01746 712 636

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.



New life
around the
Brown Clee



Cleobury North & District Village Hall

Local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021.

The hall will reopen on May 17th, subject to Government guidelines. For enquiries about booking and using the hall, please call 01746-787093.

Chetton News

From Pam Downing

St Giles's Church and Parish

Services

We hope to have our twice monthly services in May, but please check our Church website.

Flowers & cleaning

- Jill & Sue.

We were very pleased to hold our first services since the February lockdown last month. It was good to see everyone albeit with social distancing. Chetton looked so pretty with a mass of daffodils on display on the roadside & also the Churchyard. Let us hope that this will be the last time we have to close our Churches this year.

Peter Evans

We were so sorry to hear the very sad news that Peter had passed away recently.

Peter was a member of our PCC for over 20 years and lived with his wife Mary and daughter Kirsty in Chetton until moving to Church Stretton. He took on the role of Church treasurer from Tony Bradford and did sterling work with wonderful efficiency. This he did with enthusiasm and humour and we always marvelled at his ability to do the very best for Chetton. He continued his support right up until February this year, giving advice and encouragement.

Peter was often to be seen collecting entrance money and selling raffle tickets for various functions, usually wearing his signature bow tie. We send our condolences to Mary, Kirsty and family.

Peter will be sadly missed.

Chetton St Giles 100 Club winners

- £15 – Annabel Mundy
- £10 – Sarah Bayliss

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

Chetton Village Hall

We hope to be able to reopen the hall on May 17th, although we await further details from government.

We also hope to hold our **Annual General Meeting** on Tues 25 May. For further information please telephone Sue on 789239.

Aston Botterell, Burwarton, and Wheathill & Loughton News

The annual totes have recommenced – results next month.

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

It was great to see so many people in church at the first service in April after lockdown. With social distancing the church looked well attended and more like 'old times' and Terry also welcomed Val Smith who gave the address and focused our thoughts on the work of Prince Philip and how we view other people without really knowing them and how and what they do in their lives.

Thank you to Sue Hale for decorating the altar and pedestal with beautiful flowers and foliage. Our next service will be on Sunday 16th May at 11.30am - **Masks will be needed!**

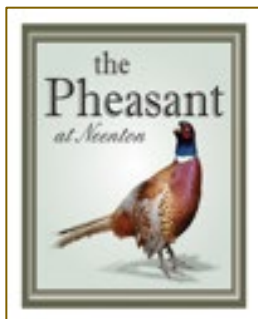
Advance notice – Work is proceeding on the celebrations on Sunday 5th September when we shall have Bishop Richard in attendance to commemorate the building of the church 150 years ago and the addition of the stained glass memorial 100years ago. Watch this space for further details.

Lockdown eases

With the retail businesses opening and other activities commencing we have witnessed people beginning to take advantage of more freedom and meeting friends in outdoor situations. The sun has been shining and, even with the cold winds coming from the north and east, this has not daunted people from getting out in the fresh air.

All Saints Tote – winners for April

- Lara Munday – No 35
- Toni Cartwright – No 14



The Pheasant at Neenton

The Pheasant reopened for outside service on 16th April following Covid guidelines. The 'small plates' menu has proved very popular with outdoor dining on the terrace and in the garden.

The calendar shows the dates and times between 1st and 23rd May when we will be serving food – and indoor table service restarts on Thursday 20th !

To discuss times and your requirements please email info@pheasantatneenton.couk, telephone 01746 787955 or book direct on the [website](#).

SUNDAY LUNCH	MON FOOD	TUE	WED	THU FOOD	FRI FOOD	SAT FOOD
						01 1200 – 7pm
02 1200 – 5pm	03 1200 – 5pm	04	05	06	07 1200 – 7pm	08 1200 – 7pm
09 1200 – 4pm	10	11	12	13 1200–2.30pm 6pm – 8pm	14 1200 – 7pm	15 1200 – 7pm
16 1200 – 4pm	17	18	19	20 1200–2.30pm 6pm – 8pm	21 1200 – 7pm	22 1200 – 7pm
23 1200 – 4pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Arrangements after 23 May still to be announced					
30	31					

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

Benefice Church Services in May

The Rev Mike Harris writes

As we come out of lockdown, we come into Spring and we leave Good Friday into the fullness of the freedom that Christ's death and resurrection brings us. These are days of joy and hope: may we reflect that in all our worship.

Church services

Easter 5, 2nd May

✝ 10am Holy Communion, Highley MH and virtual

Easter 6, 9th May

✝ 10am Holy Communion, Chelmarsh MH/AF and virtual (Rogation Sunday)

✝ 6pm Billingsley, Evening service - DP

Easter 7, 16th April

✝ 10am Holy Communion Glazeley, VS/KS and virtual.

Pentecost , 23rd May

✝ 8am DP at Billingsley

✝ 10am Highley - Restoration and Renewal with Bishop Richard. MH/DP/+RJ AW/MW sound/Music & virtual: MW/AW. This service includes the re-dedication of St. Mary's following the restoration project and includes Confirmation of seven candidates from the benefice.

Trinity, 30th May

✝ 10am Glazeley – Benefice Service, RL/DP

Best wishes and may the wind be at your back,

Mike

Rector, Severn Valley Benefice

01746 862837

Billingsley News

The Rev David Poyner writes:

Many months ago St Mary's made a bid to the Community Tree Scheme run by Shropshire Council to fill gaps in the hedging to the southern and western boundaries of the churchyard. Therefore it was with great anticipation of things to come that 20 native hedging species were collected from Ludlow yesterday as part of this scheme.

Following a thorough soaking the bare root saplings were then planted with great care. Hawthorn, dogwood, field maple, dog rose.

blackthorn guelder rose and hazel are the new additions generously donated by the CTS. This is the latest project that has been undertaken as part of the church's commitment to providing wildlife with the best possible environment within the church grounds.





Whilst planting was taking place a few notable spring wild flower were putting in an appearance in the beautiful sunshine. They included the yellow lesser celandine, white wood sorrel, dog mercury and the ever popular primrose.



Our 8.00am Easter Communion had a record congregation; a total of 8 of us were present. Five years ago, there were just three of us... The Easter Sepulchre was put to good use; on Good Friday the cross from the altar was wrapped in a linen shroud and laid in the sepulchre and in our Sunday service it was restored to the altar, with the shroud being folded a left in the empty sepulchre.

Sue Bates and David Poyner

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/>

Glazeley

Marion Corfield writes:

Easter Day Service at St Bartholomew's, Glazeley

It was a beautiful day to welcome parishioners back to our lovely church – after being closed during lockdown. Revd Rose Lawley took the service with her brother-in-law in charge of the music. The church looked quite full with every other pew closed off due to Covid regulations. It was lovely to welcome Kelly and partner Josh, and their two children as they are getting married there in September. Kelly is actually the great-granddaughter of the late Marjorie Wilcox – mine & Lyn's sister.

Services will resume on the 3rd Sunday in the month at 10.00am.

Photos of early days of Chetton and Glazeley W.I.



The early days of Chetton & Glazeley, which started in 1946 and was held in Glazeley Village Hall.

These photos show some of the early members, some having travelled quite a distance, bringing the local community together.



Among the many things they did, they also put on plays some with elaborate costumes.



Now being held in Chetton Village Hall, 2021 marks their 75th year, hopefully continuing for many more years.

Chelmarsh News

Eleanor Haddon writes:

Chelmarsh Friends

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

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

A Sustainable Lifestyle?

By the Rev David Poyner

Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church

The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church

The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit

Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption

Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle:

Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted in our church

Our church encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animalfriendly, Fairtrade)

The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church

Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our church newsletters/on our church website

Continued overleaf



At Billingsley and indeed throughout our benefice, we are privileged to live and worship in a rural setting, where we live in close proximity to the natural world. Many find comfort and sustenance from being alongside nature; some may even call this spirituality! From a Christian perspective, we recognise the world as God's creation (albeit most of us would see God operating within the boundaries of the laws of science, starting with the "Big Bang" and proceeding by evolution). We are called to care and nurture the world, not to selfishly exploit it. As a result, we should try to live in as environmentally-friendly ways as possible. What this means in practice depends on individual circumstances; rural isolation means that most of us depend on cars! But we can at least periodically examine our lives, perhaps once a year, to see if we are doing all that we can. Below are some ideas; I am aware I need to apply some to my own life!

Every month, if you check the Highley Forum, available for download on every parish website within the benefice, you will find tips for more environmentally friendly living, written by Alistair McNaughton from Highley.

When you go shopping, select Fairtrade or other ethically-sourced goods if you can. Grow your own vegetables (if I can manage this, anyone can...). Look out for marks that show high standards of animal welfare such as Red Tractor (see <https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/red-tractor-the-pros-and-cons-of-farm-assurance-schemes> for a rounded view of this). Support our local producers; mixed arable and livestock farming has always been the bedrock of local agriculture, because of the soils.

Is it possible to share a car when you travel? Billingsley Church is awkwardly sited along a busy main road, but I do give people lifts when I go to do services (and of course, some people can walk!). Think about cycling! We have refreshment facilities in the church. Are there other ways you can reduce car use?

We have a council recycling scheme that makes it easy to recycle; please use it! Can you reuse items such as bags? Do you need that many bags in the first place? Recycle, re-use, reduce.

How energy efficient are you? Simply turning the TV or computer off rather than having it on stand-by makes a difference. Smart energy meters make it easy to track consumption. You can check on websites to work out your own carbon footprint, perhaps once a year (e.g. <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>)

Do you invest your money ethically? Google "ethical banking UK" and do your own research!

David Poyner

Assistant Curate, Severn Valley Benefice

May's Molecule of the Month - Butanol

Science and Sustainability

By Dr Alan Goddard, Aston University

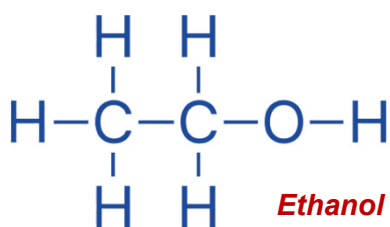
Whilst I work as a biochemist on the molecular level, I am committed to using science to bring about benefits for society and the environment. As such, a lot of my work focusses on the use of microbes (bacteria and fungi) to make chemicals normally produced from fossil fuel sources. The main rationale here is that if we can make a thing using microbes from resources that normally go to waste, e.g. plant material, then we can reduce the production of greenhouse gases. Not only does this have environmental benefits, it helps improve health through a reduction in pollution.



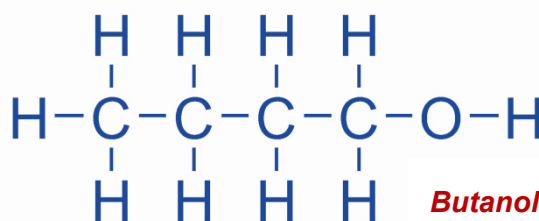
There are a number of big issues when trying to use microbes to make such chemicals. The first is acceptance – we need buy in from the public to encourage use of green alternatives to traditional chemicals. Secondly, we need to make the process economically viable and, ideally, cheaper than a petrochemical route which often has decades of investment in optimisation. Finally, we need to make the process actually work, to make the microbes do what we want them to do.

There are two main types of chemicals made this way – bulk chemicals which are “cheap and cheerful” and tend to be used in large amounts and, secondly, high-value chemicals that are, as their name suggests, more pricey. There is also a division between those chemicals made naturally by microbes and those that we must “engineer” them to make. Such processes tend to be more divisive due to the historical negative connotations of genetic modification.

My lab concentrates mainly on the production of bulk, or platform, chemicals. These must be made in high amounts but, importantly, can be modified to make products of higher value and wide applicability. One such molecule is butanol which is kind of like a big brother to ethanol:



*Ethanol – the alcohol
that we drink!*



Butanol

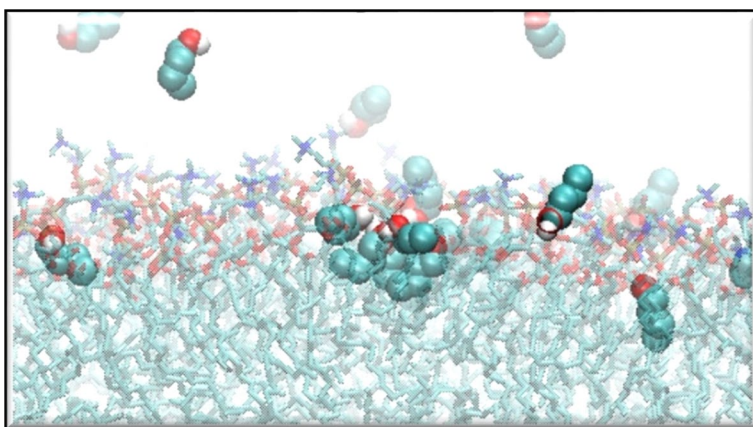
Butanol is a longer molecule than ethanol and more “hydrophobic” or “water fearing” meaning that it likes to sit in a fatty cell membrane rather than the water-based environment that bacteria live in – as shown in the picture on the next page.

Butanol itself garnered attention for a while as a biofuel but is now mainly seen as a platform chemical, becoming part of things that are largely sticky or shiny, for example, latex paints, Post-it notes, cleaning solvents, artificial flavours, nail polish remover and plasters. This wide range of products means a high demand for butanol, but its everyday nature means it needs to be cheap.

Biobutanol is one of the oldest examples of using microbes to make chemicals (ethanol is probably the oldest), dating back to Pasteur, of pasteurisation fame, in 1861. It is made by a set of bacteria called Clostridia, related to, but not harmful like, *C. difficile*. Clostridia make a mixture of butanol, acetone and ethanol, partly to allow them to make energy but also as a defence against other microbes. However, this defence occurs because butanol is toxic to bacteria at a concentration of less than 2%. To get an idea of this, ethanol is toxic at about 15% and the hand sanitiser you use to make sure you kill everything is often 80% ethanol. Sadly, Clostridia are not immune to this toxicity which limits their ability to make the high concentrations of butanol required for commercial production.

In my lab, we work on a very specific part of bacteria – the thin, fatty membrane that surrounds the cell and is damaged by solvents such as butanol. This is the reason that hand sanitiser is effective against coronavirus – it dissolves the fatty membrane around the virus.

Butanol is about ten times more effective than ethanol at disrupting these membranes. In short, if we can make Clostridia more resistant to butanol, we can make higher concentrations, making the process commercially viable and allowing us to replace more fossil fuels. My lab is currently testing some strains that we have developed as a result of about five years' work – these have different fats in their membranes, and we hope they will be more resistant to butanol.



Interaction of butanol with cell membrane.

The butanol molecules (stick-like molecules) sit within the fatty membrane (bottom half of the image) causing holes and damaging the cell.

If you would like to know more about my lab's thoughts on biology, check out our [song and video](#) made with the band Megson. If you would like a copy of our free board game focussed on microbes, [Microstrike](#), please email MeMBrane@aston.ac.uk.

Dr Alan Goddard is a colleague of the Rev David Poyner, at Aston University.

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

May Message

*'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'*

[Matthew 28:19]

May contains three major Christian festivals this year: the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday – this last being the reason for this month's cover photograph.

But the words from Matthew's gospel on the cover and at the top here are from the Ascension. This was the time when Jesus gave his last instruction to the disciples, and left them to get on with it. 'Go and make disciples of all the nations...'

This instruction he left to the eleven – that is, the original twelve disciples, less Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed him. But the other eleven hadn't done so well, either. In his hour of need, they had first fallen asleep while he prayed, then run away when he was arrested. The one who was their leader had denied three times that he even knew Jesus. So these eleven, a miscellaneous group of fishermen, a tax-collector, a political activist and so on – they were left to carry on the work that Jesus had begun.

Why did he leave the job to such a flawed and fallible group of humans to carry on? Answer: because that's the only kind of humans available! Much of the story of the Old Testament is about a people struggling to work out their relationship with God and God using them for his purposes despite their weaknesses and flaws of character. Perhaps – who knows? – because of them.

Maybe we, as humanity, need to learn from this. We expect so much of those in the public eye that we find it difficult to forgive when they prove fallible. But when we see those in authority and in the public gaze making mistakes and dive in to condemn them, we might consider whether we would do any better. Even the best examples of humanity have their Achilles' heel; compared to them, I feel I have at least a couple of Achilles' legs!

But May is not just about that instruction that Jesus gave to a rag, tag and bobtail of humanity, it's also about how they were able to do it: it's about their empowering by the Holy Spirit of God to do the work that Jesus commissioned them to do, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

And that, of course, brings us to the end of the month with Trinity Sunday...

Easter is the celebration of new life: new life in Christ, risen from the dead; new life as the earth warms and produces its plenty and its beauty once again; and, this year, the hope of new life as we come out of pandemic.

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 Annette Metcalfe: - 01584 890161

The Rev Mark Daborn writes:

Churches in May

The **services in churches** for May are set out below, and the grid shows the day on which each church is open for private prayer.

We pray for the good progress of recovery from the pandemic through the Spring, so that we may hope to open for normal services in June.

Online 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 [here on You Tube](#).

Services in Churches for May

	Open for Private Prayer	5 th Sunday of Easter		6 th Sunday of Easter		Sunday after Ascension		Day of Pentecost		Trinity Sunday
		2 nd May		9 th May		16 th May		23 rd May		30 th May
Cleeton St Mary	Tuesdays							1600	EP	<div>Group Communion Service</div> <div>10.30 am</div> <div>Stottesdon</div>
Farlow	Saturdays	0900	HC							
Middleton Scriven	Mondays	1030	MP							
Sidbury	Wednesdays					1600	HC			
Silvington	Fridays			1830	EP					
Stottesdon	Sundays	1630	ES	1030	HC	1030	IW	1030	HC	
HC Holy Communion		ES Evensong (BCP)			EP Evening Prayer			MP Morning Prayer		

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From the Stottesdon Benefice Registers

✠ Stottesdon – 9th April – Funeral Office and Burial in the Churchyard: Brian Meredith RIP

Lectionary for May 2021

Sunday 2 nd	Sunday 9 th	Sunday 16 th	Sunday 23 rd	Sunday 30 th
5 th after Easter	6 th after Easter	Sunday after Ascension	Day of Pentecost	Trinity Sunday
White	White	White	Red	White
Genesis 22:1-18 Psalm 22:25-end Acts 8:26-end John 15:1-8	Isaiah 55:1-11 Psalm 98 Acts 10:44-end John 15:9-17	Ezekiel 36:24-28 Psalm 1 Acts 1:15-17, 21-end John 17:6-19	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:26-end Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 Luke 1:39-49

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.

Notice of Parish Annual Meetings for the Stottesdon Benefice

Annual Meetings this year will take place after the next stage of relaxation of lockdown (planned to be on May 17th) in the respective churchyards, unless numbers permit using the church. All meetings will be held at 7pm.

Monday 17 th May	Cleeton St Mary
Wednesday 19 th May:	Silvinton
Sunday 23 rd May:	Stottesdon
Tuesday 25 th May	Farlow
Wednesday 26 th May	Middleton Scriven
Saturday 29 th May	Sidbury

The **deadline for the JUNE edition** (Stottesdon Benefice and Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing **Thursday 20th May**. Thanks!

Silvington News

Annette Metcalfe writes:

We did have a lovely Easter Service - I'm sure we all felt the privilege of being able to worship together again. Our APCM will be at 7pm Wednesday 19th.

The church will be open for private prayer on Fridays throughout May and we are planning an Evening Prayer service for 6.30pm on Sunday 9th.

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

The church will be open for **private prayer** every Tuesday and our **service for May** is planned to be Evening Prayer at 4pm on Sunday 23rd.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Our annual meeting is on May 17th at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

March 100 Club results:

- £20 Liz Field No 3;
- £10 Nigel Skuse No 56; and Di Bowen No 30;
- £5 Doreen Dolphin No 72, and Kay Downs No 112.

Farlow News

Church services

There will be a service of Holy Communion at 9am on Sunday 2nd and the church will also be open for private prayer every Saturday in May. APCM 7pm Tuesday 25th

There is no other report from Farlow, Oreton and district this month.

Sidbury News

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 4pm on Sunday 16th and the church will be open for **private prayer** every Wednesday in May.

The **annual meeting** for the election of churchwardens and other business will be held on Saturday 29th May.

There is no other report from Sidbury this month.

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

St Mary's Church will be open for **private prayer** every Sunday, after the 1030 service (except, of course, on 2nd May when it will be open from morning until Evensong starts at 4:30pm). The **APCM** will be held on Sunday 23rd May.

St Mary's 100 Club:

Congratulations to the winners in April draw - Ray & Denise Ingram, Judith Smout, Roger & Mandy Williams.

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

It was a special moment, back in church at Easter, with a small congregation, on a beautiful day with sunshine streaming in through the stained glass windows and lovely music to listen to. Thank you to everyone who joined in person or online and to those who donated flowers for our Easter morning service.



Church is open for **private prayer** on Mondays 10am - 6pm.

The **next service** will be Morning Prayer at 10.30 on Sunday 2nd May. **APCM:** 7pm Wednesday 26th



Annual plant sale and Raffle: Saturday May 8th: 10-12 at 11 Middleton Scriven.

Any donations of plants or raffle prizes would be very gratefully received. Please bring to Ann before the event if possible.

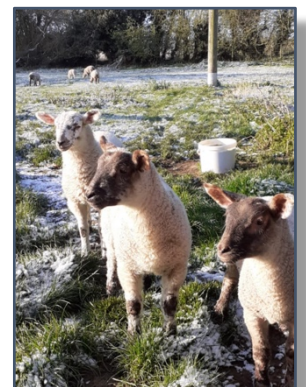
To keep everyone as safe as possible on the drive way - there will be one way system, socially distanced, hand gel, masks please. Maximum 6 people at a time. Bring your own bags / baskets. Payments via BACs if possible.

Anyone waiting outside the gate will also need to be socially distanced.



Community coffee mornings - look out for further updates when these can re-start , hopefully after 17th May, when we can have larger groups, outside initially.

[looks like some members of the community are ready for their elevenses, Ann! Ed]



Community Action 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

Do you know a 2, 3, or 4-year old who would like to join the fantastic community nursery at Stottesdon?

PLACES AVAILABLE THIS SEPTEMBER

The advertisement for Stottesdon Gateway NURSERY features a photograph of a teacher sitting on the floor, reading a book about a green frog to a group of young children. The background is a colorful classroom setting. In the top right corner, there are two logos: 'Ofsted Outstanding Provider' and a logo for 'No really can we make learning fun.' The text 'Stottesdon Gateway NURSERY' is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. Below this, a pink banner reads 'We really care and make learning fun'. The advertisement lists several offerings and benefits, each preceded by a yellow checkmark icon.

We can offer:

- A safe and nurturing learning environment with dedicated and caring staff.
- High quality provision with strong links to Reception.
- An amazing outdoor area and use of the school facilities and space.

Nursery places for 2, 3, 4 year olds, available from September 2021

From 15 - 30 funded hours available.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL & HOLIDAY PROVISION for children aged 2 - 11 years old.

TO BOOK A TOUR : Call us at Stottesdon School 01746 718617



*You'll perhaps recall the **Climate Action** article in last month's Wheatland News?*

Well here's an invitation follow-up from the SSCA folk over at Church Stretton [Ed]

Dear Wheatland News Reader

We are delighted to invite you to '**Next Steps**', the second online conference hosted by South Shropshire Climate Action. It will take place from 9 am to 1 pm on **Saturday 22nd May 2021** on Zoom.

The aim of the conference is to present a Climate Action Plan outlining how to get to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Since our last online conference, in September 2020, there have been four sub-groups working on the following themes for the plan:

- Transport (Convened by Professor John Whitelegg)
- Energy & Buildings (Convened by Simon Ross)
- Land & Biodiversity (Convened by Nick Read)
- Community & Schools (Convened by Alison Weeks)

'**Next Steps**' will present and debate the work undertaken by over 100 volunteers in these groups, see how they interrelate, and explore ideas on how the plan can be put into action on the ground.

If you would like to attend the Conference, please register on our website:

<https://southshropshireclimateaction.org/conference-registration>

We strongly encourage donations if possible. Your registration will be acknowledged and you will be sent further details in due course.

By getting involved with South Shropshire Climate Action you can network, learn and be part of a transformative initiative that is building a grounded, structured outcome for our area. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us at our e-mail address: info@southshropshireclimateaction.org

Hope you can join us!

Best wishes,

South Shropshire Climate Action

Who we are: The concept of South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA) originated in a large public Climate Emergency meeting in Craven Arms in November 2019. This led to a very successful online conference in September 2020 which strongly supported the idea of local action to combat the twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss and resulted in the formation of SSCA. Philip Dunne, the local MP, attended both meetings and supported the initiatives. Shropshire has several distinct areas and we chose to focus on the Ludlow constituency area because that happens to neatly define "South Shropshire". We want our work to be practical and our special geography informs all we do.

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