

WHEATLAND NEWS

September 2025



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

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Chris Tibbits

The Wheatland News team extends very sincere condolences to Clare and family following Chris’s unexpected death at home on Thursday 21st August. We will miss him enormously.



In the August edition of WN we featured news of the Hereford Motion about the future for Diocesan funding, which was debated at General Synod in July. We have found just one report on this online – from Dudley South Deanery – and you can read this on page 26.

Sarah and Simon Cawdell are back in Uganda for the last part of their mission there, after a joyful visit home to England. We have two fascinating letters from them – and you can read these on pages 5 and 6.

Our thanks to everyone in the 17 parishes who does so much to make WN full and interesting – and to Stottesdon PCC who have stepped in this week to keep it all going without Chris.

Welcome, too, to the 2025 Ride and Stride Special Edition! Many of our parishes are getting out there this year for the benefit of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust – and for their own special church too! And many churches will be open, some offering refreshment to weary walkers.

And several Wheatland churches have benefited from grants for the restoration or conservation of their fabric.



TROUBADOURS MUSICAL DRIVE with the HAT!

- Loughton – 3:00pm – 20 mins music
- Billingsley St Mary’s 3.40pm – 20 mins music
- Bridgnorth – St Mary Magdalene 4:30pm – more music, tea and cake!

There is lots of information on the SHCT website <https://www.shropshirehct.org.uk> about the good that they do, and the other initiatives for raising funds – including Gardens Open. In 2024 the Trust raised the record figure of **£38446.72**, and already this year has awarded nearly **£40,000** to churches in the county.

Ed



Wheatland News Local Coordinators

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below.

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **October 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Wednesday 24th September 2025**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - rl.l.langham@btinternet.com
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Julia Evans – Stottesdon PCC - juliaevans278@gmail.com



Diocese of Hereford

September letter from the Archdeacon of Ludlow

Dear Friends



Despite the adverts in the shops suggesting that parents buy new school uniform in July, the new school year is just beginning.

Education has been part of my life and vocation from when I left school myself. I spent eight years teaching in primary schools, then worked as a lay children's minister, with involvement in our local church school. Then I swapped sides of the teacher's desk as our children entered their school years, and I had the novel experience of receiving reports rather than writing them!

Ordination brought ongoing opportunities to support the spiritual growth of children and staff alike in the parishes where I served, and since becoming Archdeacon of Ludlow I have had the enormous privilege of chairing our Diocesan Board of Education which oversees the wonderful work of our 78 church schools and academies and supports the diocesan education team in all that they do.

Our church schools and academies are not just places of learning information and life skills, but of putting down roots and building foundations so that each child and young person in our care has a chance to explore the Christian faith and experience the life in all its fullness that Jesus Christ promises.

There are so many ways we can all support this life-giving and life-changing work. Some may be called to become Foundation Governors, supporting and upholding the Christian foundation of the school. This is a vital lay ministry role. Yes, it can be demanding, but it is also immensely rewarding. If you'd be willing to explore what that might mean for you in your context, do contact me or our Diocesan Director of Education, Gemma Martin.

Others may be willing and able to support collective worship in our schools, perhaps by joining an Open the Book team if there is one in your benefice, and helping a new generation to hear and understand the stories of our faith. You could talk that through with your parish priest, who could let you know the safeguarding and training requirements.

And all of us can pray for our church schools and academies, for children, young people, staff, parents, governors, and Multi-Academy Trust teams. 24/7 Prayer has a downloadable PDF guide to praying for schools, available here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/pray-for-students-and-teachers/>

However you may be able to support the life of our church schools and academies, I pray that it may be a blessing and encouragement to you as you bless and encourage others. Happy New (School) Year!

AD Fiona



As Bishop Richard is yet to return from his summer break, this month we are featuring **St Ethelbert's Blog** - a collection of occasional articles from people in, around and connected to Hereford Diocese, about their Christian faith, their work, and the vision of the diocese, to be found on the Diocese website.

St Ethelbert the King is one of the two patron saints of Hereford Cathedral, the other being St Mary the Virgin. In the 8th century, Ethelbert (then known as Ethelred) was King of East Anglia. He came to what is now Herefordshire to marry a daughter of King Offa of Mercia. Accused of political intrigue, possibly of seeking to take over Mercia, Ethelred was brutally murdered, reputedly on King Offa's orders and at the persuasion of his wife, Queen Cynethryth, in Marden, just north of Hereford. Ethelred was later canonised as St Ethelbert the King for posthumous miracles connected to his body and shrine, and a stone church was built over his shrine on the site of the present Hereford Cathedral, where his shrine remains to this day. Consumed by remorse, Offa built churches and monasteries on the instruction of the Pope in expiation, following a visit to Rome.

More news from Gulu

Dear friends

Sarah and Simon Cawdell are back in Uganda for the final stint of their time at Gulu. Here are two wonderful letters from Sarah.

We begin by giving thanks and praise to God, and to testify to answered prayers.

Yesterday the Bishop, Simon and other diocesan representatives met with staff of Operation Wealth Creation, a government grant awarding body, and were given the money necessary for the shade greenhouse and motorization of the borehole which are the vital next steps in establishing the coffee mother garden. This has taken months of negotiation and careful preparation. Simon is also enjoying working with a new farm manager, Rev'd Ojok Stephen, (*pictured left, with Simon*) who now oversees the day-to-day work very capably, and will work alongside Simon in developing the new facilities. Stephen was appointed whilst we were in England for our daughter's wedding and has proved a great addition to the team.



At the same time, we are giving thanks for the construction of the new classrooms (*pictured right*) up to the ring beam. We are awaiting God's provision for the roof, windows, doors finishing and furnishing (about six thousand pounds). This building going up is a great sign of hope for the college, as we look to diversify our course offering and to equip more Christians for ministry, not only ordained ministry but in social

work and counselling, computing and entrepreneurship.

A couple of weeks ago the Diocesan Surveyor came and with witnesses from the Diocese, the local community and the College we walked around the boundaries of the college land and placed the markstones which delineate College land within the Diocesan land. This has taken a couple of years work alongside the registration and helps to strengthen the position of the college.



Now that the college is registered we have had the inaugural Governor's Board meeting and appointed an Academic Board to moderate exams and exam marking. Unfortunately a number of students will have to miss exams because they haven't been able to pay their college fees. However if they manage to raise the money there will be a chance for them to take the exams in January when they return to college for the next semester. We do pray for them and their farming enterprises as they attempt to raise the necessary funds.

We are becoming more strict on the matter of fees because from April the college will need to be able to pay a local Principal which will need another one thousand two hundred pounds a month. We have a suitable candidate, but he won't come unless the college can guarantee his salary (which is not unreasonable.)

We will be returning to England in mid April next year. We will have six months continuing to work with the Church Mission Society, visiting churches and promoting mission work before seeking to continue in ministry, probably parish ministry, somewhere in England. We know that God who has begun a good work here will continue it until it comes to a completion. We also recognise that having been called to be catalysts at a particular time in the life of the College and the Diocese it is important that the ongoing successes of both are carried forward locally as part of the need to build up collective self esteem and confidence going forwards after morale was so shattered during the civil war.

We heard a lovely story this week of a church which has been meeting in a school beside the Barracks in Gulu, but has outgrown the classroom, as members are now about 200. As a result of the church meeting in the school and establishing relationships there the attendance of staff to teach at the school, and the behaviour of the students has markedly improved. A testimony to God's blessing. The Christians were looking for land to build the church, and were approached by a Muslim to sell them land. Why can a Muslim sell land for a church to Christians? Because when the Muslim had a sick child their own community wouldn't help, but the Christian drove them to hospital and also paid the medical fees not once but twice. What a lovely example of the power of God to work in local communities for blessing and transformation.

So this letter is full of praise and thanksgiving for establishing the college and the Diocesan Project firmly. We do ask you to continue to pray as we work out the minutiae which accompany large scale developments. Pray too for the on-going development of the Rooted in Jesus groups around the Diocese. All these tasks are interconnected: the people who have been given five hundred or so coffee plants to set up an acre of coffee garden are part of the churches which also have the Rooted in Jesus groups, and in which the students serve. God's economy is providing for spiritual and physical development alongside each other. God's people are being lifted out of poverty and struggle towards a hopeful future. But all this takes time, and there are set backs: new coffee plants are under threat from termites and new Christians from temptation. Please continue to pray with us and for us as we do for you.

Thank you for all your support, Love and blessings - Sarah and Simon

The letter above was written earlier in the summer. The one below was sent subsequently by Sarah when she and Simon had returned to Gulu after their visit home.

Dear friends

Praise God. We are very thankful for a recent trip to England to enjoy the wedding of our daughter Elizabeth to Jack Purdie. It was lovely to see some of you, and our extended family one way or another. We are thankful for safe travel and God's blessings.

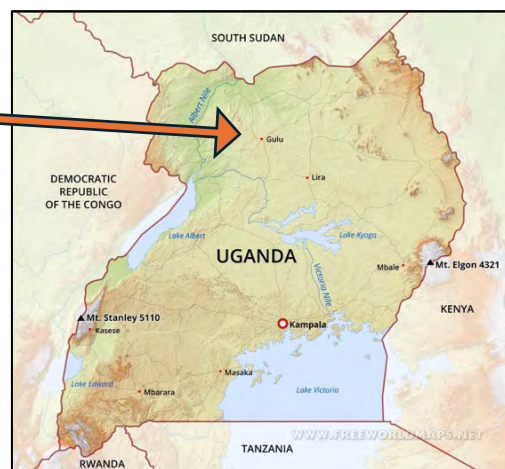
This letter is full of answered prayers and testimony to God's blessing of communities. We are very thankful that we have been able to work with local partners to see some significant development here. Perhaps our work is not the traditional mission work of preaching the gospel and seeing converts to the faith. We are grateful that we are part of the transformation of communities and individuals from dependency to hope and from mere survival to a life more resilient and with space to look up and count God's blessings.

We have been thrilled to receive visitors from US, and especially St John's this month, and look forward to friends from Bristol Diocese next month.

The students go back to their parishes for a break from mid-August to January. Lay Reader students will be welcomed back in September. Meanwhile there is maize ripening in the Diocesan fields so our work will be harvesting, drying and storing the grain. We pray also for the harvest of churches growing in disciples and communities continuing to flourish under the blessing of God.

Not much about the pigs this time. There is one litter growing up, and two sows increasing at the moment. The cat is nursing another litter of kittens, and there are two sets of young chicks doing nicely, with more on the way. May God bless you through the summer season in school holidays and the pleasure of gardens.

With love and prayers - Sarah



Brown Clee Benefice

Priest-in-Charge - Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ
01746-599217 07872-464276



St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill and Loughton

CHURCHWARDENS:

Carole Smith

Mark Smith: 01746-712394

St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell

CHURCHWARDENS:

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

St Giles', Chetton

CHURCHWARDEN

Sheila Millington: 01746-789443

SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676

Jane Bufton: 07716-877421

All Saints', Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN:

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

September Reflection

1st August represents a bit of a landmark for me as I move to become full-time priest in the Brown Clee Benefice.

I feel excited and to a certain extent uncertain about what may lie ahead in the months and years to come. The main priority for me will be to enable, motivate and engage others and for us to seek God's will, at the same time through prayer, allow ourselves to take whatever pathways we are being called into as his church in this place.

Following Jesus in our lives can lead us to feel lost on occasions, not always clear about what comes next. Peter had this same sense when he told Jesus at the transfiguration (Matthew 17.1-9) that he would "build booths to accommodate him, Moses and Elijah". He wanted to revert to what he knew, people he cared about needed cover so build a shelter. Often, we look for what we expect to see and sometimes miss out on the bigger picture, in this case Peter missed out on the revelation of the splendour, glory and divine majesty of Jesus.

GK Chesterton said:

"The world will never starve for want of wonders; but only for want of wonder"

It is possible for us to miss the awe and wonder of this world, we miss the mystery and gratuitous beauty of this world, the nature of humanity at its finest – kindness outpouring from an unexpected source.

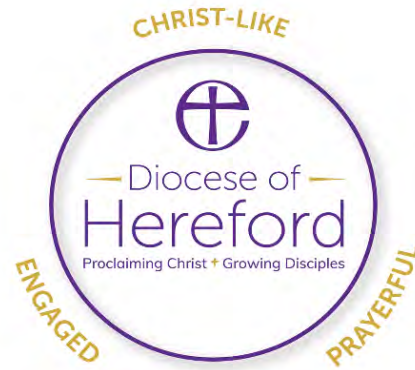
As we enter the season of harvest and we look back on summer, let us ponder anew all that the world is, can be and will be if we live out the kingdom values that Jesus speaks of in his parables. We are given an insight into the reality if we look for it, we can see now glimpses of what might be in the future.

I suspect that in a world where there is so much that is broken, we may simply feel that there is nothing for us to see and experience but there is, we only need to look for it and allow ourselves to be ready to expect it. We are God's children, blessed with spiritual giftings, equipped and ready and as his agents here and now in this place, let us bring the transformative Good News of Jesus to those who are searching, and may we point to his work when we see and experience it.

Revd Joe Simons

Readings for September	
Sunday 7th September Twelfth after Trinity Green	Psalm 139. 1 – 5, 12 – 18 (or 139. 1 – 7) 1 Jeremiah 18. 1 – 11; Philemon 1 – 21; Luke 14. 25 – 33
Sunday 14th September Holy Cross Day, Thirteenth after Trinity Red / Green	Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1. 12 – 17; Jeremiah 4. 11 – 12, 22 – 28; Luke 15. 1 - 10
Sunday 21st September Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, Fourteenth after Trinity Red / Green	Psalm 119. 65 – 72 Proverbs 3. 13 – 18; 2 Corinthians 4. 1 – 6; Matthew 9. 9 – 13
Sunday 28th September Fifteenth after Trinity Green	Psalm 91. 1- 6, 14 – end (or 91. 11 – end) Jeremiah 32. 1 – 3a, 6 – 15; 1 Timothy 6. 6 – 19; Luke 16. 19 - end
Sunday 5th October Sixteenth after Trinity Green	Canticle: Lamentations 3. 19 – 26 or Psalm 137 (or 137. 1 – 6) 37, 1 - 9 Lamentations 1. 1 – 6; 2 Timothy 1. 1 – 14; Luke 17. 5 – 10
Harvest	Psalm 100 Deuteronomy 26. 1 – 11; Philippians 4. 4 – 9 or Revelation 14. 14 – 18; John 6. 25 – 35

Services in Brown Clee Churches during September		
Sunday 7th September		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell
Sunday 14th September		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Chetton
Sunday 21st September		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Neenton
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Loughton
Sunday 28th September		
10:00 am	Group Holy Communion	Cleobury North
Sunday 5th October		
08:00 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:00 am	Service of Installation	Ditton Priors
5:00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	Aston Botterell

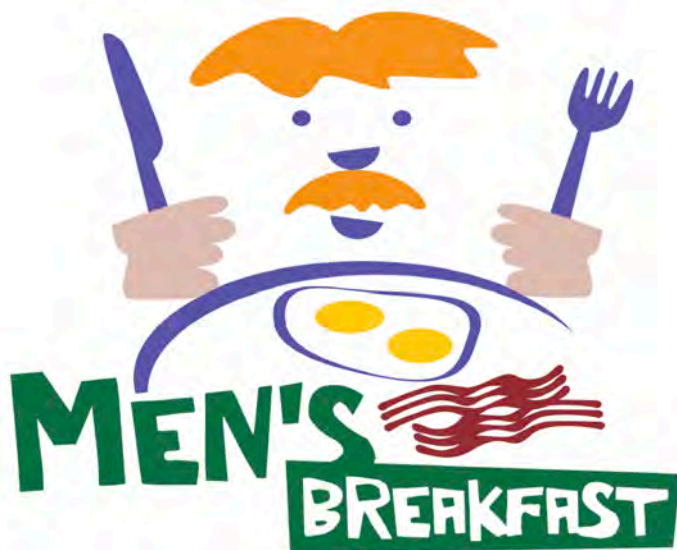


On Sunday 5th October 2025, Revd Joe will be installed as full-time incumbent for the Brown Clee Benefice.

The service will take place at St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors and will commence at 11.00am. It will be led by Archdeacon Fiona Gibson and will be followed by light refreshments.

We would be very grateful if you could inform your PCCs and Congregations. Please could you confirm with Emma if you are able to attend to give us an idea of numbers for catering.

Thank you so much.



GENTLEMANS BREAKFAST

To be held monthly (alternating Chetton and Ditton Priors) for fellows to meet up and chat in a safe space provided by the Church – Time to share, time for prayer and some time to spare ...

Join us for our first Breakfast at Church House, Chetton 8.30am

Wednesday 10th September

Please contact us if you are interested

Brown Clee Patient Participation Group

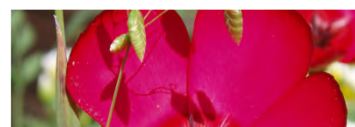
Tina Ranson writes:

How fast this year is going We are now looking forward to Octoberand maybe some decent rainfall after one of the driest summers on record. 7th October brings us to the final PPG Open meeting of 2025, and its second AGM. We will be reviewing the year, and planning ahead for 2026, so I hope you will be able to join us for that.

We will be starting the meeting earlier (as nights will be drawing in by then) – with **doors open at 5.30** for refreshments, and the meeting will be from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm. Venue is Ditton Priors Village Hall, and any patient is welcome.

After major problems sending emails from the PPG mailing list to some email providers, we have now switched to different software, which I am sure will be fine once we have learned how to use it properly! It does, however mean that we cannot send out to the whole mailing list in one go, and some patients will receive their messages one or two days later than the 'first batch', so please bear this in mind.

As you are probably aware, Ade Robinson, a member of your PPG Committee, is leading a Garden project to enhance the landscape around Ditton Priors surgery buildings as a space for patients and staff to enjoy. To help the PPG to raise funds for this, he will give a talk on 17th October in Ditton Priors VH – see 'poster' on the back page of this WN – so please keep the date free and come along!



To contact the PPG about any matter:

Please use browncleeppg@gmail.com, or the Surgery will give you my telephone number, which is also listed in the WN Local Contacts list.

TR

Write your own Life Story



Free workshop with local writer
Penny McCarthy of lifestorywriter.co.uk

Saturday September 13th, 10am – 4pm
Ditton Priors Local History Centre


Ever thought of writing down the story of
your life for your family?
Or maybe you have an older relative whose
story you want to preserve?

**Tips & tricks from a professional
in a fun and friendly
atmosphere to help you get
started - and finished!**

To book or for more info,
call/text Penny on 07849 208924,
or email penny@lifestorywriter.co.uk




TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER AT 7:00PM, DITTON PRIORS VILLAGE HALL



MY DAYS AT THE DEPOT!

**WHAT REALLY WENT ON BEHIND THE SCENES
AT THE ROYAL NAVAL ARMAMENTS DEPOT, DITTON PRIORS!**




When, in 1951, at just 17 years old, John Hughes went to work at the RNAD in Ditton Priors, he was unaware of what the next 8 years would hold; the work he would do (having signed the Official Secrets Act), the characters he would meet, the mischief and mayhem that would follow and the treasured memories he would make.

So batten down the hatches, you're in for a treat, as John recounts tales of the unexpected about post-war life behind the scenes at one of the country's top secret establishments!

You'll not only hear about the work he did and what the conditions were like, but you'll be introduced to the likes of 'Cush', 'Jungle Jim', 'Meg the Mouth' and 'Bill the Bookie' to name but a few!

So get down to Ditton Priors Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd September for a 7pm start. (Duration approx 1 hour.)

PRESENTED BY



Tea & Coffee to follow

The event is FREE for members and under 18's, £4 for non-members

Event & Membership enquiries to: DittonPriorsLHG@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook

Benefice activities

This summer has seen our relationships grow with both the Little Explorers (pre-school children) and Brown Clee School. We held a wonderful Teddy Bears' Picnic where games were played, favourite toys shown off and lots of jam sandwiches enjoyed by all. We plan further events for later in the year.



Our Leavers' Service for the Year 6 pupils of Brown Clee School is one of the most important events of the year. During our worship we gave thanks for their contribution to school life and prayed for them as they move on. It is always a joy to hear their treasured memories and prayers.



This year at Burwarton Show we set up our stand - (next to the amazing supply of food and drink so expertly run by Ditton Priors Church) - to include Brown Clee School and The Little Explorers. We had a fun filled day with plenty of people visiting us; to look at the display, take an 'I met Revd Joe' badge and for the children to have their faces painted.

On a lovely summer's evening we held a Songs of Praise and Summer Bar-b-que in the gorgeous setting of Wheathill Church. The service was well attended and then we all spilled out into the churchyard to enjoy a fabulous feast of sausages and burgers, puddings and drinks. It was a very special occasion.



Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

I can't believe it's almost September! As I write there is a sprinkling of rain - hooray! We've so enjoyed the sunshine, for which we always long, but our gardens and fields have suffered from lack of rain, and our farmers have had a poor harvest. We can't all win it seems and perhaps we are never satisfied.

NB - Please note that the Flower & Crafts Festival on 13th September (Ride & Stride day), has been CANCELLED, due mainly to a lack of flowers in our gardens. A nice idea for another year perhaps!

First Saturday Coffee Mornings

Continue, from 10am - 12noon in Church on Saturdays 6th September, 4th October, 8th November and 6th December. There is no charge for this popular community event and everyone is very welcome.

Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent

The day went very well and we sold out quite early. Many thanks to everyone who was involved - the cake and sandwich makers and those who set up, served and cleared away. Favourites this year were the sandwiches. A good profit was made for Church funds.

Teas in the Churchyard

Yes, the Sun did shine and Revd Joe had to wear his sun hat. We had a good crowd visiting and it proved to be a happy social event once again. **£483** was raised for Church funds.



Ride & Stride - Saturday 13th September

The Church will be open for visitors (but no flowers and crafts). I hope a good number of you will tour the Churches and get Sponsors for our funds and raise money for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. We have

supported them for over 30 years to my knowledge and I know our churches have benefited from their grants. Sponsor Forms are available in Church or from Marjorie (01746 712 423).

Harvest Eucharist

9:30am on Sunday 12th October. A week later this year due to the Installation Service for Revd Joe as Rector of our Benefice on Sunday 5th October.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 11th October, 5.30pm for 6pm start at the Village Hall. Tickets at £15 each from Marjorie (01746 712 423).

Please book early as we usually sell out quite quickly.

Cleaning rota for September

- Sunday 7th September Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 14th September Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 21st September Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 28th September Mrs Debbie Jones & Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling
- Sunday 5th October Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for August 2025

- £20 Yemmi Agbebi
- £10 Amanda Hughes
- £5 each to: Carol Griffiths, Avril Bridges, George Parker

Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group

Formerly Burwarton and District Wives group is welcoming new members. Come along to our first monthly meeting of the year on 1st October at the Pavilion 7.30 – 9.30. This is a social meeting with refreshments, you will make new friends and catch up with old ones too. We look forward to seeing you! - Jo 07837-048525

Burwarton & District WI

We have an interesting programme for 2025 with speakers, social afternoons and outings and would welcome everyone to come and have an enjoyable time with us. We have monthly meetings at Cleobury North Village Hall on Tuesdays, from October to March at 2.30pm and from April to September at 7.30pm. Visitors pay £3. For more information, please ring Helen Groves on 01746 712466 or e-mail me on groves.helen5@gmail.com

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Next services

- ✝ Sunday 21st September - 6pm Evening Prayer at Loughton
- ✝ Sunday 12th October - 6pm Harvest Service at Wheathill

The **Songs of Praise** at Wheathill followed by a BBQ was well attended and very much enjoyed. It proved to be a very pleasant evening and the sun shone on us too. Thanks go to our Musicians and to all involved in preparing the food. Thanks also to Steve Howells for the use of his toilet facilities.

Aston Botterell News



Anne Preece writes:

Well! We had an exciting weekend of 16th August!

Ben Upton, church warden, did a cycle ride to raise our share towards keeping Revd Joe full time and also to help in the upkeep of our church. Ben did extremely well, as did the other three lads who went with him, one being Marjorie's son.

He started from The Boyne Arms at 05:15 and arrived back to The Bone Arms for a warm welcome and music and food. Thank you, Ben, also thank you to Tim Preece and Andrew Clee who were following them and looking after them. Thank you to The Boyne arms for their support ... And of course, a big thank you to all of those who donated.....



✝ **Harvest festival** on Sunday 5th October at 5pm. Sale and light refreshments after the service...kids love to banter. We would appreciate food, veg, preserves, cakes etc and a bit of help in cleaning the church! Many thanks.

Quiz Night - on Saturday 25th October - £19 to include food. Teams of 4 to be held at The Boyne Arms.

Ride and Stride.....forms available for sponsors. Drive, ride or walk.

Congratulations to George Berry on passing his tractor test.

Port Sunlight - I am taking a trip to Port sunlight on Thursday 18th September - please phone me for a seat.

Congratulations to Meg Hawkins and family for achieving so many awards in her business.

Burwarton Show.....**Congratulations** to Callum Preece in winning. 9 rosettes and 3 cups with his Texel cross sheep.



Aston Botterell PCC Tote – August winners

- £20 – Tim & Deb Bennett – No 209
- £10 – Paul Verney – No 94
- £5 – Ben Upton – No 160
- £5 – Alison Derricutt – No 32

Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Jane Bufton writes:

Lottery winners this month were Stef Cartwright-Randall, Mike Turner, and Janette Jones. Thank you for your continuing support for the Lottery!

Work has started on restoration of the church. Any contributions to help restoration will be much appreciated - and can be left safely with Doug, Karen and the team at Cleobury North Shop.

Cleaning and Flowers – October – Penny; November – Glenys & Barry; December Penny & PCC.

Cleobury North & District Village Hall

CNVH Management Committee writes:

CN&D VH – Annual General Meeting – John Pickup will be resigning as Chairman at the next AGM, and Julia Rose will then be taking over the role. A new treasurer was elected – Sharon Jenkins – who is also managing the bookings - so for enquiries and bookings – **please in future contact Sharon Jenkins – Tel no: 07854-538645 or 01746-787220**. Stef Cartwright-Randall will succeed Bobbie Jarvis as Secretary from the next AGM. **CNVH remains open and available** for hire.



Julia's coffee mornings are very successful! On Friday 26th September the event will be a MacMillan Coffee Morning, from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Julia is looking for raffle and tombola prizes, please. And how about a plant and craft stall? If anyone is willing to organise one or both, please see Julia at CN Shop.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Church Services

✝ Sunday 21st September – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

See services throughout Brown Clee Benefice on page 8.

A good and lively crowd enjoyed music from Shades of Grey on Bank Holiday Sunday – lots of encouragement to dance and sing along.

All Saints' Tote – July 2025

1st prize – Marjorie Jones

2nd prize – Dot Cartwright

Thank you for your continuing support – Tote subscriptions are £12 for the year – there is still time to join and, who knows? - you may be a winner!

Coming soon – The Pheasant at Neenton Cookery School

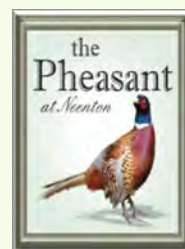
Mark will be demonstrating his cheffing techniques at Ludlow Food Centre on Friday 12th September.

Thursday 18th September – Classic French Evening – booking essential

Usual opening times:

- Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm
- Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11 pm
- Sunday – lunch – 12 noon – 4:30 pm

Please call 01746-787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and your requirements, or book direct on our website. <https://pheasantatneenton.co.uk>



Chetton News

Sheila Millington writes:

Church services in September

✝ Sunday 14th September – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

We have just one service this month. The year seems to be flying by and it will soon be our Harvest Festival. This will be on Sunday 12th October, 11.30am. I'm sure "all will be safely gathered in" by then due to the hot summer we have experienced. Help with decorating the Church will be gratefully accepted!

There will be **Breakfast at The Down** for Glazeley Church on **Saturday 20th September**; please contact Sheila to book your place.

Flowers and Cleaning – Lisa and Zena.

Hundred club

- £15 – Tony Maiklem no 91
- £10 – Helen Dunn no 3.



Chetton Village Hall

Flicks in the Sticks

We commemorated VE / VJ Days at the hall on 10th August, with 40 people enjoying a delicious lunch and watching the film, 'Battle of Britain'. We are donating some of the proceeds to SSAFA.

Our next film will be shown on Friday 5th September at 7.30, doors open for refreshments at 7pm. Tickets £5.00.

'The Elderly Brothers' will be performing their soft rock on Saturday 4th October at 7pm. Supper included, licensed bar. Tickets £15.00.





Christmas embroidery stitch along!

Join me weekly to create your individually designed Christmas cushion. Starting Friday 19th September - Friday 12th December (excl. Friday 31st October ½ term)

10am - 12pm at Chetton Village Hall.

All materials provided (apart from cushion pad)
£10 per session (includes refreshments)

If interested email Jo on :
cottagecraftsjos@gmail.com



Chetton Village Hall

Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions

Village Hall Diary for 2025

- Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.
- Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm.
- Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.
- Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm.
- Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm
- Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.

Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 01746-789239.

Our two smallest birds



By September many of our summer migrants have left our shores, and we are starting to notice shortening days. It can be a good time to reconnect with the birds that don't migrate and which we can enjoy watching all year round.

A churchyard classic is the tiny goldcrest. Goldcrests can be found in the canopies of evergreen trees, particularly yews and cypresses. It's rare to find a churchyard or cemetery without any yews or other evergreens and it's also rare to find one without any Goldcrests too!

It can take patience to spot one. They are tiny, about 9cm from beak to tail-tip, and well-camouflaged apart from their namesake – a striking black and yellow stripe on their heads, their gold crest which they can raise giving them a punk style hairdo! Their Latin name is *Regulus regulus*, which can be translated as little prince, perhaps due to this golden crown. If you are not able to see a Goldcrest you may hear one, they have a repetitive call, sounding like zee, zee, often on the edge of one's hearing due to the high pitch.

Our Goldcrests do not migrate to warmer climes or join flocks of other small birds moving through the landscape searching for food as many other small birds do in winter. They stay put in their trees with needles, possibly living their whole lives in a few trees within one churchyard. They are always on the move, busy gleaning small insects and other invertebrates, using a thin beak to pick them out from between tree needles or bark cracks. Although they do not migrate you may see an increase in Goldcrest numbers in the winter, mainly along the east coast of Britain, as they are joined by Goldcrests from Scandinavia, particularly in hard winters, when large numbers will cross the North Sea. This is quite a flying feat as goldcrests weigh about 5g.

There is another similar species that you may also spot: the Firecrest. These can be thought of as Goldcrests on fire, brighter colours, fiery orange-gold crown and the black head stripe accentuated by a white one below it. Firecrests are increasing in this country, the first record of breeding birds being in Hampshire in 1962. They are now moving north and are breeding in the Midlands and Wales, with a few pairs in the north of England. There are now over 2,000 breeding pairs. It seems likely that they are responding to changes in climate.

Look out for both Goldcrests and Firecrests in your local churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery and, as always, please record what you see and hear, ideally using the iNaturalist app. It may be easier to record their song rather than photograph this restless little bird, hidden within the dark canopy of needles.

All the best, Harriet Carty
Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

Nicola and Joan: a winning combination!

Bev Harris writes:

August and September are a quiet time for the gardening club. It's an opportunity for members to enjoy their own gardens and the fruits of their labour. Therefore the only news that I have to report is the potato competition results.



In February, members are provided with one seed potato which is chitted, planted out into a container and then harvested at the end of July. The member with the heaviest harvest is given a £10 prize and also chooses the variety of seed potatoes for the coming year. This year's variety was 'Nicola' and the winner was Joan Palmer with an impressive harvest of 1.7Kg. Well done Joan! I know that Joan was delighted and a little surprised to be the winner.

This is the first time that we have grown 'Nicola' and I think they may become a favourite. 'Nicola' has a distinctive oval shape with lovely smooth creamy-coloured skin. They are quite waxy which makes them ideal for boiling and salads and their sweet flavour makes them a delicious addition to any meal. 'Nicola' is a second early variety which can be planted in the spring for a summer harvest, or in late July for an autumn harvest. They are relatively easy to grow, with good resistance to disease and grow well in containers or bags making them ideal for our competition.

Behind the scenes, planning is in full swing for the 2025-26 programme and in September the committee meets to discuss the coming year, add the finishing touches and perhaps discuss the introduction of some new ideas. Our first speakers of the new programme on 9th October are Jill and Alun Whitehead from Aulden Farm, Herefordshire, who will be taking us on a journey from 'Coast to Coast by Gardens....by Car!' This promises to be a fascinating talk.

If you would like to join us for this talk or know more about the gardening club, then please get in touch....		
by emailing us on burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com ,	visit us on www.stokestmilborough.info/burwarton-gardening-club	or call me on 07933724728. Bev Harris, Secretary

About Saint Giles

Anni Holden Calver writes:

The 1st of September falls on a Monday this year. I like this, and find it neat and tidy! I also like September as it's like New Year but not with capital letters. It marks the end of summer, too, as we wrap up the season and put it away until next year. The return to work after the holidays, the infants back to school, the children nervously starting 'big' school, Mums are back to packing lunches, Dads are sorting out the sports kits as the winter games change places with their summer cousins and so the year (sort of) starts again. It's another chance to make some resolutions.

So what else can September offer? For 17 churches in Shropshire it's the time they celebrate the saint's day to which their church building is dedicated; so 5 St Giles, 1 St Gregory the Great, 1 St Edith and 10 St Michaels. I decided to find out something about St Giles, who has come up over the tea break when us scythers are out with Caring for God's Acre. (our conversations range far and wide!).

St Giles starts off the month as his feast day is on the 1st so a neat and tidy way to start (see first line above!). He has been very popular through the centuries, since the 7th, which is when he was born, maybe in Greece. He moved to France close to the village of Saint-Gilles, where he lived as a hermit. Each day he was visited by a deer hind that fed him her milk. But one day the king was out hunting and the clever hind hurried to the hermitage for protection. The king fired his arrow and instead of hitting the deer, it hit Giles and he was crippled for life. He dies at the beginning of the 8th Century but that did not stop his popularity. On the spot of his tragic accident, a monastery was built and over time he became the patron saint of disabled people, beggars and lepers.

Leprosy was common in the Middle Ages, coinciding with the building of stone churches. The general population were not keen on lepers sharing their space, so churches were built on the edge of towns and villages where lepers could attend services separately. They were dedicated to St Giles. In some churches you will find the "squint" an angled opening in the wall near the altar where lepers could see the service from outside the building. Barrow church was a chapel of Much Wenlock Abbey and Ludford, a chapel of Bromfield priory. In Shrewsbury, St Giles on Wenlock Road was recorded as a church in 1136, and by 1155 there was leper hospital on the site. Nothing of the hospital survives today, but St Giles church survives as a parish church in the town. Chetton and Badger are also dedicated to St Giles.



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk,

Tel 0980-100-9693 (mobile) or 0121 204 3997 (work);

St Mary, Highley

CHURCHWARDEN

Canev Clayton

St Mary, Billingsley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Peter, Chelmarsh

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Bartholomew, Glazeley

CHURCHWARDEN

Laura Jones – 07714-432836,
laura@laj.me.uk

Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

We are looking forward to our August service when we celebrate St Bartholomew, the saint to whom our church is dedicated. St Bartholomew features only in lists of Jesus's disciples recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke; a total of four mentions in the entire Bible. John, in his Gospel makes no mention of him but he does record a Nathaniel, who might be the same person, with Nathaniel being the first name and Bartholomew being a family name. His actual festival on 24th August, so we have to commemorate him on the nearest Sunday when we have a service. The new church was actually rededicated on St Bartholomew's day 150 years ago, although we had our celebrations in June as that was easier to arrange. We have no idea why Bartholomew was chosen for Glazeley; sometimes it was simply that the saint whose day was closest to when the church was finished was picked and perhaps that happened with us. At any rate, it provides us with an excuse for a celebration after the service.

Lyn Parnaby's popular display about the history of Glazeley Church will be moved to prevent damage while work is done there!



Next month festivities continue with our harvest festival, on Sunday 21st September. By this time we also hope to have new heating in the church: we are very grateful to the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust for a grant towards this.



In turn, we will be supporting the Trust's Ride and Stride on Saturday 13th September. The church will be open and all visitors are welcome.

Revd David Poyner – please note new phone numbers:

Tel 0980-100-9693 or 0121-204-3997

Email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Glazeley & Deuxhill: St Bartholomew

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10533/>

Marion Corfield – Tel 01746-764585

Email Marion.corfield@talktalk.net

We also hope to resume the monthly **breakfasts at the Down** in September; date to be announced but contact me or Marion Corfield for details (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk, marion.corfield@talktalk.net).



Billingsley News

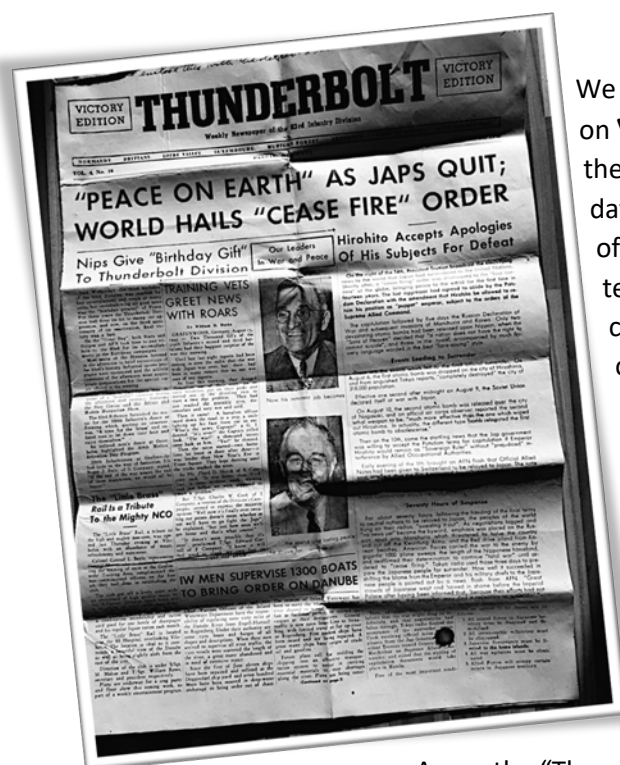
The Revd David Poyner writes:



We had an excellent turnout for our August evening service, when our former treasurer, Sue Bates, came over from Audlem to tell us about a trip she and husband Phil had made to Easter Island. The changing patterns of religious faith on Easter Island make an interesting comparison with what can be seen in the Old Testament.

Sue, pictured here with Phil and Frank (now on the Electoral Roll at Billingsley), after her talk.

Our final evening service this year will be on Sunday 14th September, when we celebrate Harvest Festival. There is also the 8am Communion on the fourth Sunday in the month, all year.



We marked the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War on **VJ Day, 15th August**, with a ringing of the church bells just after the national two-minutes' silence at 12 noon. And we had a nod to VJ day at the Easter Island service; one local institution showed "The Battle of Britain" that day; at Billingsley, as speaker Sue is a retired geography teacher, we selected an extract from "Bridge over the River Kwai" to conclude the service. We also have a US Army newspaper from VJ day on display in the church from the late Bob McConnell, lent by Ellen, his widow.

Pictured left
– VJ day as
viewed by
the
newspaper
of the 83rd
Infantry, US

Army, the "Thunderbolt", Vol 4 No
16, dated 18th August 1945.

Right: the Thunderbolt Express!



August is the month when most of the **renewals for the 100 Club**

go out. Tickets cost £4 a month and are entered into monthly draws; the money from the club is divided between prizes and the upkeep of the church, churchyard and community events. This year it has paid for resurfacing of the path to through the churchyard to the porch. Please support us if you can as this money really helps our finances. Our next project is new heating in church.



We will also be walking for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 13th September - details to be arranged but please contact me (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) if you are interested in joining us.

Chelmarsh News

It has been an early Harvest this year. We are very grateful for our farmer's work and God's bounty, providing for all of us once again even in this hot, dry season. Our prayers are with the farmers when they start to work the ground ready for winter crops.

Harvest Festival

We will be decorating the church for Harvest on Wednesday 24th September. If you can spare anything from your garden to help with this job, fruit, vegetables, flowers, please bring them in to church at 10.30am (ish), or if you feel like helping to decorate, you will be welcomed with open arms!

The Farmers' Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday 25th September at 7pm, with the supper to follow on Friday 26th September at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Village Hall. As last year, the cost will be £12.50 per person and please remember to bring your own drinks and glasses. Coffee and tea will be served after the meal. If you would like to attend, please ask one of our church members. As always, half of the money raised goes to help St Peter's in its parish work, the other half will be given to an appropriate charity decided by the PCC. There will also be a Service of Harvest Thanksgiving on the following Sunday, 28th September at 9.30am.

The next St Peter's Chelmarsh **100 Club** draw will be held at the Harvest Supper.

Ride and Stride

This will take place on Saturday September 13th 2025. Sponsor forms are now available in church. This is the Shropshire Historic Trust's annual fund-raising event which supports grants for small rural churches facing major repair bills to preserve their legacy buildings. This event is open to anyone to join in, on a bike, a horse, walking or in the car, all you have to do is just visit a few local churches and be sponsored to do so. Quite a few churches provide drinks and cake or biscuits when you visit them, including St Peter's in Chelmarsh. So, get yourself sponsored and visit some of the beautiful churches around us. Afterwards, please return the forms to Barbara or Glenys together with the money you have raised. **Thanks for taking part!**



Sheep safely grazing in Billingsley on Friday last

With thanks to Revd David Poyner for the photos.

Molecule of the Month: RDC 1

Revd David Poyner writes:



Almost 40 years ago, I became aware of a protein molecule, then called RDC1.

It is found on the outside of cells, where it recognises various molecules found in the blood (technically the extracellular fluid). It belongs to what we now know is a very big family of proteins called G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). These are the biggest single target for prescription drugs and are what I have worked on for almost all my professional career.

My interest arose because in 1991 it was claimed that it recognised a molecule called calcitonin gene-related peptide, which has also been one of my constant research companions. I contacted the senior author of the paper which had published this result, and he sent me a sample of RDC1. I could not find any evidence that it would recognise CGRP. I did wonder if this was down to me, but it soon became apparent that others could also not repeat the original claim. Science is difficult and is plagued by “now-you-see-it, now-you-don’t” observations; I have published one or two of these myself.

Years passed and eventually, after some more false trails, RDC1 was identified as recognising a signalling molecule called CXCL12. This is what is known as a chemokine; it is produced by various cells of the immune system to regulate its activity. The main target for CXCL12 is a protein called CXCR4; when the two interact, the CXCR4 activates the immune cells which have it on their surface. During an infection, levels of CXCL12 can increase by around a million times as the body goes into overdrive to fight whatever is causing the problem. This itself can be a problem, as these very high levels of CXCL12 can, in the short term, overstimulate CXCR4, causing damage to the body. Just as bad, the cells which have CXCR4 respond by moving the protein from their surface to locations within them, where CXCL12 cannot reach. In the short term, this stops the over-stimulation but in the long term, means CXCL12 can no longer do its job of helping them to fight the infection. Thus the body lurches from one crisis to another.

It is now known that this is where RDC1 (subsequently renamed ACKR3) has its real role. It is what is known as a “decoy receptor”. It binds the excess CXCL12 and removes it into the inside of cells, where it can no longer reach its real target, CXCR4. Thus it can be thought of as a natural Hoover, stopping the CXCL12 reaching dangerous levels.

This week, as I scanned the new scientific literature, I saw a study had been published on RDC1, showing how exactly it works as a Hoover. When it binds CXCL12, a chemical “barcode” is “printed” on it; for the technically minded, a series of phosphate groups are attached to it. These, the “barcode”, cause it to enter inside the cell, removing it and the CXCL12 out of harm’s way. We have long known that chemical barcodes exist, but this is the best example we have of one in action.

I love the way that a molecule I first met back in 1991 has been reinvented several times since then and we are still finding out new ways in which it works. That is the fascination of science; the continuing “pursuit of nature”.

DRP



The structure of RDC1 (green). Here it is shown binding its ligand CXCL12 (dark orange) and various other proteins (ignore....). CXCL12 is outside the cell, most of RDC1 is in the membrane that covers the cell and the light brown protein at the bottom of the picture is inside the cell.

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: <i>post vacant</i> so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens or volunteers as below		
St Mary, Stottesdon <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007</i>	St Giles, Farlow <i>CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT – please contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718745</i>	Holy Trinity, Sidbury <i>CHURCHWARDEN – vacant – please contact the key holder, Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149</i>
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583</i>	St John, Middleton Scriven <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Ann Constable</i>	St Michael, Silvington <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman</i>
In an emergency, please call Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698		

September message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 22

The parched and arid landscape we now see every day remind us of the challenges faced every year in many parts of the globe. The reality of drought is what we are seeing around us at first hand. Here in Shropshire the farming community are now struggling to feed animals and wondering whenever it will be possible to start the autumn planting of crops. The sense that the climate is altering is now a very present issue and one that is influencing decision taking across the county.

The sad news about the death of Chris Tibbits has touched many of us and we all send our deepest sympathy to Clare and the family and his many friends. The Stottesdon contribution to the Wheatland News was one of the many things Chris did ‘behind the scenes’ to support the local community. As the PCC have created this contribution, please let us know if there are errors or glaring omissions.

In the August edition of the Wheatland News, Chris mentioned the recruitment of the new Rector so here is some more detail.

The advertisement for the vacancy will be published in the Church Times every week for the next month with a closing date of 22nd September 2025. A copy of the advertisement can be seen on the back cover of this WN. There is more detail online at <https://hereford.anglican.org/xdb/vacancies>.

“Meanwhile” as Chris and Clare would say, “as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in our parishes, our two schools and the wider communities we serve, please;

- cherish and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens, the parish reps and members of the PCCs;
- remember to thank the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship”

Stottesdon PCC

From the Parish Registers:

- ✝ Stottesdon: Interment of Ashes – Charles Griffiths – R.I.P.
- ✝ Stottesdon: Funeral – Mary Rudd – R.I.P.

Services for September in the Stottesdon Churches

	Celebrant	Stottesdon	Other parishes
Sunday 7 th	John Daniels	10:30 - Morning Prayer	Farlow: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	David Poyner *	10:30 – Morning Prayer	*Cleeton St Mary: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	David Poyner	Benefice Group Service – Holy Communion and Harvest Festival Sidbury: 11:45	
Sunday 28 th	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Holy Communion	Silvington 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th October	Jeanetta Stokes §		§ Cleeton St Mary 4:00pm Harvest Festival

During the continuing interregnum there will be some changes to the service pattern. These times are correct at the time of going to print, but it's always worth checking on our website (A Church Near You: Stottesdon benefice) or with your churchwarden.

Pastoral Visits and support

If you or someone you know need a visit or communion or other support at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden or other volunteer (see above) who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.

Benefice website (A Church near you: Stottesdon) We are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added – or spot an error - please get in touch by email with chris@stottystores.co.uk

Wheatland News –the deadline for the October 2025 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Julia (PCC) by first thing on Monday 22nd September 2025 – Thanks!

Stottesdon & Chorley WI



At its recent meeting on 20th August the WI met at Chorley village hall and had the pleasure of welcoming Dr David Poyner who gave a fascinating talk about the coalfields of the Wyre Forest.

What looks like quiet woodland today was in fact a hive of activity from the middle-ages (if not before) and subsequently culminating in the pits we might know from the more recent past especially that at Highley.

The coalfields are extensive and stretch right across that part of the countryside with clear evidence revealed by not only arial photography but very clearly by use of LIDAR scans.

Continued



We learnt that there were medieval iron workings from the 15th century in Kinlet and Chorley. That the Highley pit opened in 1877 followed by those at Billingsley, Kinlet and Alveley. Apparently, it was very difficult for these mines to turn a profit so one by one they closed down.

David's knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject, with the enormous amount of work and research he has undertaken exploring the nooks and crannies of the history around the coalfields was truly impressive. We could have listened to him all night! Even the WI customary tea and cake failed to stem the flow of questions. A really fascinating evening.

Debbie Haynes (Chair, Stottesdon and Chorley WI)

Sidbury News



Andrew Sierakowski writes:

Following on from two highly successful fund-raising events early in the summer, Louise Shropshire has organised a photo competition for photographs of Sidbury to produce a Sidbury Calendar. We've had an amazing response, with more than 150 entries, from Sidbury and further afield, with some very beautiful pictures.

David Poyner very kindly agreed to judge the entries and selected the final twelve photographs that will now appear in the calendar. We also hope to have a display in the church of some of some of the best photographs. We'll let you know when that is.

Thank you to everyone that took part and submitted photos.

Pictured – judging in full swing for the Photo Competition!

Do tell us how WN readers can buy your calendar too, please Andrew!

and Revd David Poyner adds:

We are also looking forward to harvest festival on Sunday 21st September at 11:45, when a variety of crops/animals/machinery will be blessed. I hope there will be refreshments afterwards..... The church will also be open on Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th to support the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride".



Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

- ✚ The Cleeton Harvest Festival Service will be on 5th October at 4pm, led by Revd Jeanetta Stokes.
- ✚ Our regular monthly service is expected to be on the following Sunday, 12th, at 9:00am, led by AD Fiona Gibson.

Knit and Natter continues every Wednesday at 10:00 am in church.

Cleeton St Mary has a new Pop-Up Shop!
Excess fruit and vegetables are on sale in the Bus Shelter, with donations to MacMillan.
It is proving very popular



Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Middleton Scriven parish wishes to send condolences, love and prayers to Clare Tibbits and family following the passing of Chris Tibbits. He was such a lovely man and has done so much for all our churches.

We are incredibly grateful for all he has done in the vacancy, coordinating to help keep the benefice going forward.



There will be no regular Church service in our church in September. We wish Livy Yates and George Harris a wonderful day for their wedding on 6th September in church, and best wishes for the future. The first wedding here for 6 years!!

Pictured left – the fabulous garden in Middleton Scriven by a wonderful gardener, Dave Morris, who sadly died in July. RIP. Our prayers go to Margaret his wife, and family.

Community Coffee morning and Special Local History Exhibition on Saturday 13th

September, 10am -12noon. Do come and enjoy tea/ coffee with cake and catching up with friends and neighbours.

Plus - this month only - Find out more about who lived in the parish in 1911 (from census records) or went to Deuxhill school, or the families who lived and worked in the area. A huge thank you to Lyn Parnaby who has compiled so much on our local history. Do come and see her exhibition.

Severn Hospice Coffee Morning – and Seasonal Card sale – lots of notice for this popular Autumnal fixture: save the date! It's on Wednesday 8th October at Damson House (Ann and John Williamson's).

Next community event:- here's a Date for your diary: **Harvest Festival Supper** on Friday 17th October. Look out for more details and how to book.



Thank you! In July we had a very successful **Quiz Evening!**

Thank you to everyone who supported our fun Quiz night. An Excellent quiz, and lovely refreshments. Many Congratulations to the winning team of Phil, Gill, Andrew and Hayley. Thank you to the quiz masters Rachel and Nic, and scorers Greg and Norman. Thank you to all the committee for all your hard work, especially Sally and Kate for the excellent light supper. We were very grateful for all the donations of prizes and raffle prizes- much appreciated.



Silvington and Farlow

We have no news from Silvington or from Farlow this month – sorry!

Community Notice Board

Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

A date for your diary – the AGM and Autumn Open Meeting will be on Tuesday 7th October, 5:30 pm for 6:00 pm at Ditton Priors Village Hall. Lots of news and updates, and an interesting talk! Please see the full information in the PPG item on Page 8 of this edition of WN. Do come!

Summer Farmers' Market

On Saturday 20th September, is “under and around the crooked spire” at St Mary’s Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the THIRD SATURDAY each month from 09.30-12.30.

Our local food banks need YOUR help

Both are *always* in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services, and never more so than in this season of plenty. You may have seen in the news that donations of foodstuffs are way down and that the Food Banks are having to buy in produce to make up their family supply packages!

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER

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General Synod debate on the Hereford Motion

With thanks to the Greater Dudley Deanery for this summary

The Bishop of Hereford outlined the reason for the DSM including the state of diocesan finances (now 60M in deficit) meaning low clergy wellbeing, fewer vocations, longer vacancies, demoralising congregations and affecting the mission of the Church. He suggested that local decision makers are far better placed to oversee the allocation of resources.

Other speakers presented a range of views including urging people to remember the success of strategically funded projects on meeting our priorities on becoming a younger and more diverse church. Alternatively, the need to fund ‘bed rock’ ministry in parishes and counter the narrative that the Church has created where the newly ordained no longer see their future in parish ministry but in centrally funded projects.

Alan Smith, Church Commissioners, and the Bishop of Sheffield also a Church Commissioner outlined the impact passing this motion would have on any discretionary funding in other areas, eg cathedrals, clergy retirement housing. The Bishop of Blackburn and the Archdeacon of Liverpool urged caution and commented that this was not a direct choice between local or central funding, discussing the new Triennium Funding and how this had already provided extra funding to re-energise parishes.

The Bishop of Sheffield proposed an amendment that would require the General Synod early in the next triennium to debate the approach to distributing funding, including support for local stipendiary ministry to ensure we avoid unintended consequences of adopting this motion from Hereford. The amendment was carried by a counted vote by houses - Bishops 22/9/2 Clergy 89/75/8 Laity 87/83/9.

In the final vote the amended motion was carried by a very large majority in a counted vote of the whole Synod – 361/7. The papers for the debate are also available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/gs-2396a-redistribution-of-funds-dsm-july-2025.pdf>




Wheatland Diary

Everything we know so far for 2025 and 2026! Do make sure we put your dates in, maximise numbers at all the events, and help avoid clashes!

Where no page number is given, it means that there is no further information in this edition about the event.

Tue	2	Sept	DPLHG "My Days at the Depot" – 7:00 pm – Ditton Priors VH – see page 10
Fri	5	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – Bridget Jones, Mad About the Boy, Chetton VH 7:00pm – see page 15
Sat	6	Sept	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 12
Wed	10	Sept	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Laura's Dairy Talk & Tasters
Wed	10	Sept	Gentlemen's Breakfast! Church House, Chetton – 8:30 am – see page 9
Sat	13	Sept	Ride and Stride! - lots of things happening - see almost every page!!!
Sat	13	Sept	Middleton Scriven Church – Coffee + Local History exhibition - 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Sat	13	Sept	"Write your own life story" workshop – Ditton Priors – 10:00 – 4:00 pm – see page 10
Fri	19	Sept	Chetton VH Xmas Embroidery Stitch-along first meeting – see page 15
Sat	20	Sept	Breakfast at The Down, for Glazeley Church – see page 15
Fri	26	Sept	Julia's Coffee Morning for MacMillan– Cleobury North VH – 11:00am – 3:00pm – see page 14
Fri	26	Sept	Chelmarsh Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7:30 for 8:00 pm – see page 20
Wed	1	Oct	DP Ladies' Friendship Group – DP Pavilion, 7:30 – 9:30 pm – see page 12
Sat	4	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 12
Sat	4	Oct	The Elderly Brothers – Soft Rock and Supper, Chetton VH – see page 15
Sun	5	Oct	Harvest Festival and Sale – especially for Children – Aston Botterell – see page 13
Tue	7	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery PPG, Ditton Priors VH, 6:00pm – see pages 8 and xx
Wed	8	Oct	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Annual Meeting
Wed	8	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page
Fri	17	Oct	Middleton Scriven Harvest Festival Supper – see page 25
Fri	17	Oct	"Building a Chelsea Garden" Brown Clee PPG for Garden project – see back cover & page 10
Tue	21	Oct	Local Air Crashes – DP Local History Group, Ditton Priors Village Hall, 7:00pm
Sat	25	Oct	Quiz Night – Aston Botterell – at the Boyne Arms – see page 13
Fri	31	Oct	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sat	8	Nov	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 10
Wed	12	Nov	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Fused Glass Making
Thur	27	Nov	Christmas Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors
Fri	28	Nov	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sat	29	Nov	Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am
Sat	6	Dec	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 10
Wed	10	Dec	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Christmas Festivities
Sat	13	Dec	Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall –
Wed	14	Jan	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall -Games Night
Wed	11	Feb	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Decoupage
Wed	11	Mar	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Midlands Air Ambulance

Useful local contacts – updated September 2025

Brown Clees Surgery PPG	Brown Clees Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleesPPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clees Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com , or Sec Bev Harris on 07933-724728
Burwarton & District WI	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Gp	Now called Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group – see below – alphabetical order!
Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
Chelmarsh Games Group	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking Group	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
Chetton & Glazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. For enquiries re trying a session or two and membership please contact Elisabeth Buggins, Secretary - Phone: 07855 018288 Email: elisabeth@buggins.com
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
Chetton Village Hall	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries and Bookings – NEW CONTACT - Sharon Jenkins - Tel no: 07854-538645 or 01746-787220
	National Centre for Domestic Violence https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/ Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
Daddy's Hat Music & Poetry	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you will get a call-back!
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. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
Ditton Priors History Group	Please contact paul.wilson8992@gmail.com
Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group	Please contact Jo on 07837-048525
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriorsshalls@gmail.com
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
 Little Explorers Pre-School Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact 01746-712506 littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
Tae kwon-do	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055



A talk by Ade Robinson
Friday 17th October
2.30 p.m.
Ditton Priors Village Hall

BUILDING A CHELSEA GARDEN

Tickets are £5 including hot drink and cake
Email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com to buy your ticket in advance - or pay at the door on the day

All proceeds will be in aid
of the PPG Garden Project –
enhancing spaces for
patients and staff

Rector of the Stottesdon Benefice (0.5)



Are you the person God is calling to be the next Rector of the Stottesdon Benefice?

You will be someone who, under God, could:

- Lead the six churches of the Stottesdon Benefice in worship, pastoral care, mission, and growth.
- Develop the gifts and leadership of lay people in the Benefice.
- Work alongside and support leaders in the two primary schools.

There is an option of combining the parish role with the additional responsibility of Rural Church Missioner (RCM) alongside parish duties, to make the post a full-time one. Further details are in the profile.

For further information, please contact: The Ven Dr Fiona Gibson
Fiona.Gibson@hereford.anglican.org 01588 673571

Closing date: 22nd September 2025
Parish visits: 13th October 2025 Interview date: 14th October 2025

For the full profile and to apply please go to
<https://hereford.anglican.org/xd/vacancies>

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applications from all suitably qualified clergy. As UKME/GMH individuals are currently under-represented within our Diocese we would particularly welcome applications from these candidates.
This post requires Enhanced DBS clearance.