

WHEATLAND NEWS

November 2025

Remembrance

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



*The portico of St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury,
dressed with hand-made poppies.*

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Editorial – “L-plates” and Legacies

Charles Gill writes:

And we said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown”
And he replied
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way “
So we went forth, and finding the Hand of God trod gladly into the night.

As you are all aware we have lost two staggeringly important figures from our local community in a very short space of time. We all miss both Mr Chris Tibbits from Stottesdon and Mrs Roberta “ BOBBIE” Jarvis from Neenton. By the time you read this edition the funeral for Bobbie will have taken place on 30th October, so more reports will follow in the December issue.

It would be hard to overestimate the role that they both played locally and within the organisation of the 11 monthly editions of this magazine that serves 17 local Parishes.

We walk on the shoulders of those Giants who bestrode this world before us.

Introducing ourselves, the new Wheatland News Team

There is now a new team attempting to pick up the challenges of keeping this magazine going in its present format for the rest of 2025.

We crave your indulgence as we are starting this task as a memorial to those who have made all this possible and made it all run like clockwork since the paper copies resumed after COVID.

The new committee assembled at an emergency meeting on 15th October 2025 and members are as follows:

- Revd Joe Simons, also acting as Chair of the Wheatlands News committee and Rector of the Brown Clee Benefice.
- Mrs Julia Evans, also acting as co-ordinator for the Stottesdon Group.
- Mrs Karen Simons, also acting as co-ordinator for the Brown Clee Benefice.
- Revd David Poyner , also acting as co-ordinator for the Highley Group parishes of Chelmarsh ,Glazeley & Billingsley.
- Mr Cliff Gutteridge – photographs adviser
- Mrs Denise Knightley who is the incoming Editor.
- Mr Charles Gill - Treasurer.
- Mrs Caroline John who is the Current and imminently Retiring Editor.

We will be working in a different way because we cannot replace the knowledge and experience of Bobbie, so please bear with us and we hope that you can help us to make this a truly community wide magazine with YOUR active help and support.

And introducing YOU

You will understand that we will need to ask for YOUR Annual subscriptions for 2026 for the 11 PAPER copies planned for 2026 at the same cost of £18 per year despite the general increase in just about everything else. If you wish to obtain an emailed copy , please contact us and we can construct a list so that you receive the magazine online.

Lord now lettest thou thy servants depart in peace , according to thy word..... to be a light to lighten the lives of all of us and to the glory of all thy people now and for evermore world without end.





Diocese of Hereford

November letter from the Bishop of Hereford

The parish where I served as vicar in Sussex had a population of around 3000. In the first world war there were about 800, and 33 names were recorded on the roll of honour. It is hard to imagine now that level of loss. The vicar lost his son and nearly every family in the village was affected. Every year, helped by an exhibition of their lives by a wonderful Church Warden, the number at Remembrance Day service grew. His research at one point called into question whether one of the names remembered on the WWII board had actually died! A brief panic was relieved when he discovered the person living in Canada was the same name but a different person. Few had any connection now with those we remembered, even from WWII when another twenty lost their lives. For many people it was the only service of the year they attended. It never failed to be a moving occasion.

In part, attendance was an opportunity to pay respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. But there was a deeper action as well. Those we remembered died because they believed a particular set of values were worth fighting for. They fought against tyranny, the treating of one group of people as inferior to others, and the idea that might makes right. The Nazi regime was the antithesis of the love that Jesus urges as our root value from which all else flows. These Christian values are not intuitive to human beings. As the historian Tom Holland has conclusively argued in his book *Dominion*, a society wouldn't have these values but for Christian faith. Even the nihilist philosopher Nietzsche recognised this when he said,

"When one gives up the Christian faith, one pulls the right to Christian morality out from under one's feet. Christianity is a system, a whole view of things thought out together. By breaking one main concept out of it, the faith in God, one breaks the whole: nothing necessary remains in one's hands."

He did this ending up with a philosophical system where power was the ultimate goal and looking out for the weak was despised.

In the confusing mixture of motivations that drove people to attend the 'Unite the Kingdom' march in London a few weeks ago were calls to reclaim the Christian heritage of the nation. In some way this is commendable, but the wielding of crosses in that context felt anything but the sacrificial love that the cross represents. Symbols are powerful things and need to be wielded with care. Crosses can be symbols of love and sacrifice or burnt by men in white robes on the way to a lynching. As Christians we assert the former as the only true representation of our nation's values.

+Richard

Bishop Richard's Weekly Video Message

This week, Bishop Richard reflects powerfully on the challenge and grace of forgiveness.

You can read the transcript of his talk on the Diocese website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/bishop-of-herefords-message/16-10-2025.php>.

And you can watch this video, there too, or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVect4WiBT0>, where you can also see all his previous videos.



Remembrance – the saddest life of a Shropshire Lad

On 15th November 1939, a young man signed up and joined 1st Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He had been born on the family farm, lived and worked there all of his life – a horseman and thresher in the Shropshire hills.

The 1st Bn returned from India in 1938, joining the British Expeditionary Force in September – November 1939, and subsequently was one of the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. The Bn then went to North Africa, to Alamein, and thence to Italy, where they were involved in the Anzio landings in 1944 and afterwards fighting their way north, up through Italy.

We can't be sure that "our man" was with them throughout – certainly he came home on two occasions, one to be best man at his friend's wedding, and once to be married himself.

On 4th October 1944, during the Bn's time in line between Palazzuolo and the capture of Monte Ceco, our soldier and 49 of his fellows were taken prisoner, and spent the remainder of the war in the hands of the enemy forces.

From Italy, he was taken via various PoW camps, probably marching, to his final camp – a distance even as the crow flies of over 200 miles - the Germans marched their prisoners so they would not fall into the Russian hands. He spent the final months of the war in Stalag VIIA, at Moosburg.

On 29th April 1945, the New York Times announced that "The 14th Armored Division liberated 110,000 Allied prisoners of war at Stalag 7A ... this was Germany's largest prisoner of war camp". The Allies had no idea that it even existed until the Americans happened across it in the course of a quite separate operation.

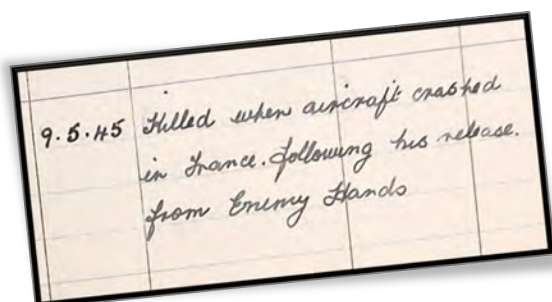
The ceasefire in Europe took effect on 8th May 1945 – Victory in Europe, or VE Day.



Upon liberation from the camp, our man was taken to Paris and on 9th May was put aboard a Lancaster bomber to be repatriated to England. The fatal crash that this Lancaster suffered just after taking off killed all 6 crew members and 24 passengers. It was attributed to the passengers' moving about within the aircraft, causing the pilot to lose control.

Our Shropshire Lad never came home. He is buried and commemorated in the Clichy cemetery, just north of Paris.

Pictures: above left: our soldier's thumbprint which appears on his



German PoW record card (National Archives, Kew); above right: the small note in the KSLI Attestation Book which sparked our interest in this story (Soldiers of Shropshire Museum).

**Soldiers of Shropshire
Museum**

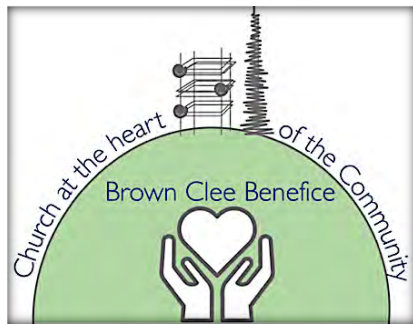
The Soldiers of Shropshire Museum, housed in Shrewsbury Castle, will be mounting a display telling the story of our soldier in much more detail early in 2026. With thanks to Richard Gough, Museum Director, for his permission to include this story in Wheatland News for Remembrance 2025.

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 **December 2025 / January 2026** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 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.langham@btinternet.com
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton - 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley	Carl Hinkinson
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net
Billingsley	Rev'd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Rev'd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
	Julia Evans - Stottesdon PCC - juliaevans278@googlegmail.com



Brown Clee Benefice

Rector - 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

CHURCHWARDENS:

Dot Cartwright: 07854-559474

Sue Hale: 01746-787650

November Reflection

We are in the middle of the season of harvest as we celebrate once again God's goodness to us. It is a season also when we reflect on the bread that Jesus offers us in himself, the bread of life, in which we find true life which transcends our earthly needs.

Jesus said in his temptation by the devil:

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"

Matthew 4.4

Dieticians would agree that Jesus did not have a particular diet in mind here, although one can easily be overwhelmed by the importance and necessity of everyday sustenance. It can easily become our all-surpassing driving force and concern. There is however, more to life than what we eat, where we live, and what we wear.

As Christians we believe that Jesus is the word made flesh, and he is the source of truth by which we live, build relationships, work through pain and raise children living with dignity, respect and love for others.

This is a tall order and can only be done with God's help: without it we will be defeated.

The word of God was made real to creation at Christmas, and we endeavour to follow that word, not most, but all of the time. How we do that is often a challenge, but it is the only path we are called to follow. Through prayer we thank God who gives us the food for today, but we also ask that we may be fed on his Spiritual food which leads and guides us in this world and endures for the life to come.

Revd Joe Simons

We're pleased to have a photo of **Mike and Sue Teague** with the picture presented to them (see October WN, Chetton News) to mark their move to a new home and departure from the Brown Clee area.



Brown Clee Benefice News

Karen Simons writes:

October has been very busy in the Benefice with Harvest Services taking place in each church, and the children from Brown Clee School coming up in to St John's, Ditton Priors for their own lively Harvest Thanksgiving. It was a joy to host them as always!



The beginning of the month saw Revd Joe installed as full-time Rector covering all seven of our beloved churches. It was a very special day to remember and we must thank everyone who made it possible: Archdeacon Fiona and Jeremy Wilding for conducting the Installation, all who decorated and polished the church, prepared and delivered the wonderful music, readings and of course the marvellous refreshments afterwards. It was a very happy event.

Pictured left – Revd Joe, centre, with Archdeacon Fiona, left, and Jeremy Wilding, Diocesan Registrar, right.

And below – happy chatter over the celebratory tea and cake in The Pavilion. Below left – Archdeacon Fiona, Cllr George Hollyhead, Revd Joe, Rector of

Brown Clee Benefice.

Below right – picture includes Sally Russell. Karen Simons, AD Fiona, Revd Joe, and George Haywood.



Following on from last month's news, when we gratefully received a cheque from the **Brown Clee Young Farmers**, we are pleased to let you know that this has been donated to the **Cleobury North Church Roof Repairs fund**.



Services in Brown Clee Churches during November other than those listed under All Souls', Remembrance or Advent & Carols

Sunday 2nd November

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

Sunday 9th November

	Remembrance Sunday	
10:15 am	Remembrance – starting at Cleobury North Village Hall, then at the War Memorial, Cleobury North	
3:00 pm	Remembrance	Ditton Priors

Tuesday 11th November

	Armistice Day	
10:45 am	A Simple Act of Remembrance	Neenton

Sunday 16th November

	Safeguarding Sunday	
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Neenton

Sunday 23rd November

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Morning Prayer	Cleobury North Village Hall



**We do hope that you can join us at
Brown Clee Benefice's
Advent & Carol Services
throughout November & December**

Further details to follow in December's Wheatland News!

Thursday 27th November

6.30pm – Lights & Carols – Ditton Priors

Sunday 30th November – Advent Sunday

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Chetton 4.00pm – Carol Service – Loughton

Saturday 6th December

4.00pm – Christingle – Ditton Priors

Sunday 7th December

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors 11.30am – Holy Communion – Aston Botterell

4.00pm – Carol Service - Neenton

Sunday 14th December

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors 11.30am – Carol Service – Cleobury North

4.00pm – Carol Service - Chetton

Friday 19th December

7.30pm – Carols in the Street with Brown Clee Young Farmers – Ditton Priors

Sunday 21st December

9.30am – Holy Communion – Neenton 11.30am – Carol Service – Ditton Priors

5.00pm – Festival Carol Service – Aston Botterell

Wednesday December 24th – Christmas Eve

4.00pm – Crib Service – Ditton Priors 7.00pm – Carol Service – Wheathill

11.15pm – Midnight Mass – Ditton Priors

Sunday December 25th – Christmas Day

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Chetton

Sunday December 28th

10.00am – Group Holy Communion – Ditton Priors



ALL SOULS' SERVICE

Sunday 2nd November 2025

St. John the Baptist Church,

Ditton Priors, at 4.00pm

This year we will again be holding our 'All Souls' Service' to commemorate and hold in our memories those we love but see no longer. We will be getting in touch with all those for whom we have contact details, who have lost loved ones over the past 18 months.

We would be so grateful if you could let us know of anyone you feel would like to hear from us (and you have their permission to do so). It is such a comforting and special Service and brings great comfort to all who attend. During the Service candles are lit by families and friends, or, if you would rather, sit quietly we will light the candle for you.

Afterwards if you feel able to stay, light refreshments will be served.

Further details to follow soon. Thank you. 💜



Remembrance Services in Brown Clee Benefice

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the **9th of November**

As St. Peter & St. Paul's Church is undergoing extensive building works on the roof, our Service will be held at both Cleobury North Village Hall and outside around the Memorial at the Church.

The Service will commence at 10.15am.

Further details to follow.

3.00pm Service of Remembrance - Ditton Priors

Tuesday 11th November

10.45am A simple Service of Remembrance - Neenton

Sunday 16th November

2.30pm A Service of Remembrance - Wheathill

Readings for November

Sunday 2nd November

Fourth before Advent

Red or Green: Gold or White if All Saints'

Day is celebrated today.

All Saints' Readings

Psalm 149

Daniel 7. 1 – 3, 15 – 18; Ephesians 1. 11 – end; Luke 6. 20 – 31

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Third before Advent

Red or Green

Romans 8. 31 - end; Revelation 21. 1 - 8

Tuesday 11th November

Armistice Day

Red, Green or White

A simple Act of Remembrance

Sunday 16th November

Second before Advent

Safeguarding Sunday

Red or Green

Psalm 98

Malachi 4. 1 – 2a; 2 Thessalonians 3. 6 – 13; Luke 21. 5 – 19

Sunday 23rd November

Christ the King

Red or White

Psalm 46

Jeremiah 23. 1 – 6; Colossians 1. 11 – 20; Luke 23. 33 – 43

Sunday 30th November

Advent Sunday

Purple

Psalm 122

Isaiah 2. 1 – 5; Romans 13. 11 – end; Matthew 24. 36 – 44

Sunday 7th December

Second of Advent

Purple

Psalm 72. 1 – 7, 18, 19 (or 72. 1 – 7)

Isaiah 11. 1 – 10; Romans 15. 4 – 13; Matthew 3. 1 - 12

Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group

Tina Ranson writes:

Members working with the Practice

At the PPG meeting on 7th October, Dr Bassett announced that Dr Clare Bravey who has been working for nearly a year as a part-time GP at the Practice, is to become a Partner alongside himself and Dr Wendy Matthews. This is great news and strengthens the Practice going forward.

Female patients were asked if they would be interested in an informal afternoon group talk from Lisa Davies (ANP) on Menopausal and Post-menopausal health issues. Please contact brownclepppg@gmail.com if you would be interested in attending - minimum 10 people required for it to happen.

The next open meeting will be on Tuesday 20th January 2026, and this will be attended by Dr Wendy Matthews and Dr Clare Bravey. **To join the PPG or ask about any matter** please use brownclepppg@gmail.com or ask the Surgery for a phone number.



Ditton Priors Local History Group

Robin Greenwell writes:

There was standing room only at Ditton Priors Village Hall on 21st October for the latest History Group talk 'Air Crashes on England's Deadliest Hill'! Apologies that we ran out of chairs!

A 'sell out' audience of over 130 people were treated to a truly fascinating presentation by Philippa and Ian Hodgkiss. The talk (the last for 2025) featured detailed and often poignant accounts of the tragic air crashes that took place on the Brown Clee and surrounding areas during WWII, in addition to some later crashes. It also covered how the memorial for those that lost their lives came into being through Philippa's efforts.

The talk was accompanied by a slideshow and on display were various artefacts from the crash sites, including the famous inscribed wedding ring belonging to the German pilot of the Junkers 88, which crashed on the hill on 1st April 1941.

It was a historic evening in several respects; setting a new 'record' attendance being one on them! Many people stayed after the event to talk to Philippa & Ian and ask questions and we are really most grateful to both of them for not only the talk but also staying for a considerable time afterwards - particularly as they were travelling back to Wales the same evening!!! A huge thank you to Philippa and Ian, they really went above and beyond!

We would also like to thank Julian, Sheila & Roy Millington from Chetton Heritage Museum for bringing along the wedding ring and other crash artefacts. The museum's next open day is on Saturday 13th December, Lower Cockshut Farm, WV16 6RF, and if you haven't been, it really is worth a visit! <https://www.chettonheritemuseum.co.uk>



And finally thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a memorable occasion! We are very grateful for your support. It was also very pleasing to see several younger people and children in the audience (under 18s are free to all our events), and what a great way to learn and understand history!

History Centre Open Day

The Ditton Priors History Centre will be open on Saturday 8th November from 10:00 - 14:00 to coincide with Remembrance Day. Do come along and have a look at some of our new display boards. The Willows Cafe will also be open of course so after browsing the displays why not pop in for a coffee (and perhaps a delicious piece of cake?). Find us on Station Road, Ditton Priors, [///framework.revealing.unlisted](http://framework.revealing.unlisted)

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes

October is whizzing through and the Harvest Services are going along nicely.

The Harvest Supper was a joyful occasion, and we fed over sixty harvesters. Of course, we are delighted to have Revd Joe installed as Rector of our Benefice, but oh what a hectic time we have ahead, leading up to Christmas.

First Saturday Coffee Mornings

Continue, from 10am - 12noon in Church on, remember, **8th** November (not 1st, due to a wedding) and 6th December, then miss out January 2026, resume 7th February and 7th March. There is no charge for this popular community event and everyone is very welcome.

All Souls Service

✝ Sunday 2nd November, 4pm at Ditton Priors Church.

Remembrance

✝ Sunday 9th November, 10.15 am at Cleobury North

✝ Sunday 9th November, 3pm at Ditton Priors Church

✝ Sunday 16th November, 2.30pm at Wheathill

Christingle

✝ Saturday 6th December, 4pm in Church

This service celebrates the work of the Children's Society and a collection will taken to support them.

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk> The children will make their 'Christingles' to take home.

Crib Service

✝ Christmas Eve, 4pm, Wednesday 24th December in Ditton Priors Church.

Forthcoming events:

- Thursday 27th November, 6.30pm in Ditton Priors Church, **Switching on Christmas Lights**
- Saturday 29th November 11am, **Christmas Fair** at the Pavilion at Ditton Priors – Cards, Gifts and Christmas Joy!
- Saturday 12th December, a **Concert**, in Ditton Priors Village Hall - Featuring the mixed voice choir 'Of One Accord', Brown Clee Community Choir and Brown Clee School Choir. Tickets on sale soon.
- Saturday 24th January 2026. **'Not Socks Again' Coffee Morning** 10.30am in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Bring & Buy Stall - Surplus Christmas gifts welcome!

Cleaning rota for November

- Sunday 2nd November Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 9th November Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 16th November Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 23rd November Mrs Debbie Lowe & Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling
- Sunday 7th December Mr & Mrs John Ballard

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for November 2025

- £20 Elizabeth Johnson
- £10 Emma Parker
- £5 each to: Margaret Russell, Mrs J Evans, Bobbie Jarvis

Sadly, as Bobbie is no longer with us, her £5 win has been given to the Neenton Church collection.

Shirley Wall adds

Thanks to the generosity of so many who joined the Church 100 club, we have recently been able to purchase some new chairs. These are now in church and ready for use.

Ditton Priors Ladies' Friendship Group

Formerly Burwarton and District Wives group is welcoming new members. 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

Ditton Priors Community Events

- Saturday 8th November 6pm - Ditton Priors **Firework** party at Ditton Priors Recreation Ground
- Saturday 13th December 10am - **Wreath making** and table decoration at Ditton Priors Pavilion
- Saturday 30th January 2026 - 7pm Ditton Priors **Trivia Quiz Challenge** at Ditton Priors Pavilion



Wheathill & Loughton News

Anon writes:

We had a lovely Harvest Service at Loughton at which Marjorie shared her past and connection to the land. Her talk reminded us of the importance of the simplicity of living at one with the land. Many thanks to all those who provided refreshments, especially the sherry!

Next services

- ✝ Sunday 16th November – 2:30 pm Remembrance at Wheathill
- ✝ Sunday 30th November – 4:00 pm Carol Service at Loughton
- ✝ Wednesday 24th December – 7:00 pm Carol Service at Wheathill

We look forward to these special services.

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:



We held a lovely Harvest festival service with Mike conducting - his last time with choir. We wish him well. Thank you to Dan's father Andrew for playing the organ for us – it sounded lovely! Also to Tim for very wittily selling the goods after our service taken by Dot – which was a light-hearted service with the congregation taking part. Light refreshments kindly donated were served during our entertaining sale once again, thank you all. Our youngest member, Baby Eden, was wide awake taking it all in – so lovely to see.





Day trips to Stratford Xmas Market on 6th December, and Blenheim Palace Xmas Market and house in November – information from Anne.

Don't forget Aston Botterell Christmas Extravaganza Carol Service ...

...on Sunday December 21st: Father Christmas, brass band, choir, mulled wine etc and much more. If anyone would like to help decorate for Christmas you will be most welcome and great fun, getting into the Christmas spirit. Children – we would like some Father Christmases to put around the church inside and out. There will be a prize!! Please let me know if you would like to make one.

Offers of mince pies etc please!! Let's make a fab evening to start Christmas off. Everyone welcome, in every day.

Also a message to all suffering in one way and another in our area – our prayers are with you all.



Cleobury North & District Village Hall

Sharon Jenkins writes:

On behalf of my colleagues on the Cleobury North Village Hall Committee, I would like to begin this news item to remember our friend Roberta "Bobbie" Jarvis, who will be sadly missed by all of us. As a new member of the Committee, Bobbie offered support, guidance and friendship and made me feel most welcome. I will greatly miss her as I believe we all will.

A Country Dancing / Line Dancing / fundraising event was held on 10th October 2025, which was well-attended, and which proved very popular and raised some much-needed funds for the charity. Many thanks for all of the donations and support received from both local business and people.

November and December bookings include Birthday Parties, Shropshire Community Health Trust, Remembrance Service on 9th November, a Classic Car Memorial Event on Saturday 22nd November, a Wreath Arranging Workshop on 30th November and Christmas Table Arrangement workshop on 21st December!

Remember: if you wish to book the hall, please contact Sharon on sharonjenkins1605@yahoo.com or 07854-538645.

Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Jane Bufton writes:

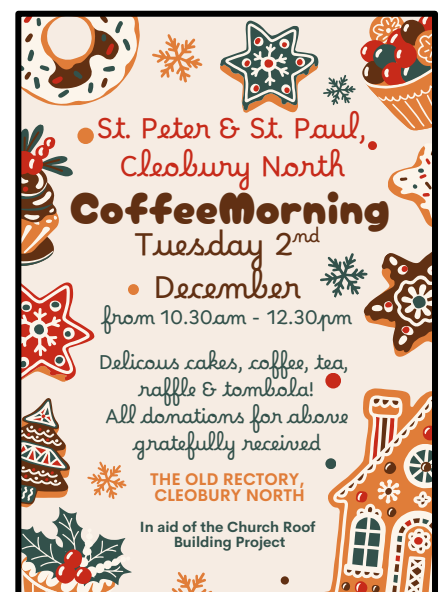
Remembrance Sunday

- ✚ Please note that as the building works on St Peter & St Paul's roof will be under way, this year's Remembrance Service at Cleobury North will start in the Village Hall at 10.15am. The Service will then move on to the War Memorial outside the church and return to the Village Hall. Please wrap up warm and do contact the Benefice Office if you should have any questions.

And in aid of the Church Roof Fund

Coffee morning at the Old Rectory, Cleobury North – 10:30 am – 12:30 pm on Tuesday 2nd December - see little poster top right! Donations for the stalls will be gratefully received. A lovely start to the festive season!

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



Neenton News

Dot Cartwright writes:

Church Services

- ✝ Tuesday 11th November – Armistice Day - there will be a Simple Act of Remembrance at All Saints' Church, Neenton starting at 10:45 am. Please do come along. If you would like any further information, please speak to Dot Cartwright.

We were very grateful for a lovely **Harvest Service** and would like to thank all that helped to clean and decorate the church. We would also like to thank those who donated and transported produce, along with The Pheasant for their refreshments.

There will be **Fireworks at The Pheasant** on Thursday 6th November, free of charge. The pub opens at 5.00pm. BBQ starts at 5.30pm, and the fireworks will start about 7.00pm. Everyone welcome!

All Saints' Tote

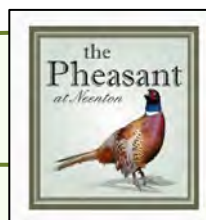
We will catch up with announcing winners as soon as possible.

Fireworks Night – Thursday 6th November –
BBQ at 5:30 pm, fireworks at about 7:00 pm – everyone welcome

Opening times:

- Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11:00 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>



Daddy's Hat's Grand Finale for 2025!



The warmest welcome from Revd Lynda Lilley to about 35 people, in the warm and beautiful church that is St Mary's Jackfield, set the scene for a great afternoon of music on Saturday 18th October.

First to perform was Jonny Owens, with three contrasting classical Spanish guitar solos. Saxon Fire woke us all up with their amazing playing that echoed from the rooftop, scoring very high on both artistic merit and technical excellence. There were breaks for drinks and cake, for a tribute to Bobbie Jarvis, lately departed, to whom Sally had dedicated the whole afternoon, and for flute solos from two senior AbDabs (Haberdashers Abraham Darby School) pupils. The talent that AbDabs has nurtured over decades is awe-inspiring, and we wish

the young people every reward in their careers. Also to commemorate Bobbie, the audience, accompanied by Fr Justin on the organ, sang two verses of "How Great Thou Art".

Throughout the afternoon the applause was as loud as the music – everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously. Huge thanks to Revd Lynda, to Richard and Patti for welcoming the Hat again, and to Patti for painting the poster (pictured) and publicising the event – we look forward to coming back next year, and to hearing the organ when it is in full voice after its restoration!

The Hat will be back on the road in 2026 with more astonishing musicians in beautiful churches.



Chetton News

Sheila Millington writes:

Church services in November

✝ Sunday 30th November – Group Holy Communion

Flowers and Cleaning – Jill and Nick.

Just a few dates for your diaries this month.

On Friday 7th November we are holding a **Wine & Canapés evening** at the Hills, the Down, kind permission of David and Anne Mottershead. £12.50 per person, 7.30pm. Please come along and join us as this will be a lovely informal evening, and meet up with friends and neighbours. Let Sheila, Lisa or Anne know if you'd like to join us.

On Thursday 20th November, Lisa is hosting a coffee morning at Church House, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bric a brac, raffle etc. We look forward to seeing you for coffee/tea & cakes!

Chetton Village Hall

Flicks in the Sticks

On **Thursday 6th November**,

we are showing 'Blue Hawaii' starring Elvis Presley and Angela Lansbury, on Thursday 6th November at 7.30 pm, doors open at 7pm. This is a request from a regular attendee and we hope it will appeal to Elvis fans.

Tickets can now be booked on-line at www.artsalive.co.uk.

We also have

- a Sound Bath on the afternoon of Saturday 29th November, and
- a regular indoor cricket session for the disabled on Tuesdays at 5pm.

Denise Knightley writes:

Join Jo to make your own mini booklet.

Something mindful to help you relax after the Christmas rush! All materials provided, free of charge. Monday 29th December 10am-12pm. Refreshments provided. Just drop in, but if you do need any further information please email Jo at:

cottagecraftsjos@gmail.co



St Giles's Hundred Club

October

- £15.00 Sylvia Collins no 78
- £10.00 Bianca Chambers, no 44

November

- £15.00 Charlotte Meehan, no 17
- £10.00 Mo Verney no 73

'The Elderly Brothers' evening was a huge success, many thanks to Chris for always providing a splendid bar and Sylvia and team in the kitchen and to all who contributed to a very enjoyable event. **Over £500** was raised to help keep our village hall in good order.



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.
- 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.

Burwarton & District Gardening Club

Off to a good start...

What a wonderful start to the gardening club year. The village hall was warm and welcoming with an air of excitement, the speakers were very entertaining and it was lovely to have new members joining us.

Coast to coast by gardens ... by car, with Jill and Alun Whitehead was the first of our visiting speakers' talks. The virtual trip began in Tenby, South Wales in Manorbier Castle with its small garden benefitting from the castle walls as its backdrop. We then moved on to Dyffryn Fernant, a most inspiring garden and one



that I noted as a 'must visit' next time we are in South Wales.

Moving east, the next garden was Aberglasney which has a restored Elizabethan Cloister Garden that is the only example of its kind in the UK today. It also has an impressive yew tunnel and a 250-year-old woodland with stunning ferns and meconopsis. It became clear at this point in the talk that Jill, in particular, was also interested in the sculptures that can be seen in many of the gardens on this tour. This was evident in our next garden in Abergavenny; The Pant which had an enormous stone turtle and rusted metal fish swimming through lavender.

We then hopped over the border into Herefordshire, to

Lyndalls Garden near Ross on Wye. This two acre garden was created from bare fields and is now renowned for its displays of over six hundred types of snowdrops. We then visited Bryan's Ground before stopping off at Aulden Farm, Jill and Alun's home and garden with its many sculptures and impressive displays of irises for which they are well known.

Moving on into Worcestershire, we came to Stone House Cottage Garden, a beautiful, romantic walled garden with numerous brick-built follies. It is apparently home to one of the largest collections of rare plants in the country, so another garden for that list of places to visit on a Saturday afternoon! Along the way we stopped off (virtually) at Packwood House, Broughton Grange and Upton House, before reaching Thenford Arboretum, a four-acre walled garden owned by Michael and Anne Heseltine. This is a stunning garden which surprisingly houses a 7.5-tonne statue of Lenin! Continuing our journey eastwards we visited Rousham, Coton Manor, The Manor at Hemingford Grey, Chippenham Park Gardens, Fuller's Mill, East and Ruston, Benton End, before finishing our garden tour at The Beth Chatto Gardens, one of the loveliest gardens in the UK. As the talk was coast to coast, our final place was not a garden but Aldeburgh on the east coast which has many fascinating gardens and is a lovely seaside town in which to take in the sea air after an exhausting three-hundred-and-fifty-mile tour.



If you wish to join us, our next speaker will be Katie Briggs Thomas who will be telling us how she went from 'Lady Gardener to Flower Farmer'. The meeting will be held at Stoke St Milborough Village Hall at 2.00pm on Thursday 13th November. If you would like more information about our gardening club, then contact Bev Harris on burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com or 07933724728.



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 01746-861121 (home)

Revd Angie Forster, Assistant Curate.

St Mary, Highley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Carl Hinkinson	St Mary, Billingsley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant
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Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

The next **Breakfast at The Down** will be on Saturday 22nd November at 9:00 am. **Please let Marion know** if you wish to attend, so that Steve at the pub can be given the correct numbers!!



The new heating in church was used for the first time at our September service and it made a big difference to the building; it is a novel experience to be warm in church! This was also our harvest festival; the church was beautifully decorated, and we had over 25 people in the congregation, with fine refreshments afterwards. Many thanks to all who helped.

By the time this article appears we will have had our October service, so our next service will be **Remembrance on 9th November, starting in church at 10.15** and then moving to the war memorial at 10.45 for the 11:00 am silence. Because of this, there will be no communion service the following Sunday.

The normal pattern of services on the third Sunday of the month at 10:00 am resumes on **21st December, which will also be our carol service.**

Revd Poyner, writing for Glazeley PCC, says

We were very sad to hear of the death of Bobbie Jarvis. Although Bobbie was technically in a different benefice than ourselves in Glazeley, with her leadership of the Wheatland News I am sure we are not alone in thinking that she did more to bring parishes together than any number of initiatives from on high.

Rest in peace, Bobbie, and rise in glory.

Billingsley News

Revd David Poyner writes:

Ellen McConnell held a very successful coffee afternoon in early August for the church. This raised **£520** which is most welcome money. However, equally important was that it attracted a lot of people from Billingsley and the neighbouring parishes, as well as former congregation members Bonnie and Mike Garvey and Sue Bates, who came from further afield. It is very important that we bring people together.

Revd David Poyner – please note new phone numbers:

Tel 0980-100-9693 or 01746-861121

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

The PCC met in September: this was mostly to discuss routine business but we planning to hold a social event in the orchard next to the church in the Spring, involving refreshments and a local history exhibition.

I hope there will be a brief commemoration of Billingsley's fallen in the church on **Remembrance Sunday, 9th November at 11am**. Otherwise our next service by the time this is published will be our **8:00 am communion on the fourth Sunday of the month, 23rd November.**

Molecule of the Month: Dopamine

Dr James Barwell, Revd David Poyner's former PhD student, and now the Business Development Manager at the Ellison Institute of Technology, Oxford, writes:



If molecules had celebrity status, dopamine would be the one everyone's talking about. Sometimes called the "*pleasure chemical*," this little neurotransmitter has a big reputation for making us feel good — but that's only part of its story. In fact, dopamine is less of a one-trick party chemical and more of a multitasking manager, juggling roles across the brain and body.

At its core, dopamine is a neurotransmitter — a messenger that neurons use to talk to each other. Instead of floating around aimlessly, dopamine moves along specialized circuits in the brain. Some of these pathways are about *reward*: when you bite into chocolate cake or finish a tough puzzle, dopamine helps signal that something enjoyable has happened. That's how the brain learns to repeat good things.

But dopamine isn't just about happiness. It also plays vital roles in attention, motivation, memory, and movement. In fact, without dopamine, your body would have a tough time executing even the simplest physical actions.

Step outside the brain, and dopamine still gets plenty of work done. It helps regulate blood pressure, supports kidney function, and even influences digestion. Think of it as a multi-talented professional who can't quite stick to one job description. Too much or too little in the wrong place, though, and trouble starts.

Medical science knows dopamine best through its absence. Parkinson's disease, for example, occurs when dopamine-producing neurons in the brain start dying, leading to tremors and difficulty moving. Treatments often focus on boosting dopamine signalling to help restore motor control. On the other end of the spectrum, too much dopamine activity is linked to psychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia, where perception and thought can become unmoored from reality.

Balance is everything. Dopamine isn't "good" or "bad" — it's about how much, where, and when.

Here's where dopamine gets truly interesting: it doesn't just signal pleasure, it signals *anticipation* of pleasure. That distinction makes it a key player in behaviours like gambling. Slot machines and betting apps keep people hooked because dopamine surges not when the jackpot hits, but when there's uncertainty about whether it might. That thrill of possibility can override rational thinking, sometimes leading to addiction.

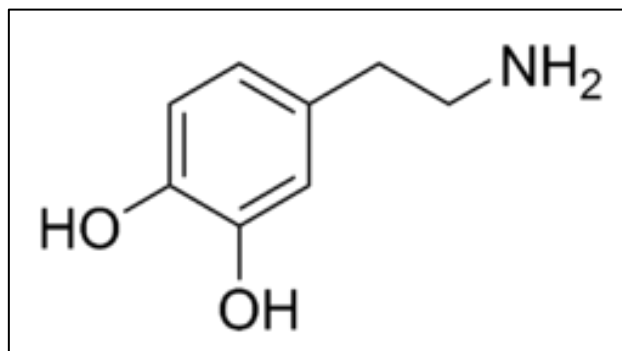
The same principle applies to modern life — scrolling endlessly through social media, chasing notifications, or buying lottery tickets. Each unpredictable reward keeps our brains wired in. Dopamine, in this sense, sits at the crossroads of neuroscience and sociology.

Dopamine is a reminder that biology and behaviour are deeply intertwined.

It gives us the drive to pursue goals, the joy of success, and the kick to try again after failure.

So the next time you feel that little buzz of excitement when your team scores, you can thank dopamine. Just don't let it run the show — even star molecules need a director!

JB



The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: the post is currently vacant so please contact the relevant Church Warden or Parish rep		
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 – 01746-718475</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 01746-789420</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		

November message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 24

At time of writing the clocks have yet to revert to GMT/UT but by the time you read this that will have happened and the feeling that we are lurking on the grey margins of winter will have been replaced by a real sense of arrival in that season albeit that meteorological autumn lasts until the end of November, (thanks to the Met office website for these details).

The sense in the air alters marginally every day as we ease into cooler seasons. Daylight length reduces up to the shortest day on the 21st December when daylight length will be 5 hours and 48 minutes.... if you live on Shetland!

As Advent and Christmas are now on the horizon this edition of the Stottesdon Benefice part of the Wheatland News covers services and events up to that time to help your planning for the festive season.

There is nothing to report on the recruitment of the new Rector so maybe some news next month.... 'Mills of God' etc.

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

- Cherish and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here - the Church Wardens, the parish reps and the members of the PCCs. Pray for them.
- Remember to thank the volunteer visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship and other services as needed'.

Stottesdon PCC

From the Parish Register:

- 9th October – Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of David King. R I P.

Services for November in the Stottesdon Churches

	Celebrant	Stottesdon – 10:30 am	Other parishes
Sunday 2 nd November	Revd David Poyner	Morning Prayer	Farlow 9:00 am – Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th November	Fr Justin Bailey	Holy Communion	Cleeton St Mary 9:00 am - Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th November	AD Fiona Gibson	Stottesdon – 10:30 am – Holy Communion Group Service	
Sunday 23 rd November	Fr Justin Bailey	Holy Communion	Silvington 9:00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th November	Ann Constable	Stottesdon – 10:30 am – Group Service	
Sunday 7 th December	Revd Neil Dunlop	Morning Prayer	Farlow 9:00 am – Holy Communion

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.

Christmas Services – as announced so far

- ✝ **Stottesdon Carol Service** – 11th December with Val Smith at 7:00 pm
- ✝ **Cleeton St Mary** – 17th December time at 7:00 pm
- ✝ **Farlow** - Carol Service 18th December 6.30pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
- ✝ **Silvington** – Carol Service with mince pies and mulled wine – 21st December at 6:30 pm
- ✝ **Sidbury** - Christmas Service 22nd December with David Poyner at 6.30pm
- ✝ **Middleton Scriven** - Christmas Service 24th December with Ann Constable at 6.30pm



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 juliaevans278@gmail.com

Wheatland News –the deadline for the December 2025 + January 2026 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Julia (PCC) by first thing on Friday 21st November 2025. Thank you

Stottesdon and District WI

Debbie Haynes, President, Stottesdon & District WI, writes:



On Thursday 9th October some of our WI members met at Wenlock Abbey for a private tour from Gabrielle Drake (De Wet)

Luckily it was a dry day and all 20 of us (some partners too!) met outside the main gates of Wenlock Abbey.

We were given a brief history from local historian Vivien Bellamy. She told us that the remains we see today were built in the 15th century and were a new wing for the Prior to live in. The Prior would have entertained guests in the great hall; he had an adjoining chamber with a kitchen below and accommodation for the apothecary.

We were then welcomed by Gabrielle Drake (*pictured above right*), who with her late husband, Louis De Wet, bought Wenlock Abbey in 1983. She told us how it had been both a difficult and fulfilling experience and that they had both enjoyed restoring the Abbey. Louis De Wet was an artist and we experienced his artwork in his studio and throughout the rest of the building.

Wenlock Abbey was obviously a labour of love for both of



them, and although Louis De Wet died in 2018, Gabrielle is determined to continue to restore and maintain the abbey as her husband would have wanted.

We all enjoyed our unique tour - and of course it ended with tea and homemade cake!

And on Wednesday 15th October we held our monthly WI meeting at Farlow village hall.

We had the privilege of a talk from John Wood (*pictured right* - Head gardener at Hampton Court Castle, Herefordshire). John explained that roses have been with us for 4000 years and there are 140 wild species. The older roses weren't as bright in colour; the reds were pinker. We then imported roses from China which had been adapted on to be more colourful. In 1950 David Austin started breeding roses in Shropshire and wanted to bring back some of the old-style roses: they are in all garden centres now!

John gave us tips on how to prune and plant roses, and we all learned a lot. Of course, we



finished our evening with a raffle, tea and homemade cakes!

If anyone fancies joining WI, please contact Debbie Haynes on 07780-113869, who will gladly answer any questions and give you more information.

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at either Chorley or Farlow Village Hall at 7:30 pm.



The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon - Update

Roger Cook writes:

St Mary's Stottesdon hosted a village meeting on 22nd October to address concerns that the Fighting Cocks pub remains closed following the tragic fire in July. Some sixty folk braved the dark evening to examine what could be done to preserve this precious village resource.

The outcome was an agreement that the meeting would invite the Parish Council to apply for Asset of Community Value status for the pub. This is a planning tool which recognises the special value of buildings which provide particular benefits to the community around them. If granted it would maintain for five years, not least as a sign of the village's continued commitment to its fine local hostelry.

Any questions? please contact Roger Cook at rogerbcook@btinternet.com

Sidbury News

Revd David Poyner and Andrew Sierakowski write:

A DIY Working Party was held at the Church over the last weekend of September. A new bell rope was fitted; plans were made for checking the electrics, the door was eased, and bulbs were planted down the drive. The party was well supported by the village: we are very grateful to all who helped.

The next day was apple pressing day at Hall Farm: it was pleasant to sit and chat, drinking the freshly-extracted apple juice and watching as others worked hard to make it possible.....

For Remembrance Sunday, on 9th November, there will be a very brief Act of Remembrance. This will be held next to the soldier sculpture, at the start of the drive to the church at 10:55 am. Should it rain heavily, we will be in church. If you have anyone, fallen or currently serving in the Armed Forces whom you wish us to name, please get in touch with either Andrew Sierakowski or myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk, tel 0780-100-9693).

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

✝ Sunday 9th November – 9:00 am – Holy Communion

✝ Wednesday 17th December – Carol service, with raffle, mince pies and drinks to follow!

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

Farlow & Oretton News

Caroline Billson writes:

Our thanks to everyone who attended the Harvest Service on Sunday 5th October. A fun-filled Auction took place afterwards raising **£437.**

✝ The **Carol Service at Farlow Church** will be on Thursday 18th December at 6:30 pm.

We look forward to your support at the **Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November** at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall. There will be many stalls selling arts, crafts and local produce etc. Please come along and buy a raffle ticket and enjoy our refreshments. Doors open at 10:30 am to 14:30 pm.

100-Club Winners

- £20 Gordon and Ellen Jackson - 17
- £10 to Marion Jones – 20 and to Debbie - 96
- £5 to Angela Jones – 03 and to Rachael & Bill Brown - 84

Silvington

Katie Hickman writes:

✝ Sunday 21st December, 6:30 pm – Carol Service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Church services

✝ Sunday 30th November – 10:30 am: Informal worship

✝ Sunday 24th December – 6:30 pm: Christmas carols



Community Harvest celebration

Thank you to everyone who supported our celebration. It was another fun evening together in our community space. A special mention goes to those preparing the delicious supper: Sally Yates and Kate Teagle in

particular. Thank you to all those donating raffle prizes, bringing desserts and helping with the set up and on the evening.

The "Quiz Master" made everyone laugh a great deal at the Harvest Quiz!



Severn Hospice Coffee Morning

Ann and John Williamson write:

Thank you everyone that came to the Severn Hospice Coffee Morning at Damson House, Middleton Scriven on 8th October, to all those who brought items, bought items and worked hard on the day to make it a truly worthwhile event which raised **£1526.40** which was a fantastic amount. Like all charities, times are getting harder to raise funds so your generosity is very much appreciated. Last year, almost 3,000 local families living with incurable illness received free care both in the hospice and at home. **Thank you so much for your continued support.**

Community coffee mornings in church – 10:00 am until 12 noon

- Saturday 8th November
- Saturday 13th December - plus Christmas Bake sale

Community Notice Board

Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

Please see the report from Tina Ranson, Chair, which appears on page 10 of this WN.

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



Overwintering reptiles and amphibians

Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries are great places to find both amphibians and reptiles. These two groups include frogs, toads, newts, lizards and snakes. The first three can come as a surprise as burial grounds rarely have ponds in them but actually, frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their time on land and really use ponds mainly for breeding and laying spawn. Amphibians (frogs, toads and newts) and reptiles (lizards and snakes) all hibernate, except for some individuals in particularly mild winters, and whilst some amphibians may overwinter within ponds, most find a suitable spot on land.

Both amphibians and reptiles need to overwinter in places that are frost-free and unlikely to flood. They need to be protected from predators and from disturbance. This might be within the soil, perhaps using a crack caused by grave subsidence or beneath tree roots, under stones and grave kerbs, inside a chest tomb with a suitable hole or wide crack to clamber in, between the stones of a wall, under a pile of leaves or in a pile of deadwood. Woodland soil, with shade and leaves can be particularly good.

One of the differences between amphibians and reptiles is in their skin. Amphibians have smooth skin which can look velvety or have a bumpy, warty texture. Their skin is permeable which means they can dry out. When on land, they need to keep moist, so will overwinter in a damp and shady spot, often under leaves or deadwood. Reptiles have scales and impermeable skin so don't need a damp spot and may use compost heaps as well as cracks in walls and monuments. Amphibian skin can also pick up chemicals easily, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers can be fatal, again making burial grounds, with their lack of chemicals, particularly suitable. N.B. you may see coloured frogs that have picked up the colour of the soil where they overwinter, these can be quite brightly coloured red, orange or yellow.

Try to imagine that you are an amphibian or reptile and take a good look around your local churchyard or cemetery and you'll probably see that it's full of good spots to hibernate. You can increase these however. How about making a dead hedge or pile of deadwood in a shady spot? Do you have a compost heap? Try not to empty it after the end of October in case it's in use for overwintering. Tussocks of coarse grass and grassland plants like hogweed, particularly when next to a wall are favoured by slow worms, probably the most common reptile found in burial grounds. Shrubs and scrub often offer suitable nooks and crannies at their base.

By November it's likely that amphibians and reptiles will be tucked safely away, although the timing does depend on the temperature in a particular year, but it's nice to know that they might be there awaiting the warmer weather of spring.

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials.

Use the discount code **diomem22**

Look after our Hedgehogs before Bonfire Night!

Sue Crichton writes:

What comes to mind when you think of the hedgehog? Is it Mrs Tiggywinkle, the hedge pig, the furze pig or, if you are of a Shakespearean mind - the urchin? In British folklore these delightful little creatures were deemed wise and benevolent and associated with good fortune. This is a good reason as any to help preserve them, as sadly there has been a substantial decline in their numbers over the last 50 years.

Here are a few facts about hedgehogs which might surprise you:

- After mating, the male hedgehog doesn't stick around. The females are left with all the work bringing up the hoglets! A female usually gives birth to around four or five hoglets at a time and, because hedgehogs are generally very promiscuous, each litter may have several different fathers.
- Hedgehogs are born with their spines under a layer of fluid-filled skin. The fluid is then absorbed, and the spines appear.
- Hedgehogs don't have a flight or fight response. This is one of the few animal species that you can actually get really close to!
- They frown before they curl into a ball. When a hedgehog is first nervous it frowns and it brings the spines forward over its eyes and its nose.
- Hedgehogs can be pretty speedy when they want to be. They actually have very long legs and can run really fast!
- Whenever a hedgehog comes across a pungent smell, they'll chew on the source of the odour and then spread the sticky saliva over their spines. It is assumed that it's to mask their own smell from predators.
- Humans are the greatest threat to the hedgehog. They get tangled up in nets such as fine netting in gardens and football nets, they can just get trapped and die. It's a question of lifting that stuff up away from the ground where they can get tangled up in. Research also shows that some robotic lawnmowers can hurt and kill hedgehogs. It is advised not leaving them running at night when the animals are active.
- Hedgehogs can roam up to 2km every night seeking food

How you can help conserve hedgehogs in your garden and on your land?

- Slug pellets these are poisonous and should not be used - other garden pesticides are best not used or used sparingly - you never know what other creatures they might kill or make ill
- Ponds and swimming pools can be death traps to mammals make sure there are gently sloping slipways to allow animals to escape and make sure covers are put on swimming pools every night.
- Cattle grids or other deep holes such as drainage trenches – install a hedgehog ramp!
- Hedgehogs are inquisitive and will try and eat almost anything so do remove litter and keep bags of rubbish for collection above the ground – hedgehogs have been found with their heads stuck in tins and yoghurt pots!
- Provide a 5-inch x 5-inch hole at the base of your garden fence to allow access
- When tidying the garden be careful that you don't injure hedgehogs by strimming or mowing and clearing up piles of leaves
- Never feed hedgehogs on milk! Fresh water and meaty cat or dog food is OK.

For Bonfire Night!!! Hedgehogs hibernate from November and a pile of wood is an ideal hibernation spot! It's ideal to build the bonfire just before you light it or if this isn't possible light from one side to allow an escape route for anything you have missed!



The British Hedgehog Preservation Society has its 'hedgequarters' at Hedgehog House Dhustone Ludlow SY8 3PL. There is a wealth of information on their website www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk. They work in partnership with the People's Trust for Endangered Species <https://ptes.org> - worth viewing for great content.



A Remembrance journey through France

Anni Calver writes:

November signifies Remembrance, the capital 'R' conjuring up the red poppies which are already on sale. This year it takes me back to August which may sound a bit odd but let me explain.

My summer included looking after three grandsons (aged 8, 10 and 12) which involved staying in France for a few days before driving down to Northern Spain, heading to Santander where my daughter, their aunt, lives with her family. The cousins had a great time together and we celebrated the birthday of Oliver, my eldest grandchild, in a lovely restaurant across the bay. All too soon, it was time to return to France for the rest of our holiday.

We drove north again to the town of St Junien to stay overnight. The following morning, we headed off to the nearby large village of Oradour-sur-Glane. This is a very special place and a very emotional place to visit. It remains exactly as the German soldiers left it on the 10th June 1944. We had told the story to the boys, but the reality was impossible to convey.



You enter the site between two walls, each covered in pictures of the people who died that day. The barbarity of war comes home quite quickly looking at photos of real children, babies, one only 8 days old. The adults reminded us that these were people experiencing war but smiling for the cameras! My grandsons were shocked!

We strolled through the site, many buildings destroyed on the day and now 80 years of neglect leaves it like a strange museum. The boys were fascinated by rotting cars. I was moved by the old sewing machines rusting in the tailor's shop - just like grandma used to have. The remains of a pram haunt me now.

On the day, the men and women were separated. The schoolteachers took the children to the square when told to by their captors. The men were distributed in small groups around the village. The women and children were taken to the church.

At exactly 4pm an explosion was heard, and

the killing began. The men were shot, and then their bodies were set on fire. At 5pm the soldiers set a box that created smoke in the church. Some women ran to the door only to be met by machine guns, forcing them back inside. The church was set on fire and all inside died. 642 people, human beings like you and me, died on that day. The 200 German soldiers marched away when their 'job' was finished.

General de Gaulle wanted to preserve the ruins of Oradour, so they might bear witness to mankind of the consequences of the barbarity of war. They have been left and some preservation is taking place. My Remembrance Day this year has even more meaning.



Anni Holden Calver, Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG)
www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre and Churchyard Task Team cheerleader!
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Anni has given permission for these photos, including images of her grandchildren, to be used with her article. The spot on the map (top right), NW of Limoges, marks the very approximate location of Oradour-sur-Glane

Wheatland Diary

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

Thur	6	Nov		Fireworks! At the Pheasant, Neenton – from 5:00 pm - see page 14
Thur	6	Nov		“Blue Hawaii” – Flicks in the Sticks, Chetton VH – see page 15
Fri	7	Nov		Wine and Canapes Evening – The Hills’, The Down, Chetton – see page 15
Sat	8	Nov		Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 11
Sat	8	Nov		Open Day at Ditton Priors History Centre, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – see page 10
Sat	8	Nov		Ditton Priors Firework Party – from 6:00 pm, - see page 12
Sat	8	Nov		Coffee morning – Middleton Scriven Church – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon – see page 23
Wed	12	Nov		Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Fused Glass Making
Thur	13	Nov		Burwarton & District Gardening Club, Stoke St Milborough V H – 2:00 pm – see page 16
Thur	20	Nov		Coffee Morning, Church House, Chetton, 10:00 am – see page 15
Sat	22	Nov		Farlow & Oretton Christmas Fayre and Tabletop Sale – see page 22
Sat	22	Nov		Classic Car Memorial Event – Cleobury North VH – see page 13
Sat	22	Nov		Breakfast at The Down – 9:00 am – numbers to Marion please - see page 17
Thur	27	Nov		Ditton Priors switches on the Christmas Lights – see page 11
Fri	28	Nov		Julia’s Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon
Sat	29	Nov		Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am – see page 11
Sat	29	Nov		Sound Bath – Chetton VH – see page 15
Sun	30	Nov		Wreath Arranging Workshop – Cleobury North VH – see page 13
Tue	2	Dec		Coffee Morning, 10:30am, Old Rectory, Cleobury North – see page 13
Sat	6	Dec		Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 11
Wed	10	Dec		Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Christmas Festivities
Sat	12	Dec		Choirs concert, Ditton Priors VH – see page 11
Sat	13	Dec		Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall
Sat	13	Dec		Chetton Heritage Museum open day – Lower Cockshut Farm, WV16 6RF.
Sat	13	Dec		Wreath making – Ditton Priors Pavilion, 10:00 am – see page 12
Sat	13	Dec		Coffee morning – Middleton Scriven Church – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon – see page 23
Fri	19	Dec		Carols on the Street – Brown Clee Young Farmers – see page 10
Sun	21	Dec		Aston Botterell Christmas Extravaganza Carol Service – see page 13
Sun	21	Dec		Christmas table Arrangement Workshop – Cleobury North VH – see page 13
Mon	29	Dec		Make a mini-booklet! Chetton VH, 10:00 – 12 noon – see page 15
Tue	6	Jan	13	SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE FOR YOUR 2026 WHEATLAND NEWS!!! See back cover of this edition.
Wed	14	Jan		Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall -Games Night
Tue	20	Jan		Brown Clee Medical Practice PPG Open Meeting – Ditton Priors VH - see page 10
Sat	24	Jan		‘Not Socks Again!’ coffee morning, Ditton Priors VH, 10:30 am – see page 11
Sat	30	Jan		Trivia Quiz Challenge, Ditton Priors Pavilion, 7:00 pm – see page 12
Sat	7	Feb		Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 11
Wed	11	Feb		Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Decoupage
Sat	7	Mar		Coffee morning, St John’s Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome – see page 11
Wed	11	Mar		Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Midlands Air Ambulance

Your Wheatland News Subscription for 2026!

WHEATLAND NEWS

December 2025 - January 2026



News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

Annual Renewal Subscription for 2026 and 11 issues of quality printed paper copies at £18 which is the same cost as in 2025 and indeed held since 2023. The free online copy will continue as at present.

We would like to ask you subject to all the rules about GDPR and data safety to provide us with more information going forward so that we know the names of our many subscribers and from whom you receive your monthly copies in our very effective distribution network managed by so many able volunteers.

Plus, we would ask that you all pay us by Bank Transfer the sum of £18 for 2026 before Epiphany on 6th January 2026 - Twelfth Night for eleven issues.

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The new committee running the Wheatlands News are keen to maintain the circulation of the paper hard copies, because we like you enjoy reading them and relaxing over a cup of coffee, just as the members of the past committee advised.

With your help we will get to know the 200 subscribers and where you are living. Our aim to continue to provide information about forthcoming events and services and as far as possible we are keen to have your reports and feedback from those events the following month. Pictures are always welcome and should be sent to your Co-Ordinator, details at foot of the Editorial page.

A paper A4 insert will be provided with the December 2025 edition and this will ask for your name & address PLUS email address and phone numbers and the name of the distributor from whom you receive the magazine. If you would like to make any additional donations in memory of our two past members, please let us know and we will seek Gift Aid on such donations if applicable. You may recognise this page appearing once adapted as a flyer.

The postal address for the Wheatlands News will be Church House , Chetton , Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6UF.

Thank you for your support and we hope that you will help us to maintain this Wheatlands News as a fitting and living memorial to those who went ahead

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July 2025



Commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death of the last of the Plantagenets on the 19th July - a special service - page 10

News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

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June 2025



Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the rebuilding of St Bartholomew's Church, Bridgnorth

News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

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May 2025



The Feast of St Hilary's Church, Stifford, Shropshire, 12th October

News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

WHEATLAND NEWS

April 2025



News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

WHEATLAND NEWS

March 2025



News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley

WHEATLAND NEWS

February 2025



News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes around Driftn Priory, Stifford and Highley