

Wheatland News



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July 2026

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



Editorial

July 15th is St. Swithun's Day. Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from his consecration on 30 October 852 until his death on 2 July 863. Swithun was initially buried outdoors, rather than in his cathedral, apparently at his own request. In 971 it was decided to move his body to a new indoor shrine, and according to legend a heavy shower on the day of the move was the saint marking his displeasure towards those moving his remains.

The legend now goes that if it rains on Saint Swithun's bridge in Winchester, it will continue to rain for 40 days and 40 nights:

*"St. Swithun's day, if it does rain,
Full forty days, it will remain.
St. Swithun's day, if it be fair,
For forty days, 'twill rain no more."*

I expect you all to actively support National Ice Cream Day on July 19th and was it really 57 years ago now that in July, on the 20th, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon? There are several articles and notification of talks about history in this edition, but unfortunately nothing on ice cream.

There is a talk in Trinity Church, Sidbury, about Horton cemetery in Epsom on the 18th of July where 9,000 people, all residents of mental health hospitals, are buried in unmarked graves. There is also an article looking back on the year when Freda Morris first joined the Stottesdon and Sidbury parish council at the start of her 40 years of service to the community. There is also a very interesting article on King Athelstan the first king of all England. On the Back Page you'll find details to the Battle of Shrewsbury re-enactment on the weekend of 25th/26th July.

Given the news coverage and the tragic survival rates, please read David's article on Ebola and current and future vaccines to try to combat the disease.

Is ivy really a blessing or a problem, whatever you think read the article on ivy before you judge it too harshly.

Please read the Brown Clee Primary School sporting successes, a small school has had big results.

There are several village events taking place in July. The Stottesdon Primary School and church annual fete is on the 3rd July at the school and the next "Messy Church" will be held at the school on Friday 10th July. There is an Open Garden in Oretton on the 25th.

In Billingsley there is a visit from the Caring for God's acre team on the 8th July to cut grass and hedgerows to encourage wildlife, and on the 12th July there is a special Shetlands evening service at the church.

On Tuesday 7th at the Ditton Priors Village Hall the local history group have a speaker on old maps of Shropshire and on Friday 10th also at the Hall the Of One Accord choir has a concert to raise funds for Alzheimer's Society.

There is a Daddy's Hat at St. Michaels and All Angels' church in Aston Botterell in the afternoon of Saturday 18th.

I'm going to try to get to some of these, please do try to support these local events.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAILED COPY OF THE WHEATLAND NEWS PLEASE READ THE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 34, EMAILED COPIES WILL CEASE AFTER THE AUGUST EDITION

Wheatland News Local Coordinators

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

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **August 2026** edition of WN to the **Local Coordinators or the EDITOR** will be **noon on Monday 20th July 2026**. Due to editing and printing deadlines, late submissions **CANNOT** be included and will be sent back to the submitter for inclusion in the following month's edition.

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July's Reflection



There is the odd night when I find it difficult to get to sleep and in the half light of night my eyes can play tricks on me. Even though I know that what I am looking at in the full light of day is a bowl with a plant in it, at night it can take the form of a small boat with people on board.

Our eyes and brain make sense of the image because we have the benefit of seeing what it actually is rather than what it appears to be in the night.

It has been important in my own Christian formation to allow my mind to wonder, to let things become other than what they are. That is not to say that should be the dominant factor in who I am but the ability to dream and allow space for my

imagination to take hold for a while is important.

The world we live in does not encourage this and yet many artists, poets and creative writers have used this place to produce some of their best work. I enjoy my time with my thoughts and reflections to consider the unknowable nature of God, whilst he is with us and we with him we cannot ever really know God.

There are many examples in the bible of the unknowable nature of God, the prophet Isaiah says of God:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways” declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
(Isaiah 55.8-9)

Also, Paul says in his epistle to the Romans:

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
(Romans 11.33)

Our God is beyond our comprehension and our understanding; his wisdom is often unfathomable to the likes of you and me.

In our lives the darkness can be frightening and intimidating without an anchor or something that we can see to give us a firm footing. But it can also be a place for us to be still and conjure up within ourselves our dreams, hopes, possibilities and maybe see something new or different.

Our lives are not in our control and so quickly what seems permanent can be transient and we must reevaluate who we are and where we are heading but we do not need to hold on to Jesus because he is there in the light and the dark and will lead us through life.

This is captured beautifully in the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins a Christian who spent some years as a lay missionary in India.

And I say 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 better than light – and safer than a known way”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.

One of the most popular passages at a wedding is from Paul's first letter to the early church in Corinth, 1 Corinthians 13, it ends:

“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then shall we see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am full known.”

Lord, we pray that we may move closer to you day by day and not be afraid of the darkness in our lives, knowing that you are ever present wherever we may be.

Amen

Brown Clee group of Parishes



Brown Clee Benefice

Rector – Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ

01746-599217 07872-464276

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www.browncleebenefice.org

www.facebook.com/browncleechurches

**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

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CHURCHWARDEN:

Sheila Millington: 01746-
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**SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury
North**

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676
Jane Bufton: 07716-877421

All Saints', Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN:

Dot Cartwright: 07854-
559474

Brown Clee Services for July 2026:

Sunday 28th June. The Fourth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Cleobury North
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Rev Joe Simons	Loughton

Sunday 5th July. The Fifth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Aston Botterell

Sunday 12th July. The Sixth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Joe Simons	Chetton

Sunday 19th July. The Seventh Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Val Smith	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Val Smith	Neenton

Sunday 26th July. The Eighth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Joe Simons	Cleobury North
5.00pm	Songs of Praise & Bar-B-Que	Rev Joe Simons	Wheathill

Sunday 2nd August. The Ninth Sunday after Trinity. (Green)

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Joe Simons	Aston Botterell

Brown Clee Readings for June 2026

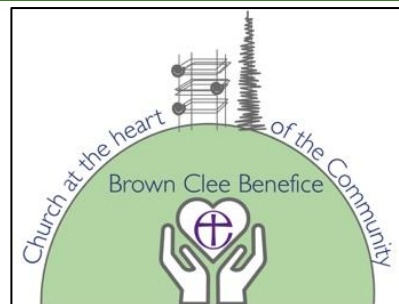
Sunday 28th June The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalm 89. 1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28. 5-9; Romans 6. 12-end; Matthew 10. 40-end.
Sunday 5th July The Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalm 145. 8-15; Genesis 24. 34-38, 42-49, 58-end; or Zechariah 9. 9-12; Romans 7. 15-25a; Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end.
Sunday 12th July The Sixth Sunday after Trinity. The Battle of the Boyne.	Green	Psalm 65 (or 65. 8-end); Genesis 25. 19-end; or Isaiah 55. 10-13; Romans 8. 1-11; Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23.
Sunday 19th July The Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalm 86. 11-end; Genesis 28. 10-19a; or Wisdom 12. 13, 16-19; or Isaiah 44. 6-8; Romans 8. 12-25; Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43.
Sunday 26th July The Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalm 119. 129-136; Genesis 29. 15-28; or 1 Kings 3. 5-12; Romans 8. 26-end; Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52.
Sunday 2nd August The Ninth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalm 145. 8-9, 15-end; Genesis 32. 22-31; or Isaiah 55. 1-5; Romans 9. 1-5; Matthew 14. 13-21.



Brown Clee Benefice News

The Benefice is in full swing this summer and we look forward to welcoming you at any of our services and events across the seven churches.

If you would like **'Time for Prayer and Reflection'** during this busy pace of life, then do join us at our gatherings on alternate Thursdays in the Pavilion at Ditton Priors. Please contact the Benefice Office if you would like more information.



On the 30th May the marriage took place of Richard Davies to Lydia Steele at St John the Baptist church in Ditton Priors. It was a wonderful celebration of love and commitment with the weather playing its part in making it such a memorable occasion, as you can see from the photographs.

It was lovely to see the church so full of people and we wish them both a long and happy marriage.



We held a Pet Service in the lovely setting of Wheathill Church on Sunday 31st May. It was very special to bless our pets and the happiness that they give us – and then enjoy the atmosphere and refreshments on a beautiful spring evening.



At the beginning of June, we were delighted to receive £260 from Emma and Charlotte of **Brown Clee Young Farmers Club** following the joint quiz and curry night we had in March. Thank you so much for your generosity.

On Saturday 13th June many of us attended Loughton Garden Party and a special service in Loughton Chapel. Jo and Steve Culley and family had graciously opened up the Hall and grounds (next to the chapel) where we could enjoy a splendid spread of all you could wish to eat on a sunny afternoon. We had always intended to spend a little time in the chapel, but this was turned into an impromptu memorial for Jim Hurford who had died a few days earlier in Arden Grange care home. The procession from the Hall to Chapel was accompanied by music, a violin solo inside and some words from Revd Joe before we all prayed for Jim's soul. It was very moving. Just before Jim died his life story was published. Copies of this are for sale (2 for £5) and if anyone would like copies please do get in touch with the Benefice Office.



Jim Hurford *Revd Joe writes:*

We held a short service of thanks for the life and Christian witness of Jim Hurford a faithful disciple and long-time friend of Loughton church. His service and dedication over many decades to this place of worship has

been a great testimony to his own faith and drive to show this church in the best possible light to both the worshipers and visitors alike.

Over 40 people attended and it felt like a fitting tribute, one which Jim would have loved to have been part of, to a much-loved man whose dedication and commitment are an example to us all.



Do you play the Piano or Organ?

Have you ever considered having a go at playing one of our local church organs to be found here in the Brown Clee Benefice?

We have such lovely instruments in Ditton Priors, Chetton, Aston Botterell and Cleobury North Churches. The regular organist who covers Ditton, Chetton and Aston Botterell is now well past the first flush of youth and although he is keen to continue serving at services and other events for some time yet, there is always the possibility that from time to time he will be unavailable to attend to play.



If you would like to become involved as an organist do contact the Benefice Office (01746 599217) and we will be delighted to show you our lovely pipe organs and let you try them out.

Ditton Priors News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

SERVICES

-  Sunday 28th June. 9.30am. Holy Communion
-  Sunday 5th July. 9.30am. Holy Communion
-  Sunday 12th July. 9.30am. Holy Communion
-  Sunday 19th July. 9.30am. Holy Communion
-  Sunday 26th July. 9.30am. Holy Communion

I'm still on a high from the lovely Fete we had at Loughton last Saturday. - good weather, a delightful setting, good food and cheering music. - surely that's how summer should be!

I had a telephone call this morning from a gentleman in Australia. He had been browsing the website and found my number, wanting to hear about Wheathill's community where he lived many years ago. He last visited 14 years ago to see his brother. He seemed a bit vague about the buildings but remembered the Howells family, and had picked up the info about our Benefice and our Rector. It just shows we don't know who's keeping an eye on us.

PAM'S PLANTS

This sale raised £320 for Church funds. Well done Pam and a big 'Thank You'.

BROWN CLEE SCHOOL FAIR

Saturday 27th June, 12pm onwards

We are hoping to have a Bric- a-Brac stall for Church. Do come and support the event, which sounds to be a very lively day.

FIRST SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Continue in Church 10.30 -12.30 pm on 4th July, 1st August, 5th Sept. and 3rd Oct. There is no charge for this popular community event and all are very welcome.

PIMMS & PUDS

Saturday 4th July, 5pm - 8pm at the Pavilion Ditton Priors. Snacks and nibbles on arrival and Puds served 6-6.30pm. Music by 'Black Eyed Susan's' saxophones.

Tickets £15 from Marjorie (01746 712423) or ask any Church member.

SPONSORED WALK

Saturday 18th July. Starts 11am, From Church. Choose your route (even the day to suit, and to fit in with weather conditions) and return to the Church for a Light Lunch at approx. 12noon. But please get plenty of sponsors. Forms available in Church or from Marjorie.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 26th July 5pm. at Wheathill Church, followed by a Barbecue. This proved most enjoyable last year and we hope for good weather again.

BURWARTON SHOW

Thursday 6th August. Our usual Refreshments Tent near the Village Green with a chance to chat to Revd.Joe. Offers of cakes and sandwiches please and/or help on the stall. (Marjorie 712 423)

TEAS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Thursday 20th August, 3-5pm

Stalls, Raffle, Games, etc.

RIDE & STRIDE

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. - Saturday 12th September.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Saturday 10th October. Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

Saturday 21st November. Christmas Fair in the Pavilion.

JIM HURFORD



We are saddened by the death of our friend Jim, who passed away peacefully on 11th June. Jim was the Churchwarden and the 'life and soul' of Loughton Chapel for many years and it left a huge gap when he retired. In his retirement at Arden Grange Care Home he received many visitors and I know he was very happy there.

May God bless you, Jim, and our love goes with you on your new journey.

JIM'S MEMOIRS

The booklets are now available, and all proceeds will go to Loughton Chapel, which he loved so much. Copies in most Churches or contact the office (01746 599217)

CLEANING ROTA FOR JULY

- Sunday 28th June. Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 5th July. Mrs Debbie Lowe & Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling
- Sunday 12th July. Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 19th July. Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 26th July. Mr & Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 2nd August. Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen

100 Club results for June as follows:

£100. Neil Colebatch

£20. Cliff Guttridge

£10. J. P. Joynson

£5 each to - Janet Preece, Karen Simons, Sue Carpenter.

Flowers in the Church. *Karen Simons writes:*

We love to see the church decorated and a small bunch of flowers can lift the place, making it feel brighter for us and for visitors. If you feel at all able to spare some time and have some flowers that you are willing to share with us (you do not have to be a church 'goer' to help us in this task) then please do get in touch with us in the Benefice Office – Thank you in advance.



The Memorial Garden 'Clean-Up' Group. *Karen Simons writes:*

This is still in the early stages, but I am very pleased with the difference a little bit of work makes to bring this corner of the churchyard back to somewhere people can enjoy. If you are interested in helping out then do let me know on 07748987318. Thank you.

Wheathill and Loughton News *Marjorie Jones writes:*



Sunday 28th June 6pm. Evening Prayer at Loughton



Sunday. 26th July. 5pm. Songs of Praise at Wheathill followed by a Barbecue.



Sunday 16th August 6pm. Holy Communion at Loughton



Sunday. 20th September. 6pm. Holy Communion at Wheathill

PET SERVICE At WHEATHILL

The pet service was a delight and enjoyed by all. - Good behaviour all round and lovely refreshments to follow. Thanks to Joyce and Janet for all their preparations.

LOUGHTON FETE

We had sunshine. - can I say more! The garden at Loughton Hall was a lovely venue and many thanks to Jo and Steve Culley for their hospitality. £437 was raised for funds. Well done everyone!

Aston Botterell News *Anne Preece writes:*



Sunday 5th July. 11.30am, Holy Communion.

We held a breakfast at The Boyne Arms in May which was a lovely turn out as there is so much going on around the Benefice...we don't make fantastic amounts of money, but every little helps.

Our next event is our fete and musical afternoon on Saturday 27th June.



On Sunday 2nd August we are holding a car treasure hunt at 1.30pm from Middle House Farm after our Church Service earlier that morning. Come and have a go, lots of fun and light refreshments afterwards.

We are trying to have a wedding or two in Aston Church as it is looking lovely at the moment and then just a short distant up the road have your reception in The Boyne Arms lovely marquee. I love a church wedding , especially if the sun shines so if anyone is thinking of marriage come and have a look, most welcome.

It was wonderful to see The Hawkstone Farmers choir win Britain's Got Talent for mental health not just in the farming community but in our own areas as well, people feel like they have not got anyone they can talk to, but we are here to visit, talk to you and have a cuppa and chat, never feel that you have no-one .. it is very important to talk .. everyone needs a good friend .

We had some very sad news in our village. Kink and Collin lost their brother-in-law in a drowning accident in their home town of Padstow while saving his grandchild, where he lost his life. How you get over something like that is awful, it was Kinks sisters husband ... it affects so many people, and we hold them all in our hearts while they try to deal with their distraught and loss.



Our condolences also go to Sian on losing her mum who had suffered health problems for a while.

On a happier note I have a Llandudno trip departing from DITTON Priors on Friday, 7th August, please info me if you would like a seat Anne 07966459806. People always ask if I can pick up from DITTON so I thought see how many would like to.

I am delighted to welcome my great granddaughter Freya Mae Phillips born to her parents Luke and Leah Phillips of Oretton, on wed 3rd June, lovely news.

Happy holidays. Thank you all.

Neenton News *Dot Cartwright writes:*



Sunday 19th July, 11.30am Holy Communion

As I'm writing this, we are looking forward to the Neenton Fete and Duck Race on Saturday, and we hope the weather will be kind to us.

We would like to offer thanks to Andy Johnson for auditing Neenton accounts this year.

The tote winners for this quarter are as follows;

- 1st prize Richard Jones
- 2nd prize Charles Gill
- 3rd prize. Harvey Moreton

If anyone still has Christmas wreaths on graves, could you possibly remove them please. Thank you.

The church is in dire need of repairs and electrical replacements, if anyone would like to contribute towards these repairs, please contact Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474.
Thank you.

Chetton News *Shelia Millington writes:*



Sunday July 12th, 11.30am – Morning Worship.

Flowers & cleaning

Jill & Nick.

Hundred club

£15.00 Sue Bayliss - no 75.

£10.00 Rita Lewis - no 11.

Thank you to everyone who attends our Down breakfasts. We are having a summer break in July & August but hope to book the next one in September.



We are holding a coffee morning at Lower Cockshutt Farm on Wednesday 12th August, 10am - 12.30pm. Do come along & join us for coffee, cake & good company, £5.00 entry.

Cleobury North and Burwarton News *Jane Bufton writes:*



Sunday 26th July. 11.30am Morning Worship.

Thank you for everyone who gave so generously to our Bric-a-Brac stall manned at the Aston Botterell Church Fete. All proceeds from the stall were in aid of Cleobury North Church, so were gratefully received.

Flowers and Cleaning - Penny



Friday 31st July. Next date for Julia's Coffee and Chat with lovely cakes at Cleobury North Village Hall between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Do come to join us for this popular get-together.



Advance notice – On Saturday 14th November we are holding a Clothes and Bric-a-Brac sale in Cleobury North Village Hall from 11am to 3pm. Proceeds to the church. Donations are very welcome and Jane will collect – please phone on 07716877421.



The Marriage of Richard John William Davies & Lydia Daisy Steele

Saturday 30th May, at St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors

Funerals



Wednesday 27th May – Mrs Hazel Mary Scott at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury and St. Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell

Tuesday 7th July 7:00pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall

Early Maps of Shropshire Part III: **BRITANNIA!**



Patricia de Haan is back, with a brand new talk!

If you were lucky enough to be at either, or both, of Patricia's previous talks you'll know this is NOT to be missed! So what's it about?...

The 1607 edition of William Camden's **Britannia**, a transformative and historically significant book, was the first to include county maps, including Shropshire.

Patricia will be bringing along the actual 1607 map (and others) for everyone to take a look at! This specially engraved map, to accompany Camden's description of Shropshire, shows our county town as **Shrowsbury**, there's **Browne Clee Hill** and of course, **Pryorsditton!**

But... Why publish the edition in Latin? Who wrote it? Who was it intended for? And, what followed?

These questions and many more will be answered in Patricia's inimitable style! So do please come along. Duration approx 1 hour. Complimentary tea or coffee to follow.



The event is **FREE** for members and under 18's, £4 for non-members (or take out an annual membership on the night)

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

DITTON PRIORS PAVILION CAR BOOT, CLEAR OUT, & CRAFT FAYRE

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

GATES OPEN AT 9AM

TO APPLY FOR A PITCH OR STALL CALL OR WHATSAPP GARRY ON 07890033435

Brown Cleve Community Choir

Invite you to

A Summer Event



Friday 10th July 2026 at 7.30pm

at Ditton Priors Village Hall

Raising funds for **Alzheimer's Research UK**
and **Brown Cleve School**

One of Shropshire's best mixed voice choirs, Of One Accord, will be performing a variety of songs, joined by

Brown Cleve Community Choir and Brown Cleve School Choir

Tickets £10 per adult (Under 16's free) - includes tea/coffee and cake/biscuits

Raffle

Tickets available from Ruth (01746 712029, evenings),

BrownCleechoir@gmail.com; www.ticketsource.co.uk/brown-clee-community-choir and Ditton Priors Post Office

Autumn embroidery stitch along!

Join me to create your own Autumn themed tea towel.

Thursday mornings 10am-12pm
at Chetton village hall WV16 6UE
10th September-15th October

All materials provided 6 sessions £66 to be paid in full prior to the start date
booking essential - if interested

Email: Cottagecraftsjos@gmail.com
for further details



Brown Clee Community News

Brown Clee Patient Participation Group. *Christine Ranson writes:*

Partnership changes at the Brown Clee Medical Practice were announced at the PPG meeting in April, when Dr Clare Bravey introduced herself as Dr Bassett's new Partner and outlined the change to the system for booking appointments to be implemented the following week. She also told us that Dr Wendy Matthews had resigned her Partnership, and Dr Daniel Mulverhill would be starting in June with view to taking up a Partnership in the very near future.

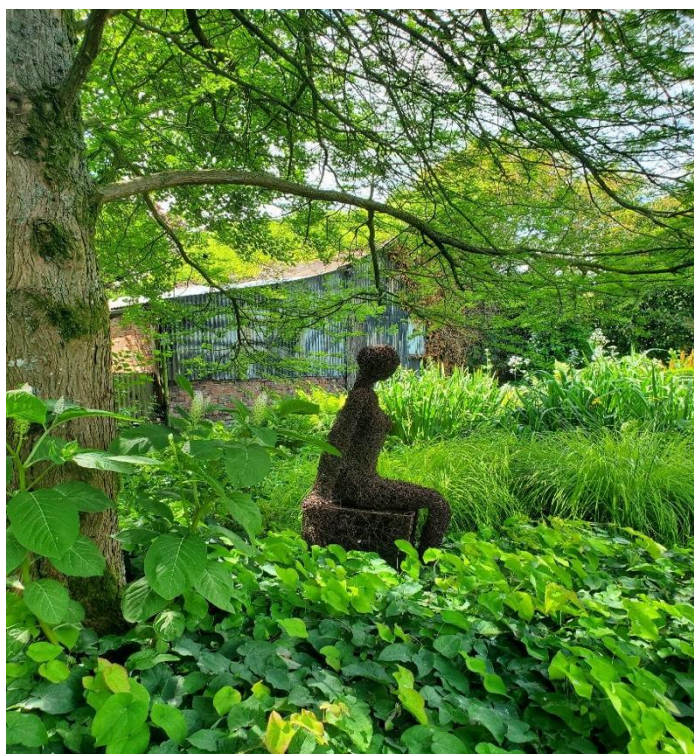
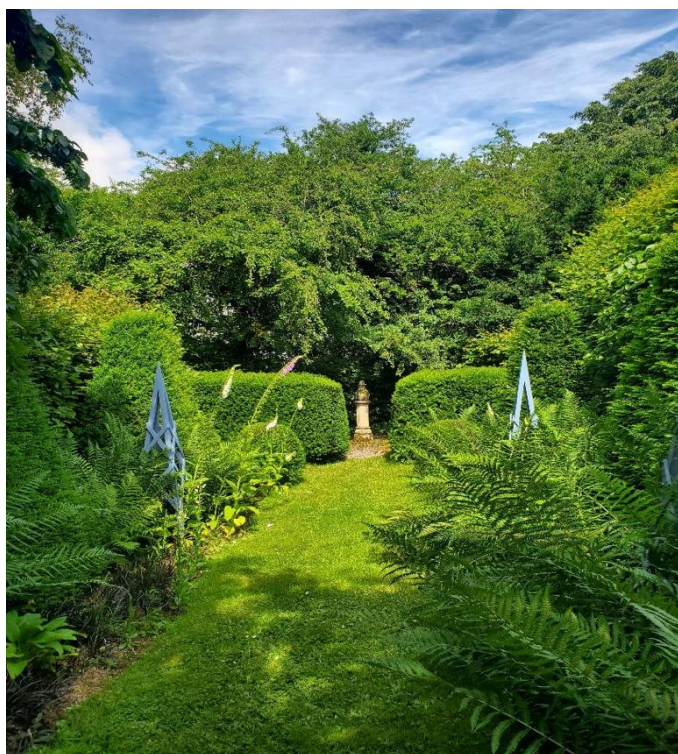
Patients wishing to see a GP are now asked to use the online e-Consult form (found on the front page of the Practice website). If patients are unable to use this form, then they can still phone the Practice and a member of staff will complete the form on their behalf. The requests will be triaged and appropriate actions taken – some patients will be offered an appointment, others may receive a phone call or a message as a response to their request. This system is designed to ensure that clinical staff determine the urgency of each case to enable the Practice to work efficiently, ensuring those with urgent need are prioritised.

The next meeting of the PPG is Tuesday 21st July at 7.00 pm in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Any registered patient is welcome at this meeting, and we are expecting to hear about further developments at the Practice.

Burwarton and District Gardening Club. *Bev Harris writes:*

A perfect summer's afternoon!

June's gardening club meeting is traditionally a visit to a local garden. Having had a talk by Jill and Alun Whitehead in October about gardens across the UK, it seemed like an appropriate time to visit their garden Aulden Farm, near Leominster. Jill and Alun describe their garden as an "eclectic and rather idiosyncratic garden" and it is certainly that. There is much to see!



They began work on their three-acre garden in 1997 when it was a barren site and their aim was to encourage wildlife. The L-shaped garden has a number of fascinating features like the giant ash tree, a yew circle, a wildlife pond and a hornbeam tunnel, to name but a few. They retained many of the old farm structures; the corrugated barn, the pig sty and the hen house all of which add atmosphere to the garden. As keen plant growers, Jill and Alun have developed expertise, particularly with Irises. This was evident throughout the garden where many varieties could be seen. For many years they held the National Collection of Siberian Irises but withdrew from

this a few years ago. They still remain involved in the Iris world, especially with the group of Beardless Irises and the British Iris Society and travel the world judging in competitions.

Jill and Alun are not only superb gardeners, they are also impressive artists and their work is featured throughout the garden. They have an art gallery in a pig sty and installations around the garden in a number of mediums; glass, wood, metal and stone. Jill is also an excellent baker and we were spoiled by an assortment of homemade cakes to accompany a nice cuppa. If this was not enough, Jill and Alun also have a plant nursery where we were able to buy some of the beautiful plants that we had seen in their garden. Who could resist? With the sun shining, this was altogether a recipe for a wonderful afternoon outing for members and their guests. If you have not been to Aulden Farm, I highly recommend a visit. They open regularly and by request donating their takings to the National Garden Scheme.



If you would like to join our small, friendly and very active gardening club, please get in touch. We are always pleased to welcome new members, who bring new ideas to our exciting programme of events.

Bev Harris

Secretary

07933724728

burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com

www.stokestmilborough.info/burwarton-gardening-club.html

Brown Clee Young Farmers Club.

Karen Simons writes:

There is always so much going on with this lively bunch of young people, they love to have fun and are keen to enjoy themselves, whilst raising money for their chosen charities and supporting the community. We were extremely grateful within Brown Clee Benefice to be gifted the money raised at our joint Curry & Quiz night earlier in the year. We look forward to joining BCYF in their other ventures soon and seeing them at Burwarton Show.



Chetton Village Hall.

Sue Bayliss writes:

On Friday 5th June we were honoured to receive the Lord Lieutenant, accompanied by two Deputy Lieutenants and Cadets who made the presentation of the Crystal and Certificate signed by the King, for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, which the hall received in November 2025.

This was followed by tea, and many thanks go to those who helped with the sandwiches and delicious selection of cakes and shortbread.



We welcome new members to the committee, and our next meeting takes place on Thursday 2nd July at 7pm.

Many thanks to those who attended the plants sale and I am most grateful to Sue and Elisabeth for their donations. We raised £730 for hall funds, essential to help keep the hall running.

Jo will be starting her Stitch along in the Autumn, see poster in this copy of the Wheatland News for details.

Dates for your diary-

Saturday 3rd October 'The Elderly Brothers' return for a concert with supper.

Saturday 14th November at 4pm, concert by B D Lenz jazz duo, composer of 'Breaking Bad'.

Tickets available now for both events at £15.00.

For details of classes and hall hire please contact Sue on 01746 789239 .

Cleobury North Village Hall. Sharon Jenkins writes:

Summer is in full swing in Cleobury North Village and I am sure you agree that it is lovely to see the flowers in full bloom and the gardens looking good. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this summer and we have a long and warm spell of sunshine for all to enjoy.

July bookings include meetings for the Burwarton Show Committee, Shropshire Community Health Trust and Burwarton Parish Council. We do have spaces for more bookings for private parties as we head through the summer, so please think of us if you wish to hire a space for your loved ones to meet or to celebrate an occasion. Please note booking information below.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our regular and new customers whose bookings help keep this vital service for the local community.

Remember if you wish to book the hall, please contact Sharon on sharonjenkins1605@yahoo.com or 07854538645.

Brown Clee Primary School – Sporting Success!

Rounders – Shropshire Champions & East Shropshire Champions

This year has brought an unprecedented amount of sporting success for Brown Clee after being crowned as “County Rounders Champions” in the recent School Games Finals at Charlton School – competing against all the winning schools across Shropshire. This impressive achievement very quickly followed winning the East Shropshire Rounders tournament just three days before. The rounders team went unbeaten across both competitions scoring over 100 rounders in the 12 games they played in total.



This follows on from an incredible succession of successes in a number of county finals this year.

Orienteering – Shropshire Champions, South Shropshire Champions and East Shropshire Champions

Earlier in June, we took part in the Shropshire Orienteering finals at Carding Mill Valley – with three of our teams qualifying for this event. Our B team were the overall winners against all the winning schools across Shropshire! All three top teams scored maximum points, but Brown Clee finished just over 7 minutes quicker than second place with a time of 30:05!



Qualification for this competition came in the form of our B team winning the East Shropshire competition – with our A team finishing just behind in 2nd place and our C team finishing in 5th. With both A/B teams also taking 1st and 2nd in the South Shropshire competition and our C Team in 4th.

Rugby – Shropshire Champions and East Shropshire Champions

In mid-May, our rugby team took part in the County School Games finals after qualifying by winning the East Shropshire competition back in February. Brown Clee have had great success in rugby over a number of years – making the School Games Finals for the last 8 years in the row!

This year was the first of those eight that Brown Clee went on to become the eventual winners. Again, the team went across both competitions undefeated, remarkably scoring 49 tries and conceding just 2 across 11 games.



Netball – Shropshire Runners-Up and East Shropshire Champions

On the same day, our netball team took part in their own County School Games Finals, narrowly missing out on 1st place by finishing runners-up to Wrekin College Prep School. Their qualification came as result of winning the East Shropshire tournament back in November.



Gymnastics – South Shropshire Clean Sweep and East Shropshire 3rd

In January, Brown Clee took part in the South Shropshire gymnastics competition – with all three podium positions in the individual event being taken by Brown Clee pupils: Grace in 3rd, Pippa in 2nd, Libby in 1st – with Libby taking 3rd place in the East Shropshire competition back in November.



Dodgeball – East Shropshire 2nd Place

Also in January, we made it all the way to the East Shropshire dodgeball final, narrowly missing out on winning the competition.



Whilst this year's county-level successes for such a small school are incredibly impressive, the togetherness, teamwork, enthusiasm and respect on show from every pupil has been the most inspiring element. The eagerness from so many pupils to take part in events – for example, 43 Brown Clee pupils taking part in the recent rounders competition - is also a reflection of the attitude and values that are part of the Brown Clee way!



Athelstan – the first true King of England by Anni Calver

My plan this month is to give you a heads up for a big anniversary next July 2027. As you have probably picked up if you read my monthly articles, I am very fond of Anglo-Saxon history. We are very blessed in Shropshire as many remains of 1500 years ago are still there for us to see. On the 12th of July 927 one person had managed to bring together all the little kingdoms and was crowned as the first ever King of England. Athelstan was his name.

He was the grandson of Alfred the Great, a man who had inherited the throne of Wessex in a time of upheaval and battles between Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon people. Despite having 3 older brothers Alfred's turn as king followed the death of his 3rd brother in 871. He decided to calm life down and started to build the kingdom with the development of *burhs*, town plans or new towns. He reigned until 899 when the throne passed to his son Edward the Elder.

When Edward died in July 924, his two eldest sons became King of Wessex and King of Mercia, but the elder son, Alfweard, died just a few weeks after his father and Athelstan became King of Mercia and Wessex. His coronation was in 925 at Kinston -on- Thames. Until this time the Archbishop of Canterbury would place a helmet on the new king's head, but this coronation was to be different. Athelstan had a crown placed on his head and the rest as they say is history.

He took over where his grandfather had started, following the codes of law Alfred the Great had introduced. He worked to implement them, demonstrating his authority as he went. He encouraged other local leaders to take the ideas on board. He also saw the advantage of arranging the marriage of his sister to Sihtric, King of York. Luck always seemed to be on Athelstan's side as a year later Sihtric died and Athelstan was on the spot ready to take over, not only York, but the whole of Northumbria. Constantine II, King of the Scots, submitted to Athelstan at Bamburgh.

Next stop was in Hereford, the Welsh princes made their submissions. So just the Corn-Welsh (that's Cornwall to you and me) to sort out and Athelstan had conquered all. From now on he was known at first as *Rex Anglorum*, but once the coins were struck, they bore the legend "*king of the whole of Britain*". Saxons were never mentioned again!



Athelstan presenting a book to St Cuthbert, an illustration in a manuscript of Bede's Life of Saint Cuthbert, dating from around 934



Silver penny from King Athelstan's reign

Athelstan reigned until 939. The Irish, Cornish and Scots tried to see him off but he was the victor at the Battle of Brunanburh in 937.

He was a very wealthy man when he died. He had never married so had no children so was succeeded by his half-brother Edmund I.

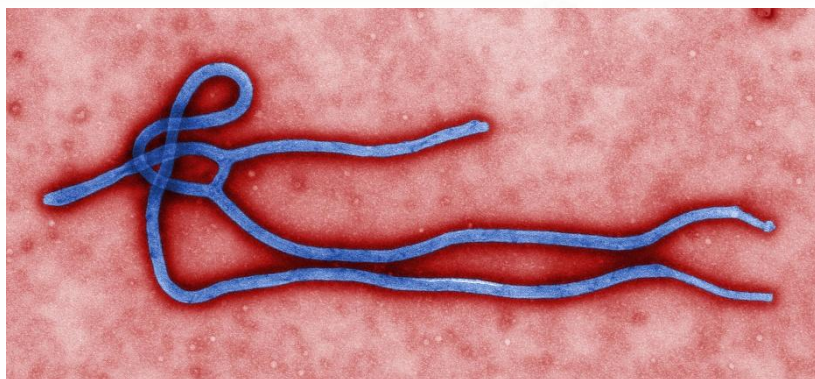
Athelstan had made a mark on our country and I think we should be marking him next year, and making the 1100 years since he became our first King something to shout about. What do you think?

Molecules of the month; The Ebola viruses and their vaccines *by David Poyner*

A month is a long time in virology... Last time, it was Hantavirus that was going to cause the next pandemic; now it is Ebola. I had not heard of Hantavirus until the outbreak on the cruise ship a few weeks ago and, judging by the lack of recent reports, I suspect the epidemic is now under control. By contrast, Ebola virus does have form; sadly it has killed large numbers in central Africa during epidemics over the last ten or so years. There are a number of Ebola viruses and the one causing the current problems in the Congo is one of the rarer ones. However, they all work in fundamentally the same way.

The viruses that cause Ebola are what are called “RNA viruses”; in this they resemble the viruses for Covid and Hantavirus. Last month I explained how these work; in brief they contain two types of molecules. One includes a protein that attaches the virus to the outside of cells in the body. Once attached, the cells take the virus inside. This releases the other molecules of the virus, the most important of which is the RNA. This contains all the instructions to make new viruses. The infected cell is hijacked into becoming a virus factory; it eventually bursts to release the new virus particles that spread further in the body.

Ebola can attach itself to many different cells in the body, but as for Hantavirus, the most important



are probably the cells that line blood vessels. When these are destroyed by releasing the virus, the blood vessels leak their contents, leading to widespread bleeding. Various types of white blood cells are also infected. As the body's cells are destroyed, this leads to fever and often death.

The Ebola virus; by CDC/Cynthia Goldsmith - Public Health Image Library, #10816. This media comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Image Library (PHIL), with identification number #10816.

Ebola virus seems to primarily infect fruit bats; this is similar to Covid. The bats can in turn infect domestic animals such as dogs and pigs and from these the virus may be passed to humans. Many

of the species that transmit the virus tolerate it well; unfortunately, this is not the case for humans. The virus can be transmitted from one person to another via contact with body fluids, but this is not particularly common. The main human-to-human transmission comes from dealing with the bodies of those who have died; in recent epidemics it has been estimated that around 2/3 of human cases have come from burials.

There are currently two vaccines approved for use against Ebola but efforts are underway to produce a new version specifically tailored to the current epidemic. They all work by getting our bodies to produce antibodies against the protein that coats the virus; this stops it attaching to our cells. There has been much talk of a new vaccine being developed at Oxford, which uses a harmless virus to make the coat protein. The technology to do this is well-understood; however, the effectiveness of the new Ebola vaccine remains to be determined.



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com
www.stmaryshighley.co.uk/st-marys-highley

Revd David Poyner, Assistant Curate - email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk,
 Tel 0780-100-9693 (mobile) or 01746-861121

Revd Angie Foster – Assistant Curate (in training) revangiefoster@icloud.com

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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Severn Valley Benefice Services

5th July

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
10.30am	Holy Communion	Highley

12th July

9.30	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
10.30	Morning service	Highley
6pm	Evening Service; A visit to the Shetlands	Billingsley

19th July

9.30	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
10am	Holy Communion	Glazeley
10.30	Holy Communion	Highley

26th July

8.00am	Holy Communion	Billingsley
9.30am	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
10.30am	Informal worship	Highley

Chelmarsh News:



The bric-a-brac sale I briefly reported on in the last Wheatland News raised £400 for church funds; this will help us meet the cost of £750 to seal the lead on top of the tower roof which is leaking.

By the time this article appears we will have had our annual plant sale in the church, on the 27th June. This is always a busy event, attracting good support from the whole community. We time it to coincide with St Peter's Day, the patron saint of our Church. Petertide, the Church name for the days around this is when new ministers are ordained; with events such as the plant sale, we remember our calling to be the body of Christ in Chelmarsh.

In addition to the work done by Marie and Phill to create a new flower bed in the churchyard, Les has continued his efforts to clear ivy around some of the old tombs. These can now be seen properly.

We estimate around 250 people attended the funeral for Fraser Russon. We continue to hold Nic, Michelle and Xander in our prayers.

All our July services are listed in the table at the start of our section for the Wheatland News; we alternate every Sunday at 9.30 between morning prayer and Holy Communion.

Billingsley News:



In June we held our local history exhibition in the church over the weekend of the 13th/14th. The displays included photographs, maps and document; we are very grateful to everyone who helped us with this. On the Saturday afternoon we served refreshments in church as well as having a bric-a-brac and plant sale. It was fascinating to hear the memories of Billingsley and the church; I learnt that in the days of the Rev James, there was a choir and the organ was in the chancel. On Sunday evening, at 6pm we held a service of thanksgiving for the work Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, with an excellent address by John Clark from the Trust. The church was full for this event; we ran out of hymn books

All our local churches are members of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and they have helped us a lot with grants; new heating at Billingsley, repairs to the floor at Glazeley and to the belfry at Chelmarsh. They are the main funders for work on churches and chapels in Shropshire and help to keep these as signs of the active presence of God in every community. I was very pleased so many came to support the event.

In July, our 6pm service will be a look at the Shetlands. These are the most northerly part of the British Isles and of course now feature in a TV Detective series. But there are far more to these islands than murders.... Refreshments will be served after the service. Also in July we have our usual 8am communion on the 4th Sunday, the 26th.

We have a visit from Caring for God's Acre on the morning of Thursday 8th July. These are a team of volunteers who, four times a year, visit us to scythe the grass and cut the hedges so as to encourage wildlife in the churchyard. They always welcome visitors when they are work.

Glazeley News:

We are pleased that the car park has been resurfaced by the owners, Andrew and Laura Jones; we have a covenant that allows us to use this for church purposes. The resurfacing of the car park has created a significantly larger space for cars. A fence has also been put up to protect the grass between the drive and the car park.

With our friends at Chetton Church, we held our monthly Saturday breakfast at the Down on June 20th at 9am. Amongst the usual raffle prizes at the May breakfast there was a tray of carrot seedlings; there is something for all tastes at Glazeley. The breakfasts are now going to pause for July and August, whilst people are on holiday, to resume in September.

Our next service in church is Holy Communion on 19th July at 10am.



Where were you when.....?

In June's edition of the Wheatland News we mentioned that Mrs Freda Morris, clerk, was presented with a crystal glass inscribed vase to celebrate 40 years continuous service as Clerk to the Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council. Freda is almost certainly one of the longest serving Clerk in the County and possibly beyond. To have persevered in the role for 40 years is a remarkable achievement.



Freda didn't trust herself to hold the beautiful vase presented to her by Lord Boyne, so here is a picture of that vase.

Freda has won numerous awards over the years including the Jan Snell Award given for outstanding service to the local community

40 years of dedication and service truly is remarkable, and it's worth putting this into perspective, so here are some things that happened when Freda first took up her role:



- ✚ The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X mobile phone, nicknamed "The Brick" became commercially available in the UK. It weighed about 1.75 lbs, had a talk time battery of 30 mins and took 10 hours to charge, and it cost around £8,000 in today's money.
- ✚ The Ford Escort was the most popular car, followed by the Ford Fiesta and the Ford Sierra in third place.
- ✚ Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister in her second term of office.
- ✚ George Michael with "A Different Corner", Madonna with "Live to Tell" and Chas & Dave with "Snooker Loopy" were all number 1 hits when Freda joined the Parish Council.
- ✚ Everton were top of the First Division (it wasn't called the Premier League until several years later) and Coventry City won the FA cup.
- ✚ Maori Venture, ridden by Andrew Turnell won the Grand National at odds of 28/1
- ✚ The M25 London orbital road opened just a few months before Freda joined the council.
- ✚ Andrew Mountbatton (Prince Andrew as he was still called then) married Sarah Ferguson.
- ✚ The first drive-thru McDonalds opened in the UK in Manchester

Stottesdon group of Parishes



St Mary, Stottesdon
CHURCHWARDEN
Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007

St Mary, Cleeton St Mary
CHURCHWARDEN
Sue Dolphin: - 01584-890583

St Giles, Farlow
CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT –contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718475

Holy Trinity, Sidbury
CHURCHWARDEN – vacant – contact key holder, Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149

St John, Middleton Scriven
CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – contact Parish Rep Ann Constable 01746-789420

St Michael, Silvington
CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman

Rector – Revd Dr. Sally Wallace-Jones. Email: revsamwj@gmail.com Phone: 01746 599076 / 07999 482107

Services in the Stottesdon Benefice in July

Sunday, 05 July

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

Sunday, 12 July

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Cleeton St Mary
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

Sunday, 19 July

10.30am	Informal Worship	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
11.45am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Sidbury

Sunday, 26 July

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Silvington
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

Sunday, 02 August

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

In a ceremony at St. Laurence's church in Church Stretton, presided over Bishop Richard, Clare Tibbits and Sue Dolphin were reinstalled as church wardens of St. Mary's churches in Cleeton St. Mary and Stottesdon respectively. Being a Church Warden is a very important role in the upkeep of the church and you get involved in many things, if you see Clare or Sue please thank them for continuing to perform these duties.



Stottesdon School



Please support the Stottesdon Primary School together with St. Mary's Church Fete, starting at 5:30pm until 8:00pm

If you're looking for a Nursery space, from 1 September 2025, the amount of government funded childcare for eligible working parents, in England, doubled from 15 to 30 hours for children under 2 years old. This means all eligible children can access 30 hours government funded childcare from the term after they turn 9 months old until they start school. Details of eligibility and how to apply can be found at <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/how-to-apply-for-30-hours-free-childcare-and-find-out-if-youre-eligible/>



Stottesdon C of E Primary School and Nursery



NEW!
Breakfast club from 8:00am and Wraparound until 5:30pm for all nursery children.

NURSERY SPACES

Available for September 2026

What We Offer:

- A safe and nurturing atmosphere supported by dedicated and caring staff.
- High-quality provision with robust connections to facilitate a smooth transition to Reception.
- An incredible outdoor space, access to school facilities, and an off-site Forest area.
- Early Years Teacher led Nursery
- Play-based learning
- 15 & 30 funded hours available
- Breakfast club from 8:00am and Wraparound until 5:30pm (for 2 - 11 yrs old)
- Holiday Club available

...we really care and make learning fun.

admin@stottesdon-school.co.uk www.stottesdon-school.co.uk

For more information on what to expect from the nursery, please go to <https://stottesdon-school.co.uk/nursery/what-to-expect-at-nursery>

Stottesdon Gateway Nursery is part of the Stottesdon Gateway Trust. Our nursery is situated on-site and provides childcare for children aged 2 – 4 years old.

The aim of Stottesdon Gateway Nursery is to enhance the development and education of children, primarily under statutory school age, in a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

The objectives of Stottesdon Gateway Nursery are:

- To encourage children to be confident, independent and develop self-esteem.
- To offer age and developmentally appropriate play facilities and resources.
- To help children learn about what is right and wrong
- To build positive relationships with children and parents/carers.
- To value what children say, and have high expectations of what they can achieve.
- To observe children and plan the next steps for their learning and development, and to help them progress at their individual levels.
- To give children opportunities to be active as well as relax.
- To work within the Early Years Foundation Stage, as set out by the Department of Education.
- To offer equal opportunities to all children regardless of their race, culture, religion or special needs.

Messy Church at Stottesdon Church of England Primary School on 5th June was lots of fun for everyone who came along.

We shared the story of Noah and thought together about how amazing God's creation is, and how precious all the wonderful animals are with whom we share the world. There was great excitement as we jumped into the ark pretending to be our favourite animals, and we also enjoyed some craft activities including colouring and making fuzzy felt animal magnets.

We finished our time together by giving thanks and saying the Lord's Prayer.

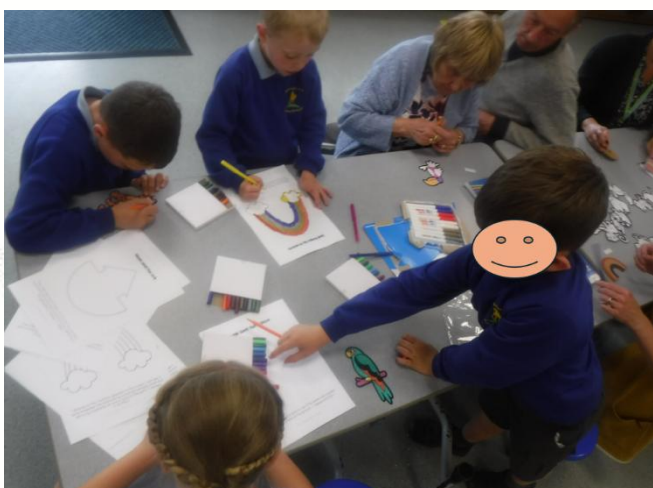
Our next Messy Church will be on **Friday 10th July** after school in the Primary School Hall.



We will be thinking about building towers and sharing the story of the Tower of Babel.

There will be crafts, fun, faith and food, and we would love to see you there.

If you would like more details, please ring Rev Sally on 01746 599076. Children do need to bring an adult or two with them, but everyone is very welcome.



Watch this space too for information about our Messy Church fun morning during the school holidays, which will be held at the church.

News from Stottesdon

The annual parochial church council (APCC) has met, thanks to all involved. One of the subjects raised was the declining number of people on the church electoral roll. If you would like to either check if you are on the church electoral roll or to register please contact Juliaevans278@gmail.com. Being on the church electoral roll means you can attend the annual meeting and have your say on issues concerning the parish.

Support for our community and indeed people in extremis anywhere are key parts of many lives. There are a number of organisations that provide such support and who offer training however we do have some training being offered locally. Please see below:

Free training opportunity: Suicide Prevention in our Communities.

Sadly, rural communities have been identified as a high-risk group nationally in relation to suicide. Shropshire County Council has a suicide prevention initiative known as Orange Button.

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes has managed to gain access to this initiative and will be hosting trainers from Shropshire County Council at Chorley Village Hall at 9:30 hours to 1230 hrs on Monday, 14 September 2026. We would also welcome expressions of interest from anyone within any other benefices in the area.

This excellent and valuable training programme is available to our community at no cost. There are 20 places available.

The programme's Aims & Learning Objectives are:

- To build awareness in preventing suicide in our communities
- To make suicide prevention everybody's business
- To raise awareness of warning signs, including consideration of risk factors and high-risk groups
- To build confidence in having a conversation about suicide with someone you are concerned about
- To consider and apply safety planning principles and know what help is available locally

Anyone completing this training will be invited to join the Orange Button Scheme. This is not compulsory.

Would anyone wishing to attend this training session, please contact the Reverend Dr Sally Wallace-Jones on the following email revsamwj@gmail.com

STOP PRESS!! The Bongs are back! Thanks to the work of our brilliant electrician Matt Dorrell and his assistant Henry Crook, the hourly striking of the clock is back. We'll give you more details of what's been done in the next edition, and we'll monitor the striking for the next couple of weeks, there may be additional work required, but we're all very pleased they're back.

News from Middleton Scriven

After this edition is sent to the printers Ann Constable will have been recommissioned as a Parish Worship Leader in a service at Middleton Scriven on the 28th June. We'll bring you details in the next edition and hopefully we'll get some pictures, but please wish Ann all the best as she continues in this role.

Ann Constable writes:

Our community events are a great way to bring people together and if there's food involved then there are plenty of happy people. Thank you to all our volunteers who make the very tasty and delicious food.

In July we are trying out a summer special BBQ instead of our regular coffee morning. Our trial event is on Saturday 11 July from 12-2 in church / church yard. Please note the change of time. Come and enjoy a burger in bun with soft drink or 2 sausages in a bun with a soft drink at £5. Bring your own glasses and alternative drink. Plus, a Raffle.

Please contact Ann (07843209465) by text or WhatsApp to indicate how many are coming- for catering purposes we need to have an indication of numbers attending.



You are invited to our

Community BBQ

Saturday 11th July at Middleton Scriven church

12 noon – 2pm

(last food orders 1.30pm)

Sausage or burger bun and soft drink

Veggie/Vegan option available

Raffle

Bring your own alternative drinks

£5.00 per person

Please let Ann know by text/WhatsApp on 07843 209465 if you plan to come to help with catering numbers

News from Farlow

Caroline Bilson writes:

JUNE 100 CLUB WINNERS

Jean Oliver	58	£20
Hazel Deignan	72	£10
Sarah	69	£10
John and Meryl Jeavons	76	£5
Heather and John Hamer	44	£5

July will be our last draw until the Autumn



Thank you to everyone for their support, we will be starting the next draw in October 2026

Cleeton St Mary

Sue Burbidge writes:

May 100 club

£20, Clare Caldicott	112.
£10, Kay Downs	40.
£10, Stephen Broome	120.
£5, Larry Wilks	88.
£5, Carol Hardy	108.

Stottesdon and District W.I



On Saturday the 23rd of May, we held a quiz at Farlow village hall, in aid of our WI and West Midlands air ambulance.

We had an excellent turnout, 44 people took part in our quiz, mastered by Stephen Haynes who did a very professional job. We had a good mixture of general knowledge, history, literature and an excellent music round.

We had chilli and tortilla's halfway through and also enjoyed tea and cake. The raffle was a big success, with many prizes donated by our WI members.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and we raised nearly £400.

If you are interested in finding out more about Stottesdon WI, then please contact me.

Debbie Haynes, President of Stottesdon and District WI

07780113869 - debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.co.uk

IN DEFENCE OF IVY



Of all the plants which grow in our English countryside ivy seems to evoke more than its fair share of hatred! This attitude is perhaps natural because the dense leathery leaves give the impression that the plant is smothering the tree up which it grows. In some quarters feeling runs extremely high even to the extent of many genuine tree lovers advocating a policy of complete destruction.

BUT is there nothing to be said in favour of this 'villain'? Let us consider the facts -the pro and cons of ivy – is it true that some people advocate that ivy can kill trees? This rarely happens and then only if the tree is already diseased and the crown diminished to let light into the top. Generally, the shade cast by the crown of a healthy tree will confine the ivy to the trunk and

lower leaves. Does ivy harm its host- contrary to very widespread popular belief ivy is not a parasite , it does not live off the tree up which it grows but only uses it as a support, some may think that the root like hairs by which it clings to the tree are feeding roots , but this can easily be disproved by cutting the ivy stems at its base whereupon they will quickly die.

From the wildlife point of view ivy has some very important advantages. It flowers in late September and October and therefore nectar, pollen and berries of ivy are an important food source for insects and birds, especially during autumn and winter when little else is about. It also provides shelter for insects, birds, bats and other small mammals. The high fat content of the berries is a nutritious food resource for birds, and the berries are eaten by a range of species including thrushes, blackcaps, woodpigeons and blackbirds.

Ivy is particularly important to many insects before they go into hibernation. Some of the main insect species which forage on the nectar and pollen of ivy are bees, hoverflies and common wasps. Its stems branches and evergreen leaves also support many species of other insects throughout the year thereby helping to provide a supply of food for higher animals.

It is an important food plant for some butterfly and moth larvae such as holly blue, small dusty wave, angle shades and swallow-tailed moth. Many rare insects are attracted to ivy flowers, including the golden hoverfly.

The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that wearing a wreath of ivy leaves around the head would prevent one from getting drunk! The Roman god Bacchus, the god of intoxication, was often depicted wearing a wreath of ivy and grapevines. Ivy was also a symbol of intellectual achievement in ancient Rome and wreaths were used to crown winners of poetry contests. Wreaths were also given to winning athletes in ancient Greece. Ivy was a symbol of fidelity and so priests would present a wreath of ivy to newly married couples. Today it is still the custom for bridal bouquets to contain a sprig of ivy.



Ivy, like all our indigenous broadleaved trees and bushes has evolved over millions of years and has become, like the oak and willow a vital plant to large numbers of insects, birds and animals.

A SEARCH FOR
9000
LOST SOULS

THE STORY OF THE
HORTON CEMETERY

*Informative talk by
Linda Miles-Cartwright*

 **18TH JULY** | **7PM**

 **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,
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The WI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Stottesdon & District WI

Open Garden Invitation

‘Lynacre’ New Road ORETON DY14 0UH
‘Secret Garden in South Shropshire’

Saturday 25th July 2pm – 5pm



In aid of Farlow Church Repair Fund

All Welcome (£5 donation including refreshments)
(Assistance dogs only please)

For more information Contact: Debbie Haynes (President)
debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.com or mobile **07780 113869**

MY WEALTH, UNKNOWN AUTHOR

I have my name on the river, I have my name on the sea,
I have my name on the summer skies, they all belong to me.
I have my name on the violets that grow in the corner fair
And wherever nature has planted peace, my name is written there.

As far as my eye can travel from where I stand in the sun,
I have my name on the singing birds that return when the spring is new
But I won't be selfish with all these things, I'll share them all with you.

There is no deed to the river, there is no lock on the sea.
Not all the power in all the world can take their joys from me!
There is no fence in the heavens, no vault holds the sunset's gold,
And the earth is mine, and the heavens are mine till all the suns grow cold.

And though I may be a pauper and stand in my place apart,
I'm richer than all the things there are, if peace is in my heart.
The stars are my thousand jewels, a heavenly crown to shine
And all that I see was made for me and all that I love in mine.

HAPPY DAYS

These days, there's not much spring in my step.
Gone are the days when I could twirl and pirouette.
Yet deep down inside I'm exactly the same,
Nothing has changed well, only my name.
From a Miss to a Mrs., from a girl to a Gran,
I adore all my family as only Grans can.

The wrinkles have multiplied, as have the years
Where did they go all my hopes dreams and fears?
I may walk with a stoop now and my hair may be grey
But I still live each moment of every single day

My heart wants to dance, sing and squeal with delight,
For I'm loved and I'm happy; the sun still shines bright.
I may need new glasses and my hearing's not keen
But I know where I'm going and I know where I've been.

The birds sing, the flowers bloom, year upon year.
I've laughed, I've loved and shed many a tear
No, nothing has changed well only name,
Yes, deep down inside I'm exactly the same.

Jim Hurford R.i.P

He continues to share it with us and always will ... the above anonymous poem was read for him at Loughton's Garden Party which turned into a tiny tribute to Jim's life since 1974, as Loughton's last Church Warden. He drifted into God's peace only a couple of days beforehand, having seen his own recollections of 'A Life Well Lived' into print last month. Limited edition copies are now available to order (01746 787419) and will be delivered to your church upon request. All proceeds will go to Loughton Chapel's Fabric Fund, via Jo Culley at Loughton Hall.



In the previous edition I had intended to include a bigger article on HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh's visit to Willowdene, but due to printing pressures before obtaining the necessary approvals I had to defer some pictures to the July edition.

On 30th April, Willowdene was honoured to welcome Her Royal

Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh for a special visit recognising the organisation's life-changing work with young people and adults.

Her Royal Highness was received at Willowdene Farm and welcomed by local dignitaries and senior representatives, before being introduced to Willowdene's founders, Jennifer and John Home, who shared the organisation's history followed by current directors, Sarah and Matt Home who discussed the ongoing and future vision.



The Duchess toured key facilities across the site, including the Assessment Centre, Craft and Wellbeing Centre, and Carpentry and Joinery workshops, where Her Royal Highness met students actively engaged in vocational learning. A highlight of the tour included time spent on the working farm. The Duchess also visited Willowdene's residential facilities, gaining an insight into the organisation's holistic approach to rehabilitation and independent living.



Brown Clee Shrops Councillor	George Hollyhead - george.hollyhead@shropshire.gov.uk . – Shropshire Council.
Brown Clee Surgery PPG	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clee 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
 Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor in the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact 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 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
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.
CoCo – Compassionate Companions	Run through Brown Clee Surgery to tackle loneliness and isolation. Alison Roberts on 07978051987
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 - dittonpriorshalls@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	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 7:30-9:00pm. 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

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAILED COPY OF THE WHEATLAND NEWS PLEASE READ THE BELOW:

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If you wish to receive a hard copy, the cost for the partial year will be £10. (The cost for a full year payable from February 2027 is £18)

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*Daddy's
Hat
is coming to
St Michael &
All Angels'
Church, Aston
Botterell*

On Saturday 18th July, 3:00 - 4:00pm



Music from
Seven in a Bar
and Richard Fox



No tickets, no charge - just a
donation to the Hat if you wish,
shared between the hosting church
and musicians' expenses



Everyone is
welcome!
Please come
and join in!



St Michael & All Angels' Church, Aston Botterell
WV16 6QX park at ///stylists.factories.pink

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Samurai: Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9
Where the puzzles overlap, the row and columns do not go beyond their usual length

	x		x	
x		+		+
2	x		x	8
x		x		x
	+		-	

= 84

= 80

= 4

= 54 = 12 = 72

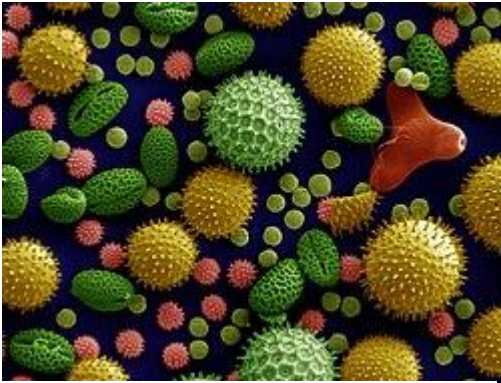
Above. Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the 6 sums work. Two numbers have already been placed. Each sum must be calculated left to right and top to bottom

Puzzle
Page

<u>E</u>		<u>G</u>
<u>V</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>T</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>N</u>

From these letters make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter "I". Answers must be in the Oxford Dictionary (no cheating!), excluding plurals – that is you cannot have the same word twice, once as a plural form.

The Back Page



Pollen grains under a microscope

Summer has officially started! For me and many others it also means sneezing, runny nose, itchy eyes and sore throat, yes, hay fever season is well and truly upon us. I'm particularly affected by grass pollen, which as a keen gardener might seem a daft hobby to take up. In order to relieve the irritation or flow of mucus, people may wipe or rub their nose with the palm of their hand in an upward motion: an action known as the "**nasal salute**"!

I can't write about causes or possible cures (there's a hint for you, David Poyner!) but I do know it's been particularly bad this year.



Many people are starting to look forward to going away for a holiday, please let us know if you've been anywhere exciting for the next edition.

There's a lot of sport on in July, either to go to or watch at home; the conclusion of the football World Cup; tennis at Wimbledon; the Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow; and the Tour de France. I saw the tour when it was last staged in the UK, they route went past the road where we lived in London, if you've never seen it, you really cannot believe the speed they maintain.



Much closer to home there are several open air concerts held in Ludlow Castle grounds and slightly different music played at the Quarry bandstand in Shrewsbury. There are many private gardens being opened under the National Gardens Scheme, and in Shrewsbury on the Saturday 25th/Sunday 26th there's a weekend of living history marking the anniversary of the 1403 Battle of Shrewsbury, with the original battlefield brought to life through re-enactments and demonstrations. Expect knights in armour, archery displays, traditional crafts and cookery, alongside interactive activities throughout the day. Each afternoon culminates in a large-scale battle re-enactment, where visitors can take sides and cheer on their chosen army.

There's also the Severn Hospice Dragon Boat festival on the 18th and 19th of July. All proceeds from team entries, sponsorship and donations go towards the day-to-day running of Severn Hospice, which provides specialist care to local people living with incurable illness. Last year crews from the RAF, NHS, Fire Service, local gyms, sports clubs, businesses, and community organisations took part – all vying for the coveted title of "Dragon Champions".



At the end of July is the start of a two-week Arts Festival at Church Stretton, I believe this is the 60th year of running. I don't have a timetable, but if you go to strettonfestival.org.uk you can get a list of events and how to book, there are concerts and workshops available.

WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING IN JULY, ENJOY THE GOOD WEATHER (FINGERS CROSSED) AND HAVE A GOOD ONE