

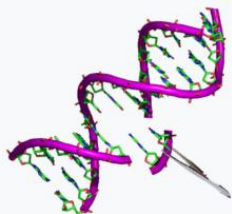
Wheatland News September 2026 Burwarton Show



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



Editorial – Food for thought?

This edition focuses on the Burwarton Show. Being a city boy until retirement and moving to this lovely part of the country I don't know much about farming or animal breeds but having been to the show for the past few years I'm learning more each time I go.

This year and last year we've experienced extreme droughts, in the two years before we had extreme flooding and we certainly cannot ignore the impact of climate-change affecting the weather. As a gardener I know we can no longer think about planting drought-tolerant or wet-tolerant plants, we must think about very hardy plants that will survive in all conditions.

But what about farming? Certain breeds will be naturally more hardy and tolerant of wet and cold, but what of drought? Similarly for arable, this year harvests are early but I'm reading that grain production is well down on expected yields.

In the very dim and extremely distant past I worked for the Agricultural & Foods Research Council (AFRC). It was a QUANGO (remember those) that was closed many years ago with parts of it consumed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Foods (MAFF). The AFRC had, amongst others, two institutes dealing with breeding - the Plant Breeding Institute (PBI) and the Animal Breeding Research Organisation (ABRO). These institutes were split up and sold to private companies, and some have now been re-sold onwards.

One of the companies that purchased part of PBI was Monsanto who were (and probably still are) connected with producing genetically modified grain crops. ABRO is now part of the Roslin Institute, probably not a name known by many, but created Dolly the sheep in 1996, the first mammal to be successfully cloned from an adult cell.

A couple of years ago Nuffield Council on BioEthics produced a public dialogue on Genome Editing on Farmed Animals. Eighty members of the public together with some specialist consultants were asked about their views on GE in Farming. The paper is available and is readable but is over 100 pages long. Views on GE applications to address environmental challenges of farming were mixed. A common view was that these were human made problems, which should be addressed by changes in human behaviour rather than laid on animals. However, there was also a view that applications that supported farmers to respond to the distinctive challenges facing agriculture in low- and middle-income countries had greater potential than those with increased production in high-income countries.

Europe is the fastest warming continent; we've seen extensive wildfires in the Fruit Basket of Europe (Spain) and climate and political issues affecting the Bread Basket of Europe (Ukraine) prompting some to question and review the crop or (possibly enhanced) strain of crop grown to bring the harvest at a different time of year. Similarly for livestock, breeds that have performed well in the past may not be suitable for the years ahead regardless of the relative wealth of the economy. Certainly, the weather and climate change are having a real impact on cost-of-living challenges for many.

Genome editing offers the potential to alter the function of a gene by making targeted changes to DNA molecules that make up the genome. Recent innovations, notably the CRISPR-Cas9 technology, have made editing of the genome relatively more precise, efficient, flexible and less expensive than other genetic engineering technologies. Genome editing could be used to produce farmed animals with specific traits with regard to the ability to endure climate change that might be difficult to achieve or could not be achieved so quickly using conventional selective breeding approaches.

I'm certainly not going to give either a political or a farming view of whether we should or should not use Genome Editing in farming, but it's an area that needs careful consideration and dialogue with many people, especially farmers.

Bringing this editorial back to the Burwarton Show, a short while ago there was something called the Enhanced Games – similar to the Olympics but allowing athletes to use performance enhancing drugs. Personally, I do not agree with this at all, but it did make me wonder if in the years ahead there would be categories in agricultural shows for genetically enhanced breeds through genome editing.

Food for thought indeed!

Please send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below. The deadline for getting your contributions for the **October 2026** edition of WN to the **Local Coordinators or the EDITOR** will be **noon on TUESDAY 21st September 2026**. Due to editing and printing deadlines, late submissions **CANNOT** be included in the current months edition.

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Reflection – A Place to Live

When we search for a place to live, at least for those of that are able in the western world, we sometimes say when we go inside ‘this feels right’, ‘I could see us living here’.

It is this type of connection which forms the basis of our decision making, we feel or are moved by something that pushes us in one direction or another. I know that I have felt this in my own life and especially when deciding where to live.

The same has been said of churches. Some sacred spaces induce a feeling of joy or happiness, we feel somehow connected with the space that we are in. I had a conversation with a lady after a funeral service in one of our churches here at Brown Clee. At first, she said she was not a Christian, as if somehow being a Christian was the gatekeeper for a conversation with me, I am just glad that anyone will come and talk to me!

She said that she felt at one with the building and the many who had stood and prayed where she was. She spoke about this sense of continuity, a connection with the past but also with a reassurance about what is to come. She looked at me and asked me what I thought.

I said that one can feel a sense of the divine in so many different ways and in so many different places. Our churches have been a symbol of Christian hope, places of sanctuary, prayer and reflection, where we can bring our fears, and our expectations, and for many where the Spirit of God can speak into our hearts. These spaces have been sacred to us, we celebrate the sacraments, baptism, weddings and funeral and through prayer and liturgy an opportunity for us to be closer to God. It is God’s Spirit that she maybe felt within where she experienced something of God’s love speaking to her in a special way. I made it clear that God is a Holy mystery and I cannot pin down what God does and how God does it, God will do things in us, through us and around us when we least expect it.

She then told me that it was good to be still and remove ourselves from the noise of everything around, to check what we are building in this life or what we are becoming. Not surprisingly I agreed with her and said that it is this time where we can encounter something of the wonder and mystery of God to shape who we are.

As she returned back to her friends I was left with a profound sense of hope. She was caught up in something of the wonder and mystery of a sacred place, and I suspect she just needed to tell someone to validate that experience, who knows, well maybe God does.

Lord we give thanks for our buildings old and new for all your faithful disciples that have worshipped, prayed, laughed or cried in them and for all the times we have shared through bread and wine your sacrifice and love for us. May we continue to seek you always in your word, through prayer, through people and through space as we give ourselves in service to you.

Amen

Joe

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

CHURCHWARDENS:

Carole Smith Mark Smith: 01746-712394

St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell

CHURCHWARDENS:

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

St Giles', Chetton

CHURCHWARDEN:

**Sheila Millington:
01746-789443**

SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North

CHURCHWARDENS:

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

All Saints', Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN:

Dot Cartwright: 07854-559474

Brown Clee Services for September 2026:

Saturday 5th September. Airman's Service on the Hill

2.00pm	Memorial	Rev Joe Simons	Airman's Memorial, Brown Clee Hill
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Sunday 6th September. The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 13th September. The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship and Licencing of Keith Smith	Rev Joe Simons	Cleobury North Church and Village Hall
3.15pm	Bishop Richard's Week of Prayer	Bishop Richard	Wheathill

Sunday 20th September. The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Val Smith	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Val Smith	Neenton
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Wheathill

Sunday 27th September. The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am	Harvest Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Chetton
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Brown Clee Readings for September 2026

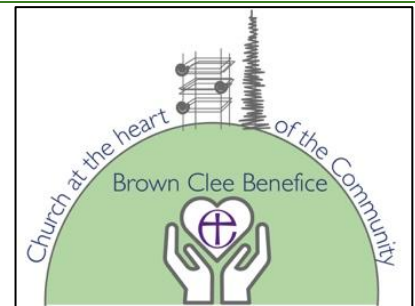
Sunday, 6th September The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 119. 33-40; Ezekiel 33. 7-11; Romans 13. 8-end; Matthew 18. 15-20
Sunday 13th September The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 103. 8-13; Genesis 50. 15-21; Romans 14. 1-12; Matthew 18. 21-35
Sunday 20th September The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 145. 1-8; Jonah 3. 10-end of 4, Philippians 1. 21-end; Matthew 20. 1-16
Sunday 27th September The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	Green	Psalms 25. 1-8; Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2. 1-13; Matthew 21. 23-32



Brown Clee Benefice News

Once again we have had a busy month. We had a lovely service at **Wheathill**, with the choir and a Bar-B-Que to follow.

Our big event was this year's **Burwarton Show** at the beginning of August, where Revd Joe represents the Benefice as **Honorary Chaplain** to the Show. We thoroughly enjoy the time at the Show and never fail to be impressed by the fantastic organisation that goes on both behind the scenes, leading up to the event and on the day. We feel very honoured to be part of such a special occasion. We provide refreshments and hand out the famous '**I've met Revd Joe**' badges. It is always lovely to meet so many different people who come for a day out and to just soak up the atmosphere.





We have also held a number of **memorial services and funerals** – a full list is given later, all of which have been an honour to officiate at and to provide a fitting tribute for family and friends during difficult times. Each year we offer an **All Souls** service to remember our loved ones, this year it will be held on Sunday 1st November, where all are welcome. More details next month.



We are thrilled to be working alongside Di Breeze, the **Community Wellbeing Outreach Officer** to support all in our Benefice through regular Coffee Mornings at **Cleobury North Village Hall** providing **health checks** and advice for all who need it. We will be starting this initiative in October. In addition, we are joining **Clee View Farmers** on September 12th at **The Three Horseshoes** for a social breakfast, all welcome. See information on the following page and details of the Farmers Breakfast further in the magazine.

Meanwhile we continue our excellent relationship with **Brown Clee Primary School**. Where we are looking to launch **Messy Church** in the new term, as well as running assemblies and school services throughout the year. It is always a pleasure to spend time with all the pupils and staff, who we wish well in this new academic year.



Your Community, Your Health, Your Voice

The Community Wellbeing Outreach Team and Brown Cleve Benefice would like to hear from residents about the services and support you would value alongside community health checks.

Over the coming months, the Outreach Team will be visiting your area to offer free Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Health and Wellbeing Checks. As part of this work, we want to understand what additional services, activities and support would be most helpful for local residents, helping us to shape future community wellbeing opportunities around local needs.

This could include support with the cost of living, vaccinations, mental health, loneliness and social isolation, physical activity, healthy eating, carers' support, benefits advice, and much more.

What's important to you? What services, activities or support would you like to see available in your community?

Your feedback will help shape future health and wellbeing support for local people.

**Contact: Revd Joe Simons
or Karen Simons**

Telephone: 01746 599217

Email the Benefice Office on:

browncleebenefice@outlook.com

WhatsApp Karen Simons on:

07748987318



Airmen's Memorial Service on the Brown Cleve Hill

Saturday 5th September 2026 at 2.00pm

To give thanks to and remember all Airmen who lost their lives on and around the Brown Cleve in the line of duty.

We will all meet at Cleobury North Village Hall at 1.15pm. Access to the hill given by kind permission of Lord Boyne.

IMPORTANT!

Please register your interest with Emma at the Benefice Office, details below, as names will need to be taken before we set out.

Light refreshments will be served in Cleobury North Village Hall following the Service on the hill.

If you feel unable to join us at the Memorial but would like to meet at the hall afterwards, you are very welcome to do so.

01746 599217

browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Ditton Priors News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

✝ Sunday 6th September. 9.30am. Holy Communion

✝ Sunday 13th September. 9.30am. Holy Communion

✝ Sunday 20th September. 9.30am. Holy Communion

I seem to have mentioned the weather rather a lot lately, but of course it is vital to the success of our outdoor events.

Wheathill Songs of Praise followed by a Barbecue enjoyed a fine day and Burwarton Show was splendid. - no rain and a breeze to keep the temperature pleasant. We had a successful day financially and sold out all the food. A huge 'thank you' to our team for such a 'smooth run'.

We have been saddened by several Funeral Services in August, but on 22nd August we have a Wedding at St. John's and our best wishes go to the Bride and Groom for their happy day and future life together.

FIRST SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Continue in Church. 10.30 -12.30pm on 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December. Come and enjoy seeing old and new faces - a lovely chance to chat. There is no charge for this popular community event and all are very welcome.

RIDE & STRIDE

Saturday 12th September. Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Walk, Cycle or Drive to raise money for the Trust and your own Church by visiting Churches in your vicinity, getting as many sponsors as possible.

Sponsor forms available in Church or from Marjorie.

HARVEST

Our Harvest Worship Service is at 9.30am. on Sunday 4th October.

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 10th October. 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Tickets at £15 on sale shortly from Marjorie (712423)

Please bring your own drinks and glasses. This is a popular event and tickets sell out quickly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1st November. All Souls Service. 4pm. at Ditton Priors Church.

Sunday 8th November. Remembrance Service at Ditton Priors Church at 3pm.

Saturday 21st November. Christmas Fair. 10.30 - 1pm. at the Pavilion.

Thursday 26th November. Switching on the Christmas Lights. 6.30pm. at Church.

Sunday 29th November. Christingle Service 4pm. in Church. (Advent Sunday).

CLEANING ROTA FOR AUGUST

- Sunday 30th August. Mrs Debbie Jones and Mrs Anne-Marie Shilling
- Sunday 6th September. Mr and Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 13th September. Mr and Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 20th September. Mr and Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 27th September. Mrs Jutta Langham and Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 4th October. Mrs Carole Hancox and Mrs Maureen Lloyd.

100 Club results for August as follows:

- £20. Pete Mathews
- £10. Marjorie Jones
- £5. Ben Jones, Vandra Walton, Eleanor Walker

Wheathill and Loughton News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

The Songs of Praise and Barbecue was well received with 38 present. Our thanks to the Musicians and the Choir and to those who provided the food.

- ✝ Sunday 13th September. 3.15pm.
A visit from the Bishop as part of his 24/7 Prayer Movement's week of Prayer in September.
- ✝ Sunday 20th September. 6pm.
Holy Communion at Wheathill.
- ✝ Sunday 8th. October. 6pm.
Harvest Service at Loughton.
- ✝ Sunday 15th. November. 2.30pm. Remembrance Service at Wheathill.
- ✝ Saturday 5th. December. 3pm. Carols at Loughton.
- ✝ Thursday. 24th December. 7pm. Carols at Wheathill.



We are very excited to announce that Bishop Richard will be visiting Holy Trinity Church, Wheathill on Sunday 13th September 2026 at 3.15pm for a short Service of Prayer (approximately 30 mins) as part of his Prayer journey around the Diocese.

Everyone is very welcome.

Please do come along. Light refreshments will be served!

Aston Botterell News *Anne Preece writes:*



Sunday 6th September. 11.30am. Holy Communion

We spent a pleasant morning at the beginning of August for Morning Service in my garden with tea and coffee afterwards.....very relaxing and informal, thank you Joe.

Our thoughts went out to Lorraine and family on the death of her husband Jonathan Guest, who was buried in Aston Botterell church yard. The funeral was well attended showing what a brilliant and well-liked chap he was, he will be sadly missed by all.

Ride and Stride. Saturday September 12th anyone willing to walk, cycle or drive please get in touch.

I have two trips going out in September; Bala Lake and train on Wednesday 2nd and Llandudno on Wednesday 23rd September. Info from Anne 07966459806

Harvest Festival Service Sunday 4th October 5 pm

Bring all your family and friends for the fun sale of harvest produce, sweets etc which takes place after the service, lots of bargaining and banter also light refreshments to enjoy during the sale. Come and give the auctioneer some stick. Thank you everyone

Aston Botterell PCC Draw August

- £20 - Iris Meredith - 73
- £10 - Mr Dutton (JD) - 54
- £5 - Mr & Mrs Hadley - 237
- £5 - Callum Preece – 116

Church Lotto, anyone wishing to purchase a ticket, please get in touch.

Neenton News *Dot Cartwright writes:*



Sunday 20th September, 11.30am Morning Worship

Following agreement after the Duck Race at Neenton, £750 will be donated to Little Explorers nursery in Ditton Priors.

The work on the church at Neenton will hopefully start in mid to late September, once again, if anyone would like to make a donation towards the costs, please contact Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474. Thank you.

Hopefully by the time this is being read we will have had some rain and the drought conditions will have been abated. We pray for everyone especially farmers that have struggled during the heatwaves.

Chetton News *Shelia Millington writes:*



Sunday 27th September. 11.00am – Harvest Holy Communion and lunch.

Flowers and cleaning: Helen and June.

Hundred Club

£15.00 Bianca Chambers no 44.

£10.00 Zena Vaughan no 98.

Thank you to everyone who came to support our recent coffee morning, it was great to see everyone. We have a busy social time coming up this month. Some of us will be attending the Memorial Service on the Brown Clee for the World War II airmen who lost their lives, this is on Saturday 5th September.

On September 19th we have a Down breakfast at 9am, please let Sheila know if you would like to come along.

Also on September 19th we have a fascinating talk about the Saxons and Vikings and their connection to Bridgnorth. The Vikings travelled up the River Severn as far as Quatford and it's quite a story. This starts at 2pm in Chetton Village Hall, £6.00 per person with coffee/tea & cake available. Contact Nick Tofiluk on 07896 558530.

We are holding our Harvest Festival on September 27th with a soup and cheese lunch after the service at Church House, we look forward to seeing you. Please let Lisa and Charles know if you are attending. As always, we appreciate any offers of help with Church decoration.

Cleobury North and Burwarton News *Jane Bufton writes:*



Sunday 13th September. 11.30am Morning Worship and licencing of Keith Smith with reception afterwards at Cleobury Village Hall for refreshments.

I would like to thank Revd Joe for all his hard work and kindness at the funerals that he has had lately.

Julia's next coffee morning is a joint one in The Pavilion, Ditton Priors in aid of Macmillian Cancer. Her last coffee morning held at the end of July was in aid of Breast Cancer and we are thrilled to say that over £300 was indeed raised for this charity. We are very grateful to Julia for hosting this monthly event – It is hugely enjoyed by all who attend.

Flowers and Cleaning – Glynis Kedward.



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.

St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors **NEW BUILDING PROJECT APPEAL** **Building a Future For All**

After a great deal of hard work and the support of many across our community we now have planning approval to build a new toilet adjacent to the porch at St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors.

The building will be constructed in Due stone and will be wheelchair accessible, meaning that we can support all who come to our church, and across our community.

A huge thank you to all who have pledged financial support including various funding bodies, individuals and Shropshire Homes who are providing the sanitary ware.



It will make a real difference to our worship and is part of our ongoing mission to connect with the community in particular our young people and to support weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Please can you help to support this project?

Do contact Revd Joe Simons – Rector of Brown Clee Benefice on browncleebenefice@outlook.com or by phone on 01746 599217

The new toilet and drainage will be great news to both those that visit our church and also the local community and has been discussed over very many years.

The new site has been chosen to minimize the visual impact on the building but also provide the best possible level access available, being step free.

Any support, especially financial would be greatly appreciated. If you wish your donation to be anonymous do please contact Revd Joe Simons, details below.

Contacts

PCC lead – Bob Millward

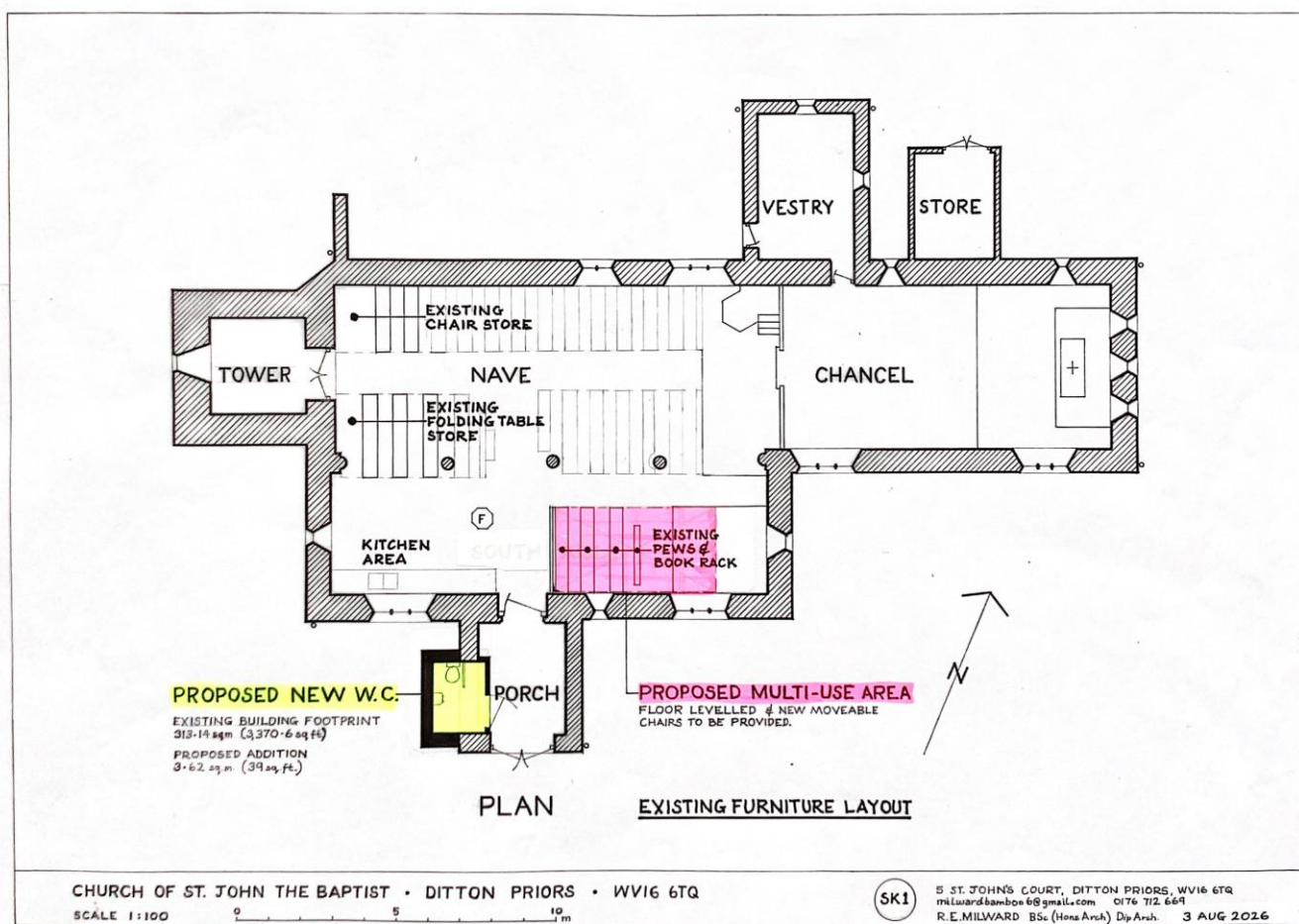
Rector – Revd Joe Simons, The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, WV16 6SQ
T 01746 599217

To keep up to date with funding events please contact:

Benefice Administrator (Emma Haywood) on browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Any new ideas for funding raising contact browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Treasurer: Ruth Jones



Donations to Lloyds Bank, St John the Baptist Church Fund
Sort code 00-22-41
Account 01087428
Reference – Building Project



Saturday 20th June

The marriage of Guy William Haywood & Eden Grace Higgins
at St. Mary's Church, Neen Savage



Saturday 22nd August

The marriage of Michael Edward Bambrough and Hannah
Louise Rose at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

Funerals



Thursday 25th June

Interment of Ashes for Mr Gerald Evans and Mrs Rosemary Ann Evans at St. Peter & St. Paul,
Cleobury North



Thursday 25th June

Funeral of Mrs Irene Mills-Keeling at St. Giles Church, Chetton



Monday 6th July

Funeral of Ms Barbara Wear at Telford Crematorium



Thursday 9th July

Funeral of David Peter Bateman at St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors



Thursday 30th July

Funeral of Jonathan Nicholas Guest at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Aston Botterell



Thursday 6th August

Service of Repose for Dorothy Margaret Griffiths at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors



Friday 7th August

Funeral of Mrs Dorothy Margaret Griffiths at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors



Monday 10th August

Funeral of David Julian Charles Austin at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Cleobury North



Wednesday 12th August

Funeral of Mrs Margaret Howells at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors



Wednesday 19th August

Funeral of John William (Johnny) Howson at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Friday 25th September 2026

**10.30am - 12.30pm
at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors.
We do hope you can come along!**

.....Cake stall, Tombola, Raffle, Plant stall.....

**If you would like to donate cakes, bottles, or other
raffle/tombola prizes please contact Julia at Cleobury
North Stores or Tony Brown on 01746 712532**

**Macmillan Cancer Support
Annual Coffee Morning
at the Pavilion, Ditton Priors
Friday 25th September 2026.
10.30am-12.30pm**

Over the past 2 years we have held Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Mornings at 1. The Pavilion, Ditton Priors and 2. Cleobury North Village Hall in conjunction with Julia's Friday Get Together. We have jointly raised approximately £3,000 for this wonderful charity.

This year we are holding a joint coffee morning, and everyone is invited. We will have the 'Sunday Best' crockery and table linen out (thank you Margaret and Vandra) and hopefully weather permitting lovely flowers.

There will be the usual cake stall, bottle tombola (booze) and plant stall. Morfe Valley Nursery, Bridgnorth (thank you Gail) have again promised a luxury ceramic planter approx. value £80.00 as part of our raffle, and also a special thankyou to Malthouse Nursery, Monkhopton (Rachel) for their annual floral donations.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the previous coffee mornings, without their contributions our success would not have been achieved.

So to this year, if anyone would like to donate any cakes, bottles (booze) or other raffle prizes please contact either Julia (Cleobury North Village Stores) or myself on 01746 712532 and if required collection can be arranged.

All we can wish for is a lovely sunny day (Rev Joe please arrange) and I am sure we will have a wonderful productive occasion for this incredible charity.

I leave you all with the following: No one knows who will be the next to hear those words 'You have cancer' as over 1,000 people in the UK are so diagnosed every single day and currently 3 ½ million people again in the UK are living with the cancer.

For many life will get tougher and a phone call to Macmillian Cancer Support will be made. We want to ensure that phone call will be answered and everything possible will be done to make life a little easier for that caller, to assist in their ongoing situation.

With all that in mind let's do our utmost to ensure that we all have a super day on the 25th September and as usual the wonderful local community come together to support this charity.

Tony and Julia.

BROWN CLEE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP. *Tina Ranson writes:*

Do you have the skill set and motivation to give some time to help to ensure that the views of Brown Clee patients get represented?

At the AGM in October there will be at least 2 vacancies on the PPG committee. Committee members act as a communication channel between the Practice and its 4,000 plus patients, with the mission 'to work with the Practice to benefit patients'. It is an extremely interesting role, learning about the organisation and funding of primary care, and taking on aspects of running the PPG for example, membership administration and communication.

There are about 6 committee meetings a year (by zoom or in person) in addition to the 4 public open meetings, and regular private meetings with Partners.

To find out more, contact any of the current committee via browncleeppg@gmail.com or get a telephone number from the Surgery Reception.

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

The results are in!

One of the highlights of the gardening club calendar is the annual potato competition. At our February meeting, members are given a seed potato which is chitted and then planted in a container. At the end of July the potatoes are harvested and the member with the heaviest crop wins £10 and chooses the variety for next year's competition. The variety that we planted this year, Saxon, was provided by Joan Palmer. This was a new variety for many of us. They are a second early variety, with strong resistance to diseases. They hold the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit for their performance and reliability. Saxon is considered a great all-rounder, so can be boiled, roasted, chipped or mashed and is highly regarded as one of the best tasting potato varieties. Nationally this year, potato crops have been poor due to the sustained heatwaves, the driest July on record and in some areas extreme drought conditions. However, this did not stop Judy Robertson harvesting an impressive 1.36kg and Joan Palmer with a close second harvest of 1.14kg. Many members however reported small crops with barely enough for one meal, but very tasty potatoes. As for me, well there is always next year.

The programme for 2026-2027 will soon be upon us and in addition to our usual events, we now have four speakers booked. So, to whet your appetite here is what we have in store. October; Rewilding Your Garden, November; Darwin The Botanist, February; The Gardens of William Morris and December; Ashwood Specialities. You do not need to be a member to hear any of our speakers, so if you are interested, watch this space for more details in the coming months or get in touch with me.

If you would like to find out more about our gardening club, visit our webpage: www.stokestmilborough.info/burwarton-gardening-club email us: burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com or call me on 07933724728.

Bev Harris
Secretary



Abdon District Community Wildlife Group

We are a group of local people who live on and around the Brown Clee, who get together to look for, observe, record and enjoy the wildlife in our patch. We are all amateurs and are learning all the time and help one another in this respect. Our members have a range of interests including plants, birds, mammals, butterflies, moths and dragonflies. We record our findings on appropriate county and national databases. We have an annual programme of events in which we try to include external speakers. We have occasional “pop-up” events in addition to those programmed. This is our tenth anniversary year. We have just over a hundred names on our membership list.

This is the ninth year that we have carried out the Curlew and Other Birds survey under the Save our Curlews Campaign sponsored by the Shropshire Ornithological Society. Participants are allocated a survey area which they visit 3 times between mid-March and mid-June recording Curlew, Lapwing, Cuckoo, Kestrel and Red Kite. These records are added to the county records and feed into the national campaign to save Curlews. This year we had a very interesting and inspiring talk from the county Swift Champion Julie Cowley, “Swifts, Swallows and House Martins”. Swifts are suffering particularly from lack of nest sites. Julie encouraged us to survey for Swifts during the breeding season. A small team of members surveyed and recorded nesting Swifts in Ditton Priors.



In 2023 we secured funding support from Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund and the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species to allow us to undertake a Dormouse surveying, education and habitat improvement project. During the first year we found evidence of Dormice through footprint tracking tunnels in hedges, nibbled nut surveys and trail camera tracking stations and 50 nest boxes were erected in 8 woodlands. Education sessions included one at Forest School, Brown Clee School. Subsequent checks in the nest boxes have found Dormice and natural nests have also been found in hedgerows. Trail camera photos of dormice have contributed to our knowledge of their behaviour and habitat preferences.



We have an active plant group. Over the last few years they have visited 9 local churchyards, found 243 different plant species and submitted 723 records to iRecord. In 2021 they found Mountain Pansy plants at the top of Clee Liberty which had not been previously recorded. On 4th January this year when it was very cold and icy a small group of hardy plant hunters went to Clee St Margaret looking for wild plants in flower as part of a national survey. After 3 hours 8 species had been found.

Last year we held a BioBlitz event at Oak Farm in Ditton Priors. In a BioBlitz you record everything you see. We started with checking the moth traps set up the previous evening. While this was happening others were recording plants, liverworts, mosses, lichens, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, bee and other insects. A highlight of the day was pond dipping! We are also carrying out two long term surveys. A Butterfly Transect on Clee Liberty Common which involves a weekly survey over a set route for 26 weeks from April to September. A Bumblebee Bee Walk from Abdon Village Hall which involves a monthly survey over a set route from March to October.

If you are interested in joining this friendly group or would like more information contact Miles Leach at milesleach712@gmail.com

Abdon District Community Wildlife Group are hosting a screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing* film, followed by a short discussion, at **Ditton Priors Village Hall, WV16 6SS**, on **29th September 2026; doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm.**

It's been shown at Bridgnorth, but not within our parish, so this is an opportunity to learn how experts are addressing the implications of climate breakdown. The initiative is strictly non-partisan, and is supported by organisations including the National Trust, Church of England, the Royal Meteorological Society, WWF, and the National Education Union. The film aims to inform people about the climate and nature crisis while at the same time giving us agency to respond, grasping the implications and opportunities that this crisis represents for us locally.

Everyone welcome, (aged 16+) - free entry - booking helpful but not essential.

More info from Sue Crichton Email, crichtonsue@gmail.com

Click on the link below and scroll down to book

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/community-groups-and-events/people-s-emergency-briefing-screenings-across-shropshire/>

Chetton Village Hall. *Sue Bayliss writes:*

We have just had the outside of the hall cleaned by David Evans, with a special soft wash, which has saved us having to have the hall repainted. This was made possible by a grant of £900 from the National Lottery , 'Awards for All'.

We have also received a grant from Bridgnorth Aluminium of £1,000.00, which will help Chetton Active Friends continue, held from 2pm weekly on Mondays. This will have been running for 9 years in October.

We appreciate this support very much, the hall redecoration, cleaning, car park resurfacing and re-fencing cost over £14,000.00 during the last year. We also acquire grants to help with running costs and would not be available for our community without it.

Flicks in the Sticks.

We are showing 'Song Sung Blue' starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson and based on a true story of Mike and Claire Sardina, who formed the Neil Diamond tribute band 'Lightning & Thunder'.

Doors open at 7pm for refreshments on Thursday September 3rd with the film commencing at 7.30. Tickets £5.00, or you may book online at Art's Alive.

The Elderley Brothers have been rehearsing for their upcoming performance at the hall on Saturday October 3rd. Tickets available now at £15.00 to include supper and a bar will be available.

We also have the B D Lenz duo in concert on Saturday November 14th from 4pm, two 45 minute sessions with an interval from this talented composer/musician of the score from 'Breaking Bad'. Tickets £15.00 with a bar for refreshments.

Chetton and Glazeley WI.

We enjoyed a private viewing of John Massey's VMH, fabulous garden at Ashwood nurseries this month.



On **September 9th** our guest is **Sarah from Blue Farm Wellness** demonstrating the Sound Bathing Experience. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in listening to various sounds in a sound bath.

For further information and Hall bookings please contact Sue on 01746 789239.

The Saxons, Vikings and the Making of England. A very local history

Discover the dramatic Mercian story behind the Battle of Tettenhall (910), Lady Æthelflæd and two of Shropshire's most fascinating historic towns. This illustrated talk explores how the crushing defeat of a Viking raiding army in 910 helped secure Mercia and laid the path for the English reconquest of the Danelaw and a unified English monarchy. It also reveals Æthelflæd's remarkable leadership as Lady of the Mercians: builder of fortified burhs such as Bridgnorth, strategist, patron (Much Wenlock) and powerbroker. Bridgnorth's commanding position on the River Severn and Much Wenlock's religious heritage show how local places were bound into a much larger national story of war, faith, identity and political survival. From Viking raids and

battlefield uncertainty to royal patronage and frontier defence, the talk brings the so-called Dark Ages vividly to life and explains why these events matter to the history of the Shropshire, the Midlands and England.

A talk by **Mr David Guest**, local historian and author at **Chetton Village Hall** on **Saturday 19th September 2026 between 2pm and 4pm** (tea, coffee and cake included). Tickets are limited and are £6 (cash only). They will be on sale at Chetton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd September (between 5pm and 6pm) and Saturday 5th September (between 10am and 11am). For assistance with regards to purchasing tickets, please contact Nick Tofiluk on 07896 558530. **Proceeds to Chetton Church**

Cleobury North Village Hall. *Sharon Jenkins writes:*

As we approach the autumn months and the darker evenings appear, it is interesting to see the changes in light around us as we say goodbye to summer 2026.

September is a busy month for bookings and includes meetings for the Parish Council, the commemoration of the RAF Memorial, Shropshire NHS Mental Health Trust, Burwarton Show Committee, Julia's coffee morning which is always held the last Friday of every month and I would like to welcome Severn Trent, who are operating a community information event on 10th September 2026.

We do have spaces for more bookings for private parties as we head through the Autumn, 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.

Ditton Priors Halls. *Louise Tyson writes:*



Ditton Priors Challenge Quiz Night

Friday, 4th September 2026

7.00pm

Ditton Priors Pavilion

Tickets £3.00 per person
Available from Parker Motors
(Maximum 6 per team)

Pre-Booking Essential!



BAR OPENS AT 6.00pm



Fundraising for
Ditton Priors Pavilion & Playing Fields

BARN DANCE

With Live Band



Saturday, 19th September 2026
@ Ditton Priors Village Hall

Doors Open 6.30 pm
Light Supper 7.00 pm

★ **Bar & Raffle** ★

Tickets £15.00 available from Parker Motors

Raising funds for Ditton Priors Halls



BURWARTON SHOW



Forget about the World Cup half-time show this was brilliant. The main arena was packed to see **OG Performance Horses**. They introduced all of the horses, one in particular had only been given to them a very short while ago because he was “dangerous and untrainable” – just shows what a bit of love and patience can do!



Also in the main arena, the immaculate White tractor won best in show. This is a very rare American tractor, just think of the hours of hard work that went into the restoration. Probably best not to think of the cost!

Not so different physically to the modern ones, but a lot less sophisticated.





When is a stationary engine not a stationary engine?.....when it's got wheels of course, the one on the left is self-propelled but I don't think these ones move much except on the back of a trailer.



The old tractors, engines and threshing machine always draw in big crowds. There were demonstrations of how the threshing machine worked and was operated. Certainly no health and safety in those days, I wouldn't like to be the person standing on top feeding in straw after a 12 hour day.



Lots of shiny new machinery to buy.

I believe the LELY stand was advertising cow self-milking machines, but it seems that the real reason why they go in to be milked is to have a few beers and catch up with the gossip.

Not so different from us then – apart from the milking.





At the heart of the show is a very serious farm breeds contest. Animals are showered, brushed and can have cream rubbed into horns to make them shine, and they look magnificent. To win best in breed is a big deal. It not only showcases the animals but the care taken by all of the farmers.





A show within a show, the crafts, vegetables and cereals are judged and awarded a prize, the Best in Class is always very keenly sought.

As is the showjumping, this year they had a “joker” fence (below) to clear it scored 20 points, but to knock it down lost you 20 points (it was an accumulator where each fence had a tariff and the highest score won). Several horses had clear rounds and it was won by only about half a second on time.



The Aldabra giant tortoises are endemic to the Seychelles with the nominate subspecies, *gigantea*, native to Aldabra atoll and are always a big attraction for young and old alike. With the older ones (not necessarily the biggest ones) being as old as many of the show goers they have become a firm favourite. They are owned by Adrian Graham and you could interact with them. They really are amazing creatures.



See you next year!



Ditton Priors Local History Group. *Robin Greenwell writes:*

Wenlock Abbey House Tour

On Thursday 23rd July, 20 members of Ditton Priors Local History Group enjoyed a fascinating tour of Wenlock Abbey House, home of actress Gabrielle Drake and her late husband, artist and philosopher, Louis de Wet. The tour, conducted by Gabrielle herself, along with historian Vivien Bellamy, provided a deeply personal insight into their remarkable 35 year restoration project.

The home comprises two buildings, forming an L shape, of the ancient Cluniac monastic site: one being the 12th century monks infirmary, the other the later 15th century Prior's Lodgings, where no doubt, the management of the Priors' lands, including of course 'Priors Ditton', would have often been considered!

Beyond the practical renovations, the interiors of the house are quite extraordinary, having been re-interpreted by the creative imagination of Louis de Wet, and have to be seen to be believed. I think its fair to say we were all completely enthralled! The tour was topped off perfectly with tea and homemade cakes provided by our wonderful hosts.

Due to the nature of the buildings' interiors the tour could only accommodate a maximum of 20 people, so unfortunately we ended up with a waiting list. But such was the success of the members' visit it may be something we do again in the future.



Tuesday 1st September, 7:00pm, Ditton Priors Village Hall

The Iron Bridge

RECENT DISCOVERIES!
A talk by David de Haan

Since retiring as a director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in 2012, David has been researching 'The History of the Iron Bridge', and his book is now with the publishers.

Many of his discoveries have not been published before!

...And you could be amongst the first to hear about them! For instance, we now know where the Bridge was cast (and it's not where it was previously thought), how it was erected, and what its original colour was - and it's not the rust-brown you see today!

Since 1999 David has been advising English Heritage on historic aspects of the Bridge. In 2011 he was commissioned by them to write the Conservation Plan that drove the £3.6m restoration programme of 2017-18. He provided comprehensive evidence of the original colour for a panel of experts in 2018, which English Heritage chose to ignore!

He will share his story ...And its going to be fascinating! So do please come along!

Duration approximately 1 hour. Complimentary tea or coffee to follow

David recording the Bridge from within the scaffolding in 1999

Iron Bridge photographed by John Howard, King's College London

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

Event & Membership enquiries to: DittonPriors.LHG@outlook.com Follow us on Facebook

Our next talk (The Iron Bridge - Recent Discoveries) is Tuesday 1st September, 7pm, at the Village Hall.

This is not to be missed! All welcome. Free to DPLHG members and U18s, or just £4 for non-members.

CLEE VIEW
• FARMERS GROUP •

FARMERS BREAKFAST

Saturday 12th September 9.30am - 11.30am
by kind permission of The Three Horseshoes
Car Park, Wheathill, Bridgnorth, WV16 6QT



THREE HORSESHOES
FREE HOUSE

BACON ROLLS
TEA & COFFEE
£5.50
to include drink

Bacon/Sausage Bap
£5.50 to include Tea/Coffee

PROPER BAPS
MADE FRESH FOR YOU

Representatives from
The Community Wellbeing
Outreach Team,
Shropshire Rural Support
and Revd Joe from
Brown Clee Benefice.

Supporting
our farming
community

Please come and join
Clee View Farmers -
*Everyone is
welcome!*

CHORLEY VILLAGE BAKE OFF

★ 2026 ★

Saturday
26 September
2026

Chorley
Village Hall

Arrive from
3.00pm
Judging begins
at 3.30pm

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

UNDER 10s & OVER 10s
Enter any of the following:

- Best Cake
- Cup Cakes
- Non-Bake Creations
- Cookies & Biscuits

ADULTS
Show us your baking skills with:

- Savoury Bakes
- Dough-Based Creations
- Sweet Treats

PRIZES TO BE WON!
★ Best Bakers
★ Showstopper Awards

NOT A BAKER?
Come along anyway!

From 3.30pm,
everyone can sample the
entries and vote for their
favourite bakes!

Tasting
and voting

Refreshments
available

Fun for
all ages

BAKE • TASTE • VOTE • CELEBRATE
Everyone welcome at Chorley Village Hall!
★ WILL YOU BE THIS YEAR'S STAR BAKER? ★

Clee St. Margaret WI



OPEN MEETING

You are invited to join us for a talk
by the **Police Cyber Crime Unit**



with information and advice about
**Artificial Intelligence
involvement in Scams
& Internet Security**

Monday, 12th October 2026
2.00pm at Clee St. Margaret Village Hall
Tea, coffee and biscuits

Clee St. Margaret WI



OPEN MEETING

Following her very successful **Tribute to Joyce Grenfell** in 2023
we are delighted to announce the return of

Jennifer Rigby

to give her entertaining talk

Shakespeare and Me



Monday, 14th September 2026
7.30pm at Clee St. Margaret Village Hall
Admission £5 for WI Members & non-members
Tea, coffee and biscuits

Morfe Valley Nursery



We are a Plant Nursey based in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, we supply seasonal plants, hanging baskets, compost and garden sundries

Stourbridge Road , Bridgnorth, United Kingdom, WV15 5QB

07743 488745



Malt House Hens & Gardens

Monkhoppton

Bridgnorth

Shropshire WV16 6XD

07841 597833

info@malthousehens.co.uk



We are a small family business based in South Shropshire. Phil has been growing produce on his family farm since he could walk and combined with Rachel's love of all things 'chicken' and garden we created Malt House Hens and Gardens in 2019.

Stanton Sweeps

Chimney Sweeping from £65

- Wood Burners, Open Fires, Multi-Fuel Appliances
- Camera Inspections
- Smoke Testing
- CO Alarms Supplied
- Stove Service & Minor Repairs
- New Home Owners Survey
- Landlord Certificates



Local and Reliable

Contact Richard Davies:
07805 643422

www.StantonSweeps.com



Oak Farm Open Day

Malt House Hens & Gardens will have a stall at an Open Day at Oak Farm, Ditton Priors, on Saturday 12th September between 10:00-14:00.

There will be various stall holders and the owners of Oak Farm.

Come and support these local enterprises who can talk to you about future plans.

Refreshments will be available.



Daddy's Hat

LIVE MUSIC • LOCAL VENUES • COMMUNITY SPIRIT

FREE ENTRY
Donations Welcome TO THE HAT

ABOUT DADDY'S HAT

Daddy's Hat is a local community music initiative in the Bridgnorth area that hosts informal live performances where voluntary donations ("to the hat") support church funds and community projects.

Informal live music afternoons bringing people together in beautiful historic spaces.

JOIN US
SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
at
ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH
Bridgnorth
AT 5PM

BEAUTIFUL LOCAL VENUES
Historic churches across Bridgnorth and the surrounding area.

COMMUNITY TOGETHER
Informal concerts that connect, inspire and support our community.

SUPPORT LOCAL PROJECTS
Your donations help maintain our churches and fund local initiatives.

Great music. Local venues. Stronger together.

Keep an eye on local notices and church websites for programme details.

All welcome – bring your friends, family and a donation!

For the Historic Churches Trust, from all the Daddy's Hatters, sponsoring several rural churches and chapels who have generously hosted their free concerts, each month on the third Saturday, March-October. Come and celebrate your efforts this month, however many churches you've already visited, sponsored and donated to, wherever they are ... the music, the magic and the Hat await you at the churches of St. Mary Magdalene ... in Bridgnorth this month and in Jackfield on October 17th.

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Join us in 2026 - 12 September

Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. As ever Ride + Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to support churches and chapels across the country.

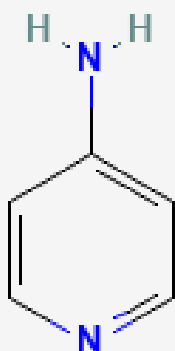
It aims to be a day of welcome – a type of 'Open Day' – a day when our churches are open, ideally with some light refreshments, like biscuits and squash. The objective is for it to be a Day when we can visit other churches and meet new people, travelling on foot, horse, bicycle or even by car or motorbike.

Many of our churches in the parishes will be open, if you would like to go further afield in Shropshire, please see the website <https://www.shropshirehct.org.uk/OtherActivities/RideStride.aspx> for churches taking part.

Molecule of the month; Fampridine *by David Poyner*

Fampridine is a new drug licenced for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). My mother suffered from MS so I have always taken an interest in it. MS is a disease of the nervous system; people often first notice problems with their balance and walking. There is no cure but there are a number of agents that can help with the symptoms. The course of disease itself is unpredictable. Typically patients have periods when the disease is active and other periods when it seems to be dormant. In Mum's case, it eventually burnt itself out but for other people the symptoms get worse with each flare-up. Sometimes it simply progresses without any breaks, sometimes there can be years between flare-ups.

Figure 1 Fampridine



The disease is caused by the body's immune system malfunctioning and attacking the person's own nervous system. Most nerves are covered by a layer of fat, known as the myelin sheath. This acts as a layer of insulation, allowing the electric signal to pass smoothly down the nerve. In MS, this is progressively destroyed by the immune system. As a result, the electrical signals struggle to go down the nerve, explaining the eventual paralysis that can happen in severe cases of the disease.

Many of the drugs used to try and control MS work on the immune system in an attempt to stop it attacking the nerve cells. These are frequently antibodies or large chemicals naturally made by the body that can reduce the activity of immune cells. In the jargon of the drug industry, they are "biologics" that need to be delivered by injection and are often very expensive. Fampridine is by contrast a

conventional drug which has been around for many years; I know it by its chemical name of 4-amino pyridine. Wikipedia tells me it was first synthesised in the early 1960s and introduced as an agrochemical to poison birds. I am surprised that such a simple chemical had not been made a century or so earlier but perhaps the internet is correct. By the time I was a student studying pharmacology in the 1980s, it had been identified as a blocker of potassium channels in cells.

Nerve cells have a net negative charge. They are rich in potassium ions (potassium atoms that carry a positive charge). The fluid outside of cells has a low concentration of potassium ions. Thus it is natural for the potassium ions inside a cell to try and move out into the surrounding fluid to equalise the concentration. Other things being equal, potassium ions would not get outside of nerve cells since these are surrounded by an impermeable outer covering. However, there are proteins in this covering which selectively allow the potassium ions out; the potassium channels. Each time a positively charged potassium ion leaves the nerve cell it increases the negative charge in the cell. When a nerve cell sends a signal, it briefly becomes positively charged as the electric impulse passes down it. If the potassium channels are open, increasing the negative charge inside the cell, the nerve impulse will find it much harder to turn the cell positive and so the signal will struggle to pass down it. In a cell with its insulation already damaged by the MS, this can be enough to stop the signal altogether. Consequently, the patient becomes unable to move their muscles. Fampridine stops the potassium ions from leaving the nerve cells and so reduces their negative charge, making it easier for the positive electrical signal to get through.

The introduction of Fampridine is a classic case of what is known as "repurposing"; finding a new use for an existing drug. Because the drug has been around for so long, its pharmacology is well understood. This means there are fewer concerns about its safety and so it is easier to get approval for use in patients. This is a good news story for many MS patients who, at least for a period, will find it much easier to walk.

This September I decided I would write about St Michael, the Archangel, after seeing Mont St Michel on the way to Brittany for my holiday. The Mont on which a church was built many centuries ago is on an island off the north coast of France. There is a similar island, St Michael's Mount, with a medieval church, off the coast of Cornwall, looked after by the National Trust which I have visited. So, it got me thinking.....



I am not going to explore the subject of angels and Archangels and a few other types of angels, but just stick with Michael whose feast day is on the 29th of September. Ten churches in the current Shropshire Churches Tourism Group booklet are dedicated to him. They will certainly be celebrating at the end of the month.

As Christianity grew in the first centuries, not just where it started but spread out from Palestine, east and west, so by the seventh century a new church in Rome was dedicated to Michael, an honour indeed. Before we knew it, new buildings were dedicated to him all over the known world.

Not only was Michael venerated by Christians, but also by Jews. In the east in Constantinople, he was looked on as the special guardian of the sick. He had a big job description too! He was called upon to be the protector of the church, to battle against Satan to save souls from him, and was expected to escort those who had died to heaven, in their spare time, all Archangels had to guide and direct God's people at all times and do some proclaiming too as lesser angels were not up to that work!

Now all the above is a very medieval approach to Archangels and angels and I am not sure many people even think about such beings these days. I rather like the idea that the early Christians were very certain that a lot was going on in heaven and that angels were there to help those of us on earth, so were seen as quite comforting. I am unsure about their announcing God's plans anymore as I have not heard of any recently!



One thing I can announce is that the churches of Alberbury, Cardeston, Ford, Lilleshall, Llanyblodwel, Munslow, Onibury, Petton (dedicated to St Raphael, an Archangel also celebrated along with Gabriel on the 29th), Smethcott and Wentnor. All are amazing buildings and are open to visitors and welcoming.

Anni Holden Calver

Secretary Shropshire Churches Tourism Group,

www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk

Trustee of Caring for God's Acre www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



Petton church



Interior of Munslow St. Michael church



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

6th September

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
10.30am	Holy Communion	Highley

13th September

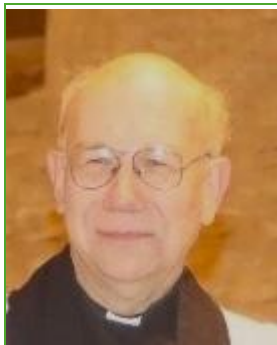
9.30	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
10.30	Morning service	Highley
6pm	Choral evensong and harvest with Astley Abbotts Choir	Billingsley

20th September

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

27th September

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



I met Revd David quite early on at the Burwarton Show wearing his dog-collar. I think it's a great way of bringing the church into the community by showing who and what you are. But we were joking about whether he would be mistaken for Revd Joe who had a stall and was handing out "I've met Revd Joe" badges and thought he should have a much bigger "**I'M NOT REVD JOE**" badge.

I then got to wondering whether there should be a competition similar to the "Where's Wally" children's books of who could photograph a Vicar in the most unusual place at the show. Sheep shearing, driving a tractor, riding a horse, the list is endless.

Over to you ladies and gentlemen.



Chelmarsh News:

Despite the exodus for summer holidays, attendance at our services is being well maintained. We were particularly pleased to welcome Alan Dudley's grandson, who sometimes brings Alan and must bring the average age of the congregation down by two decades.

All our September 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.

We are working on a new cleaning rota for the church; with weekly services it is good to ensure the church looks well cared-for. We would particularly welcome new volunteers from the village to help with this. There is also work to maintain the churchyard. Marie Ellis and Les Hall have done good work planting flower beds (Marie) and removing ivy from ivy from gravestones (Les). We also need people to help with the harvest supper; at the moment all the work is done by a few of "older" years.

Our stunning photograph this month has been kindly been provided by Merion Pritchard who recently visited the church and sent us some of his pictures. Many thanks!

Billingsley News



In August, for our 6pm service we welcomed back Sue and Phil Bates. Sue gave invaluable service to Billingsley when she and Phil lived here, both to the church and also to the parish council. They return from their home in Cheshire so Sue can entertain us with tales of her trips to exotic places, as befits a retired geography teacher. This time it was "Vietnam and Cambodia, a tale of two countries". Those of us of a certain age remember these two countries from the Vietnam War in the 1960s and early 1970s. In Vietnam it is known as the American War. Vietnam remains a one-party state, but it is prosperous and is ranked 46th on the world happiness scale. Cambodia fell under the indescribably evil regime of Pol Pot, who murdered two million of its inhabitants; it still

bears the scars. Sue spoke very movingly of her visit to the "Killing Fields", where the executions and murders took place. She took no photos; I do not think she needed them to remember what she saw. We prayed for the peoples of the two lands.

In September we will celebrate harvest at our 6pm evening service, helped by Astley Abbots Choir, who visited us two years ago, to great acclaim. We are very much looking forward to hearing them again.



Glazeley News:

I am writing this before our August service, but we are looking forward to welcoming Rachael Davenhill from Knowbury to play our organ. Rachael follows in the footsteps of mother June as organist; she tells me she learnt to play the organ to stave off boredom during school holiday. It is truly an ill wind that blows no good.

In September we have our harvest festival on the 20th and the monthly breakfasts at the Down also resume, on Saturday 19th at 9am. Please let Sheila Millington, Marion Corfield or myself know if you want to attend.

The much-heralded (by me) resurfacing of the drive to the church is now scheduled for late August, to allow the contractor to recover from injury; we hope he is now better. David Crook, our window cleaner, has turned his attention to the inside of the church, removing high-level cobwebs and dust. This has made cleaning much easier for our team of volunteers.

Our picture this month is from our local Women's Institute, Chetton and Glazeley, which won first prize in the WI competition at the Burwarton Show; we send them our congratulations. The WI's expert cake-maker Ellen McConnell always provides the refreshments at Billingsley services, where she lives.

Daddy's Hat performed in a new venue in August, at the "mission" church in Little Stretton. This was erected in 1903. Most mission churches were prefabricated from sheet iron. Little Stretton is mock Tudor timber-framed with a thatch roof. The performers were largely from Ditton Priors; Bob and Pam (who were married here) and Cliff, but with Hugh from Acton Scott playing the organ. The music was the usual eclectic mix (including folk songs and a medley from "The Sound of Music" on the organ) but for the highlight was "All around my hat" accompanied by the organ. Many thanks to Sally Russell for organising!



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 September

Sunday, 06 September

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd David Poyner	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd David Poyner	Stottesdon

Sunday, 13 September

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

Sunday, 20 September

10.30am	Informal Worship	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
11.45am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Sidbury
4.00pm	Harvest Festival	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Cleeton St Mary

Sunday, 27 September

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

Sunday, 04 October

9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Harvest Festival	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow



Pet Blessing Service

St. Mary's, Stottesdon, Sunday 18 October, 3.00 pm

Bring your furry, feathered, and scaly friends for a blessing, and to give thanks for the joy they bring us. 4th October is the feast of St Francis the patron Saints of Animals so it is an ideal time to celebrate the animal kingdom and the natural world. We'd love to see you and your animal pals.



News from Middleton Scriven *Ann Constable writes*

On a hot August day, we were delighted to see a church full for our August community coffee morning. Thank you to all who supported this and to Philip and Ann for being on 'kettle duty'.

In September, on Saturday 12th, we will be holding the next of the regular coffee mornings, time 10-12 and with coffee/tea plus cake! We hope to see you.

A date for your diaries: Harvest Supper will be on Saturday October 17th. More details to follow.

And finally....Please remember in your thoughts and prayers all farmers in our communities with the challenging summer weather and the spread of an outbreak of the potentially fatal bluetongue virus amid a vaccine crisis. Bluetongue is an insect-borne viral disease affecting sheep and cattle among other animals, mainly spread by biting midges, which thrive in long, hot summers like the one the UK is currently experiencing.

Farlow and Oretton *Caroline Bilson writes*

JULY 100 CLUB WINNERS

Joan Phillips	5	£20
Alastair and Ann Blake	31	£10
Robert Downes	9	£10
Gill Parsonage	40	£5
Chris and Jackie Derricutt	77	£5

July will be our last draw until the Autumn. Our thanks again to everyone for their support, we will be starting the next draw in October 2026



FROM THE REGISTER

Baptisms

23rd May - Beatrix Zaremba

28th June - Maeve Alice Link

Harvest Service Sunday 4th October at 6pm

Carol Service Thursday 17th December at 6:30pm

Cleeton St Mary *Sue Dolphin writes*

Sending 100 club numbers for July

£20 Bryan Phillips	24
£10 Ken Field	10
£10 Carien Gilbert	119
£5 Sharon Oertel	102
£5 Paul Rutter	74

W.I OPEN MEETING

Following her very successful Tribute to Joyce Grenfell in 2023, we are delighted to announce the return of Jennifer Rigby to give her entertaining talk 'Shakespeare and Me'

Monday, 14th September 2026 - 7.30pm at Clee St. Margaret Village Hall

Admission £5 for WI Members & non-members

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided



Stottesdon & District Events

Orange Button Community Scheme

Orange Button holder support card



Orange Button Information Training

Date: Monday 14 September

Time: 10am – 12pm

Venue: Chorley Village Hall

Shropshire County Council Orange Button information training will take place on 14 September.

The **Orange Button Community Scheme** helps people feel more confident to listen, talk, and signpost safely when someone may be struggling with suicidal thoughts or worried about someone else.

Orange Button holders are not counsellors, but they are trained to offer a compassionate listening ear and help people find appropriate support.

This is such a vital community initiative and is open to anyone who is interested. Do consider whether it's something you could engage with.

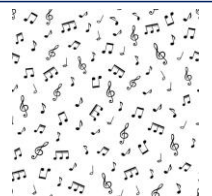
To book a place or discuss this further, please contact Rev Sally. 01746 599076

revsamwj@gmail.com



Tea and Tunes

Date and time: Sunday 27 September, 3.00 pm



Join us for a relaxed afternoon of music and words on the theme of love, with songs from the shows, favourite poems, and time to enjoy good company. Sally and John will look forward to sharing some of their favourite words and music with you. The afternoon will be followed by tea and scones. Free entry with donations welcomed for the work of the church.

Stottesdon & District Community News

Messy Church in August



Messy Church had a fun morning in August. We heard the story of how Jesus healed a blind beggar and thought together about what we would miss if we could not see.

There were lots of craft activities, including the chance to chalk pictures of the things we love most on the path outside the church. We also collected some wonders from the natural world, such as feathers, leaves and fruits, and admired their colours textures and shapes.



After sharing juice and snacks, we ended with a prayer of thanks for all the things we love.

The next Messy Church will be on Friday 18th September at Stottesdon Primary School starting immediately after school.

All are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. We'll be thinking about Harvest Do join us for fun, food and faith.



A produce table outside The Old Stores has raised money for the Severn Hospice through donations. Fruit and veg have been provided by many people in the village, this is a great way to both share your produce that may have otherwise been wasted and to raise money for a very deserving charity. To date the table has raised over £220. Thank you to everyone putting produce on the table and people donating.

Stottesdon & District WI

On Saturday the 25th of July we held an open garden event in Oreton to raise money for Farlow Church.

Tony and Jane have been at Lynacre in Oreton for 11 years and have created a garden from scratch. The garden at the back of the house was just a field when they bought the house. To look at the garden now it is hard to believe it was just a field of grass. The garden is a joy to explore and has been designed with the great gardens of Cornwall in mind. The lush and verdant plants include everthing from hydrangeas to acers and many more plants which I just don't know the names of. It is like a maze to walk around and you're not sure what you will find around the corner, a cluster of conifers, azaleas, agapanthusthe list goes on!

We had an excellent turnout; 78 people came through the gate and enjoyed the magnificent garden and tea and cake.

We raised just over £400 (amazing!) which will go to Farlow church for repairs.

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

Debbie Haynes

07780113869

debbiehaynesflp@hotmail.co.uk

President of Stottesdon and District WI

News from Stottesdon

The heavens really were telling this past week as we gathered across the country to see the eclipse remind us of our place in the greater scheme of things and how tiny the earth is compared even with our own solar system. The new moon coincided with this allowing excellent conditions for viewing even if a cloud did obscure the sun at a critical moment. Drat, never mind, only another 64 years (2090) to wait for a full eclipse visible from the UK. If, however, you fancy becoming an eclipse follower, somewhere in the world there is some kind of eclipse every year. Start saving up now!

Autumn is creeping up on us as Burwarton Show has passed and so the nights are finally allowed to 'draw in'. Those with robust constitutions will have stayed up to watch the Perseid meteor shower in what were described as 'near perfect' conditions about midnight on the 12th August following the excitement of the eclipse. The farmer decided that was far too late for him and retired to bed claiming meteors had no animals to get up for the day after their 'show'.

Inevitably *the* show has dominated conversation recently and you can see photos of the event in this edition of Wheatland News. If ever there were a reason to celebrate the efforts of volunteers Burwarton Show is it. Run 99.9% by those who give up their time for free it's a reminder of how crucial volunteers are in all walks of life. Without them many of the things we might take for granted just would not happen, let's treasure them. This event also showcases the diversity of the British countryside and the skills of those who live and work in it. This includes our own Stottesdon and District W.I, which reports regularly in these pages. They did wonderfully well in their classes just missing the medal positions by a whisker. Now they are gearing up for next year and will return to the fray reinvigorated!



The **Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon**, have made a huge donation to the Midlands Air Ambulance of **£1,425**. This is a true reflection of a pub at the heart of the community. Well done to everyone.

Also, the next **quiz night** at the 'Cocks is on Thursday 17th September at 7pm.

The pub will be closed for a week from Wednesday 9th September, re-opening on Wednesday 16th September for Matt, Georgia and family to have a deserved break.

Please do continue to support our brilliant local pub.

Stottesdon Apple Day is early this year!

Stottesdon Apple pressing day will be held in the pub car park on Saturday 26th September between 12:00 and 16:00

Bring your apples and they will be pulped and juiced. We ask for a voluntary donation of £5 for maintenance of the equipment. Please also bring bottles for the juice. If you haven't done this before, the electric mill really pulps the fruit before pressing and you'd be surprised just how much juice you get.

It's a very social day and while you're getting your apples juiced you can always have a pint (of cider?) at the pub. See you there.



Stottesdon Benefice Harvest Festivals (known at time of publishing)

Cleeton St. Mary – 20th September at 4:00pm

Stottesdon – 4th October at 10:30am

Farlow – 4th October at 6:00pm

Silvington – 11th October at 6:30pm

Middleton Scriven – 17th October – Harvest Supper, time TBA

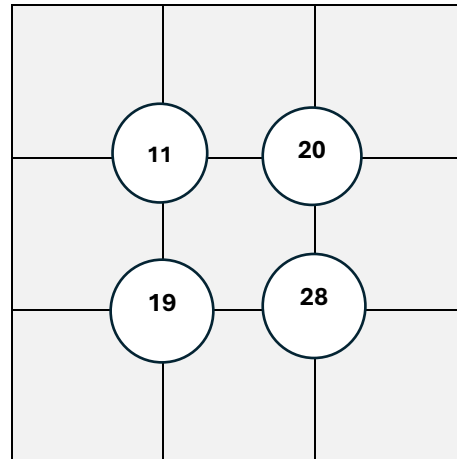
Sidbury – 25th October – Harvest Lunch at 12:00



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Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces in the grid so that the number in the circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces and each of the columns equals the total at the bottom. It's trickier than you think!

Puzzle Page

<u>I</u>		<u>V</u>
<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>L</u>		<u>E</u>

From these letters make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter "O". 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



A huge number of volunteers go into making the Burwarton Show a great success. A big shout-out to the Committee Members, but also to all of the unnamed helpers – car parking and programme selling; the numerous judges; people putting up fencing and marquees; and the very many other “invisible” people without whom the show wouldn’t be possible. Thank you to everyone.

The theme of this year’s show was Family Farms, reinforcing the value of family run farms of which we have many in this part of Shropshire. I was fascinated by the talk and demonstration of sprayers through the ages. Not that long ago a sprayer attached to the back of a tractor with a relatively small tank and a maximum of 5m boom was the normal. Now sophisticated machines with up to 36m boom and massive tank, with cameras by each spray nozzle that can detect weeds and can target spray, reducing use and cost of chemicals. To you that will be £350,000 please!



Maybe a single family farm wouldn’t be able to purchase one of these outright, but hiring a sprayer and crew is expensive, the vehicle owners have to recoup the outlay, and add to this the cost of harvesting and with the last few years having seen both an increase in price of animal feedstuffs and an increased consumption due to weather, and decreased yields of arable, farming is an expensive and uncertain business.

The WI craft competition this year was British Farming, certainly this is a time when our farmers need as much support as possible.



On a slightly lighter note, I did read in a farming newspaper some of the questions that public have asked farmers. I particularly liked the questions “what type of cow produces semi-skimmed milk?” and “those sheep with painted marks on their backs – is that to stop people from stealing them?”. Please don’t write in with answers!

I’m going to the Malvern Autumn Show in September where one of the main attractions is the Giant Vegetable Championship. Last year seven Guinness World Records were awarded. The record for a single marrow is over 116kg, and the record for a pumpkin is a massive 1,205kg – that’s heavier than many small cars. I’m going to stick to normal sized but oddly shaped vegetables that would be laughed out of any growing competition.



I’ll try to mention harvest festivals and other activities such as Apple Days beforehand, but because of the weather many of these will be earlier this year so please stay in touch with your local parishes for news.

At the time of writing, we are now in about the eighth or ninth straight week without rain, fields are brown and extremely dry. It doesn’t just take someone throwing a cigarette into a field, a glass bottle or even a piece of farm equipment striking a flint stone or piece of metal in the ground can cause sparks and ignite. If you see a fire starting don’t wait for someone else to call it in, the sooner emergency services are called the quicker it can be put out reducing damage. The way emergency services operate, if multiple people call in for the same incident it will not result in many fire engines, the calls get stacked, they will never say don’t phone in for genuine emergencies even if you think someone else has might have already done it.

I don’t know if it’s just me but the “back to school” adverts seem to start before the schools even break up for the summer, anyway it’s now September so I guess it really is back-to-school for many.

Have Fun!