

Wheatland News November 2026



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

Editorial

November is a strange month. We have extreme consumerism, being bombarded with emails and adverts first for Black Friday and Cyber Monday (thanks America for giving us those!) and the Christmas adverts will be with us soon as well. We also have Diwali in November this year. I've been in India during this event and instead of laden with consumerism it really is a true family celebration where most people go back to their hometown or village to spend time with their extended family. Diwali is often called the festival of light as it signifies knowledge, righteousness, and light over darkness.

Another "celebration" in November is Guy Fawkes night on the 5th of November, I can remember being in the cubs and scouts (I'm sure brownies and guide did the same), making a guy and standing on a street corner asking for "a penny for the guy". It shouldn't be remembered in a religious context but as foiling a plot to blow up the King and Parliament. I'm sure most of us at some time or another think blowing up the seat of government would be reasonable but overall, I think we're pleased we're not living with the governments of certain other countries.



November of course also has Remembrance (Armistice) Day, you'd like to think this is purely an act of remembering past events and those who died in them, but world acts make this very relevant today.

When we lived in London, we went to the Tower of London when they had a huge ceramic poppy display cascading from one of the towers and all around the moat. I haven't been to the RBL National Remembrance Gardens (formerly known as the National Memorial Arboretum) in Staffordshire to see the field of crosses but I'm sure that looks spectacular and poignant as well. I can recommend going to the RBL Remembrance Gardens, there are memorials to all walks of life, not just for military.

If you would like to leave a message on a cross to go to the Remembrance Gardens it's not obvious from the RBL website, but you need to search for "Field of Remembrance" on the RBL site and there is a link to "write your tribute".

The 1st of November is All Saints Day which is a Christian feast honouring all saints of the Church and the following day - All Souls' Day - is a day of prayer and remembrance for the departed. All Souls' Day is seen by many Christian leaders as one in which ecumenism (the concept that Christians who belong to different should work together to develop closer relationships among their churches) is celebrated.

So far we've been lucky with the Autumn weather, hopefully this will continue, in Saxon times November was referred to as "Windmonath," meaning "wind month," due to the strong winds typical of this time of year.

We have a Christmas poem competition this month with entries to be included in the December edition, see page 25 for details.

Doubtless we'll start seeing adverts for "Movember", the idea being to raise money for charity by growing a mustache. Participants shave on the first morning of November and grow their mustache throughout the month, with the ensuing amusement as an incentive for others to donate to a good cause. I'm not going to be participating, but if there are any takers please get a photo taken towards the end of the month (by the 20th please) to be included in the December edition. We'll see who's going to be a Lord Kitchener and who can only manage a Clark Gable! (just remember he was a Hollywood heartthrob!)



Please send reports to the contact listed below for your parish. The deadline for getting your contributions for the **December/January 2026** edition of WN to the **Local Coordinators or the EDITOR** will be **noon on FRIDAY 20th November 2026**. Due to editing and printing deadlines, late submissions **CANNOT** be included in the current months edition. Don't forget the next edition covers January as well if there are announcements or articles for that month.

Newsletter Editor	Clive Jackson – wheatlandnews@outlook.com
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Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 07716-877421
Highley, Glazeley & Deuxhill, Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Stottesdon, Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary & Silvington	Julia Evans – juliaevans278@googlemail.com



Reflection – Faith is an Adventure

It is a truism that often when we undertake a task where we think we know what the outcome will be, what can occur can be a real surprise.

One particular example for me was when I was playing in the back garden with my friend Peter, over 50 years ago. The builders were around and doing some work on my Mum and Dad's house. They had removed a number of windows which were placed in a skip next to the back garden. I was keen to demonstrate to Peter how easy it would be for me to behave like James Bond, we had recently watched one of the

many films. Despite warnings from the builder not to play in the skip, I was sure that it was perfectly safe and that he was overcautious.

I told Peter I would pretend to kick through a pane of glass with my foot just as I had witnessed in a Bond film. Little did I realise that the glass used in movies is not the same as that used on a domestic window. Without going into detail, I ended up badly cutting my right ankle just failing to sever my Achilles tendon!

My mother who was relatively sanguine about most things was unimpressed, especially given that there was a power cut and the doctor, where I was driven to, had to stitch me up by candlelight.

This important life lesson not only caused me a great deal of pain but also an awful lot of embarrassment. Peter regaled the story on a number of occasions, as he said to his friends; "I don't know what Joe was playing at, but I've never seen anything like it before in my life."

Now you're probably wondering why this made such a large impression on me given the event is over 50 years ago. Well, one of the main reasons was how stoic my mum was, she was more worried about the bloodstains on the carpet than my clear discomfort when walking. I suspect that she knew I would not be repeating the exercise again and any amount of shouting at me was pointless as I had learnt my lesson.

Now the last thing that I am advocating is that we should all go about putting our foot through a metaphorical plane of glass in order to see what happens, but I do wonder whether this spirit of exploration, which liberates us to explore what God might be doing, both in and through others, is maybe not as strong as it once was or might have been.

In the early church in Galatia, St Paul writes of freedom in Christ, to serve others he says:

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Freedom carries a risk as well as a reward, an unexpected negative outcome can leave us doubting that the risk was worth it. We can withdraw and wait for something more certain but that is not always where God would have us go.

Our faith is an adventure, faith is a firm conviction in something that cannot be directly proven or seen. As we read in Hebrews it is the:

"assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen".

How this translates into our lives when we ask God's Holy Spirit to be in charge of our fears and misgivings, brings both reward and resilience. So let us be willing to prayerfully step out in faith, and humility, down that path less trod and be surprised by the Grace of God and what is in store.

Joe

Brown Clee group of Parishes



Brown Clee Benefice

Rector – Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ

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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

Sunday 1st November All Saints Day

9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Joe Simons	Aston Botterell
4.00pm	All Souls	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Joe Simons	Chetton
10.15am	Remembrance	Rev Joe Simons	Cleobury North
3.00pm	Remembrance	Rev Joe Simons	Ditton Priors

Wednesday 11th November Remembrance Day

10.45am	Remembrance	Dot Cartwright	Neenton – A simple act of Remembrance
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Sunday 15th November Trinity 24

9.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Val Smith & Keith Smith	Ditton Priors
11.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Val Smith & Keith Smith	Neenton
2.30pm	Remembrance	Marjorie Jones	Wheathill

Sunday 22nd November Sunday next before Advent

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

Thursday 26th November Lights and Carols

6.30pm	Switching on the Christmas lights	LMDG	Ditton Priors
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Sunday 29th November First Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Group Holy Communion for Advent	Rev Joe Simons	Neenton
4.00pm	Christingle	Marjorie Jones & Carole Smith	Ditton Priors

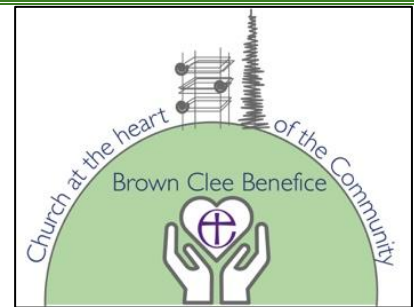
Brown Clee Readings for November 2026

Sunday 1st November	White	Psalm 34. 1-10; Revelation 7. 9-end; 1 John 3. 1-3; Matthew 5. 1-12
Sunday, 8th November Remembrance Sunday	Red	Psalm 70; Amos 5. 18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end; Matthew 25. 1-13
Sunday, 15th November The Second before Advent	Green	Psalm 90. 1-8, 12; Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11; Matthew 25. 14-30
Sunday 22nd November Christ the King	Red	Psalm 95. 1-7; Ezekial 34. 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1. 15-23; Matthew 25. 31-46
Sunday 29th November The First Sunday of Advent	Purple	Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20; Isaiah 64. 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9; Mark 13. 24-37



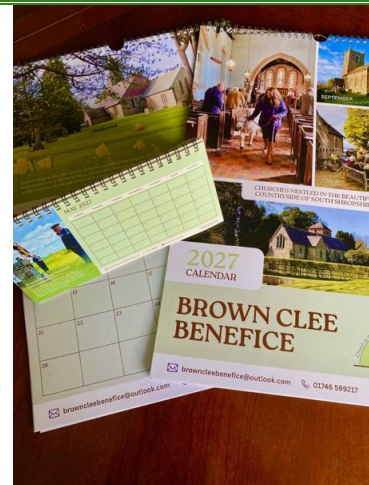
Brown Clee Benefice News

Our **Harvest Services**, held in all seven of our churches over the last few weeks, were well received. We had great support from the community as a whole, with generous donations to the Food Bank. We thank all those who attended any of the services, to join in the praise and prayers for our farmers and the world as new challenges are met and obstacles overcome, in the name of our Lord. This message was brought to life in the **Brown Clee School Harvest Service**. The children listened to Revd Joe sharing the good news of harvest across the world, they then had their individual prayers which were extremely touching. There is a great outpouring of Christian Love amongst these young people – May God Bless Them All



Along with our church services we held a Harvest Lunch at Chetton, Harvest Auction at Aston Botterell, Harvest Supper at Ditton Priors and a very generous plate of Beef Stew in The Pheasant in Neenton. All is very safely gathered in.

We are selling some splendid **calendars** – wall or desk, in aid of our **Mission Fund**. The calendars are £5 each with all the profit going to the **Benefice Mission**. Each of the seven churches are featured and will make a lovely present to yourself or someone you know. So, do contact us if you would like one (or more). We are taking them to all the services and events before Christmas - Stop Us and Buy One!



Ditton Priors News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

Our Harvest Services were well attended and everyone enjoyed the Harvest Supper.

Welcome to November! We have a busy month ahead of us, beginning with Holy Communion on the 1st at 9.30am and an All Souls Service at 4pm followed by light refreshments.

FIRST SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Continue in Church - 10.30am - 12.30pm on 7th November and 5th December. Come and enjoy seeing old and new faces - a lovely time to chat. There is no charge for this popular community event and all are very welcome. We have the usual table of books for sale.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

8th November. - 10.45am at Cleobury North. 3pm at Ditton Priors.

11th November. - 10.45am at Neenton

15th November. - 2.30pm at Wheathill

DON'T FORGET. 14th November. The clothes sale at Cleobury North Village Hall.

CARE HOMES

Our next visit is on Monday 16th November.

OPEN THE BOOK

We join School again on Wednesday 18th November - Jesus begins his ministry and calls the first Disciples.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

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

Christmas cards and gifts for sale, Coffee and Cake and, of course, a chance to win one of our Christmas Hampers. Please come and support our last fundraiser of the year.



SWITCHING ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Thursday 26th November. 6.30pm. in Church. Come and sing the first Carols of the Season and see those lovely lights spring into life. Light refreshments to follow.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 29th November. at 4pm. In Church. (Advent Sunday)

This gathering is especially for children (of all ages). Come and hear about the Children's Society and make your own Christingles. Last year we used fresh fruits to decorate instead of sweets and this worked very well.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Monday 14th December 2pm. In Ditton Church

YOUNG FARMERS CAROLS

Friday 18th December. 7.30pm. at Church

CRIB SERVICE

Thursday 24th December. 4pm. at Ditton Priors Church

CLEANING ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

- Sunday 1st November. Mr and Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 8th November. Mr and Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 15th November. Mr and Mrs Tony Brown
- Sunday 22nd November. Mrs Jutta Langham and Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 29th November. Mrs Carole Hancox and Mrs Maureen Lloyd

100 CLUB RESULTS FOR OCTOBER AS FOLLOWS:

- £20. Molly Casswell
- £10. Helen Groves

£5 each to; Emily Mitchell, Andrew Jones, Christine Lewis.



Thursday 26th Nov - 6.30pm - Lights & Carols - Ditton Priors

Sunday 29th Nov - 4.00pm - Christingle - Ditton Priors

Saturday 5th Dec - 3.00pm - Carol Service - Loughton

Sunday 6th Dec - 4.00pm - Carol Service - Neenton

Sunday 13th Dec - 11.30am - Carol Service - Cleobury North

Sunday 13th Dec - 4.00pm - Carol Service - Chetton

Friday 18th Dec - 7.00pm - Carols in the Street with Brown Clee YFC - Ditton Priors

Sunday 20th Dec - 11.30am - Carol Service - Ditton Priors

Sunday 20th Dec - 5.00pm - Carol Service - Aston Botterell

Thursday 24th Dec - 4.00pm - Crib Service - Ditton Priors

Thursday 24th Dec - 7.00pm - Carol Service - Wheathill

Thursday 24th Dec - 11.15pm - Midnight Mass - Ditton Priors

Friday 25th Dec - Christmas Day - 10.00am - Group Holy Communion - Chetton

Light refreshments will be served at many of our Services. Please do watch out for any extra details on the pew sheet, facebook and our website www.browncleebenefice.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Wheathill and Loughton News *Marjorie Jones writes:*

We held Harvest Services at both Wheathill and Loughton Churches.

Coming up:-

Sunday 15th November. 2.30pm. Remembrance at Wheathill

Saturday 5th December. 3pm. Carols at Loughton

Thursday. 24th December 7pm. Carols at Wheathill

Aston Botterell News *Anne Preece writes:*

The Harvest festival went off well despite low numbers, thank you to Ragni and the choir and Joe for taking the service. We had some lovely cakes and plenty to sell which we did with a new auctioneer this year - Callum Preece. He did a splendid job and it was like a comedy act between him and Sally.

Many thanks to all who supported this event and for everyone who made the effort to donate cakes and produce.

It all helps to keep our church going we are getting a bit thin on the ground due to illness etc so if anyone can help in anyway, however small, to keep your village church open please get in touch ... it would be very helpful and make it a bit lighter for those who are helping already. Thank you.

Ben and Dan and Collin will always be thankful for help with the church yard

Our last event this year is our carol extravaganza on Sunday 20th December to include carols, Xmas songs, Choir, Brass Band, Father Christmas for the children, mulled wine, squash, shortbread and mince pies, nibbles and Sally  elf.

Please come along to celebrate Christmas in style. The Church will be all lit up outside and inside. There will be a raffle so if anyone would like to give a prize please. 

If anyone would like to help decorate the church, it is a happy event and fun

We send our best wishes to Sonia Scott and wish her a speedy recovery and thank you for her lovely flower arrangement in church for harvest.

Good news ...more potholes filled-in down to Aston, thank you everyone

Aston Botterell PCC Draw October

- £20 - Joanne Muff - 127
- £10 - Neville Carter - 89
- £5 - Jan Haydock - 37
- £5 - Paul Verney - 95

Neenton News *Dot Cartwright writes:*

We've just had our harvest service at Neenton, and it was lovely. Harvest is a time of thanksgiving for all we have and all we have been given, and I've got a list of people I need to thank:

Thank you to Marvin for installing our new heating and lighting systems, and for helping to decorate the church, thank you to Jo, his wife, for working so hard deep cleaning the church and doing the wonderful decorations, with some help from Vikki and Pam. Thank you to everyone that donated items for the harvest, and thanks to Sue and Dawn for delivering the produce to the food bank.

Thank you to the choir, and those that read the lessons, and Keith for taking the service. Thanks to Liz for the lovely flower pots at the front of the church and for reading. Special thanks to Grace for reading, she did extremely well.

I was really miffed not to be able to go to the Pheasant for the beef stew but would like to thank them for providing the refreshments. I have it on good authority that the stew was lovely. Being indisposed as I am at the moment, I am extremely grateful for everyone's help, and if I've forgotten to mention anyone, I'm sorry, but still appreciate all the help from everyone, and thank God that there are such wonderful people around.

Looking forward to our carol service on 6th December at 4pm.

Although the electrical work has been completed, there is still building work continuing to stabilise the stained glass window, and to make the building watertight. If anyone wishes to donate towards this work, please contact Dot Cartwright on 07854 559474.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Chetton News *Shelia Millington writes:*

Flowers & cleaning

Jill & Nick Tofiluk.

Hundred Club

£15.00 Julian Millington no 86

£10.00 Timmy Pugh no 41

When we held our Harvest Festival in September, all was already safely gathered in due to the very hot and dry summer. An excellent lunch was enjoyed at Charles and Lisa's afterwards. It's so good to see parishioners from throughout the Benefice joining us, thank you all for coming to share the day with us.

We learned a great deal about Aethelflaed, Alfred the Great's Granddaughter recently and her connection with Quatford and Tettenhall at a talk by local historian David Guest. It was a fascinating afternoon and we learned about how important she was to protecting England at that time. Many thanks to Nick and Jill Tofiluk for arranging the event and to everyone who helped with refreshments.

We have several fundraising events to look forward to in the next 2 months. We are holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 25th November at Church House, 10am - 12.30pm with coffee, cakes & our usual bric a brac table. You may even find a few Christmas gifts amongst the china & glass!

Again, at Church House, we will be hosting our annual Christmas meal on Friday 4th December, 7pm for 7.30, £20.00 per person.

Forthcoming services for December - our Carol service will be held on Sunday 13th December, 4pm. Our Christmas Day service 10.30am

Cleobury North and Burwarton News *Jane Bufton writes:*

Our Remembrance Service is on Sunday 8th November at 10.15am in church and at the war memorial for the two-minute silence, with refreshments served afterwards.



The Clothes and Bric a Brac Sale is being held on Saturday 14th November, 11am – 4pm at Cleobury Village Hall, with all profits to the church. If anyone has any donations, which will be very gratefully received, the village hall will be open on Friday 13th November from 11am for you to drop off your contributions.

Jane is moving to Shrewsbury to be near her family. She would like to thank everyone for their friendship and kindness over the years and will miss you all.

Julia's next coffee morning will be on Friday 28th November. These extremely popular 'Get Together's' in Cleobury North Village Hall are run on the last Friday of the month from 10.30am-Noon. Do drop in and meet old and new friends alike.

MacMillan Cancer Support – Coffee Morning update.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

On Friday 25th September we held a very successful MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors.

The event was exceptionally well attended with amazing people coming from far and wide to either help or make charitable purchases/donations.

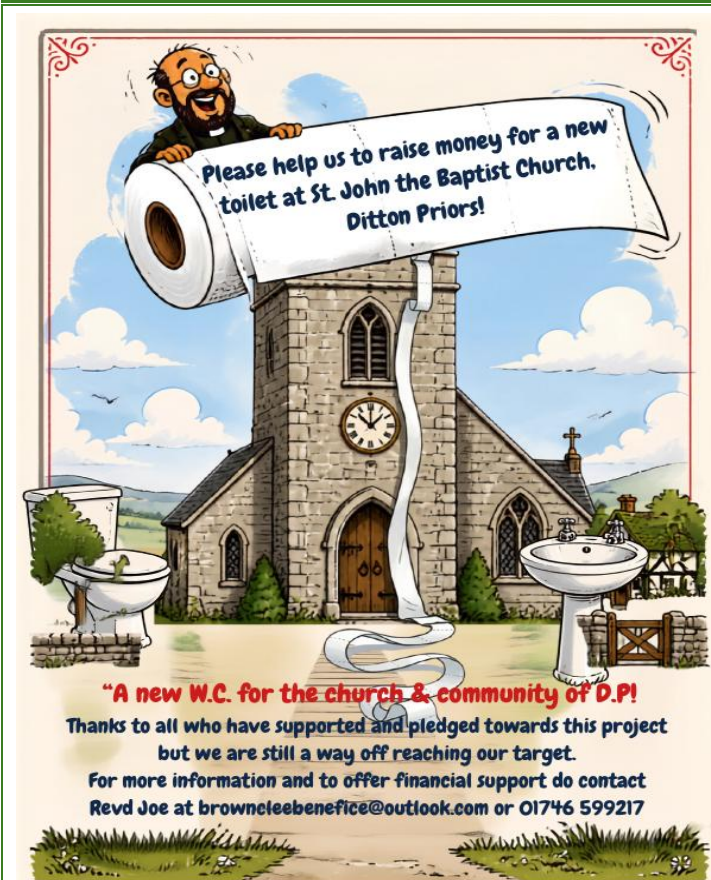
We had a couple of 'Chetton Exiles' Mike and Sue Teague travel from Leicestershire to run the raffle, cake stall and also act as independent financial auditors. A very big thank you to you both.

We raised a grand total of £1,210.88 for the charity which has been paid into their bank account.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the generosity of local businesses and residents. Their donations of goods and produce was gratefully received, also not forgetting the army of volunteers who gave their time and energy to ensure the event was such a success.

Again, thank you all on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support and the unfortunate patients who have to rely on the charities support.

Tony and Julia



St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

NEW BUILDING PROJECT APPEAL Building a Future For All

****CORECTION TO OUR DETAILS FOR
DONATIONS IN LAST MONTHS
WHEATLAND NEWS****

Donations to

**Lloyds Bank: St John the Baptist, Ditton
Priors, Church Fund
Sort code 30-91-19
Account 01087428
Reference – Building Project**

Brown Clee Community

Cleobury North Village Hall *Sharon Jenkins writes:*

Autumn has very much arrived in Cleobury North, with weather changing and those cold mornings, cold evenings and hopefully warm and sunny afternoons. I am sure you will agree that the tree and foliage colours are magnificent at this time of year

November is a busy month for bookings and includes meetings for the Shropshire NHS Mental Health Team, Brown Clee Football Club, the Parish Council, Julia's coffee morning which is always held the last Friday of the month and a special welcome to Jane, one of our great volunteers, who is organizing a tabletop sale in aid of the local Church on the 14th of November 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.

NEWS FROM BROWN CLEE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP *Tina Ranson writes:*

The AGM held in October confirmed the new committee of Ade Robinson, Linda Jackson, Yemmi Agbebi and Judith Miles. The committee chair encouraged other patients to join the committee, bringing a wider range of skills and representation across the 13 Parishes which form the catchment area of the Practice, particularly of the Medical Practice.

Luke Allen and Vicki Brassington were able to answer questions from the floor about booking appointments, and other administrative aspects of the Practice. We all found it really helpful to be able to find out more about the range of ways open to patients to book and cancel appointments, and how these are helping the Practice to work more effectively.

The next open meeting will be Tuesday January 12th 2027 in Ditton Priors Village Hall from 7.00 - 8.00 pm.

All patients welcome to attend and hear from the Practice Partners about the latest developments.



Chetton Village Hall *Sue Bayliss writes:*

The year moves at a pace and our last function is a concert by the American composer and guitarist B D Lenz accompanied by his bass guitarist. Lenz composed the score of 'Breaking Bad ' and will perform two 45 minute sessions between 4-6pm on Saturday 14th November, with a half hour interval for refreshments from a licensed bar. Tickets £15.00.

Thank you to all who have supported our village hall throughout the year.

A reminder of our regular sessions:

Pam's Pilates Monday and Tuesday 9.30, Tuesday at 11am and Noon for seated and supported Pilates. Chetton Active Friends, Monday from 2pm, exercise for all with refreshments to follow. Zumba with Lisa Beards Tuesday at 2.30. Ballroom and sequence dancing with instruction available, Tuesday at 7pm.

The next meeting of the WI will be on Wednesday 11th November in the afternoon. We have just had a very well attended meeting with craft, flower arranging, cake making and creative writing competitions.

Saturday 28th November Sound Bath experience with Sarah.

For further information please contact Sue on 01746 789239.

Ditton Priors Local History Group *Robin Greenwell writes:*



OPEN DAY HUGE SUCCESSFUL!

With around 70 visitors (in just 4 hours!) to our Open Day in September, we are absolutely delighted!

As part of the CLT Open Day, the History Centre (behind the Willows Café) welcomed visitors from near and far, and although the redesign is not completely finished yet, the positive comments we received were wonderful to hear and read.

With 19 of the 25 new information boards on display, telling the story of how our village has been shaped, from the very beginning to what we are today, along with new additions to our collection of artefacts, there was plenty for people to see.

The open day was a great rehearsal for our full new opening which will hopefully be in early December. We had some great feedback, with the new information panels being appreciated by everyone. It was fantastic to talk to some of the older villagers who have so much knowledge, which we need to harvest, perhaps at a future open day.

Our new artefacts, Middleton lodge finds, air crash pieces and Roman excavations have really added to the collection.

I think the biggest compliment was that someone said "you wouldn't expect a history centre of this standard in a such a small village!"

Thank you to everyone who came along!

Ditton Priors Firework Party

Saturday 14th November 2026
@ the Playing Fields (WV16 6SP)

Gates open 6.00pm
Fireworks 7.00pm (approx.)
Adult £7 (16 and over)
Child £1 (3-15 years)

BBQ Burgers, Sausages & Jacket Potatoes
Beer Buz Licensed Bar
Mulled Wine
Sweets, Homemade Cakes & Soft Drinks
Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate & Marshmallows
Buz Beats Radio Show



No unaccompanied children under 18
Absolutely no Sparklers or your own Fireworks



FESTIVE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
10:00 TO 13:00
DITTON PRIORS PAVILION

Make a Christmas Wreath

£20.00 PER PERSON

Tickets available in November
(limited numbers available)

Includes a Glass of Prosecco, Tea, Coffee and a Mince Pie

All materials provided, but please bring secateurs and gloves, plus anything you would like to use to personalise your creations.



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 CHURCHWARDENS Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149 Sarah Crook - sarah@sidbury.plus.com
	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 November

Sunday, 01 November			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Sunday, 08 November Remembrance Sunday			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Cleeton St Mary
10.30am	Remembrance Service	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Wednesday, 11 November School Remembrance Service			
10.50am	Village school Remembrance Service	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Sunday, 15 November			
10.30am	Informal Worship	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
11.45am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Sidbury
Sunday, 22 November			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Silvington
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon
Sunday, 29 November Benefice Group Service (First Sunday of Advent)			
10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Middleton Scriven
Sunday, 06 December			
9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Farlow
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones	Stottesdon

Andrew Sierakowski and Sarah Crook were made Churchwardens in the beautiful Holy Trinity church in Sidbury. The Archdeacon of Ludlow, the Venerable Sam Hustwayte presided over the ceremony. The churchwarden plays an important and often overlooked role in the church and parish community. There are many aspects to the role and they are essential in ensuring the smooth running of the church and community. We would like to thank Andrew and Sarah and all of the other churchwardens across the Wheatland News area for their service.



Pictures from October in the Benefice



A wonderful Harvest loaf made by Jim in Silvington



Cleeton St. Mary Church looked beautiful



New Church Wardens at Sidbury, Andrew and Sarah with Sally and The Venerable Sam Hustwayte, Archdeacon of Ludlow



Pet Service at Stottesdon, a small but perfectly formed group!





The next Messy Church will be on **Friday 27th November at 3.20pm** in the Stottesdon Primary School hall.

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.



Christmas Fair at Cleeton St Mary

Coffee, Cakes, Crafts, Raffle,
Children's Crafts

Everyone is welcome
St Mary's Church 10am - 1pm
Saturday 21st November

Carols • Crafts • Coffee

Christmas Diary Dates

- 21st November 10-2pm Coffee and Christmas crafts, Cleeton St Mary
- 8th December 7pm, Carol Service, Stottesdon
- 12th & 13th December Christmas Tree Festival, Farlow
- 13th December 6.30pm Carol Service, Silvington
- 16th December 7pm Carol Service, Cleeton St Mary
- 17th December 6.30pm Carol Service, Farlow
- 20th December 6.30pm Carol Service, Sidbury
- 22nd December Christmas Messy Church 10am-12, St Mary's Stottesdon
- 24th December 6.30pm Carol Service, Middleton Scriven
- 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass, Stottesdon
- 25th December 10.30am Family Communion Service, Silvington
- 27th December Benefice Group Communion 10.30am, Stottesdon

CAROLS • CRAFTS • MIDNIGHT MASS

Middleton Scriven Ann Constable writes:

Our community Harvest Supper held on October 17th was a great celebration. The church was full, 32 people meant we even needed to bring in extra tables. It was buzzing with chatter and laughter. We enjoyed delicious food, thanks to our Fun Raising team chefs, plus a challenging Autumn quiz. Congratulations to quiz winners Rev Sally and John. A huge thank you to all who supported this event, donated raffle prizes or donated food for Bridgnorth Good Bank and of course to all the Fun raisers for all their hard work.

To make sure you don't miss out on our next community events -here's the dates for the upcoming ones in 2026:

November 14th: Soupa Saturday 11-1 - please note this change of time from our regular coffee morning. £5.00 for soup and roll. £2 coffee and biscuits.

Saturday November 21st 5-7pm: Winter wall hanging workshop:

Informal get together to make a wall hanging. £5 donation. BYO drinks. Bring a plate of nibbles to share. Wall hanging on hazel hearts. (kindly made by Sally) Participants to bring own dried flowers/ greenery/ feathers / hops/ poppy heads etc. So, start drying flowers etc now !!! Interested in taking part: please contact Ann by message or WhatsApp (07843 209465).

December 12th 10-12 Christmas coffee morning and Christmas bake sale.

December 24th 6.30pm: community carols, followed by wine and mince pies.

Please let Ann know of any requests for favourite carols or readings



Heads down for the quiz!

Farlow and Oreton Caroline Bilson writes

October 100 Club Winners

Richard & Katherine Howells £20; Jackie Evans £10; John Turner £10; Julie & Dave Carnell £5; Robert Downes £5

Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest Festival Service and produce sale. A total of £425 was made for the church funds. Thanks to Steve and Sam for their auctioning skills which meant no one left empty handed!

Save the date

There will be a church stall at the Christmas Market on Saturday 14th November at the Village Hall 10:30am to 2:30pm

Community Christmas Tree Festival will take place at the Church on Saturday 12th December 10am to 5pm

The Church Carol Service will take place on Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm

Cleeton St Mary Sue Dolphin writes

100 CLUB NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER:

£20 Wendy Dolphin; £10 Kay Downs; £10 Keith Bowen; £5 Diane Broome; £5 Ian Jordan

Cleeton St Mary church held their Harvest Festival on the 20th of September, nice to see a good attendance, after the service we auctioned off the produce which Geoff and Tony did so well with the sum of £232.

Many thanks to all for their attendance and support.

News from Stottesdon

It happens every year so why does it seem like a surprise when the clocks go forward back to GMT with inevitable discussion in the media about why we don't leave things as they are (and we have the same conversation when they go back too). What all this does do is remind us of the importance of daylight and its impact on our well-being both physical and mental. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a very real thing for many people and although we understand more about our mental health than ever before and appreciate the impact poor mental health can have on our ability to function in modern society there remains a lot we don't know and don't understand. The Orange Button scheme mentioned in last month's WN is a mechanism for offering support to those who just need to talk as well as the many organisations such as Samaritans who have been supporting people for decades. Let's not forget them and the essential work they do.

Molecules of the month; Mirvetuximab soravtansine *by David Poyner*

Mirvetuximab soravtansine is a drug very recently approved in this country for the treatment of

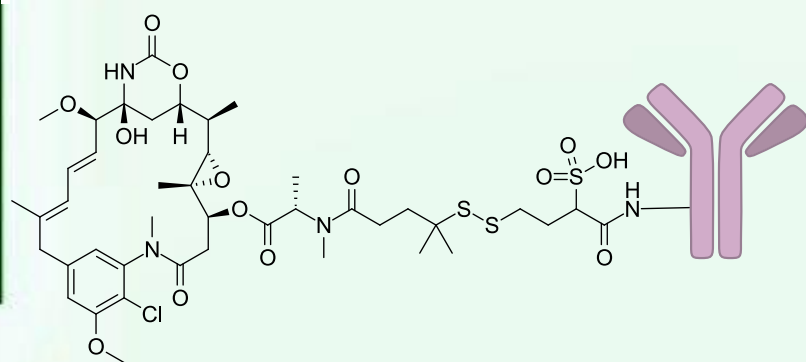
advanced ovarian cancer, and as such, was featured on the BBC news.

Ovarian cancer effects roughly 1 in 50 women, mainly those aged over 50.

The survival rate is good if it is diagnosed at an early stage, but unfortunately this often does not happen, leading to poorer outcomes.

It can be treated by a combination of methods, but there are few good options for advanced cancer.

Mirvetuximab soravtansine is the first new drug approved to treat the disease for 20 years, hence the publicity it is getting.



Mirvetuximab soravtansine. By User:Innerstream - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=125704742>

Mirvetuximab soravtansine is what is known as a drug conjugate or a bitopic ligand. These are simply rather grandiose ways of saying that it has two parts. Anticancer drugs work by killing the cancer cells. In this case, the killer drug is an agent known as DM4 or Ravastine. It is what is known as a tubulin inhibitor. The main distinguishing feature of cancer cells is that they grow and multiply, by dividing. As part of the process where one cell splits into two, it is necessary for the contents of the original single cell to be duplicated and then one set of each must move to either end of the cell. This movement relies on the tubulin; it functions as a railway track, for moving parts within a cell. Once this has been done successfully, the two ends of the cell then separate, to make the new cells. DM4 is one of a group of chemicals that stop tubulin from forming the tracks; as a result, division cannot take place and the cells die as they try to divide.

Drugs such as DM4 have been around for half a century. Their problem is that they do not discriminate between cancer and normal cells and there are plenty of cells in the body that also need to divide; DM4 will kill these as well. That is why chemotherapy typically has unpleasant side effects. This is where the new developments come in. Rather than simply give DM4, the new drug has it chemically attached to an antibody that specifically attached itself to a protein mainly found on the outside of ovary cells. This is known as the folate receptor alpha. Once the complex binds to the outside of the ovary cells, it gets taken inside. There, the DM4 is released from the antibody. Until this happens, it is inactive, but free of the antibody it then attacks the tubulin and stops the cancerous ovarian cells from dividing.

Mirvetuximab soravtansine is not a cure for advanced ovarian cancer; clinical trial data suggests it only prolongs survival by around six or so months compared to other treatments. However, the big difference is that it is free of most of the side effects of these agents, so the patients enjoy a much better quality of life for considerably longer than has previously been possible.



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

CHURCHWARDEN

Carl Hinkinson

St Mary, Billingsley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Peter, Chelmarsh

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Bartholomew, Glazeley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

Severn Valley Benefice Services

1st November

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
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10.30am	Holy Communion	Highley
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8th November Remembrance Sunday

10.00	Remembrance Service	Chelmarsh
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10.35	Remembrance Service	Highley
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10.45	Remembrance Service	Glazeley
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11th November Armistice Day

10.55	Act of Remembrance	Billingsley
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15^h November

9.30	Morning Prayer	Chelmarsh
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10am	Holy Communion	Glazeley
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10.30	Holy Communion	Highley
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22nd November

8.00am	Holy Communion	Billingsley
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9.30am	Holy Communion	Chelmarsh
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10.30am	Informal worship	Highley
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29th November

10.30am	Benefice Service	Highley
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Chelmarsh News:

This month, we lead with a letter from Kina, our rector, about the parish hall.

“Our Harvest Supper is a lovely reminder of what makes Chelmarsh special: people coming together, sharing food, friendship and a sense of belonging. From meetings to the Summer Fete and Harvest Supper, our parish hall plays a much-loved part in the life of our beautiful village.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Susan Jackman, Jane Harding and the whole hall management committee for their dedication and generous service. Their gifts of time, commitment and skills have

kept the hall welcoming and sustained so much of our community life. We are tremendously grateful to them, and to everyone who has supported their work over the years.

After several years of loyal service, the chair and treasurer now wish to stand down. We need new volunteers to carry their work forward.

A meeting will be held in the village hall on 9 November at 7.30pm and we warmly encourage anyone interested in helping to come along. Responsibilities can be shared, and you do not need to have served on a committee before to make a valuable contribution.

The need is urgent. If successors cannot be found, there is a real possibility the current trustees who run the hall would have to disband. In law, neither the local church nor the parish could take over and there is a strong possibility that the hall would have to close.

Yet we have faith in the people of Chelmarsh and what we can achieve together. The hall has served the village since it was first given in 1937. In 1980, a new committee took over from the church and almost completely rebuilt it a wonderful example of community commitment.

Now we have an opportunity to continue that legacy. Whether you can offer organisational skills, practical help or some time, your contribution could make a real difference.

As a church, we are praying for the hall's future and for people to come forward. Scripture encourages us to "serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13)—something we have seen so generously expressed by our committee and volunteers.

Let us work together to keep our parish hall open, welcoming and at the heart of Chelmarsh for generations to come.

Kina"

Harvest festival on Thursday 24th September was well attended; it was good to see so many of our farmers at the church was beautifully decorated. The next evening was the harvest supper, followed by the auction of produce conducted by Keith and Marie in their usual, unique, style. This alone raised over £1000. We also had offers to help for next year's harvest supper, for which we are very grateful.

Billingsley News



The coffee afternoon put on by Ellen McConnell was well attended both by people from Billingsley and also her fellow members of Chetton and Glazeley WI. Many thanks to Ellen, her helpers and all who came. We raised over £350; more importantly, everyone had an excellent time.

Di Stepney, our treasurer, will be stepping down at our next Annual Parish Meeting in April/May. First of all, we would like to thank Di for all her work. We are starting to look for someone to take over from her. What we really want is someone who is community-minded, to help us with the work we do locally. There is no need for the person to live in Billingsley. If you might be interested, please contact myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk). There are plenty of people who can help the new treasurer.

The church has been cleaned and decluttered; please note we no longer are collecting bric-a-brac so do not leave donations as we cannot use them. Please instead take them to a charity shop or otherwise dispose of them.

A second polite notice; please do not scatter the ashes of loved ones in the church. This is against churchyard regulations imposed by the Church of England. Instead, contact myself or the Rev Kina to arrange for us to inter them respectfully.

An advance notice; our Christmas carol service will be on Monday 21st December at 7pm, in the church.

Glazeley News:

We had a good harvest festival. I was unable to secure a full-sized tractor to bless but instead had a "Polaris" off-road vehicle, used by Andrew and Laura in their wood and a model tractor (David Brown, in tribute to our late churchwarden, Graham Tranter). Ian and Gerry's ducks in the paddock next to the church kindly allowed themselves to be blessed and quaked so melodiously I hope to have them in the choir for the next harvest.

Our next event will be the service of Remembrance at the war memorial at 10.45am, for the silence at 11.00, with refreshments in church afterwards.

We will also be having our usual monthly breakfast at the Down on 21st November at 9am; please contact myself (d.r.poyner@aston.ac.uk) or Marion (marion.corfield@talktalk.net) if you want to come; cost £10

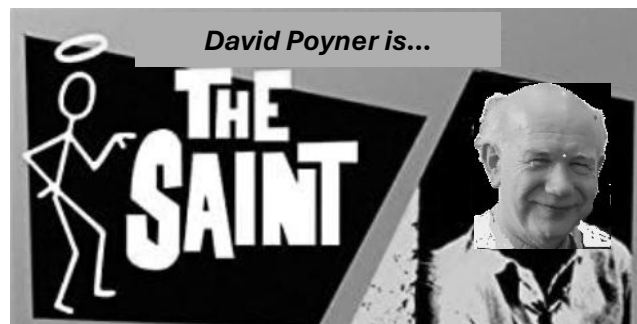


November 1st is All Saints Day, could this be a sign of things to come?

I'm assured this is not AI generated

Does anyone remember the suave, sophisticated and debonair Simon Templar in the adaptation of Leslie Charteris's novels, "The Saint"?

I wonder what would have happened if Roger Moore wasn't available.....



Bridgnorth's beautiful, peaceful graveyard has been crowned Cemetery of the Year!

The peaceful hillside cemetery at Bridgnorth which dates to 1850 has won a Cemetery of the year award. With 2 chapels, 120 species of wildflowers and an abundance of wildlife it truly is a credit to those who look after it. Bridgnorth Cemetery is situated on a site that has been designated as an area of Special Scientific Interest, it is split between old and new - with wartime graves at the bottom, and modern resting places at the top of its hill.

Unusually for a cemetery it's hilly, on top of the hill, you get a good look of Bridgnorth. There are 33 war graves on the site, 18 of them from World War One.

The awards are organised by the Memorial Awareness Board (MAB), Bridgnorth claimed the gold award in the competition's parish, town and community category.



Off to a wild start....



Sue Mabberley from Nant y Bedd Garden was the first speaker of our new programme. Nant-y-Bedd is a 10-acre organic garden and woodland located in the Black Mountains in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Sue has been gardening there for 46 years with her husband Ian. The garden has grown and evolved with various projects being added over the years. Whilst many of us think that rewilding is a fairly new concept, Sue has been gardening that way for 40 years.

Sue's garden is so impressive that over the years it has featured in many publications including Gardens Illustrated, The Times, The Garden, House & Garden and Country Homes & Interiors. Sue also frequently opens for charity. She has had visits from Carol Klein, Alan Titchmarsh and featured on Gardener's World.

Sue showed us images of her garden and how she uses wildflowers and edibles to both look good and for food. We saw a beautiful border of frothy white flowers which members were surprised to hear was ground elder! I am not sure how many of us were convinced to let it run wild in our gardens though, as Sue has done.

Sue based her talk on an article written by Stephen Anderton, Garden Writer for the Times, called 'How to Rewild" your garden in nine easy steps.

1. Stop spending; use what you already have and let the natural ecology of the garden develop.
2. Keep the people spaces; like paths, leaving other spaces for wildlife.
3. Continue maintenance; be prepared to continue working in the space.
4. Add water; even a small feature like a birdbath can bring in wildlife.
5. Choose plants carefully; the rewilding gardener needs to make pragmatic choices, and they don't necessarily need to be native plants.
6. Accept some mess; some areas of the garden should be left wild whilst other areas 'tidied' to create a variety of habitats for wildlife and plants.
7. Create new habitats; long grass, damp corners, craggy walls and let nature take its place.
8. Do your research; ask others, particularly in your area about what works well. Finally, and the point that I think is possibly the hardest,
9. Keep calm and be patient.

If you are interested in rewilding your garden, then a visit to Nant y Bedd is probably your first step. Sue runs helpful workshops and those that she is running in 2027 will be on her website and available for booking from the end of November.
<https://nantybedd.com>



November's meeting is on Thursday 12th at 2.00pm when Mark Duffell will be telling us about 'Darwin the Botanist'. This talk is an exploration of the many botanic discoveries made by Darwin and his contemporaries, particularly those lesser known and he compares them to our current understanding. You do not need to be a member to hear any of our speakers. If you are interested, just come along where you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

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

St. Cecilia and St. Catherine

I hope you are enjoying my suggestions from last month, making the best of the autumn. For November, I thought it might be different to concentrate on 2 saints whose feast days are in this month. They are both women, St Catherine and St Cecilia. I have a sister called Catherine and Cecilia is one of my daughter's names. So, I set about finding out more about them. Cecilia first as her feast day is 22nd November and Catherine is the 25th, if you have the right Catherine.



*St. Cecilia playing the pipe organ, by
Antonio Franchi*

It was fascinating searching for the life of Cecilia, the patron saint of music. Many concerts and musical events take place every year on 22nd November in her honour and I am sure there will be several in Shropshire this year. She is referred to as a 3rd or 4th century woman but all the evidence available at that time says nothing about her – so where did she come from?

The truth is we do not know (except there was another woman called Cecilia, who did have a nice house in Trastevere in Rome in the 4th century, which became a church and so confusion was sown). This did not stop the story of Cecilia growing through the centuries. Possibly her marriage to Valerian was marked by her declaring she had consecrated her virginity to God and persuading him to become a Christian. This he did along with his brother Tiburtius only to be put to death for upsetting the local pagans. Cecilia was sorted out next by being suffocated first before an attempt to behead her, but the assassin only struck her

head 3 times and 3 days later she died. This story, account, yarn or fairytale did not stop the rise of this saint as from the 6th century onwards she was popular. In the 16th century she became the patroness of music and has remained so ever since.

St Catherine was even harder to pin down. The Catherine that is associated with Bonfire Night is identified as St Catherine of Alexandria, who like Cecelia dedicated herself to God and Christianity, a Bride of Christ. Eventually she too was put to death. She was beaten, imprisoned and then tied to a spiked wheel which fell to pieces as it turned. She was finally beheaded. Her name was given to the catherine wheel firework – can you still buy them? She was then carried away by angels to Mount Sinai where the amazing Orthodox monastery there is dedicated to her. But it seems that like Cecilia, Catherine never actually existed.

It is amazing to me that these 2 women have survived in their saintly form, never actually having been born. It says a lot about people's need to have something to believe in. The early church was very masculine but was probably exciting as the new faith spread quickly across the world as it was nearly 2000 years ago. Perhaps believing makes something real. Now that's a lot to think about this month!

**Anni Holden Calver,
Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre**



St Catherine of Alexandria by Caravaggio

People's Emergency Briefing - Ditton Priors 29 September

An audience of 53 attended the People's Emergency Briefing hosted by Abdon District Community Wildlife Group at Ditton Priors Village Hall. This was a non-partisan, all-inclusive event where personal choices and livelihoods were not judged or criticised. In my opening remarks I reminded the audience of the extreme heat suffered this summer and its devastating effects close to home, particularly in Stourbridge and Birmingham.

The 50-minute film is footage from a day-long briefing in Westminster Hall to 1200 MPs. Peers, and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media organised by the National Emergency Briefing group. Nine leading experts vividly described the UK's exposure to climate change and nature breakdown. The experts covered nature, climate, tipping points, weather extremes, food security, health, national security, economics and energy transition highlighting the risks and proposing what an emergency response should look like.

Following the film, we split up into 6 discussion groups, each with a leader/note taker taking them through these questions:-

1. **Initial reactions to the film.** Some felt that this was preaching to the converted, but others felt that there was value in having all issues together so that the implications could be better understood.
2. **Did they learn anything new?** The defence and security risks of climate change were a recurring point as well as the inefficiency of fossil fuels.
3. **What actions could you take?** Common themes were avoiding flying, conscious/conscientious shopping, converting to electric vehicles and growing our own or shared veg.
4. **Things we can do collectively as a community** There were many suggestions including community management of flood risk and engagement with Parish Councils and planners, as well as developing more community resilience. Sharing and support of community and individual food initiatives, such as home veg growing were also suggested.

In a follow-up email the audience received a summary of the discussion answers and comments and a list of helpful websites across a range of organisations for further information.

The National Emergency Briefing group ask that we all contact our MP asking them to support and sign their petition for a National Emergency Briefing on television. This petition closes on 20 November 2026.

Miles Leach
milesleach712@gmail.com
Abdon District Community Wildlife Group



Daddy's Hat in October from St. Mary the Virgin in Jackfield, Saxon Fire and Fleur & Lindsay

Armistice Day



Most people know that the Armistice of WW1 took effect from the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. The actual Armistice was signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, at 5:45 am for the "cessation of hostilities on the Western Front", which took effect at 11:00 am. The armistice initially expired after a period of 36 days and had to be extended several times. A formal peace agreement was reached only when the Treaty of Versailles was signed the following year.

Several countries have since changed the name from Armistice Day to either Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth, or Veterans Day in the United States. The first official Armistice Day event was held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on the morning of 11 November 1919, which included a two-minute silence as a mark of respect for those who died in the war and those left behind.

In the UK, beginning in 1939, the two-minute silence was moved to the Sunday nearest to 11 November in order not to interfere with wartime production should 11 November fall on a weekday. This became Remembrance Sunday. Many people observe a two-minute silence on both the 11th of November as well as Remembrance Sunday if they are different days.

Commemorations of November 11 were initially focused on honouring the military dead of the First World War and the return to peace. Just prior to or shortly after World War II, the focus became to include all veterans of their armed services, and to honour their war dead both uniformed and civilian.

Many countries lay wreaths at a Cenotaph, the literal meaning of the word cenotaph is "empty tomb", the Cenotaph in London was designed in 1919 by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled on November 11th, 1920.

Several countries have Remembrance Day as a National Holiday including Serbia, a little-known fact is that as a percentage of their total population at the time, the Serbian forces suffered the highest casualty rate of the First World War.

In Poland the 11th of November is National Independence Day (*Narodowe Święto Niepodległości*) to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty from the German and Russian Empires. Following the partitions in the late 18th century, Poland ceased to exist as a sovereign state for 123 years until the end of World War I, when the destruction of the neighbouring powers allowed the country to reemerge. The restoration of Poland's independence was gradual and started in 1916, but crucial to restoring independence was the defeat of the occupying powers and that Russia was plunged into the confusion of revolution and civil war.

Ceremonies are held in Kenya over the weekend two weeks after Armistice Day. This is because news of the armistice only reached today's Zambia (the then Northern Rhodesia) about a fortnight later, where the German and British commanders then had to agree on the protocols for their own armistice ceremony.



At this time of year several farmers are now hedge cutting. They usually put signs out, but if they are cutting a large area it may be several hundred metres away from where they are. Please be courteous to the tractor drivers, it's an important job and helps everyone to drive safer by increasing visibility. The drivers will pull in to let you pass but they sometimes have to back into a safe place. Be especially careful if you are going around a blind corner. Thank You.



Are you a budding Wordsworth, Tennyson, or maybe a Pam Ayres?



For the Christmas (yes, it's the time of year when we can legitimately use that word!) edition we are having a **poetry competition**. We will try to include as many entries as we get in the December edition, where we will announce the winner. If you look at my offering to get you in the mood, that took me all of 5 minutes (and you can see why), you'll be pleased to know I'm not going to be a judge. I'll leave that to my far better colleagues in the WN committee.

*Christmas time is here,
Turkey, wine and hearty cheer.
Too much Christmas pud and telly,
All the repeats of Mary Berry.
Tinsel is hung on the Christmas tree,
The nativity's out, come and see.
Loud carols are sung, the Story is spoken,
But silence when you find your present is broken.
"Dinner is ready" I hear my wife call,
So, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.*

So, for the terms and condition – the small print – that I'm going to break with tradition and write in large print. The rules are very simple:

1. It must be your own work, as much as I love Betjeman it must be your own
2. 10 lines maximum please
3. Please send your entry to "wheatlandnews@outlook.com"

Local Ministry in the Church



Local worship and lay ministry

Want to know more but never felt it was the right time to ask?

Curious about how to play your part?

If you have questions and would like to know more contact
Rev Sally on 01746 599076

There are over 400 churches in the Hereford Diocese alone, many of these are small, rural, but still active churches. Quite simply in several parishes there aren't enough ordained vicars to minister to all churches. The Church of England recognises that far-reaching changes are taking place in society, and the Diocese of Hereford has adopted Local Ministry as part of its strategy for the future.

This means recognising that 'the ministry of the local church' involves everyone, not just the Vicar. Many lay people already work hard for the church in practical ways, but often not all the gifts for mission, pastoral care, leading worship and strategic thinking are being used.

Local Ministry Roles

The Diocese of Hereford has developed a range of Local Ministry and Worship roles to enable people with all sorts of gifts to work as part of a team which offers worship, pastoral care and mission activities in church and in the wider community. These roles are supervised by the parish priest and work alongside other lay or ordained ministers.

What this means in practice

Across all of our parishes in the Wheatland News area we are lucky that we have Reverends Joe, Kina and Sally, we also have a Reader and Local Worship Leaders. In the Stottesdon parish we know from experience that it can be difficult to arrange for visiting priests to cover when we had no permanent vicar and other aspects of the ministry were not being performed. Our vicars are only human, the same as the rest of us, and that means they may not always be available. Local Ministry empowers lay people to help the incumbent in worship, and other roles, with flexible training, and practical resources to support local churches and communities.

At the end of October the Archdeacon led a discussion at Worfield on the roles of Local Ministry. Unfortunately, this was too late for anything to be included in this edition (we'll try to publish a précis in a later edition), if anyone in the parishes volunteers to be a Local Minister please support and help them in this role. If you wish to find out about Local Ministry please contact Sally, Joe, or Kina.

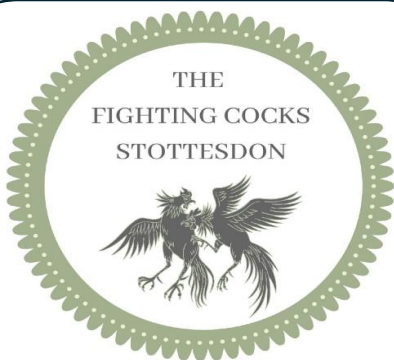
Brown Clee Surgery PPG	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com , or Sec Bev Harris on 07933-724728
Burwarton & District WI	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
 Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
Chelmarsh Games Group	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
 Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking Group	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
Chetton & Glazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. For enquiries re trying a session or two and membership please contact Elisabeth Buggins, Secretary - Phone: 07855 018288 Email: elisabeth@buggins.com
Chetton 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.
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 e.g. 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 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
 Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
 Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
 Tae kwon-do	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055



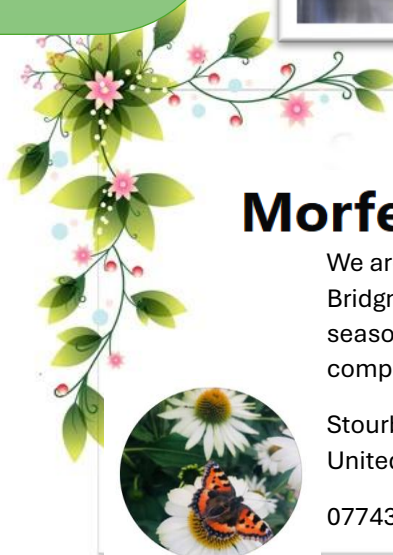
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The Back Page

Diwali falls late this year – on November 8th – because it follows the Hindu lunisolar calendar rather than the fixed Gregorian calendar. In the Western world we often refer to Diwali as the Festival of Light, it represents the victory of light over darkness, good over evil. It is the triumph of righteousness; knowledge in place of ignorance. Historically it is likely that the Diwali is a fusion of festivals. It pre-dates Christianity and dates back at least 2,500 years. It is mentioned in multiple ancient texts.

In the lead-up to Diwali, celebrants may prepare by cleaning and decorating temples, as well as their homes and workplaces. It's called the Festival of Light because places are brightly illuminated with candles and oil lamps. In the UK with our usual November weather, electric lights are often used and fireworks set off. This year should be interesting as many Guy Fawkes firework displays will also on the 7th and 8th of November.

Devotional offers (puja) are made and families may organise feasts in which sweets (mithai) and gifts are shared.



Thanksgiving in the United States is celebrated on the last Thursday of November, this year it will be on November 26th. The first “thanksgiving” was in 1621. It was popularised particularly in New England and the first holiday was declared in 1623 at the Plymouth Colony, although harvest celebrations occurred in North America by native Americans long before colonisation.

The Plymouth colonists, known today as Pilgrims had settled in a part of Massachusetts formerly occupied by the Pawtuxet Indians who died in a devastating epidemic between 1614 and 1620.

The harsh winter of 1620/21 killed half of the Plymouth colonists. Two native intermediaries of the Wampanoag, Samoset and Squanto, negotiated a peace treaty and established trade relations with the colonists. Squanto taught the pilgrims how to catch eels and grow corn on the soil. The Wampanoag also gave the pilgrims food when their supplies ran out.

The 1621 harvest was bountiful and the pilgrims celebrated by giving thanks to both God and the Wampanoag.

As a footnote in 2015, under the Obama administration, the Federal Government declared two parcels of land totalling around 320 acres as a Wampanoag tribal reservation. Estimates are that there are around 4,500 Wampanoag descendants living today.

On Thanksgiving Day in the USA, the act of “pardoning the turkey” is very recent. Starting from 1947 with the Truman administration, the President is presented with a live turkey from the National Turkey Federation which was slaughtered and eaten. President Reagan had been sending the turkeys presented to him to farms and zoos and in 1987 he “pardoned” the bird as a joke to deflect questions about whether he would consider pardoning Oliver North. During the subsequent Presidency of George H. W. Bush, pardoning the turkey became a tradition. The second Trump administration have sent the pardoned birds to the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Centre.



Peas, the turkey was pardoned by President Trump in 2018 in his first term