

WHEATLAND NEWS

August 2020



Wheatland Country: 'All the kingdoms of the world and their glory' (Matthew 4:8)

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

Editorial

Wheatland News

Distribution of hard copies of the Wheatland News is still not viable under the Government guidelines so we continue to publish an electronic copy for the benefices to put on their respective websites and A Church near You. As time progresses we will need to know how many people would like to receive hard copies so that we can make a decision about the number needed to be printed. Please let your distributor know whether you would prefer a hard copy or are happy to continue to log into the websites to read the electronic copy. Further information will be given when we know how the COVID-19 restrictions progress.

WN Diary

Its so good to see events starting to happen again across the Wheatland area. Not yet enough to warrant a full page Diary, but here's what we have for August, to get us started again. Don't forget to let your coordinator know of items you'd like included in future editions.

Mon	3	Aug	Deadline for your entries for Shropshire Virtual Show – see page 17
Mon	3	Aug	Cleobury Mortimer Library reopening planned
Thur	13	Aug	20 minutes Balance and Core exercise, Ditton Priors Playing Field, 10.00 am
Sat	15	Aug	VJ75 Day – listen for the church bells chiming
Sat	12	Sept	Ride and Stride

And finally

The news that we are now able to return to our activities of choice e.g. swimming, gyms etc has been welcomed. The encouragement to return to work either from home or back to the office is now becoming a reality for many people, however there remains the fear of going out into the public domain even though face coverings have become compulsory/mandatory in shops and other buildings. The guidance remains that we should maintain the 2 metres distance if possible to prevent the spread of the virus. This should not prevent us from resuming some of our social contact and in the following pages there are ideas from the parishes for people to get involved in activities while maintaining the government statement:

Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

Ed



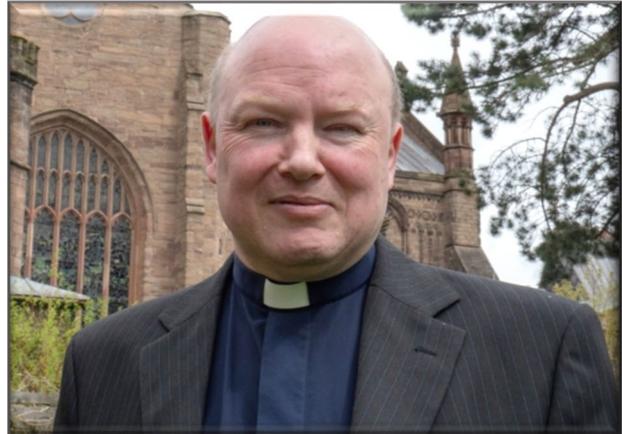
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Diocese of Hereford

Archdeacon Derek's message for August

It is said we are shaped by our culture. If that is true, then one of the strongest leadership motifs is that of the hero leader. In film we have James Bond, Indiana Jones and Princess Leia; in television we have Doctor Who, Buffy and Danger Mouse: we are surrounded by heroes. (I'm a big action film and sci-fi fan).



However, so often they are flawed individuals, some like Bond or The Doctor are anti-heroes just staying the right side of the line but edging on many occasions into the ambiguous middle ground, the grey moral no-man's land of society's values. Some like Batgirl or the Green Arrow seem to have turned to the darkness to right the wrongs of society and they are shaped by a deep inner drive and personal angst.

Many of the old heroes like Captain America and Wonder Woman knew which side of the line they stood, firmly in the light, righting wrongs with justice, compassion and fairness. We could always tell the good guy or girl because they wore the white hat (The Lone Ranger) while the bad guys always wore black (Darth Vader).

The problem for the Church is that these heroes and anti-heroes always win the day, good always triumphs and the hero wins the applause and adulation. This is extremely seductive for those who seek or feel called to leadership positions: being the saviour raises us to the standard of hero, it places us at the centre of the action. It creates status, position and power but it also creates problems. There is only one saviour in the Christian story and it isn't us.

In Jesus's temptation in the wilderness Satan offers him the chance to be a super hero, to be adored and feted but instead Jesus chose a different path. He chose the path of servant and constantly refused to be the hero. Not only did he choose a different path he chastised James and John when they sought power and position and Peter was rebuked for refusing to have his feet washed. Those in religious power consistently found Jesus challenged them for abusing their positions. Jesus's challenge is for the leader to be a servant not a hero, to seek the path of service, generosity, hospitality, compassion and self-giving.

Even in the business world it is now widely recognized that the hero leader or heroic CEO is more hindrance than help.

As Jim Collins, the author of Good to Great, says:

Virtually everything our modern culture believes about the type of leadership required to transform our institutions is wrong. It is also dangerous. There is perhaps no more corrosive trend to the health of our organisations than the rise of the celebrity CEO, the rock-star leader whose deepest ambition is first and foremost self-centric.

If you feel a call to leadership in the Church then perhaps you need to stop and ask yourself what is your motivation, do you want to serve or be served? A good friend of mine used to ask prospective ordinands how they'd feel if he asked them to sweep up the leaves on his drive or to help him wash the dishes at their first meeting, he understood that leadership began and ended with servant-heartedness.

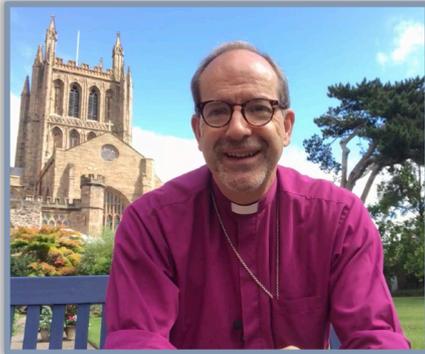


So heroic leaders need not apply! What is wanted here and now in our church as we emerge from COVID are servant-hearted leaders who are ambitious for the Kingdom and not for themselves. They are those who point to Jesus as the one who transforms lives and society, they recognise they are only signposts to a Kingdom that is both here and yet to come.

If you feel you are called to leadership that points to Jesus, then the Church needs you!

Derek

The Ven Derek Chedzey is Archdeacon of Hereford and Ludlow



Bishop Richard's weekly video messages

Bishop Richard continues to give his weekly video messages – find the latest on the [home page of the Hereford Diocese](#) website.

Transcripts of each of his messages, together with many other items, are on the [Diocese Talking Points](#) page. The videos themselves are on YouTube – just search for Bishops of Hereford.

A message from the Director-General of the World Health Organisation

“We’re asking everyone to treat the decisions about where they go, what they do, who they meet with as life-and-death decisions – because they are.

It may not be your life, but your choices could be the difference between life and death for someone you love or for a complete stranger.

In recent weeks we have seen outbreaks associated with nightclubs and other social gatherings, even in places where transmission had been suppressed. We must remember that most people are still susceptible to this virus.

As long as it's circulating, everyone is at risk.

It's all about making good choices. Know your situation:

- Do you know how many cases were reported where you live yesterday?
- Do you know where to find that information?
- Do you know how to minimise your exposure?
- Are you being careful to keep at least 1 metre from others?
- Are you still cleaning your hands regularly?
- Are you following the advice of your local authorities?

Don't expect someone else to keep you safe. We all have a part to play in protecting ourselves and one another.”



Shropshire Council is keeping us up to date with all relevant local issues, including the latest on [Coronavirus in Shropshire](#). You can [sign up for daily updates from Shropshire Newsroom](#), and on topics of interest to you. Also, [Government data](#) is updated daily.

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

Ride & Stride - what's happening in 2020 - great news!

A message from the SHCT R&S team

Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday 12 September!

After consultation with the Chairman and R+S Treasurer, we have made the decision to ask Churches and Chapels in Shropshire if they would be prepared to enter R+S again this year but with a much simpler model.

If we can raise just £10,000 that would be hugely helpful for the Churches and the Trust.

The objective is for participants to visit as many churches and chapels as you can (even if closed) and to obtain sponsorship for your efforts.

All the forms are available on the Web site.

- Assume that churches will not be open.
- There may not be anyone to welcome participants.
- Refreshments are extremely unlikely.
- Toilets will not be available
- There will be no signing-on form at the church
- Please sign your own sponsor form for each church that you visit!
- Stay safe and enjoy the day!



Finance

After the event, participants give the money and sponsorship form to their Church Organiser.

Churches retain half of the money raised! The other half goes to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

We are still looking for a Ride + Stride County Organiser.

If you know anyone who has perhaps recently retired and would like to help please have a think about Churches in Shropshire and ask them to get in touch.

The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust awarded grants to a total value of £102,140 between January and October 2019. In 2019, Ride and Stride raised a massive £29,205.

The United Benefice of Brown Clee

Rector: Revd Terry Mason The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ Telephone 01746-712636		
St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill & Loughton CHURCHWARDENS Carole Smith: 01746-712474 Mark Smith: 01746-712394		St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell CHURCHWARDEN Anne Preece: 01746-787237
St Giles, Chetton CHURCHWARDENS Sheila Millington: 01746-789443 June Preece: 01746-789211	SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North CHURCHWARDENS Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676 Jane Bufton: 01746-787298	All Saints, Neenton CHURCHWARDENS Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093 Sue Hale: 01746-787650

Brown Clee Group News

See the feature from the Rev Terry Mason on page 8.

With social events only just getting started, we have no more Brown Clee Group news to share this month. Village Halls are starting to reopen under controlled conditions, so we hope that there will be more to tell you in September. Best wishes to all the groups - especially the Brown Clee Walkers, and the Women's Institute and Wives Groups, as they prepare for their forthcoming programmes.

Reports from the constituent Brown Clee parishes follow after Terry's feature. It is so cheering to see that congregations are starting to attend each other's services, and that group services are also planned.

Benefice website

Don't forget to look at the Benefice website to see what is going on in all the parishes too.

<http://www.browncleechurches.org.uk/>

Copy date for July Wheatland News – please send all contributions to your coordinator no later than **Monday 24th August**. As we don't have to allow time for printing during the lockdown, we're able to extend our deadlines, which means more time for news-gathering!

2020 - August Worship Rota - Brown Clee Churches

2020	WEEK 1 Sunday 2nd August Trinity 8	WEEK 2 Sunday 9th August Trinity 9	WEEK 3 Sunday 16th August Trinity 10	Week 4 Sunday 23th August Trinity 11	Week 5 Sunday 30th August Trinity 12
8-30 am				Ditton Priors Said Communion	
9-45 am	Ditton Priors Communion	Ditton Priors Communion	Ditton Priors Communion	Chetton Communion	
10 am					Neenton* Group Service Communion 10.15am
11-30 am	Aston Botterell Communion	Chetton Communion	Neenton Communion	Cleobury North Communion	
6 pm			Loughton Communion		

(*This may alter subject to COVID guidelines)

The Revd Terry Mason writes - Dear Friends and Parishioners

I write with both a sense of joy yet also sadness. Clearly I am delighted that our churches are open again for Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals etc., but there is a very dark cloud hanging over our churches at present.

Living as we do in a beautiful area with an unparalleled freedom compared to those people in our inner city areas where movement has been so restricted and often living accommodation has been tight for some families during 'Lockdown, there has been fostered a sense of the 'surreal.' By this I mean that whilst the world has been held in 'Lockdown' although it can seem our everyday problems are on 'hold' we know they have not really gone away! Thus in reality, our financial commitments have not idled in suspension, quite the opposite, they have in fact now become for many a critical issue, the churches are included in this new nightmare!

I'm sure most of us feel a guarded sense of relief that we have been able to begin the process of getting back a little towards 'normality,' albeit we all find ourselves facing new challenges. It is easy in our beautiful communities to take our parish churches for granted, after all, they have been there for centuries and in our hearts we expect them to continue for centuries to come. I wish this were true, COVID 19 has exacerbated a growing problem for our churches whose finances have been under severe pressure these last few years. These days, many of our rural churches have relied on 'Fund Raising' events, such as May Day Fairs, Duck Races etc. Without these the churches are unsustainable, and thus we face a most difficult task ahead. We are designating September as an opportunity for church goers and for our wider community contacts to consider if they can make a special financial gift to the church in order to help bridge the vast gap between income and expenditure this year due the to COVID CRISIS.

More details will follow next month but the weekend of September 20th will herald a 'Gift Weekend.' We hope those concerned with keeping our churches open and alive will be generous and make a donation to our parish churches. If we fail to bridge the gap the future of many of our beautiful churches will be uncertain. For more details or if you wish to make a contribution please contact Revd Terry Mason. TEL: 01746 712 636. Please do pray or think about how you might help keep our churches open for the future.

Ditton Priors News

Sally writes:

Breaking through the sound barrier

Someone said that there is more in this world to unite us than that which drives us apart....

Covid 19 has been doing both and, wherever we stand on politics and science the experience throughout Ditton Priors has been one of helpfulness rather than hopelessness; gratitude more than greed, and joy in sharing our common love of nature. Simple values, like kindness, compassion and community spirit as well as peace and quiet, have risen to the height of our consciousness and we have collectively embraced positive opportunities, given by the recent easing of restrictions, whilst still maintaining careful safeguards for the sake of our vulnerable, rather than fearing for our own health.

Gardens have become our heavens and there are things happening in them that we should all help to make each other aware of. For those like me (and a number of my special friends) who steadfastly refuse to (or simply cannot) “go online”, the Wheatland News and its contents need to be talked about throughout the whole area! Please phone a friend as soon as you have read this August issue and make sure that they know about anything that you know is happening out of doors – WORD OF MOUTH TRAVELS FASTEST, and here is one to start you off - FREE!

Indoor Walking Group – OUTSIDE!!!

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST 10am on Ditton Priors Playing Field – 20 minutes Classical Ballet, Balance and Core movement (to music from Sally’s car stereo) which can be undertaken (in your own portable chair or) “standing socially distanced” in front of your car.



This meeting will be the 4th successful event for the “Indoor Walking Group”, begun many years ago by Nancy Price, whose joyous life ended last month aged 103 years. May she rest in peace. Sally



St John the Baptist 100 Club

Thank you to all members for joining the 100 Club's 32nd year. Your support is always appreciated. THANKS must also go to D&V STORES, PARKER MOTORS, and the ladies who have helped with collecting subscriptions. Due to the unforeseen circumstances this year, we have only met recently to do the draws. Results as follows:

<p><i>April winners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £20 – J & S Ballard• £10 – Alan Jones• £5 each – Pam Gennard, Richard May, Dennis Griffiths	<p><i>May winners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £20 – Richard Jones• £10 – Clive Mason• £5 each – Alan Jones, Mrs E Wade, Maureen Lloyd
<p><i>June winners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £100 – Carole Smith• £20 – Irene Jones• £10 – Brian Watkins• £5 each – Gordon Irison, Lyn Bason, Mr & Mrs B Wilson	<p><i>July winners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £20 – Doreen Massey• £10 – Jutta Langham• £5 each – Ann Lawrence, J&S Ballard, Audrey Golden

Aston Botterell News

Church Service

The next service to be held at St Michael and All Angels Church will be on Sunday 2nd August at 11.30am.

Burwarton and Cleobury North News

Church Services

Church services have resumed at SS Peter & Paul Church and the Group Service held on Sunday 26th July was attended by representatives from all the parishes in the Brown Clee Benefice. The next service will be on Sunday 23rd August at 11.30am

Cleobury North and District Village Hall

There will be limited opening of the village hall for small, socially distance gatherings from 27th July.

COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines are published throughout the building.

Hirers and users of the hall will be required to be responsible for adhering to these guidelines and will need to record the names and contact numbers of persons attending events and keep these for 21 days.

Booking details are published on the final page of this magazine.

Wheathill & Loughton

The service in August will be on Sunday 16th at 6pm in LOUGHTON.

Chetton News

From Pam Downing

Services in August

- Sunday 9th August, 11.30 am
- Sunday 23rd August, 9.45 am.

Flowers & cleaning

- June Preece & Helen Dunn.

From the registers

Burials – Edward Mullard. Condolences to all the family.

We held our first Church service since Lockdown on Sunday 12th July, it was so good to be back together and to see friendly faces. We managed to social distance extremely well and although we couldn't sing hymns, Terry had brought along his clever technology (cd player!) to help us along. With the Covid situation easing at the moment, we look forward to our usual two services this month.

Joe has kindly worked his magic with the mower and the Churchyard looks very neat and tidy - thank you Lisa for organising Nigel to tidy the up the weeds. It is very much a team effort keeping it all in order.

Many congratulations to Charlotte & David for your wedding on 11th July. This was due to take place in Chetton, but due to the Covid pandemic, a smaller celebration was held in London. We wish you lots of happiness for the future.

100 Club

- £15.00 Roger Simpson
- £10.00 Kim Archer

Chetton Village Hall

We are hoping to open the hall in a small way during August, providing things remain stable locally.

Hand sanitizer will be placed around the hall and in the entrance, where there will be a **visitor book**. It is essential that anyone entering the hall leave their **contact details**, which will be removed after 21 days.

Small socially distanced gatherings may take place: I am sure it will be sometime before any functions will be allowed. The hall is spacious and we have plenty of room to allow a safe environment, the room will be cleaned after every use.

Please telephone 789239 if you have any concerns.

Amazon Smile

On a brighter note, for anyone purchasing from Amazon, we are now part of the [Amazon Smile](#) scheme. I believe you have to select Amazon Smile and search for Chetton and District Parish Hall, continue with your purchase and we get a donation.



A Committee Member has registered with the scheme and says it is a simple process!

I hope everyone remains well, and hope for more normal times in the future. More details next month.

Neenton News

All Saints' Church

Our first service held in July was interesting and uplifting with several people from other parishes joining us and interacting during the address. The music was beautiful to hear even though singing the hymns was not possible. We would like to thank Norma and Terry for their hard work during the week before, making the path and church ready for the service. Much appreciated by Bobbie and Sue while we are recovering from our various maladies.

We look forward to further services on Sunday 16th August at 11.30 followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when the churchwardens and other officers will be elected for the coming year, and a Group Service on Sunday 30th August at 10.15am. All welcome to attend. Social distancing will be observed.

Ride & Stride (see page 6 for further details)

This will be held on Saturday 12th September 2020 under the current government guidelines. Churches are not being asked to open and refreshments will not be available, however, participants can be sponsored for the number of churches they visit and can sign their own record of churches visited. Sponsors can contact Dot Cartwright on 07854559474 to donate as she will be visiting various churches in the area. If anyone is up to the challenge of cycling, driving or indeed walking to any of the churches and are able to obtain sponsors, **forms are available from Bobbie** on 01746 787093.



Maybe we've got some participants already!

All Saints' Church Tote

<p>April winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sue Hale (Freddie) (46)• Martin Moreton (17)	<p>May winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Moreton (19)• Dot Cartwright (12)
<p>June winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emma Molloy (38)• Margaret Griffiths (50)	<p>July winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caroline John (3)• Margaret Griffiths (50)

Subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months and the first draw will be at the end of August 2020.

Team Type 1 – One Million Step Challenge

The article by Laura Yates on the Middleton Scriven page 23 of this edition of WN tells the story of Team Type 1 – but Neenton has an addition to Laura's story.

Will Buxton, former resident of Neenton, is going the extra mile for this challenge and has committed to walking 1.7 million steps (this is the length of the UK from John O' Groats to Landsend). As we go to print he has completed 459,000 steps, this equates to 242 miles which means he has 1,241,000 steps to go!

This is a fantastic challenge to raise funds for research into Type 1 Diabetes which affects many people when they are young and is with them for the rest of their lives. To support Will and other members of the team you can sponsor them on: <https://step.diabetes.org.uk/pages/team-type-1>



The Pheasant at Neenton

Social distancing throughout the pub and the new parasols on the terrace outside the Oak Room for *al fresco* dining have proved popular since reopening in the middle of July.

The Pheasant is currently open at the following times:

- Wednesday and Thursday 12noon to 3pm, 6pm to 11pm
- Friday and Saturday 12noon to 11pm
- Sunday from 12noon to 8pm

Booking is essential for drinking or dining to maintain social distancing.

Take Away Fish and Chips are available on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings £8 -please order the day before.

The Accommodation in the three rooms will be open from 30th July

For booking any of the above or more details please ring 01746 787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk



Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Mike Harris The Rectory, Highley, Day off – THURSDAY		Revd David Poyner, Curate Tel 01562 68638 (home) or 0121 204 3997 (work); email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
St Mary, Billingsley CHURCHWARDEN Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh CHURCHWARDEN Derek Arnold: 07956-844854	St Bartholomew, Glazeley CHURCHWARDENS Vacant

Highley News

The Revd Mike Harris writes:

Services in the Severn Valley Benefice are still on hold, but we hope to be available for worship in each of our buildings during August.

Please check on [A Church Near You](#) for details, and / or Stmaryshighley.co.uk where virtual services can be found each week.

In addition we now have a dedicated phone line in order for you to be able to access services on the phone. Please call 01746 573024 and choose from the options available. Calls are charged at local rate.

Billingsley News

Rev David Poyner writes:

We are in the process of setting up a 100 Club to raise funds for the upkeep of Billingsley Church and community projects in the village. As many of you will know, the 100 Club is a private lottery, open to friends and supporters. In our case, for the sum of £1 a week, you are entered into a monthly draw; half the money raised each month goes in prizes and the rest for the church building and projects. We are hoping to have our first draw in September. If anyone wants to join, please contact myself or Sue Bates (suebates@uwclub.net). We desperately need a regular source of income, so please help us if you can!

Billingsley church has been open since the end of June for private prayer and casual visits. It is good to see from the visitor book that people have been going in! By the time this article appears we should have also resumed services; on July 19th an early morning 8.00am communion and then on the 24th the 6.00pm informal evening service. I hope in August we will be able to revert back to our usual pattern evening services on the 2nd Sunday of the month and 8.00 communion on the 4th. A provisional theme for the August evening service is "We thank you God for birds", a celebration of all things ornithological. Please check our websites for details, where you will also find a weekly reflection.

David Poyner, assistant curate, Severn Valley Benefice. Tel 01562 68638; email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/> or our websites, www.st-marys-billingsley.org.uk , <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/>

Chelmarsh News

Eleanor Haddon writes:

Coronavirus

At last things are being allowed to return to normal as Covid 19 is receding. Thankfully, some people are able to take up their jobs again and bring a sense of stability to their lives, others have got used to a new way of working, and our beleaguered country's businesses are making tremendous efforts to reopen their operations.

We thank God that through His grace and the heroic work of frontline workers of all kinds, we are moving out of lockdown with due care. As a church, our prayers must be with everyone involved in the country's recovery, and together we must continue to be vigilant and help to overcome this deadly illness. Our prayers and sympathy go to all who have lost their job and enduring the stress this causes, and to everyone who is suffering distress at this time.

First Church Service after lockdown Sunday 23rd August at 10 am.

A service of thanksgiving and remembrance will be led by Rev Mike Harris our Rector, who has had to be shielding throughout lockdown. We are very pleased to see him able to take up his public work again.

From the Register

Funeral Service and Burial - 24. 6. 2020 Eric William Bache

Eric lived at "Silver Birches" Eardington and is buried with his wife in Chelmarsh churchyard. Our sincere condolences go to his family at this sad time.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Wednesday 19th August at 5.30pm.

This is the AGM of the church when the post of Churchwarden is voted upon, financial accounts published, and future plans discussed. All members on the electoral roll are invited to attend. This invitation is cordially offered to all interested residents of Chelmarsh. All welcome.

Chelmarsh Friends

Chelmarsh Friends will meet again once the restrictions are lifted. A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website with details.

Chelmarsh Walking for Health

Information received from Ramblers Association and Walking for Health shows that group walks are still suspended. However, as we are surrounded by beautiful countryside and numerous paths it is an ideal time to walk with those you live with. Please only walk from your home to avoid any unnecessary journeys. A notice will be posted on Chelmarsh Parish Hall Website when walks resume.

Glazeley with Deuxhill News

Rev David Poyner writes:

Refugee Tales

Rachael Davenhill was born just across the road from St Bartholomew's. She now lives on Clee Hill, and as her mother, June Davenhill, is no longer able to play the organ for church services, which she did for many years, she attends services and plays the organ whenever possible. Rachael is a mental health advisor to the Refugee Tales project (www.refugeetales.org), which her daughter, Lauren, helped set up, since 2015.

Refugee Tales is organised by the Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group, a small charity that works with people held in immigration detention by Gatwick Airport. People in detention are held without time limit in prison-like conditions, which has a terrible impact on their mental and physical health. For 25 years GDWG visitors have been offering friendship to strangers, bearing witness to the realities of detention and making weekly visits to people who would otherwise be isolated. The stories of people who have been detained have been shared in several volumes of 'Refugee Tales' published by Comma Press.

Each year Refugee Tales have an annual 120-mile fundraising walk, walking alongside people seeking asylum, sleeping in church halls each evening, and hearing people's stories. There are now three volumes of the 'Refugee Tales' books, which were published to help raise awareness that we are the only country in Europe who hold highly traumatised people seeking asylum here in indefinite detention without any time limit. As the main fundraising walk had to be cancelled this year Rachael decided to undertake an individual fundraising event. Other than the initial push on the pedals to get up Titterstone Clee Hill, and strong headwind between Tenbury Wells and Ludlow, they were very lucky with the weather and completed the 25 miles happily with no aching legs the next day!

If anyone wishes to support Refugee Tales, a donation can be made here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachael-davenhill>

Services at St Bartholomew's

Services have now resumed at Glazeley. On Sunday 19th July, we celebrated the return to church with a service of Holy Communion (at least I hope we did; I am writing this article a few days before!). The time of our service in August is still to be decided, but it will be posted on the church website,

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10533/> Alternatively, contact myself or Marion Corfield. The website now also has a weekly reflection.

David Poyner, assistant curate, Severn Valley Benefice. Tel 01562 68638; email

D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Shropshire Virtual Show

Marion Corfield highlights the forthcoming Show, and information provided by Caspar Gabb, who writes:

"I'm on a small committee for the [Shropshire Virtual Show](#) (that you might or might not yet have heard of) with regards to the Open Gardens. This is an opportunity for fellow keen gardeners to enter a short video of their gardens to show their hard work and effort off to their friends and the rest of Shropshire!

I was wondering if you could send this on to as many of your contacts as possible since I am concerned that people might not know about it and there is a deadline of the 3rd August to get entries in.

If people go to the show website they can see all of the other fun things that are planned, along with the instructions of how to enter a garden into the show. If there are people that would like to enter their garden, but have concerns over the technological side, we are hoping that other members of their family might be able to help them.

Thank you in advance for passing this on to as many fellow keen gardeners as possible. Let's hope we get a bit more sunshine than of late so that we can all show our gardens off in a better light! It would also be great if people could be encouraged to pass it on to anyone they think might be interested."

The show is aiming to raise funds for five Shropshire charities through donations.

Entry is free, but closing date for entries is 3 August, so not a lot of time to get snapping!

Marion Corfield –

01746-764585

marion.corfield@talktalk.net

Shropshire Virtual Show

Sponsored by **Aaron & Partners Solicitors**

Aaron & Partners Open Gardens

Do you have a lockdown garden that you are proud of and eager to share? Well, now is your opportunity to show all your hard work to friends, family and fellow garden enthusiasts - Enter the Shropshire Virtual Show Open Gardens Competition and share your garden with the rest of Shropshire.

Entries close 3rd August
shropshirevirtualshow.com

What to know

You have until Monday 3rd August to submit your entries and judging (except the people's choice category) will take place on 22nd August. Winners will be announced on the day and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Whilst there are no charges to enter these classes, we hope you will make a donation to the wonderful charities who are putting on this show.

What to do?

Firstly, make sure your beautiful garden is looking its best (better look out for those pesky weeds!)

Take a stroll around your garden with your phone/camera on video mode - think of it as if you were giving us a little tour. You'll also need to capture a single photograph at the end too.

Whether your garden is a window box or a cottage garden,

a courtyard, or an arboretum, we want to see your videos, we want you to share your garden. Why not invite all your friends and family to see it!

We will judge the gardens, BUT the main point is that this is a fantastic opportunity for you to share your personal gardening successes with other keen gardeners.

For the professionals out there, we would also love for you to share your gardens and experience with us. Your videos will be shared but not judged.

How to enter

Visit: shropshirevirtualshow.com

Select your chosen competition and fill in the form

Check your email - follow the link and upload your video & photo in landscape orientation

For more information and to submit your entries go to: shropshirevirtualshow.com

Raising funds for:

Cavalier Centre
Centre of Excellence for the Deaf

The Movement Centre
The Heart of Kidderminster

Friends of the Heart of Kidderminster

Special show offer!
Get 20% off your first project with us - simply email design@dcsdigital.co.uk and tell us about your project.

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The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Mark Daborn

The Rectory, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UE

Telephone 01746-718127. Email mark.daborn@hotmail.co.uk

Day off – FRIDAY

August Message

'All the kingdoms of the world and their glory'

Matthew 4:8

This quote comes, of course, from the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness at the start of his ministry. It's expressed as a temptation by the devil for Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the world in his power. But if Jesus refused the gift of all the glory of the world, we might consider that it's God's gift to us. This month's cover photo is the reverse of last month's: it shows the view over this lovely corner of Shropshire from the top of the Titterstone Clee Hill. It's a good reminder of several things to think about.

In the first place, what we see in that picture is almost entirely the result of the work of humanity. Buildings, fields, the stone wall, the sheep grazing... But it's all built on and from the structure of the earth and its inhabitants. We cannot build without the foundations of creation, without its materials and its creatures. And it's beautiful, unless we spoil it.

I spent a few days in Wales in July. Wales is stepping a few cautious steps behind England in easing lockdown, and there are reminders everywhere that Welsh regulations apply. There was a feeling of preparing for a battering when the tourist gates were opened. And, sure enough, there were 500 cars parked by the roadside around Snowdon as the whole hill-climbing world tried to get onto the mountain at once. Goodness knows how long they had to wait to get up to the trig point at the summit for the statutory photograph!

But the odd thing is that there are lots of mountains in Wales – really, there are. Some of those 500 car passengers could have seen the car park was full and driven a few miles to climb Siabod or Hebog or Cnicht. All lovely mountains, even if they don't boast a café at the top. And at the top of any of them you can look through binoculars in splendid isolation and see the queues of people on Snowdon.

And this is where the quandary comes in about this whole easing of lockdown. Suddenly, from being confined to our homes, we can get out into all the world and its glory. But it all depends on our being responsible towards each other. As we begin to reopen the churches, we're keeping very careful control on how they're used. Three days before and three days after each opening of a church there is a period of quarantine when nobody goes in, to make sure any virus traces die off; we keep strict social distancing and sanitise hands as we go in and as we come out; we have our conversations after services outside in the churchyard. We respect each other, working on the principle that any one of us could be a symptom-free carrier of the virus. We practise love of our neighbour.

It is a duty of us all to model a good example, especially in these difficult times. That's why the archbishops shut the churches in the first place: to show an example of how loving our neighbour is not just a theory, but something we practise, something we demonstrate in our everyday lives.

Mark Daborn

Stottesdon Benefice Group News

St Mary, Stottesdon CHURCHWARDEN Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007	St Giles, Farlow CHURCHWARDENS Joan Evans (01746-718619) Nigel Savage-Bailey (07989-308599)	Holy Trinity, Sidbury CHURCHWARDENS Roz Jones (07837-609229) Jo Laybourne (01746-718525)
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary CHURCHWARDENS Sue Dolphin: 01584 890583 Gill Jordan: 01584 891082	St John, Middleton Scriven CHURCHWARDEN vacant – so for now your contact is Rev Mark Daborn (01746-718127)	St Michael, Silvington CHURCHWARDENS George Millichamp: 01584-891030 Annette Metcalfe: 01584 890161

Mark Daborn writes:

Church Services in lockdown

Through July we have piloted services at St Mary, Stottesdon, and through August we are going to extend that through all the churches in the group – see the rota below.

The morning service each Sunday will be Holy Communion; the afternoon or evening one will be Evening Prayer. This is all very experimental so far, is not according to the regular rota we have been using, and is very much to make sure everyone is as safe as possible.

It is really important that nobody feels they must go to church if they feel the slightest bit nervous of going out amongst other people, and so the online services will continue through the email list, on the Facebook page ([Facebook: Stottesdon Benefice](#)) and the website ('A church near you' and your parish name). There will in any case be restricted numbers according to the size of the churches and fitting folks in at 2 metre distancing.

Please also note that face-coverings or masks are strongly recommended at all church services.

Sunday Services for August	2nd		9th		16th		23rd		30th	
	Eighth Sunday after Trinity		Ninth Sunday after Trinity		Tenth Sunday after Trinity		Eleventh Sunday after Trinity		Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
Cleeton St Mary					EP	16.00				
Farlow	HC	09.00								To be advised
Middleton Scriven					HC	10.30				
Sidbury							EP	16.00		
Silvington			EP	18.30						
Stottesdon	EP	18.30	HC	10.30			HC	10.30		

Benefice 'Ride and Stride' Pilgrimage this September

Last month's news of Ride and Stride – the annual walking or cycling (or horseback) journey round as many churches as possible to raise sponsorship money for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust – was that it was cancelled: another Covid-19 restriction.

The **good news this month** is that it's on again! Like many other things at the moment, it is only a slimmed-down version of the usual event: the churches will be closed, so there will be no refreshments (or church loos!) available. Nor can there be the splendid lunch at Stottesdon for benefice pilgrims. But there can be benefice pilgrims!

Mark will be walking the six churches again this year, and will be asking for some sponsorship (half of which we retain for our churches) for doing so.

The main point of the pilgrimage will be, as ever, to link our six churches in a journey between them, to emphasise our unity of faith and of purpose. Anyone else who would like to join all or part of the pilgrimage is, of course, more than welcome! To participate please contact Mark direct during August.

From The Stottesdon Benefice Registers:

There were no entries to report for July 2020

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer or a visit or Communion at home or elsewhere, then please contact Mark direct, or ask your churchwardens to help you to arrange this.

The **Deadline for the September edition** (Stottesdon Benefice and Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on **Friday 21st August**. Thanks!

Lectionary for September 2020

Sunday 2nd	Sunday 9th	Sunday 16th	Sunday 23rd	Sunday 30th
Eighth after Trinity	Ninth after Trinity	Tenth after Trinity	Eleventh after Trinity	Twelfth after Trinity
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Genesis 32:22-31-7 Psalm 17:1-7 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Genesis 37:1-4;12-28 Psalm 105:1-10 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32 Matthew 15:10-28	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 115 Romans 12:9-end Matthew 16:21-end

Silvington News

Annette Metcalfe writes:

It has been wonderful to be with friends again in church for Sunday worship and especially to be able to share in the celebration of Holy Communion. Like other families during the pandemic, the church family has been together, although physically distanced. It's been a lovely experience of "coming home" after a long separation.

We have appreciated the online broadcast of services and the resources that we have been able to access during lockdown, from our Benefice and Diocese and nationally. There has been a real sense of community across the airwaves. Now we have taken the first tentative steps towards "normal service(s) will be resumed as soon as possible." The pluses far outweigh the restrictions of social distancing - and we are used to adjusting to those! It will feel like a leap forward when we can receive the Eucharistic wine at Communion - and hug and shake hands during the Peace. Smiling and waving across empty rows of pews has been a rather awkward way to share a blessing... but the "message received, loud and clear," all the same!

We're moving forward on this journey together, putting our best foot forward a step at a time. Makes me think of the hymn: "One more step along the road I go... keep me travelling along with you." I can't remember the last time I heard it. I'll be humming it all day now!

And so, our service this month will be Evening Prayer on Sunday 9th at 6:30pm. The church is also, as recently, open on Thursdays, 10am-5pm, for private prayer.

100 Club Winners for July – congratulations to:

- Richard Jones, Helen Wallis, Neville Carter, Joe and Rosie, Jude Evans, and Mike Potter.

Cleeton St Mary News

Gill Jordan writes:

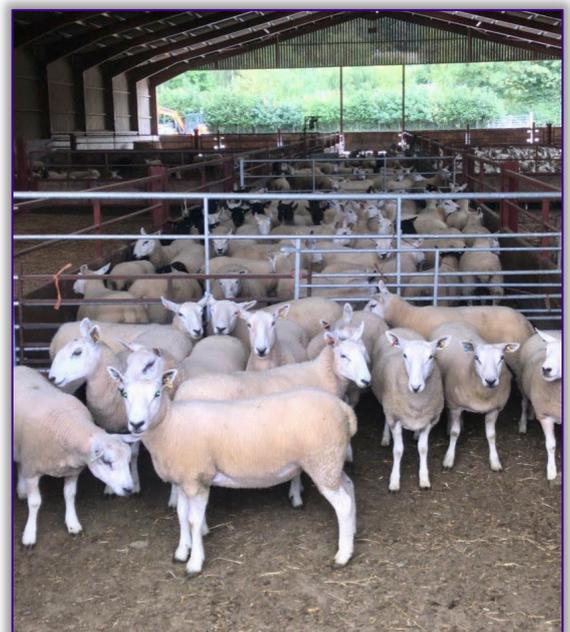
Our service this month will be Evening Prayer at 4.00 pm on Sunday 16th. All are welcome – please join us.

Cleeton Church also opens specially for private prayer every Tuesday between 10:00am and 5:00pm.

July 100 Club Results

Congratulations to our winners this month:

- £20 Joyce Dolphin No 114
- £10 Liz Skuse No 42
- £10 Ian Jordan No 95
- £5 Joyce Price No 107



Sidbury News

Jo Laybourne and Roz Jones write:

Our service this month is Evening Prayer on Sunday 23rd at 4:00pm – all welcome - so please join us at Holy Trinity for the first service since the Lockdown started. Church will also be open, as recently, for private prayer 10am-5pm on Wednesdays.

Sew and socialise

The 'Sidbury Wall Hanging' made by our clever crafters will be in place in church for the service; the contact is Roz Jones on 01746 718285.

*Rose over the door
at Holy Trinity Church,
Sidbury*



Farlow News

Pam Phillips writes:

Our service this month is Holy Communion on Sunday 2nd August at 9 am, and the church will be open on the other weekends for private prayer – Saturdays 10am-5pm.

Farlow & Oretton Village Hall and St Giles Church Hundred Club winners - July

- £20 – Simon Evans (41)
- £10 each to Eric Evans (15), and Chrissy & Terry Jordan (73)
- £5 each to Geoff & Elaine Wadsworth (31), and Jenny Lewis (80)

This was our last draw for a while due to the virus; we will hopefully be collecting for the draw next Springtime. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years ... take care and stay safe!

Also thank you to Stephen and Yvonne Jones for keeping the Churchyard looking so neat and tidy.

Melville Chapel

Ruth Downes writes:

I am sorry but to say we have little to report at the moment. Hopefully, there will be something from Melville for next month Hope all is well with you; best wishes to all!

Middleton Scriven News

We start this month's news with a very special update from Laura Yates:



Diabetes UK – One Million Steps Challenge

Team Type 1's first team walk up the Brown Clee to kick off the Diabetes UK "One Million Steps Challenge" took place on 1st July!

The aim is to do one million steps each over July, August and September whilst raising awareness of the struggle we face living with Type 1 Diabetes. And bringing together others in the same boat for support! We have been the top fundraising team since the challenge started three weeks ago, number 1 on the national leaderboard out of 1000+ teams!

I have had Type 1 Diabetes since the age of 13 and over that time have done over 22,000 injections and a similar

number of blood glucose finger prick tests to manage my illness.

I got in touch with others with the condition to set up Team Type 1 and several local friends and family have joined too including my Mum, Dad, sister plus Sam, Lucia and Donna from the village. So far we have smashed the £200 initial target and raised £4,700 for Diabetes UK to support people living with diabetes and research to find a cure. Thank you to everyone who has supported us! This is the link if people can donate or want to join the team: <https://step.diabetes.org.uk/pages/laura-39>



Ann Constable now takes up her virtual pen for the regular Middleton Scriven news:

Mondays and our church "**open for quiet prayer**" day has very quickly settled into our new "normal" (Mondays 10am-5pm but not the day after a Sunday service). Thank you to all who have helped with flowers to celebrate the day. It's been lovely to hear comments about our little church from locals, visitors and holiday makers.

We are all looking forward to our **Holy Communion** service on Sunday August 16th at 10.30 am.

Life's journey has taken us all to a very unexpected and different world, but the small steps being made to move forward are very welcome indeed, even though daunting.

In our community "Post Lockdown learning" has taken many forms - including Spanish classes outdoors in the garden. Walkers, cyclists and runners continue around the lanes, and for some there is the added incentive of doing the brilliant "One Million Steps" over 3 months, raising funds for Diabetes UK, as described so well in the piece above by Laura. Saturday August 8th 10.30-12.00.

One little step towards re-starting our monthly Community Coffee morning will be an outdoor get together - bring your own tea/coffee and come and meet up with friends in our churchyard. Weather permitting! Social distancing of course and chairs provided. Numbers are limited and you will need to book in advance Please contact Ann if you would like to join in: middletonscrivenchurch@yahoo.com. Or 01746 789420.



This month's selection of photos includes: Team Type 1's Brown Clee walk, our church porch welcome, a wildflower arrangement from the fields, big skies, a Southern Hawker (dragonfly) who kindly posed for photos, "dark plum" poppy, a wonderful pot selection and a drone photo of our village.



We do live in a beautiful place!



Stottesdon Church Parish Notices and News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Firstly, a heartfelt and personal 'thank you' to everyone for the flood of best wishes, and offers of help, following my recent spell in hospital and subsequent treatment.

Our fingers are firmly crossed for better news and a full recovery in the period ahead!

Secondly, news of **St Mary's Church 100 Club** -

Congratulations to our JULY winners: Jane Fletcher, David Tibbits and Rachael Allen.

Please bear with us, we hope that your prize monies will be distributed - along with others since the Lockdown started at the end of March – during September.

Finally, a reminder that St Mary's is open every Sunday 10.00-17.00* for Private Prayer (*later when there is an Evening Prayer service).



For all the latest news - please find Stottesdon Benefice on Facebook, keep an 'internet eye' on www.stottesdonbenefice.co.uk or visit the Church of England's website '**a church near you**' - and then contact the Churchwardens (see previous page) with any queries.

Stottesdon Community Noticeboard

VJ Day 75

Yes, with 'VE75' celebrated earlier this year, it is now time to remember the end of WW2 in the Far East.

VJ Day is on Saturday 15th August and, at 11.10 am, along with bells all around the UK, St Mary's Church Stottesdon will chime or toll a bell 75 times in remembrance of those who suffered in the prolonged Japanese war.

Stottesdon & District WI

Socially distanced Garden Yoga sessions, ingenious telephone and mailing contacts with members, and Committee meetings via WhatsApp and Zoom have all helped enable the WI to remain active and engaged through the Lockdown months. Plans are being laid for a return of the monthly meetings when it is safe and sensible to resume the programme. Meanwhile, check the details with Helena on 01746 718012 or Clare 718007.

Chorley Village Hall and Film Club

Joe Bubb reports that the Village Hall is taking its first tentative steps towards re-opening, with new risk assessments and hygiene counter-measures in place shortly.

Film Club Members enjoy monthly big-screen films at 7.30pm on the 'third Thursday' in Chorley Village Hall and have free use of the DVD Library too. Membership is £7pa – for details of the future programme check with Joe (01746 718693).

The Fighting Cocks Inn

Bre and Tori wrote this snippet for us

We're back open and excited to be welcoming our customers back through the doors. Social distancing measures and table service only are in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all!

Opening hours are back to normal:

- Tuesday - Friday 5pm-close, serving food 6.30-8.30
- Saturday 12pm-close, serving food 12.30-2pm and 6.30-8.30
- Sunday 12pm - close, serving food 12.30-2.30

We're also still offering our takeaway service throughout the week.

Booking is essential so give us a call on 01746 718270, we hope to see you here soon!

Cleobury Mortimer Library

In the Cleobury Country Centre by Lacon Childe School, is (at the time of writing this) expected to reopen on Monday 3rd August – call the Centre 01299 272300 to check.

Useful Community Contacts

Brown Clew Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746 712662
Burwarton & District WI	Meets in Cleobury North Village Hall. The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm Contact 01746-712466
Little Explorers Pre-School, Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Wendy Lloyd 01746 712506 / 787549
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm. Contact 01584 823723 for details of topic and venue
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746 712421 or Gill Severn 01746 712231
Chelmarsh Crown Green Bowling Club	Welcomes old and new members. Contact Sue Jackman 01746 862850
Chelmarsh Indoor Short Mat Bowling	Welcomes old and new members. The sessions are every Tuesday evening from 7.30-10.00pm. Further details Sue Jackman 01746 862850
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarsh parishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Parish Hall 01746 86525 Jean Davis
Chelmarsh Walking for Health	Monday 10.00am except Bank Holidays. Parish Hall. Eleanor Haddon 01746 862884. 2 levels of walking available
Chelmarsh Friends	Meet every 2nd Wednesday 7.30pm Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Jenny Green 01746 862191
Cleobury North Village Hall	Booking Clerk 07800-883830 CleoburyNorthDistrictVH@gmail.com
Tae kwon-do	Chelmarsh Parish Hall Tuesday evening. Suitable for children & Adults. Neil Morris Thursday 5.45pm 07969-996055
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall Contact Pam Baker 07846692323
Chetton & Gazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Sam O'Sullivan 01746-868225
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584 823802
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact Jenny or Charlie on 01746 718437
Short Mat Bowling	Every Monday & Thursday 2.30 – 4.30pm at Cleeton & Silvington Village Hall, October to end of April. Pam 01584 89261
Cleeton & Silvington V H	Zumba - Thursdays 6.30pm 7.30pm all year Ula 01584 890200
Fun & Fitness for 50+	Cleobury North Village Hall - low impact fitness programme working the whole body every Tuesday 10.00 – 11.15am. Contact 01584-823640
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Mrs Denise Davies 01746 712521
Short Mat Bowling	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm except the second Wednesday in the month when it will be Thursday at 8.00 – 10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact 712157
Ditton Priors WI	Meets in Ditton Priors Village Hall on 2nd Wednesday each month at 7.15pm 01746 712473
Ditton Priors Local History Group	The Local History Centre, next to the Willows Café, opens 12.00-2.00 on Saturdays, and at other times by arrangement. Contact 01746 712850
Ditton Priors Parent & Toddlers Group	Meet in the Pavilion, Playing Fields, Ditton Priors Thursday 9.30 -11.30 am everyone welcome for a coffee and play.
Ditton Priors Book Club	Jenny 712665
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584 890644
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746 718769
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the 3rd Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746 718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746 718007
Stoke St Milborough Dance	Mike 01746712774 Betty 0174677515
Domestic Abuse Hotline	Telephone Number 08448044999