

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



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## In this edition

- Shelsleys Fête and Dog Show pictures
- Clifton Parish Council Minutes
- Local Church News and Events

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Visit the website

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FREE to Residents



*Teme Triangle Joint Editor Michelle Whitefoot and our very own local photographer Michael Whitefoot at the Shelsleys Fête and Dog Show*

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*Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Teme Triangle is not responsible for goods and services advertised. Contributions may be edited at the discretion of the Editor.*

### Front cover picture:

*Winner of the 'Best in Show' Henri Heming, Jimmy the terrier and Henry Carpenter with Shelsleys dog show organisers Karen Metcalfe and Alexandra Winnington.*

## ON THE FARM

We've had one of the warmest, driest summers most people can remember, with lovely mornings to get up to. The downside is that we've been so short of grass for the sheep due to a shortage of rain in this area, we haven't had a night or day's rain since the middle of February. Our fields look so burnt off you could be in Spain, in fact save your money and imagine you're on holiday abroad. You've got the River Teme to swim in and sit by with a picnic... no airports or congested roads, perfect.



I've been telling people that this year is worse than 1976 (to those who remember it!) because we had a normal growing spring then and the drought didn't start until the middle of June, so although we were very short of grazing, we did at least have a good store of winter fodder.

My father used to say, years ago when his grandfather started farming in the mid 1860s, he had two very wet years followed by a really dry one when spring corn was planted and had hardly any rain on it until it was harvested. One of his neighbours was complaining about his poor hay crop, he said all he had to mow was wimple grass. When asked what wimple grass was, he said it was twice as thin as a bent! So, these weather conditions have happened before.

Considering the shortage of grass, the ewes and lambs look quite good. Some of the ewes are a bit thin, but now we've got the lambs weaned, we've started feeding them ewe nuts again, which, apart from three weeks after weaning to ensure the milk dried up, they have been having since early January, so hopefully their condition will soon start to improve. We've bought so much food from Estate Feeds this year that I'm sure Richard has been able to give all his staff a bonus!!

I believe the decline in wildlife over the last fifty years is quite serious. We do now have a few rabbits appearing this year, whereas years ago we would have a few hundred on the farm. A balance somewhere would be ideal!

When I was mowing the grass for hay this year, as usual the seagulls and buzzards soon appeared, waiting for a tasty morsel. They didn't hang around for long as no tasty mice or slugs were forthcoming!

I'm sure when I write again, I will be complaining about too much rain, but of course farmers are always complaining about the weather!

*Allan Jeffries*

## CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS FROM THE CHANTRY

Students who live in Martley or surrounding villages and have attended The Chantry School this past year or in previous years and are attending college or university this autumn may be eligible for a grant from the Martley Old Grammar School Foundation. Examples for which the grant can be used for are textbooks, computer equipment, stationery items or specialist clothing. Applications have to be submitted by the end of September. A student can apply more than once up to the age of 25. A reminder too for students claiming this year's grants to submit their receipts. To receive an application form or for more information, please contact the secretary Cheryl Pearsall on 07812 483850.

## BIG BREAKFAST FOR ALI FRANCIS

A Big Breakfast will be held at Clifton Village Hall on Saturday 18 October in aid of Ali Francis, a partially sighted Clifton resident who is running with her guide runner Andy Arnold in next year's London Marathon, raising money for the NSPCC.

Save the date. Tickets for the breakfast sittings at 9am and 11am are £10 per person. Support Ali by prebooking with either Ali Francis 07985 689544 or Andy Arnold 07415 257412

## CRIB DRIVE AT THE LION INN, CLIFTON

The Lion Inn cribbage team is inviting local residents to join them for a six card singles Crib Drive in aid of Cancer Research UK on **Wednesday, 10 September at 7pm.**

All levels of skill are welcome and there are prizes to be won. For a £2 entry fee, a buffet is provided and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere is assured at The Lion.



"Help us grow the crib team. Come for the cards and stay for the company," says Laura Hughes. For further information or to reserve a place, contact Laura on 07585 905525.



## Some History of Empire, Immigration and Vagrancy

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- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> September | Make America Go Away: Global Anti-Americanism from the 19 <sup>th</sup> to the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> October    | The First Anti American: Canadian Anti-Americanism/Nationalism 1775-2025<br><i>Associate Professor Steve Hewitt University of Birmingham</i>                     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> October   | Vagrant Acts: The Long History of the 1824 Vagrancy Act in Modern History  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> October   | What is Homelessness in Modern Britain? A Brief History .<br><i>Professor Nicholas Crowson University of Birmingham</i>  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> October   | An English Empire? 1 Wales & Scotland and the British Empire   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> November   | An English Empire? 2 Ireland & the British Empire<br><i>Professor Neil Fleming University of Worcester</i>   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> November  | 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses': Immigration and American Identity<br><i>Associate Professor Nathan Cardon University of Birmingham</i>     |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November  | How States are Born and How they Die<br><i>Associate Professor George Kyris University of Birmingham</i>   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November  | Turning France into a Global Power:<br>A potted history of Gallic colonisation      America to Asia and Africa   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December   | Echoes of Empire:<br>The Legacy, Memory and Decolonisation in France and the Francophone World<br><i>Associate Professor Berny Sebe University of Birmingham</i> |

**COSTS:** The full course £60 or £10 for an individual lecture payable on the door or by bank transfer.

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## **Abbreviated draft minutes of Clifton Parish Council meeting held Thursday 3 July 2025 at Clifton Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr J. Bowden (Chair), Cllrs B. Gilbert, R. Neave, S. Haywood. Also present: County Cllr Justin Bowen, District Cllr Paul Cumming and 9 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Paul Brooks No declarations and no conflicts of interest declared.

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 5 June** approved as amended.

### **Meeting suspended to allow members of the public to raise any issues or concerns.**

A local resident (Anthony Newman) read a prepared statement outlining the following: That the council may not be representing the views and interests of the local community. Concern with the integrity and impartiality of the parish council. Concern that collective decisions are being taken that reflect the interests and preferences of individual councilors, especially in terms of recent planning applications. The parish council has not sought to fairly represent views of its residents through consultation. There is a real or perceived prioritisation of personal interest over the democratic will of the community. The local resident concluded their prepared statement by asking the following questions: Has the council followed proper procedures in agreeing collective position, particularly in planning matters? Are declarations of interest being properly made, recorded and acted upon? Has the council undertaken appropriate resident consultation for adopting their position? He requested evidence of how resident views were obtained and recorded in respect of planning application M2500790PIP.

A second resident asked how the parish council came to its conclusion to support the planning application when the proposed development sits outside of the boundary for development as outlined in the Clifton development plan. Cllr Gilbert replied that the neighbourhood plan does address developments just outside of the boundary. The same resident further asked if the council had consulted planning experts regarding the issue of planning creep. Cllr Bowden replied that the planning officer at MHDC had been consulted regarding self-build criteria.

Cllr Gilbert was asked about his support for the application based on the self-build aspect of the submission. Cllr Gilbert replied that in principle he is in favour of self-build schemes if they allow groups or individuals to gain a footing on the property ladder who might not otherwise be able to afford a home in the village.

An opinion was expressed that the Parish Council failed to canvas the opinions of residents and subsequently lodged a response based solely on the opinions of the parish council. Concerns of residents were 'batted away'. It was suggested that this was in contravention to MHDC code of conduct. Cllr Gilbert asked the member of the public who read the initial statement if they would be willing to send the written statement to the parish council. The member of the public replied that they would be willing to send the written statement to the parish council. He also stated his intention to submit a formal complaint based on localism act 2011, MHDC Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles. The Parish Council stated that only one email was received regarding the planning application. There would seem to be one other person sent a message directly to another parish councilor. Concerns were raised around communicating calls for candidates for any forthcoming parish council elections. The Parish Council stated that notifications of

elections and calls for candidates have appeared on the website, in The Teme Triangle, in meeting minutes and on notice boards around the village. Cllr Bowden stated that the Parish Council was appointed ex officio due to the number of candidates not exceeding the number of positions on the Council (seven).

Cllr Bowden said that the planning application in question is at an early stage in the process and all those with an interest will need to await the decision from Malvern Hills.

Cllr Gilbert asked two members of the public if they would consider joining the parish council and they replied that they would consider the request.

#### **District & County Councillors Reports (circulated via email):**

Cllr Cumming: Funding available for rural businesses. Contact him for further information about transport issues regarding planning applications. County Highways only consider local impact on transport and not wider implications. There is also an issue regarding the culminative effect of increased development on transport and traffic. County Cllr Justin Bowen suggested that Cllr Cumming should contact the county councilor for Stourport who also holds the portfolio for transport.

Speeding traffic is an issue in villages. Vehicle Activated Signals (VAS) have been further developed and some funding may be available to parish councils to install VAS. Cllr Bowden detailed recent developments within Clifton including upgrades to existing VAS infrastructure. Action: Clerk to email County Cllr Bowen to investigate funding.

County Cllr Bowen also stated that small amounts of funding may be available for projects. Cllr Bowden outlined plans for solar panels and car charging points on the Pavilion. Action: Clerk to include details of these projects to see if any small grants are available.

#### **Financial & Governance Matters:**

Payment schedule (to be circulated via email) reviewed by councillors. Cllr Gilbert proposed payment schedule to be approved and seconded by Cllr Neave. Cllr Bowden proposed that a maintenance account to be set up with an initial balance of £5000. This is to be used for maintaining the recreational ground. Action: Clerk to set up a maintenance account with Unity Bank. Cllr Bowden also raised the possibility that the Reserve Savings account which is currently with Scottish Widows be transferred over to Unity Bank. To be considered in future meetings.

Cllr Gilbert asked that the amount agreed to treat the benches in the recreation ground be increased from £120 to £160 as the number of benches has increased from 3 benches to 4 benches.

#### **Parish Matters/Updates:**

Hanging baskets have been installed. Six more to be ordered.

#### **Playing Field (CFAF) project:**

Cllrs Bowden and Brooks have reviewed the ROSPA report regarding the play equipment. Quotes have been requested from suppliers and a list shared with Parish Lengthsman.

Cllr Bowden summarized the exploratory work that has been undertaken so far on the concrete slab remaining near the pavilion. A feasibility study was conducted focused on using the slab to house changing rooms for Clifton Rovers. The study concluded that the slab, as is, is not suited for this purpose. Cllr Gilbert asked for further studies to be conducted to determine what work would need to be carried out for the slab to be utilized for this purpose. Cllr Gilbert summarized the issue of the slab for the benefit of the members of the public present. A member of the public offered to review the report and the parish council were happy to take this offer up. Action: Cllr Bowden to share the report with the member of the public.

### **Planning Matters:**

Planning Application M/25/00790/PIP – Pound Lane: Parish Council comment submitted. Discussed at depth under public time.

Planning Application M/25/00961/LB & M/25/00960/HP – The Manor House – PC response before 27 July. Similar applications for the same property. Application received the day before the PC meeting. Further review required. Cllr Bowden noted that the location was within the conservation area.

Planning correspondence received by resident – discussed previously.

### **Strategic Planning updates:**

Cllr Cumming gave an SWDPR update. Nothing published as yet but an indication should be forthcoming in July including any amendments required. It should be able to be used in any future appeals that are to be lodged as it should be signed off and implemented in the near future. Cllr Bowden asked about the appeals process in regards to the Hope Lane development. Cllr Cumming replied that any appeal would probably be held within the district and anticipate the appeal to be held in public.

### **Highway Matters:**

Cllr Haywood noted that some tasks for the lengthsman remain unfinished. Cllr Bowden to ask Lengthsman for update on list of tasks submitted in June.

### **Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas:**

Cllr Gilbert proposed an agenda item in next meeting (September) updating on progress of any complaint resulting from Planning Application M/25/00790/PIP. Action. Clerk to add Complaint Update to agenda for September 2025 meeting.

Cllr Bowden outlined that some work seems to have started on Ham Bridge. He added that members of the public can raise such issues via the Highways website. Any VAT charged by suppliers can be claimed.

### **Parish Clerk Correspondence:**

West Mercia Police have asked for updates on priorities. Suggestions include speeding around the village, parking around the school and rural crime. Action. Clerk to respond with priorities.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.40pm Clifton Village Hall.**

## **SHELSLEYS VILLAGE HALL FORMS NEW COMMITTEE**

We are delighted to announce the formation of a new Village Hall Committee dedicated to the future planning, upkeep, and community use of Shelsley Village Hall. The newly formed committee is made up of local residents, including representatives from the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council, all bringing a diverse range of experience and a shared passion for enhancing the hall as a central, inclusive space for everyone in the Shelsleys. We're truly excited to get started and, alongside the team at Shelsley Social Club, we look forward to working closely with the whole community to ensure the Hall remains a welcoming, inclusive and well-used venue for events, celebrations, and community life.

### **We Need Your Voice**

To make this initiative a success, we need your input. This is your Village Hall, and we want to hear your ideas. Please email us at [shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com) with your thoughts, suggestions, or just to say hello!

We're also inviting everyone to an informal '**Meet the Committee Members Night**' on Monday, 8 September at 8pm in the Village Hall – a chance to drop in, chat with members of the team, and share your ideas.

### **First Community Event – Quiz Night!**

Join us for our first event: a great fun-filled Quiz Night on Friday, 12 September at 7.30pm to raise funds for the Hall. Entry: £1 per person, teams of six. Quiz Master: Neil 'The Quiz Master' Sarkar. The team from Shelsley Social Club are running the bar and will be serving fantastic pub grub at great prices on the night.

**Hall Bookings** - Don't forget, the Village Hall is available to hire for private parties, clubs, weddings, and community functions. Contact us via email [shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com) to check availability and rates – and please help spread the word open for hires!

We look forward to seeing you at the 'Quiz Night', at our 'Meet the Committee Members Night', and of course at the future Village Hall events. Thank you for your support – let's build something great together!

*Sharon Sarkar* on behalf of the Shelsleys Village Hall Committee.

## **CLIFTON VILLAGE HALL DONOR THANKED**

The Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall Committee would like to thank John Fletcher who has very kindly fabricated and donated a new guard for the battery units at the Village Hall. We had expected to have to spend at least a couple of hundred pounds on a new guard so this very generous donation is greatly appreciated.

*Clifton upon Teme Village Hall Committee*





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## **LOCAL ART RESOURCES**

Given the low density of population in this area we are very lucky to be blessed with many cultural opportunities. Operas from the Met in New York and the Royal Opera House in London are frequently shown in Bromyard at the Conquest Theatre, in Tenbury Wells at the Regal cinema and in Ludlow at the Assembly Rooms. Use them or lose them.

Arts Society Teme Valley lectures are another superb cultural resource. The lectures are given by knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers with splendid illustrations. On art-related topics, lectures are stimulating and enjoyable, even those which do not have very appealing titles. I once went to a lecture called 'Cupboards and Drawers'. It was absolutely fascinating. It took us back to ancient cavemen with just one bowl and spoon which needed a shelf for storage and display and developed from there. The lectures are each month from September to June on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 2.15pm in Ludlow Assembly rooms. Refreshments afterwards lead to easy opportunities to meet and talk to congenial people. It is fair to say that most of our members are aged over 60. Retired people have time to come to afternoon lectures but we welcome people of all ages.

I am sorry to mention it but dementia threatens all our futures these days. We are told in order to avoid it, it is best to keep an open mind (lectures help) and talk to others. Plenty of scope for this after lectures.

Annual membership is £50 (or £95 for couples). Non members are welcome as visitors paying £8 at the door. As a member you receive the excellent quarterly Arts Society Magazine. The Arts Society is a national organisation of which Arts Society Teme Valley is a member. For more information look at [www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk) or telephone 07801 178846.

*Ann Marriott*

## **SHELSLEY WALK**

Come and join us on Sunday 28 September at 10.30am for a Parish Council organised walk. Meet at the pull-in on Fetterlocks Lane near the quarry. One to one-and-a-half hours' walk depending on pace. Dogs on lead, children and well-behaved adults welcome! Contact Val Jones: [valejones56@gmail.com](mailto:valejones56@gmail.com) for further information.

## **SHELSLEY FÊTE AND FUN DOG SHOW**

A fabulous day was had by all at the Shelsley fête on Sunday 28 June. Kindly hosted by Jamie and Isa Stewart, the weather was glorious at Church House for our first fete in 11 years!

Much fun was had by all, with a huge variety of activities going on - dog show, bar, produce, Christian Aid pre-loved clothes, bric-a-brac, tombola, bird boxes, traditional children's games, face painting, BBQ, croquet, guess the weight of the sheep and the refreshments tent.

A fantastic £3,728.47 was raised and this is all due to the hard work of the committee team and also the many volunteers on all the stands. My sincere thanks to everyone involved - too many to mention! A special note of thanks though to Tim Lawson at Magic Bars, Tom Spilsbury at Spilsbury & Jones Brewing Company, and Barry and Simon Hodgetts at SB Printing for their generosity and support of our event.

*Louise Hutton*



*The produce stall - so lovely to see some very special Shelsley past-residents back for the day to support the event - Patricia Marlar (who hosted the last Shelsley fête 11 years ago), Georgina Owen, Rebecca Perry, Judie Welsh (TT founder and previous editor).*





*Children enjoying the croquet*



*Dog show spectators*

## **SHELSLEY FÊTE AND FUN DOG SHOW**



*Photos courtesy of Michelle Whitefoot*





*David Evington with the popular 'Dave the Sheep'*



*The refreshments tent - (left to right) Rosemary Holloway, Jo Moore, Ann Holloway, Beryl Robson.*

## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

The Ledwyche brook is a Shropshire tributary of the River Teme which joins the river at Burford next to the gardens of Burford House. It begins in the foothills of Brown Clee, west of Stoke St Milborough, and for five of its 17-mile length traces the border between Herefordshire and Shropshire. It is crossed by a formal footbridge in the grounds of Henley Hall, by a Grade II-listed bridge on Squirrel Lane between Ludlow and Bitterley, by the Elan Valley water pipeline near Caynham Camp and hosts a flood-warning river-level station at Burford Bridge on the A456.

What is notable about the Ledwyche brook is that it is home to a plant rarely seen in the wild. Well-known as a garden plant, Monkshood is a stately plant with striking blue flowers which form the shape of a monk's cowl. It originates in Europe and Asia where it has long been known to be extremely poisonous. All parts of the plant can do harm, but the root, shaped like a turnip, is the most dangerous. The Latin name of *Aconitum napellus* refers to 'little turnip', the meaning of the word 'napellus'. It appears to be very happy growing along the Ledwyche brook.



*Monkshood growing on the banks of the Ledwyche brook.*

I unexpectedly came upon some specimens back in June, whilst following Little Hereford's Millennium Walk. It favours shady stream sides and was growing on both the Herefordshire and Shropshire sides of the brook, sheltered by the

trees which line it. I was struck by the pure blue flowers and the beauty of the tall stems. Botanists have puzzled over whether such plants are native, naturalised or just garden forms escaped into the wild. However, the Ledwyche brook plants are believed to be true natives. The first record in this location was in 1755 by Rev E Williams who noted it to be in abundance a few yards above Gossart bridge between Ludlow and Burford. It was next recorded in 1855, 'for a mile or so' between Ludlow and Caynham Camp by another botanic reverend, Edward Whitehead, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

One of the lovely things about writing these articles is that people sometimes get in touch to share local knowledge. A few years ago, a lady brought up in the valley in the 1940s sent me her father's botany textbook. He noted local plants of interest in the margins. For May 23, 1946, of Monkshood he wrote, 'at quantity at weir near Sheet, Ludlow', so here was a twentieth century Ledwyche brook record. Researching a little further, I found it had also been spotted on the Cadmore brook in Worcestershire, also along the Teme at Rochford, and many years ago, at Eastham on Eastham Hill, although I think it more likely to have been on Piper's Brook, not on the hill itself. I wonder what these small, localised tributaries of the Teme have in common to attract wild Monkshood?

Another name for it is Wolfsbane, a name thought to recall a practice of leaving meat laced with monkshood poison in traps to lure and kill wolves. It is also thought that a compound made from it was used to tip hunters' arrows. In Ancient Rome a ban was placed on its cultivation – I wonder why? Today, it is used in Chinese medicine and in homeopathy, but I wouldn't want to try it!

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday September 11 2025 at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome Johnny Birks once again, whose talk is called "Restoring balance: the pine marten reintroduction programme in Devon's woodlands". Members and friends are all welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com)

*Stephanie Mocroft*

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## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

How quickly the time is passing and soon it will be the beginning of Autumn. At the risk of being depressive, I notice the nights are drawing in and I must banish the thoughts of long, dark winter nights. However, there is also the prospect of glorious sunsets and harvest moons. Climate change has certainly played its part this year and farmers and growers are struggling with crops, including my tomatoes! Weather forecasters tell us that rain will arrive soon, but I am sure we have our own microclimate here in Lower Sapey. However, the roads are looking and feeling better after some top dressing and even, in places, stretches of new surfaces. This makes it so much safer to travel round and avoid the damage to springs and wheels.

I hope everyone has enjoyed a summer break and that the school holidays passed quietly and pleasantly. We do have several events to look forward to in our area, especially now that St. Bartholomew's is open for regular worship after months of work. There is still much to achieve though, including a small kitchenette and an improved toilet. As for the font, it is remaining where it is for now! We hope many of you will be able to return to the Church to enjoy some of the events and I am sure the winter months will be much cosier inside with the new lowered ceiling. If the weather is fine, it may still be possible to hold gatherings or services around the outside firepit, which has proved very popular.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SERVICES** (please check times and dates in case they change)

Sunday 7 September Morning prayer. This will be a 1662 service. 10.30am

Sunday 28 September Circle service at 10.30am

Sunday 12 October Harvest Festival Service at 11am to be followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Church. All welcome. There will be no charge but donations will be welcome.

Housekeeping:

September Hilly Tulloch

October Sue Rigby

November Beryl Dursley

December Liz & Steve Younge

Ladies Bible Group: Tuesday 16 September at the home of Janet Hann 2pm.

Mobile Library: Friday 19 September at 10.20am

I hope you all stay fit and well and enjoy a pleasant Autumn.

*Margaret Griffiths*

## HARPLEY METHODIST CELEBRATION SERVICE

The first joint services were the brainchild of Ancrum Evans, Rev Patrick Hobson and David Cave, a local Methodist preacher. At the first joint service we were given mugs bearing the date of the first service, 30 December 1979, and the text (Romans 9:20-21) which read, 'A clay pot does not ask the man who made it, "Why did you make me like this?" After all, the man who makes the pots has the right to use the clay as he wishes, and to make two pots from the lump of clay, one for special occasions, and one for ordinary use.'

High Lane Chapel at that time was overseen by the Methodist Minster at Bromyard. The congregation mainly consisted of Mr and Mrs Rosser of Harpley Green, Mrs Grace Richards, Merlin Edwards as Steward, and Valerie Edwards, later joined by Mr and Mrs Bloomer who moved into the Old School House. Mrs Rosser was organist. On one occasion Mrs Denniston played the organ in the chapel. The poor instrument was used to Mrs Rosser's gentle touch. Mrs Denniston being decades younger peddled much faster and stronger. She launched into, How Great Thou Art, with great fervour. Dust was seen coming from the back of the organ and, as Merlin commented, 'I pray it's dust, not smoke!'

Combined services were initially held on the fifth Sunday, alternating between church and chapel. In the early 1980s, the chapel was deemed no longer viable and was officially closed. By this time our Rector was Rev Clifford Owen who was to become Ecumenical Officer for the diocese. He was keen for a closer union between church and chapel. This was thoroughly discussed and agreed.

The PCC at St Bartholomew's generously invited the Methodists to hold a service in the church twice a month. We were blessed with the arrival of John and Pat Savage at Hatt House. A new player for each side as it were, because John was an inspired preacher, in both the Methodist and Anglican traditions. Doreen McLean from Clifton, who is a talented organist, and Colin and Barbara Raybould also joined.

Over the years, we have been inspired by many preachers, the most notable being retired Baptist minister Rev Noel Lloyd-James. During this time, High Lane Chapel moved from Leominster circuit to Malvern and now South Worcester. We must thank God for the wonderful fellowship we have enjoyed and thank all who made it possible. May the fellowship continue!

*Pat Savage and Valerie Edwards*

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## ST KENELM'S NEWS

**Friends of St Kenelm's:** Thank you again for the support and hard work of the Friends who have presented the church with two ramps to replace the old wooden ones that were broken. It is now much easier to enter the church through the porch with a pushchair or wheelchair. A reminder, there is a path on the left-hand side of the church and a gate into the side of the churchyard if you are unable to use the steps through the Lychgate. Friends have also supplied a new Hoover for the church which is great relief for those helping to keep the church clean and tidy. Thank you! If you can support their events, please do, as they make a very valuable and appreciated contribution to St Kenelm's.

**Welly Church:** Extracts from Report by Sam Satchell for the Diocese of Worcester online news: 'Welly Church is an informal opportunity for people to explore faith and hear where God is at work through stories, crafts and engagement with the natural world. The act of worship lasts about half an hour and often involves some form of treasure hunt around the churchyard, alongside a dramatized bible story, prayer and a hands-on activity. There is also an opportunity to share refreshments together at the end of each session.'

Jen Jones, Assistant Curate in the Teme Valley South benefice helps to lead Welly Church with a small group of volunteers. She said: "We wanted to create something simple to which we could invite the community, baptism families and wedding couples as well as build links with the local school. Welly Church aims to be intergenerational and light touch, while still giving people the opportunity to hear God's word and explore faith for themselves. We are currently planning to run it through the summer months until October but will definitely carry on through the winter if people want us to." A mother who brings her daughter to Welly Church said: "We recently moved into the village, spotted a flyer and came along to see what it was all about. We're not regular churchgoers but really enjoyed the first session so have kept coming. Welly Church is friendly and easy for children to understand, and it is also entertaining for adults too!" Another parent brought his 7-year-old twins to Welly Church for the first time. He said: "I was looking for different things for my son to get involved with. He wasn't sure about joining in initially but has really enjoyed it! It is informative and educational and just the right length. Revd Jen was great with the kids, and I've enjoyed it as much as them!"

Welly Church runs monthly on the fourth Saturday at 4pm. St Kenelm's Church are also planning to start a 'Praise 4 All' service at 10am on the third Sunday of each month to which all are welcome.

**Volunteers:** Help needed with brass cleaning, church cleaning, gardening and other jobs around the church. Please contact Ruth Wilson. Volunteers are always very welcome!

*Ruth Wilson, Churchwarden*

## FUNDRAISER FOR ST. ANDREW'S, SHELSLEY WALSH



As has been tradition for many years now, the annual fundraiser for the maintenance charity of St. Andrew's Church, Shelsley Walsh took place at the very sunny Hill Climb Championship Challenge event on Sunday 10 August.

With a slightly depleted volunteer team this year, due to the holiday period, we took a slightly different approach to our fundraising plan and, with the help of several card machines, it paid off - we raised an outstanding £824.96! This money will go towards the maintenance of St. Andrew's, our beautiful Grade 1 listed, 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman church.

St. Andrew's is the oldest existing building on the hillclimb site and holds regular services before hillclimb events. It was very clear, talking to event visitors, just how important the church is to them and hence their willingness to donate to such a worthy cause.

We are very grateful to the Midland Automobile Club for permitting us to fundraise once again at this event. Thanks also must go to the wonderful 'SB Printing', for producing 2 splendid signs for us, which definitely assisted our efforts. And finally, my very sincere thanks go to the wonderful team who worked so hard to encourage donations - Alyson Cox, Bridget Francis, Helen Froggatt, Karen Metcalfe, Georgie Sutherland and Alice Timmis. As always, great teamwork!

For more information about giving a regular donation to the church, please contact Alice Timmis on 07503 210247 or [alacetimmis@hotmail.com](mailto:alacetimmis@hotmail.com).

*Louise Hutton*



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# Church Matters

by Rev Julia Curtis



## 'A Time to Rest: Sabbatical Seasons and Fallow Fields'

As some of you know, I will soon be stepping away from ministry for a three month sabbatical, this September to the end of November. It's a time for rest, reflection, and renewal - a pause not from faith or calling, but from the daily responsibilities of parish life. While I'll certainly miss worshipping and ministering in these parishes, I know that this season of stepping back is part of the rhythm of healthy ministry.

Interestingly, there's a parallel just down the M5 at one of the most unlikely of places: Glastonbury Festival. Every few years, the famous music festival takes a break - a 'fallow year'. No stages, no soundchecks, no muddy fields filled with dancing crowds. Instead, the land rests. So do the farmers, the organisers, and even the local community. After all the energy poured into the event, the fallow year gives time to recover and prepare for what's to come.

It's a deeply biblical idea too. In the Old Testament, God commands the land to be left fallow every seventh year (Leviticus 25). It's not just agricultural wisdom - it's spiritual wisdom. Rest isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. Sabbath is woven into the very fabric of creation. Even Jesus, in the middle of his ministry, withdrew to quiet places to pray and be refreshed. So, as I enter this time of sabbatical, I invite you to reflect too. What does 'rest' look like in our own lives and that of our churches? What might be learnt from stepping back for a season - from the busyness, the noise, the pressure to produce? How can we enable fresh energy to be released from this place of rest?

This isn't just about taking a holiday; it's about trusting that God is still at work even when we aren't. That seeds planted in faith continue to grow even when we don't see them. And that our value isn't defined by constant activity, but by being beloved children of God. Do keep me in your prayers during this time, and let's also use this season as a gentle reminder that sometimes, stepping aside is exactly what's needed to step forward with fresh strength.

May we all find our own 'fallow years' - even if only in small, sacred pauses.

**CHURCH SERVICES IN CLIFTON, THE SHELSEYS AND  
LOWER SAPEY (HARPLEY)  
September 2025**

**Sunday 7 September**

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton  
10.30am: Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley

**Sunday 14 September**

10.30am: Family Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

**Wednesday 17 September**

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

**Sunday 21 September**

10.00am: Praise 4 All, St Kenelm's, Clifton  
6.30pm: Choral Evensong, Led by Severn Voices Choir and Friends of St  
Kenelm's, Light Refreshments at 6.00pm, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**Thursday 25 September**

12.45am: Soul Space, Clifton Village Hall, Rowberry Room  
Meeting after lunch at Warm Welcome.

**Saturday 27 September**

4.00pm: Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton

**Sunday 28 September**

10.30am: Circle Service and Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley  
3pm: Pet Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**FRIENDS OF ST KENELM'S**

Table Top Sale and coffee morning, Saturday 20 September, 10am – 12 noon  
at the Pavilion, Clifton in aid of Clifton Brownies.

Choral Evensong with Severn Singers at St Kenelm's Church, Sunday 21  
September, 6pm. Refreshments available.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Clifton Parish Council meeting VH 7.40pm
- 8 Meet the Committee Members Night, Shelsleys VH 8pm
- 9 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, Shelsleys VH 7pm
- 9 Clifton WI meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 10 Lion Inn Crib Drive, 7pm
- 11 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 12 Quiz Night, Shelsleys VH 7.30pm
- 13/14 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb: Harvest Festival
- 14 Teme Valley Market, Talbot, Knightwick 10.30am-1.30pm
- 19 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45am/Harpley 10.20am/L. Sapey 10.40am
- 20 Friends of St Kenelm's Table Top Sale, 10am-12noon, Pavilion
- 21 Choral Evensong with Severn Singers, St Kenelm's Church 6.30pm
- 28 Shelsley Walk from Fetterlocks Lane 10.30am
- 29 Stanford History Group lecture: 'Anti-Americanism', Sapey VH, 7.30pm

### OCTOBER

- 4 Royal British Legion Knightwick & District concert, Martley VH
- 11 Churches Together in the Teme Valley talk, Orleton House 10am-12.30pm
- 12 Shelsley Harvest Service and Supper, 5pm All Saints for 6pm in VH
- 14 Clifton WI meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 17 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45am/Harpley 10.20am/L. Sapey 10.40am
- 18 Big Breakfast in aid of Ali Francis, Clifton VH 9am or 11am

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Oversight Minister:** Rev Julia Curtis 01886 853286 [revjuliacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliacurtis@gmail.com)

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017

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Jill Smith 01886 853311

Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443

**All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp / St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh Church Wardens:**

Kate Hurst 01886 812184

[kathrynhurst@btopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynhurst@btopenworld.com)

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**St Kenelm's, Clifton:**

Ruth Wilson (Church Warden, incl. Warm Space) [ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com)

Jackie Gilbert

**St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey (Harpley) Church Wardens:**

David Richards / Liz Younge

[lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com)

## PLANTS STOLEN FROM CLIFTON WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Two of the flowering plants in the newly created wildlife garden in the Clifton Recreation area have been dug up and stolen.

Parish councillor Lyn Merrick, who planted the specially selected flowers – a Balkan Clary (*Salvia nemerosa Caradonna*) and a Stonecrop (*Sedum Herbstfreude*) – said she was saddened to discover that the plants had been taken: “Whoever stole them made no attempt to hide the fact, even leaving holes where they had been dug up.”



### Shelsley Harvest Service and Supper

Sunday 12 October 2025

Service at All Saints Church, 5pm

followed by

Supper at The Village Hall, 6pm

Tickets for the supper are £15 per person, £10 under 16's and under 5's free.

Tickets include a glass of wine and 2 course meal  
(please feel free to bring any additional drinks that you may like).

(Please do advise of any dietary requirements when you purchase your tickets)

Please contact Louise Hutton on 07803 614 078 or Carole Warren on 07891 861 490 for further details and tickets.





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