

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



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## In this edition

- Local event round-ups and photos
- All your local Church news & charity ideas
- Clifton & Shelsley Parish Council Minutes
- Christmas events galore!

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*Visit the website*

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FREE to Residents



*Andrea Bennett of the Lion Inn, Clifton (left), with Ann McInlay of LWC wine merchants, at the wine tasting event last month.*

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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:

*Local Shelsley residents enjoying the Whitehouse's miniature steam train in Shelsley Kings. See page 22 for report and more photos.*

## WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026 EDITION OF *THE TEME TRIANGLE...*

There is yet again so much in this edition, a true testament to our active, social valley, that I think we should just get started...!

### SHELSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

It's been a busy and exciting few months at The Shelsley's Village Hall, full of community spirit, laughter and plenty of hard work behind the scenes!

Following on from the success of the Harvest supper, we have also held a sell-out fireworks night and a hugely productive 'tidy up' day (see pages 20 and 21).

Join us for a festive evening of  
fun and excitement at our

## CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

in support of the village hall!

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Venue:** Clifton Village Hall

**Entry:** £5 Adults/£2 Children

**WHAT'S ON:**

- Fully stocked bar
- Fantastic Christmas prizes to be won
- Warm mulled wine & tasty mince pies
- Great company and festive fun!

All proceeds go towards supporting and improving our Village Hall.

Bring your family and friends – let's kick off the festive season together!



Come and sing with Family and Friends

## The Shelsleys' Candlelit Christmas Carol Service

Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm

The Barn at  
Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb WR6 6RP



Led by Jill Smith

Musicians  
Mulled wine  
Mince Pies



Christingles  
Everyone welcome



Next came the opening of the new SVH bar - it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces enjoying the refreshed space. The bar is now open every Thursday and Friday night 7-10.30pm, if you would like to volunteer please drop us a message.

If you have any suggestions as to what events or activities you would like to see in your village hall, please email [shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com)

## COFFEE, CAKE, COMMUNITY AND GENEROSITY

A big thank you to everyone who came along to support the coffee morning in aid of the homeless last month. Lots of coffee was drunk, cake eaten, laughter and chat amongst new and old friends but most of all nearly £350 raised for this amazing charity, plus bags of preloved clothes food, toiletries and cookware



donated. Thank you to those too who donated clothes and money as well as those who donated raffle prizes, particularly Apple Tree Kitchen for their generous voucher; it is very much appreciated.

Maggs may be new to some of you - it is a Worcestershire based charity that supports the homeless and the vulnerable. 2025 is a special year as Maggs celebrates 40 years of helping and supporting. As can be seen from the website, Maggs helps in many ways, providing a holistic approach to those found in unfortunate circumstances.

Maggs Day centre in Worcester provides the basics, a lifeline to help people survive the worst of what life throws at them. Here they can have a cooked breakfast every morning Monday to Friday with tea and coffee all day. On Thursday, students from the College cook and serve a hot meal at the Centre, a 'win win' for all. Clients can take a shower, secure their few possessions in a locker, talk with the outreach workers to get help with accommodation, jobs, doctor appointments or just spend a few hours in a safe, warm space to sleep, catch up with friends or relax.

There are also open door Day Centres in Malvern and Redditch, where support is given in the same way. Maggs also has a Clothing Project on The Tything, a place for the homeless and those on low income to choose clean, warm and waterproof clothes, sleeping bags, mats, shoes – everyday items that we just take for granted. Maggs has an Accommodation Project so the Clothing Project also has home items, duvets and covers, pots and pans, rugs, pictures – things to make

someone feel valued and loved. Both these projects are integral stepping stones in the journey of those who are sleeping rough or are building confidence to re-enter society.

Volunteering at The Clothing Project or the Day Centre is a very rewarding experience, not only due to who you meet, but also because of what you are helping to achieve. I have met so many interesting, polite, grateful people, it is eye opening and puts everything into perspective – ‘when someone already has so little choice in life, these are things that will make a difference.’

If you fancy volunteering, donating or fundraising in any way, I know Maggs will be so grateful for your help and will support you.

<https://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/>

Email: [info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk) Tel: 01905 25027

*Rachel Austin*

### **KEEPING SAFE THIS WINTER - DRIVING IN THE SHELSLEYS**

Your Parish Council regularly discusses problems with speeding vehicles, and inappropriate speed restrictions on the lanes in our parish. Local councils are not able to make changes to restrictions, but we have a positive relationship with the hillclimb management regarding signage and messages to their members, some of whom cause problems on race days.

Sadly however it is often local drivers who speed through the village centre and other 40mph sections in cars and tractors. As the winter approaches, can we please ask you all to stop and think seriously about your speed on all the lanes in the valley? The limit is often 60mph, but is this sensible with single track lanes and frequently restricted vision? If someone's family were walking in the lanes, could you stop in time?

In these dark, early evenings, pedestrians need to remember to wear reflective clothing and keep dogs on a lead on the lanes.

Let's work on this together and keep everyone safe - thank you.

*Val Jones, on behalf of the Shelsleys Parish Council*



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## **Unapproved Abbreviated Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shelsleys' Parish Council held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at Shelsley Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairwoman, Val Jones, Louise Hutton, Laura Taylor, Dave Bates, Jean Hammond & Karen Metcalfe. Councillor Justin Bowen, the Clerk and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** John Stinton (vacation) via Dave Bates, accepted. District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming.

**Declaration of Interests:** None.

**Public Questions:** A question was raised on the need for more signposting of local footpaths and byways.

Problems regarding footpaths can be reported on the WCC website, Councillor Metcalfe as Parish Footpaths Warden will then be contacted and requested to sort problems locally if possible.

She is aware of a problem in Camp Lane where footpaths have been obstructed and intimidation has occurred, but as a voluntary worker it is difficult for her to resolve problems of this nature. Any acts of intimidation or aggression should be reported directly to the WCC portal.

**Casual Vacancy:** An application was received from Sean Hinton. Members agreed unanimously to appoint him as a Councillor representing Shelsley Kings. He was welcomed and after signing the Acceptance of Office he was invited to sit with the councillors.

**Minutes:** The minutes of Tuesday 9 September 2025 were approved and signed as a true record.

**Lengthsman, Highways & Footpaths:** The lengthsman will be asked to keep drains clear of leaves and to cut back the road edges where flooding occurs near the Village Hall. County Councillor Bowen requested any WCC maintained blocked drains be reported to him.

Electronic speed sign purchase - this was dismissed as other speed restriction options were discussed. Potholes reported in Camp Lane have been partially dealt with. Bend marker signs are now in place on Kingswood Lane. Flood depth indication poles - this information is required at New Mill Bridge and All Saints church. Justin Bowen reported that WCC will send an inspector to see what warning signage can be put in place.

Road closure on Pard House Lane. Proposed road closure for up to five days from Monday 8 December.

**Urgent Decisions:** M/25/01547/LB Hop Barn The Green. Retrospective application for variations to previously approved 06/00013/LBC. PC supported the application.

**Planning:** M/25/01595/AGR Kingswood House. Steel frame agricultural building, application withdrawn.

### **Malvern Hills Planning decisions:**

M/25/00955/FUL Land At (OS 7355 6281), Shelsley Beauchamp. Change of use of agricultural land to site a Shepherd Hut for use as a holiday let. Approved.

**Village Hall Update:** Fred Lees, Chairman of the newly appointed Village Hall Management Committee, who was present at part of the meeting, gave a report on the current position of funding and activities.

The fireworks event, paid for with a grant specifically to be used for the benefit of the community, had been well attended and takings from food, bar and donations were excellent.

Grants have been applied for, the outcomes are not yet known.

A Community Day, Saturday 15 November, has been arranged and people are encouraged to come and help. A skip and paint from Crown Paints has been donated and refreshments will be available.

The licenced bar staffed by volunteers will be opened on days yet to be decided. County Councillor Bowen said he has a small amount of funding available if a request from the VHMC is made to him for a specific item.

It was noted that when the hall was used for the Warm Space project, three sofas and a standard lamp were kindly donated. Only two sofas remain in the hall, the whereabouts of the other items is not known.

**Defibrillator:** Councillor Hutton received information that the defibrillator pads need to be replaced. It was proposed and accepted that the upkeep of the defibrillator be adopted by the PC, which will pay for the new pads.

**Coronation photograph:** Quotations for printing and framing will be sought by Councillor Hutton.

**Progress Reports: Broadband** - Councillor Hammond was informed by Rob Stepniewski WCC that there is no plan for a build in the Stanford Bridge area until 2027 and Airband is currently not available.

A review of the **Biodiversity Plan** will take place at the next meeting.

**Finance:** Clerk's expenses £68.97, Information Commissioner £47.00, Total £115.97. The Budget figures to be reviewed in January, to determine the Precept request for 2026-2027.

**Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:** A report on the September Parish Walk will be sent to the Teme Triangle.

The CALC AGM on 13 November, held on Zoom, will be attended by the Chairwoman. Councillor Hammond will provide an update on Broadband for publication in the Teme Triangle.

It was agreed to hold a Christmas Parish Walk on Sunday 28 December at 2pm, details to be published in the Teme Triangle. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall afterwards.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 13 January 2026, Shelsley Village Hall, 7pm.

The full minutes will be available on the WCC website:

<http://eservices.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

Please note: The name of the parish on the website is Shelsley Kings.

## **Abbreviated draft minutes of Clifton Parish Council meeting held Thursday 6 November 2025**

**Present:** Cllr J. Bowden (Chair), Cllrs P. Brooks, R. Neave, A. Griffiths, D. Crawshaw and S. Haywood. District Cllr Paul Cumming and County Cllr Justin Bowen.

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 2 October:** Approved. Matters arising: All signs have been erected in the recreation ground. Water provider yet to be switched.

**Public Time:** Nothing raised.

**Parish & County Councillors' Reports (to be circulated):** County Councillor's Report: External auditor's report on County Council raised serious concerns. County council has requested £34 million in emergency funding. County council approved the One Worcestershire council option due to saving approx. £20 million a year. Cllr Bowden has requested funding of £1,000 towards the VAS signs just purchased by the PCC. Tenbury has £1 million budget for flood resilience measures. Cllr Brooks asked about national government taking over Worcestershire County Council. Cllr Bowen explained the process. Cllr Bowden (CuT) asked about traffic calming measures similar to villages across Oxfordshire. Cllr Bowen outlined that he is working on a solution where parish councils would seek a general consensus from parishioners for designating the village a 20mph zone and then using some of the precept money for signage.

**District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Cumming expressed disappointment with the planning officers' presentation at the recent planning appeal held in Malvern. He outlined issues around the one council approach favoured by the County Council and how the different characteristics of each area would not be best served by a single council.

**Financial & Governance Matters:** Payment schedule (to be circulated). WNCT Wildlife to be paid remaining 50% for report to be released. Clerk to provide three quotes for gazebos for next meeting.

**Parish Matters/Updates:** December/Christmas event, Friday 19 December, organised by Ruth Wilson and Rachel Austin. Cllr Brooks proposed a £250 budget for Carols on the Green and Xmas trees. Cllr Griffiths agreed to investigate sponsorship or donation of Xmas trees for village and church.

**Playing Field (CFAF) project update:** Mats under the swings to remain in place until external safety inspection states otherwise. Play equipment inspection (quotes). Annual inspection to be carried out by ROSPA as an independent body. Co-op public gardens funding - Donation from Co-op of £970.00 to help support wellbeing in the village. Cllr Griffiths to investigate projects involving young children that the money could support. Sports Ground & Pavillion – Rental agreement. Cllr Neave proposed that the new version be used and that a review takes place in two years (2027). Builders or other contractors wishing to use the Pavilion car park can do so but will be expected to make a donation.

**Planning Matters:** M/25/01285/HP – The Village Clifton / Approved. SWDPR update nearing completion. Publication possible before Christmas.

**Highway Matters:** Lengthsman tasks: Surface run off causing flooding on Hope Lane to be passed to County Highways (Cllr Bowen). Road and footpath closure notices (circulated on website).

**Items for Future Agendas:** Additional litter bin to be purchased for village. Location to be confirmed. Tennis court gate needs to be repaired. Contractor instructed as emergency repair required. Clerk to investigate high interest savings accounts provided by Unity Bank and provide a draft budget for financial year 2026/2027 at December meeting.

Parish Council contribution to Teme Triangle set at £750.00 and to continue paying for Remembrance Day wreath. Parish Council to go ahead and fund information board for Wildflower Garden at a cost of approx. £1,500.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 4 December 2025, 7.40pm, Clifton Village Hall.

## STANFORD HISTORY GROUP

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Topics include a professional violinist who reveals what her musical life actually entails; how plants have evolved, and in doing so both changed the Earth and continue to dominate our lives; an exploration of the life of a remarkable Victorian artist whose true importance is only now being appreciated, and how aspects of his lifestyle which would now be accepted, condemned him to decades of exclusion and obscurity.

£10 per lecture, payable at the door or £30 for the five lecture course.

For more information, contact Simon Neary:

Email: [simon.neary1@goosemail.com](mailto:simon.neary1@goosemail.com) Tel: 01584 781698



## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING FOR CHARITY

My name is Ria Simons, and I am the Corporate Fundraising Lead at St Richard's Hospice and the organiser of the St Richard's Hospice Christmas tree recycling campaign.



During January we have an army of volunteers that go out and collect real Christmas trees for recycling. All people need to do is register their tree for collection and make a donation towards our care. We then send that information to a route mapping company who creates route maps for our amazing volunteers to follow.

The trees are then taken to a designated drop off site where they are met by a volunteer, professional tree chipping team and chippings are recycled.

For further information and to register your tree for collection, please see the website: <https://www.strichards.org.uk/christmas-tree-collection/>

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SHELSLEY BEAUCHAMP**

All Saints Church is currently looking for the following help, to join our fantastic group of volunteers in keeping the church looking sparkling and loved:

- Church flowers - for the altar flowers in the month of January and also for a small window display at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
- Church cleaning - we currently have five vacancies throughout the year (cleaning takes place each month).

If you are able to help in any way with this, please contact:  
Louise Hutton, email: [louise@stroyd-hutton.com](mailto:louise@stroyd-hutton.com) Tel: 07803 614078

*YOUR HELP WOULD BE HUGELY APPRECIATED - THANK YOU*

## **SHELSLEY PARISH BROADBAND UPDATE**

As some of you will be aware, the internet speed in the Stanford Bridge area of our parish remains woefully poor, with many households receiving a service less than 10mbps.

Shelsley Parish Council has been liaising with the County Council on an ongoing basis to ascertain any progress / development, and has this week been advised the following:

"The county wide procurement for the Government-led Project Gigabit is underway and there is now a contracted solution for circa 24,000 premises across the County."

Stanford Bridge is in the intervention area, and the Council has advised that the expected build in this area is currently scheduled for 2027, but that this is "subject to change".

We will continue to update the parish of any progress or further developments.

*Jean Hammond*

### **COFFEE WITH A COP MORNING**

Saturday 13 December, 10–11am at Shelsley Village Hall.

As part of the West Mercia Police Safer Rural Community Initiative, The Shelsley's Village Hall is proud to team up with our local police for a friendly 'Coffee with a Cop' session.



Come along for a brew and a confidential chat at the hall — share any concerns, ask questions, and meet both the WMP team and members of the SVH Committee.

Everyone is welcome and we will be running these monthly.



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## **WINTER SKIN CARE: HOW TO KEEP YOUR SKIN HEALTHY THIS SEASON**

My name is Samantha Green, and I'm a local aesthetic nurse and nurse prescriber passionate about helping people feel confident in their own skin through natural, holistic treatments.

As the days get colder, many of us notice our skin feeling drier, tighter, or more sensitive. Winter air and central heating can strip moisture from the skin, leaving it dull and dehydrated. But with a few small changes, you can protect your skin and keep it glowing through the colder months.

**1. Cleanse gently** - Harsh or foaming cleansers can make dryness worse. Choose something gentle with ingredients like ceramides, glycerine, or niacinamide to support the skin barrier and lock in moisture.

**2. Layer your hydration** - Apply a hydrating serum with hyaluronic acid, then seal it in with a rich moisturiser. Professional skin boosters or facials can also help refresh tired winter skin.

**3. Keep using SPF** - Even in winter, UV rays can cause premature ageing and damage. A daily SPF 30 or 50 is still one of the best defences against dull, dry, or ageing skin.

Every skin type is different, so personalised advice makes a real difference. I use an advanced skin analysis machine to look beneath the surface, assessing hydration, pigmentation, and sun exposure — helping to create bespoke skincare plans that really work.

I'm also launching my own skincare range, built around the values of pure, intelligent, protective care. If you'd like a tailored consultation to assess your facial needs, or would like me to visit your local group for a free skincare talk, please get in touch. I currently run clinics at Pure Thyme, Mill Farm on a Saturday. Please contact 07730 042871 or book online at <https://portal.aestheticnursesoftware.com/book-online/5148>

*Samantha Green*



## HALLOWEEN FUN IN SHELSLEY



The very first Shelsley All Hallow's Trail was a great success and saw a number of villagers participating in a walking 'Trick or Treat Trail' around the village.

A number of willing villagers threw themselves into the spirit of All Hallow's and welcomed a host of little doorknockers with much good spirit! Children were greeted with



an array of fine treats and in turn greeted hosts with many declarations of gratitude! The phrase 'thank you for being a stop on the Shelsley trick or treat trail', the refrain of the evening!

In true Shelsley fashion, and in a flourish beyond the scope of the ordinary, some hosts appeared in full costume and served champagne and nibbles on the doorstep! A wholly English, wholly Shelsley version of Halloween! A memorable night for all.

*Holly Perks*

## THE SHELSELEYS LIGHT UP THE SKIES

The Shelsleys Village Hall fireworks night on Saturday 8 November was absolutely fantastic! The SVH Management Committee were blown away to see so many people come together for our very first major event under the new committee — we didn't quite know how it would go, but WOW... you all made it incredible!



We've never seen the hall so busy, with over 150 people attending! The queues for the bar and food were out the door, and the atmosphere was amazing — full of smiling faces, laughter, and that brilliant Shelsley community spirit.

It was wonderful to welcome not just the local community, but also friends from neighbouring villages who came along to support us.

Thanks go to Harry, Neil, Adam, and the entire SVHMC team for making it all happen — but the biggest THANK YOU goes to you, our community. Your donations, cheering, clapping, and whooping made the night truly unforgettable.

*The Shelsley Village Hall  
Management Committee*

A festive poster for a Christmas Fayre. It features a light beige background with green pine branches and red Christmas ornaments at the top. The text is in various colors and fonts, including red, green, and black.

**CHRISTMAS  
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## VILLAGE HALL TIDY UP DAY






Saturday 15 November saw the first Shelsley Village Hall tidy up day. Thank you to all those who came along and supported the tidy up. A huge amount of throwing out, clearing, scrubbing and painting took place - a huge step forward in giving the building a much needed refresh!

Watch this space for details of further 'tidy up' days...





### Shelsley Village Hall

### Family Christmas Quiz

Fun filled evening on 6<sup>th</sup>

December at 6 pm at Shelsley

### Village Hall

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- Crown Paints, for donating 60 litres of interior paint.
- Our local suppliers and neighbours, for lending equipment, donating food, and always being ready to help.
- Worcester City Council, for their continued support and involvement in our community projects.
- YOU, our community and friends, who keep showing up, pitching in, donating and cheering us on.

## STEAMING IN SHELSLEY

Despite the awful weather conditions, in true Shelsley good spirit, Michael Whitehouse once again kindly opened the doors to his miniature (not so miniature!) steam railway. It was, as always, a joyous occasion with lots of smiling faces and everyone, no matter what their age, feeling like they were kids again. I'm sure I speak for everyone Michael in saying many thanks for your hard work and very kind hospitality - it really is an event that we all look forward to.

*Louise Hutton.*



## CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

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## **CLIFTON-ON-TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Are you new to Clifton-on-Teme or simply looking to make new friends in the village? The Clifton-on-Teme Friendship Club extends a warm welcome to everyone interested in connecting with others and enjoying a variety of social activities.

Meeting Details:

- When: The first and third Wednesdays of every month
- Time: 14:30
- Where: Clifton Village Hall

Our club offers a friendly atmosphere and a diverse range of activities, including:

- Celebrating members' birthdays
- Hosting interesting talks
- Visiting local gardens and attractions
- And much more!

If you would like to find out more or are interested in joining us, please contact Dot Millward at [dotmillward@btinternet.com](mailto:dotmillward@btinternet.com)

### **SHELSLEY VALLEY WALK**

What a beautiful, sunny day we had on our Parish Council organised walk in September. A small, but lively group walked on part of the Worcestershire Way, admiring the fantastic view from the benches above Southwood. We returned through the woods on to Manor Lane and back to the cars on Fetterlocks.

Our walking programme is part of our 'Parish Biodiversity Plan', to encourage community engagement, so please put the next date in your diaries - we would love you, your children and dogs to join us.

**Winter walk Sunday 28 December**  
**2pm from Shelsley Village Hall**  
**Mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks on return.**

### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 2025 POPPY APPEAL**

The organizers of this year's Poppy Appeal are delighted to report that £1,030.50 was generously donated by the good folk of Clifton-on-Teme.

All will be put to good use in the relief of the many setbacks experienced by service families and veterans.

*Jack Whittenbury*



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## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Another year almost gone, another Christmas almost here. The wonderful sight of autumn colours brings so much pleasure, even on the dullest day, but it is very late this year and the grass still needs cutting. Somehow, December has come upon us without warning. I haven't yet seen predictions of our winter weather, but it's best not to think of it. Must get plenty of logs and candles in though.

We have been quite lucky with the weather so far and the evening spent looking at the Night Sky with our new curate Tobias Thorne was a great success. The sky around St Bartholomew's Church cleared to order and Tobias had also brought illustrations for his talk, just in case. He is an astrophysicist who is helping us in the area for a while and he is very welcome. Many questions were asked and discussions took place and I think most people left with a fuller understanding of the solar system and the comets. Perhaps he could return in the spring or summer.

The weather was also fine and dry, if a little cold, when David Richards took a group of around ten people (plus two dogs) on his walk, Glebe 2, at a gentle pace, finishing with cake at the church. Maybe 2026 will bring Glebe 3, and even Glebe 4 as everyone enjoys them. David knows so much about this area and is now following in his father's footsteps. In the meantime, Candy is hoping to produce a short history of the two churches and the area in time for the 150th celebration of the founding of St Bartholomew's next year. Improvements are slowly taking place in St Bartholomew's and we are indeed lucky to retain this church as many in the area are left to fall down, or be sold.

The Guides and Brownies are still enjoying their gatherings round the fire-pit in the wooded area of the churchyard and look forward to many future visits. We also hope to hold more services there in the spring and summer. I must say that the photograph of their recent visit looked magical on Halloween, but where were the ghosts and monsters? There were some happy looking skeletons, but it seems princesses and fairies rule this year!

Now we look forward to celebrating Christmas. Our carol service in St Bartholomew's will be at 3pm on 21 December and we hope to have the traditional service.

### NOTICES

Please note, this is a two month edition and the next one will be in February. As I have not yet received times of services locally, please check at the back of this issue for up-to-date times.

### Services at St Bartholomew's:

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday 7 December  | Morning prayer, 10.30am    |
| Sunday 21 December | Carol Service, 3pm         |
| Christmas Day      | Communion service, 10.30am |
| Sunday 4 January   | Morning prayer, 10.30am    |
| Sunday 25 January  | Circle service, 10.30am    |

### HOUSEKEEPING

December: Liz and Steve Younge. Ladies will decorate the Church with greenery beforehand

January: Dot Millward

MOBILE LIBRARY will call on Friday 19 December and Friday 16 January 2026

LADIES BIBLE GROUP. There will be no meeting in December, The January one will be 2pm at Pat's on Tuesday 13 January.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. Keep warm and keep well.

*Margaret Griffiths*

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## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

December brings the close of the year and affords an opportunity to review the preceding eleven months. 2025 has been unique for me, because it is the first year during which I have been obliged to share my garden with a muntjac deer.

'Mitzi' first hove into view in January, on the front lawn, investigating the grass under the birdfeeder and inspecting the herbaceous borders. In broad daylight, she showed little fear of humans, but on that day appeared troubled by biting insects, possibly ticks. She repeatedly turned round to chew the fur on her back and abruptly hopped about in tight circles, as though trying to dislodge something. She's returned nearly every day since, entering from the lane, travelling up a secluded gully between our hedge and that of our next-door neighbour, crossing the border, lawn and drive then trotting up a bank and on into the orchard.

As spring brought life to the garden, Mitzi's presence proved to be rather less than benign. A prized patch of snake's head fritillaries in a damp part of the lawn suddenly appeared shortened. The flower stems had been bitten off a few inches above the ground and a deer-slot next to this work

informed me of the culprit. Any stem rising from the ground bearing a tasty bud proved to be too much of a temptation for Mitzi. After swathing my fritillaries in sticks wound with black cotton, she turned her attention to my cowslips, aquilegias and scabious instead. My husband was appalled to find a large Schubertii allium bud detached from its stem and lying on the ground - too garlicky to eat we assumed. She then explored the patio and demolished a pot of his lilies.

A grassy bank where I had envisaged a drift of large purple crocus in William Robinson's "wild garden" style proved a total disappointment. Here, Mitzi waited for the buds to open before eating them, mercifully leaving the leaves behind, which I hope means that the plants might survive. Gravetye, Robinson's wonderful garden in Sussex, is fully deer-fenced I now learn. Perhaps I should have checked on that before embarking on one of his planting schemes.

Cross, but resigned to life with Mitzi, I shrugged my shoulders at her summer activities as she pruned the roses before they had flowered, leaving me to wait for colour later in the year. She, meanwhile, enjoyed fallen cherries, raspberries - both leaves and fruit - then damsons. Apples and pears aren't to her taste. Autumn shed light on her night-time exploits. Opening a window to let out a wasp one evening, I heard cough-like barks coming from the orchard. This had to be Mitzi summoning a mate. And who did I see a few mornings later, travelling her route beside the hedge? Yes, a large male with gnarly swept-back horns. Oh, just my luck, 'Marmaduke' has moved in as well! Happy Christmas!

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 8 January 2026 at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome local falconer Steve Woodison whose talk is called 'Owls and other birds of prey'. Some of his birds will join him. Members and friends are welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

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 to which all are welcome. Contact us by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com)

*Stephanie Mocroft*



# Church Matters

## CROSSING THE WINTER THRESHOLD



Winter often feels like an ending — the year's colour drained, the days narrowed, and the countryside around us settling into silence. Yet the season has another character if we're willing to look again. Winter is not a wall but a doorway, a threshold between what has been and what is quietly beginning.

Here in the Teme Valley, the signs are subtle. Light returns almost shyly at first — a minute or two added to the edge of each day, hardly noticeable unless we pause long enough to let it register. The earth, though cold and seemingly inert, is already working towards spring. Roots thicken. Seeds hold their breath. Life prepares itself not with fanfare but with patience.

It's in this landscape that the Christmas story finds a natural home. Christ comes into a world not bathed in warmth but wrapped in winter's stillness. His birth is the first glimmer after a long night — a light that grows by inches until it fills the whole horizon. And the pattern He sets is the same pattern we see around us now: God beginning His greatest work in the quietest season.

Perhaps that is the invitation of this time of year. To recognise the small beginnings of grace. To trust that God is at work long before we see the full shape of blessing. To believe that renewal is already on its way, even when the fields look bare and the mornings slow to brighten.

As we stand on this winter threshold, may the gentle return of light remind us that Christ is already ahead of us, leading us into life once more.

May you know Christ's peace this Christmas, and may His light rest upon you and all those you love — in darkness and in daylight, in winter and in the bright hope of spring. God bless.

*Pete Thorp, Reader TVS*

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## **Lion Inn Cribbage Team Invites New Players**



The Lion Inn (Clifton-upon-Teme) Cribbage Team is open to new players who wish to join whether you are an experienced player, a novice or just would like to learn.

If you are looking for a new activity for 2026, wish to expand your social circle or are new to the area, the cribbage team could be for you.

Matches are played on Wednesday evenings across a number of pubs within Bromyard and the surrounding area, and we often practice on a Sunday evening from 8pm at The Lion.

If you are interested and wish to learn more, please contact the League Secretary, Ray Neave, for further information.

Tel 07973 320239 or email [banddcrib@gmail.com](mailto:banddcrib@gmail.com)

## **WW2 FILM SCREENING RAISES OVER £1,000 FOR ST MICHAEL'S**

The screening of the film 'Love, Laughter, Loss' at Clifton Village Hall last month raised a total of £1,040 for St Michael's Hospice.

The film featured a young WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) officer, Patricia Rickman, the mother of Shelsley Beauchamp resident Alexandra Winnington. Patricia created albums with many photographs, newspaper cuttings and telegrams during her service in WW2. The albums, combined with the stories she told her family, inspired Alexandra's brother, Rory MacColl, to produce the film shortly before he became ill in 2024.

"I was delighted that more than 70 people attended the screening of my brother's film," said Alexandra. "The evening was a huge success and the Hospice were thrilled with the amount raised."

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**CHURCH SERVICES IN CLIFTON, THE SHELSLEYS  
AND LOWER SAPEY (HARPLEY)**

## **December 2025**

### **Sunday 7 December**

**5.00pm:** The Shelsleys' Candlelight Christmas Carol Service.

The Barn at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, WR6 6RP

**6.30pm:** Advent Carols, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Wednesday 17 December**

**10.30am:** Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

### **Sunday 21 December**

**10.00am:** Praise 4 All, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**3.00pm:** Harpley Carols, St Bartholomew's, Harpley

**6.30pm:** Clifton Carol Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Wednesday 24 December**

**3.00pm:** Crib Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

**5.00pm:** Christingle Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**9.00pm:** Christmas Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Thursday 25 December**

**10.00am:** Christmas half hour, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**10.30am:** Christmas Morning, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

**10.30am:** Holy Communion for Christmas Day,  
St Bartholomew's, Harpley

### **Sunday 28 December**

**10.30am:** All Age Service and Communion, Rochford



**CHURCH SERVICES IN CLIFTON, THE SHELSLEYS  
AND LOWER SAPEY (HARPLEY)**

## **January 2026**

### **Sunday 4 January**

**10.30am:** Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Sunday 11 January**

**10.30am:** Family Worship with Holy Communion, All Saints,  
Shelsley Beauchamp

### **Sunday 18 January**

**10.00am:** Praise 4 All, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**6.30pm:** Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Wednesday 21 January**

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

### **Sunday 25 January**

**10.30am:** Circle Service, St Bartholomew's, Harpley

### **Sunday 1 February**

**10.30am:** Morning Prayer, St Kenelm's, Clifton

**10.30am:** Morning Praise, St Bartholomew's, Harpley

**4.00pm:** Candlemas, St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

### **CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE**

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) has provided a 'Christmas Memory Tree' to be placed in Old St. Bartholomew's Church, Lower Sapey, from Monday 1 December until Twelfth Night, Monday 5 January 2026.

For reasons of joy, sickness or sorrow, there are card baubles to write the name of a loved one on, to hang on the tree.

The CCT hopes that a donation might also be made, thus aiding the continuing work of the CCT, which preserved this ancient church.

For further information, contact: Pat Prosser, 01886 886465 or email [patprosser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patprosser@hotmail.co.uk)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas Memory Tree in Old St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey
- 4 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 6 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's, Stanford Bridge 10am-4pm
- 6 Family Christmas Quiz, Shelsley VH, 6pm
- 7 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's, Stanford Bridge 10am-4pm
- 7 Christmas Fayre, Clifton VH, 10am-1pm
- 7 Candlelit Christmas Carol service, Shelsley Hill Climb Barn, 5pm
- 9 Clifton WI Christmas meeting, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 13 Coffee with a Cop morning, Shelsley VH, 10-11am
- 13 Christmas Prize Bingo, Clifton VH, 5.30pm
- 18 WCC mobile library, Clifton VH, 9.45am, Harpley 10.20am, Lower Sapey 10.40am
- 28 Shelsley winter walk, Shelsley VH, 2pm

### JANUARY

- 8 Teme Valley Wildlife Group, Stoke Bliss VH, 7.30pm
- 10 Downton Abbey Finale, Clifton VH Tea 3pm, Film 5pm
- 13 Clifton WI meeting, Resolutions discussion, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 13 Shelsley Parish Council meeting, Shelsley VH, 7pm
- 16 WCC mobile library, Clifton VH, 9.45am, Harpley 10.20am, Lower Sapey 10.40am
- 19 Stanford History Group lectures start, Upper Sapey VH, 7.30pm

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017

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

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)

Holly Perks 01886 812369

[hollyperks@me.com](mailto:hollyperks@me.com)

**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)

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