

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Teme Valley Churches Choir

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- Evans Family Gathering
- Teme Valley Wildlife

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POPPY APPEAL 2026 – CAN YOU HELP?

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will once again be taking place in Clifton-upon-Teme this autumn.

Owing to family commitments, Jack Whittenbury would be very grateful for some extra help this year. If you can spare just a couple of hours a week between 19 October and 16 November, your assistance would help ensure the smooth running of this very worthwhile annual appeal. You do not need to have served in the Armed Forces or be a member of the Royal British Legion to volunteer – just a little time to spare and a willingness to help. If you can lend a hand, contact Jack on 01886 812464 or Mike Snelling on 01886 812443.

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Front Cover picture - TEME VALLEY CHURCHES CHOIR'S SUMMER CONCERT SEPTEMBER 2026

What a wonderful evening we enjoyed at Teme Valley Churches Choir's first fundraising concert held on the beautiful lawn at Harborough Bank. The concert was also the launch of our new Friends and Patrons scheme, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came along, joined the scheme and supported us so generously at the start of this exciting new chapter.

Our varied programme included traditional favourites such as *Loch Lomond*, *Here Comes the Sun*, *What a Wonderful World* and *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*, alongside beautiful sacred music including Tallis's *If Ye Love Me*, Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas* and Elgar's *Ave Verum Corpus*. A particularly special moment was Harborough Bank, a new piece composed by the choir's founder and Music Director, Chloe May Evans, with lyrics written especially for the occasion by one of our sopranos, Catherine Tiffany. It was wonderful to perform a piece so closely connected to the choir and the place where we were gathered.

The programme also offered a wonderful variety of solo, duet and ensemble performances. David entertained us with his excellent rendition of *Albert and the Lion*, while Paul gave a memorable performance of *Sea Fever*. Katie delighted the audience with her musical medley, featuring favourites from *My Fair Lady* and *Les Misérables*, and Paul and Cathie charmed us with the Mozart duet *La ci darem la mano*. Our choir's vocal quintet also performed for the first time together singing *Linden Lea* and *Flying Free*.

Our thanks go to our hosts Holly and James, accompanists, David A and Jason F, whose excellent musicianship supported the choir and soloists throughout the evening and Hugh R on sound, as well as Fraser E on photography and videography. We are also immensely grateful to everyone who performed, the Friends Committee who worked so hard to put this together and helpers behind the scenes. Finally, thank you to everyone who came to share this special occasion with us. The warmth, enthusiasm and generosity of our audience and Friends and Patrons is most gratefully received and we look forward to making much more music together. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Choir, singing with us or commissioning a piece please do get in touch.

Follow the choir on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TemeValleyChoir/>
Become a Friend of the Choir: <https://tinyurl.com/tvs-friendschoir>
Contact: TemeValleyChurchesChoir@gmail.com

Chloe Kenrick (Director of Music, Teme Valley Churches Choir)

ANCIENT WELL DISCOVERED

This summer's drought has exposed an ancient well on the site of the pond at Church House Farm in Clifton.

The well, in the field known as Well Ground adjoining the Old Rectory, was discovered by farmer Bob Crump after the pond there had completely dried up during the summer.



Pictured with Bob Crump (right) is local Clifton historian, Bernie Lewis.

CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF CLIFTON NURSERY

Clifton-upon-Teme Primary School and Clifton-upon-Teme Nursery Ltd are consulting the community over a proposal which could see the nursery become a Governor-Led Provision under the school.

The proposal has arisen following the availability of Department for Education capital funding to develop and expand nursery provision within schools. As an independent nursery, Clifton Nursery cannot access this funding directly, but joining with the primary school could open the way to significant investment in its facilities.

If the proposal goes ahead and a funding application is successful, plans would include a new purpose-built nursery building on the school site, dedicated pre-school provision within the school, and an increase in nursery places from 40 to 64. The nursery's existing ethos, staff and focus on children's learning and wellbeing would remain central to the provision.

No final decision has yet been made. The consultation runs from 15 September to 6 October, with parents, carers, staff and members of the wider community invited to give their views. A consultation meeting will be held on 24 September, from 3.30pm to 4pm.

Comments can also be emailed to:

office@clifton-upon-teme.worcs.sch.uk

Or sent in writing to:
Clifton-upon-Teme Primary School, Pound Lane,
Clifton-upon-Teme WR6 6DE.



Ralph Fiennes, Emily Faim, Mark Addy



The Choral

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. Their ambitious committee decides on a recruitment drive. They must also engage a new chorus master, and their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) - driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

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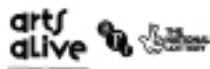
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Minutes of Clifton Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2026 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J. Bowden (Chair), P. Brooks, R. Neave, A. Griffiths.

Apologies: Cllr D. Crawshaw – Apologies sent. Cllr S. Haywood – Absent. Clerk to contact Cllr Haywood regarding future intentions. Action: Circulate notice inviting members of the public to apply to become co-opted members of the parish council.

Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on July 9 2026: Approved.

Public Time: A member of the public raised an issue with the hedge that borders Forge Meadows and the Football Pitch. Action: Lengthsman to be instructed to cut the hedge and if possible, cut the grass up to the fence line.

A second member of the public raised concerns regarding the Hope Lane Housing Development and the differences in the submitted plans from the outline plans. The member of the public raised the following concerns: The number of social housing units seems to have been reduced; no raised pavements; no turning areas; no visitors car park; the planned housing seems to have been moved closer to existing houses and gardens; drainage, especially surface water. The intention seems to be that surface water drains into the Hope Lane brook which will exacerbate flooding risk. Cllr P. Cumming (District Councillor) noted the issues and they will be raised when Cllr Cumming is invited to comment on the plans. The consultation period has ended and a decision is pending. Action: Clerk to send letter to District Councillor and MHDC Planning Department outlining the concerns of the resident and parish council.

Parish Clerk Correspondence: Overgrown section in park, brambles encroaching on resident's garden. Will be reviewed and Lengthsman instructed to cut as appropriate.

Malvern Social Media Guidance for Councillors noted. Letter from leaders of District Councils re: Reorganisation noted. Keeping Neighbourhood plans on track – Webinar noted.

Planning Matters: Planning Applications:

M/26/01075/LB– The Barn. No comment or concerns raised.

M/26/01074/HP – The Barn2 No comment or concerns raised.

Planning Notifications M/26/00690/HP – Approved Application – Noted.

Parish and County Councillors' Reports:

District Cllr Paul Cumming raised the following points: Full details expected to be circulated at a council meeting at the end of September; elections next year may not take place; all elections will be scheduled together to reduce costs;

new council will have a Leader & Cabinet structure; new authority will have a mayor. Likely that Worcestershire and Herefordshire will come under the same mayoralty. A third county may be invited to become part of the mayoralty.

Financial and Governance Matters: Payment schedule to be circulated via email by the Clerk. Approved.

Review of previous payments made in July & August noted. Consideration of upcoming expenditure.

Approx £300 for the new noticeboard to be installed in Pound Lane. Quotes will also be sent through for fixing fencing in playground. Approximately £2,000 to repair bowling green. Parish council to note clerk pay increase and backdate of increase from April 2026. Urgent Business Between Meetings Policy v0.2 - Cllrs to approve. Action: Cllr Neave to email amendments to Clerk.

Parish Matters and Updates: Review of the Parish Council Calendar 2026, including notable dates and events noted. Update on the noticeboard (Cllr Neave); contractor instructed to install noticeboard. Cllr Brooks to update on improving accessibility to specific footpaths in and around the village. Cllr Brooks has continued to speak to landowners regarding replacing stiles. Wooden tractor updates from Cllr Bowden. Contractor has been instructed.

Bowling Green Update from Cllr Bowen. Minutes shared with Cllrs. Proposal, Bowling Green to be left to recover for two years. Work to be undertaken by Lengthsman to bring the Bowling Green up to an acceptable 'lawn' standard. This will be below an acceptable 'playing' standard. The Parish Council will maintain the Bowling Green at a lawn standard. The Bowling Green will give an update on intentions regarding the Bowling Green at their next annual report to be submitted to the Parish Council in May 2027. Action: Clerk to send an invoice to Bowls Club for two years' use.

Action: Cllr Bowden to ask Lengthsman to fit gate closers on gates to Recreation Ground near Pavillion.

Date of next Parish Meeting (first Thursday falls on the first of the month). Agreed. Noted that full banking details will not be available. Further clarification regarding website management and maintenance ongoing. Cllr Neave and Cllr Bowden continuing to look into minor and major updates to website.

Pavilion Update: Cllr Bowden provided an update on the Pavilion. Section 106 funding v0.1 Sept – Review required. Action: Cllr Bowden to review and complete the application form. Match funding applications to other funders (National Lottery) has started.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1 October 2026.



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GETTING OLDER DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP

For most of our lives, somebody needs us. As children, we're ferried from one thing to another. Then comes school, work, relationships, mortgages, children, pets, ageing parents and, if we're lucky, grandchildren. There is always something to do, somewhere to be and someone asking where you've put the keys. Then, gradually, things change. The children grow up. Grandchildren need us a little less. Work winds down. A much-loved dog is no longer waiting impatiently by the door. And suddenly, nobody seems to mind if we take our foot off the accelerator. So we do. We drive when we could walk. We order something online rather than go into town. We decline an invitation because the sofa is more appealing. We tell ourselves we're simply enjoying a quieter life. And sometimes we are. But there is a difference between slowing down and stopping. The danger is that the small compromises start becoming habits. We don't deliberately decide to neglect ourselves. After a lifetime of looking after everybody else, we simply become rather good at putting ourselves at the bottom of the list.

Perhaps it's time to move ourselves back up it. Not because we're selfish. Quite the opposite. Staying reasonably fit, independent and engaged means we're more likely to remain part of the lives of the people we love. So it's worth asking a few uncomfortable questions:

What does my body need now? Am I moving enough? Would being a little stronger make life easier? Am I eating for the body I have today rather than the one I had thirty years ago? Am I still seeing people, having conversations and giving myself reasons to get out of the house? And what, exactly, gives me a sense of purpose now?

I've had to accept that I can't always do things at the pace I once did. But I've also realised that slower doesn't have to mean incapable. Take mowing the lawn. Years ago, I'd have mown the back lawn, done the front and probably washed the car for good measure. These days, I might do the back on Saturday and the front on Sunday. The lawns still get mown. That's not giving up. That's knowing when to stop before my back tells me something considerably less polite.

Perhaps, as we get older, we need to manage our energy as carefully as we manage our time. Break things down. Rest when necessary. Carry on afterwards. Healthy ageing isn't about pretending we're twenty-five. I'm in my sixties. I've already been twenty-five, and frankly, I don't remember being nearly as sensible as I am now. What matters is the road ahead.

Can I stay active? Keep my independence? Learn something new? Be useful? Enjoy the people around me? Still surprise myself occasionally? I think I can. But it begins with something many of us have spent a lifetime forgetting: Pay attention to yourself. Getting older is inevitable. Giving up isn't.

Gordon Winters

Abbreviated Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shelsleys Parish Council - held on 8 September 2026.

Present: Val Jones Chairwoman, Louise Hutton, Dave Bates and John Stinton.
Apologies: Councillors: Laura Taylor, Carole Warren and Karen Metcalfe (vacation) accepted. John Stinton's apology for the last meeting was accepted.
County Councillor Justin Bowen.

Minutes: The minutes of the 14 July 2026 were approved and signed.

Co-option of Councillor for Shelsley Kings: The Parish Council will continue to advertise.

Midland Automobile Club: The event on 22 August had caused problems with cars driving through the village in spite of the large signs advising against this. The MAC will be informed.

Lengthsman, Highways & Footpaths: The Lengthsman had submitted no invoice or work sheet. The highways work on the verge by the bungalows in Fetterlocks Lane Shelsley Beauchamp will take place on 10 September and on 30th telegraph poles will be installed between Ham Bridge and New Mill Bridge necessitating a road closure.

The owner of the trees overhanging Fetterlocks Lane between All Saints' Church and the bungalows will be asked to cut them back.

The flood signs at New Mill Bridge have been moved to a new position by Church House. The lengthsman will be asked to ensure the drains are clear.

Planning: MHDC decision: M/26/00959/LB Willow Barn The Green Stanford Bridge, Installation of EV charging point. Approved.

M/26/01266/FUL Walcroft Farm Shelsley Beauchamp. Change of use from agricultural/equestrian to form extended residential garden (retrospective) including erection of domestic greenhouse. Members supported the application.

Village Hall: It was noted that several events will shortly take place.

The cost of electricity for the Wavemobile device was discussed and the merits of this service will be reviewed at a later date.

Progress Reports: Bench. Further information is required for discussion at the next meeting.

Open Space: Southwood Common: Deferred to the next meeting.

Finance: There were no payments to approve.

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: There were no reports.
Area Meeting report. The next is to be held on 1 October which will be a zoom meeting.

Date of next meeting: 3 November 2026 7pm Village Hall.

Future confirmed dates for 2027 to be agreed at the 3 November 2026 meeting.
The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

The Shelsleys website is available at <https://www.shelsleys-pc.gov.uk/>

Mrs J Speyer: clerk@shelsleys-pc.gov.uk

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

The heat and drought of this year's summer have been a trial for many plants and animals but, as always in nature, some species have been able to make the most of extreme climatic conditions.

Two groups of insects which did particularly well this summer were butterflies and dragonflies. Of the former, I spotted a species which I'd never seen before, and of the latter I recognised a species I'd only previously encountered in Wales.

I'll start with the butterfly, which was a variety known as the Clouded Yellow and which I noticed visiting grassland flowers in Pensax. A few days later I saw it again whilst on a ramble through Neen Sollars. It is a migrant species which flies into Britain from Africa and southern Europe during the months of April and May. It then lays eggs here, on clovers and lucerne, and produces one or sometimes two broods of offspring. Like those of a similar migrant butterfly, the Painted Lady, the numbers arriving each year vary enormously. Oftentimes no individuals reach as far north as the West Midlands, even if they manage to fly across the Channel at all.

The Clouded Yellow is middling in size, smaller than the Painted Lady, and a deep yellow colour, more so than a Brimstone. On the underside of the upper wing is a black spot and on the lower one is a circle of white with a coloured border around it. The upper wings are more difficult to see, as they are only visible in flight, but they are yellow with a surround of black round the edges. Pink legs and green eyes are distinguishing features according to the field guide, but a much closer look than I got would be necessary to confirm them.

The second insect was a dragonfly which made a surprise visit to our garden pond. In beautiful black and gold, it was a species called the Golden-Ringed Dragonfly. It was a surprise because this is a heathland species which is usually recorded in Worcestershire only in the Wyre Forest. We were fortunate in having binoculars to hand, so were able to admire its stunning green eyes, slender jet-black body and smart gold bands. It was very accommodating and as we studied the field guide it flew up close to inspect what we were doing and then perched motionless on a pondside plant for long enough to have its picture taken. Smart characters, dragonflies, not surprising perhaps, since they've been on the planet since before the age of the dinosaurs.

The Golden-Rings' usual habitat is heathland or woodland where small acidic streams or seepages provide the right conditions for their eggs and larvae. I wondered if it was the fact that our pond water was rather murky, after a great deal of evaporation had lowered the water level, that had made our visitor come



A Golden-Ringed Dragonfly.

for a look, especially since the water was still which is not its usual preference. Even so, it must have liked what it saw because it was back again a week or so later. Whatever had brought it, we were delighted to see it and hope it comes again another year.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 8 October 2026 at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome Beth Norris, who is the wildlife and water officer for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Her talk is called “Wetland wildlife and natural flood defences”. Members and friends are 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, newsletter and bird survey are all available on the website

www.teme-valley-wildlife.org.

We hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month from January to November. All are welcome.

Stephanie Mocroft

EVANS FAMILY GATHERING

On 30 August, three generations of Evans cousins gathered at Harpley Church - some travelling from further afield - to meet Evans relatives from Whitbourne and discover more about our shared family story.



We were fascinated to learn about the connections with Whitbourne Hall, once built for the family and now home to 33 families — a wonderful reminder of how places and families evolve through the generations.

Harpley Church has its own story. Built around 150 years ago to replace the earlier Saxon church at the end of Hope Lane, which had become difficult to reach with no public space around it and the main road to Bromyard that once passed it no longer existing all falling into disrepair. The 'new' Victorian church has continued to serve the community ever since.

As we explored our own family connections, we began to realise that all those buried in the churchyard are, in a sense, part of an extended family. Their lives were intertwined through friendship, marriage and work — farming the land, driving, building and all the many occupations that sustained village life. These connections helped create not just individual families, but the community itself.

Our gathering uncovered stories of love, loss, war, migration and new beginnings, stretching from Harpley and Worcestershire to Canada. It reminded us that behind every name in the churchyard is a person who helped shape the land and the life around them. Perhaps this might inspire others in our community. If you have ancestors resting at Harpley Church, why not bring your family together, walk among the graves and share the stories you know? You may discover connections you never expected — and perhaps experience your own special moment of inspiration.

Candy Connolly



OLD CHURCH SERVICE

A delightful Choral Evensong service was held at Old St Bartholomew Church on Sunday 30 August. Led by no less than three of our wonderful female clergy and well attended by adults, children and dogs, the music was led by the Teme Valley Churches Choir and accompanied by the Longlands Quartet on strings, creating some wonderful hymns and psalms.

Many adjourned for tea next door, just before the heavens opened!!

Anna Brazier

Dear friends, With sadness I have to tell you that I am having to withdraw completely from the annual church service in the dear old church. Ill health precludes me from carrying out all that putting on the service entails. Although I semi-retired a couple of years ago things are such that complete retirement is now the only option. I shall still be the Key Holder and Churches Conservation Trust representative on the ground so nothing else will change. I shall continue to care for the inside of the church and my husband, Mike, will care for the outside. If anybody wishes to book the old church for anything I am still the person to come to and I am still available to give talks about the old church as in the past. My contact details remain the same. 07379 190350 patprosser@hotmail.co.uk

Pat Prosser

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

The time is rushing by and we are already half way into the meteorological autumn. No sign of leaves turning, but at last we have had some rain and the grass is greening up again. The birds are happier as they now have more grubs and insects to eat, that is those that survived. The farmers are busy catching up, the lush hedges and verges are being cut, the children are starting a new school or a new school year and cricket has given way to football and rugby! Now we await the fearful winter that has been forecast and have been advised to stock our cupboards with tinned goods and bottled water in case of power cuts and heavy price rises. War is still going on in Ukraine and the Middle East with no sign of peace yet and thousands are dying. Thanks to Mr Trump and Mr Putin amongst others!

Meanwhile, in peaceful Harpley and Lower Sapey we have enjoyed a wonderful musical service in Old St Bartholomew's with an excellent address given by Rev. Julia Curtis; something to make us all think. The accoustics in the little church are really astounding, the music lovely.

A report on the memorial service for Marion West will appear in the next edition, but it is bound to be a sad occasion as we all have such happy memories of her.

There is a special event taking place on the evening of Friday 16 October, in St Bartholomew's, Harpley. This is a talk by Professor Martin Toms on the History of the Mortimer family, who were important in this area in Plantaganet times. This is a fund-raising evening for the improvements to our Church and it will be £10 per person, to include drinks. (See poster opposite.)

The church improvements are steadily going ahead and you may have noticed the new notice boards for Church Wardens, which are now in place on the west wall. Thanks go to the maker of the boards and the beautiful writing on them. Please come to our Harvest Festival service which will be on Sunday 4 October at 11.00am. This will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch. Come along with light refreshments or drinks for all. Everyone is welcome. The service will be taken by Rev. Stephen Hayes from the Cotswolds.

NOTICES

HOUSEKEEPING: Please note that we now have a paid cleaner for the Church because our numbers are reduced and we are all getting old! This will be done in the first week of the month, starting in October. Flowers will continue to be done by our parishoners. October: Pat Savage in place of Sue Rigby.

SERVICES: Sunday 4 October 11.00am Harvest Festival, followed by Bring and Share lunch.

Sunday 25 October 10.30am Circle service.

Sunday 8 November 10.45am Remembrance service, held outside just for half an hour.

LADIES BIBLE GROUP: This resumes on Tuesday 13 October at 2.00pm at The Hatt. Thanks to Pat for her continued hospitality.

MOBILE LIBRARY: Will hopefully call on Friday 16 October at 10.20am.

Margaret Griffiths

Tedstone Wafre and the Mortimer Connection

by Professor Martin Toms



Harpley Church
Friday 16th October at 7 pm

Entry £10 to include a glass of fizz or local apple juice .

Whilst a small rural parish, Tedstone has a part to play in Medieval politics, intrigue and regicide. In the late 1200s and early 1300s, the parish played host to one of the most important family dynasties in English history.....with impacts locally, nationally and internationally.

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WHAT'S ON AT THE SHELSLEYS VILLAGE HALL

There's plenty happening at the Shelsleys Village Hall over the coming months, with regular bar evenings, community events and festive celebrations. Put these dates in your diary and come along to support your Village Hall!

October:

Friday 2 October - Bar open from 7.00pm Come along for a drink and a catch-up with friends and neighbours.

Sunday 4 October, 10.00am to 1pm. Spruce Up the Village Hall. We're giving the Village Hall a good clean and tidy and would love some extra volunteers to lend a hand. Come along for a morning of helping out, with coffee and cake provided. Every pair of hands makes a difference!

Sunday 11 October, 6pm. Shelsley Harvest Service & Supper. Harvest Service at All Saints Church, followed by a delicious supper at the Village Hall. Tickets are available from Louise Hutton: 07803 614078 or Carole Warren: 07891 861490.

Friday 16 October - Bar open from 7.00pm. Another opportunity to enjoy a drink and a chat at the Village Hall.

Tuesday 20 October, from 7.30pm. Shelsley Ladies' Night. Ladies of the village are invited to come along for an informal catch-up, a drink and a good natter. The bar will be open, so come along and join us!

November:

Friday 6 November, Bar open from 7.00pm.

Saturday 7 November. Fireworks Spectacular. Get ready for an evening of fireworks and fun! The bar will be open from 6pm, with the fireworks starting at approximately 7.30pm. Food will also be available, so bring your friends and family and enjoy a fantastic village evening.

Friday 20 November - Bar open from 7.00pm.

December:

Friday 4 December, Bar open from 7.00pm.

Saturday 5 December, SVH Christmas Fayre from 12 noon to 5.00pm. Get into the festive spirit at our Christmas Fayre! Come along to the hall and get some of your Christmas shopping done, with a variety of stalls to browse. There will

also be a Big Bees Street Food stall, and the bar will be open throughout the fete and into the evening.

Friday 18th December, Bar open from 7.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming villagers, friends and families to the Village Hall over the coming months. Come along, get involved and support your local community!

Sharon Sarkar

WOMEN OF THE SHELSLEYS

Shelsey Women's Group continues to meet monthly on alternate Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Since our last report we have enjoyed Afternoon Tea at 'The Secret Garden Café' and a social evening with a fun quiz in September.

Our October meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm at Shelsey Village Hall. Mel Williams will be running an art session for us to participate in.

For further information please message Susie Taylor: 07807 539043

Or email Karen Metcalfe: kmetcalfe.shelseyspc@gmail.com

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR - SHELSLEY KINGS

A vacancy has arisen for the position of Parish Councillor for Shelsley Kings.

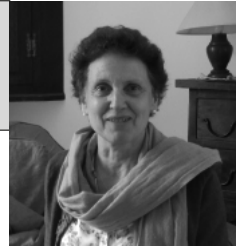
Applicants should send a completed form to the clerk. The co-option of a candidate will be decided at the next Parish Council Meeting on 3 November 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

For more information and an application form apply to the clerk:

Mrs J Speyer at: clerk@shelsleys-pc.gov.uk
or 01886 812444

Church Matters

by Rev. Jen Denniston



HOPE IN HARD TIMES

A clever, matter-of-fact friend who likes things to be logical and straightforward, asked me, while I was undergoing chemotherapy recently, 'What are the doctors promising – what can they promise?'

I replied, "Well..., they don't promise anything. They CAN'T promise anything. But there is always Hope. I can hope."

Sometimes life seems to be all about solving problems and dealing with difficulties. Every day: challenges, hurdles to overcome, pitfalls to avoid. We can feel battered, dejected, and abandoned, buffeted by life's shocks, pain and doubts — sometimes grief-stricken and desperate. We can feel weak and vulnerable when life feels hard and unfair.

How do we cope in hard times, facing tricky decisions, dealing with disappointments and struggles?

We can hope.

Hope and optimism aren't the same. Optimism is a cheerful, sunny outlook on life — a 'glass half full'. It's more superficial and passive than hope.

Hope motivates us and drives us forward into the future with confidence. Hope is a mixture of a desire for a better outcome and an active belief that the desired outcome is genuinely possible. Hope encourages us to trust in the future. It spurs us to be committed and do what's needed to make a particular goal come about — especially when success isn't guaranteed. Hope doesn't fade by being openly honest and realistic.

Hope is what gets us through life in an uncertain and often hopeless world. It's not a passive wish. It involves a feeling of trust and faith. It requires willpower to see a way to achieve something. Hope requires us to take action. We need to do something to help the outcome happen.

In good times and hard times, when the going is easy or tough, we can hope. We can pray. Whether it's jobs or money, relationships, or housing, or physical or mental health, or climate change or.... Whatever challenges life brings, we can hope.

Psalms 31 encourages us: "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

And may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace.

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

Shelsley Harvest Service and Supper



Sunday 11 October 2026

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 - the bar will also be open).

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.

THE FILLING STATION

Our next meeting of the above will be on Thursday 15 October at Eastham Memorial Hall, Eastham, Worcs. WR15 8NP at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

The speaker will be Dain Pritchard, an ordained Elim Minister serving in Ludlow and who studied at Hillsong Church in Australia. He has a passion for worship and his desire is to see people meet with God and live changed lives.

We look forward to seeing you at our evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments. If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information or details about our meetings, then please do not hesitate to contact me on: kate.harley6@gmail.com.

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UPPER SAPEY SUMMER FAIR

This year's Upper Sapey Summer Fair commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Upper Sapey Village Hall opening in 1956.

The original name of the hall was the Edith Silcock Memorial Hall, named after the headmistress of Upper Sapey School who was instrumental in the fundraising efforts to finance the building of the hall.

This year's event included a clay workshop with Lynne Merrick, a performance by the Bromyard dance troop, Can't Stop The Beat and the presence of the Bromyard History Society.

AN EVENING OF SHERRY

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on

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BUDDHISM: FINDING PEACE IN A BUSY WORLD

Some people think Buddhism means sitting on a cushion for hours or leaving the modern chaotic world behind to go and live up a tree. However, the Buddha's teachings were always meant to be practical. They are tools we can choose to use every single day. Practical Buddhism is not about escaping our busy lives and hiding away, it is more focused on changing how we experience it.



By bringing a few simple concepts into our daily routines, we can find peace right in the middle of what seems to be a chaotic world. The heart of practical Buddhism is Mindfulness. This simply means paying attention to what is happening right now, this minute, without judging ourselves for not staying focused.

Most of our stress comes from two things:

Worrying about the future.

Regretting the past.

We do not need a quiet room to practice Mindfulness. We can do it while washing the dishes or going for a walk. We can feel the warm water on our hands, relish the simple cleaning actions and take satisfaction in the task. We can breathe the clean air whilst walking along, noticing the sounds of our feet, feeling the ground beneath us, the sensation of movement. When our minds drift (as they will) to other things, our to-do list, or past memories of events, gently bring it back to the present. We can then fully experience the present moment of whatever is happening right now. This can break the habit of never being fully present in the only moment we are actually alive. The past is gone. We will all have very pleasant and joyful memories of the past or things we would rather forget. The point is, time has moved on and whilst those memories will live on, the events themselves will not return.

The key idea behind this is that of impermanence. This is the truth that everything changes. Nothing stays the same forever. When we fight this truth, we suffer. We want good moments to last forever, and we panic when bad moments arrive. Practical Buddhism reminds us that both joy and sadness will pass.

When we have a bad day, we can remind ourselves, "This too shall pass." It gives us the strength to push on through it.

When we have a good day, let's appreciate it fully, but not grip it too tightly. For it too will pass.

Shane Dossett

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

30 Friendship Group outing to National Arboretum, Clifton VH 9.00am

OCTOBER

- 1 Clifton Parish Council Meeting - Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 4 Harvest Festival - Service & Bring & Share lunch, Harpley Church. 11am
- 4 'Spruce Up The Village Hall', Shelsleys VH 10am-1pm
- 10 Flicks in the Sticks - *The Choral*, Clifton VH 7.00pm
- 11 Shelsley Harvest Service and Supper, Church and VH 5/6.00pm
- 16 Tedstone Wafre & the Mortimer Connection, Harpley Church 7.00pm
- 20 Shelsley Ladies Night, VH 7.30pm

NOVEMBER

- 3 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7.00pm
- 7 Shelsleys Fireworks Spectacular, VH from 6.00pm
- 7 An Evening of Sherry, Clifton VH, 7.30pm

DECEMBER

- 5 Shelsleys Christmas Fayre, VH 12 noon to 5.00pm

CHURCH CONTACTS

Oversight Minister: Rev Julia Curtis 01886 853286 revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017

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

Holly Perks 01886 812369

hollyperks@me.com

St Kenelm's, Clifton:

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

Jackie Gilbert

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

David Richards / Liz Younge

lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com

SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS (SCF) CHAMPION AWARD PLAQUE



L to R: Louise Hutton, Ann Holloway, Sue Thompson, Revd Julia Curtis, Jane Froggatt, Bridget Francis, Irene Hodgetts, Kate Hurst, Candy Connolly.

During our recent Creationtide service, the flower teams from All Saints and St Andrew's Churches, Shelsley were delighted to be presented with a Sustainable Church Flowers (SCF) Champion Award plaque.

The plaque was presented by SCF founder Candy Connolly, in recognition of our ongoing commitment to the principles of Sustainable Church Flowers.

Our flower teams have embraced more sustainable ways of working, using predominantly British-grown flowers and foliage in our church displays, while avoiding single-use plastics such as floral foam. We also aim to work with the seasons, using flowers and foliage that support a more natural and sustainable approach to church flowers.

We are very proud to receive this award and grateful to Candy and the Sustainable Church Flowers team for their encouragement and for championing more environmentally responsible church flower practices.

Kate Hurst

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