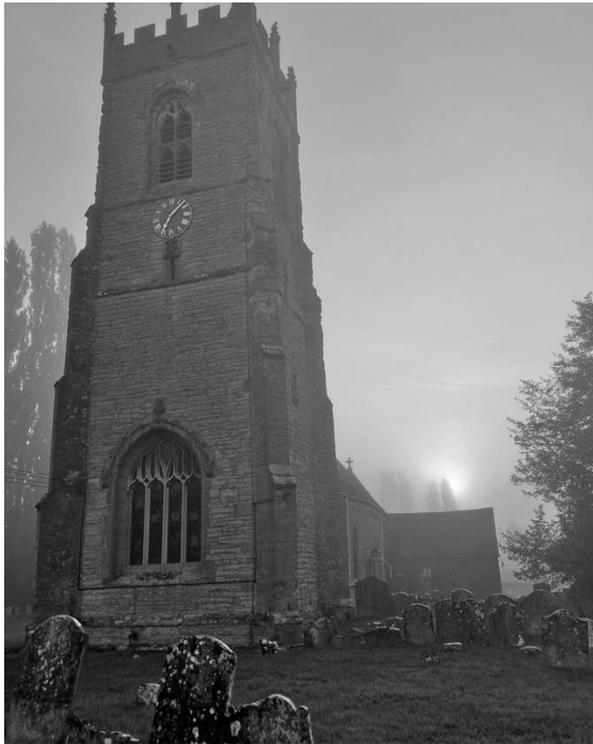


CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2022

The Benefice of the East Vale and Avon Villages

Last month I talked about how the service of Candlemas is celebrated in what is perhaps the bleakest part of the year, just at the end of January. The service is meant to remind us that even in the darkest of times, the light of Christ still shines out.

I have been reflecting on this over the past few weeks, when there is so much turmoil and uncertainty around us and in the national news. So much is changing that it almost feels like the ground is moving beneath our feet. The challenges we have faced over the past two years have been unlike anything most of us have ever experienced before, and I don't think I am alone in imagining that we would be out the other side of the pandemic by now! No wonder many people feel uncertain about the future.

It is at times like these that community spirit is so important. Our new Café Church at Littleton Village Hall at 10:30am on the first Sunday of the month offers a different way to get to know people in an informal atmosphere. And Midweek Serenity mindfulness continues at the vicarage at 7:30pm every Wednesday. This is alongside the usual services in all our churches on a Sunday morning. In times of change, the one thing that remains constant is the love of God.

Revd Philip Morton

Services elsewhere in the Benefice in February

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sun 6 Feb	9.30 am	Benefice Eucharist	Badsey
	from 10.30 am	Café Church	LittletonVH
Sun 13 Feb	4.30 pm	Evensong	Nth &Mid Littleton
Sun 20 Feb	9.30 am	Morning Praise	S Littleton
Sun 27 Feb	11 am	Holy Communion	Bretforton

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March, 2.30 pm
Offenham Church

St Andrew's Church

Services for February

Sun 6 Feb	9.30am Benefice Eucharist at Badsey Revd Susan Renshaw. (No service at St Andrew's)
Sun 13 Feb	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Philip Morton
Sun 20 Feb	11.00am Holy Communion Tbc
Sun 27 Feb	9.30am Matins Rod Carless

Please note the times of the services

Revd Philip Morton, The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham Worcs
WR11 7EJ 01386 832599

Churchwardens Rod Carless 01789 773357 Lis Hughes 01789772578

Safeguarding in our Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer Tel.01386
4040, Safeguarding Advocate – Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078. For
enquiries concerning Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals contact the Vicar
Revd Philip Morton tel. 01386 832599

HEROES OF THE CHURCH

At this time of the year there is an opportunity to give a thought to all those
unsung heroes who help our church in so many ways.

What comes to mind immediately are those who serve on the flower and
cleaning rotas, because we are reminded each week of their efforts helping to
make St. Andrew's such a lovely and welcoming place.

There are many others who contribute to the life of the church: bell ringers
and organists, gardening volunteers, refreshment makers, lesson readers,
organisers of lunches and fund raising and members of the PCC.

If you feel you can help in any way please contact:

Annette Carless annette.carless@gmx.com

or Lis Hughes lis_hughes@hotmail.com

From the Parish Council

Call for Volunteers

The Parish Council, with the permission of the School and the Vicar and Church Wardens, is looking to improve the children's playground on the school field.

We intend to start the first phase over half term on Saturday 19 February, with the installation of low fencing to enclose the area.

We are looking for volunteers from the village who would be willing to help with this task as, the larger the team, the quicker it can be installed.

If you are able to help with this project, we look forward to hearing from you, via the Memorial Hall email address:

clevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Cleeve Prior Bus Shelter

It has been a long time since our Main Street bus shelter was vandalised and destroyed by fire. The Parish Council, after clearing the site, deliberately delayed replacing it until there was some hope of it staying intact.

I am pleased to say that work is now in progress to replace the shelter and it is expected to be complete by the time this Newsletter is distributed.

We have opted for a low maintenance weatherproof timber construction with open sides for visibility of approaching traffic. The cladding is in Siberian Larch which does not need treatment and will age nicely to be compatible with its surrounds.

We are delighted to say that we were able to engage local specialisms in the construction and installation of the Shelter, so hearty thanks are due to Mr P Robinson, Mr N Stephens and Mr A Leese for their time and expertise.

Foot paths around Cleeve Prior

In the depths of Winter walking for pleasure is not so appealing with the slippery, muddy paths around our lovely village. Trying to lose those extra Christmas pounds of weight isn't helped when it seems to keep raining. I can only look on with envy at the beautifully paved and gravelled paths that appear on our television programmes of walks.

All is not doom and gloom. Our very active and creative Parish Paths Warden, Alan Saunders, has followed through with his plan to further improve access to our local walks. Stiles have been replaced with gates up across Green Hill (start alongside The Mill House) and on the path that runs parallel to Hoden Lane (from Badsey Brook back to the beginning of Hoden Lane), making a truly enjoyable circular walk offering the best views of the village.

Whilst a great deal of the work done on the path network is for maintenance, the installation of kissing gates is completed to improve access. Older members of the community and some of their dogs struggle to get over stiles, so the installation of gates helps more people reach and enjoy the countryside. Over the past couple of years the volunteers who keep the paths accessible have tried to achieve that aim without overly manicuring the countryside. We wanted a walk to still feel like you were in the countryside, not in a town park.

The subject of access to the countryside is littered with contradictions surrounding environmental issues, ramblers' responsibilities (especially with dogs) and landowner rights and responsibilities. I could ramble on (sorry about the pun) for pages on this subject but it is worth giving a little thought to how access can be achieved without negative consequences.

On your walk will you disturb the wild life, will you endanger farmers' crops or stock (shut that gate!). Is the improvement to your physical and mental health balanced against these potential negatives? The often quoted advice is to walk quietly and leave nothing except your foot prints.

My personal thanks, as usual, go to the volunteers who repeatedly offer time and effort to the task of maintaining the paths (61 hours were logged in 2021). A special thanks also to the local landowners and farmers that kept paths clear.

Please report any issues that we may be able to resolve, to the Parish Council Clerk. All the path network can be seen on a map at: <https://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/Countryside/>. Use the 'menu' tab, then 'search', then 'place', to find Cleeve Prior.

Tom Carr - Paths Warden



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Villagers,

We have started our new term, enjoying the crisp winter mornings in our beautiful surroundings, with our building work finally finished!

As you know, we had a visit from Ofsted in November 2021. The report has finally been published and I am happy to report that the school continues to be good. A copy can be found on their website:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/116794>

What pleased us most as a school were the following comments, which truly reflect the progress the school has made in the last few months:

Staff provide a warm welcome to pupils at the start of the school day, greeting them all by name. There is a strong caring ethos which makes pupils feel safe. Pupils have a sense of belonging. They trust the adults who support them. Pupils play and work together happily. They have large friendship groups that include boys and girls of different ages. Older pupils look after younger ones and are positive role models for them to follow. The school is calm. Pupils treat each other with respect.

We still have work to do to become the aspirational school the village requires, but we are well on our way.

As life begins to get back to normal, we hope to provide our children with more opportunities and welcome back the many visitors from the community who have supported us over the years.

We will be holding an open morning in our Little Chestnuts Pre-School on Wednesday 9 February from 10 - 11.30am for any families who want to see our fabulous new room. Please speak to school if you are interested in visiting.

Warm regards,

Sarah Williams, Head of School



CLEEVE PRIOR
WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL
email: cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

Use of the Memorial Hall

The Management Committee wishes to confirm that the Memorial Village Hall is open for bookings. We have lost some of our users, due to the earlier forced closure. However, even though the bookings are low, we are keeping it open for use by the village.

We are pleased to confirm that, should individuals wish to hire the Hall for a private function and request the Committee to provide a paying bar, then the use of the Hall and all facilities is absolutely free of charge.

In addition, we wish to confirm that charges for 2022 onwards are £10 per hour for the first hour, and £5 per hour thereafter for village groups. The charge for commercial enterprises will be £10 per hour.

The ground floor committee room is free for village users.

All these facilities should be booked through Sally-Anne Richards, Bookings Secretary, via the Hall email address above.

The 200 Club

Due to the high incidence of Covid in the village during January, making it difficult for our team to finalise their collection of suscriptions to the 200 Club, it has been decided to delay the start of the scheme to March, with the first draw being made at the end of the month and results published in the April Newsletter.

For the information of those new to the village, the Cleeve Prior 200 Club is a lottery licensed by Wychavon District Council and provides a valuable source of income to Hall funds. The annual subscription is only £10 and there is a monthly draw for a prize of £50, plus an additional quarterly prize of £100.

Our team will be calling at all addresses before the draw in March but if they should miss you and you would like to join the scheme or renew your membership please email us at the Hall address above.



Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1063291

A Very Happy New Year to you all!

Despite Covid and the limitations and challenges it presented to the Heritage Trust, there have been significant new developments!

Primarily, and most exciting for the Village, is the acquisition of a parcel of land on Quarry Lane, adjacent to the Sanctuary. We were fortunate to be offered first refusal on the purchase of this piece of land by Ruth Vickeridge whose husband Jim used to work the land and sadly died a couple of years ago. Now that the land has been securely purchased we are able to make this announcement.

This land originally named North Booby's Close has been left to its own devices for over 40 years. Our intention is to clear and replant as a native woodland 'Sanctuary Wood' which will become an extension of the existing Sanctuary wild life area.

We had hoped to make this announcement at the meeting in the Memorial Hall last month but Covid concerns meant that we decided it was not a good idea. A newsletter directly from the Trust will wing its way into your postbox later in the month giving you an insight into our work and why and how we were able to buy this piece of land for the village.

The other key changes were to our Trust Deed which reinstated the invitation to Cleeve Prior Parish Council to nominate a Trustee and also inserted a clause to ensure that the Parish Council has the opportunity to secure the Trust for the Village should there be insufficient Trustees willing to stand at some time in the future.

Look out for our Newsletter which will tell you what we have achieved this last year, let you know the plans moving forward and how you can become involved.

Brian Taylor, Chairman



Cleeve Prior's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 3 – 5 2022

Friday

The big picnic and fun fete on the school playing field.
Bring your own picnic and join the community for games, competitions
and lots of family fun.
Stay until late and enjoy a relaxed evening, bring more food and dance
the night away?

There will be a marquee, toilets and bar

Saturday

Join in a 50s evening with a professional duo to get you in the dancing
mood.

There will be fish and chips to buy and a bar.
also a pre-order drink service
Tickets £7.50, including fizz to toast the Queen

There will also be a church open day and bell ringing
and more from our Chroniclers, date TBC

Full details of events will follow in subsequent editions of this
Newsletter

Cleeve Prior Residents Association Update

If you have seen the previous articles in the newsletter, you will know that the Cleeve Prior Residents Association (CPRA) is no longer sustainable and therefore the association is to be closed down.

The main task remaining is to dispose of any money held by the association and for this we were looking for suggestions of projects that are of benefit to the village and the environment in which we live. We have had four requests and have now closed the books on new requests and are moving to the next stage. For this we will seek to co-opt committee members to ensure that the committee is quorate and can demonstrate governance around the distribution of funds.

If anyone would like to volunteer for a one-off meeting with the purpose of allocating funds to the projects proposed, please email me at duncanharvey@yahoo.com. If I get no response I will approach individuals and politely ask if they would like to be involved.

Hopefully we can progress this during February and March to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Duncan Harvey, CPRA Chairperson

Casual handyperson required

Cleeve Prior Primary School require a handyperson as soon as possible, to complete DIY tasks around school on a casual basis. Must be someone with public liability insurance. Please contact Sarah Williams (Head of School) or Becky Ellison (administrator) on 01789 772276 for more details.

FOR SALE

Folding card/games/jigsaw table. Wood with felted green top. 30"x30"; height 26.5" Good condition. £140 when new – asking £50 ono.

Lightweight portable treatment/massage couch with face hole. Wooden legs, blue top. H 29"; L 72"; W 24". £50 ono.

Please contact 01789 491466 if interested.

District Council Election

Following the recent District Council Election, I would like to thank all of the residents who turned out to vote.

I have been very touched by the words of encouragement, support, good wishes and commiseration I've received from so many, even those of you who would not have normally voted for the party I stood for. You know who you are.

The result was incredibly close with Hannah Robson winning the day. I'm sure Hannah will do her best for Cleeve Prior and The Littletons and I wish her well.

Mary J Smith

NWR

The start to 2022 was not quite what we had hoped for – a degree of normality! Our first meeting was to have been a film viewing and discussion, but the arrival of yet another variant put paid to that. Sitting in masks, socially distanced and with windows open was not appealing so this has been postponed for the time being.

Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY 15 February at 7.30 at Gina's home, Top Farm, and the topic will be *Our evolving relationship with Food*. This should generate a very lively and interesting discussion.

It is hoped that details of our programme of future meetings will be available soon but in the meantime, should anyone wish to join us, please let me know. We aim to have interesting, stimulating, educational and above all fun evenings.

The answers to the clues in the last Newsletter from our National Quiz were:-
Let's make Karl fly - Red Kite
Winston was grateful for this woman - Wren.
I'm sure you all got them!

Evelyn Wilson 01789 772814

More news from One Acre Farm Shop

It was nice to see Pete back at the premises at the beginning of January, with his right leg encased in an impressive steel framework. He was due back in hospital in the middle of the month for adjustments to same.

It won't be possible for him to re-open the shop until later in the Spring, but he can supply dog food on request.

You can reach him on 07795 447184.

Ed.

Cleeve Prior Ramblers

There was no Ramble in January due to Covid restrictions.

The next Ramble is scheduled for Saturday 19 February, meeting at the Village Green at 9.30 am and led by Sandra and Matt Langmead.

Peter Wilson

The Cleeve Prior Volunteers are still here to help

To access help from the volunteers, please contact:

Susan Robinson, call 01789 491380; text or WhatsApp 07880 493600

email: paulj.robinson@btinternet.com

Kevin Mellor, mobile 07702 616035,

email kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com

Worcester Festival Choral Society

Celebrating 160 years

with Meridian Sinfonia

Saturday 19 March 2022, 7.30 pm

Worcester Cathedral

Bach, St. John Passion

Tickets £15 - £25 from WFCS.ONLINE

0333 66 3366

EVESHAM RURAL NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Just a reminder that our Police Safer Neighbourhood Team host a drop-in session at the Memorial Hall each week, usually on a Thursday. This gives residents the opportunity to meet directly with our Police team to discuss any issues.

The dates in February are:

- **Thursday, 3rd February 2022 @ 10am**
- **Friday, 11th February 2022 @ 10am**
- **Wednesday, 16th February 2022 @ 7pm**
- **Thursday, 24th February 2022 @ 10am**

and the future schedule is displayed in the Hall window and on the Parish Council website.

Our PSN team are PC 3838 Matt Beards and PCSO 40246 Bradley Sansom

West Mercia Police Fraud and Scam update

A rising number of frauds using WhatsApp have been seen in recent weeks in our area which residents need to be aware of:

- The suspect will send the victim a message via WhatsApp claiming to be their son/daughter/friend and that they have had to change their phone number.
- The suspect then asks for money for debt repayment / to buy a new phone/asking to pay outstanding bills.
- The victim then ends up sending money to the fraudster believing this is going to an actual relative or friend.
- This type of Scam is becoming more frequent.

Always remember:

STOP: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

Speed Enforcement Day,
Police activity in Cleeve, 20 January, 2022



News from the Kings Arms

Our opening times are

Monday, closed

Tuesday, 6 till 11 pm, Drinks only

Wednesday, 6 till 11pm

Thursday, 12 noon till 3 / 6 till 11pm

Friday, 12 noon till 11pm

Saturday, 12 noon till 11pm

Sunday, 12 noon till 6pm; last orders 5pm.

Takeaway available on those days from the daily menu not the takeaway menu. As before please call if you'd like a takeaway.

Best wishes from Donna, Henry and the team.

www.kingsarmscleeveprior.co.uk

email: enquiries@kingsarmscleeveprior.co.uk

Tel: 01789 601706



Hosted lunch at the Kings Arms

If you feel like a sociable lunch in the pub, come along on Thursday

10 February at 12.30 pm. We guarantee company, the table will be hosted and we look forward to welcoming you. Please book your place with the Pub.

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Repointing

Call 01789 490672, mobile 07342 965960

Email: jarradgavin@gmail.com

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Local references supplied

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Contact Adam: 07852 428994

Email: adikabuildingandlandscapes@outlook.com

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Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year and looking forward to returning to the village this year.

I'm still in my temporary Offenham premises.

M: 07977333719 E: jcsmotors@gmail.com

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Hazel is our Schwarzkopf Master of Colour Expert, with over 6 years experience. Her passion for the art of designing colour transformations is fantastic. Hazel also specialises in curly hair designs.



Kim is one of our curly hair specialists and welcomes the challenges that curly hair can provide. Her expert knowledge when advising designs and homecare to maintain your curls at home is amazing.

Booking Line: 01386 833397

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St Joseph The Worker Catholic Church

Quinney's Lane, Bidford on Avon B50 4JL

Parish Priest: Canon Garry Byrne

Telephone: 01789 773291 Website: sjtw-bidford.org.uk

The Rotas February 2022

Sidesmen

6 Feb	No service at St Andrew's
13 Feb 11.00am	Mrs J Taylor
20 Feb 11.00am	Mr C Greenwood
27 Feb 9.30am	Mr J Tamayo

Church Flowers

6 Feb	Mrs R Perle
13 Feb	Mrs A Carless
20 Feb	Mrs J Stewart
27 Feb	Mrs S Taylor
6 Mar	No Flowers during Lent

Church Cleaning

Mrs M Sylvester
Mrs J Davenport
Mrs L Mallet
Mrs S Mortimer
Mrs D Byrne

The CP Bowls Club meets in the Hall on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings, from September to May. Contact Les Bratt on 01789 773651.

Pilates classes are held on Friday mornings in the Hall at 9.30 and 10.30 am.

Copy for inclusion in the **March** edition

By Monday 21 February please

Please submit copy by email to the following

email address: cleevpriornewsletter@gmail.com

or contact the Editor, Susan Mortimer (773453)

This Newsletter is published by St. Andrew's PCC