

Dec 22/Jan 23

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Planting the 7 Platinum Jubilee Trees in The Shelsley's

In this edition

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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Clifton resident Sarah Finnegan celebrating her 70th birthday at the Friendship Club's meeting last month. Pictured, left to right, are Jerry Arkinstall, Sean Finnegan, Sarah Finnegan and Betty Meeks.

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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Front Cover Picture

Local Shelsley children helping with the Platinum Jubilee tree planting behind the Village Hall. From left to right: Harlan Young, Thomas Howells, Alice Massey, Maddie Massey, Alfie Young, Georgia Pound, Grace Howells.

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the December 2022 / January 2023 edition of the Teme Triangle.

As I write this, we seem to have had nothing but rain for the past few weeks. It seems a world away from the scorching summer that we had only a few months ago. But we must not complain (as we tend to do!) about the weather – remember it will help our beautiful valley look green and lush come the Spring.

Everyone has certainly been busy recently – there are lots of reports in this edition of various fundraising events – from pumpkin selling to disco dancing! All helping to raise much needed funds for good causes.

There are also plenty of Christmas activities to look forward to – do please try and support the local groups by attending these.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous and healthy 2023!

From us all at the Teme Triangle,
Andrew, Anna, Jerry, Louise and Michelle.

A MESSAGE FROM REV ANNE

Dear Reader,

Once again Christmas is coming.

Maybe due to Avian Flu the geese are not getting fat.
Maybe there are more people needing a penny in their hat.
Maybe you don't have a ha'penny to give.
But one thing is certain, God will bless you.



As I write this seasonal greeting from our churches, there is a sense of darkness hanging over us this Christmas time.

The war on our doorstep leading to so many uncertainties...the energy crisis, the huge cost of living concerns for many, and a nation in economic turmoil.

Following on from COP27, the continuing worries around climate change and will we humans address the challenges facing us as a world?

International, national uncertainties cascading down into our local and individual lives... What does the next few months, let alone the future, hold for us?

As we look up at the sky on a clear night, the stars twinkle in the darkness, yet we can feel so small in God's enormous universe. In the enormity of all that is happening

nationally and internationally around us we can feel insignificant, bringing about feelings of despair and just generally fed up.

Take comfort though and celebrate. We are about to remember, once again this year, the birth of Jesus - the light that came in the darkness offering each one of us hope, bringing joy into our world and reminding us of God's amazing love. We can rejoice in the stability of Christmas. It does not stop coming into our lives as witnessed by the light shows and decorations gradually appearing in our shops, streets and houses. For many folk Christmas is a difficult time of year, for numerous reasons, but it really is a light shining out like a star in the night because it is all about celebrating the birth of our saviour.

And so, your local church invites you to 'Follow the Star' and come along to one of their Christmas services, to recall the Christmas story and be welcomed into the love of Jesus.

God bless you, the geese are getting fat, and we've got a penny for the old man's hat...

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Rev Anne

CLIFTON NURSERY AND FOREST SCHOOL

Clifton Nursery has rebranded itself and is now known as Clifton Upon Teme Nursery and Forest School.

Located in the heart of the village, next to the Primary School, the charity run nursery is open from 7.30am until 6pm Monday to Friday and offers care for children from six months to five years. It also provides a Breakfast Club (7:30-8:30am) for the Primary School.



"We believe that children are capable, curious and inquisitive learners. Our practitioners provide experiences that extend children's learning and builds on what they already know as an individual," said Deputy Manager Rachel Cartwright.

The nursery has a new team manager, Abi Pethybridge-Court, who has over 20 years experience in childcare and Conditional Professional Development training, as well as Level 3 Forest School Leader.

All staff have safeguarding and First Aid training and are either Level 3 qualified or working towards their Level 3. Both Manager and Deputy Manager have Level 5 qualifications.

PITLANDS PUMPKIN FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The Apple Tree Kitchen would like to thank all their customers who generously donated money for pumpkins over Halloween, In total £593.50 was raised for Acorns Children's Hospice, of Bath Road, Worcester.

The hospice were humbled by the efforts of our local community and said: "We'd like to offer our sincere thanks to The Apple Tree Kitchen for their truly inspirational fundraising. In current times, we appreciate donating to charity is difficult for everyone, so we'd like to extend our gratitude to each and every one of you who made a donation. Our work in providing care and support to children and their families with life limiting conditions is only possible through your donations, so once again we'd like to offer our thanks."

Alice and Ian Mann, who grew the pumpkins at Pitlands Farm, said it was a delight to watch children choose their pumpkins, knowing all the money was going to charity.

Ian said: "With all the hot weather we had this summer, conditions weren't really ideal for growing pumpkins. However, with a little TLC, we had a great crop. We grew lots of interesting varieties of pumpkins this year, all different shapes, sizes and colours, and they seemed just as popular with the adults as with the children! We'll be planting pumpkins again in the Spring, ready for our 2023 charity fundraiser. Feel free to come and see them growing!"



The Apple Tree Kitchen will be open over the festive period for breakfasts, lunches, traditional Sunday lunches, barista coffee and homemade cakes. Our reindeer trail and Christmas lights will begin at twilight on 1st December. We will be closing on Christmas Eve afternoon for our annual winter closure, re-opening on Thursday 16th February 2023.

From us all at Pitlands and Apple Tree Kitchen, we'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Following an exceptionally generous donation by a Parishioner, Shelsley Parish Council has secured the purchase of a long sought-after defibrillator. It will be installed in the porch of the Shelsley Village Hall, available for all 3 Parishes to use (God forbid), should the need arise.

The most important thing that we have been told time and time again whilst researching the products available, is that it is essential AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE should be trained in how to use the equipment.

To this end, we will be holding 2 training sessions at the Village Hall, led by our local 'First Responder' Martin Bennett. The sessions are free to attend and refreshments will be provided. The 2 sessions are:

Tuesday 17th January 2023
At Shelsley Village Hall
10:30 – 12:30

Tuesday 17th January 2023
At Shelsley Village Hall
19:00 – 21:00

For further information, or to book your place on the course, please contact Louise Hutton: E: louise@stroyd-hutton.com, T: 07803 614 078.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM HARRIET BALDWIN

As Christmas approaches, I hope that many of you will look forward to a little time relaxing with friends and family. This year has been marked by a period of political change and I am sure you will be joining me in hoping for a period of stability as the Government faces up to the challenges of Putin's weaponisation of gas prices, which has put pressures on household budgets. At a time when war still rages in Europe, I want to take the time to thank all those who serve in our armed forces at home and abroad, keeping us and our families safe.

I also want to take time to thank the many people whose working routines will go on as normal through the festive period – the doctors, nurses, firefighters, police, the shop staff, waiters and waitresses who will be working harder than ever. We live in an increasingly busy 365 days a week, 24 hours a day world, so it may be that many of us will have to work to make sure the country keeps running.

I also spare a thought for those who have lost loved ones. Christmas is a time to celebrate, but also to remember, and I encourage you to take the time to keep an eye on your elderly or infirmed neighbours who may be on their own at this time of year. It's a time for giving as well as receiving.

And don't forget to make sure that you are receiving the help you are entitled to with your cost of living. There are a range of measures to help, including £400 for each household, £150 for people living in houses in council tax bands A-D and special extra payments for elderly and vulnerable people and another £650 for people in low income households.

Finally, I hope you all tuck into our amazing local produce and shop in local stores when you prepare for the Christmas break. Our local food producers work tirelessly all year round to make sure you can enjoy the best quality goods. I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

CLIFTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sunday 4th December 2022

At Clifton Village Hall

10am until 1pm

A tabletop sale by local businesses with a variety of gifts, decorations, cakes, presents and other tasty treats.

£3.00 entry to include a drink and homemade cake, in aid of Clifton-on-Teme Girl Guiding.

Please support your local groups, for more information to book a table, please email me on angiegriffiths@aol.com or 07957 462 519.



REMEMBERING BRIAN ELVINS

The Editor writes:

From my own personal experience, Brian was an incredibly gentle, kind and fun-loving part of our Community. When, as a family, we first started attending All Saint's services, having just moved into the Parish, my children were only 18 months and 6 months old. They are now 17 and 15. For all those years when Brian was Churchwarden, we loved seeing his smiley face and chatting to him in Church. He was always so patient and kind to the children and became a very familiar face to them too.

I remember (with a smile on my face even now), one Advent service at St. Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh, being horrified (yet mildly amused too) walking in to practice the service with all the children and finding Brian, who must have been early 70's at that time, at the top of a ladder, on his own in the Church, lighting the candles up high! He just laughed it off and carried on running round doing jobs – nothing was ever too much. Thank you Brian.

Brian Hodgetts writes:

My wife and I, together with Hilda Webb, who played the organ in both Shelsley churches for many years, visited Brian in his apartment at Malvern shortly before he passed away.

We did not realise how ill he had become, but he received us in good spirits. We spoke for about an hour or so and during that time had the opportunity to take a few photographs of Brian with Hilda and my wife. I have been in contact with his sister and sent her copies of the photographs.

Rest In Peace Brian.

Hilda Webb writes:

Brian Elvins, who lived at Brinkhill, Shelsley Kings, died on 23rd July 2022 at the age of 86. He had been a gifted teacher of chemistry and taught all his career at Rugby School. As well as his teaching, he enjoyed many outdoor activities, sharing his love of climbing, sailing and navigation with colleagues and pupils; these were the foundations of life-long friendships, especially during camping holidays in Scotland.

On retirement he came to live in Shelsley where he joined in village life and lovingly cared for his mother in her later years. He served as Church Warden for All Saints and St. Andrews, Shelsley Walsh for many years, organising services, finding ways



to quietly and appropriately support parishioners, master-minding village fetes and ably managing the church administration.

When walking along the road by All Saints Church in Shelsley Beauchamp you may admire the holly hedge adjoining the cemetery on the opposite side of the road. The care of this was instituted by Brian, who annually led a group of volunteers to maintain it. Gaps were filled with young holly plants (reared by Brian himself), brambles and convolvulus and nettles grubbed out, and the holly trimmed so that its growth thickened. It was a labour of love for all the parish to enjoy.

We shall miss his unassuming presence amongst us.

TEME TRIANGLE WEBSITE CONTENT EDITOR WANTED

The Teme Triangle production team is looking for a local volunteer to act as Content Editor for the Teme Triangle website (www.temetriangle.net).

He or she should ideally have some Wordpress or CMS experience, as well as confident computer skills.

The role is unlikely to involve much more than keeping the website and Facebook page up to date.

Contact Jerry Johns on 01886 812 304 or email crown.house@polperropress.co.uk for further information.

STANFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Stanford Area Church Committee are delighted to announce that our very successful Christmas Tree Festival returns again this year on 3rd and 4th December.

- Saturday 3rd, opening from 1pm to 7pm.
- Sunday 4th, opening from 11am to 4pm, when there will be a carol concert. Refreshments and mulled wine will be available.

Schools, businesses and individuals can sponsor and decorate a tree - these will be judged and prizes given after the carol concert. Please contact us if you wish to sponsor a tree.

We are also looking for stewards.

Please put the date in your diary. Any queries or comments to Robin Dean on 01886 853 295.

ALL SAINT'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

There was a great turnout for the Shelsley remembrance service held at All Saint's Church. Many thanks to Jen Denniston for taking the service. Thanks also to the ladies who organised refreshments for after the service – it was a great success and almost the whole congregation remained afterwards to chat and socialise.



Beautiful All Saint's – We will remember them.



Shelsley Parishioners enjoying refreshments together after the service.

SHELSLEY PLATINUM JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

As part of the Parish Platinum Jubilee celebrations earlier this year, it was agreed to plant 7 Jubilee trees – 1 for each of the 7 decades that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II reigned. Paul and Jo Massey, who own the land behind the village hall, very kindly agreed that the trees could be planted in their field, for everyone to enjoy, as there is a public footpath that runs through where the trees have been planted.

After plenty of advice and research from the extremely helpful 'Frank P Matthews Trees' of Tenbury Wells, Carole Warren and Val Jones chose the 7 trees to be planted. At the end of April this year, an enjoyable few hours was spent planting the first 6 trees – 3 'Sorbus' (known for being a 'natural bird feeder' and for having good Autumn colour) and 3 'Thorn' (known for its 'magical May flowers' and for providing fruit for wildlife).

The following photos show the fun we had planting the trees:





As well as the children named on the inside front cover, thanks must go to the following for all their efforts on the planting day – Paul Massey, Val Jones, Craig and George Howells, Rob Pound, Oliver Hutton and Holly Perks for the refreshments.

The final 7th tree was very kindly donated and planted at the end of October by Paul Massey. It is a fabulous Hornbeam Rockhampton Red and stands proudly on its own in the middle of the 2 groups. As well as being arguably the best Hornbeam for Autumn colour, with stunning shades of red and orange, it has environmental benefits of being a haven for wildlife and also a high carbon storer.



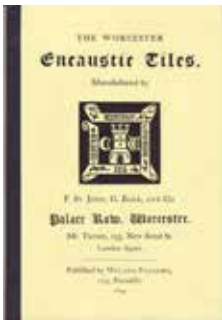
The final part of this wonderful Platinum Jubilee tribute, the plaque, will be placed in the centre of the trees, in due course.

Louise Hutton



THE HARBOROUGH BANK TILE MYSTERY SOLVED

In February 2021, Holly and James Perks of Harborough Bank Shelsley Beauchamp, discovered a series of medieval-style tiles on the floor of their collapsing pig sty, beneath decades of undergrowth.



Holly got in contact with historic tile expert Dr Hans Lemmen, who identified the tiles as tiles 1 and 5 in the 1844 Chamberlain's of Worcester catalogue.

The 19th century saw notable renewed interest in medieval England and its style and production techniques. Significant church renovation projects were undertaken in Worcestershire during this time. Chamberlain and Co produced medieval style encaustic floor tiles often copied from those in Malvern Priory for use in church restorations. Chamberlain's tiles are very rare and still highly sought after.



Holly's theory that the pigsty tiles were 'leftovers' from the renovations of All Saints' Church in the 19th century were proven correct this year when, to her complete delight, she discovered her pigsty tiles lining the chancel and altar floor of the church.

The Harborough Bank leftover tiles have now been lifted from the pigsty floor and used to form a splashback in the garden party toilets.



CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) have provided a Christmas Memory Tree to be placed in OLD St. Bartholomew's Church, Hope Lane, Lower Sapey from 1st December 2022 until the 12th Night, 5th January 2023.

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.

Further information:

Pat Prosser:

01886 853 244

patprosser@hotmail.co.uk.



VALLEY DISCO FEVER

Much fun was had at the Shelsley Village Hall for the 'Disco Fever' evening. 'DJ' Dave Moore not only came up with the fundraising idea, but also provided the 60's / 70's hits for everyone to boogie the night away to.

Special thanks to Holly Perks and Vanessa Rogers for arranging the event and ticket sales, and also for decorating the hall.

It is hoped that over £800 will have been raised for All Saint's Church.

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SECOND GENESIS

Poem by Sylvie Jaffrey, (1944-2022)

As the earth was crystallised in a crucible of cataclysmic power,
Bonded by unimagined forces to an entity,
So have You come, the embodied expression of the genesis,
born of the heat and fire of infinite love.
Primordial flame, we touch You and we are not burned.

You whose unbreakable word ordered the atoms to be and they were,
Who bound them together with the energy of love to form and shape and order
have bound Yourself, a handful of cells compressed by the palm of God
into the pattern of a human child
Incomprehensible, we understand You and are not confounded.

You hung the world in light, and peopled it
with sons and daughters who were of Your mind;
then watched them flirt with darkness,
using their wills in ways that were not Yours.
You balanced Your unsearchable perfection against their fleeting freedom –
and You found it light.
Great God! What stark humility! That those who walked with You might do
so willingly.
Now Your star shines on Ephrathah.
Transplendent light, we look at You and are not blinded.

Spirit of illimitable freedom, who lives beyond the boundaries of time,
our minds reach out to You – extended – taut –
but cannot more than sense the margins of Your passing.
What are You doing here? Your limits now four wooden walls
Who yesterday encompassed all-worlds-being within Your thumb and forefinger.
Now nothing but the prickling hay and the moist softness of an ox's nose
are found within your grasp.
Boundless You put Yourself within our compass – and we may cradle you.

ABBREVIATED DRAFT MINUTES

The Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on November 15th 2022

Present: Dr Laura Taylor (Chairman), Mrs Karen Metcalfe, Mr David Styles, Mrs Jean Hammond, Mrs Val Jones, Mr John Stinton, Mrs Louise Hutton, Mr Rob Pound and Mr Dave Bates. 12 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: District Councillor Palethorpe and County Councillor Chambers sent their apologies.

Minutes: The Minutes of October 4th 2022 were accepted and agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: Speeding and Defibrillator, see below.

District and County Councillor Reports: Emailed reports are available on the website and were circulated to members before the meeting.

Speeding: Robert Haynes, Traffic Management Advisor Road Safety West Mercia Police was welcomed to the meeting. He introduced himself and the meeting was opened to members of the public for questions as above. Mr Haynes outlined the strategy behind imposing speed restrictions and offered advice on various speed measuring devices which are available for purchase by the Parish Council. He also explained the procedure for involving Highways and Police in monitoring speed. There are also community led programs which would be manned by volunteers.

Midland Automobile Club: The liaison group for residents will be set up and advertised. Possible increase in the number of signs to be discussed with those most affected. All future meetings will be on the Shelsley Walsh website <https://www.shelsleywalsh.com/events>.

Broadband: The three projects in the parish (1 Camp Lane South/Birch Berrow/Manor Lane. 2 Pudford Lane. 3 Pard House Lane/Stanford Bridge) are still struggling to gain enough vouchers to cover the cost of installing superfast broadband.

Defibrillator: A grant has been obtained and the defibrillator will be purchased from London Hearts shortly.

Grit Bins: A request has been placed for an assessment for a grit bin at the north end of Camp Lane. The green grit bin for Pudford Lane has not yet been delivered.

Urgent Decisions: In consultation with Councillors, MHDC was informed by the clerk that the application for the Old Post Office outhouse demolition was supported by the Councillors, the application was subsequently withdrawn and Councillors informed.

Planning: The following outstanding planning application was discussed.

M/22/01561/LB Old Post Office Shelsley Walsh. Demolition of outbuilding. Councillors approved the application.

MHDC Decisions: M/22/01155/HP Kingswood House erection of art studio and gym approved.

Correspondence & Consultations: All relevant mail was circulated by email to members or available at the meeting.

Civility and Respect: This request was not adopted as Councillors believe this is already demonstrated by them.

Budget: Draft figures were produced and circulated by the clerk as an aide to determining the Precept, which must be applied for before the end of January. For further discussion at the next meeting.

Finance: The following payments were approved. Information Commissioner £40.00.

Lengthsman's Invoice. This was agreed in principle up to £250.00.

CALC sub £290.55. The Nora Parsons Day Centre cheque for £250.00.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda.

Possible provision of a warm space in the Village Hall for anyone facing difficulties with heating. To be discussed at the January meeting.

Date of the next meeting: January 10th 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Following meeting March 7th 2023. The meeting concluded at 21.05.

To view the full minutes and agenda online go to the WCC website and look at The Shelsleys.

<http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

Jan Speyer Clerk 01886 812 444.

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS

With Margaret Griffiths

When historians and political analysts look back on the last year, they will certainly find it remarkable in many ways and no doubt many books will be written. We have been affected by the climate change, now fast moving, with floods, fires and melting glaciers. We have had three Prime Ministers, four Chancellors of the Exchequer, numerous parliamentary disclosures and scandals. We are about to enter a recession, so they predict. Putin has invaded the Ukraine, which has shocked and horrified the world, and this terrible war looks set to continue for some months or even years yet. Already, millions have been killed there. Fortunately, the covid pandemic seems to be easing. We have lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth II after her seventy years of service to this country. Now, I hope that the reign of King Charles III may bring some peace and stability to us all.

In Lower Sapey and Harpley we have had a busy month, with the traditional Remembrance Service at St Bartholomew's on a sunny, cool day. We have had an exciting quiz evening, hosted by Jerry Johns. A report on this will follow in the next edition. We had a magnificent bonfire evening to celebrate the 90th birthday of Bob Whitefoot with sparklers, burgers, hot dogs and hot drinks, enjoyed by over 40 hardy locals. Thanks go to Candy, Howard and to Steve and Liz Younge for all their hard work in the organisation of this.

Over Christmas, we look forward to our Carol Concert on December 18th at 3.30pm and also to singing at Shelsley in the Hill Climb area barn on December 11th. This is at 5pm and is always a lovely evening. The Harpley Pop-Up Choir would love to recruit more singers, so give it a try. Many more events are planned for next year to take place at St Bartholomew's and we are working hard to improve the facilities available at our lovely church. The plans are available for all to see in the church. We just need the money and the agreement of the Diocese to go ahead.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Dot Millward reports that the Club had a great day out at the Evesham Retail Park, after a coach tour of North Worcestershire! There was also a 'See and Hear' quiz, organised by Ray Sturdy, which taxed all our failing memories.

In November, the Club is being entertained by the Harpley Pop-up Choir. A report will appear in the next edition.

Our Christmas Lunch is in the Clifton village hall on December 7th at 12.30pm and the annual film show will be there on December 21st at 1.30pm. It is a great film, but will be a surprise! We look forward then to the start of a new year, with a 'mince pies and sherry' meeting on January 4th. On January 18th, Jerry Johns is giving us an illustrated talk on Clifton and other local characters. Who will they be? We always welcome new members, so do come along.

SERVICES FOR ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

December 4th Morning prayer at 10.30am
December 11th Hill Climb Carol service at 5pm in the Shelsley Hill Climb Barn
December 18th Harpley Carol service at 3.30pm
December 25th Harpley Christmas Holy Communion at 9.30
January 5th Parish prayers at 9.30am
January 15th Methodist Holy Communion at 10.30am
January 22nd Circle Service at 10.30am
February 5th Morning prayer 1662 service at 10.30am

* Please check all these times nearer the dates.

NOTICES

Housekeeping for December at St Bartholomew's is in the hands of Marion West. Dot and the ladies will be decorating the church for Christmas before Christmas Day. Housekeeping for January is in charge of Dot Millward.

The Ladies Bible Group hope to have a Christmas lunch together during December. No date fixed yet. Our next meeting will either be on Monday January 9th or Tuesday January 10th, as we are thinking of changing the regular day. This will be at the home of Margaret Griffiths.

The Mobile Library will call on Friday December 16th and Friday January 20th at 10.20am and 10.40am. We are so lucky still to have this service and our friendly and helpful Librarian. Long may it continue.

Let us all hope that the winter will be kind to us and that no one will suffer from extreme cold or lack of food. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

Now that the dark nights are upon us and the days are relentlessly shortening, we find ourselves confined indoors and apt to miss what's going on in the great outdoors. One animal associated with darkness is the bat and back in September the Teme Valley Wildlife Group enjoyed an excellent evening walk around the walls of Ludlow castle looking to see if we could find any. We were led by Shropshire Bat Group's Phil Playford who met us at the castle cannon and briefed us on the various species he hoped we might see. He provided us with monitors to detect high frequency bat-calls and off we set.

The last time I went round the walls of Ludlow Castle in the dark was on a ghost walk with my neighbours. I can't remember noticing any bats, although I do remember going to the pub afterwards. On this occasion I was delighted to see four different species of bat, whilst the calls of a fifth showed up on my bat detector. Phil was hugely knowledgeable and very enthusiastic and had brought a lamp and an infra-red monitor to help us learn about his subjects.

The five species we identified were common and soprano pipistrelles, they scooted round the castle battlements; noctules, which flew higher overhead but kept out of sight; brown long-eared bats which conveniently flew under a street-light so we could find them and Daubenton's bats, which were out hunting over water. These latter were my favourites. We left the castle to look for them and walked over Dinham Bridge and down to the River Teme. Phil set up his lamp so that a beam of light played across the river just above the waterline. As the Daubenton's bats swooped down for insects they turned away at the light-beam and it was possible to see them clearly, even well enough to see their white tummies.

Sixteen species of bat live and breed in Britain. They all eat insects, mainly beetles, moths, flies and midges, although it is thought that Daubenton's bats can scoop up small fish from near the surface of water. They manoeuvre, communicate and locate prey using high-frequency ultrasonic calls called echolocation. They breed in the summer, each female having just one infant, and during the winter they hibernate in trees, buildings or caves. Apart from recording their calls, they can be distinguished by noting their size, the type of local habitat, flight patterns and the time relative to dusk when they are first seen in the sky.

I have been fortunate, or perhaps not, to have two different bats fly around my bedroom. Young bats have to practise to get good at echolocation and can sometimes fly through house windows by mistake. Anyhow, I survived the experience and so did they.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we hope to see you at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall in the New Year.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday January 12th at 7:30pm. We welcome back local wildlife artist Shelly Perkins who will give a talk called "Around the World in Pictures". It is just £2 on the door and everyone is most welcome.

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on the website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk. We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750 413 or by email at twg@outlook.com.





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

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday 4th December

Advent 2

10.30am Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

10.30am CW Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton

Sunday 11th December

Advent 3

5.00pm Carols at Hill Climb, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 18th December

Advent 4

3.30pm Carol Service, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

6.30pm Carol Service, St Kenelm, Clifton

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib/Christingle, St Kenelm, Clifton

4.00pm Crib Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

7.00pm Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

10.00am Christmas Half Hour, St Kenelm, Clifton

11.00am Christmas Half Hour, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Morning Prayer

Thursday 1st – 9.30am St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

Monday 12th - 9.30am, St Kenelm, Clifton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 1 Clifton Parish Council meeting, V.H., 7.40pm.
- 3 Carols and Coffee in St. Kenelm's Clifton, 10:30.
- 3 Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church, 1pm to 7pm.
- 4 Christmas Fayre, Clifton V.H., 10am to 1pm.
- 4 Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church, 11am to 4pm, followed by a carol concert and refreshments.
- 7 Friendship Club Christmas Lunch, Clifton V.H., 12.30pm.
- 11 Advent Carols at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, 5pm.
- 18 Carol concert, St. Bartholomew's Church, Harpley, 3.30pm.
- 18 Quiz evening, The Lion Inn, Clifton, 7pm.
- 21 Friendship Club Film Show, Clifton V.H., 1.30pm.
- 21 Family Christingle and Christmas Communion, All Saints Shelsley, 11am.
- 24 Christmas Eve Crib Service and Carols, All Saint's Shelsley, 4pm.
- 25 Christmas Half Hour, All Saint's Shelsley, 11am.

January

- 8 Plough Sunday Service at The Talbot, Knightwick with the Bishop of Worcester, John Inge. Everyone welcome. 12 noon.
- 8 Epiphany 'Three Kings' Family Communion, All Saint's Shelsley, 10.30am.
- 10 Shelsley Parish Council Meeting, Shelsley Village Hall, 7pm.
- 12 Teme Valley Wildlife Group, Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, 19:30. We welcome back local wildlife artist Shelly Perkins who will give a talk called "Around the World in Pictures". It is just £2 on the door and everyone is most welcome.
- 17 Defibrillator Training at Shelsley Village Hall, 10:30 – 12:30, free to attend.
- 17 Defibrillator Training at Shelsley Village Hall, 19:00 – 21:00, free to attend.

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CLIFTON



Tony Clarke and Bruce Gilbert on parade at the Remembrance Day gathering in Clifton.



Villagers and pupils from Clifton Primary School taking part in a Remembrance Day gathering on the village green, led by Rev. Mike Gardner.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The organizers are pleased to report another fine response from Clifton residents. A total of £863 was donated to the Appeal. This is most reassuring in these difficult times and the money will be used to relieve hardship.



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Contributions for the next (February 2023) edition by Friday, 13 January 2023 please to: editortemetriangle@gmail.com

Printed by Orphans Press of Leominster Tel: 01568 612460