Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Bellringers at St Kenelm's Church, Clifton

In this edition —

- Clifton shop changes hands
- Local Parish Council minutes
- BP Hut demolished
- Lower Sapey news
- Christmas & Advent in the local parishes

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Front cover picture:

Clifton and Martley bellringing enthusiasts at St Kenelm's Church, Clifton. (see report page 27)

MAIN EDITORIAL MAILBOX

ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP



The Richards family pictured outside the shop in Clifton in 1999 and (right) in 2024.



CLIFTON SHOP CHANGES HANDS

Peter and Beverley Richards have finally retired after running the Village Stores in Clifton for the past 25 years and have now sold the shop to new owners.

"We have enjoyed our time and seen the village change in many ways over that period, the Millenium, housing developments, as well as Covid!" Peter said. "We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers and all previous employees for the help and support through both the good and bad times," he added. "We are looking to put our feet up and enjoying an ice cream by the seaside in Burnham-on-Sea!"

The new owners, Michel and Kiru and their family, took over the running of the shop at the end of last month.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL AGM

The Clifton-upon-Teme Nursery and Pre-School will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5 December, from 6pm until 7pm at Clifton Village Hall.

To get in touch, email Abi: manager@cliftoneyc.co.uk or call 01886 812380.

HIGH SHERIFF'S 'MEDICINE & MURDER' FUND RAISER

More than £5,000 was raised for the High Sheriff of Worcestershire's 'Life Chances' charities at a *Dial Medicine For Murder* event at the Regal in Tenbury last month.

"The charities that benefit all work with youngsters in one capacity or another but are generally focused in getting them into education and employment," said Charles Moyle who lives near Clifton. "Anything to stop them gravitating back to crime." As High Sheriff, Charles is responsible for the police,



probation and prisons as well as the courts, and much of his time this year has been spent working closely with the police.

Dial Medicine For Murder featured the cases of Dr Harold Shipman and Dr John Bodkin Adams, two of the most notorious British physicians of the 20th century, The background, arrest, trial and legacy of both was discussed by Dr Harry Brunjes and Dr Andrew Johns who first met as medical students at Guys Hospital, followed by careers in general medicine and forensic psychiatry respectively.

STANFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The annual Teme Valley Trees Christmas Tree Festival is taking place on Saturday 7 December and Sunday 8 December in Stanford Church from 10am to 4pm both days, with a church full of trees - it's a wonderful sight that brightens the darkest days of winter.

Come and vote for your favourite tree - this year there are several entries from the Shelsleys and Clifton, so if you want one of them to win, pop in and support them. The money raised will be shared with the Clifton Scouts for their hut campaign.

The Archdeacon of Worcester, the Rev Canon Mark Badger will be judging the 'Bishop's Cup', and the Rev Julia will be leading some carol singing which will be from 4pm to 5pm on the Saturday evening.

Entry is free, with mulled wine and mince pies available and activities for the children throughout the weekend.



TEME VALLEY FOOTBALL TEAM 1948-1950

Shelsley resident John Stinton came across this photo of the Teme Valley Football team while visiting Australia recently.

He has been able to identify three of the players kneeling in the front row: (from the left) Aldy Davies; his brother Jim Davies; (unknown); and on the right, Heinz Heyer, known to his team mates as Ernie Heyer. The team was managed by John Moore, late of The Birche, for some of the time. But can anyone identify any of the other players standing behind them?

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Worcester Journal, 20 April 1837

Two men were committed to the County Gaol on Thursday last, from Clifton-on-Teme, as rogues and vagabonds, for having in their possession house-breaking implements with which they made an attempt to rob the shop of Mr John Key of that place on the previous night. They are evidently cracksmen of no mean proficiency, having in their possession all needful utensils for the accomplishment of their unlawful calling. It is believed they left Birmingham a few days back on a professional tour.

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Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on 12 November 2024

Present: Val Jones, Louise Hutton, Carole Warren, Jean Hammond, Laura Taylor, Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates and David Belfield.

Apologies: Councillors Cumming.

Declaration of Interests. None. There were no Dispensation requests.

Dispensation forms would be required by Village Hall Management Committee members who are also Councillors should they wish to be included in any discussion relating to Village Hall matters. This would be decided upon by those Councillors not members of the VHMC. It should be made clear who can and cannot vote on any decisions to do with the VHMC if it appears on future Agenda.

There was a discussion on the request to update the Register of Interests forms issued to VHMC members to reflect any voluntary positions. There was some opposition to the need for this. The matter remains unresolved, further advice from Matthew Davis MHDC will be taken on the exact nature of what needs to be registered. The distinction between grants versus donations was discussed. The Chairman of the VHMC took the opportunity to explain that he has been in contact with the Charity Commission to clarify the position of both PC appointed representatives on the VHMC and the role of the PC as Custodian Trustee.

The VHMC wish to remove the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees and have taken advice that no representative from the Parish Council is required to sit on the VHMC.

The Chairman of the VHMC told the meeting that the accounts are now available on the Charity Commission website. The abbreviated minutes published in the Teme Triangle in October were objected to by those members referred to the Monitoring Officer. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on September 10th 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairwoman.

Midland Automobile Club: Councillor Hutton had liaised with MAC. The dates for next year's events are on their website. They are largely the same as last year.

Highways and Footpaths: Lengthsman: A time sheet and invoice for October have been received.

No update on the request to WCC for the need of speed and warning signs to be placed in the villages particularly where no footpath or safe verge exists.

No update on the request to WCC that flood warning and depth information be placed between All Saint's and New Mill Bridge. Highways, the County Councillor and MP Harriett Baldwin will be contacted to assist.

Councillor Metcalfe reported that fallen boughs have been cleared from the footpath on Southwood Common. She also warned of a broken drain affecting the camber on Pudford Lane. Whilst not in this parish it is used by Shelsley parishioners.

Village Hall: The Chairwoman explained the outcome of the Code of Conduct referral at the September meeting. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2023 when individual officers were decided upon the three councillors who were also members of the Village Hall Management Committee said they would act as representatives. However, there was no vote and in addition according to the deeds only one representative can be elected.

Therefore the advice from Matthew Davies (Senior Lawyer General) at MHDC is that there has been no breach of the Code by those Councillors referred to the Monitoring Officer. The Councillors were not representing the Parish Council in any capacity at meetings and were free to speak as members of the public. Therefore, there was no case for the Councillors to answer.

Planning: M/24/01290/HP at 7 The Bungalows Shelsley B. Erection of single storey side and rear extension and new entrance porch. Members support the application.

Shelsley Grange Enforcement: This is ongoing. MHDC is aware of the rubbish collection issues at this site.

Correspondence: Health & Wellbeing Lucy CALC circulated 11th October. Polling District, place and station review by Monday December 2 PC Molly-Ann Smith is the new Safer Neighbourhood Officer.

Finance: Bank balance currently 4543.14. Lengthman's invoice agreed.

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: A Shelsley Nature Walk was discussed and arranged for 8 December at 11am. Overhanging brambles at the Camp Lane/Fetterlocks junction will be reported to the landowner for attention

Next meeting date: 14 January 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall. The full minutes, the District and County Councillors' reports are available on the WCC website http://eservices.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/

Minutes of the meeting of Clifton Parish Council held 14 November

Present: J. Bowden (Chair); B. Gilbert (Vice-Chair); R. Neave; P Brooks; S. Haywood. Also present: District Councillor Paul Cumming, Sarah Simcock (Clerk) and five members of the public. Apologies: County Cllr D. Chambers, Cllr Pam Cumming. Declarations of Interest: None. Minutes of the Meeting held 3 October 2024: Proposed by Cllr Haywood; seconded by Cllr Merrick. All agreed. Matters arising: Item 75.24; Cllr J Bowden still waiting to hear from Mark Hammond. John Bowden has met with Tanya from Highways and agreed where the post will be for the speed monitor in Pound Lane. New planters have been put in place. BP hut has been demolished. Contact water company to see if there is another water meter for pavilion. Democratic Public Time: It was noted that a heavy duty frame placed against a tree on the village green could be from Highways or a farmer, possibly used for signage. A gully outside Manor Road needs emptying; Cllr Gilbert will ask the Lengthsman. County & District Councillor Reports: The County Councillor's report was read by Cllr Gilbert. District Councillor Paul Cumming gave a verbal report. Finance & Governance Matters: Payments and receipts schedule - proposed Cllr Neave, seconded Cllr Haywood. All agreed. Clerk to process payments. Section 106 matters - John Bowden still waiting for quotes from builders. Richard Newman is continuing with the planning application. Cllr Gilbert has heard from National networks; they are aware the work on the garden has started. The wildflower turf is arriving soon. The paths are in progress. Cllr Gilbert said the wildflower garden was progressing. Pavilion updates: Cllr Bowden reported chasing contractors for prices. He would contact a couple more contractors to get a budget in place as work on the planning is continuing. He will have a meeting with Richard Newman. Precept: Clerk to circulate last year's precept. Parish Matters /Updates: Village Maintenance Plan - Plants from the flower containers were found scattered around the playing field but have been replanted by the Lengthsman. Swift boxes - Cllr Gilbert reported that 27 swift boxes have been erected and two more have been requested. Simon from RSPB is doing a separate project for the church to repair the belfry to stop the jackdaws destroying the swift nests. Defibrillator - Cllr Gilbert asked Jerry Johns to put an article in the Teme Triangle about the defibrillators and information where located and how to use them. Cllr Brooks suggested having a spare battery. Proposed by Cllr Brooks, seconded by Cllr Gilbert.

S106 Project (CFAF) updates: Cllr Merrick reported on the wooden horse on playing field. Cllr Bowden is going to talk to Lee about repairing the wooden horse and some safety issues with it. **Planning Matters:** Applicant Name: Mrs Angela Griffiths. Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and construction of replacement garage Location: 4 Church Cottage, Church Road, Clifton Upon Teme, Worcester, WR6 6DJ. Approved subject to the conditions set out. Application Number: M/24/01349/HP. Location: Laburnum Cottage, Pound

Lane, Clifton Upon Teme, Worcester, WR6 6DE Description of Proposal: Garage conversion and extension into annexe Applicant: Mrs T Philipps. Strategic Planning Matters: A verbal update earlier in meeting from Cllr Paul Cumming. Highways Matters: Cllr Gilbert talked about the junction at the bottom of Clifton hill where visibility is restricted. Rob Wilkes is going to liaison with the people to help. It was also reported that the 30mph sign is faded on the road from Worcester and on the opposite side coming from Tenbury, Cllr Bowden is going to contact Tanya from Highways about it. Cllr Haywood commented that coming from Tenbury the Clifton signage needs cleaning. Cllr Bowden to talk to Rob Wilkes. Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: A written request from the churchwarden to put a Christmas tree up with lights for an evening with mulled wine and carols and asked the parish council for a contribution. £50 agreed. Cllr Merrick asked if the Friendship Club could come and have a look at the wildflower garden project and asked for volunteers for next year. Cllr Brooks asked about charging stations and Cllr Cumming is going to find out more information. Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 December 2024 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall.

CONTRACTORS SOUGHT FOR CLIFTON PAVILION EXTENSION

Clifton Parish Council is inviting quotes from building contractors willing to carry out planned extension work to the village's Sports Pavilion.

"We are currently working through the process of obtaining full planning permission, but we are seeking contractors to provide a 'budget price' for the work as envisaged, so that we can access and seek the extra 'match funding' required," says Parish Council Chairman, John Bowden. "We therefore invite any contractors who might be interested in providing this service, or anyone who has details of contractors who we might approach to get in touch with us, via the Parish Council website."

<u>Contact John Bowden via email: bowdenj@clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk or ring 07515 619303</u>

The project to extend the Sports Pavilion follows the successful completion of the project to provide new facilities at the Recreation Ground in Clifton, including a new Children's Playground, multiple use games area, refurbished tennis courts and a boules court. All this work has been funded by Malvern Hills District Council as a result of the S106 funding derived from the new houses which have been built in the village. The Sports Pavilion has proved too small for both the Bowls Club and Football Club, hence the plans to extend the building. In addition, the BP Hut has now been demolished and there are plans to build a larger extension, so that the Pavilion can also be used by the Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows! However, the S106 Funding cannot be used for the larger extension, as it is unrelated to sporting facilities.



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Pavilion (above) and Garage (right)

CLIFTON DEFIBRILLATORS

A couple of recent incidents have highlighted the need for the location of the two defibrillators in the village to be more widely known. One is located on the wall of the Pavilion in Pound Lane and the other on the front wall of the showroom at the front of Yeomans Garage in the main street at the other end of the village (see map above).

Anyone wishing to undertake a First Aid course or one involving use of a defibrillator should contact the local First Responder, Martin Bennett, on 0777 0923503.







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CLIFTON'S BP HUT DEMOLISHED

Clifton's BP (Baden Powell) hut, the regular meeting place for Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Rainbows and Beavers for more than half a century, has finally been demolished.

"It's the end of an era," said Angie Griffiths. "It's been a brilliant building for our village but sadly it had deteriorated and was no longer suitable for use. I remember it when it arrived in sections from the Maylite Trading Estate in Martley more than 50 years ago and it has been used by all ages ever since. I would like to thank everyone who was involved with it over the years; the local people who donated it, collected it, erected it and helped to keep it running." The Guides are currently using the Pavilion, and the Scouts meet in the village hall.

THE LION INN CRIB TEAM, CLIFTON

The Lion Inn Crib Team are a friendly group who meet on most Sunday and Wednesday evenings for a game of cards and a drink or two. They play matches in the Bromyard Crib League, playing in pubs in Bromyard and Pencombe. Last season, Ray Neave, together with our old friend Sally Bramall won the Boatman Cup, crib drive played over an evening, which last year was in the King's Arms in Bromyard.

They would like to welcome any new or old players of the game, for some fun evenings. If you would like to learn the game, come to the Lion Inn on a Sunday evening and they would be delighted to show you how to play!

Anyone interested, please contact Laura Hughes, team captain, on 07585 905525, or just turn up at the pub at about 8.15pm, Wednesdays or Sundays.



REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CLIFTON

(Left to right) Tony Clark, Rev. Julia Curtis and Sean Hinton at the Remembrance Day parade on the village green in Clifton. This year's Poppy Appeal in the village raised £1,000.

Clifton Primary School children (below) at the parade.



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REMEMBRANCE AT SHELSLEY

There was, as usual, a good turnout at the Remembrance Service held at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp. Many thanks to all those who helped with the service, whether that be the cleaning beforehand, the decorative displays, the readings or indeed just being present – it was heartwarming to see the community gather together for such an important and moving service.

Floral display by Kate Hurst, using felt and knitted poppies, supporting the Royal British Legion.





MOORE TURKEYS

David and Jo Moore in Shelsley Beauchamp are in their family's 58th year of providing 'farm fresh' Christmas turkeys to private customers, local butchers and firms.

To order your turkey or for further details, please call 07980 271703.

SHELSLEY GRANGE PLANS WITHDRAWN

Following objections from more than 70 local Teme Valley residents, plans to create a new events venue and car park at Shelsley Grange have been withdrawn, according to the Malvern Hills District Council planning website.

The owner of the Grade II listed property in Shelsley Kings had sought planning permission in the summer to put a semi-permanent marquee in the grounds for weddings and other events hosting up to 120 guests. Catering facilities, portable toilets and a gravel 50 vehicle car park also formed part of the application.

Kingswood resident Andy Griffee said, "This was the wrong type of business in the wrong place. The noise and traffic disruption would have been truly terrible in our beautiful and peaceful valley. I am sure residents across the Shelsleys will be pleased the application has now been withdrawn."

Worcestershire County Council, as the highways authority, had also objected to the plan saying the extra traffic on the narrow Kingswood Lane would have been dangerous.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas cards featuring St Bartholomew's Church in Harpley in the snow are now on sale. The A6-size cards have a gloss finish and are in packs of 10 at £5 a pack or two packs for £8. Order from Liz Younge via lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com or text 07508 863915.

All proceeds are going towards the maintenance and improvements of St Bartholomew's Church.





This beautiful wintry scene of All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp, plus one of St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh are available as Christmas cards. Contact Louise Hutton on 07803 614078 or email louise@stroydhutton.com to place your order. Specially commissioned to raise funds for both churches, it was one of two showcased at the Shelsley Harvest Supper.

The A6-size cards are individual, not in packs, so any number of either design can be ordered. Cards are priced at £1.25 each, with all profit (25p per card) going to the Shelsley churches.

TENBURY TRANSPORT TRUST

The Tenbury Transport Trust, which covers all the areas in our group of churches, are looking for additional volunteer drivers to help provide transport for those who are in need, perhaps going to the doctors, hospital, appointments etc. This is an essential volunteer cover in our area as many local residents will appreciate. Currently it is believed that there is only one driver who covers the area.

If you feel that you are able to offer some time to help, please get in touch with them directly. If you were unaware of this service and are in need, the poster will help you with this as well.

SAVE THE DATE!

Curry and Karaoke night in The Shelsleys, Saturday 8 March 2025 ... Further details to follow.

STANFORD HISTORY GROUP Five Spring Lectures at Upper Sapey Village Hall, WR6 6EU

Stanford History Group's second Spring Programme of five consecutive lectures begins on Monday 3 February 2025. Our aim is to cover a wide range of topics including Music, the Arts, Travel and Scientific/Technical subjects. Lectures are delivered by experienced specialists who are keen to share their knowledge and personal experience.

Topics include solving the mystery of the disappearance of vessels sent to explore the North West Passage in 1845. What we know, and what we do not know, about the origins of the Universe. Colour in Victorian Britain, when life was not as sombre as many believe.

Spring Cultural Series 2025

Mondays at 7.30pm. Upper Sapey Village Hall, Upper Sapey WR6 6EU

3 Feb Captain Cook: The Man behind the Legend Seb Coulthard

10 Feb The Rise of Nationalism in C19th Europe and its Impact on Music

Dr Paul Rodmell

17 Feb The Colour Revolution in Victorian Art, Fashion & Design

Dr Madeline Hewitson

24 Feb *The History of the Universe* Prof Trevor Ponman

3 March Sir John Franklin's Northwest Passage and discovery of HMS Erebus Sarah Scriver Coulthard

COSTS: Full course £30 or £10 for an individual lecture - payable on the door

Contact: Simon Neary simon.neary1@googlemail.com 01584 781698

Stanford History Group introduced a Spring series of lectures earlier in 2024, and it was very well received by often over 40 people attending in Sapey Village Hall. We are following this with a second lecture series of five lectures starting on 3 February 2025. As before, these lectures will cover quite a range of different subjects- exploration, music, art and the Universe!

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS

So far, it was a typical November: fogs, mist, drizzle and the sort of damp cold that gets into your bones. Hey ho, we have the winter to look forward to. Let's hope this will be fairly mild in order that we can save on the heating. It's been quite a month so far, with our new government's first budget and now the USA election, which has been won by a convicted felon, assisted by the world's richest man, the weird Mr 'X'. Trump insists he has been sent by God, well God certainly does work in mysterious ways. This is merely my opinion of course! The next four years could be difficult, but the reality is that we are, as George Bernard Shaw once said 'two nations divided by a common language' and it may be difficult to maintain the so-called special relationship.

The good news from Harpley is that the bat problem has at last been sorted at St Bartholomew's Church and that work is going to start any day on the new ceiling. The hope is that we should be back to normal in the New Year, presumably the New Year 2025! We have coped quite well in the meantime, thanks to the hard work and initiative of some of the younger and fitter PCC members and parishioners. There have been a few gatherings round the firepit, which has surely been a wonderful idea. Our Remembrance service took place outside round the flag and we thought of all who died in the two world wars and recent conflicts. My great uncle Robert died at Gallipoli and his body was never found, but he is remembered on a plaque there. Next year, it will be the 80th anniversary of the ending of the second World War in Europe (8 May 1945) and I am sure there will be celebrations to mark the date. I remember the pig roast and bonfire at Hanley Swan and the searchlights making patterns of Vs over the Malvern Hills.

Our Harvest Supper in David Richard's barn was very enjoyable, if a little cold. There were about 50 diners, all enjoying Claire and Alan Edwards' delicious beef casserole and fine cheese board with wine. Liz Younge had made some special puddings, which disappeared very quickly. Thanks to them and to David, his family and helpers who made it such a pleasant evening. Will this be a regular venue now, David?

Now we have Christmas to look forward to and a new year, which I hope will bring good luck and good health and happiness to everyone.

NOTICES

Services:

Sunday, December 15, Candlelit Carols at 3.00pm Wednesday December 25, Christmas Family Communion 10.00am Sunday, 26 January, 10.30am Ecumenical Service with Churches Together in the Teme Valley There will be no housekeeping necessary until the big clear-up after the builders. There is no Ladies Bible Group in December, but there will be one in January on Tuesday 14 January at 2pm at the home of Margaret Griffiths. We also plan to have a lunch or get-together sometime in January.

The Mobile Library will call next on Friday 20 December at 10.20 and 10.40 and then on Friday 17 January 2025. Do have a look at the Library website for their winter activities, courses and events. libraries@worcs.sirsidynix.net.com

Incidentally, our church warden Liz Younge has some attractive local Christmas cards, bags and notebooks for sale in aid of St Bartholomew's. As the church has been closed, there have been no collections and these will make attractive stocking fillers. lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com

Have a wonderful Christmas, stay well and warm. Please don't forget your flu and Covid jabs.

Margaret Griffiths

LOWER SAPEY MEMORY TREE

The Churches Conservation Trust's Christmas Memory Tree will again be placed in Old St. Bartholomew's Church, Hope Lane, Lower Sapey from 1 December until Twelfth Night, 5 January. 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 Churches Conservation Trust (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 886465; patprosser@hotmail.co.uk.



BELLRINGERS RETURN TO ST KENELM'S

A new group of bellringing enthusiasts are meeting at St Kenelm's church in Clifton on Monday evenings to learn how to ring from the Martley bellringers.

"If anyone else would like to join us that would be great," says Ruth Wilson. "We meet at 6.15pm on Monday evenings at St Kenelm's Church and hope to have our own bellringers so that the bells can be rung regularly, as they were in the past. Until now we have only been able to have the bells rung when the Martley Bellringers come for an occasional service or a wedding."



The snow-covered Shelsleys last month, photographed by Michael Whitefoot

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Worcester Journal, 31 August 1912

A Clifton-on-Teme correspondent writes: The flooding in this district was most serious on Monday when in the evening the Teme and its tributaries had risen above their banks. Some of the houses in the village were flooded. The drains in Church Row were incapable of carrying away the great inrush of water, with the result that it remained stagnant for some time and rendered the road impassable to pedestrians. The schools were closed in the afternoon. A portion of the road (running parallel with a brook) leading from Clifton to Bromyard, on the Clifton side of the pumping station, gave way and fell into the brook, rendering vehicular traffic dangerous. The attendance of a roadman for night duty has been found necessary until the defect can be mended.

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 Anne Gayden (PCC Minutes Secretary) & Jackie Gilbert

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

David Richards / Liz Younge lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com

Church Matters

by Rev. Julia Curtis

I wonder, what is your favourite thing about Christmas? Is it munching warmed mince pies? Is it sparkling lights in windows and around our Christmas trees? Is it snuggling down in front of your favourite seasonal film? Is it presents or maybe it is gathering with friends and family, playing games and eating rather more than you should, but enjoying it anyway. Firstly, one of the



joys of Christmas for me is to sing carols and to belt out the descant thinking no one is listening. Christmas can be a wonderful time of year and there are many events and gatherings in our communities to celebrate and make the most of this special time.

But Christmas can also be a difficult time of year when we remember those who are not with us for whatever reason. Maybe we are unable to put on the spread we would like, due to limited funds. We are also aware that this year sees ongoing conflict in areas of the world; 'peace on earth' proclaimed by the angels at that first Christmas day feels a way off currently.

In truth, Christmas is a time of many contradictions, as is the build-up to the big day itself. And so we come to the second thing I love about Christmas... it's the getting there... I love to journey through the season of Advent symbolically lighting candles as we count down the Sundays to the anniversary of the birth of Christ. Figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey will travel across our communities through the month; there are special meditations and it all begins with Advent prayer and a candle lit service. Join us in the journey this Advent.

At midnight on Christmas Eve, a newborn cry pierces through the contradictions and mixed emotions of the season and calls us all to experience God's gift of pure love afresh. This gift of Jesus is simple without being simplistic and a baby born in the backwater of an ancient empire 2,000 years ago, still calls us today.

Wishing you a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and many blessings in 2025.

CLIFTON UPON TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Clifton Friendship Club will be having its traditional Christmas lunch on Wednesday 4 December and in the week before Christmas, on Wednesday 18 December members will be entertained by Stourport Choral. Visitors always welcome.

For more information contact Dot Millward dotmillward@btinternet.com

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JOURNEYING THROUGH ADVENT IN THE LOCAL PARISHES

December in our churches and communities is always a month full of fun, Christmas excitement and carol services. It is easy to lose sight of the season of Advent and a conscious preparation and anticipation of the arrival of Jesus in the stable. This year we will be travelling through Advent in the following ways:



Morning Prayer @ 9am daily during Advent Tuesday – Saturday Inclusive on Zoom. Contact Rev. Julia for the link.

Compline @ 7pm daily during Advent Monday – Saturday Inclusive On Zoom. Contact Rev Julia for the link.

Travelling Posadas

Clifton – coordinated by Rev. Jen Denniston

18 December 10.30am Holy Communion service at St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh, will host the Diocesan Posada.

Marking the Four Sundays of Advent in December with Holy Communion as follows:

- 1 December Advent 1 10am Holy Communion with Hymns at St Mary, Stanford
- 22 December Advent 4 10.30am Holy Communion, Said at St Kenelm, Clifton

Special Events and Services:

30 November - Evening of Seasonal Music by Corinne Frost, 7.30pm Rochford church

1 December Advent Sunday

10.30am Morning Prayer for Advent at St Kenelm's, Clifton 4pm Darkness to Light Service to begin Advent with Relishing Rural Music Choir

Just Three Evenings

Three evenings of Advent meditations on the theme of mince pies, satsumas and chocolate offering space and quiet in the midst of all that is going on. 10, 11, and 12 December led by Rev. Robert Barlow.

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

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st December

10.30am: Advent Carol Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 8 December

5pm: Carols and Christingle Bags, St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 15 December

3.00pm: Candlelit Carols, St Bartholomew, Harpley*

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

Wednesday 18 December

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 22 December

10.30am: Holy Communion Service @ St Kenelm's for Teme Valley South,

Clifton, Harpley and Shelsley Churches:

Christmas Eve 24 December

3.00pm: Crib Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

5.00pm: Christingle, St Kenelm's, Clifton

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

Christmas Day 25 December

10.00am: Christmas Half Hour, St Kenelm's, Clifton 10.00am: Family Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley*

10.30am: Christmas, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

JANUARY

Sunday 5 January

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

Sunday 12 January

10.30am: Family Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 19 January

6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Wednesday 15 January

10.30am: Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 26 January

10.30am, Ecumenical Service with Churches Together in the Teme Valley at St Bartholomew, Harpley*

*All services at Harpley are to be confirmed nearer date, due to building works

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas Fayre, Clifton VH 10am-1pm
- 4 Friendship Club Christmas Lunch, Clifton VH 12.30pm
- 5 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 5 Clifton Nursery and Pre-School AGM, Clifton VH 6pm
- 7 Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church 10am-4pm
- 8 Stanford Christmas Tree Festival, Stanford Church 10am-4pm
- 15 Candlelit Christmas Carol Service, St Bartholomew's, Harpley 3pm
- 18 Friendship Club Stourport Choral, Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 10 Clifton WI Christmas Meeting Clifton VH 7.30pm
- 20 WCC Mobile Library 9.45am 10.15am Clifton VH Car Park

JANUARY

- 2 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 10 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 14 Clifton WI, 7.30pm Clifton Village Hall
- 17 Mobile Library, 9.45 10.15am in Clifton Village Hall car park

FEBRUARY

3 Stanford History Group Spring lectures, Upper Sapey VH 7.30pm



Harpley residents gather round a fire in memory of Bob Whitefoot

ANDY ARNOLD ATTEMPTS MONT BLANC

Clifton resident Andy Arnold's latest extreme challenge, taking part in the La Petite Trotte à Léon (PTL) – a 310 kilometre run up Mont Blanc – resulted in him having to retire after only 50 kilometres with a dangerously high heart rate. 120 teams of two or three contestants take part in the PTL race event. The route changes every year but always has Mont Blanc as the central backdrop (they don't actually climb Mont Blanc itself).

"I made the decision to stop after 50km as my heart rate was extremely elevated and would not come down," said Andy.

Teme Triangle readers may remember Andy's epic winter challenge earlier this year when he ran a gruelling 270 miles from Derbyshire to the Scottish Borders, raising more than £3,000 for charity.





CLIFTON PLOUGHING MATCH RAISES FUNDS FOR NOAH'S ARM

A ploughing match held in Clifton by the Baiting House Tractor Club raised more than £500 towards the appeal for a new bionic arm for local lad Noah Williams. The competition was judged by Andrew Wild and Suzie Sparey. First place went to Trevor Brooke; second place to Roger Delahay and third place to Bob Crump. The award for the oldest combination of tractor and driver was once again won by John Delahay.





Contributions for the February 2025 edition by Friday 10 January 2025 please, to: editortemetriangle@gmail.com