

PARISH NEWS



MAY...the sun keep shining please!

May 2024

St Michael and All Angels, Claverdon All Saints, Preston Bagot

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CHURCH

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Vicar	Vacancy	
Associate Minister	Revd James Holden	07767 321086
Non-stipendiary Minister	Revd Phil Hanson	01926 843421
Diocesan Reader	Norrie Moore	01564 793578
Families Pastor	Vacant	
Parish Secretary	Barbara Lord - churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com	01926 840100
Church Centre enquiries	claverdoncentre@btinternet.com	01926 843234

The Church Office is in Room 1 at the Church Centre, Church Rd, Claverdon

Normal office hours are 9.15am – 12.15pm on Monday and at other times by arrangement.

Telephone 01926 840100. If no reply, please leave a message.

Claverdon Parochial Church Council

Churchwardens	Jonathan Evans vacancy	01926 842690
Member of Deanery Synod Elected	Sue Jacques Sandra Aitken; Steven Aitken; Ann Anthony; Alison Bird; David Eastham, Richard Bonsall; Andrea Gardner; Penny Hanson; Ingrid Moss; Julia Waldron	
Co-opted	Phil Hanson	
PCC Minutes Secretary	Ann Anthony	
PCC Treasurer	Richard Bonsall	07766 556055
Organists	Jonathan Evans, Jonathan Lucas	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Julia Waldron	07557 919206

Preston Bagot Parochial Church Council

Churchwardens	Hugh Carslake Margaret Duke	01926 843023 maggieduke44@gmail.com
Member of Deanery Synod Elected	Hugh Carslake Tony Belcher; Ros Belcher; Joy Cater; Pam Clark; Sheila Goudge; Anne Perrin; Graham Coombs, Janet Masters	
Ex-officio	Norrie Moore	01564 793578
PCC Secretary	Anne Perrin	01926 842638
PCC Treasurer	Vacant	
Organists	Jonathan Lucas; Guy Pardoe; Ingrid Moss	

Parish News Editorial Team

Steve Aitken, Richard Bonsall, Jonathan Evans and Ingrid Moss

Advertising enquiries to Richard Bonsall (01926 843474, richard.bonsall7@btconnect.com)

Material submission deadline: 8th of the preceding month to the Editor

(parishnewseditor99@gmail.com)



MAYTIME

May scores highly in many “what’s your favourite month of the year” surveys. It’s my favourite too - our amazing natural world bursts into new life, the green fields and hedgerows are at their greenest, the birds start singing, the sun starts to feel warm (...if it shines), winter is behind us and summer is ahead.

May is also usually the month in which we celebrate Pentecost, or Whitsun as it is also called (although as Pentecost is 50 days from Easter, it slips into June in some years). Pentecost marks the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles while they were hiding behind locked doors following Jesus’ resurrection. After receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles immediately went out and preached Jesus’ message to everyone.

At Pentecost we are in effect celebrating the Church’s birthday. What an appropriate month for the celebration - the month of new life and new hope.



So to the Church - Happy Birthday! *JE*

The Churches of Arden has a vacancy to fill, and we are in what used to be called a period of ‘interregnum’. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council are working with representatives of the Alcester Deanery and Coventry Diocese to find a successor to Rev Alison as our Priest-in-Charge, who retired in December last year. This can take time - often 6-12 months if not longer - we hope for less.

In the meantime our churches continue to operate as normal - and we are blessed to have the services of Rev Phil Hanson and Rev James Holden in our midst who will be taking services for us alongside our band of lay leaders.

If anyone has any queries or needs to get in touch, please contact Barbara Lord, our Parish Secretary, or the churchwarden whose details are opposite.



CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

Everyone is welcome to all and any of the services listed across the four Churches of Arden:

All Saints, Preston Bagot (PB)

St Michael and All Angels, Claverdon (Clav)

St John the Baptist, Aston Cantlow (AC)

St Peter, Wootton Wawen (WW)

Date	Church	Time	Service
5th May	PB	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	WW	11.00am	Café Church
	AC	11.00am	Morning Prayer
	Clav	11.00am	Holy Communion
12th May	PB	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	WW	11.00am	Holy Communion
	AC	11.00am	Morning Praise with coffee
	Clav	11.00am	Family Service
19th May Pentecost Whit Sunday	WW	9.30am	Holy Communion
	AC	11.00am	Morning Praise
	Clav Church Centre	11.00am	Bible café
26th May Trinity Sunday	PB	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	WW	11.00am	Morning Prayer
	AC	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Clav	11.00am	Holy Communion

Every Tuesday at 4.00pm: **Evening Prayer** in Claverdon Church Centre

Every Wednesday at 10.00am: an **Act of Worship** at St Peter's Wootton Wawen

Evening Prayer

Each week, the quiet service of Evening Prayer takes place on Tuesdays at 4.00pm in the Church Centre. This quiet and peaceful Book of Common Prayer service is designed to "wind down" towards evening after the day's activities. We welcome everyone to join us and we look forward to meeting you.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Burial of ashes:

In Preston Bagot churchyard:

on 5th April 2024, **Janette Brasier**

and on 7th April 2024, **Anne Laycock**

PRESTON BAGOT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

All Saints, Preston Bagot will be holding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Monday May 13th at 7.30pm.

Hugh Carslake, Churchwarden, will chair the meeting at the Old Rectory. The short Vestry Meeting, held first, is for the election of Churchwardens. It is open to anyone on the civil Register of Electors who lives in the Parish, as well as anyone on the church electoral roll. The APCM follows and includes election of PCC members.

Anne Perrin

Secretary

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Team meets regularly to offer prayers and support for those who are sick, bereaved, lonely or in any kind of need. If you would know of someone who would like to be included in our prayers, please contact us. Home communions and informal visits can be arranged and all prayer requests are treated in the strictest confidence.

Pastoral Team: Sandra Aitken, Joy Cater, Gill Evans, Revd Phil Hanson, Rosemary Holding, Pete Moss, Anne Perrin

Please contact us via Joy Cater (01926 842149) or Gill Evans (01926 842690).



CLAVERDON'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Claverdon Church's APCM was held on Monday 15 April in Church. An APCM gives the annual opportunity for parishioners to elect the churchwardens and other officers, and to hear reports and ask questions about the past 12 months. The main points from this year's APCM were:

- the number of people on the electoral roll increased from 87 to 92, 40% of whom live outside the parish;
- Sue Jacques stood down as Churchwarden, after some 10 years' service. She was given a large vote of thanks for the tremendous contribution she has made to our church life, including steering us through three interregnums and a pandemic! Sue will continue as the Lay Chair of the Alcester Deanery, and as a member of Claverdon PCC;
- Jonathan Evans was re-elected as Churchwarden. There were no other nominations - so the second position remains vacant;
- our treasurer Richard Bonsall presented the annual accounts, which showed an improved position compared with the previous year. However the Church was still operating with a day-to-day deficit, and regrettably some expenditure had had to be curtailed - including donations to charities. There were also some large projects needing to be tackled, including the replacement of the heating systems in both Church and Church Centre - which presented good opportunities to pursue our green agenda. The need to raise more income while keeping costs under control would be a feature of the next few years;
- Sue Jacques presented the Wardens' report of the year's events, which saw the departure of our Vicar and our Families Pastor. Encouragement was coming from the successful Alpha Course attended by over 40 people, the recent Easter Workshop which hosted 70 children, the restarting of our Youth Club; the Baby and Toddler Group continues successfully, and the continuing links with school and nurseries have seen our church full with children on many occasions;
- Thanks were expressed to everyone who was contributing so well and so willingly to the life and wellbeing of our church.



thank you Sue!





TO CLAVERDON!

CLAVERDON VILLAGE WELCOME PACK

Have you just moved in? We would love to give you a Welcome Pack – it's full of information about the village including around thirty clubs and organisations!

Please let Gill Evans know if you would like a Welcome Pack or if you know of anyone who is new to the village

01926 842690

leycroft@btinternet.com

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

In last month's Parish News, we covered the wonderful story of Joshua McQuillan's successful kidney transplant. Phyllis McQuillan this month makes a heartfelt plea....

This article is not about Joshua, although he is making an unbelievably good recovery, and is heading to be a healthy, strong young man again.

The reason for this appeal is because I have seen the life changing difference a transplant or transfusion can make for a very ill person and their families. Surgeons, doctors and nurses, with all their amazing expertise and dedication, cannot help ill patients unless they have donated organs or other components to work with to make a successful transplant, thereby giving life saving prospects to another human being's existence.

My greatest regret now is that having lived a very healthy comfortable life, I didn't donate - and unfortunately I am now too old. That is why I ask anybody, young and kind enough to read this article, to PLEASE consider donating organs, blood or stem cells. You won't regret it!

Thank you for taking the time to read this plea, and I pray you are never faced with a failing organ, nor need blood.

CLAVERDON WORLD WAR CASUALTIES

Alison Hoddell is researching the lives of the men who gave their lives in the two world wars and are commemorated on the war memorials in church – so when we say every year that, ‘We will remember them’, we know something about them and their families.

CAN YOU HELP? Are you related to to any of those who died? Do you know anyone who is a relative? Do you have memories of any who died or their families?

Alison would be enormously grateful for any help anyone could give – em.ail alison.hoddell@gmail.com or phone 01926 843718 or 07462 916220.

CHURCHES OF ARDEN

Baby & Toddler Group



Mondays during term
9.00 - 10.30 am in the D M Hall, Claverdon
We welcome parents, carers and grandparents with their babies and toddlers. During our time together there is a selection of age-related toys, a healthy snack for children and a hot drink for adults.
Contact the Parish Office on 01926 840100 or email churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com

Family Ministry
CHURCHES OF ARDEN



D-DAY 80 COMMEMORATION

Thursday 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day

It was on that day in 1944 when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. A 1,200-plane airborne assault preceded the amphibious landings and 'Operation Overlord' - the Battle of Normandy - was launched.

The 6 June saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 150,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an

action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation. More than two million Allied troops were in France by the end of August.

In Claverdon we are joining in the events, national and international, which will commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those people in securing the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

It's our opportunity to remember the 210,000 Allied casualties of Operation Overlord. This includes nearly 37,000 ground forces and 16,000 air forces killed in the invasion of Normandy's Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches, and the long and bloody campaign that followed.

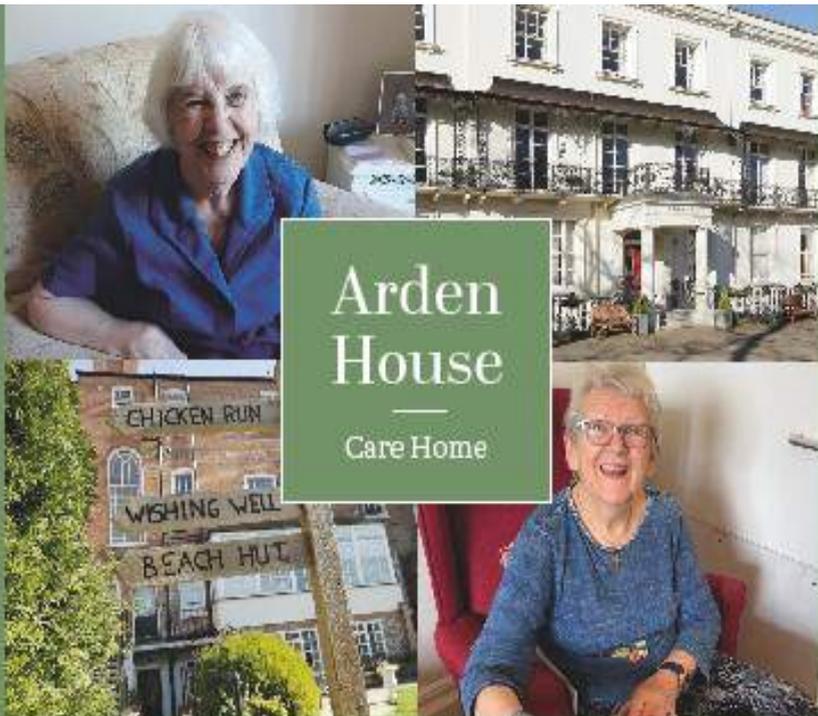
Come and join in the D-Day Commemoration:-

8.00 pm: 'Ringing out for Peace' – Claverdon Bellringers will join with towers all over the country ringing today.

8.30 pm: Service of Commemoration in Claverdon Church – including the D-Day Proclamation and Tribute, and the Poem for School Children.

9.15 pm: Beacon Lighting on Home Field, Park Farm (opposite the church) by kind permission of David and Ruth Burman, joining with the lighting of beacons around the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.





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Flicks in the Sticks

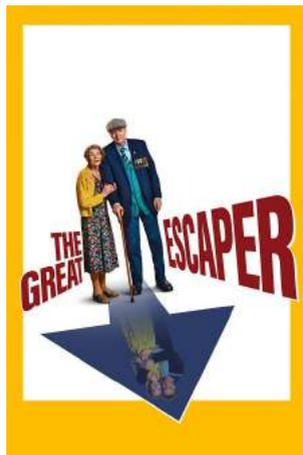
Last film of the season! - the 80th anniversary of D-day is approaching and we are showing.....

THE GREAT ESCAPER (12)

Starring Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson

These legendary performers star in the heartwarming true story of Bernard Jordan, the 89 year old veteran who snuck off to attend the 70th anniversary of D-day.

'Caine and Jackson and their ineffable class give this film some real grit: it's a wonderful last hurrah for Jackson and there is something moving and even awe-inspiring in seeing these two British icons together.' The Guardian



Claverdon Church Centre

Friday 17 May at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 on the door - doors open 7.00 pm

Bar and refreshments available

Parish News is a sharing of the lives of the people of our community, delivered to every household in the parishes of Claverdon and Preston Bagot free of charge. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who welcome comments and suggestions about *Parish News*.

Should you wish to contribute to the production costs of the magazine, donations can be left in the Community Shop, or put in an envelope marked "magazine" in the box inside the church door; alternatively you can donate online using the following bank details: Claverdon PCC; 30-98-26; 01963806 with reference "magazine donation". Many thanks.



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THE MONTHLY HMM...

What a Difference a Day Makes

Every year I aim to visit Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve in South Devon. It often happens that I find myself there on Lady Day (25th March); that day in the Christian calendar nine months before Christmas when we celebrate the Annunciation of Christ to Mary. It's a Principal Feast in the Anglican church but this year, due to the timing of Easter, Lady Day was transferred to the second week of April.

Notwithstanding, I was at Dawlish on March 25th but sadly it seemed that all the wildlife had been transferred alongside the feast. It was dark and dank and there was very little to see. No sand crocuses, the standout plant at Dawlish for example, nor even a single stonechat.

As it happened the stonechat was my principal quarry. I've got lots of stonechat pictures but not a good photograph of a male in breeding plumage. And goodness me, is he a handsome fellow with his striking black head and white collar contrasting with dark back and gorgeous orange-red breast. He looks like he's dressed for a formal black-tie dinner wearing the most beautifully coloured waistcoat.



As I have already said though, there was nothing doing on what would have been Lady Day. To be honest, even if a stonechat had popped up out of the gorse or brambles the resultant photograph would have been useless; for light is as essential as subject and there was little.

I came back the next day – an ordinary day in Holy Week - and what a difference a day had made. The Warren was bathed in warm spring sunshine. The delicate crocuses were unfurled on the short grass in sheltered places and the dunes and heath were alive with birds. Linnets, buntings, and larks were singing everywhere it seemed and finally, a stonechat scolded me from a dense mound of brambles.

Back home, on the transferred feast day, I pondered the image of my stonechat posing comfortably on a branch of fearsome thorns. I called him: 'his thornship' so magnificently regal did he look. 'What a difference a day makes,' I murmured. One day all doom and gloom and another all light and joy. But to get there we need humility that breeds patience of the kind that Christ exhibited when he took on human flesh through Mary and suffered death on the cross.

Rev James



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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

At this time of the year many Parishes hold an annual Parish Assembly which is a chance for local groups and volunteers to showcase what they do and what they have been doing over the last year. *[Claverdon's annual meeting is on 14 May at 7pm in the Church Centre - see page 30 - Ed]*

The annual meetings I've already attended this month have been well attended and I am always amazed and interested to see how many different types of groups we have in our communities. There is literally something for everyone and the enthusiasm of the members is infectious. If I could I'd be joining groups in all ten parishes that I cover, but sadly, there is not enough time in my days to do this. However I do get great pleasure in meeting residents at these meetings - so if you ever wondered what groups are available in your village or parish then go along as you are certain to be welcomed at a very informal evening.

I am available most days of the week and my day regularly starts at 8am and runs to 10pm some days. Contacting me by email is always best as I am often in meetings with residents, business owners, farmers, and officers.

In addition to the four themes below, I have received over 200 local requests on other issues ranging from potholes to broken or additional signage, double yellow lines, trees, and parking fines. I receive around 60 emails a day, that's more than 21,000 a year in my dual role as County Councillor for Arden Division and District Councillor for the Wootton Wawen Ward. As you can imagine, answering the phone with so many emails is challenging but luckily my wife, Christine, will often do this for me. Then there are the committee reports that I must read, the latest one from the district is 286 pages long, brevity is definitely in short supply in local government. I usually have two or three of these a week.



My last 12 months have been dominated, locally, with 4 issues

- Flooding
- Speeding
- 20mph Scheme
- Parking issues

Flooding has been a big issue around my parishes, and it has been a challenge to keep gullies/drains/ ditches and culverts clear of silt and debris, but I have had many gullies/drains cleaned which does seem to have helped. There are only three gulley cleaners to cover the whole of Warwickshire, so delays are commonplace. I am arranging to hire a gulley cleaner for two weeks to deal with even more of these issues across my division. If you know of a blocked gully or drain let your Parish Council know or go to the County Council and enter it yourself as, obviously, we can't do anything about a blocked drain unless we know about it.

Speeding, like flooding, is a common issue across my division that covers from Wolverton (to the East) and takes in, Langley, Claverdon, Preston Bagot, Henley, Wootton Wawen, Ullenhall and Tanworth in Arden (including Earlswood). Data from the various speed lines that I funded from my budget is being reviewed by your subcommittee.

I have two 20mph schemes (Ullenhall and Henley in Arden) of which the Henley 20mph scheme is complete apart from the double yellow lines that should have been painted near to the Station. Now the weather is improving I have asked for this to be carried as soon as possible. Ullenhall's scheme will be completed this spring/summer.

Councillor Ian Shenton 07971343074
ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk



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concerns, forgiveness and more.

When? Sundays,
10am-12pm. Starts
October 29th for 7 weeks

Where? St Michael's
Church Centre,
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Is there a fee? A small
donation towards
facilities would be
welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SpringBoardDivorce@gmail.com
07814 255190 after 6pm

CHURCHES OF ARDEN

Bible Cafe



3rd Sundays of the month

in Claverdon Church Centre at 11am

Join us for coffee, pastries and fruit - and spend some
relaxed time together in worship and discussion about
how the Bible relates to today's world.

Everyone is welcome!

Family
Ministry

For more information please contact the
Churches of Arden at
churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com



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The Well is not part of any particular church, and welcomes people from all denominations, ages and walks of life to experience the healing power of God.

We don't charge for this, but gratefully accept donations to support the ministry. Most people who come are Christians or interested in exploring the faith, but we don't ask about anyone's religion and they are open to all.

Amongst forthcoming events:

Thursday 9 May, 10am - 1pm: **Quiet morning "Ask, seek and knock"**, led by Rev Anne Hibbert. During this Quiet Morning there will be two talks given by Anne. She will put into context Jesus' teaching here in Matthew 7. When Jesus encourages His followers to 'ask' and they will 'receive', does this mean anything? What happens when our prayers are not answered? This event is for those who want to explore prayer and God's provisions/resources and those who have run out of inner resources.

Saturday 25 May, 7.30 - 9.00pm: **Encounter evening** - an evening to spend time in the presence of God through worship, meditation and reflection.

Further events and details of how to book are at www.wellhealing.org



REGULAR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE

Event	When/Time	Please Contact
Stepping Stones Pre school	Every day in term time 8.30 am - 3.00pm	Hannah Gibson 01926 843353 clavsteppingstones@welearn365.com
Children's Dance Classes	Monday in term time 4.30 - 7.00pm	Krystle Jayne's Dance Academy 07791 852891 krystlejayedance@gmail.com
Badminton	Monday in term time 8.00 -9.30pm	George Baker 07789 930549
Parish Council	Mondays or Tuesdays as scheduled by the PC	Ken Flood claverdonpc@gmail.com
Mobile Library (in car park)	Tuesdays at 10.40am every four weeks	See dates in advert in this edition
Table Tennis	Wednesday 2.00 - 4.00pm	Gina Graham 01926 842927
Art and Crafts Group	Thursday in term time 2.00 - 4.00pm	Jayne Andrews 07753 795595 jayne.andrews@aol.co.uk
Youth Group	Thursday in term time 6.30 - 8.00pm	Parish Office 01926 840100 churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com
Flicks in the Sticks	3 rd Friday in month September to May 7.30 - 10.00pm	Gill Evans 01926 842690
Mid-morning meet -up	Saturday twice a year 10.00am – 12.30pm	Gill Evans 01926 842690





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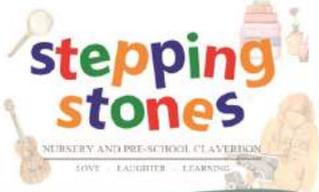


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CHURCHES OF ARDEN

FAMILY SERVICE



**2nd Sundays of the month
11am
at the St. Michael & All Angels, Claverdon**

Join us for interactive worship for all ages.

For more information please contact the Churches of Arden at churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com



STEPPING STONES NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Returning to the Church Centre following two gloriously wet weeks of the Easter holidays is always a pleasure as we welcome the children back. Their faces are wonderfully animated as they see their friends, bursting with excitement as they debate how many chocolate eggs they've eaten, sometimes running into the hundreds apparently!

We welcomed five new families, all from the village and surrounding parishes, some starting at a nursery for the first time. This can create very mixed emotions for a family who may have previously only left their child in the care of a well know family member. As Early Years Practitioners spending time with a family during their induction and the settling in mornings over the coming weeks with a new child is a privilege, getting to know them and sharing ideas on attachment, potty training and sleeping routines and tantrums! No one child is the same and each child is very much welcomed as an individual at Stepping Stones.

With the increased demand for nursery spaces, possibly due in part to the help of the new government funding, Stepping Stones is now fully subscribed until September 2025. Although this is a very positive position to be in, it may come as a surprise to hear that due to the underfunding from the government regarding the hourly rate for nursery provision many settings, particularly term time and school hours like us, will really feel the impact of increased demand. When combined with the running costs of a nursery, including the 10% minimum wage increase, it's inevitable this will impact nurseries sustainability. This will be particularly apparent from September 2025 with the government providing up to 30 funded hours each week to all eligible working families whilst restricting opportunities for term time nurseries to recoup costs.

As a charity, we have been in a very fortunate position to keep our child numbers low and our staff to child ratio high. Together with the guidance of the committee, we have worked in partnership with our parents to financially safeguard our position for the future. With each budget and promise of record investment in the Early Years, we continue to hope Nurseries will receive the recognition they deserve and ensure our future generations are sufficiently invested in.

Each term, our dedicated parent committee are busy planning fundraising opportunities to raise funds to replenish resources for the children to use from outdoor equipment to paints, educational toys and books. Please look out for our pumpkin growing competition on our website www.claverdonsteppingstones.org.uk and social media accounts. We've set a target of beating previous year's record weight and we would love for as many families as possible to be involved and to grow the biggest pumpkins in Claverdon!



CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP 2024

on Good Friday 29 March

The Church Centre was full on Good Friday morning with over 70 children and their families (and lots of helpers too) for a morning of Easter fun. Together they joined in Easter songs and listened to the Easter Story. Then the children made their way around the six Easter crafts to take home - an Easter basket, Easter Garden, puppet, biscuits, card and a decorated egg. Many thanks to Rita Pleasance for hard-boiling all the eggs! There were delicious refreshments to enjoy between the activities.

The children wrote prayer labels and made birds to decorate the Celtic Cross as the joint activity and this was taken into church for Easter Day.

A brilliant event at the Church Centre - very many thanks to all the helpers and of course especially Mandy Dowson with her amazing crafts.

Gill Evans



LENT LUNCH FOR LIFESPACE TRUST

Delicious soups were enjoyed by thirty parishioners from across the Churches of Arden on Tuesday 26th March at the Church Centre.

Andrea Gardner and Thato Malebye gave everyone an update on the work of the mentoring charity Lifespace Trust, (www.lifespace.org.uk) based in Tyler House, Stratford upon Avon. Lifespace mentors work with over 600 children and young people on a one-to-one basis aged 7-18 across Warwickshire each year and a further 200 in small groups and through their involvement with the new Stratford Youth Collective. (www.stratfordyouth.org)

The charity works with young people who are facing all kinds of tough times to help them build their resilience, confidence and self-esteem.

An amazing £850 (with gift aid) was raised at the lunch. Everyone at Lifespace would like to thank the Churches of Arden for their ongoing support and everyone who made the lunch possible.

Please continue to pray for Lifespace's work and especially those children and young people who struggle to cope with challenging events which affect them and over which they have no control.



For further information, please contact Andrea Gardner
andrea@lifespace.org.uk 07798 726366

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Tricia and David Hardy held a really successful fundraising morning on 19 April in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Lots of people attended, enjoying refreshments and good conversations - as well as the opportunity to purchase some wonderful craftwork and many other items - which raised an amazing £1600!

Well done Tricia and David! - Ed



CLAVERDON RECREATION FIELD & PAVILION



Can you help?

We are looking to put together a small team of residents to help run and look after this wonderful asset that we have here in Claverdon.

We therefore need some enthusiastic and proactive members to join us. Getting involved would not require a huge amount of your time, as it would very much be a team effort all the way.

If you would like to know more or indeed get involved please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

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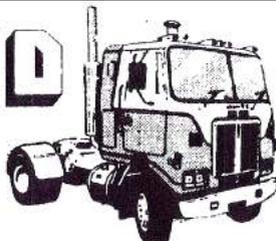


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STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Great British Spring Clean

With this year's Great British Spring Clean now coming to an end, I have been organising and helping at events including litter picking, footpath clearing and road sign cleaning in our ward. It's been fun and very satisfying cleaning some of the dirtier road signs and helping to keep our lovely villages clean and tidy.

New Eligibility Criteria for Energy Efficiency Schemes

The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) funding has increased from £31,000 to £36,000 a year. If you have a household income under £36,000 and the house is not connected to mains gas then please give close consideration to making an application. You can get in touch with Act on Energy who administer the scheme on behalf of the council (0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk) or get in touch with me.

Stratford Leisure Centre Gets Solar Panels

Solar panels will be installed on Stratford Leisure Centre's roof, following a successful application bid to the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund. The District Council has been awarded over £280,000 to install the 405 panels (200kWp) which will produce over 172,000kWh ('units') of electricity saving the leisure centre around £52,000 per year. With electricity prices as they are, the installed panels will have saved more money than they cost in between five and six years. This initiative will save money and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted to power the leisure centre.

New Grounds Maintenance Contract for Stratford District

Stratford District Council have signed a new five-year grounds maintenance contract with Continental Landscapes Ltd. With the contract we can expect some fresh thinking for floral beds, shrubs & herbaceous borders. The contract also includes park cleansing, park furniture and play equipment maintenance, the maintenance of the



padding pool at the Recreation Ground, together with lifebuoy maintenance along the River Avon in Stratford.

Another change is that herbicides will be limited to only hard surfaces and spot treatments of invasive weeds and, disappointingly, wildflower areas. It is also interesting to note that the new contractor will be running their vehicles on biofuel made from post-consumer waste oil (HVO).

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner election

The election of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner will be on Thursday 2 May 2024 - **Please vote**. Polling stations will open from 7am until 10pm, the location will be on your polling card.

If you are voting in person you must show acceptable **photo ID**, such as a passport, driving licence, blue badge and certain bus passes. Full details and a list of acceptable photo ID are available on the Council's website. If you don't have suitable photo ID please get in touch with me.

If you have any local issues you would like to discuss with me then please get in touch using the details below.

If you have any local issues you would like to discuss with me then please get in touch using the details below.

Duncan Parker 07745 210097

Email Duncan.Parker@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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CLAVERDON PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 14th May, 7pm, Claverdon Church Centre

You're invited to join Claverdon Parish Council at the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting at Claverdon Church Centre on Tuesday 14th May at 7pm.

Come along to hear what your Parish Council has been working on over the last 12 months, and what their plans are for the year ahead. There will also be the opportunity to hear from a number of village groups and organisations, as they are invited to update us about their activities and future plans.

The Chair of the Parish Council will deliver his Annual Report and individual Parish Councillors will provide information about their portfolio areas, covering Health & Safety, Planning, Communications, Yarningale Common and the Recreation Area and Pavilion. The meeting will also incorporate the Parish Council's AGM, and the regular bi-monthly meeting business.

Why not take this opportunity to find out what's happening in your village and hear from the many people who are volunteering their time and energy to make Claverdon the great place we all live in.

We're still looking for someone to fill the current Parish Councillor vacancy. There's so much work being done to help quality of life and wellbeing be the best it can be, for everyone in the parish, and to ensure facilities and services meet everyone's needs – one more passionate and enthusiastic person on the team will make Claverdon Parish Council's mission more achievable. We're looking for someone to lead and develop a portfolio area focusing on Claverdon's response to climate change and the challenge of net zero - could you be the person to take on this role within the Parish Council? The Annual Parish Meeting is a perfect opportunity to meet



current Councillors, to discuss the Parish Councillor vacancy, and to ask any questions you may have.

We hope that lots of you can spare a couple of hours to come along and engage in the shaping of our village and community. If you have any questions or would like to know more about Claverdon Parish Council please contact Claverdon's Parish Clerk, Ken Flood, by email: clerk@claverdon-pc.gov.uk or by post: Eastcote Cottage, Barston Lane, Barston, Solihull, B92 0JJ.

Claverdon's Parish Website can be found at: <https://claverdon-pc.gov.uk>

Clr Claire Hammond



QUIZ NIGHT

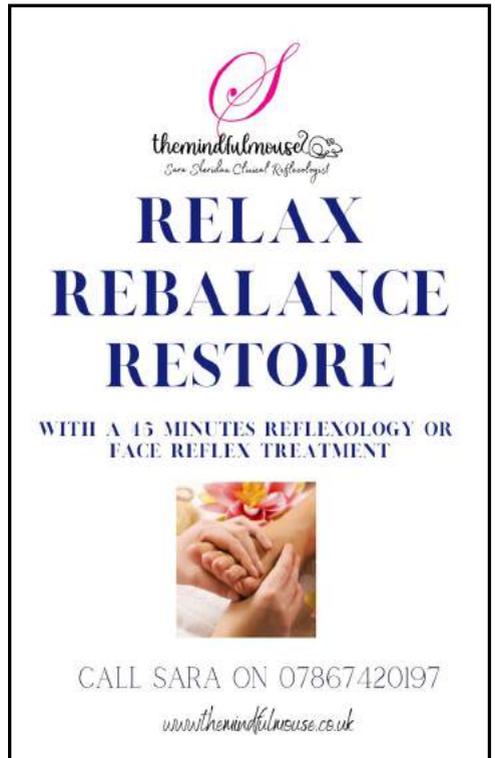
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	Meno Moves with Marsha	11:00am - 12:00pm
	Chair Fit With Marsha	12:00pm - 12:55pm
	Monday Club Fortnightly	2:30pm - 4:00pm
Tue:	Arty Splats with Eleanor	9:00am - 12:00pm
	Move it or Lose it with Lesley	2:15pm - 3:15pm
	Private Dance lessons (by appt.)	5:00pm - 6:00pm
Wed:	Pilates with Leigh	9:30am - 10:30am
	Line Dancing with Tony	2:00pm - 4:00pm
	Pilates with Jennie	6:30pm - 7:30pm
Thu:	Yoga With Ren	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Fri fortnightly:	Tea Dance	1:30pm - 4:30pm
3rd Tue	Claverdon Gardening Group Mthly	7:30pm - 9:00pm
Last Thu:	Flower Arranging with Jo	2:00pm - 4:00pm

Activities subject to change, check for updates on Notice Board

PHONE MARK ON 07398 244781 FOR HALL QUERIES

We're still looking for parishioners who want to become trustees.

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If you thought you saw a UFO flying over the hall on April 18th don't be alarmed – it was simply a drone carrying out a roof survey!



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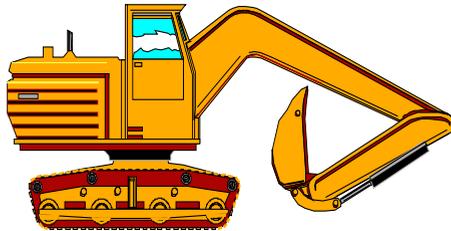
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Vans broken into at local pubs:

I hadn't seen any local incidents of crime reported for some time on official police reports but am aware that, at the end of March, a van was broken into at a pub car park in Shrewley then, minutes later, the windows of a farmer's truck were smashed in at a pub car park in Claverdon and tools stolen. Vans and trucks are targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. Stickers are available stating no tools left inside but, if you have to leave tools in, it's a good idea to hide them from sight. You can take photographs of items of value, make a note of the serial numbers, log them online at a property register site, write your name/postcode on them with paint pens or other property marking systems. A number of security rated products are also available such as lockable cabinets or small cameras to record inside vehicles. Details at www.securedbydesign.com

Car Parking Scam using fake QR codes:

The April edition of "Our News" - the monthly newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch members – included reports of scammers placing fake QR codes on parking meters, which lead unsuspecting drivers to unauthorised payment sites where they are prompted to input their personal and financial information. Tips to avoid falling victim to these scams were provided, including looking for signs of tampering or irregularities, such as scratches or tear marks on the QR code. To receive these newsletters and other tips join Claverdon's Neighbourhood Watch scheme at: www.ourwatch.org.uk

Claverdon Action Against Speeding:

As reported here last month, Steve Lister and Cllr Duncan Parker met with Johnsons Coaches and Adams Bulk Haulage to request that they reduce the speed of their vehicles as they travel through Claverdon. They generously agreed to introduce initiatives to achieve this aim. Early April, Johnsons dropped off around 20 of their drivers in the village for a walk alongside a section of the road to help them appreciate how dangerous it can be for pedestrians. Well done, Johnsons!



Les Edwards - Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator / CASE Secretary

ARGUS CYCLE TOUR

The Argus Cycle Tour, the biggest timed annual cycle race in the world, took place in Cape Town on Sunday 10th March. Among the thirty thousand competitors taking part were four former Claverdon 'not so young' men - Ian Whittington, Simon Waterworth, Nigel Wilkins and Jimmy Cater. Giving wholehearted support were three pals also with strong Claverdon connections - Simon Carr (Angela Wegerdt's eldest son), Andy Waterworth and John Altham. John had intended to take part but due to bike problems withdrew gracefully. Not accompanying the friends was Angela's other son, James, whose bike Jim rode in the race.

All four completed the race and were awarded their medals, Jim receiving two as he had taken part in the Argus ten times. It was not the first time the friends had met for the Argus and, as in the past, celebrations followed!

'The most beautiful bike race in the world' of forty two kilometres circles the Cape Peninsular finishing in the shadow of Table Mountain. It follows a course of many gruelling challenges with very little time to admire the stunning coastal scenery.

All seven friends closely maintain their connections with Claverdon. As many local people will know, Andy and Simon Waterworth remain living close to Claverdon, Ian and Nigel live in Stratford and John is based in Warwick. Simon and Jim live near Knysna on South Africa's Garden Route. They all returned to Knysna where the English visitors spent another active week on holiday, including motor cycling into the mountains.



CLAVERDON GARDENING GROUP

Well our very wonderful Chris Duckworth is unable to complete the Claverdon Gardening Group's monthly newsletter to you all, so you have me this month, and may I introduce myself. I am Trish Willetts, the Events Co-Ordinator for the Group and I am absolutely delighted to be here sharing this month's details.

As I sit at my office desk looking out the window, I have to say I am not impressed with the weather...one minute it's sunny the next minute it is raining – they say it is good for the garden, but I am really not sure about that. I am ready to get my gardening shoes on and out in the country air, but do we put those seeds out yet or wait? As a famous brand once said – JUST DO IT! I pray that the frosts are all behind us, as I look into the greenhouse and see all of the seeds that I have planted eyeing up the sun through the glass. They all sit eager to come out and show off as they have germinated so well.

Easter has passed in the blink of an eye and the tree blossoms, magnolias and forget-me-nots are all smiling at us from our gardens. I really do love this time of year as our gardens wake from the cold and put on the BEST show for us, don't you think?

Well I am delighted to let you know that the next meeting of the Claverdon Gardening Group is Tuesday 21st May at 7.30pm at the Dorothea Mitchell Hall, and we are overjoyed to have Steve Ballinger as our Guest Speaker. Steve will be carrying out a Demo of putting together a Hanging Basket, which is always a popular event.

The Claverdon Gardening Group look forward to seeing you all there – and so do !!

Happy Spring Gardening!



Trish Willetts



CLAVERDON MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club is a friendly, informal get-together for retired people, meeting on alternate Mondays at 2.30 pm at the Dorothea Mitchell Hall, Claverdon. Doors open at 2 pm.

The admission fee is £4, which includes refreshments of tea or coffee and Sue's homemade cakes.

Only one meeting in May

May 13 Mary, Queen of Scots

Gillian White has a unique and most engaging style. In this talk she will explore Queen Mary's remarkable life and the events that led to her execution.

Advance notice of the first meeting in June

June 3 Memories of a Wartime Childhood

In this talk, which will coincide with the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, David Day will recount his personal memories of being evacuated no fewer than three times as a child during the Second World War!

Visitors and new members are always welcome

For further details, please ring 01926 842628

PRESTON BAGOT PARISH MEETING

8pm Thursday 30th May 2024

Art Barn, The Old Vicarage

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For further details:

Adrian Griffiths

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Outdoor Markets

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AND FINALLY

There is an old joke about a sailor who was asked, “Do you like blondes or brunettes?”, to which he simply answered “Yes!” In my working life I was occasionally asked to offer an opinion on early morning radio programmes. The instructions were always that I had to disagree with the other guest. It was never good enough for us even to arrive at similar conclusions from different directions. We simply had to argue with each other. There is apparently no entertainment in agreement.

At theological college my tutor once asked why it was that I could clearly argue both sides of an argument but then apparently find it so hard to come down singularly on one side or the other.

I am invariably conflicted by political choices. What I typically want is some of the policies of one party combined with some of the policies of another party. Brexit was for me a nightmare because it tried to force me to choose between being European or patriotic. I badly wanted to express myself as both. It is ironic to me that the important issues of life are reduced to an “either / or” decision while in a supermarket or a coffee shop we would be deeply disappointed if the only choice we had was between two alternatives.

In short I am inclined to see the world through the lens of ‘both/and’ rather than ‘either/ or’. The mathematician in me sees ‘And’ as meaning add while ‘or’ suggests subtract. It is only ‘and’ that enables synergy (one and one makes three, the sum is bigger than the parts”. ‘Or’ only seems to make real sense when the choices are clearly diametrically opposite to each other (right or wrong, black or white, true or false) which is rarely the choice we are being asked to make.

I think my mind is a bit like the famous Venn diagram that seeks to show graphically the overlapping area of ‘and’ as well as the non-overlapping areas of ‘or’. Political choices, in particular, tend to drive us out of the overlapping circle of common ground into the outer circles of difference.

It took me years to realise that when the Church of England became protestant, it didn’t stop being Catholic. It is both. I have grown to believe that business can both generate wealth and make the world a better place without compromising either goal.

This may all sound a bit wishy washy and an attempt to duck the hard decisions. I simply invite you celebrate the idea of “AND” .

Rev Phil Hanson





GET IN TOUCH WITH THE VILLAGES

Baby and Toddler Group	Parish Office	01926 840100 churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com
Badminton	George Baker	0778 9930549
Bellringers	Jill Roberts	01926 713430
Benefice Housing Association	Louise Peace	07930 687384 / 01926 843440
Church Centre Bookings	Parish Office	01926 843234
Church Floodlighting	David and Heather Howell	01926 843201
Claverdon Art & Craft Group	Jayne Andrews	07753 795595
Claverdon & District Neighbourhood Watch	Les Edwards	01926 843365
Claverdon and District British Legion	Paul Ellwood	01564 784725
Claverdon Community Shop	Mike Rack	01926 843916
Claverdon Cricket Club	Vince Hammond	01926 842691
Claverdon Football Club	Charlie Waterworth	07309 575475
Claverdon Gardening Group	Heather Sharp	hdsharp3@gmail.com
Claverdon Monday Club	Shirley Reading	01926 842628
Claverdon Parish Council	Ken Flood	claverdonpc@gmail.com
Claverdon Rugby Club	Liz Kelsey	07931 220489
Claverdon Quilters	Heather Sharp	01926 842557
Claverdon Primary School	Dan Powell	01926 842403
Claverdon Table Tennis	Gina Graham	01926 842927
Claverdon Tennis Club	Richard Butler	butlerrj01@gmail.com 07368 126148
Community First Responders	Peter Neville	01564 793978
Dorothea Mitchell Hall bookings	Caretaker	07398 244781
Preston Bagot Parish Meeting	Adrian Griffiths	prestonbagotpm@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Henley	David Burman	01926 842451
Scout Group 1 st Bearley and Snitterfield	Sam Smith	01789 731865
Scout Group 1 Henley and Wootton	Graham Mallinson	graham.mallinson@goodrich.com
Stepping Stones Pre-School (age 2 - 5)	Rachel Wild	01926 843353
Stratford District Councillor	Duncan Parker	07745 210097
Claverdon Youth Club	Parish Office	01926 840100 churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com
Warwickshire County Councillor	Ian Shenton	07746 565969
Wolverton Guiding (girls aged 5-14)	Janet Livingston	07752 105457





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