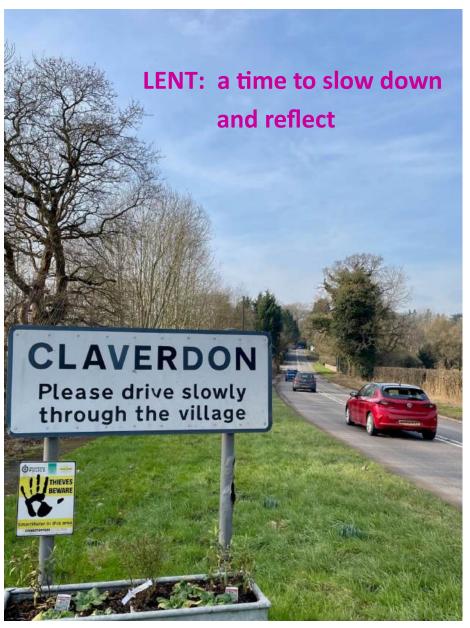
Parish News





March 2025

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CHURCH

www.churchesofarden.org.uk #churchesofarden

Vicar Vacancy

Associate Minister Revd James Holden 07767 321086 Non-stipendiary Minister Revd Phil Hanson 01926 843421 01564 793578 Diocesan Reader Norrie Moore Youth Club Leader **7ara Yousaf** 01926 840100 Parish Secretary & Barbara Lord - churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com 01926 840100

Church Centre enquiries

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.

Claverdon Parochial Church Council

Churchwardens Ionathan Evans 01926 842690

vacancv

Member of Deanery Synod Sue Jacques

Elected Sandra Aitken; Steven Aitken; Ann Anthony; Alison Bird; David

Eastham, Richard Bonsall; Andrea Gardner; Penny Hanson; Ingrid

Moss; Julia Waldron

Co-opted Rev Phil Hanson PCC Minutes Secretary Ann Anthony

PCC Treasurer Richard Bonsall 07989 494451

Jonathan Evans, Jonathan Lucas **Organists**

Parish Safeguarding Officer Iulia Waldron 07557 919206

Preston Bagot Parochial Church Council

Churchwardens **Hugh Carslake** 01926 843023

Margaret Duke maggieduke44@gmail.com

Member of Deanery Synod **Hugh Carslake**

Elected Tony Belcher; Ros Belcher; Joy Cater; Pam Clark; Sheila Goudge;

Anne Perrin; Graham Coombs, Janet Masters

Ex-officio Norrie Moore 01564 793578 Anne Perrin 01926 842638

PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer Vacant

Organists Jonathan Lucas; Guy Pardo; Ingrid Moss

Parish News Editorial Team

Steve Aitken, Richard Bonsall, Jonathan Evans and Ingrid Moss

Advertising enquiries to Richard Bonsall (07989 494451, richard.bonsall7@btconnect.com)

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

(parishnewseditor99@gmail.com)



SLOWING DOWN FOR LENT

The clamour has certainly been growing in Claverdon for the means to get drivers passing through our village to slow down - see the report on p38 of Steve Lister's commendable efforts to persuade the politicians to listen and help us. Let's hope we see some action very soon.

While we want others to slow down, perhaps we should install calming measures in our own lives to get us to slow down, to breathe and to appreciate more of the world around us. We are a species that increasingly seems to rush through everything, and then complain that time flies.

The season of Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday on 5 March, gives us an opportunity to adjust our speed limiters. To find time to read a book, to go on an Alpha course, to walk in the country, to do something which contrasts with the hurly-burly of 21st century living. To lift our eyes, and perhaps see new glimpses of the glory of God's creation. For Christians Lent is certainly a go-slow time, to reflect and prepare before the celebrations of Easter.

'Lent' is an interesting word. It is thought to have at least two roots - one stemming from the Old English *lencten*, meaning springtime, the time when days lengthen; the other from the Latin *lente*, which means slowly.

Let's make time to slow down!

Jonathan

A few of you spotted the error in the 2025 formula in last month's printed edition of Parish News. Full marks to those who realised it is sum of the cubes, not the squares, of the numbers from 1 to 9 that add up to 2025. Even more amazing really!

The Churches of Arden remain in a period of 'interregnum'. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils are working with representatives of the Alcester Deanery and Coventry Diocese to run a selection process for a new Minister for our four parishes. We hope that come April, we will have something to report.

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 taking services for us, alongside our band of lay leaders and visiting clergy.

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



CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

Everyone is welcome to all and any of these services!

Date	Church	Time	Service
2 March	Preston Bagot Wootton Wawen Aston Cantlow Claverdon	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Café Church Morning Prayer Family Service
5 March Ash Wednesday	Wootton Wawen Claverdon	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
9 March	Preston Bagot Wootton Wawen Aston Cantlow Claverdon	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion Morning Praise with coffee Holy Communion
16 March	Wootton Wawen Aston Cantlow Claverdon Church Centre	11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Morning Praise Bible Café
23 March	Preston Bagot Wootton Wawen Aston Cantlow Claverdon	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion
30 March Mothering Sunday	Wootton Wawen Aston Cantlow Claverdon	11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Mothering Sunday Services

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

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 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).



FOR THE RECORD

Funerals at Claverdon Church:

on 18^{th} February, funeral service for **Edna Burgess** followed by committal at Oakley Wood Crematorium

on 25th February, funeral service for **David Howell** followed by committal at Oakley Wood Crematorium

on 26th February the burial of ashes of **Sheila Clarke**.

Welcome

A very warm welcome to newcomers to Claverdon!

Melanie and John Suthons-Hart at Butcher's Cottage and Angela Brown.

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 or leycroft@btinternet.com

CELEBRATE WITH LIGHT!

Claverdon Church's low energy floodlights can be lit to commemorate anniversaries, birthdays or special events. Ask our Parish Secretary Barbara Lord for more details or to book - 01926 840100, or churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com



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*.

Contributions to production costs, or the Church generally, are always welcome and can be left in the Community Shop, or put in an envelope marked "magazine" in the wall box inside the church door; or donated online: Claverdon PCC; 30-98-26; 01963806 with reference "magazine donation". Many thanks.





SIX YEARLY REVISION OF CLAVERDON AND PRESTON BAGOT CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLLS

All parish churches revise their electoral rolls annually, but every six years there is a requirement to cancel the old roll and create a new one, using only the names of people who re-register or who apply to go on the electoral roll for the first time. The last new electoral roll was drawn up in 2019 and so you are now invited to re-register your membership.

Even if your name has been on the previous roll you DO STILL NEED to reregister to be included, as inclusion is not automatic, and of course anyone who has not previously registered can also apply during this period. All you have to do is to fill out an application for enrolment form, which you will find at the back of the church. Copies will also be available from house group leaders (Claverdon) or Hugh Carslake (Preston Bagot).

Applications can be made until Monday 31 March at the latest.

Lynne Wilcox Electoral Roll Officer - Claverdon
Hugh Carslake Electoral Roll Officer - Preston Bagot



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JENNIFER ANNE ROSAMUND FARRELL 1936-2025

Jenny Farrell was loved and respected in Preston Bagot, Claverdon, Wootton and much farther afield. This was evident at her Memorial Service in the packed church of St Peter's on 13th January when her son David paid tribute to Jenny describing her long and remarkable life. He has kindly written this tribute for Parish News.

Jennifer Farrell (née Prosser) remained closely connected to her cherished Warwickshire and Solihull throughout her 89 remarkable and fulfilling years. Born and raised in Lady Byron Lane, Solihull, Jenny's early life was spent there before her family moved to Packwood. On 6th March, 1965, she married Michael (Mike) Farrell, and together they began their



married life in Langley. After a brief stay there, Jenny and Michael settled in Preston Hill, Wootton Wawen, where they spent their remaining married life raising their three children—daughters Vickie and Tessa, and son David. In her final months, Jenny returned to Solihull to be cared for at Birchmere Mews Care Home.

Having moved to Preston Hill in October 1971, Jenny became deeply involved in Preston Bagot Church and dedicated herself to numerous charitable causes. Over time, her belief in the importance of giving back grew ever stronger, and charity work became central to her life. She firmly believed that contributing to one's community was vital for building a better society for all.

Jenny's charitable involvement was vast and varied, spanning an incredible array of causes. Among those she supported were Riding for the Disabled, the cancer unit at Warwick Hospital, the eye and cancer hospital in Stratford, The Children's Society, The Shakespeare Institute, the NSPCC, Teenage Cancer Trust, Get Ahead, The Wagen Trust, and countless others. From collecting used stamps and plastic bottle tops to selling Christmas cards, bagging groceries at Tesco, and hosting events like coffee mornings,



dinner parties, and barbecues, Jenny's fundraising efforts knew no bounds. She organised large-scale events, including performances attended by The Royal Family and at the Birmingham Hippodrome and Stratford Theatre, featuring stars like Jasper Carrott, Bob Monkhouse, Rowan Atkinson, Judi Dench, Robert Hardy. It was Jenny's infectious energy, her unwavering commitment to whatever task needed doing, and her gentle persuasive skills that made these efforts successful.

One of Jenny's most significant achievements was "The Holly and the Ivy," a fundraising event she hosted annually for 20 years at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. In partnership with David and Ali Troughton, the event featured performances by numerous well-known actors and a choir, becoming a beloved start to the Christmas season for many in Warwickshire.

Jenny's dedication to charity was formally recognised in 1998 when she was awarded an MBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. She was also appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire and received the Vice-Chancellor's Medal from the University of Birmingham in 1995. Other honours included the Stratford-upon-Avon Mayor's Award in 2017 for her work with the League of Friends at Stratford Hospital and being named Warwickshire's Woman of the Year in 1995. Jenny, however, never sought recognition, and countless other acts of charity, while invaluable to those they helped, went largely unreported.

In her final year, Jenny faced multiple illnesses and numerous hospital visits. It was a challenging time for her, her family, and her friends. She was laid to rest beside her beloved husband Mike, who had passed away on 7th November 2016. Their final resting place at Preston Bagot Church, where she had been an active member of the congregation for about 50 years and where her two daughters were married, serves as a reminder of their enduring love for their family, friends, and community.

A quote that encapsulates Jenny's spirit is:

"Walk behind me; I will lead. Walk in front of me; I will support you. Walk beside me and be my friend."

Jenny's family and friends are deeply thankful for the special years they shared with her—her boundless generosity, her unwavering love for life, and her selfless commitment to others. For all this, they give thanks to God for the privilege of knowing her and being part of her remarkable life.



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

More adventures of the furry marmalade addict!

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)

Starring Hugh Bonneville, Ben Whishaw, Emily Mortimer, Olivia Colman, Antonio Banderas, Julie Walters, Imelda Staunton

When Paddington discovers his beloved aunt has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her.....

A richly coloured adventure full of sprightliness, spectacle and fun!

Claverdon Church Centre
Friday 21 March at 7.30 pm
Tickets £5.00 on the door doors open 7.00 pm
Bar and refreshments available



LIVE AND LOCAL AT THE CHURCH CENTRE!

The Church Centre was full on Friday 31 January for a great village evening with 'Filkin's Drift' - an engaging violin and guitar duo. Much enjoyed by everyone there – and many thanks to the team who helped to raise £450 for the Church Centre.

The performance couldn't have taken place without the stage blocks – so very many thanks indeed to Phil Stoakes and Peter Morgan (right) who meticulously renovated and repainted them during the autumn. Everyone at the Church Centre is very grateful indeed!





Toddlers, Pre Schoolers and all Primary school children - and their parents and carers - are warmly invited to enjoy a.......

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL 10.00 am-11.30 am CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE

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THE MONTHLY HMM...

SIN OR SEDUCTION?

One of the joys of my new job at Warwick School has been the opportunity to attend special monthly talks under the splendid title: 'Encounters'. However, the talk to tie in with International Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January, the anniversary of the Red Army's liberation of survivors at Auschwitz -Birkenau in 1945) was far from joyful. Appalling, shocking and insightful yes, but far removed from joyful.

You see the chosen 'Encounter' was with Gunter Niethammer, aka 'The Birdman of Auschwitz. Ornithologist and historian Nicholas Milton based his presentation on his newly published biography* of Niethammer whom he describes as the 'ornithologist seduced by the Nazis'.

Milton set the scene vividly. He established Niethammer's impressive ornithological pedigree - one of the finest ornithologists of his generation with numerous bird subspecies named in his memory.

He established how Niethammer had volunteered to serve at Auschwitz as a guard who was also given special tasks by the infamous commandant Rudolf Höss: he shot game for him and surveyed the bird life of the area which was rich and varied. Indeed, the Soviet liberators discovered Niethammer's personal note of thanks to Höss for the help he'd given to his studies. Of course Milton also had to remind us of the mind-blowing scale of the crimes that took place at Auschwitz before attempting his verdict on Niethammer - wicked collaborator in genocide or a naïve scientist seduced by evil?

My advice would be to read the book for yourself and draw your own conclusions as I have mine. For sure though, as we enter the penitential season of Lent we would all benefit from contemplating the Collect for the Fourth Sunday before Lent. This prescient prayer recognises that we are all beset by great dangers and that due to the frailty of our human nature we cannot always stand upright and need God's help and protection to withstand danger and temptation.

This is not an attempt to absolve Niethammer. Far from it. Just a recognition of human nature. In his obituary in Ibis (the journal of the British Ornithological Union) Niethammer was said to be charming, hospitable and brilliant....

And yet he had assisted in the murder of two-thirds of Europe's Jews whilst he enjoyed birdwatching.

Rev James



^{*} The Birdman of Auschwitz, by Nicholas Milton, Pen & Sword Books

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WARWICKSHIRE HEDGEHOG RESCUE UPDATE

Last year the Rescue received over 800 hedgehogs with our small group working very hard to save as many as possible. A worrying trend was that more people than usual were keeping a hedgehog for up to five days trying to look after it themselves before realising that it wasn't working; then taking it to one of our carers, by which time it was too late to save the hedgehog.

We have a strict routine to follow on receiving a new patient. Every hedgehog is put on a gentle heat pad, they are always extremely cold and very stressed and need to be in direct contact with warmth, a warm room is not enough. If found during the Summer, the hedgehog needs to be thoroughly checked for fly eggs; if fly eggs are found, a spray on the back will stop them hatching. Maggots will hatch in a matter of hours and are often hidden around the tummy where it is moist, if the hedgehog is curled up, they cannot be seen. That is why it is vital to receive a hedgehog as soon as possible. Once the hedgehog is warm it will begin to relax, it will then be given a tepid injection of sterile fluid, a sick hedgehog is always dehydrated and will not eat or drink at this stage. A variety of food and water is put within reach to see if the hedgehog will eat, if not then hand feeding will commence and continue throughout the day plus more fluids until the hedgehog starts to pick up. Any faeces will be studied to determine what internal parasites the hedgehog has, and the correct medication administered. Once a hedgehog is warm it will spread out with the front feet stretched out in front and the back feet stretched out behind so that the whole tummy is in contact with the warmth.

More hedgehog nests were disturbed by dogs last year; meaning mothers with hoglets had to be taken to a Carer. If a dog attacks a hedgehog, it should be taken to a Carer to make sure there are no injuries. There were more horrible constriction injuries from plastic rings and netting left lying about plus the usual strimmer wounds. With pain relief medication and a lot of care from us and sometimes help from our Veterinary Practice we can save most of the hedgehogs from these dreadful injuries; but it is a shame that they happen in the first place. Anyone finding a hedgehog during the day please contact me on 01926 843043 or contact the website Warwickshireshedgehogrescue.org to find the list of Carers.

A big thank you to all the people who have been dropping off newspapers to me, I am very grateful for them.

Línda Clements



ADVANCED NOTICE OF RESTORATION AND CLEARANCE WORK ON YARNINGALE COMMON

Issued by: Friends Of Yarningale Common (FoYC)

1st February 2025

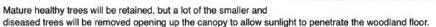
Work will shortly commence on major clearance of an area of scrubland and woodland on Yarningale Common.

What is happening?

The work will be carried out in conjunction with the Warwickshire County ecologist and in line with the latest Biodiversity Management Plan.

The work will address decades of neglect. It will initially appear severe, but as with previous clearance work on Ossetts Hole Lane, we are hoping that the benefits will become clearly visible over time.

It will involve removal of some of the huge buildup of dead trees, brambles and debris that has accumulated over many years with the aim to reduce risks to the public and road users.



In line with the Biodiversity Management Plan, a lot of the deadwood will be retained on the Common to create wildlife habitat.



The work aims to promote suitable conditions for a wider range of native species to thrive and possibly encourage regeneration of species such as gorse and heathers that used to grow prolifically on the Common. It will also reduce and limit the dominance of invasive and non-native species such as laurel and holly.

The overall goal for this work is to continue the regeneration of this beautiful and unique Common for future generations.

Who will be doing the work and when?

The work will be undertaken by specialist contractors during February, ahead of the bird nesting season and subject to weather conditions. Exact dates for the work to be undertaken will be confirmed in due course.

The contractor will be adopting full health and safety measures, which may result in some disruption along Yarningale Lane and temporary closure of some of the nearby paths. Advance notice will be given of any planned disruption/closures to residents impacted by the works.

How can I find out more?

Please refer to noticeboards and the Claverdon Parish Council website for further announcements and the full ecology report (Biodiversity Management Plan).

General Information

The work being undertaken on the Common is very similar to the project led by Sandi Toksvig on the Channel 4 TV programme – 'Great-British-Woodland-Restoration' which is currently available to watch on Channel4.

Email: fofyc@hotmail.com



DEREK HOLDING 1942 - 2024

"There is much to be admired and be thankful for in Derek's life: his sense of family, his all round abilities at sport and music and his business accomplishments."

The words of Revd Phil Hanson in his reflection at the Thanksgiving Service for Derek. Phil added "and his remarkable smile". The smile was Derek's greeting for so many people round the village and familiar to his family, his sports friends and former colleagues who filled Claverdon Church on 27th January. Phil went on to say that as well



as Derek's natural talents he was blessed with the special gifts of discernment, wisdom, common sense and a genuine pleasure in the achievements of others. He was an enormous support to Rosemary's ministry in the church, gave practical assistance but never sought the limelight.

Derek grew up in Preston, part of a large extended family and with a love of music and singing. After university and over the years he worked for GEC, TI, Massey Ferguson and latterly Grant Thornton as Human Resources Director. He met Rosemary in 1966 and they came to live in Claverdon with their young sons, John and David in 1970. They became involved in village life and with Derek's talent at sport he became a popular member of the Cricket and the Tennis Clubs as well as an enthusiastic golfer.

Music was a source of pleasure and fascination, mostly classical and including church music. Together with Rosemary, Derek was a great admirer of *Armonico Consort* and they had sponsored the recent choral performance at St Mary's Church, Warwick which Rosemary attended and which featured the choral music genre described as polyphonic. Derek's love of music was reflected in the services at Oakley Wood and at Claverdon. Also touched on was his liking for Shakespeare when Judith Wylie read from The Tempest: *'Our revels now are ended.......'* and the final line *'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep'*.



In his heartfelt tribute to his father, John spoke of him as a truly remarkable man: kind, generous, resourceful and fair and someone who made simple moments joyful. He had a brilliant sense of humour and John recalled a teasing comment addressed to him: 'Are you running a bath or trying to float the Titanic?' Not just laughter but love defined him. Love for Rosemary, his family, friends, community, his garden and the Arts. He was an avid reader, keen bridge player and enjoyed the daily crossword. John remembered holidays and travelling but his Dad wasn't a fan of maps or a satnav. Instead he preferred the 'moon and stars' navigational approach. John sees his father's influence everywhere: trying to help others, kindness, the joy of simple pleasures, bringing love into everything he did, supportive, willing to help.

Derek felt a great love for the village in which he had played a very active part for fifty five years. His illness and passing away was a great sadness for everyone who knew him and deepest sympathy is extended to Rosemary and John.

In this life we have three great lasting qualities - faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13

Rosemary and John Holding would like to say a huge "thank you" to all those who sent cards and flowers, who came to Derek's Thanksgiving Service and who donated so generously to the Shakespeare Hospice in his memory. Such a great well of support has sustained us through the difficult weeks and we are very grateful to you all.

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Spring has definitely sprung as we returned to the Church Centre following our half term break. With wonderful stories of day trips to Legoland or skiing down snowy mountains, everyone had memories to share and new experiences were celebrated in their WOW moments during group time with their peers.



Trying new foods like cheese Fondue to Pastel de nata, being brave trying the higher water slides or splashing in the bigger, muddier puddle. Celebrating the children's experiences is so important in supporting their self-confidence and self-esteem. Valuing these achievements fosters a great sense of accomplishment and promotes the importance of resilience, determination and a growing sense of achievement.

Planting and caring for our spring bulbs in our pots and raised beds has also provided us with an enormous sense of achievement as the resilient and persistent tiny green shoots have indulged us with their magnificent fragrance and colour. Walking a little further afield continues to offer the perfect outdoor classroom, as we explore the village on our 'listening walks', experiencing real opportunities to observe lifecycles. From sticky buds to pink cherry blossom, frog spawn to froglets, lambs to ewes, cocoons to caterpillars. These observations and experiences provide a deeper understanding of how life cycles operate in the natural world, right on our very own door step.

The children were, as ever, keen to water the plants for their continued welfare. Our Daffodils, grown in readiness for St. David's Day, will see the children's learning centred around all things Welsh, including leeks and traditional Welsh costume and making their own Welsh cakes is always a celebration we look forward to.

World book day is another exciting week at Stepping Stones. We are very fortunate in our community to have lots of people who are willing to volunteer, sharing their enjoyment of books and generously their time to visit the children and share their favourite stories. The children enjoy experiencing an array of genres, accents and different languages. It's always fascinating to observe how quickly children pick up and enjoy using new words from another language.

Our listening walks continue as we visit Claverdon church, enjoying its rich platform for exploration and adventure, new environments and interacting with members of the wider community. These valuable opportunities are a great way for the children to get to know those who might be less familiar to them and develop interest in the roles of others, creating positive relationships with people from other communities.

Thank you to all our committee members and community helpers for your continued support for Stepping Stones. Without your support our Nursery and Preschool would not be able to thrive as a registered charity and a not for profit organisation. Our particular thanks go to the Church Centre for their ongoing support and for allowing us to continue to rent their wonderful facilities.



RENEWABLE ENERGY MEETING 1st April 2025

Talk to the E.ON Experts

Curious about green-home heating solutions, air source heat pumps, Government grants or energy efficient home energy solutions in general? Join us at our upcoming community event to have all your questions answered in person. Don't miss out, come and learn more!

Get personalised advice on the best options for your home, how to save money on heating bills and reduce your environmental impact. Plus, enjoy complimentary tea and biscuits on us!

Hear about Claverdon homes running Heat Pumps

Have a chat with fellow parishioners who have already moved away from Oil Boilers and replaced them with Heat Pumps. Ask them about their experience eg Does a Heat Pump keep the house warm enough? Is it expensive to run?

Learn about Claverdon's energy challenges and how to get help

Data indicates that Claverdon is below the national average when measured in terms of our homes' Energy Performance Certificates. This is largely due to our use of Oil and LPG boilers and the age of many of the properties. As E.ON will demonstrate, there are solutions out there. There are also government subsidies and grant support that has had little take-up in the past, but are slowly being withdrawn. Don't miss out on support you may be entitled to.

Find out about the Claverdon Community Solar Project

Members of CHARGE CLAVERDON CIC and the Parish Council will be on hand to explain the current plans for Community Solar and the tremendous benefits this aims to deliver to the community.

Venue: Claverdon Church Centre

Church Road, Claverdon, CV35 8PD.

Date: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Time: Call in any time between 4pm until 8pm

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more and get involved!

Email: chargecic@gmail.com





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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 krystlejaynedance@gmail.com
Badminton	Monday in term time 8.00 -9.30pm	Julie Blake otservicesgb@gmail.com
Parish Council	Mondays or Tuesdays as scheduled by the PC	Ken Flood clerk@claverdon-pc.gov.uk
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
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

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE

Anyone wishing to enquire about booking the Church Centre, or to make a booking, please contact the Parish Office on 01926 840100, or e-mail churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com



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Claverdon Church Centre

Church Road

Claverdon

Warwick CV35 8PD

Scan the QR code and head for the enquiry form or call 01926 840100





Come along to a fun quiz night!



SATURDAY 15 MARCH 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm start CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE

Teams of 6 or join a team on the night
Supper of baked potatoes & toppings – and ice creams
Cash for the bar and raffle, please!

Tickets £10.00

Reserve the date in your diary and get tickets from

Sue Jacques - 01564 795621, sujacques@hotmail.com

Sarah Breen - sbreen@talk21.com

Gill Evans - 01926 842690, leycroft@btinternet.com

Pat Farmer - 01926 843171

Proceeds to the Addington Fund, a specialist farming and rural charity helping farming families in times of need



Thursday 8 May – Claverdon remembers: bells, church service, unveiling of a new plaque to commemorate the fallen, beacon lighting and hopefully fireworks*

Friday 9 May - Claverdon recognises: 'Lest We Forget' exhibition in church all day (discover more about men from Claverdon who have gave their lives in conflicts) plus 'Voices of the Children'**, reflecting on VE Day 80 with visits from the school and nurseries

Saturday 10 May: Claverdon celebrates:

<u>At Church</u>: exhibition all day, quiz and remembrance display board for children**, VE Day 80 cake competition (winners announced at 3.30 pm), tea and cakes served in the afternoon

At the Church Centre: 3.15 arrival for a 3.30 pm start a Children's 1945-style Street Party and street games. This is a free ticketed event for children from 3 -13 years old accompanied by parents/guardians. Bring your own chairs! (Details to apply for tickets will be in the April *Parish News*)

<u>At the Glebe Field</u>: 4.15 the bells ring out and everyone from the Church and Church Centre joins in celebration with the Claverdon Conga! – and children's games to follow on the Field!!

- * Many of our past events have included a glorious fireworks display at Park Farm. These cost several hundred £s, and we need funding for this to take place again. If you would like to sponsor a firework display to light up the village please get in touch with Gill Evans on 01926 842690.
- **Voices of the Children children are invited to bring a poem, a poppy or a picture to decorate a display board and window and do a quiz while they are in church. On Saturday there's also the opportunity to colour a poppy and add their thoughts from the quiz to the board.



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STREAMS BREAKFAST - "THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE"

Saturday 22nd March 9am-10.30am Rev Anne Hibbert will lead and speak. Cost £7 per person. Booking necessary.

QUIET MORNING - "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

Thursday 27th March 10am - 1pm, led by Rev Anne Hibbert. A Lenten Quiet Morning to help us in our Lenten musings and prepare us to celebrate Easter afresh. Cost £15. Please register.

ENCOUNTER EVENING

Friday 28th March 7.30 pm - 9 pm An evening spending time in the presence of God through worship, meditation and reflection. Please register.

Visit wellhealing.org for details of more events

Come and Be

Every Thursday morning 10am to 12pm

Cuppa & Cake

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FOR YOUR DIARY - Soup lunch on Tuesday lunchtime 15 April at Claverdon Church Centre

Speaker Rev Anne Hibbert from the Well. Proceeds to The Well.

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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 cakes.

March 3: Alison Hoddell - Lest We Forget

A talk about Alison's recent project researching the stories of those Claverdon residents who died for their country during military conflicts from World War 1 onwards.



March 17: Sheila Woolf - Sir Henry Parkes

The remarkable story of the son of a poor tenant farmer from Warwickshire, who emigrated to Australia in 1839 in search of gold, and became Premier of New South Wales.



Visitors and new members are always welcome For further details, please ring 01926 842628



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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Change Coming to Warwickshire Local Government

Last month I explained that government has mandated changes to the way local government works, combining District and County Councils to make Unitary Authorities. Warwickshire County Council applied to be in the first wave of councils to convert but was fortunately not selected. This clears the way for County Council elections to proceed on May 1st.

This is a key election for residents of Claverdon and Preston Bagot. Active participation in the electoral process is more important than ever, as the representatives we elect will play a pivotal role in advocating for our community's needs through services provided by the County Council. These include taking up the speeding issues in Claverdon and working to retain Henley fire station and the fire service we were promised. Other issues that I know are of concern to residents that are also covered by your County Councillor are flooding, the primary school and adult social care. This is why May's election is so important.

Last month I touched on the fact that the Government Bill also requires the new Unitary Authority to group together with other unitary authorities to create 'Strategic Authorities' with a population of around 1,500,000. It is the need to create the Strategic Authority that makes creating the Warwickshire Unitary Authority not such a great idea. The North of Warwickshire, like Nuneaton is very different from the South like Stratford and Warwick. The North is more urban and has strong ties with Coventry so would more naturally join with Staffordshire or Leicestershire. In the south we have stronger ties to Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. This has led to a view that Warwickshire should split into two unitary authorities with Stratford and Warwick in the South and Rugby, Nuneaton and North Warks in the North. For the moment all options are being examined.

To make sure your voice is heard please make sure you are registered to vote.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) – Preferred Options Consultation

This consultation comes to an end on the 7th March – Please have your say by going to https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/148. You will need to register, and the process is quite detailed, but don't be put off. The online consultation allows you to read and comment on the planning policies that will govern development in Claverdon and Preston Bagot over the next 25 years.



The consultation also seeks your views on substantially growing communities such as Bearley and Hatton Station to meet the housing numbers required by government. Historically, housing growth has been delivered by dotting housing estates on the sides of villages and towns. These developments bring little money for new infrastructure and are predominantly car dependent. Focusing development in a few areas creates more money for infrastructure allowing shops, a doctor's surgery, a school and other facilities to be included. The plan is for these communities to have facilities within a 20-minute walk encouraging active travel and reducing car dependency. The plan brings forward many more Strategic Growth areas than will be needed, so many will not make the next consultation.

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

Duncan Parker

Duncan.Parker@stratford-dc.gov.uk; 07745 210097

DOROTHEA MITCHELL HALL

Schedule of regular classes

Mon:	Baby & Toddler Group	9:00am - 10:45am
IVIOII.	•	
	Monday Club (3/3, 17/3)	2:30pm - 4:00pm
	Fitness Class with Calvin Lynch	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tue:	Arty Splats with Eleanor	9:00am - 12:00pm
	Move it or Lose it with Lesley	2:15pm - 3:15pm
3 rd Tue	Clav' Gardening Group (18/3)	7:30pm - 9:00pm
Wed:	Pilates with Leigh	9:30am - 10:30am
	Line Dancing with Tony	2:00pm - 4:00pm
	Pilates with Jennie	6:30pm - 7:30pm
Thu:	Quilting with Heather (6/3)	1:30pm - 3:30pm
	Sewing with Heather (20/3)	10.00am - 3.00pm
	Yoga for 11-16 yr olds With Ren	5:30pm - 6:30pm
	Adult Yoga With Ren	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Last Thu	: Flower Arranging with Jo (27/3)	2:00pm - 4:00pm

Note important Theatre date - 31st May!

Auntie Jen Productions will be performing Oscar Wilde's classic *Lady Windermere's Fan* at the DM Hall commencing 7pm. Tickets: £12 Adults, £10 concessions.

Tea Dance (7/3, + Sunday 23/3)





Fri:

www.claverdon-pc.gov.uk



Claverdon Parish Council meets every other month at Claverdon Church Centre at 7:00pm. Please find below a list of dates for our 2025 public meetings and all parishioners are very welcome to attend.

NOTICE OF 2025 PUBLIC MEETINGS

24th March / 20th May / 21st July / 22nd September / 24th November

Please note there may sometimes be the need to alter the dates, due to Councillor availability, so please check the website before attending to confirm the date of the next meeting – www.claverdon-pc.gov.uk

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Becky Muller as a new member of the parish council. Becky will be a huge asset to the council team, and we look forward to working alongside her.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Our fresh-looking website now contains lots of useful information, such as meeting agendas and minutes, councillor reports, Stratford District and Warwickshire County Council information, Friends of Yarningale Common updates, Community Solar and our new Claverdon Directory.

We encourage residents to reach out to us if you have a concern or issues you would like the council to address.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Parish Council Clerk – Ken Flood. Email. clerk@claverdon-pc.gov.uk Tel. 07946 423435



CLAVERDON CRICKET CLUB

Cricket season planning is well under way now, with spring just round the corner.

2025 is a big year for the club - founded in 1875, this is our 150th anniversary year! We're planning to host a village match open to all as part of the celebrations, likely to be in June, date and details to be confirmed.



More generally, pre-season indoor training runs through March and April as follows:

- School Years 4-6 at Aylesford School on Friday evenings,
- men's and women's teams, at North Leamington School on Sunday afternoons.

All welcome - past players and newcomers, for taster sessions and regular players alike. If further information needed please be in touch.

Will update further on season plans in the April edition.

Vínce Hammond 07925 290931



CLAVERDON TENNIS CLUB



Claverdon Tennis Club now has some of the best tennis facilities in the area with its LED court lighting system and new astro turf court surfaces.

The new season starts on 1^{st} April 2025 and it would be great if you could join us. First year annual membership for new families or a single person are £129 and £75 respectively. Juniors over 11 and student membership are only £35 per annum and under 11 years old membership is £18. Please get in touch with Richard Butler at butlerrj01@gmail.com / 07368 126145 for more information.

Non-members resident in the Parish are welcome to play at the Club by paying the visitor fees for Adults £5 and juniors £3.

It will be wonderful to see more of you enjoying the Claverdon courts in 2025.







Jane Ford BSc(Hons) MAR

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CLAVERDON GARDENING GROUP

We enjoyed our evening with our January speaker, Tom Tane. Tom came to see us from his farm near Shipston on Stour where the family have been grafting their own fruit trees for over 50 years, diversifying into walnut trees for the last 10 years.

Growing walnut trees turns out to be a bit of a niche activity in the UK and Tom has become an acknowledged expert in his field. Not only did we learn about processing the walnuts and producing the oils but found Tom has helped a neighbour develop an arboretum that specialises in lesser-known cultivars from around the world. We also learnt a new word – Silvopasture – the integration of trees and livestock on the same land, with Tom describing the benefits of the symbiotic relationship having the trees with the sheep in the orchard virtually all year round. Protecting the trees with guards and discovering that the spacing of the trees is all critical, listening to Tom describe the trials and tribulations that they have encountered over the years, all being delivered with such enthusiasm for his subject, was fascinating.

Our next meeting, which is on the 18th March has Alan Beeley talking about the history of bee-keeping. He is of course bringing along some of his own honey for sale. There is no charge for non-members to come along to their first evening at a Gardening Group talk, and it is now £15 to join for the year. Further on this year we have speakers covering the subjects of Looking after Roses, The Heart of England Forest, Warwickshire Lavender Farm and Caring for House Plants.

A few seasonal jobs for you, tidying up the garden getting ready for warmer days:

- $\sqrt{}$ Remove faded flowers from daffodils but leave the foliage until it has died down
- $\sqrt{}$ Rake over and re-seed worn or bare patches on lawns
- Prune fuchsias and buddleias and other shrubs that flower on the current season's growth to two or three buds from the base
- √ Prune hydrangeas whose flower heads were left for winter display.
- $\sqrt{}$ Prune both shrub and climbing roses .

Chris Duckworth



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CLAVERDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Claverdon, we passionately believe that mental well-being is just as important as physical health, which is why we have been proud to take part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. This links closely to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly Article 13 (the right to express thoughts and feelings) and Article 24 (the right to good mental health and well-being). By exploring these rights, we are helping our children develop the skills to understand and manage their emotions in a supportive environment.



"Mental Health is really important! We always talk about the importance of sharing our worries in school because it helps us calm down and focus on enjoying school!"

This year's theme, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself," has encouraged us to explore our emotions using the well-known Inside Out characters. It has been a fantastic opportunity to build on our classroom discussions about zones of regulation, helping children recognise and express their feelings in a healthy way. Through a range of activities, we have explored what makes each of us unique and how understanding our emotions can help us grow, develop resilience and face challenges with confidence.

Throughout the week, we have engaged in thoughtful discussions and creative activities, focusing on self-awareness and emotional well-being. By learning more about themselves and what helps them feel happy, safe, and calm, they are developing lifelong skills to support their mental health. It has



been wonderful to see our school embracing these important conversations, ensuring that every child feels heard, valued and empowered to grow. A huge thank you to Mrs White for organising this inspiring week!



"I've really enjoyed the week because Mental Health week gives us a bit of a break to refuel! School can be busy sometimes but weeks like this help us pause and reflect!"

CLAVERDON FOOTBALL CLUB

Exciting News: We're Heading to the Birmingham FA County Cup Final!

We are thrilled to announce that our team will face Boldmere St Michael's in the Birmingham FA County Cup Final on Saturday, May 31st at 2pm!



The match will take place at the Birmingham County FA, Ray Hall Lane, Birmingham, B43 6JF, and we need your unwavering support as we strive to lift the trophy!

This is our chance to make history, and we want to see you there, cheering our team on every step of the way. Wear your Claverdon colours, bring your energy and lets make this day one to remember!

Together, we can do this! See you at the game!

Charlie Waterworth

#ClaverdonFC #CupFinal #LetsGoClaverdon





CASE/Neighbourhood Watch March 2025



Claverdon: A Connected Community, A Safer Community

Communication is the lifeblood of a safer community, and in Claverdon, we're harnessing the power of social media to enhance connection and collaboration amongst residents. Building a safer community isn't a solo effort; it requires a collaborative approach, where residents, local authorities, and other stakeholders work together towards a shared vision. Effective communication is the cornerstone of any successful community safety initiative, and we recognize the importance of providing residents with diverse platforms to connect, share information, and mobilize action.

Our network of social media groups exemplifies this collaborative spirit. Here is a list of the different ways we can communicate as a community. "Claverdon Matters" on WhatsApp, with nearly 100 active members, serves as a central hub for discussing a wide range of community concerns. For less urgent matters, the "CASE Chat" group, boasting 164 members, provides a space for ongoing dialogue and information sharing. When it comes to specific issues, we have dedicated groups like "Claverdon Action Against Speeding" with 88 members, focusing on traffic and speeding concerns, and the "CASE Committee" group, enabling direct communication amongst 10 key members on critical issues. For time-sensitive emergencies, the "KEP Emergency Channel," with 178 members, provides a vital platform for reporting suspicious activities and receiving immediate crime updates. Finally, our private Facebook group, "Claverdon Matters," connects a remarkable 4,800 residents, facilitating communication on all aspects of village life.

These diverse channels empower residents to engage, contribute, and stay informed, fostering a stronger, safer Claverdon for everyone. We encourage all residents to utilize these invaluable resources responsibly and respectfully, recognizing their power to connect us and strengthen our community.

Claverdon's Collective Voice: Claverdon Comes Together to Tackle Speeding!

More than 150 Claverdon residents filled the village hall on Saturday, January 18th, demonstrating the community's united front against the persistent and

dangerous issue of speeding. The public meeting, a powerful display of local concern, saw passionate pleas for action from residents, who are increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress in addressing this critical safety concern. The event was attended by members of the Claverdon Parish Council, MP Manuela Perteghella, County Councillor Ian Shenton, and District Councillor Duncan Parker, who heard first-hand the anxieties and frustrations of those living in the village. The presence of BBC Midlands Today, who filmed for their evening bulletin, and the Stratford Herald underscored the significance of the meeting and the widespread concern about the issue.

Residents didn't hold back in expressing their disappointment with the perceived inaction of the County Council and Warwickshire Highways. Many challenged their elected representatives directly, questioning the lack of effective measures to reduce speeding and protect residents, particularly children. The Parish Council commended the articulate and determined manner in which residents communicated their anxieties and shared their experiences with speeding vehicles. The meeting served as a powerful testament to the community's resolve to see real change.

The high-profile nature of the meeting, coupled with the subsequent media coverage on Midlands Today and in the Stratford Herald, has clearly resonated with Warwickshire County Council. Following this increased pressure, the Parish Council has been invited to a meeting with senior executives at Warwickshire Town Hall on Tuesday, February 11th. This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss potential solutions and explore how the County Council can actively support the campaign for safer speeds in Claverdon.

The Parish Council will provide a comprehensive update on the meeting's outcome in the next Parish Council Newsletter and across its social media platforms. The Parish Council extends a huge 'thank you' to all Claverdon residents for their incredible and unwavering support on this vital issue. The strength of community action has clearly made a difference, and the Parish Council remains committed to working tirelessly to ensure the safety of all residents.

Steve Lister Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator



CLAVERDON COMMUNITY SHOP

We are here to serve you open every day of the year except Christmas Day Normal opening hours: 8am - 1pm

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If you have 2½ hours available from time to time you could be a volunteer at the shop. If you think it's something you can help with please pop into the shop or email claverdoncs@gmail.com. You will be made most welcome and we're sure you will enjoy it!

BUS SERVICE TIMES

There is a bus service between Henley and Warwick/Leamington, calling at Claverdon, every Wednesday. For the time table visit www.flexi-bus.co.uk or see the community shop noticeboard.

CLAVERDON MOBILE POST OFFICE

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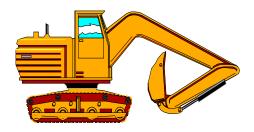
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IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

We were staying overnight at the hotel attached to Tebay services on our way up to Scotland. Because Penny had only recently had knee surgery, I requested a downstairs room which meant staying in the wing reserved for people travelling with dogs. Over breakfast we got into conversation with one of the dog owners who explained that the well-behaved dog at her feet had been a rescue animal but was now 14 years old and beginning to show symptoms of dementia. She was a dog trainer, and she explained that as dogs live longer they can show all sorts of mental health issues in later life. Another dog she had trained had apparently suffered from a canine compulsive behaviour, a sort of doggy OCD. This is possibly more genetic than related to old age.

We have never been dog owners, and these thoughts came as something of a revelation.

The very next day I was reading the Times and there was an article, prompted by a recent book publication, that caught my eye, largely because of this conversation. The book's author had acquired a rescue dog from Romania, and it turned out to have severe anxiety issues, sleeping hidden behind the sofa and unwilling to go outside. A combination of patience, love and a course of prozak had eventually restored some sort of normality in which they could finally take the dog out for walks.

In my lifetime we have become far more alert to, and understanding of, human mental health issues. I similarly don't need much convincing that it isn't just our ageing but also our everyday lifestyles have a significant bearing on our mental health. What had never occurred to me was the thought that domesticated animals that live longer and that share our lifestyles might be similarly affected.

Out of curiosity I googled "mental health insurance for dogs" and I discovered that there are indeed pet policies that include anxiety, aggression, phobias, and separation anxiety for example.

My apologies to all the dog owners to whom this is probably all blindingly obvious. The idea that animals might experience emotions like joy, fear, love, despair, and grief reminded me of something a Bishop once said to me, "If you want to really understand the love of God – simply look into your dog's eyes"

Phil Hanson





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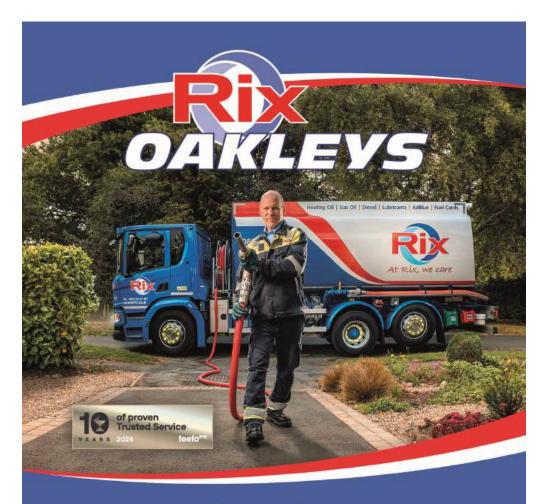
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