

PARISH NEWS



July and August 2025

St Michael and All Angels, Claverdon

All Saints, Preston Bagot

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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
Youth Club Leader	Zara Yousaf	01926 840100
Parish Secretary & Church Centre enquiries	Barbara Lord - churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com	01926 840100

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; Ingrid Moss; Julia Waldron	
Co-opted	Rev Phil Hanson	
PCC Minutes Secretary	Ann Anthony	
PCC Treasurer	Richard Bonsall	07989 494451
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 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)



SUMMER IS HERE

Summer means different things to different people. For many of us, summer is, hopefully, a time of warm weather and, an opportunity to relax, at least for a couple of weeks if not more. As schools and universities finish their academic year, countless students of all ages can breathe a sigh of relief that the exams are over, (for now), and turn their attention to less mentally demanding activities, or, very little activity at all, as a way to relax and unwind.

All of that said, summer isn't a universal time for R&R, and life goes on as normal for most of the time, for most of the working population. We expect the shops to be open and to be able to use local services, some of which are already stretched because of the warm weather. We expect to be able to listen to the radio in the garden, or watch TV with all the windows open in the evenings.

From my own professional experience, summer is a mixed blessing. Before retirement, I worked in broadcast engineering, and getting to remote transmitter sites in summer is much easier than the 4x4, snow-laden chore that it could easily be in winter! Regardless of this, lots of TV and radio transmitters and broadband equipment can generate an awful lot of heat at the best of times, and a hot summer can result in rapid dashes to site to restore services from overheated equipment!

So I leave everyone with every good wish for a happy and relaxing summer, but spare a thought for the people, (and equipment), that we all rely on, to keep everything working through the hot weather.

Steve Aitken

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 we will have something to report shortly.

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 JULY

Everyone is welcome to all and any of these services!

Date	Church	Time	Service
6th July	All Saints PB	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	St. Peter's WW	11.00am	Café Church
	St. John the Baptist AC	11.00am	Morning Prayer
	St. Michael and All Angels	11.00am	Family Service
	Clav		
13th July	All Saints PB	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	St. Peter's WW	11.00am	Holy Communion
	St. John the Baptist AC	11.00am	Morning Praise with coffee
	St. Michael and All Angels	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Clav		
20th July	St. Peter's WW	11.00am	Holy Communion
	St. John the Baptist AC	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Claverdon Church Centre	11.00am	Bible Café
27th July	All Saints PB	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	St. Peter's WW	11.00am	Morning Prayer
	St. John the Baptist AC	11.00am	Holy Communion
	St. Michael and All Angels	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Clav		

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

Welcome

A very warm welcome to newcomers to Claverdon!

Welcome to Nicola and Gary who have moved into Oak View, Lye Green Road.

David Hardy

The Hardy family thank many local friends for their beautiful cards and words of comfort after David's death in May. We hope friends from far and near will be able to come to a Celebration of David's life to be held in St Michael's Church on Saturday, 30th August, at 3pm, followed by refreshments at the Church Centre.

Tricia Hardy

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



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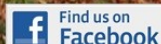
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Claverdon Parish Council meets every other month at Claverdon Church Centre at 7:00pm. Please find below a list of dates for our 2025 public meetings. All parishioners are very welcome to attend, and we encourage you to do so where possible.

NOTICE OF REMAINING 2025 PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

CLAVERDON TELEPHONE BOX

We recently asked residents to let us know what they would like done with our telephone box, that is in some much-needed tlc. As a result of the poll we carried out earlier in the year, 82% of residents wished for it to be removed and restored, with a view to relocating and repurposing it. We have since done some further research on the costs involved and it is looking like quite a costly project, running into the thousands. The council have some allocated funds for this but there will most definitely be a need to raise some additional funds to get the work required completed.

As with all village projects, we are keen for the community, with the support of the parish council, to take this project forward. We are therefore asking any resident who would like to get involved, in forming a small working party for this particular project, to get in touch.

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have a concern or issues, you would like the council to address, please do reach out. Parish Council Clerk – Ken Flood.

Email. clerk@claverdon-pc.gov.uk Tel. 07946 423435

We also encourage our residents to refer to our website for further information and updates relating to the parish.

CLAVERDON SPORTS PAVILION REOPENS AFTER REFURBISHMENT

We are delighted to share some wonderful news – our Sports Pavilion has officially reopened and is ready to welcome local sports clubs and community groups once again.

Originally refurbished in 2019, the pavilion has become a central hub for village sport and recreation. Unfortunately, the building developed an issue with dry rot, which led to its temporary closure over the past few months. We appreciate everyone's patience during this period, as we know how much the pavilion means to the village.

We're pleased to report that the necessary repairs have now been completed by Silk Construction, who carried out the work with great care and professionalism. The pavilion has been restored to a safe and fully usable condition, preserving its facilities and ensuring it remains a valuable community asset for years to come.

The pavilion is once again available to our local football and cricket clubs, who are already making great use of the space as they prepare for their upcoming matches. In addition, we're excited to announce that the pavilion will soon be available for private hire – ideal for local meetings, social events, or classes.

This marks an exciting new chapter for the pavilion, and we're confident it will continue to be a focal point for community life here in Claverdon.

The Parish Council and Pavillion Management Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in the refurbishment and repair process, especially Silk Construction.

Keep an eye on our website, local noticeboards and the Parish Council Facebook page (search Claverdon Parish Council) for updates on hiring the pavilion.

All enquiries regarding the recreation area should be made to Cllr Jon Abbott
Email: jon.abbott@claverdon-pc.gov.uk

www.claverdon-pc.gov.uk





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Would you like to play

TABLE TENNIS

We are hoping to restart the Claverdon Table Tennis club which used to meet on Wednesday afternoons (3.30pm - 5.30pm) in the back rooms of the Church Centre.

Please call Gina Graham on

01926 842927 if you are interested.

All levels very welcome

CLAVERDON BADMINTON CLUB



Is looking for new members with some experience playing badminton to join our friendly, mixed group.
(18+ years)

When: Monday evenings at 8pm (September – June)

Where: Claverdon Church Centre

If you're interested, why not come along for a free taster session – we'd love to see you!

Contact: Julie Blake - otservicesgb@gmail.com





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Your Parish News Needs You

Did you know that 40 people are involved in delivering Parish News each month?

Richard and Sarah Bonsall receive the magazines from the printers and divide them into the bundles for delivery. Some bundles are collected from the Community Shop and the others are taken to the individual deliverers.

The job takes about 3 hours in total each month. Richard and Sarah are looking to hand over this job so if you are willing to take on this role, then Richard (07989 494451) or Sarah (07790 430008) would love to hear from you.



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THE MONTHLY HMM...

Two Out of Three



We are not long back from a lovely break in the wilds of Wales. There were lots of special sightings to enjoy. Red kites coming to a valley feeding station in their 100's and cock linnets singing their hearts out in coastal gorse were just two of many highlights. Even so, these were not our targets. Wales is noted as the summer home of choice for a trio of summer migrants that faithfully return to valley oakwoods from Africa every April.

Wales is their British headquarters, and we hoped to see them all.

Visually the male redstart his red tail a quiver, blue-grey mantle and black face mask is the most gorgeous. Vocally, the wood warbler is the master instrumentalist with complete control of his syrinx. And the boldly patterned pied flycatcher is the master of kinesthetics as it forages insects in the verdant woods that teem with life as Spring turns to Summer.



We got many gorgeous views of the flycatchers, but the other members of the trinity proved elusive. True, we saw redstarts fleetingly and heard one singing whilst we waited for kites to come and feed. Wood warblers however, were impossible to find and despite all the joys we experienced we felt incomplete.

As we enter Trinity season, the longest in the Church's calendar by a considerable margin, my sense of birding incompleteness effectively underlines the essential glory and unity of the eternal Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Even though, strictly speaking, the existence of the Trinity cannot be directly proven from Holy Scripture, the doctrine of the Trinity is central to mainstream Christian faith.

At this season of Trinity as we consider how we should live in God's creation in the light of Christ's resurrection and the gift of the Spirit we must indeed worship the unity of the Godhead and pray for a steadfast faith and protection from all adversities. As I learned in Wales, two out of three ain't bad – but it's not enough.

Rev James



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STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – JULY

Nature Recovery Project

Stratford District Council Cabinet has approved £35,000 funding for the 'Free Trees for Farmers Scheme' and £20,000 for the 'Wilder Communities Project', which will be delivered alongside the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Both schemes aim to plant more trees, hedges and wildflowers across the district. The decision follows the success of previous Free Trees for Farmers schemes.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

In order to keep to the tight deadline to complete the SWLP, the District Council Cabinet has agreed to use the services of a multi-disciplinary consultancy service starting in July. The cost will be shared with Warwick District Council. The first job for the consultants is to collate the huge public response the Councils have received to the Preferred Options Consultation held earlier this year.

Great Big Green Week

Stratford's Great Big Green Week has now come to an end. Many of the 60+ events were oversubscribed as I discovered when I tried to book on to a couple of events! However, I am looking forward to visiting a passive house under construction shortly through the Great Big Green Week.

It's now a firm fixture in the Stratford calendar. Thanks to all who gave their time and organised activities. I'm looking forward to next year!

Community Kitchen

Stratford's Community Kitchen is a fabulous initiative to prevent fresh food from being wasted. Volunteers use surplus food from local supermarkets to produce tasty, healthy meals on a pay as you feel basis – if you can't afford to pay, you don't have to, but donations are welcome. I have been a few times and the food is excellent.

All are welcome to go along to the Ken Kennet Centre, 100, Justins Avenue, Stratford on a Friday evening from 5-7pm.

If you'd like to help cook or serve the food, please get in touch.

Email kitchen@netzerostratford.org.uk to find out more.



Road Closures

Keep up to date with road closures in Stratford District this summer using the link below.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/news.cfm/current/1/item/138532>

How is the Council structured?

I thought it worth penning a few lines for those interested in the structure of the Council.

The Council is comprised of Officers (employees of the Council – civil servants) and elected Councillors (politicians). The Officers run council services day-to-day. The political party with the most elected Councillors forms a ‘Cabinet’ which consists of the Leader, deputy leader and portfolio holders. The Cabinet is the executive and sets the priorities for the Council through its annual budget and new policies.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, chaired by a Councillor from the opposition party (the party with the second most Councillors), reviews Cabinet decisions and suggests changes and improvements. There are other Committees that oversee the other functions of the Council which include Employment, Audit & Standards, Regulatory and Planning.

There are broadly five ‘departments’ of the District Council - Housing & Customer Services, Resources, Law & Governance, Planning & Economic Development and Environmental & Neighbourhood Services. Each department is led by an Officer known as Head of Service. Each Head of Service works alongside a Councillor selected by the Leader, known as the portfolio holder.

I sit on the Employment Committee and stand-in on the Planning Committee if my Green Group colleague is unable to attend. As a Councillor I also raise and vote on Motions which will become Council policy if supported by the majority of Councillors.

Most importantly, however, I work within the community to support residents with planning, housing and other District Council issues.

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

Duncan Parker

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



DOROTHEA MITCHELL HALL

FULL HOUSE FOR OSCAR WILDE CLASSIC



Thanks to all of you who filled the DM hall to see an exceptional performance of Lady Windermere's Fan by Auntie Jen Productions.

They were delighted with the evening and will return with a **Sleeping Beauty** pantomime 30th December!

NEXT FREE DROP-IN EVENT

Thursday 3rd July 10-12:00

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REGULAR CLASSES

Mon:	<u>Baby & Toddler Group</u>	9:00am - 10:45am
	<u>Fitness Class</u>	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tue:	<u>Arty Splats</u>	9:00am - 12:00pm
	<u>Move it or Lose it</u>	2:15pm - 3:15pm
3 rd Tue	<u>Gardening Group (15/7 only)</u>	7:30pm - 9:00pm
Wed:	<u>Pilates with Leigh</u>	9:30am - 10:30am
	<u>Pilates with Jennie</u>	6:30pm - 7:30pm
Thu:	<u>Quilting with Heather (3/7)</u>	1:30pm - 3:30pm
	<u>Sewing with Heather (17/7)</u>	10:00am - 3:00pm
	<u>Flower Arranging with Jo (31/7 only)</u>	2:00pm - 4:00pm
	<u>Yoga with Ren</u>	7:00pm - 8:00pm

CLAVERDON CRICKET CLUB

So the season is now here, with outdoor training and matches for all playing groups under way as follows:

- All Stars (ages 5-8) and Dynamos (8-11) sessions on Friday evenings, an impressive 70+ players signed up, thank you to all the parents involved to help run the sessions.
- U9 softball Sunday tournaments
- U11 matches Sunday mornings
- Women's training sessions Weds evenings and matches Sunday afternoons.
- Men's training Thurs evenings and matches Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.



As ever, all support and new players welcome, whether occasional or regular, see you at the Recreation Field over the summer or give us a call with any enquiries.

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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



SUNNY DAYS AND SMILING FACES – A WONDERFUL SUMMER TERM AT STEPPING STONES



As the summer sun shone high in the sky and the feathers of the red kites were glistening, gliding effortlessly overhead, our preschool children soared sky-high this term in confidence, curiosity, and creativity! The final 7 weeks of the school year have been bursting with bright moments, learning milestones, and magical memories.

We've explored exciting topics that took us from the savannahs of Africa to the sparkling coral reefs in our seas and oceans. When reading *Handa's Surprise*, children giggled and guessed which animal might sneak a sweet treat next. The vibrant fruits and clever creatures sparked discussions about different cultures, healthy eating, and helping friends. Through story time, songs and sensory play, children continued to develop their communication skills and cultural awareness. Then we dove deep into our Under the Sea theme, where we made jellyfish from recycled bubble wrap, crafted coral from cardboard, and learned about marine life, both big and small. Children created imaginative sea stories and practiced fine motor and numeracy skills through bubble painting and shell sorting. We also dipped into environmental awareness, highlighting how to keep our oceans clean and creatures safe.

Of course, no summer term would be complete without special celebrations! Sports Day was a day of sprinting, hopping, balancing and many determined little legs. Our mini-athletes cheered one another on, building physical skills and friendship through teamwork and fun. From beanbag races to balancing acts, children beamed with pride, showing growing confidence and coordination, all watched by a crowd of entertained parents!

Next came Graduation Day, where proud families watched their children take to the stage with beaming smiles. Songs were sung, certificates and medals were shared, and a few happy tears were shed as we watched a montage of their Stepping Stones journey from early caterpillars to school-ready butterflies, all so much bigger in both height and confidence, ready to take flight and off to new heights.

To round it off, our Summer Party was full of music, movement, and magical moments. With party food and games the laughter was loud and the joy was shared. It was the perfect send-off before saying goodbye to some wonderful friends. As our oldest children move on to their new schools, we wave them off with pride and promise. September will bring a fresh start, as we welcome new families, ready to explore, play, and grow.

Our sincerest thanks to our Voluntary Parent Committee for their ongoing support and also to the Church Centre, for sharing their wonderfully light and spacious facilities with us. This term has truly been one to treasure. Here's to new beginnings and more magical memories to make together in the next academic year.



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Diary of Events for July and August

Event	Date	Times	Details
Tuesday Prayer Ministry	Every Tuesday	14:00-16:00	
		19:30-21:00	
Wednesday Prayer Ministry	Every Wednesday	10:00-12:00	
Quiet Morning	Thursday 10 July	10:00-13_00	Jesus the Good Shepherd leads us by still waters
Streams Breakfast for women	19 July	09:00-10:30	Experiencing inner stillness
Well Come and Be	Thursdays	10:00-12:00	Drop-in Wellbeing Café
Rest and receive prayer	2, 14, 30 July. 27 Aug	14:00-15:30	Rest and Receive in person
	21 July	19:00-20:00	Rest and Receive online
Well Come and Receive	3, 17, 24, 31 July. 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug.	11:00-12:00	Drop in wellbeing cafe
Well Man	Wed 9 July	19:00-21:00	Becoming the man God made you to be. Taster session of a 6 week journey. Please note guests need to be 18 or over to attend Led by Ian Temple and Ben Phillips.






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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 krystlejayedance@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
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**



CHURCHES OF ARDEN

Bible Cafe



**3rd Sundays of the month
11am**

at the Claverdon Church Centre

Join us for warm pastries and an assortment of fruit juices
and hot drinks.

This time together will be focused on building community
and spending time in God's story.

Everyone is welcome.

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

Family
Ministry

CHURCHES OF ARDEN

FAMILY SERVICE



1st Sundays of the month

11am

St Michael and All Angels, Claverdon

Join us for interactive worship for all ages.

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

Family
Ministry





*The Easter Workshop...The VE
Day 80 Street Party &
Games....*

.....NOW HERE COMES.....

CHILDREN'S MESSY HARVEST

**CALLING CHILDREN - and their
parents and carers - to come & enjoy
this Humdinger Harvest event
on**

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

4.00 pm

CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE

**Save the date and then look out for
more info after the summer holidays!**

MID MORNING MEET-UP

Enjoy Sue Bicknell's home-made cakes, biscuits and limitless tea and coffee, then an inspiring and stimulating talk

'My life on the streets'

weaving the threads of life and faith in night-time
chaplaincy with

James Hanson

Saturday 13 September at 10.30 am, Claverdon Church Centre

Revd James Hanson is a proud son of Claverdon, growing up here in the late 80s / early 90s. After graduating from Oxford, he trained as a Maths teacher, teaching at Warwick School, Harrow and eventually becoming Head of two schools in Surrey. He has been ordained for 4 years and is married to Jenny (a Surrey social worker) with two daughters at secondary school.

James is now a vicar in Guildford and on a Friday night he leads a team of street pastors in the town working with rough sleepers, youth, those out celebrating, those the worse for wear, those who need someone to talk to....

Tickets £10.00

All proceeds and donations to

Leamington Spa and Stratford on Avon Street Pastors

Reserve 13 September in your diary and book tickets now from

Penny Hanson: 01926 843421

Gill Evans: 01926 842690, leycroft@btinternet.com

Sue Kershaw: 01789 488493

Joy Cater: 01926 842149

Liz Rayner: 01564 792737

Sarah Breen sbreen@talk21.com



THE ETERNAL WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER:

On the 10th June, 15 people from local churches took the opportunity to visit the site identified for the building of the much-anticipated Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, negotiating HS2 works to visit the area in Coleshill where this towering wall will be built.



The 10 acre site was donated by a Christian business man and Richard Gamble, the inspiration behind it, says that if you looked at the map of Britain and chose the finest spot this would have come up.

We were generously entertained by members of the team who introduced us to the project with the inspiring story of Richard Gamble's journey and his three goals: "to preserve the Christian heritage of the nation, encourage prayer, and proclaim Jesus for the country", and to create something that will speak to all



faiths and none and draw people's thoughts to

the possibility of communicating with something beyond the here and now.

On the site we saw a sample of the million bricks which will clad the shape. Each brick will hold a real answered prayer, which saw someone through a difficult situation. Filtered by technology, visitors will be able to use their mobile phones to unlock the stories of the prayer contained within each brick.

To achieve this vision, there have been many spectacular acts of God, without which none of this would have been possible.

We all came away amazed by Richard Gamble's faithfulness to follow this direction for 20 years and to bring God's vision to completion.

Watch this space! There will be more information to come soon as the build progresses.

Sue Hollingsworth

51.5m



30m



20m



Calling everyone who has arrived in Claverdon and
Preston Bagot in the last few years!

Please come to our...

NEWCOMERS PARTY

Claverdon Church Centre

Thursday 25 September at 7pm

All newcomers are warmly invited! You'll meet others who have recently moved here - along with some who have been here longer - and enjoy a glass of wine and some delicious home-made puddings!



RSVP to help us cater for numbers,
to Barbara in the Church Centre Parish

Office churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com 01926 840100

Forest of Arden Agricultural Society Annual Ploughing Match

Sunday 21st September at Arrow Lane, Ragley Park B49 5LR by kind permission of Ragley Home Farms.

The Forest of Arden Agricultural Society was formed in 1946, the first show being held at Forshaw Park Farm, Earlswood. On one occasion Preston Bagot was the venue. Classes for ploughing by horse and by tractor and for hedge laying were introduced and over the years the event has become very popular with the farming community and also the general public. The late Joe Hawkes of Preston Bagot bequeathed a very generous sum of money to the Society for training and to sponsor courses for ploughing and hedge laying and to encourage members of Young Farmers clubs to participate.



CLAVERDON MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club is a friendly, informal group which is open to all and meets on alternate Mondays from 2.30-4.00 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.

July 21. Summer Lunch

12.30pm. Dorothea Mitchell Hall (by ticket only).

Looking ahead:



September 8. Thomas Williams, Warwick Racecourse

The Monday Club will begin its Autumn season with a talk on Warwick Racecourse by Thomas Williams, keen sportsman and General Manager of Warwick Racecourse.

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

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.



A path to a greener Claverdon

Issued by Claverdon Parish Council and CHARGE CIC

Community Solar Farm Guided Walking Tours

Our 2019 Neighbourhood Plan made clear the need for Claverdon to support renewable energy and mitigate the impact of climate change by becoming a carbon neutral parish, with solar energy identified as the likely route.

The Parish Council and CHARGE CIC are committed to supporting this by developing a Community Solar project, to provide renewable energy to the grid and long-term benefits for our community. This would be sited on low grade land in a well-hidden section of Park Farm, on the other side of the railway lines and we'd like to seek your views as part of an informal consultation process.

As part of this, we would like to invite residents on a guided walk of the proposed community solar farm and nature reserve site. These tours are open to everyone and will be family friendly. They'll give you the opportunity to understand where the site would be, what it will look like and any impact on our village. To register to attend please visit the parish council website or follow the link below:

<https://claverdon-pc.gov.uk/communitysolar-register-here/>

Dates

Saturday 19th July at 3.00pm

Tuesday 22nd July at 7:30pm

Sunday 27th July at 5.00pm



Address

Park Farm, Church Road, Claverdon, CV35 8PB

Please arrive at the entrance to Park Farm (on the track) just beforehand.

For anyone unable to attend the times above, there is also an invitation to visit the site unguided between these dates. Please still register your intention, and upon arrival just follow a sign-posted trail down to the site.

Should you have any questions please email solar@claverdon-pc.gov.uk

For further information on the proposed community solar farm please visit the website www.claverdon-pc.gov.uk/community-solar



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Claverdon Church Centre

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Do you know a student who is doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year?

The Community shop has two opportunities for Volunteer work , one at the end of June and one at the end of July ☺

Every year we try to give the opportunity for Duke of Edinburgh students to do their voluntary work in the shop. We are now able to offer alternate Sundays, 8 to 10:30am (end of July) and 10:30 to 1pm (end of June).

Aged 16 +. Legally their parent must be present.

If you are interested please email the shop at claverdoncs@gmail.com

The **Village Chippy** is a mobile van that travels around Warwickshire. The menu includes Cod, fish cakes, Sausages, Chicken nuggets, mushy peas and gravy (& more).



They also cater for events and parties.
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TRACK THE VAN
Find out where they are today



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 1st 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.





**Jane Ford BSc(Hons)
MAR**

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CLAVERDON GARDENING GROUP

Last month's speaker was from the Heart of England Forest, the charity set up by local landowner and publishing mogul, Felix Dennis. The scope of the charity's activities in growing and developing native deciduous trees was quite amazing and they are expanding all the time as they slowly buy more land. One of the parcels of land that they have recently acquired is Cutlers Farm and surrounding fields. The charity has an open day on the 2nd July on site, anyone can go along to hear about their woodland development plans for the area.

Similar to the Parish News itself, there is no meeting in August for the Gardening Group. We members are enjoying our gardens over the summer but also tending our fruit and veg ready for the Autumn Show on September 6th in the DM Hall. It is members only for entrants and the schedule of categories is included overleaf. There is plenty of choice of categories of fruit and veg to compete in plus flowers, photography, art and crafts and cooking. This year we also have a children's section that is open to all under 16's and free to enter. It is way off yet but we hope to see you on the day to admire the efforts of the CGG members and we do have a café running with cake and refreshments.

In the meantime, we have organised a day trip later this month. It is on Tuesday the 15th July and is going to Cliveden. Owned by the Astors since 1893, it was sold to and then managed by the National Trust from 1966, not long after its association with the infamous Profumo affair. It happens to have 80 acres of magnificent gardens including a geometric parterre, rose garden, water garden and a maze. At the time of writing there were a few spare seats on the coach plus the option of a trip on the river. It does help of course if you are a member of the National Trust, if you would like to go just contact Kath Kaveney or Heather Sharp.



Chris Duckworth

Note: Copies of the Gardening Group Autumn Show rules and schedule are available from Chris. Ed.



Claverdon Women's Cricket Team

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- Games are held on Sundays throughout summer
- Training in Claverdon on Wednesday evenings

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Email Kate: katybick@hotmail.com
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Claverdon Station Update

Following the article "Now arriving at Platform 1" – April 2025 edition, two new developments have now been completed at Claverdon Railway Station.

Firstly, the large wooden planter (sited underneath the newly installed Running in Board) has been filled with soil and plants. Once the plants are established, they will add colour and visual appeal, creating a more welcoming atmosphere for passengers. In addition, the plants can help to increase biodiversity and attract pollinators.

Secondly, a statue of William Shakespeare has been installed at most of the railway stations along the route between Birmingham Moor Street and Stratford upon Avon (the birthplace of William Shakespeare) and the stations at Bearley and Claverdon.

Installing this artwork aims to connect each station with a different Shakespeare play. King Lear is the play chosen for Claverdon Station - the story of an aged king of ancient Britain whose plan to divide his kingdom among his three daughters ends tragically.



The statues were made possible thanks to the Friends of the Shakespeare Line (FoSL) volunteers, who conceived, funded and installed them and have enjoyed the support of Network Rail, West Midlands Trains, and Chiltern Railways.

Passengers travelling between these stations can now enjoy a unique journey as they make their way to the home of the world's most famous playwright.

Phil Stoakes

Lest We Forget, a fascinating and meticulously researched book recalling the lives of the Claverdon men who died during the wars of the 20th and 21st century, is now available to view at the shop and can be purchased from Wheelwrights Cottage, Church Road or by emailing alison.hoddell@gmail.com to request a copy. Free delivery is possible within Claverdon. Copies are also available at the back of church.

Recommended donation is £10 or whatever you can afford – all donations will be split between the Royal British Legion and Claverdon Church.

A must read for anyone interested in local history.



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CLAVERDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we approach the end of another exceptional school year at Claverdon Primary, we are preparing for the busy (yet absolutely awesome) final few weeks of Summer Term. The past few months have been bursting with excitement... and we're thrilled to share some of the magic with you!



📺 **Claverdon's Got Talent – And How!**

In a whirlwind of applause, glitter and gasps of amazement, our school hall transformed into a stage fit for stars as children stepped up to showcase their talents in the ever-popular *Claverdon's Got Talent*. From soulful singers and daring dancers to magicians and comedians who had us all in stitches, the talent was nothing short of exceptional! Each performance was met with cheers and admiration, proving once again that our children are not just learning – they're shining!

📺 **UNICEF Day – Big Hearts, Bright Minds**

Behind the scenes, our inspiring Rights Ambassadors have been planning something truly special: *UNICEF Day*. This day will see children from Reception to Year 6 working together in mixed teams to complete "rights challenges" – creative, thoughtful activities that explore children's rights around the world. It's a powerful way to celebrate unity, kindness and global awareness – and it's all been designed by the pupils themselves. We can't wait to see our school buzzing with collaboration and compassion.



📺 **Creative Sparks Fly – Artist of the Week**

One of the most exciting additions to school life this term has been our *Artist of the Week* celebration. Each week, children from Reception to Year 6 have been inspired by famous artists and have created a stunning array of artwork in response. We've been amazed by the creativity and passion shown... and to honour this artistic energy, we're transforming our school meeting room into the *Claverdon Gallery*, a vibrant space to proudly showcase our pupils' incredible work.



?? Year 6 – Adventurers in Action

For our fearless Year 6 children, the recent residential trip to *PGL* was the adventure of a lifetime. Whether they were climbing towering rock walls, conquering obstacle courses, or building (and paddling!) their own rafts, the week was packed with laughter, teamwork and moments of pure joy. It was a wonderful way for our eldest pupils to bond, grow and make memories they'll treasure forever.



? You're Invited – Summer Fayre Fun!

Mark your calendars! Our *Summer Fayre* kicks off at **3.15pm** on the school playground and field – and you won't want to miss it. Expect an afternoon of stalls, games, prizes, food and fun... all in support of our wonderful school. Bring your friends, your family and your inspiring energy – the Claverdon community always knows how to celebrate in style!



? Farewell, Year 6 – with Pride and Love

As tradition holds, we'll soon be gathering for our *Year 6 Graduation Assembly* – a moment to pause, reflect and celebrate the incredible young people our pupils have become. We'll share memories, achievements and dreams for the future as they prepare to spread their wings and take the next step in their journey. We couldn't be prouder of these kind, respectful and resilient children – ready not just for secondary school, but to make a genuine difference in the world.

To all our families, staff and friends of Claverdon - thank you for another unforgettable year. Your support helps makes us the school that we are.

We hope to see you all at our Summer Fayre,

The Claverdon Primary School Team



CASE/Neighbourhood Watch July 2025



From Neighbourhood Watch to Cyberhood Watch

Cybercrime now feels like more of a threat than physical crime for a rising number of households across England and Wales, with more people either falling victim personally or knowing someone who has been a victim of online theft. According to research carried out in conjunction with [Avast](#), a leading cybersecurity company in the UK, they found that those who believe cybercrime is less of a threat than physical crime are firmly in the minority (14%).

Avast believe in making the world a safer place by preventing cybercriminals from harming those in our society who are at risk of falling victim. It is their mission to provide people with the information and tools they need to stay safe online so that together we can create a world where everyone feels protected from cybercrime, no matter who they are, where they are or how they connect to the internet.

Neighbourhood Watch shares these values, which is why we've joined forces to create [Cyberhood Watch](#). This initiative is aimed at helping people understand how to protect themselves online and feel confident using the internet. Our joint goal is to prevent cybercriminals from exploiting unsuspecting people with scams and malicious campaigns to commit fraud, steal personal information and spread computer viruses throughout our local communities in the UK.

Over a third of Neighbourhood Watch members have told us they believe cybercrime is more of a threat today than physical crime, and over half see the threat level as similar. For this reason, the cornerstone of our partnership is cybercrime prevention. To achieve this, we will provide Neighbourhood Watch members with information, advice and practical tips based on Avast's 30+ years of cybersecurity experience that will help protect them and their communities from cyber harms.



All residents of Claverdon Village should remain alert to the increasing risks of cybercrime. Protect personal information by using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, and avoiding suspicious emails or links. Stay informed about online threats and report any suspicious activities. Cyber vigilance ensures the safety of your digital and financial security.



If you want to find out more about the steps you can take to avoid cyber-crime then you download toolkits from the Neighbourhood Watch website below.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/cybercrime/cyberhoodwatch>

Speed calming initiative slowed down by local elections -update

The progress of implementing speed-calming measures in Claverdon Village has temporarily slowed due to the local elections, as the council's focus was diverted during this period. Despite this, the Parish Council and the CASE Team have convened this week to address the delay and reaffirm their commitment to the initiative. Efforts are being intensified to apply pressure on local authorities, urging them to expedite the execution of the speed reduction plan. While the elections caused a brief disruption, the project remains a high priority, and all involved parties are working diligently to ensure its timely implementation for the benefit of the community.

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

Our shop is your shop - use us as much as you can!

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

Visits Claverdon every Monday and Wednesday - 12.15 to 2.15 pm
D M Hall car park adjacent to the Community Shop

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Visits us on Tuesdays every 4 weeks
Next visits: 22nd July, 19th August
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Church Centre car park (10.40)
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When? Sundays,
10am-12pm. Starts
October 29th for 7 weeks

Where? St Michael's
Church Centre,
Budbrooke, CV35 8QL

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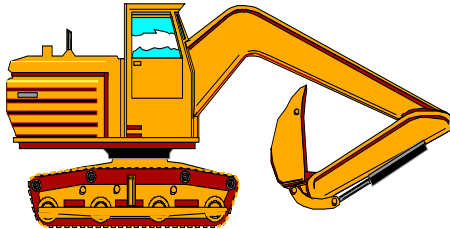
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Events subject to change without notice.

THE UNUSUAL, THE UNIQUE & BOUTIQUE.

AND FINALLY...A GLASS OF WINE?

My earliest experiences of drinking wine were as a student, typically Blue Nun Liebfraumilch and Mateus Rosé. The empty bottles were used to make table lamps. In the years that followed it was popular to make home-made wine and beer. My wine attempts included one batch made from cold tea and more ambitiously a rum made from marrows. Nettle wine was very popular but not in my repertoire. When briefly working in Germany a work colleague sent a case of the local dry white (hock) home to his parents in Yorkshire. When he returned home they told him they had quite enjoyed it, but they had needed to add a little sugar!

When we lived in Nottingham, a group from my office set off each November to bring back the Beaujolais Nouveau at its earliest availability. On their return one year, I was invited to an early morning tasting and I found them pouring the Beaujolais on their breakfast cereals!

Russell, a good friend of ours worked in Brussels in the EU and his directorate was responsible for various agriculture products including wine. In the course of this onerous role he became professionally knowledgeable about European wines and he was awarded various prestigious tasting accreditations. When we went on holiday with him and his wife to Bali, the restaurant served the wine from what looked like large paraffin canisters. I had to admire his 'sang froid' about the whole experience. On another occasion I found myself at a dinner with the directors of a Brewing Company that owned a well-known off-license chain. After dinner they invited me to join a little experiment in which it proved that not everyone around the table could tell bitter from lager from Guinness when blind-folded! They assured me that as the evening progressed few of them would be able to tell white wine from red if similarly blind-folded.

We have some English friends who live in France and on one occasion they came to stay with us and brought with them their local French doctor and his wife. I thought it would be fun to offer them some English wine. They sipped from their glasses and offered generous appreciation, but I somehow knew that it was an act of being good guests. I once received a post card from my brother that simply said : Ecclesiastes 9:7





GET IN TOUCH WITH THE VILLAGES

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Badminton	Julie Blake	otservicesgb@gmail.com
Bellringers	Jill Roberts	01926 713430
Benefice Housing Association	Louise Peace	07930 687384 / 01926 843440
Church Centre Bookings	Parish Office	01926 840100
Church Floodlighting	Parish Office	01926 840100
Claverdon Art & Craft Group	Jayne Andrews	07753 795595
Claverdon & District Neighbourhood Watch	Steve Lister	sjlister@aol.com
Claverdon and District British Legion	Paul Ellwood	01564 784725
Claverdon Community Shop	Mike Rack	01926 843916
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Claverdon Football Club	Charlie Waterworth	07309 575475
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Claverdon Parish Council	Ken Flood	clerk@claverdon-pc.gov.uk
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Claverdon Tennis Club	Richard Butler	butlerrj01@gmail.com 07368 126148
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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
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Claverdon Youth Club	Parish Office	01926 840100 churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com
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