

CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2025

Church Services in February 2025

St.Andrew's services shown in bold

2 February 11 am Holy Eucharist, Revd Mary Godin, Cleeve
9 February 11 am Holy Eucharist, Revd Jo Fielding, S.Littleton
16 February 11 am Morning Praise, Margaret Pye, Cleeve
23 February 11 am Patronal Eucharist, Revd Jo Fielding, Offenham

Priest in Charge, Revd Joanna Fielding revjo.eastvale@gmail.com

Churchwarden, Rosemary Roberts 01386 792568

Safeguarding in our Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer
Tel.01386 40401

For enquiries concerning Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals contact
Faith Quin eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

Remembering Rod Carless

Rod Carless, who was a Church Warden at the Church of St Andrew in Cleeve Prior for many years, passed away on 20 December. Rod, who was a Licensed Lay Preacher, served during the tenure of three Incumbents, and took many services himself during two Interregnums and afterwards. During Covid lockdown he also took Zoom services for those who wanted to take part.

Besides looking after our historic Church, he also organised many fundraising events, such as Summer Fetes, Call My Wine Bluff and Rat Racing in the Village Hall. Through this a great deal of money was raised to maintain the fabric of the Church.

He will be sadly missed by the congregation, his family, friends and the villagers of Cleeve Prior, and by many others in the East Vale and Avon Benefice.

Annette and her family are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Andrew Taylor

Thank You

The boys join me in thanking everybody for the care, concern and affection that we have been shown over the past six months. We have been overwhelmed at the number of cards and messages we have received since Rod passed away. He himself would have been humbled. I do apologise for not managing to speak to everyone at his funeral but your presence was a great comfort.

Annette

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who came to Heather's funeral in November, and who made generous donations to the Shakespeare Hospice in her memory. The sum raised was £426 and I received the message below from the Hospice just before Christmas.

"Dear Mr Bratt, we are writing to thank you for the kind donation of £426 that you handed to the Hospice in memory of Heather. Thank you for thinking of the Hospice at this time.

This donation will help us to continue to provide our care and support to everyone who needs us.

From all the Staff at The Shakespeare Hospice"

Les Bratt

The Benefice of the East Vale and Avon Villages

Q: What does the Vicar actually DO with her time?

Recently I had some business cards printed. The logo in the middle of the card shows an arch of green and white leaves, with something like a stylised person standing underneath. I chose it because it reminded me of our Benefice logo which shows a tree on the banks of a river, which could represent the Vale's heritage of orchards by the banks of the River Avon, but also of the verse in the Bible describing "...a river whose streams make glad the city of God." The logo on my cards reminds me of all of this, and there is something about the way that the human figure is standing with their arms outstretched up towards the leaves reminds me of a juggler, which is pretty appropriate since I seem to spend a lot of my time juggling very different concerns and roles.

These vary hugely from week to week and from season to season, though there are thankfully some things that form a bedrock, running steadily, forming the rhythm of my days. With January behind us, Christmas decorations all packed away, our Epiphany celebrations have finished (look out for "2025 + C M B +" chalked on or near your church doorway, reminding us of the journey of the Wise Men to see the Holy Family). Instead, I am preparing to meet all our wedding couples on the Saturday of Valentine's weekend, with a team of helpers to give them some information about the legal processes, together with wedding bells, flowers, music systems etc. – all the different things that can go into a wedding in one of our churches to make it a memorable day for them.

Right on that day's heels will come Ash Wednesday, and the start of Lent which gives us the chance to do a sort of mental clear-out, ask ourselves some hard questions about our lives, and try to give some honest answers. to ourselves, and to God, about what really matters. It can be life changing! In amongst all the drama and extra services and events in Lent, Holy Week and Easter, I will also be talking with our five sets of church wardens and treasurers preparing for our annual parish meetings which take place just after Easter. Mixed in with all of this, there are meetings with each wedding couple to help them prepare

for their big day, with baptism families for their baptism services on Sundays (most take place in the afternoon, though some christenings happen as part of our regular Sunday services at our different churches.) Then there are regular Sunday services and other events to prepare for as well, plus meetings with our Benefice worship team members.

I also meet regularly with each of our three school principals when we plan dates when I can come in to take assemblies, or be in school to support students and staff for key events. I am often asked to come and talk to a class, which could be anything from “What is a font?” to “Tell us about why you wear those funny clothes on Sunday.”

Given that I look after five congregations and six church buildings, serve as a school governor and on three trust boards, a lot of work has to be done by phone, or messaging and emails, across our whole Benefice and with staff at the Diocesan office in Worcester. I work with our worship team, our dedicated church wardens and treasurers to make sure that our churches can stay open and services can take place as planned. But mixed in with all the admin, all the joys and worries, all the emails and phone calls, whether I am out dog-walking or calling in to see someone, all the 101 plates that I juggle as your minister, all this is underpinned by a steady rhythm of prayer, of listening and responding as best as I can to the heart-beat of God’s love for all of us here in this place. God bless you in all that you are juggling with in your life.

Jo Fielding
Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com Tel 07561 823135

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

February 2025

Vacant positions

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ian Kelly as a new member of the Parish Council. He has now participated in The December 2024 and January 2025 meetings.

We still have two unfilled Councillor positions so, if you have an interest and want more information, please use the email address shown below.

We have also been conducting interviews with applicants for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council. In the meantime, individual Councillors are covering the immediate Clerk responsibilities.

Handrail to steps at Manor Court

A custom-made handrail to the steps leading to the Church passage near Manor Court has now been installed. Thanks are due to our County Councillor, Mr Alistair Adams for pushing this through.

Evesham Road negotiations

Though negotiations around the housing planning application for the site in Evesham Road have moved at a snail's pace, we have seen some movement recently. The Parish Council is in active contact with the developer over their acquisition of a small part of and restitution of the Council owned CPO land. Also there appears to be movement on the developer's final acquisition of the two outstanding plots on the site.

Parish Finances

An important part of the Parish Council year-end activity is to plan and submit our budgets to Wychavon District Council. Given our problems with retention of a Clerk, we have had to reluctantly revise upward our provision for Clerk salary and other factors. This incurs a 9.1% increase in the Parish precept. Our proposal is currently with WDC for consideration.

Please do not forget that by accessing the website cleevepriorvillage.co.uk in the Parish Council section, there are links for reporting a) Tree debris on the highway, b) Blocked highway gullies/drains, c) Issues on public footpaths.

Cleeve Prior Parish Council. Contact: clerk@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Villagers

It's been great to get back after the Christmas break and the children have settled into school life again really well.

Our new Science topic this term is space so we were lucky enough to take the children to Thinktank in Birmingham at the beginning of the term to 'launch' our new topic. The children had a wonderful time and particularly enjoyed the planetarium show, a fully immersive and interactive journey into outer space. As always, the children did our school proud and behaved impeccably.

We have two voluntary roles available in the school that we would love to see filled, particularly by a member of the village who cares about our school:

Volunteer Reader – an opportunity to come into school on a weekly basis and listen to our children read. We are very passionate about reading and the more chances our children get to read, the better. If this role is of interest to you, please contact our school office.

Governor – we have a position available to join our Governing team. If you are passionate about having our school in your village and would like to be involved in key decisions about the school and its future direction, then please speak with our Chair of Governors, Stacey Smith.

Sadly, we have noticed an increasing amount of dog poo around our forest school area. Please can we ask that, if you walk your dog around the area or en route to the site, you pick up your dog mess to keep the area safe for our children. Thank you in advance for your help.

Best wishes.

Sarah Laughlin, Head of School



CLEEVE PRIOR WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

email: cleevpriormemorialhall@gmail.com

The Village email list

The Management Committee maintains a village email list which is used to convey important news and local information at short notice, and we are updating our records.

So, if you are not already on the list and wish to join it, please send your email address to the Hall via cleevpriormemorialhall@gmail.com.

But if you do not have access to email and would like to be included in the mailouts in a different format, **please fill in the form below** and return it to the Hall via the letterbox in the main door.

.....

To the Management Committee, Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall

I do not have access to email, so please add my street address to your mailing list.

Name 1:.....

Name 2:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone number (optional):

Privacy Notice: The information provided is used with your permission. But please email cleevpriormemorialhall@gmail.com if you wish to withdraw your permission, requesting that your data be removed from the mailing list.

Cleeve Prior Ramblers

The first walk of the year is always a challenge to organise, mud being the main problem, but the C.P. Ramblers are a resilient lot and on Saturday 18 January fifteen of us plus five very enthusiastic dogs set off from the Cottage of Content in Barton.

The weather was dry and at the start fairly chilly, but the initial stage of the walk was a gentle climb on a well surfaced road so, by the time we turned off the road, we had warmed up, ready to cope with the rigours of the muddy footpaths through the fields and woods.

It soon became apparent that we did not have the countryside to ourselves. There was a Shoot in progress and there were gun dogs, shooters and beaters all over the place. There was room for us all and we soon left them behind and made our coffee stop at Colletts Wood. This is part of Felix Dennis' extensive woodland which he started creating in 1996.

It was an ideal stop as there was a pond for the dogs to splash in and benches to sit on. One of the benches is worthy of a visit in itself. It is beautifully carved with all sorts of wild creatures and the inscription "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" on the back. We then took a slight detour to visit Felix's monument to say "Thank you" for his foresight in creating such a splendid place.



On our way there, we were delighted by the sight of several deer passing through the woods very close to us. I'm sure Mr. Dennis would have been thrilled that his woods had become to home to such lovely creatures.

The remainder of the walk was very muddy, but by then we were quite used to it and the last mile or so over fields and woods was easily covered, but we were pleased to be on a metalled road for the last stretch before we reached the Cottage of Content where we had lunch.

Special mention goes to the five dogs, especially the tiny ones who coped with the mud and the shooting like professionals.

Our next Ramble is on Saturday 15 February.

Evelyn Wilson



SAVE THE KINGS ARMS

Dear Friends of the Kings Arms,
Goodness me, what a lot has happened since the last edition of the Parish Newsletter! Most of you will now be aware that on 23 December we were

informed that our application for grant funding from the Community Ownership Fund had been successful, subject to final validation at an Initial Project Meeting with the COF grant awards team. The results were published on the Government website. The COF scheme has now been officially closed. This now means that we will NOT, at this time, be pursuing further the Public Works Loan discussed in previous correspondence.

Members of the Community Benefit Society Management Team, supported by our advisor from Plunkett Foundation, took part in an online Initial Project Meeting with the Grant Lead Manager and the Commercial Lead on Wednesday 22 January. This meeting was to validate the viability and deliverability of the project, considering the amount of time that has elapsed since our application was received. I am happy to report that this meeting was very positive in tone and we are now awaiting final confirmation which should be received within 10 days. Drafting of the final Grant Award Agreement will take a further two to four weeks.

This positive news has allowed us to submit a formal offer to purchase the freehold of the Kings Arms. This offer has now been accepted subject to surveys and legal searches! The terms of sale are that we would purchase the freehold with vacant possession.

Most of the above was communicated by email to Shareholder members of the CBS and at a very well attended public meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 11 January. An electronic satisfaction survey has also been sent to Shareholder members providing them with an

opportunity to voice opinions and guide decisions on the future operation of the pub as a community hub.

As a result of all this excellent news, support for the Community Share Offer has significantly increased and the amount of money raised is now almost £140,000. If you have not yet invested, especially if you have not yet fulfilled earlier pledges, please consider doing so as soon as possible. **We need to reach our target of £175,000** to be able to execute our plans fully for refurbishment and improvement of the pub while meeting the requirements of match funding for COF. Application forms for shares are available on our website www.cleevepriorcommunitypub.co.uk or as hard copies in the pub, or from any member of the Management team.

Thanks for your ongoing support!

Brian Williams

Chair Cleeve Prior Community Pub Limited, Community Benefit Society



Cleeve Coffee Club

5 February and 19 February

Here we are in 2025 - but we finished our December coffee morning as promised, with sausage rolls and mince pies to go with our tea and coffee.

Thank you to all who have made our scrumptious cakes, and those who have come and enjoyed them, as well as taking slices home!

Book and Puzzle Swap available too.

THANKS TO EVERYONE - we have been able to give £170 to Crisis – helping the homeless. Together with £75 to Medicins Sans Frontieres and £75 to our village hall earlier in the year, that is grand total of £320 – and we have only been going since June!

However, our prime aim is to provide a regular meeting place in our village. Now only on the **first** and **third** Wednesdays each month, from 10 am to noon. Ideally, we would like to be open **every** Wednesday but to do that, we need YOUR help.

So, what help can YOU give?

I could make a cake.

I could give someone a lift.

I could be there one Wednesday a month.

I can't "do" much – but I love a good natter.

Phone a member of the FAB FOUR for a chat:

June: 01789 641866 Lin: 01789 778396

Mary: 01789 638371 Veronica: 01789 778906

Fancy a cup of coffee – or even a cup of tea?

Call at the village tea room, all for a small fee.

You get a friendly welcome as you walk in the door

There's a choice of home-made cakes – you couldn't ask for more!

Feeling at a loose end – call in for an hour or so,

There's a lovely atmosphere - we're always pleased to see you.

Doreen Yapp



CLEEVE PRIOR HERITAGE TRUST
Reg charity no 1063291

Our Tuesday coffee time chats provide not only a welcome break from our labours, but also a few calories to fuel the next couple of hours work. Quite often it is just a chance to catch up with fellow volunteers and a time to ask questions and plan work, but there is always plenty of laughter. One question which came up this month is " Why do we hang toast in the tree at our Wassail?" What happens?

Our Wassail Queen, suitably attired, pours cider from the Wassail Cup onto the roots of the tree before our volunteers sing the wassailing song and hang toast from the branches to encourage all the good spirits to watch over the apples trees and to provide a bountiful crop come harvest time. By the way this is the origin of the word "toasting" at celebrations! This year our very own Rev Mary gave the blessing and then we all retired for an excellent supper at Field Barn.

Our volunteers work hard all the year round to maintain the orchards, gather in the fruit and turn it into cider or apple juice so it is good to celebrate the start of the season when the trees are dormant and the pruning cycle is about to start.

This time of year is about clearing, pruning, maintenance and tree planting. We have just taken delivery of 30 woodland trees – well whips, for Sanctuary Wood which will be planted up, thanks to the Trees Call to Action project. They also provided a training day on hedge laying for two of our Volunteers in January. Good News - we have been successful in a grant application for a defibrillator to be sited at Field Barn. Anyone interested in taking part in the training, especially our near neighbours, please let me know.

The carpet of primroses are coming out in Top Wood so do have a wander up and have a look in the next week or so. Please remember to keep dogs on leads in Sanctuary Wood and the Sanctuary and always to pick up after your dog in **all** areas.

New Volunteers are always welcome. Tuesdays 9.30 – 1pm. Contact us at cleevepriorheritagetrust@gmail.com, <https://www.cleevepriorheritagetrust.com/>

Gina Carr, Trust Chair

NWR

We had to cancel our NWR Christmas gathering so, to brighten up the dreary days at the start of the year, we decided that our January meeting would be a bit of a party. We assembled in Gina's lovely dining room and everyone brought a sharing platter. The range of food on display was very impressive. Special mention must go to the carrot cake.

Everyone was asked to bring a poem or a piece of music which was special to them and, once we had eaten our fill and with glasses charged, we sat back to enjoy the contributions. The verses varied from a very evocative Anglo-Saxon poem to a work by Robert Frost. Keats' Ode to Autumn brought back memories of teenage homework, whilst on a musical note we had memories of Uncle Mac on the Radio which led to an enthusiastic rendition of "I'm a Pink Toothbrush." On a more serious musical note, hearing The Queen of the Night from The Magic Flute and Sibelius 5th Symphony were life changing experiences for one of our members, especially realising that a voice was also a musical instrument.

Adelstrop, written by Edward Thomas, arose out of an unscheduled stop at the unremarkable railway station of that name. His poem evolved out of the joy and peace to be found in being just in the moment. Poetry can come from some very ordinary sources. One of our members is fortunate to know the poet Nadine Brummer and we heard two of her lyrical works. From one member's "word bag" came an amusing selection of malapropisms which could well have been turned into a poem. We also had some Robert Burns, some verses from the Bible, and it would not have been a proper poetry evening without one of the inestimable John Betjeman's works. We finished the evening with a quiz on the year 2024 – here is one of the questions for you to ponder on – Which country became the 32nd to join NATO?

The answer to the question TV Detective with on/off George - from our NWR quiz reported in the last Newsletter - was Lewis and Harris. The theme for that quiz was Islands.

Evelyn Wilson



Cleeve Prior Art Club

The Art Cub was able to hold the first meeting in January and we were delighted to be able to welcome new members. As always it was interesting to hear about their ideas and experiences, all of which contribute to the expertise within the group. As the term progresses, we will be able to discuss what we would like to include in terms of taught sessions or themes to guide our painting and sketching.

We look forward to the New Year and the new challenges and opportunities ahead.

New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Louise Conneeley.

louiseconneeley@gmail.com

Tel: 01789 227249 or 07785 482722



Did you know our community transport scheme covers Cleve Prior?

Our community transport scheme is available for people who have no access to a vehicle of their own or are unable to use or have no access to public transport.

Transport can be requested for:

- Medical appointments
- Shopping & salons
- Social visits & care homes

To register & arrange transport call

 01386 45035
Monday to Friday
09:30 - 13:00

 co@eveshamvolunteers.org.uk

 34 Brick-Kiln St, Evesham WR11
4AA

JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER DRIVER - CALL 01386 570530

You can make a real difference to your local community by giving your time to enable the disabled and elderly stay as independent as possible. How much time you give is entirely up to you. 45p per mile paid in expenses monthly.



Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers?

Your local Neighbourhood Officers are PC Alex Prentice, PC Ben Trowman and PCSO Luke Harris. They can be contacted by email,

[Alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk),
ben.trowman@westmercia.police.uk and
luke.harris@westmercia.police.uk.

The Evesham Safer Neighbourhood Team are actively now more than ever involved with our Evesham SNT Facebook page. Please follow Evesham SNT to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/engagement sessions are.

Engagements and Neighbourhood Matters

As you may know, we do frequent engagement sessions in each of the areas. We are always open to listening to the public if they believe the engagements with the public should be done differently. Please, if have any ideas on how we can better engage with the public, please let us know by emailing the above email addresses. For example, coffee mornings, fete's, village gatherings. Engagement dates will be sent out in advance on Neighbourhood Matters. This is a free service which allows you to receive updates regarding crime in your area and also allows you to message your local officer. Take a look at the website for further information:

<https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>. We are trying to book these in advance as much as possible and will send out weekly NH Matters posts with the schedule of drop in sessions. These will also be advertised on our Facebook page. Please feel free to come to any session you see advertised, you do not have to live in the village to attend. If you know people who do not have access to the internet, please feel free to share the information. The more people who know about these drop ins, the better!

Reporting Incidents

Please remember to report crime and any incidents via 999, 101 or on the West Mercia website. Please do not email individual officers if a crime has happened, this needs to be reported officially through the correct channels.

Parish Council

Every 3 months, Parish Councils make us aware of their Parish Priorities. If you are aware of any specific areas of continued concern in your area, please make your Parish Council aware in order for them to pass this over to your local officer.

PC Alex Prentice 21115, email: alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk
Safer Neighbourhood Officer | Evesham Rural North | West Mercia Police
Evesham Police Station, Abbey Road, Evesham, WR11 4SS
Direct Dial: 101 or 0300333300,
SNT email: eveshamrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk



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Or book direct at:

Villa Thalassa - Houses for Rent in Neo Chorio, Paphos, Cyprus – Airbnb



Grazey Dayz and Canapés

officially open, now available to create a wow table-runner graze for up to 100 people, or smaller grazes or charcuterie boards for as little as two to four people.

Message me for details about creating something special that your guests will be talking about for dayz.

Karen.roberts33@sky.com

Or instagram @grazeydayz

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Tel: 01789 491417, 07803 720184

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Main Street, Cleeve Prior, Evesham

New to the village, references supplied

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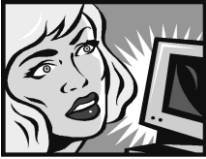
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Rev Father Stephen Squires

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Contact Matthew 07770 582331



VILLAGE and LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Venue
3 Feb	Parish Council meeting	7.30 pm	Hall
5 Feb	Coffee Club	10 am – 12	Hall
15 Feb	Valentine's Disco	8 pm	Kings Arms
19 Feb	Coffee Club	10 am – 12	Hall

Cleeve Prior Art Club meets in the Hall at 10 am on Thursdays

Contact Louise Conneeley on 01789 772749 and see

www.theartclubcleeveprior.weebly.com

Pilates Classes now reinstated: Fridays 9.30 and 10.30 am

The CP Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Hall on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings from September to May. Contact Gordon Davidson on 01789 773988.

Yoga with Carly in the Hall, Wednesdays, 6.30 to 7.30 pm

Tel: 07774 950411

Useful contact details:

To book the **Memorial Hall** or book for an event:

cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

To join the **village email list**: cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

To book **Field Barn**: garnettclarke@btinternet.com

The Kings Arms: 0330 016 219 or bookings@kingsarmstavern.co.uk

Village website: cleevepriorvillage.co.uk

EVESHAM RURAL NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Up-coming Cleeve Prior Drop-in Sessions with your Local Police Officers at the Village Hall will be posted in the Hall window

[PC Alex Prentice 21115](mailto:PC.Alex.Prentice@evesham.police.uk)

The Church Rotas for February

Sidesmen

2 Feb Mr C Greenwood, 11 am
16 Feb Mrs L Hawkins, 11 am

Church Flowers

2 Feb Mrs J Selby
9 Feb Mrs J Stewart
16 Feb Mrs J Stewart
23 Feb Mrs R Perl

Church Cleaning

Mrs M Sylvester
Mrs J Davenport
Mrs M Taylor
Mrs S Mortimer

Memorial Hall 200 Club December 2024

£100: Andrew & June Taylor

£50: Liz Lane

January 2025

£50: Daphne Jackson

Copy for inclusion in the **March 2025** edition should be received
By Saturday 22 February

Please submit copy by email to the following
email address: clevepriornewsletter@gmail.com
or contact the Editor, Susan Mortimer (773453)
This Newsletter is published by St. Andrew's PCC