

Aston Botterell,
Burwarton,
Chetton,
Cleobury North,



Ditton Priors,
Loughton,
Neenton,
Wheathill.

Revd Joe Simons, Rector
The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire. WV16 6SQ.
01746 599217 / 07872 464276

...I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son...



As a Church we pray for those who are ill and in need and for those recently departed and their families. We especially pray for the families of the late June Bryan and Myra Brougham. We also pray for Margaret Griffiths in Oldbury Grange Nursing Home.

Saturday 2nd May

2.00pm – Airmen's Memorial Service at Eudon George. Revd Joe. Please see overleaf

Sunday 3rd of May

The Fourth Sunday after Easter (White)

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

Revd Joe – Hymns 388, 54, 209, 564

11.30am – Songs of Praise – Aston Botterell

Revd Joe – Songs of Praise Booklet

Sunday 10th of May

The Fifth Sunday after Easter (White)

9.30am – Holy Communion – Ditton Priors

Revd Joe

11.30am – Holy Communion – Chetton

Revd Joe

Thursday 14th May

Ascension Day (Gold or White)

6.00pm – Evening Prayer – Ditton Priors

Revd Joe

Activities & News

throughout the Benefice

more info in Wheatland News
or online at

www.browncleebenefice.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/Brown-Clee-Benefice

Thursday 30th April at 10.30am

Prayer and Reflection at The Pavilion.
We do hope you can join Revd Joe.

Thursday 30th April at 6.30pm

Our final Lent Course Session
at The Pavilion, Ditton Priors.

Saturday 2nd May 10.30am – 12.30pm

First Coffee Morning of the Month, Bric a Brac and Book Stall at St. John the Baptist, No charge for entry.

Monday 4th May, 10.30am

Bridgnorth Walk Day! Light refreshments will be available in St. John the Baptist, Ditton Priors

Friday 8th of May 7.00pm

Aston Botterell Fish & Chips and Quiz
at The Boyne Arms, at 7.00pm.
Please see back page.

Benefice Office: Open Monday & Wednesday 9.30am – 1.30pm

Email: browncleebenefice@outlook.com

Website: www.browncleebenefice.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/browncleechurches

Collect for the Day

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Readings for Sunday 3rd of May **The Fourth Sunday after** **Easter**

Psalm 31. 1 – 5, 15 – 16
(or 31. 1 – 5)



(Genesis 8. 1 – 19)

The Flood Subsides

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if

the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons

and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.' So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

Acts 7. 55 - end

The Stoning of Stephen

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they

dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2. 2 - 10

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14. 1 - 14

Jesus the Way to the Father

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.

’Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

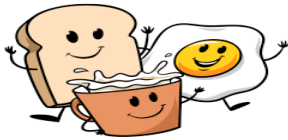
A Time for Prayer & Reflection

Please do join us at a time for prayer and reflection every other Thursday starting on Thursday 30th of April at 10.30am in The Pavilion, Ditton Priors. This will last for roughly 1 hour. It is a time to come together to pray as a group into our mission and vision for the Benefice. It will also be a time to maybe reflect on a passage of scripture or some other reading or event that has spoken to us in a particular way. Everyone is most welcome. If you feel that you would like to take part please let either Revd Joe or Emma know at The Benefice Office by any of the usual ways Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions!

Aston Botterell Church

**Breakfast at
The Boyme Arms**
(to include a raffle)

Saturday 30th May 2026
at 9.00am



Please contact Anne Preece
by text or phone on 07966 459806 for
further details & to book your place!

**Return of Parish Officers following
your APCM**

Just a gentle reminder to inform both the Secretary of your Deanery Synod and Sarah Hedley at Hereford (who also receives your Annual Return of Officers) before 31st May 2026, of the names, addresses and contact details of those elected as your Deanery Synod reps at their 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meetings. This is important as these representatives will form the electorate for this year's General Synod elections. Please don't hesitate to contact Emma at the Benefice Office if you have any questions. She will be very happy to help!

Ditton Priors with Wheathill & Loughton APCM will be held on Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm in St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors. Everyone is very welcome to attend!

The Archbishop of Canterbury. The Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally met and prayed with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican City this week, on Monday 27th April. Archbishop Sarah exchanged the following gifts with His Holiness:

- An antique edition copy of *The Dream of Gerontius* by Cardinal Newman
- A Peruvian Retablo (traditional devotional artwork depicting the Nativity)
- And a jar of Lambeth Palace honey made from beehives in Lambeth Palace Garden

Archbishop Sarah will make a two-day visit to Hereford Diocese on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October. Further details will follow!

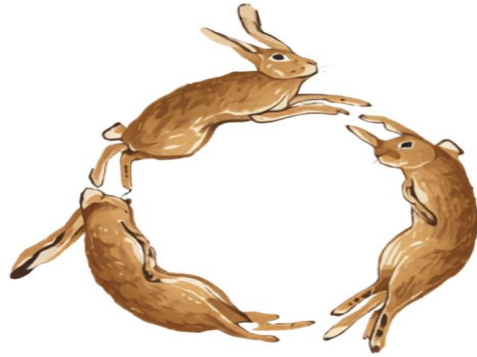


Ducks are now being sold for
Neenton's Duck Race
on Saturday 20th June
2.00pm - 5.00pm
Keep your eyes peeled!

A great afternoon out for all the family in the Village of Neenton

There are stalls, games, refreshments and so much more
Please do support this very popular annual event.

Holy Trinity Church, Wheathill



**Please come to a
Pet Service
on Trinity Sunday
31st May 2026,
at 3:00pm**



We are excited by all our lovely Benefice events but this one promises to be very special! As it is Trinity Sunday we are holding a Pet & Important Cuddly Toy Service at 3.00pm, in and outside Wheathill Church! Please do come along, with or without your faithful companions who can be of all shapes and sizes. If they feel uncomfortable inside Revd Joe will come and bless them outside!
Light refreshments will follow the Service.