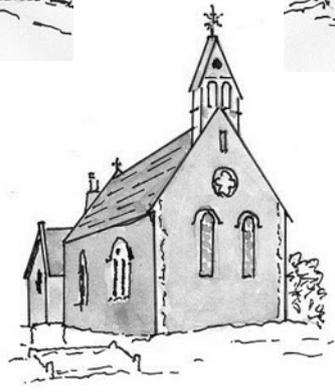
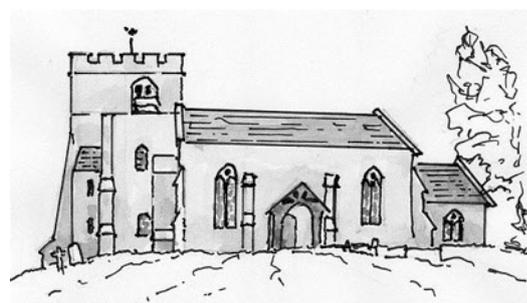


FROME VALLEY NEWS

The Parish Magazine for Acton Beauchamp, Bishops Frome, Castle Frome,
Evesbatch, Fromes Hill, Much Cowarne, Ocle Pychard & Stanford Bishop.



FEBRUARY 2018



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Editorial:

Happy New year to you all, thank you to everyone for their kind wishes and thank yous. It makes creating the Newsletter all worthwhile.

Speedy recovery to anyone suffering from the dreaded flu, keep warm and feel better soon.

If you lose your paper copy of the newsletter it is always available on the website where it can be seen in full colour. www.fromevalleychurches.org.uk

Sarah (oldholbans@hotmail.com)

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£2.20 eighth page, £4.40 quarter page,
8.80 half page, £17.60 whole page
Prices are per issue.
10 issues per year

FROME VALLEY NEWS COLLECTION DAY FOR THE March 2018 ISSUE

Could volunteers from all churches kindly collect their batch of March issues from the Parish Office during the morning of
Friday 23rd February

If this time is not convenient please contact Eleanor at the office to arrange an alternative time.

Vicar's Letter.

I have at times had people say to me 'why do you keep needing to confess in church' - or 'I don't like the fact that you have to say sorry all the time in church'.

I understand why people say that to me, but I think there is more to it than just saying sorry - and I think that there is something important about repentance that none of us should miss out on.

We are soon to enter the season of Lent - a season which is all to do with self-examination and repentance. So why say sorry and why is it important to do so - when perhaps quite a few of us are not very good at doing it (including me!)?

If we really understand who God is then we can't but help to realise that we do need to repent. God is holy and perfect - God has never done anything wrong and it's the wrongdoing and evil that we perpetuate that gives us a sense of disconnection from God. Of course God doesn't stop loving those who do wrong and this sense of disconnection is really an illusion – but equally God doesn't love what they are doing. So it is important to say sorry and recognise that we are not God and that we do get things wrong. But there is also something else.

I meet quite a few people who have done something wrong, perhaps something serious, but who can't forgive themselves for it. They're often people who would love to come to church but feel they just can't. It's really important to say sorry to God, so that we can receive the forgiveness that he offers and dispel the illusion of disconnection.

So as we enter this season of Lent let us be willing to say sorry - sorry to God and sorry to anyone else you may need to apologise to, and as you do so be willing to accept the forgiveness that God offers us all.

May you know that you are loved and forgiven.

Blessings

Steven



LENT TALKS 2018

Our Lent talks for 2018 follow on from last year's theme of Pilgrimage with a variety of speakers who will be sharing their personal 'Faith Journeys'

Wednesday 28th February 'Borderlands Chaplaincy' Sue Williams

Wednesday 7th March 'My Camino de Santiago' Rev Steven Baggs

Wednesday 14th March 'Faith in Uniform' Rev Richard Allaway

Wednesday 21st March 'I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you' Rev Kina Robertshaw

Each evening takes place at The Village Centre, Bishops Frome
and begins at 7.30pm with tea/coffee & cake.

Conquest Theatre

Live on Stage

Feb 1st	Buffalo Gals present Miraculous Medicine Show	7.30pm
Feb 3	Rhinestone Cowboy - The Glen Campbell Story	7.30pm
Feb 9	Folk in the Foyer Horizon Lights & The Stoned Cherries	7.30pm
Feb 11	Full Circle productions present Outside the Box - A Live show about Death	7.30pm
Feb 15	The Trans American Trail	7.30pm

Films @ Conquest

Feb 2	Dunkirk	7.30pm	PG
Feb 16	Stars Don't Die in Liverpool	7.30pm	
Feb 23	The Death of Stalin	7.30pm	15
Feb 25	Loving Vincent	7.30pm	12A

Broadcasts

Feb 14	RSC Live - Twelfth Night	7pm
Feb 17	Australian National Theatre Liberty Equality Fraternity	7.30pm
Feb 22	NT Live – Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	7pm
Feb 28	ROH – Winter's Tale	7pm

Book now online www.conquest-theatre.co.uk or contact the box office 01885 488575

On 23rd. December, 2017 a large group of folk descended on the The Majors Arms, Halmonds Frome for a night of carol singing

The evening was combined with the annual Majors Arms mince pie competition; this year there were plenty of entries (they all looked delicious)but after much sniffing, poking and masticating the eventual winners were:- third place Susie Bateman, second place Maria from Purity Brewery and a much deserved first place went to Sue Hatt (I don't think it was a fix" but her son does run the bar!!!).

The carol singing was brilliant and very ably and loudly led by a scratch choir from Bishops Frome and surrounds; the requests were many and varied and everyone joined in wholeheartedly.

Rob (landlord) provided a tasty chicken casserole for all followed by the mince pie entries (all very "yummy").

The bucket collection was divided between St.Marys and Bromyard Christmas Lights.

It was a great way to start Christmas; thoroughly enjoyed by all and if you weren't there this year make a date to be there next year.

BISHOPS FROME VILLAGE CENTRE

Are you planning a party or a meeting?

Don't forget your Village Hall.

The Main Hall can seat up to 120 people at tables or 140 for conferences and meetings.

For smaller events the Conference Room can seat about 40 people, a few less at tables.

More details and hiring charges online at

www.bishopsfromecentre.co.uk

To have a look or to book, contact Wendy in the Shop or

on 01885 490496 or 490327

email:

bishopsfromecentre@aol.com

& find us on facebook

A Benefice Candlemas Retreat – 1&2 Feb 2018

We are hoping you some of you will interested in joining us for a Benefice Retreat for 2 days at Candlemas next year. The retreat will take place at Holland House, near to Pershore and will be conducted by Richard Allaway. Please contact Richard on 07969 699270 if you are interested or require more detail. The approximate cost is £85 which will include your overnight accommodation and all meals.



Trumpet & District Agricultural Society

On Sunday 19th November we had our Annual Sunday Lunch at the Plough Stoke Lacy. The room was full, the food was excellent. Our guest speaker was Andy Boyle from ABE Transport who entertained us on his informative talk on his life experiences. This was followed by the presentation of cups.

Friday 24th November we held a fund raiser at Bishops Frome Community Centre. Hobsons Choice gave an excellent performance entertaining all, singing Sea Shantie songs. We raised an amazing £704 and have donated £100 to the RNLI.

A big Thank You to everyone who supports us.

Our next event will be a Tractor Run on 22nd April 2018

Sue Watts

Careline -

Help at the push of a button

Careline can give you or your loved ones the reassurance and peace of mind that if you require help, it is not far away! Careline is a 24-hour personal emergency response service, based in Hereford, which is connected to your home through an alarm unit linked to your telephone line. **In times of need, help is just the push of a button away!** re information please speak to our Careline team on 01432 384100.

Herefordshire Careline is run by the Independence Trust, part of the Herefordshire Housing Group.

Pastoral Group

The Group consists of Judy Orgee, Angela Lewis, Richard Allaway and myself and we meet to pray for those in need and to organise pastoral visiting where appropriate.

If you would like a pastoral visit please contact one of the group. All visits are confidential.

Rev Steven Baggs: 01885 490582

Rev Richard Allaway 07969 699270

Judy Orgee: 01531 640525

Angela Lewis: 01885 490203

STAMPS

Stamps donated during 2017 raised £230 for cancer and children's Societies.

Thanks to all who contributed to this excellent amount. Stamps are still worth saving. Keep up the good work. Boxes are at the rear of the Church and at The Hop Pocket.

John Crouch

BROMYARD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

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Thurs & Fri: 10am-1pm & 2pm-4.30pm Sat: 10am-12.30

Tel: 01885 488755 (during opening hours)

email: bromyardhistory@btconnect.com

Website: www.bromyardhistorysociety.org.uk

BROMYARD YOUNG PEOPLE'S POETRY COMPETITION 2018

Are you feeling inspired and creative?

One of the aims of this long running competition, organised by the Bromyard Poetry for Pleasure group, is to bring young people's poetry into the community. To help with this, entries will be displayed in local shops.

The competition is open to any young people and may or may not be through your school. There have been some truly amazing poems submitted in the past and we look forward to reading this year's selection.

- * Poems don't have to rhyme
- * Must use some poetical technique
- * Must be original work
- * More than one poem can be submitted

NEW this year: An additional prize for illustrating your poem

Entries must be in by FEB 20th 2018

NB All entries should have ON THE BACK

Name, Year group, Address or school.

Titles

- IF
- WHEN
-I LOVE BEST
- GUESS (riddle)

For secondary students

- Our World
- Achievement

Year groups are:

1. Year 2 and under:
2. Years 3 and 4:
3. Years 5 and 6:
4. By year group in Secondary and Further Education.

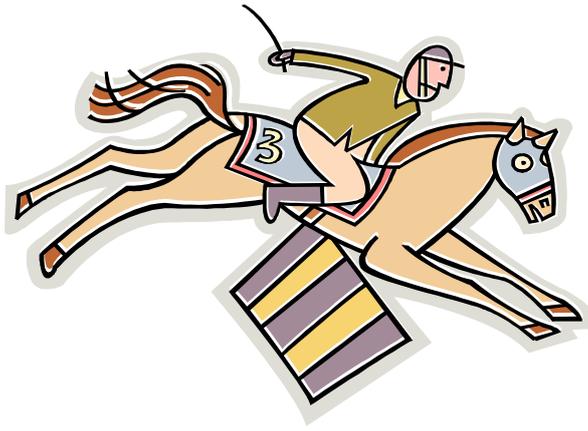
**For further information contact
bryonycullum@gmail.com
or Tourist Information desk
at Heritage Centre Bromyard.**



If you need to contact me please reply to this email or you can phone me on 01885490799.

Many thanks Maggie McGladdery

Much Cowarne Parochial Church Council



Race Night

Friday 9th March 2018

at The Plough Inn, Stoke Lacy. Racing starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5.00 to include light refreshments

You may want to come just to have some fun and hopefully a bet or two but - would you like to own a horse for the night?

it costs just £10 per horse: you can name your horse & it will be on the race card for the night. If it wins - you win £30 or you can Sponsor a Race (£30) and have it named after you

To own a horse or sponsor a race please contact:

Barry Bufton 01432 820024 email:bb@barrybufton.co.uk or

Ted Parkes 01432 820402 email:tedparkes@btopenworld.com

Stanford Bishop News

Dear All,

We are now into the second month of the year, the weather is improving and second by second starting to reveal more day light. As the temperature begins to rise frog spawn can be seen populating ponds as frogs wake from hibernation. Woodland flora begins to emerge; snow drops and Hazel's golden catkins begin to open.

Gardeners carry out pruning, spring shrubs including Daphne, Sarcococca confusa and mahonia fill the air with their scent; song birds become active, giving us short bursts of their full song. Some farmers are starting early lambing; the countryside starts to be filled with the sounds and smells of spring.



Sunday February 4th 2018 Big Breakfast at Stanford Bishop Village Hall.

Starting at 9am last orders 11.30 am. Every one welcome

£9.00 per person (family Concessions) Please see main poster for full breakfast menu

Saturday February 17th 2018 Snowdrops & Soup at Stanford Bishop Church 12 Noon – 2Pm

You are all welcome at St James' Stanford Bishop to admire our beautiful snowdrops, afterwards you are welcomed into the church to enjoy a warming bowl of homemade soup with fresh crusty bread £5.00 per person.



Our regular services fourth Sunday of each month at 8.30am

ST. GILES' CHURCH, ACTON BEAUCHAMP.

On the 17th of December we held our Carol Service.

Many Thanks to all those who came along to a very enjoyable service. A big Thank you, also, to all those who provided the Sherry and Mince Pies for us to share after the service.

On the 22nd of December we held our annual Christmas Party.

Many Thanks to Stan and Kathy who welcomed us to their lovely home, to enjoy Carols and Festive Goodies. Many Thanks, also, to everyone who provided our festive food and drink and prizes for our draw.

Thank you, very much, to everyone who came along and supported us.

On Christmas Day we held our Christmas Family Communion.

The service was well attended and it was lovely to see you all.

We hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all the very best for the New year.

Dates for our fund raising activities will appear in the next issue of Frome Valley News.

The Village Carol Singing 2017

The day of the carol singing is always one of tension. The 'phone is on alert as people ring in to say 'don't come – we're ill' or a singer suddenly finds they have no voice! You wait until it's dark and hope that someone will ring the door bell – the first sign that at least you might sing a duo. Amazingly, just around 6 o' clock cars and walkers loom out of the blackness. A sigh of relief – the carol singing is in business. As usual we pile into Clive Richard's minibus, with Martin Hewitt driving the 'reindeer'. Janetta Otter- Barry Ross kindly abstained from the mulled wine to drive Inge and others around.

Our first main stop was at the Panniers' 'manger' where the cattle were lowing or rather chomping in the barn, while Mark was supervising a barbecue for a grand gathering of friends and little ones. And 'yes' we did sing 'Away in a Manger'. At Clive

Richard's the Shooting Party (happily having finished shooting) came out onto the terrace, and there both Pages and Monarchs sang together. We all stood motionless as 'Stille Nacht' came across the night air from Inge. We are so grateful for all the beautiful solos Inge has given us over the years – she never disappoints.



We were soon off to deepest Ullingswick to Sue Dalton's, where it seemed 'todo el mundo' had gathered. As usual the huge log fire was roasting and welcoming, whilst the table groaned with tasty snacks, snatched between carols and washed down with mulled wine or cider. It was indeed a very jolly sing

song with everyone participating. We dragged ourselves away to pop up to the Three Horseshoes where we are always greeted warmly by Janet and Norman. Either side of the big parties we had smaller stops with just a carol or two to single people or couples. These are even more important, for it is lovely to bring a little Christmas cheer to everyone.

This year we collected £580 to be given to two charities – our local Megan Baker House, Leominster, for those severely challenged through Cerebral Palsy, Dyspraxia, Parkinson's, stroke and Acquired Brain Injury and the Kampot Traditional Music School in Cambodia, offering music and dance to orphans and the poorest children.

Over the years we have probably collected thousands of pounds for local charities and for those in the Developing World, who are far less fortunate than most of us. Usually, the smaller, lesser known charities have been chosen, as they struggle to receive support. But they also spend less on administration and more money goes directly to those in need. This is all thanks to you and your generous support.



With sadness, and also with some relief, 2017 was my last year of organising the carol singing. I hope that someone will come and collect the Jester's Hat (the badge of office) and all the organising information, and that you will continue to appreciate the enjoyment of gathering together, bringing 'Joy to the World'.

Signing off: The Jester



Stanford Bishop & Linley Green PCC

Invite you to a

BIG BREAKFAST

at Stanford Bishop Village Hall

on Sunday 4th February

Starting at 9am - last orders 11.30am

£9.00 per person

Family Concessions

You will be able to enjoy a bowl of crunchy cereal
with a refreshing glass of fruit juice.

This is followed with a hearty plate of bacon, sausage,
mushrooms, tomatoes, baked beans and egg.

Finishing with hot toast and jam and fresh tea or coffee.



St James' Stanford Bishop

Snowdrops & Soup

Saturday 17th February
12 Noon to 2pm

Join us at St James' Stanford Bishop

To gaze upon our wonderful carpet of
snowdrops

Afterwards your welcomed into our beautiful church to
enjoy

a rich warming bowl of soup served with fresh crusty
bread.

£5.00 per person.

Castle Frome February 2018

News, Views & Muse



Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February
8.30am



Family Service

Sunday 25th February
10.00am

Songs of Praise

Please come prepared
to talk about someone
who has turned the other
cheek

This is a reverent and
informal service for the
family of the Church. All
are welcome. Coffee, tea
and squash served at the
close of the service, offering
a time to socialise.



Carol Singing



Carol Singing was a great success, we did have a better turnout than last year, so thanks to Louise, Rob, Su, Charles, Janet, John, Will, Harriet & Georgie. We raised £165 for Acorns Hospice. Thank you everyone that welcomed us into your homes, and also thank you to The Wheatsheaf for allowing us sing albeit impromptu and brief!!
Alas this year we did not manage to do a rendition of Rob's Alternative 12 Days of Christmas, which I have to say was sadly missed. Oh well there's always this year



Church at Christmas

Thank you to everyone that decorated the Church for Christmas. It looked as always very beautiful.

Quiet Evening

To be held on Thursday
February 15th at 7.30pm
At
Betty's Home



The Night Sky

At our recent Quiet evening, our topic got us talking about the night sky and how beautiful it is. I was telling the ladies about watching the ISS (International Space Station) travelling over the UK. So if anyone is interested the ISS will pass over the UK again in February. To get the times visit the following websites.

Go to

www.meteorwatch.org/uk or
www.spotthestation.nasa.gov



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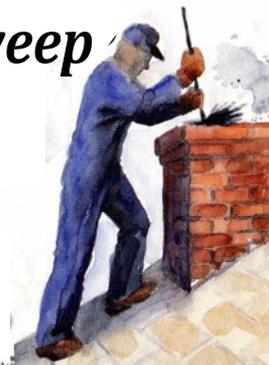
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	10.30am	Adult Tap Dance
	11.30am	Over 60's Dance Exercise
	2.15pm	Learn Popular Sequence Dances for your Hols. From 2nd May
	6.30pm	Adult Advanced Ballet
	7.45pm	Yogaflow
Wednesdays	10am	Adult Modern Jazz
	11.15am	Adult Ballet
	2pm	Adult Beginners Ballet
Thursdays.	9.45am	Adult Beginners Tap
	11am	Adult Latin Fitness
	11.45am	Adult Ballet & Contemporary
Fridays.	10am	Adult Tap Dance
	11.30am	Adult Beginners Tap Dance
	7.15pm	Adult Tap Dance
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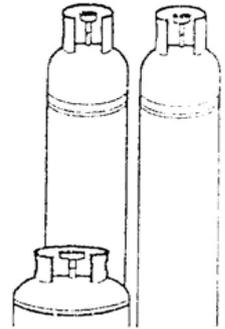
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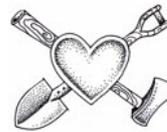
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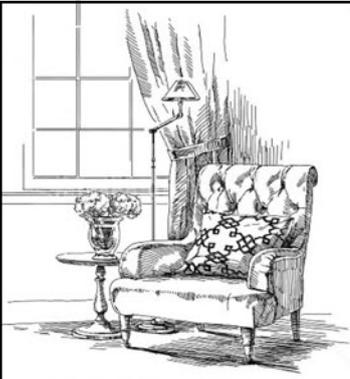
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The Green Dragon at Bishop's Frome

Dry January: An Apology

The Staff and Regulars at the Green Dragon are sorry to announce that Dry January was something of a disappointment.

Our “Slimline Tonic ‘n’ Chickpea Salad Night” had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

We are forced to admit that we are rather better at cheerful hospitality, warmth, friendship, festivity, log fires, good food and fun. We had a great Christmas and it seemed a shame to stop.

Nevertheless, the 2019 Dry January Organising Committee will be convening in the Dragon’s Den (aka the snug) on February 29th, when all suggestions will be welcome.



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laughter

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you.

One dry footnote: we are at last sorting the puddles in the carpark.

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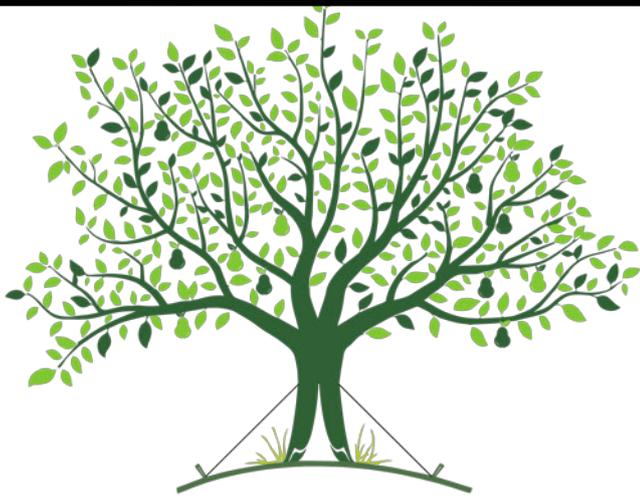
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Stretton Grandison Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Planning for the future of the parishes of Stretton Grandison, Canon Frome, Castle Frome and Eggleton

Call for Sites

Stretton Grandison Group wish to announce its Call for Sites for its Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This requires us to identify land which has potential for new housing and other uses up to 2031. We are particularly interested in sites for new housing which are within or adjacent to the settlements of Stretton Grandison, Canon Frome, Castle Frome and Eggleton.

Land must be **within our Neighbourhood Area**, which is also the area covered by our four parishes. You can see a plan of the Area on our website at

<http://strettongrandisongpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ndp-area-map.pdf>

Anyone with land which meets the above description and who would like it to be considered within the Plan is asked to register this interest with us. Please do so using the Site Submission Form, available on our website (see below). This will give us the information we need to make sure your site is properly assessed. Not all sites will be necessary or acceptable.

Send your completed Site Submission Form to Emma Thomas, our Parish Clerk, by 1st March 2018

– her contact details are on the form.

If you have already been in touch, we will be writing to you with a copy of the Submission Form to collect the necessary details.

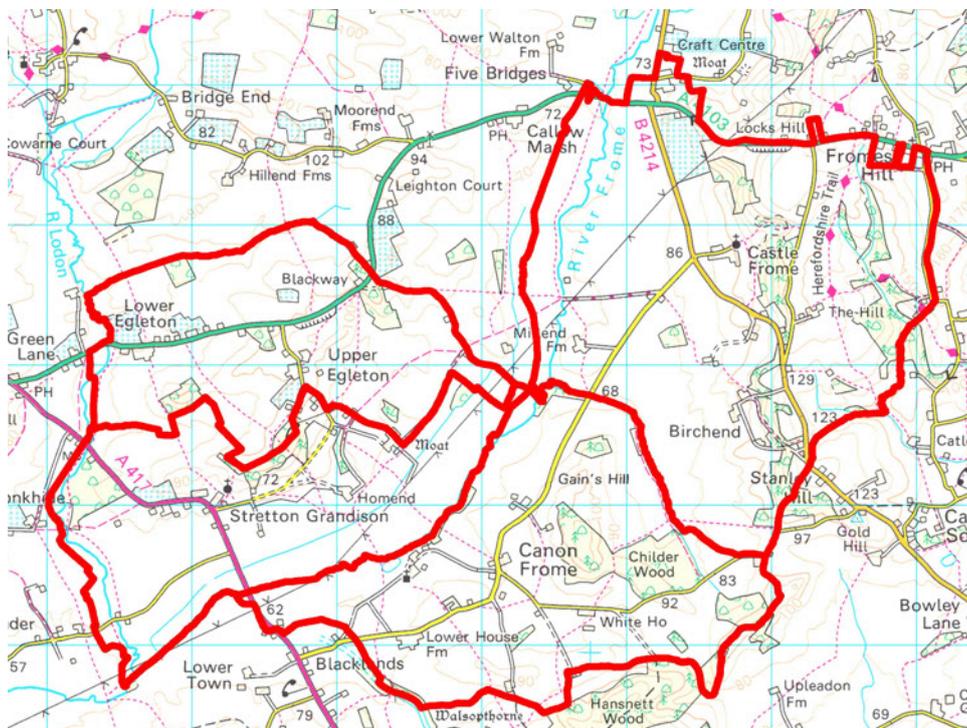
The sites notified to us will be professionally assessed. We will then consider how best to take the Plan forward in the summer.

Councillor Douglas Smith

NDP Steering Group Co-ordinator

Email: pcgroupclerk@gmail.com

Website: <http://strettongrandisongpc.org.uk/>





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2018 St Michael's Hospice Plant Fair

Sow a seed for St Michael's

We are looking for green-fingered supporters to help make our 2018 Plant Fair a blooming success by growing and donating plants.

All the springtime greenery will be sold to help us raise the vital funds needed to continue providing the best possible care for patients and their families.



How You Can Help

If you can grow six or more plants (either from seeds or plug plants) and would like to donate them to St Michael's, please contact Gaynor using the details below.

You won't need to deliver your plants to the Hospice until a few days before the Fair in May 2018, and we may even be able to arrange for your donated plants to be collected by one of our Hospice driving volunteers.

If you know your onions, we are also looking for volunteers who could give a few hours of their time during the Fair to help sell and answer questions about the plants on sale.

To start growing your support for St Michael's, call **Gaynor** on **01432 851 000**

or email her at gwarren@smhospicehereford.org

www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

How to Keep in Touch with St Michael's Hospice

St Michael's Hospice provides all its care free of charge because of the incredible support it receives from the local community. So keeping supporters updated about Hospice news and developments is vital.

Recent changes in the law mean that St Michael's and all charities must have written permission from the people before they are allowed to get in touch.

St Michael's is asking their supporters the important question of how they would like to be updated with news and developments.

If you would like to keep in touch and be kept informed about Hospice news, please visit their website www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk or phone on 01432 851 000 to let them know how you would like to be contacted (post, email, SMS or phone).

Don't worry: you can change your mind at any time just by letting them know. By giving your permission St Michael's will be able to share the amazing things that your Hospice does.

Many thanks, as always, for your help with this, and happy holidays from us all here in Bartestree.

Best wishes,

Rachel Entwisle
Communications Assistant
Direct tel 01432 852 655 Fax 01432 851 022
Email rentwisle@smhospicehereford.org
web www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk



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Welcome to the Ford invites you Lady in Red....

A Valentines Day ball in aid of St Michael's Hospice.

Friday 16 February, from 7.30 at The Welsh Club.

1 Hinton Rd, Hereford HR2 6BL

Live music and Jonny Bongo disco to finish.

Buffet included.

Just £15 with all profits to charity.

Please come along and enjoy a Valentine to remember, whilst raising money for charity.

Event is all about the love, whether this be with your significant other, family or friends. Hope to see you there!!!

For tickets or more information, go to:

web www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Valentine's Day Ball

It meets on the first Sunday of each month at either Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum or Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve. Venue: Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve, nr. Leominster, Herefordshire, HR1 3JT

Cost: £2 per child

Booking: Book your place online at www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org/wildlifewatch or call 01432 356872

An Introduction to Fruit Tree Pruning with Orchard Origins Sun 11 March 10.30am-3.30pm

Introducing the basic rules and tools and applying them to trees of different ages. A practical day with plenty of opportunity for Q&As.

Venue: Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve,

Cost: £60 Booking: Book online at www.herefordshirewt.co.uk or call 01432 356872.

Talk: Farmland Birds Tues 27 March 7.30-9pm

A talk by Matt Wilmott of Natural England for the Kington branch of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Venue: Kington Primary School, Mill Street, Kington, HR5 3AL

Cost: £2 HWT members, £3 non-members No booking required

Talk: Fungi of Herefordshire Thurs 29 March 7.30-9pm

A talk by fungi expert and county recorder Jo Weightman for the Aymestrey branch of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Venue: Aymestrey Village Hall, A4110 Aymestrey, Herefordshire, HR6 9SX

Cost: £2 HWT members, £3 non members No booking required

The following is a New Leaf event being run at Queenswood. Queenswood Country Park and Bodenham Lake are managed by a partnership of two local organisations: Herefordshire Wildlife Trust & New Leaf, working closely with local communities.

Woodland management workshop (part of Living Well project) Sat 9 December 10am-4pm

Join **Moreton Wood** for a day of woodland adventures. On this hands on experience you will take a stroll through the woodlands at Dinmore, have a go at using hand tools to coppice trees, learn about different woodland products and have a go at splitting wood and weaving. Please wear outdoor footwear and waterproofs and bring a packed lunch.

Venue: Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum, Nr. Leominster, HR6 0PY

Cost: Free

Booking essential: Contact Tim Kaye by phone 01981 550043 / 07980 863577 or email tim@clan-cic.org for further information and to book a place. *This event is suitable for all ages*

Visit the Queenswood and Bodenham Lake website at www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org.

Cob-oven Workshop (part of Living Well project) Thurs 18-Sat 20 January 2018

Would you like to learn the skills of constructing a pizza oven from scratch? Well now you can, as Queenswood is installing its very own cob oven and we need your help in constructing it over three days. We will celebrate with pizza and leave a legacy project for the park, courtesy of the Fabulous Cob Oven Company.

Venue: Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum, nr. Leominster, HR6 0PY

Cost: Free or reduced course cost and transport and normal car parking charges apply.

For more details, contact Tim Kaye by phone 01981 550043 or email tim@clan-cic.org

Visit the Queenswood and Bodenham Lake website at www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org

Repair Café (part of Living Well project) Sat 10 February 2018 10am-3pm

Ever wondered how you could rescue a beloved item from being thrown in the bin? Well now you can have it repaired and reissued for further use at our Repair Café. Bring any item be it electrical, clothing or toys and see if our expert team can solve your problem. There will be a chance to learn new skills, pick up tips of how to reuse or repair items. Teas and coffees will be available.

Venue: Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum, Nr. Leominster, HR6 0PY

Cost: For those who can afford it there will be a small charge and normal car parking charges apply.

Booking essential: Contact Tim Kaye by phone 01981 550043 / 07980 863577 or email tim@clan-cic.org for further information and to book a place. *This event is suitable for all ages*

Visit the Queenswood and Bodenham Lake website at www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org.

Composting and food waste workshop (part of Living Well project) Sat 24 March 2018 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Learn all about composting and food waste with Master Composter Sarah Blenkinsop. This fun and hands on session will be an eye opener on how to save food and make great compost for growing more food.

Venue: Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum, Nr. Leominster, HR6 0PY

Cost: For those who can afford it there will be a small charge and normal car parking charges apply.

Booking essential: Contact Tim Kaye by phone 01981 550043 / 07980 863577 or email tim@clan-cic.org for further information and to book a place. *This event is suitable for all ages*

Visit the Queenswood and Bodenham Lake website at www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org.

Acorns and Oak Trees

While walking my dogs along a pathway that meandered through a row of oak trees I noticed a small acorn on the ground. It had either falling from one of the trees last autumn or may have been part of a squirrel's hoard. I picked it up and whilst holding this tiny acorn in my hand I felt a sense of true amazement to think that this tiny nut holds the essential ingredients to create one of the giant oak trees that I was standing under. Looking around at all these trees was like being in nature's art gallery with giant sculptures spreading high and wide.

A tree can bear blossom in the spring and fruit in the fall and is both a habitat for nesting birds and home to countless insects and other wildlife. Some trees live for 500 years or more and its timber has multiple uses. The tall ships of centuries past were made from oak and it is also the medium for craftsmen to create beautiful furniture and decorative wood carvings. All wood has great properties, be it oak, cedar, spruce, mahogany, rosewood or ebony. Wood has played such an important part in civilization and is something that we all take for granted. When walking through a woodland it's like walking through nature's own cathedral; a grand church built by God.

Often when relaxing at home I sit and play guitar. I suddenly realised that even when doing this I'm surrounded by wood. The floor of my house is Russian oak; I sit on a wooden stool and play a guitar made of wood. The beautiful sounds created by guitars, lutes, violins violas and cellos are created by steel or gut strings resonating over tone wood.

Jesus, like his father Joseph, was a carpenter. He spent most of his youth working with wood. When he was born he was placed in a wooden manger, and when he was crucified it was on a wooden cross.

God planted the ingredients into an acorn to enable it to grow into a mighty oak tree that would be both home to wildlife and create timber that could be used for multiple purposes. God also gave us the ingredients to do good things in our life; to help others and spread happiness. He also gave us the freedom of choice. It is up to us to choose the right path and be like the humble acorn and slowly grow into something of beauty.

Job 14:7 *For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.*

Psalm 1:3 *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Dennis Homes, Fromes Hill

'One Sunday in November members of Much Cowarne's congregation were greeted with the gift of a bottle of Tia Maria left in the porch by an anonymous benefactor.

In recent years it has become somewhat of a tradition for Church goers to enjoy a tot in their coffee and this donation has been truly appreciated.

On behalf of the congregation I wish to acknowledge the generosity of the mystery donor and extend our gratitude to them for their bequest.

**God bless you.
Shirley Barber'**

Thank you for the socks

Now this is an acknowledgement that I (and I am sure many others) have made on opening presents at Christmas and I confess at birthdays too. In fact I can't remember the last time a bought a pair of socks but my sock drawer is always full. Ok I have a stock of odd socks that I never throw away because I am sure that at some time in the future the other matching one will turn up. This is a silly idea really because after many years of storage it has never happened yet. Is there really a sock fairy?

Despite the "one of a pair" sock that goes missing my consumption of them is high. Well they get holes in them don't they? I don't like turning up at a friend's house without taking my shoes off at the door. On more than one occasion my wife has pointed out that I am showing more of my foot than I intended. I have joked before now saying that of course my sock has got a hole in it, how else would I get my foot into it.

So why am I going on about socks? It's because the gifts that I get that don't cost a great deal are often the ones that are really useful and therefore, to me, valuable.

I have thought a lot about this concept of small value gifts that are in fact valuable to the receiver. I suppose we tend to value things in money but often a lot of gifts cost no money at all like the gift of someone's time or care. Like the cost of a pair of socks someone's spare time and concern may cost very little to the giver but to the receiver the value can be really significant. I mention this because in our village a good number of people who care and give their time make a valuable contribution to our community.

So when we hear church bells being rung, the choir singing at a church service, the church organ being played, then think of the time and care someone has given at no cost.

When we walk through the cared for church yard or appreciate the flower arrangements in the church and the way it is looked after then think of the time and care someone has given at no cost.

When we can enjoy the facilities at the Village Centre or attend a community function, then think of the time and care someone has given at no cost.

So, to all my friends and relations that have bought me socks and to all those people that give time and care to our community a very special thank you.

Tony Davis

Hereford Dean's Letter

The sad litany continues – as we move into 2018, we're recalling the last year of the Great War and its influence in our country.

At Hereford Cathedral, there will be special observances:

Poppies: Weeping Window – the cascade of thousands of ceramic poppies by Paul Cummins, artist and Tom Piper, designer, originally at HM Tower of London in 2014. This dramatic installation will be a major feature of cathedral life 14 March – 29 April and we hope that many from the diocese will want to come and see it – and engage with it. Those who have seen the installation in other places peak of its power to move and challenge – and we hope you will find it so – a reminder of the many lives given in sacrifice for truth and justice and peace.

Later, in April, we will have the unveiling of a plaque commemorating 8 little girls who died in a fire at the Garrick Theatre, Hereford, in April 1916 – they had been performing to raise funds for the troops at the Front and, as the curtain fell, fire broke out, with devastating results. A reminder that the war effort took its toll not only on those on active service, but also on innocents on the Home Front.

In September, the cathedral will unveil a new plaque honouring soldier Allan Leonard Lewis, the only Herefordshire-born recipient of the Victoria Cross. Lewis was killed in September 1918, aged 23. The Victoria Cross was presented to his parents by H.M King George V at Buckingham Palace in April 1919. A reminder that, for all its horror, the War inspired huge acts of courage and valour.

By the end of the year, will we be exhausted by all these observances? Will the constant reminders of the horrors of the Great War numb us to its terrible reality? My hope and prayer is that it will not – quite the opposite – these last four years of remembrance will have alerted us to stories, facts, tragedy, heroism, sorrow – which will help in making us a more understanding society – determined all the more to work for all that is good and true.

One of the results of the Great War was a new willingness and indeed thirst, to pray for the souls of the departed. Till then, the Church of England had been rather muted in any suggestion that its members might actually pray for those who had died. The Great War, with its huge number of deaths, changed all that. People needed to pray for their departed loved ones – they needed to be able to make some response and to feel that lives, so cruelly cut short, were continuing in God's presence. Today, we pray, quite naturally, for our departed loved ones – and how right that is. Heaven and Earth are so often very close and the gap that separates us, very thin.

Perhaps, from these four years of observance will come a new desire to pray and especially to realise afresh that, in our prayer, for the living and the departed, we are brought to the very thresholds of Heaven.

Michael Tavinor

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BISHOPS FROME

DATE	READER	PRAYERS	COFFEE
Feb 4 th	Tony W.	Julie	Diana
Feb 11 th	Heather	Maureen	Celia & Vera
Feb 14 th	Liz	TBA	N/A Ash Wednesday
Feb 18 th	Mike C.	Liz	Sheila & Angela
Feb 25 th	Maureen	N/A	N/A Evensong
Mar 4 th	Martin	Julie	Sue & Martin

ST JAMES THE GREAT, OCLE PYCHARD

Date	Day	Time	Service	Reader	Sidesman	Flowers/Cleaning
Feb 4 th	2 nd Before Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion	J Ridler	S Ridler	M Evans & I Hicks
Feb 18 th	Lent 1	6.00pm	Evensong	S Simcock	G Hicks	No Flowers
March 4 th	Lent 3	8.30am	Holy Communion	J Godfrey	G Hicks	

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MUCH COWARNE

Feb 11 th	Sunday before Lent	10.00am	Matins	M Brown/B Bowler	J Cooksley	M & D Brown
Feb 18 th	Lent 1	8.30am	Holy Communion	S Cartwright	S Cartwright	
Feb 25 th	Lent 2	10.00am	Holy Communion	A McFarlane	B Lloyd	

ST JAMES THE GREATER, STANFORD BISHOP

Feb 25 th	Lent 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Jetta & Rachel Hawkins
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FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

The Baptism of Fergus and Jack Panniers took place on 3rd December 2017 at St Giles, Acton Beauchamp.

Funerals

The Cremation of Gordon Reeves took place on 17th November 2017.

The Funeral of Bryan Bethell who died on 14th December 2017, aged 69, took place at St Mary's, Bishops Frome on 4th January 2018.

The Funeral of Gertrude Preedy who died on 26th December 2017, aged 95, took place at St Mary's, Much Cowarne on 10th January 2018.

May They Rest in Peace.

The Frome Valley Group

FEBRUARY 2018

	4th	11th	18th	25th	
Acton Beauchamp	<i>11.30am Holy Communion SB</i>				
Bishops Frome	<i>10.00am Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00am Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00 am High Mass RA/SB</i>	<i>6.00pm Evensong Katherine Percival</i>	
Castle Frome		<i>8.30am Holy Communion SB</i>		<i>10.00am Family Praise Lay Led</i>	
Evesbatch					
Fromes Hill	<i>10.00am Matins Lay Led JS/JR</i>		<i>11.30am Holy Communion RA</i>		
Much Cowarne		<i>10.00am Matins JR</i>	<i>8.30am BCP Holy Communion SB</i>	<i>10.00am Holy Communion David McKeeman</i>	
Ocle Pychard	<i>8.30am Holy Communion SB</i>		<i>6.00pm Evensong SB</i>		
Stanford Bishop				<i>8.30am Holy Communion David McKeeman</i>	
	<i>4th February 2 before Lent Green Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Psalm 104.26-37 John 1.1-14</i>	<i>11th February Sunday before Lent Green 2 Kings 2.1-12 Psalm 50.1-6 Mark 9.2-9</i>	<i>18th February Lent 1 Purple Genesis 9.8-17 Psalm 25.1-9 Mark 1.9-15</i>	<i>25th February Lent 2 Purple Genesis 17.1- 7,15,16 Psalm 22.23-31 Mark 8.31-38</i>	

WHAT'S ON AT BISHOPS FROME VILLAGE CENTRE

You can find more details at bishopsfromecentre.co.uk and find us on [Facebook](#)

Mon	10.00 – 12.00	Internet Café	Drop in or call 01531 640981 All welcome, help available
	14.00 – 16.30	Board Games Next 12 February	Anna 01885 490557
	19.30 for 20.00	Bingo	Run by Wendy for various good causes. All welcome.
Tues	09.30	Pilates	Sally 01886 880956 Prior booking essential
	12.30 for 13.00	Over 60s Lunch Club	Joan 01531 640587 6 th , 13 th , 20 th February Advance booking is essential
	18.00 – 19.00	Bounce Fitness	Lorraine 07427 690055 Or Facebook Loll Heath
	19.15 – 20.00	Zumba	Anthony 07977 463829
Weds	14.00	Needlecraft Group	Beryl 01531 640359
	19.00	Kick Boxing for children and adults	Kathryn 07495 427993
	20.15 – 21.00	Zumba	Anthony 07977 463829
Thurs	9.30 – 10.30	Pilates	Not currently taking new members
	19.30 – 22.30	Learn to Jive Various classes	Matt 01989 750354
Fri	10.00 – 11.30 First Fridays	Bishops Frome Friday Friends Playgroup	Tracy 07985 610689 and see Facebook.
Post Office Services			Monday 13.45 to 16.45 Tuesday 13.00 to 14.30 Wednesday 9.00 to 12.00 Thursday 9.00 to 12.00

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 February BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON – join us at 2pm to play a favourite board game or learn a new one. Tea and cake to finish. Everyone welcome. £2 contribution requested

This advertising space could be yours!

Contact Sarah Sevastopulo
for more information
e-mail: oldholbans@hotmail.com
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Friends of Frome Church Lottery

DECEMBER 2017

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Seller
£25	73	B Day	PB
£20.	368	Alice Hunt	PP
£15.	303	John Orgee	JO
£10.	25	D Pinches	CI
£10.	313	Mrs I Marshall	JS
£10	394	Michael Southall	JS
£10.	353	Richard Godsall	MH
£10.	236	Joan Rose	JS
£10.	187	Mrs M Harrold	Angela
£10.	63	Don Sanders	JO

ACTON BEAUCHAMP GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

www.actonbeauchamp-gpc.co.uk

Councillors: Alec Elliot - Chairman Richard Potter - Vice Chairman
Richard Kuehn Francis Lowden
Katherine Smith Jean Morris - Clerk

The following planning application results were confirmed at a recent meeting.

172232 Acton Mill, Suckley - 4 new dwellings - refused.

172345 Malvern View Country Estate - change of use of land for up to 122 caravans etc; - valid

172578 Crooks Hill Farm, Acton Beauchamp - change of use of agricultural land and garage - approved.

172437 Crooks Hill Farm, Acton Beauchamp - 2 new cottages - valid.

Next meeting 13th. February, 2018 at 8 p.m. at Stanford Bishop Village Hall.

VICAR

Rev. Steven Baggs tel: - 01885 490582

e-mail: stevenbaggs@me.com

PLEASE NOTE: Monday is Steven's day off.

CURATE

Rev. Richard Allaway tel:07969 699270

email: allawayrja@gmail.com

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tel and fax tel - 01885 490229

e-mail: fvgroup@btinternet.com

PARISH SECRETARY

Eleanor Morris tel - 01885 490229

Office open for routine matters

Wednesday & Friday 9.15am-11.45am

CHURCH WARDENS

ACTON BEAUCHAMP

Sally Wall 01886 884727

Jane Allan 01531 640227

BISHOPS FROME

Gill Lynch 01531 640305

Tony Davies 01885 490394

Heather Partridge (Deputy) 01531 640157

CASTLE FROME

Charles Pudge 01531 640309

EVESBATCH

Richard Kuehn 01886 880259

Diana Harrison 01531640846

FROMES HILL

Jill Southall 01531 640288

Joan Rose 01531 640587

MUCH COWARNE

Jean Parkes 01432 820402

Martin Hewitt 01432 820282

OCLE PYCHARD

John Ridler 01432 820328

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Rachael Hawkins 01886 884250

Jetta Hawkins 07973 239778

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**LAST COPY DAY for the March & April's 2018 issue of
THE FROME VALLEY NEWS is: Monday 12th February 2018
And the collection date will be :
Friday 23rd February 2018 - March and 27th March for April**