

T H E C O M M U N I T Y

NEWSLETTER

BURLEY GATE · FELTON · MORETON JEFFRIES · MUCH COWARNE · OCLE PYCHARD · STOKE LACY · ULLINGSWICK

“Looking Forward”



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

Letter from the Editor

At the time of writing Christmas is a week or so away but by the time you read this it will all be over and we have a whole new year to look forward to. I'm not one for New Year's resolutions but at this time of world-wide disharmony and discord it would be good if we all resolved to work harder to improve and strengthen our own precious community. This can be anything from taking the time to connect to someone new in the neighbourhood to helping organise an event for the whole community to enjoy.

I know lots of people really love reading the Community News so, as well as sending in adverts for events in the coming months, why don't you share a favourite poem or recipe, a recommendation (or otherwise) of a local walk, reminiscences or some interesting local history - anything you think others might like to read.

I hope you enjoy this edition's centre-page 'photos - the theme is 'Looking Through'. The theme for the March/April edition is 'Spring' - not the most imaginative, perhaps, but I think we will all appreciate some 'photos of flowering flora, leaping lambs and cute calves!

Please feel free to contact me about any aspect of the Community News:
marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or 0785 220 2353



Thank you for reading!
Keep well and keep smiling
Marilyn, Annie & Molly

Re: Community Newsletter Advertising Rates

1/4 page - £9 per issue (previously £8)
1/2 - page £18 per issue (previously £16)
Full page - £36 per issue (previously £32)



PRICE LIST as from January 1st 2024

Unfortunately, due to the increase in the costs of all services that are needed to keep the hall running, warm and safe, the Management Committee have had to increase the charges as follows:

HIRE/EVENT	CHARGE
Hourly Rate unless one of the following events	£12.50 per hour
Evening event (except youth groups or a private party)	£30 per session
All Youth Groups	£15 per session
Children's Party	£30 per session
Evening Party (£50 deposit)	£75
Commercial Function/wedding receptions etc	£80 all day/£45 half day
Polling Station Hire of Hall	£150
Use of kitchen of one or more of fridge, freezer, cooker, water heater, washing-up machine (not the kettle or microwave)	£10
Heating small hall only	£5
Heating – small & large halls	£10

For more information and to receive Booking Forms please contact Marilyn Pemberton:

Email: Marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk

or call 0785 220 2353

The Book Box

We are now entering our 4th year of Book Box operation and I should like to thank all the readers who have supported us with donations to enable us to continue. Just two black spots with the removal of a large quantity of children's books, and recently half a shelf of "General Interest" books "disappeared" overnight! Is someone setting up in opposition? The children's books have now been largely replaced due to notices on the Box and in the last Community Newsletter so thanks again for those. The books withdrawn monthly from The Box go to either the Much Cowarne church bookstall or to St. Michael's Hospice from whom I have received grateful letters of thanks as they are able to claim Gift Aid on the sale of them.

I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and please carry on reading.

Barry, the Book Box organiser

On behalf of everyone in the community I would like to thank Barry for his dedication and commitment to ensuring that we all have good books readily to hand. The Book Box may be small on the outside but inside there's a whole world to explore.

Marilyn Pemberton

Do you want to be a 'Friend at the Gate'?

Would you like to be one of the 'Friends at the Gate'? We desperately need volunteers to help at events organised by the Burley Gate Village Hall committee and so I would like to create a list of people who are happy to be contacted to see if they are able to help. You won't need to be on the committee and there is no obligation to help. All it means is that if we need, for example, a working party to clear some rubbish away or remove the brick wall at the front of the car park, or help setting up the hall for an event, or help with refreshments or then we can ask the 'Friends of the Gate' in the hope that someone will be able to help.

If you would be willing to be put onto the list (remembers there is absolutely no obligation) then please let me know your contact details and wait for the first plea for help!

marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk

Much Cowarne WI - Programme 2023-4

All meetings are held at STOKE LACY VILLAGE HALL
on the 2nd Friday of each month at 2.30 pm unless stated below.

2024

January 12th - Coffee Morning – Bring & Buy - 10.30am – 12pm

February 9th - Origin of Fairy Tales - Marilyn Pemberton - My Very Own Fairy Tale (8 lines)

March 8th - Annual Meeting & Auction - Spring Posy

Bromyard's favourite
a cappella choir



Mondays 7.30 - 9pm
Conquest Theatre
Bromyard

No auditions and no sheet music.
Open to all genders, 18+

Find us on Facebook: **The Decibelles Bromyard**
Or contact Amy on **07932 420 877**

Monthly **BINGO** Nights

2024 dates:

FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY
FRIDAY 15th MARCH
FRIDAY 19th APRIL
FRIDAY 17th MAY
FRIDAY 21st JUNE
FRIDAY 26th JULY
FRIDAY 16th AUGUST
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER
FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER

16th February in aid of Ullingswick church
Other local churches / organisations may also run some dates above

Burley Gate Village Hall **Doors Open: 7.00pm** **Eyes Down: 7.30pm**
HR1 3QR

Raffle & refreshments.
For more information contact: Sue 01432 820127 or Helen 07816 773735

St Luke's Church Ullingswick

Services for

January to March 2024

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy new year.



Date	Service	1st Reading	Reader
January			
7th - 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Acts 19.1-7	S. Dalton
21st - 8.30am	Holy Communion	Revelations 19.6-10	J. Stevens
February			
4th - 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Colossians 1.15-20	H Farrell
18th - 8.30am	Holy Communion	1 Peter 3:18-end	D Farrell

TBA - Service data unavailable at time of publication please contact the Rector Elizabeth Sidwell to confirm final details. The Rector may be contacted on Tel: 01885 482737
Please view Parish and Church notice boards to confirm timing of services, which may be subject to change.
Details regarding church services and events can also be found at
www.achurchnearyou.com/ullingswick-st-luke

*Readers If anyone is unable to read on the day listed, please arrange a swap directly with someone else on the list and inform the Church Warden

January				
		What	Where	When
4	Th			
6	Sa			
7	Su	Morning Prayer	Ullingswick Church	10am
		PM Praise with afternoon tea	Stoke Lacy Church	4pm
8	Mo			
9	Tu	Bromyard & District Probus Club	The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard	12pm
		Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
10	We	Film Night at the Gate - 'Green Book'	Burley Gate Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Th	Meet at the Gate	Burley Gate Village Hall	10am - 12.30pm
		MCGPC	Burley Gate Village Hall	7pm
12	Fr	Much Cowarne WI - Bring & Buy	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	10.30am - 12pm
13	Sa			
14	Su	Matins	Much Cowarne Church	10am
		Holy Communion	Stoke Lacy Church	10.30am
16	Tu	Stoke Lacy Friendship Club -Bingo	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	10.30am
		Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall (small hall)	7-9pm
		OPGPC	Burley Gate Village Hall	7.30pm
		Stoke Lacy & District Gardening Club - talk by Kevin Alviti	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	7.30pm
18	Th			
20	Sa			
21	Su	Holy Communion	Ullingswick Church	8.30am
		Sanctuary – A calm time for prayer and reflection	Stoke Lacy Church	4pm
22	Mo			
23	Tu	Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
25	Th	Meet at the Gate	Burley Gate Village Hall	10am - 12.30pm
27	Sa	Coffee Morning	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	10.30am - 12pm
28	Su	Farmers' Breakfast	Burley Gate Village Hall	7.30am - 2pm
		Holy Communion	Much Cowarne Church	10am
		Holy Communion	Stoke Lacy Church	10.30am
30	Tu	Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
31	We			

February				
		What	Where	When
4	Su	Morning Prayer	Ullingswick Church	10am
		PM Praise with afternoon tea	Stoke Lacy Church	4pm
6	Tu	Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
7	We			
8	Th	Meet at the Gate	Burley Gate Village Hall	10am - 12.30pm
		MCGPC	Burley Gate Village Hall	7pm
9	Fr	Much Cowarne WI - 'Origin of fairy tales' by Marilyn Pemberton	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	2.30pm
10	Sa			
11	Su	Matins	Much Cowarne Church	10am
		Holy Communion	Stoke Lacy Church	10.30am
12	Mo			
13	Tu	Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
		Bromyard & District Probus Club	The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard	12pm
14	We	Ash Wednesday Service	Contact rector for details 01885 482737	TBA
		Film Night at the Gate - '84 Charing Cross Road'	Burley Gate Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Fr	Bingo	Burley Gate Village Hall	7pm
		Family Quiz	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	7pm
18	Su	Holy Communion	Ullingswick Church	8.30am
		Sanctuary – A calm time for prayer and reflection	Stoke Lacy Church	4pm
20	Tu	Stoke Lacy Friendship Club - 'Down the Colorado without his wheelchair'	Stoke Lacy Village Hall	10.30am
		Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
		OPGPC	Burley Gate Village Hall	7.30pm
21	We			
22	Th	Meet at the Gate	Burley Gate Village Hall	10am -
23	Fr			
25	Su	Holy Communion	Much Cowarne Church	10am
		Holy Communion	Stoke Lacy Church	10.30am
27	Tu	Table Tennis	Burley Gate Village Hall	7-9pm
28	We			
MARCH				
		What	Where	When
8	Fr	Race Night	The Plough Inn, Stoke Lacy	7.30pm

Over the Burley Gate



Carols by Candlelight

Did you hear about Ocle's Carol service by candlelight?

'No'

'Well, it was just that – by candles.'

'After the first lusterly sung carol the lights, the heaters, the electric keyboard all gave up the ghost.'

'Perhaps you sang too enthusiastically.'

'The poor Pax Singers did a magnificent job singing a cappella with their conductor peering into the score with a mobile 'phone. Fortunately, the two candles of the Advent Ring provided a good light for the readers of the Christmas story.'

'Wasn't chilly?'

'By the end of the service the cold was seeping through, but then a miracle occurred – warm mince pies and steaming mulled wine appeared, thanks to Rosie and her Aga!'

'So it was a very real and magical Herefordshire carol service?'

'Indeed – almost Victorian.....'



The Community Christmas Lunch

'Did you know Elaine's kitchen was booked-up for December by July?'

'What no Christmas lunch?'

'Amazingly Carl and Pauline Watkins offered.'

'Wow! That was very generous and quite a commitment.'

'It certainly was, but they both got into creative mode and produced a delicious traditional meal, and they catered beautifully for the special diets, ensuring no one missed out on the trimmings and even the gluten-free got Christmas pud. However, I did make a bloomer – we had one lovely gentleman who didn't like all that dried fruit, and we had no alternative dessert.'

'I hope you gave him an extra Ferrero Rocher with his coffee?'

'Our thanks go to the planning and decorating team, M. le Chef, Carl and Pauline and (shop) Linda for slaving so hard in the kitchen, Sheila for the lovely table decs. and our special young servers, Reuben, Coral, Amelia and Ariadne for making such a great community meal and an excellent start to Christmas.'





Did you know that Burley Gate Village Hall has a

TABLET



PRINTER



LAMINATOR



for use by the community?

If you would like to make use of any of these devices then please contact marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or 07852202353



Fete at the Gate

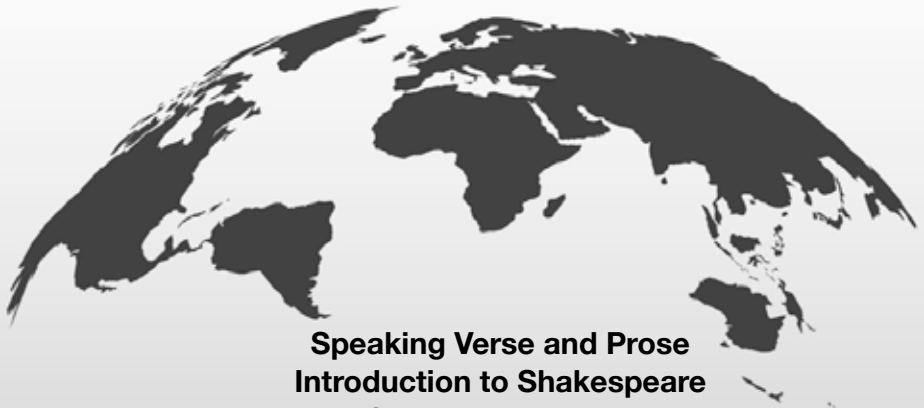


Do you want to take part?

We will be holding a Summer Fete at Burley Gate Village Hall and Burley Gate C. of E. Primary School playing fields on **Saturday 13th July 2024** and we would love you to take part!

I know it is a long way off but if you are an individual or belong to an organisation or business and are interested in being involved in any way, then please contact me in the first instance: marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or 0785 220 2353

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Burley Gate Community Shop and Post Office



Shop Telephone No: 01432 683183

We are a small local Community Shop and Post Office located in the car park at Burley Gate Village Hall run by a friendly team of volunteers with Caroline and Nat running the Post Office.

We aim to provide a wide range of fairly priced goods wherever possible sourced locally. Our staples include newspapers and magazines, milk from Cotteswold Dairy, eggs from Judy and John Orgee, ham, bacon and cheese from Willersey Provisions, Bennetts ice cream, honey from Dave and Sue Garrett at Ullingswick and bread, pork pies and pasties from Lamings Bakery. We stock Tom Oliver's cider and perry and Wye Valley Brewery beers. Our stocks of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and tobacco, confectionery, biscuits and tinned and dry goods are regularly replenished.

Shirley Breese brings plants, seasonal vegetables, fruit and flowers when available and home made preserves, usually on Tuesdays. Shirley Simcock supplies filled rolls in a variety of fillings several times a week. We are delighted that she has returned with her tempting and delicious cakes.

The stationery and greetings card section caters for your everyday needs from envelopes and adhesive tapes to printer paper and batteries etc and greetings cards to suit all tastes and occasions.

Our Health and Wellbeing section has toiletries suitable for most parts of the body together with sunscreens for those off to sunnier climes, and baby care supplies. The medical range can provide relief from minor ailments afflicting head to toe and all the bits between. Pain relievers and digestive remedies are available to help combat the effects of too much strenuous activity or perhaps over indulgence.

Our fur and feathered friends are well catered for with wild bird seed, peanuts and fat snacks from General Dogsbody and a range of dog and cat food both wet and dried.

We are no longer accepting items for laundering and dry cleaning due to the unreliability of the service provider.

Post Office

In addition to traditional PO services our branch also provides many of the services previously offered by local banks before their closure:

BANKING: Deposit and withdraw cash free using your debit card and deposit cheques in a cheque deposit envelope available from us.

UTILITY BILLS: Pay Council Tax, Water, Electricity, Gas, Telephone bills etc. here.

CURRENCY: Foreign currency is not available in this branch but can be ordered online at: postoffice.co.uk for secure delivery and collection from us.

DVLA: Tax or SORN your vehicle here. This service currently remains available.

MOBILE PHONE TOP-UPS.

GIFT CARDS: 'One for All' which can be spent in over 100 outlets in store or online and Amazon gift cards are available in a range of values.

MAILINGS: post letters and parcels, home or abroad. For urgent mail use Special Delivery before 1pm next day and tracked and signed for International Post and Parcelforce 24/48 for heavier parcels. Parcel returns can also be processed that are prepaid Royal Mail.

DROP AND GO: A 'Drop and Go' account allows customers to leave their mail both inland and international with us without having to wait for it to be processed. An account can be opened on line at www.postoffice.co.uk/dropandgo

Last posting dates for Christmas delivery are displayed and available in the Post Office.

Please note: mail needs to be processed by 11.45am to ensure that it is collected that day.

Opening Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
SHOP	8:00 – 1:00	8:00 – 1:00	8:00 – 1:00	8:00 – 1:00	8:00 – 1:00	8:30 – 12:30	8:30 – 10:30
POST OFFICE	9:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 12:30	Closed

The Post Office is closed on Bank Holidays. **Post Office Telephone no: 01432 820804**

Up to date information about the shop and post office can be found on the Burley Gate Community Shop Facebook page and on other local social media sites. Do have a look or pop into the shop to see for yourself.

Our thanks go to our small band of dedicated volunteers and staff and to our suppliers and their staff who help to keep the shop stocked and open seven days a week. Our volunteers give over 100 hours of their time each week to provide the service we have become used to; their contribution cannot be over emphasised.

Once again our thanks go to Erica and Christine for their seasonal handicrafts which were, as always, hugely popular. Our range included knitted elves, soldiers, Mr and Mrs Santas, snowmen, Ferrero Roche covers and reindeer, Christmas pudding and elf chocolate orange cosies. Considering folk were intending to cut back on posting Christmas cards it was a bumper year for the sale of stamps and cards.

We thank you all, our customers, for the cards, biscuits, chocolates and good wishes, your generosity and thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Now that a new year is dawning we send our best wishes and thank you for your continued support, patience and good humour as we look forward to fresh beginnings. Look out for the stage production of Blackadder II at the Conquest Theatre, Bromyard at the end of February you may spot a thespian you recognise! Why not stock up on chocolate and other treats from our shop to sustain you during the performance.

The Shop Committee and Post Office Team.

FACE COVERING IN THE SHOP

Whilst face covering is a matter of choice we do ask that you consider wearing one in the shop if you have symptoms of a cold, flu or covid and continue to give each other space.

Our cleaning regimes introduced during covid are still in place with thorough cleansing of surfaces and of course frequent handwashing as part of our daily routine. Hand sanitiser is available for customer's use.

Minimising the risk of passing on an infection each other and to our volunteers and staff will help keep our shop and post office operating at the level we currently enjoy.

Thank You, The BGCS Committee

ST MARY'S CHURCH MUCH COWARNE

Christmas Bring & Buy Sale

Despite an unpromising start the weather for our 'Bring & Buy' coffee morning on December 9th was not as wet as had been feared and we were pleased to welcome an encouraging number of people who joined us to buy, browse our book collection or just to enjoy coffee, cake and a chance to chat. Thank you to all those who brought things to sell, including a variety of cakes, preserves, and Christmas items, and to those who came to browse and buy. We all had a most enjoyable morning and raised just under £400 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal for the Homeless in Herefordshire. We are most grateful to those who made delicious cakes to go with tea and coffee and to those who helped to serve and, of course, wash up!

Carol Service

Our Carol service on December 10th was also threatened by the weather which allowed the congregation to arrive in the dry but unfortunately those who left just as a deluge arrived were not so lucky and got rather wet. Hopefully the mulled wine and mince pies which we enjoyed after the service helped to keep out the chill if not the rain. The service followed the usual pattern of carols and bible passages describing the foretelling and the birth of Christ but with addition of relevant, modern poems and then a short prayer after each bible reading to emphasise the continuing relevance and importance of the Christian message today.

Burley Gate Nativity Play

A wet and muddy Tuesday 12th December saw Much Cowarne Church welcome Burley Gate Primary School for their Nativity Play. It was a special occasion and the church was full of excited children, their teachers, appreciative parents and members of Much Cowarne Church. The story of the Nativity was conveyed through drama and carols, narrated by the older children; hearing the church filled with children's voices was delightful. Much time and effort had been put into creating vibrant costumes - golden stars leading the wise men, tinselled angels flitting about and shepherds with their donkey carrying us all to Bethlehem to see the 'Prince of Glory' with Mary and Joseph.



Rev Steven Baggs gave the blessing and everyone enjoyed refreshments afterwards. What a splendid way to begin the preparation for Christmas and a wonderful reminder of what the season is all about.

Race Night

Our first social event of 2024 will be a Race Night on Friday March 8th at The Plough Inn, Stoke lacy, (for full details please see the advert below). If you haven't been to one of these evenings yet do give it a try – perhaps bring some friends with you – and join in some light-hearted fun. Half the fun is owning a horse and watching it run and if you wish to do this you do need to book in advance so that the name of your horse can be added to the race card. If you have any queries about how it all works either Barry or Ted (contact details in the advert) will be happy to help. Light refreshments – hot pork rolls - are included in the entry fee.

Finally the PCC of St Mary's wish you all a peaceful and healthy 2024

Much Cowarne PCC



RACE NIGHT



Friday 8th March 2024

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

Admission £5 including light refreshments

You may want to come just to have some fun and a bet or two (minimum stake £1) but - would you like to own a horse for the night or sponsor a race?

You can own & name a horse (£10) & it will be on the race card. If it wins - you win £30

or you can Sponsor a Race (£30) and have it named after you.

For further details please contact:

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

or Ted Parkes 01432 820402 email:tedparkes@btopenworld.com

A further instalment of reflections on life in Sri Lanka...

Evenin' all

Dixon of Dock Green lives! It's just that he and his crew have moved to Sri Lanka. Newspapers still write of criminals being 'nabbed', and policing methods are, let us say, traditional. As we discovered when the cottage we have in the grounds of Jungle Tide was burgled one night. The thieves made off with a fridge-freezer, a TV and Digibox, a kettle and the two-ring gas burner. In the UK, when you report a theft to the police – unless it's something of great value, or dangerous – it is in the firm expectation that nothing will happen. It's simply what you have to do, to be able to claim on the insurance. We fully expected the same in Sri Lanka. We were wrong.

The police turned up with sniffer dogs who found a trail leading to one of the suspects' houses in the village. A few days later, we were summoned to the police station. The police had made four arrests, accompanied by exemplary beatings for stealing from foreigners, and recovered our stolen goods! The scene in the police station wasn't a bit like Vera. Not even like Death in Paradise. No charts with names and photos of suspects and victims connected with strings, like the proper police do on TV. The CID occupied a grimy lean-to (I've seen many superior and some larger garden sheds). There was only one computer screen, to which nobody was paying any attention. Two antique Remington typewriters. Dented metal cabinets, shelves groaning under the weight of ledgers. Police caps hanging on nails. A single bare lightbulb, but a cobweb of electrical wires hanging from the ceiling, which was comprised of hardboard plates slowly drifting apart. And masses of paper across every surface. The only Death in Paradise moment occurred early on when the Police Chief stuck his head around the door. Instantly everyone leapt to attention and saluted, and I found myself also rising from my chair until I was motioned to sit down. The Chief then vanished without having done or said anything. No-one spoke much English, but when I thanked them and said "England Police Nil, Sri Lanka Police One" they all cracked up laughing.

Space doesn't allow me to describe the tortuous procedures of the subsequent court case. Our goods had to be 'displayed' in court, which meant everything being taken on the back of a lorry about ten miles to the court, then back to the police station, then, days later, finally to our house. The fridge has not worked properly since. In court, the judge had told me, in a stern voice, that although I would get my possessions back I should not sell them. Did I understand? Yes, I understood. Though in point of fact I did not see why I could not sell my own possessions just because someone had once stolen them. Still, that's the mysteries of Sri Lanka for you.

We're off to Sri Lanka for the winter after Christmas, so my next contribution will be from there. Happy New Year to all.

Jerry Smith



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St Peter & St Paul's Church, Stoke Lacy - Sidesmen/Refreshments, Prayers, Readers & Flower Fairies/Holy Dusters - Year B

January 2024

<i>Date/ time</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Sidesmen/ Refreshments</i>	<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Flower Fairies Holy Dusters</i>
7th 4.00pm	Epiphany White/ Gold	PM Praise with afternoon tea PM	C Walters T Lively	H Combe	R Combe T Lively	Tina Lively
14th 10.30am	Epiphany 2 White/ Gold	Holy Communion PM	C McNaught T Lively	PM	C McNaught Elle Wise	Tina Lively
21st 4.00pm	Epiphany 3 White/ Gold	Sanctuary – A calm time for prayer and reflection PM	S McKeeman	PM	PM	Margaret Woodley
28th 10.30am	Epiphany 4 Candlemass White/Gold	Holy Communion PM	B Mackereth H Combe	S McKeeman	B Mackereth H Combe	Margaret Woodley

February 2024

4th 4.00pm	2 Before Lent Green	PM Praise with afternoon tea PM	C Walters T Lively	H Combe	Elle Wise R Combe	Helen Combe
11th 10.30am	Next before Lent Green	Holy Communion PM	C McNaught H Combe	PM	C McNaught R Horton	Helen Combe
18th 4.00pm	Lent 1 Purple	Sanctuary – A calm time for prayer and reflection PM	S McKeeman	PM	PM	Jane Horton NO FLOWERS
25th 10.30am	Lent 2 Purple	Holy Communion PM	B Mackereth J Horton	S McKeeman	B Mackereth J Horton	Jane Horton NO FLOWERS

March 2024

3rd 4.00pm	Lent 3 Purple	PM Praise with afternoon tea PM	C Walters T Lively	H Combe	Elle Wise R Combe	Tba NO FLOWERS
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NB SANCTUARY SERVICES DURING WINTER ARE HELD AT 4PM

DUTIES

Sidesmen/Refreshments

- To put out appropriate service sheets give to people with hymn book and a warm welcome
- To bring milk and refreshments and set up mugs, fill kettles prior to service; to make and serve refreshments afterwards, wash-up etc. Be sure to turn off hot water – switch under sink

Readers. Normally from the Lectionary on the lectern with first named person reading the first reading

Flower Fairies & Holy Dusters – to refresh/replace flowers on the altar. Vacuum the floors including porch; clean away dead flies; polish brass; check for cobwebs and remove; tidy the kneelers onto back of pews. If you are on duty on a 2nd Saturday please clean AFTER the Coffee Morning.



We have raised £44.90 for Burley Gate Village Hall by doing nothing!

With the sales due to start in January, would you please consider registering with easyfundraising.org.uk. Every time you want to purchase an item on-line instead of going to the retailer's website you go to the easyfundraising.org.uk website, where you select a cause (Burley Gate Village Hall) then select one of the 7,000+ retailers that subscribe. Once selected, you will be taken to the retailer's website and you can continue with your purchase in the normal manner. **You will still buy the item at the advertised price** BUT because you have been directed from easyfundraising.org.uk the retailer will make a donation (either a % of the cost of the item or a fixed amount) to the cause you selected.

It's an absolute win – win process. It takes very little effort and costs **you** no extra money, the **retailer** supports good causes and **Burley Gate Village Hall** gets a small income.

I think the easyfundraising.org.uk website is clear but please do not hesitate to contact me on marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or call **0785 220 2353** if you need further information or help with getting going.

Stoke Lacy PCC 100 Club

November 2023

1st Janet Watson £20
2nd Carole Sandhau £10
3rd Patrick Howells £5

December 2023

1st Patsy Morgan £20
2nd Annabel Mackereth £10
3rd Patrick Howells £5

Subscriptions due in January ready for the 1st draw in February
Tina Lifely: 07815733565

GARDENING & HOME HELP

CONTACT ME



- ✓ Mowing and tidying
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A Country Verse

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife
The gossip buzzes round a village shop
A magazine informs a village life
A village hall becomes the place to stop

But, soft ! What light through yonder window breaks ?
It is the hall, the place is well alight
The fire spreads, and soon the heat it makes
Engulfs the shop (and gives the staff a fright !)

How do I love thee ? Let me count the ways
Dear hall and shop you make our village hot
Without your help how would we pass the days ?
We'd have to travel elsewhere, would we not ?

If you can keep your head when all about
Are writing verth and theeking to impreth
Then you should try your hand, without a doubt
At plagiarising Tom and Will and Beth

Oh, and Rudy.

Written by our own Bob McGregor

The Community Newsletter specifications (now hand delivered to over 700 households)

Advertising rates

1/4 page (portrait) - £9 per issue

1/2 page (landscape) - £18 per issue

Full page (portrait) - £36 per issue

Copy requirements, please supply news, events or features in an email to the Editor at marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk by the copy submission dates below.

Copy and advert submission dates

March - April 2024 issue - 19th February

May - June 2024 issue - 22nd April

July - August 2024 issue - ?????

The Newsletters are hand delivered to over 700 households in 7 villages, around the first week of the month following the submission date.

All items published in this Newsletter are the views of the individual contributors.

Stoke Lacy Parish Walk

On a dreich but dry Sunday morning a valiant “baker’s dozen” set off on a 3.5 mile walk along three key footpaths in the parish SL11, SL7 and SL2. The walk was organised for the community by the Parish Council and it was also an opportunity to see the improvements to access of the path network. The Parish Council has installed two self-closing gates which have replaced 2 stiles, another 2 stiles have been removed altogether and the spaces left open, new steps on a tall stile and finally, a Permissive Path created around a collapsed bridge over Woodend Brook (which, at last, Herefordshire Council has promised to replace in 2024/5).

The route took us up gentle hills and down dales and along country lanes with lots of time to get to know each other or catchup with old friends. There was a lot to see and learn with the exchange of local knowledge of the area including the church, buildings and historic folk and the many challenges farmers face in these uncertain times.

It was pleasing to meet friends from Burley Gate and Much Cowarne as well as Stoke Lacy. In fact, Bob McGregor, the footpath officer from Much Cowarne joined the group and promised to arrange a similar walk in his parish in 2024!!

The culmination of the event was glorious bacon rolls and hot drinks produced by Janet Ivison.

Many thanks to Stoke Lacy Parish Council and the Footpath Officer team headed by John Thompson.

Happy New Year From Stoke Lacy Village Hall

Stoke Lacy Village Hall is now equipped with the internet and open to all visitors to the hall. We will be making use of this facility to enhance the experience at events we will be running in 2024.

Some dates for your 2024 diary:

Saturday, 27th January. From 10.30am to 12 noon we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of St. Michael’s Hospice. Please help us with this worthy cause whilst enjoying a catchup with neighbours and friends.

Friday, 16th February. Starting at 7pm a family friendly quiz for all interests with a “ploughman’s supper”. Come alone or bring a team.

Bromyard and District Probus Club

What happens if you give unexplained instructions to a group of mature men and invite them and others in the room to comment on their response? Is this something determined by culture, nationality – or what they have just had for lunch?

This was put to the test by our speaker, Jan Henson, at our November meeting. After our usual delicious Falcon lunch, she invited ten of us to remove our shoes and obey the instructions on a series of cards that she handed round. The others watched, not without banter – this was a Probus meeting, so banter is part of the deal. The results were intriguing, and led to a fascinating discussion on the way different cultures respond to similar situations. Some of us cooperated, some were waiting for the punchline, and others, baffled, thought the whole thing was nonsense. The observers' responses varied from 'chaotic' to 'suspicious'. These responses might have been affected by the fact that we are all old friends.

Quoting from the book *The Culture Map*, by Erin Meyer, Jan explored the different ways people in different countries and cultures interact with each other, and by extension with outsiders. The French devotion to detail contrasts with the more general approach of us British. We all know that Germans and Italians do not understand queuing. Also, far away in every respect, the people of China have a completely different set of expectations and reactions in their relations with authority.

Naturally, in such a widely-travelled and experienced group of old codgers, a rich and varied discussion followed the talk, a stimulating end to a very satisfactory meeting.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12 noon at the Falcon Hotel in Bromyard. The next meeting is January 9th when we will hear from Jan Nielsen about her experiences as a veterinary nurse.

If you'd like to join us, please contact
Malcolm Penny on **01885 490291** or at malcolmpenny75@gmail.com

See you there, and Happy New Year!

Stoke Lacy Friendship Club

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to the New Year.

Programme so far for 2024:-

16th January - Fun and games "Bingo"

20th February - "Down the Colorado without his wheelchair"
(a new speaker we haven't had before, sounds exciting!)

19th March - Ms. Audrey Nunn, another speaker we haven't had before.

Subject - wait and see!

If you don't know us, do come and visit. We are a friendly group of senior citizens who meet every third Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am. at Stoke Lacy Village Hall.

We would love to meet you.

Any query please let me know.

Daphne Montandon Tel. 01886 884402 or 07929 108457

Welsh Coastal Cottage To Let – Sleeps 8/9

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The house is ideally situated for bird watching, walking (the coastal path is at the end of the terrace road) and the beaches. You often see the local colony of bottle nose dolphins from the house windows. Boat trips for fishing or to see the dolphins and wildlife are available from the quay. Water sport hire and instruction are available in the harbour for all levels of experience.

The usual seaside amenities including pubs, restaurants, cafes, fish and chips and shops are all within 3 minute walking distance.

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Film Night at the Gate Winter Season 2024

**Wednesday 13th
December**

JOYEUX NOËL

Doors open 7pm for a
7.30pm start



**Wednesday 10th
January**

GREEN BOOK

Doors open 7pm for a
7.30pm start



**Wednesday 14th
February**

84 CHARING CROSS ROAD

Doors open 7pm for a
7.30pm start



BURLEY GATE VILLAGE HALL HR1 3QR

£5 on the door Tea/coffee, choc ices, beer and wine, raffle

The Frome Valley Group

January 2024	7th	14th	21st	28th	4th Feb
Much Cowarne		10.00am Matins Lay Led		10.00am Holy Communion RA	
Ocle Pychard					
	Epiphany Gold or White Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.10-15 Matthew 2.1-12	Epiphany 2 White 1 Samuel 3.1-20 Psalm 139.1-5,12-18 John 1.43-51	Epiphany 3 White Genesis 14.17-20 Psalm 128 John 2.1-11	Candlemas Gold or White Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.7-10 Luke 2.22-40	2 before Lent Green Colossians 1.15-20 Psalm 104.26-37 John 1.1-14

February 2024	4th	11th	18th	25th	3rd March
Much Cowarne		10.00am Matins Lay Led	1	10am Group Service RA	
Ocle Pychard					
Ash Wednesday 14 Feb @ 7pm Bishops Frome Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	2 before Lent Green Colossians 1.15-20 Psalm 104.26-37 John 1.1-14	Sunday before Lent Green 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Psalm 50.1-6 Mark 9.2-9	Lent 1 Purple 1 Peter 3.18-22 Psalm 25.1-9 Mark 1.9-15	Lent 2 Purple Romans 4.13-25 Psalm 22.23-31 Mark 8.31-38	Lent 3 Purple 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 Psalm 19 John 2.13-22

If you know of anyone in The Frome Valley Group of Parishes who would like me to visit, please contact me at the Vicarage in Bishops Frome on :-

01885 490582 or at stevenbags@me.com

Blessings, Rev Steven Baggs,

Vicar, The Frome Valley Group of Parishes

Keep up to date by visiting our website <http://www.fromevalleychurches.org.uk>

The Parish Office is currently open on Thursday mornings 10am to 12 midday for telephone calls only on 01885 490229

Outside these times and in case of emergency please contact

Rev Steven Baggs 01885 490582 - Rev Richard Allaway 07969 699270

Stoke Lacy and District Garden Club

Kevin Alviti

will talk about

Unusual Fruit and Vegetables

Kevin lives in Malvern and tries to live as self-sufficiently as possible. He grows food for his family, raises some of their meat and earns a living from his hands. He works as a carpenter and is passionate about woodwork and traditional crafts. He loves a more traditional way of life.



**Tuesday
January 16**

at 7.30pm

Stoke Lacy

Village Hall

HR7 4HG

(Opposite The Plough)

Tea and coffee will be served after the talk and discussion.

Members £3
(annual membership £7)

Guests £5

***New members always
welcome at this small
friendly gardening club,
which normally meets
on the 3rd Tuesday of
each month.***

For more information contact
stokelacygardenclub@gmail.com
or 07360 960855



Stoke Lacy & District
Gardening Club

Table Tennis at the Gate



Every **Tuesday evening 7pm – 9pm** at Burley Gate Village Hall (HR1 3QR), starting **Tuesday 9th January**.

There is a new competition Cornilleau ITTF 540 indoor table, bats and enough balls to last a lifetime.

Just £3 cash per evening!

Free squash and biscuits.

Interested? Call Paul Bartlett on 07957814002 or Marilyn Pemberton on 07852202353



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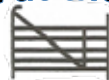
Burley Gate Village Hall management committee are looking for a volunteer to carry out regular checks of the building and to raise any issues with the committee. Also to execute fire alarm tests and ensure we have the regular servicing of electric appliances, boiler, fire extinguishers, fire alarms & emergency lights etc.

No experience is necessary and you won't need to be on the committee (although you would be very welcome!); all that is needed is someone who is reliable and wants to help ensure our wonderful village hall remains in good condition and is safe.

If you would like to help please contact Marilyn Pemberton on marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or 0785 220 2353.

Thank you!

Meet at the Gate



Every 2nd & 4th Thursday
at

Burley Gate Village Hall
10 am – 12.30 pm

Come and join us for refreshments, meet old friends and make new ones

Any queries contact marilyn.pemberton@yahoo.co.uk or call 0785 220 2353

Find out more at
talkcommunity.org



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We are just off Burley Gate roundabout, where the A417 Leominster to Gloucester road intersects the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road. Take Gloucester exit off roundabout towards Newton crossroads and Oliver's Cider and Perry is first on the right hand side.





Have your say!

Complete PCC John Campion's budget survey.

This is your opportunity to voice your views on the proposed policing budget for 2024/25.

Survey closes on Sunday 7 January.



www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/budget2024



Useful Contacts

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police, Fire, Ambulance: Emergencies only – 999

Crimestoppers – 0800 555111

Gas – 0800 111999

Electricity – 0800 328 1111 or New Number 105

Welsh Water – 0800 281432

Severn Trent Water – 0800 783 4444

HEALTHCARE

NHS 111 – For urgent medical help that is not a 999 emergency, dial FREEPHONE 111

Hereford County Hospital, Union Walk, Hereford HR1 2ER – 01432 355444

2Gether NHS Foundation Trust Community Mental Health Service

25-27a St Owen Street, Hereford – 01432 265123

Herefordshire MIND, Ferncroft, 144 Ledbury Road, Hereford – 01432 275380

St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, Hereford – 01432 851000

Ledbury Community Hospital – 01531 632488

HELP AND SUPPORT

Police (for non-emergency help and advice) – 101

NSPCC Helpline (24 hour) – 0808 800 5000

Child Protection Helpline – 0800 800500

Childline (24 hours) – FREEPHONE 0800 1111

Samaritans, 44a Berrington Street, Hereford – 116123 (UK National Number)

Herefordshire Carers Emergency Card Scheme – 01432 356068

Age UK – 01531 631280

Citizens Advice Bureau – 0344 826 9685

Action Fraud (for fraud and cyber crime) – actionfraud.police.co.uk – 0300 123 2040

West Mercia Police (for non-emergencies) – 0300 333 3000

The Silver Line (for help, advice or protection for older people) – 0800 4 70 80 90

RSPCA (cruelty, neglect, concern 24 hours) – 0300 123 4999

Herefordshire Council:

- Council Tax – 01432 260360
- Highways – 01432 261800
- Waste Management, Bin Collections & Recycling – 01432 260051
- Benefits – 01432 260333
- Environmental Health – 01432 261761
- Main Switchboard – 01432 260000

Social Services:

- Adult Social Care: help and advice – 01432 260101
- If you have any concerns that a child might be at risk of harm or being harmed, contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01432 260800 (01905 768020 out of hours)

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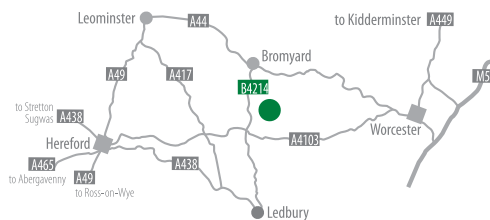
Well behaved dogs are welcome in our large covered courtyard and our outside covered restaurant area, but only inside if carried. For cyclists there is space to secure your bikes.

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Sunday 10.30am - 4pm.

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