

PASTORAL LETTER – July 2025

Vocation

With baptism families we sometimes talk about how no one else can occupy the space their child fills. They have a space in the world. We all have a space in the world. They might move to occupy a new space, but no two people can occupy the same space. We talk about how the child will occupy their space. We can picture how a scared or nervous person might shrink in size or how space may be held apologetically or unconfidently. Our prayer for newly baptised children and for all people is that they might unapologetically and confidently be themselves – we are all made in the image of God, we are all loved by God.

Identity and purpose are two important facets of human existence. When we are secure in our identity and know our purpose, we live life to the full. Our identity is not based on exams passed, countries visited, or possessions acquired. A few years ago, Justin Welby, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, had to publicly respond to some uncomfortable revelations about his parentage. In response to the discovery that his father is not the man he thought, he responded. “I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in Him never changes...”

I find great pleasure in watching an expert do the thing they do well: it could be a crafts man or woman, a parent, a sports person. (If I want to cheer myself up, I watch Andrew Flintoff’s wonderful 13th over in the second innings of the second Ashes test at Edgbaston in 2005, Chris Froome’s remarkable ride on Stage 19 of the 2018 Giro d’Italia, or Liverpool’s epic comeback against Barcelona in the semi-finals of 2019 Champion’s League ...) It doesn’t matter in what walk of life there is great joy in someone doing something well. I have recently read a wonderful book about someone raising an abandoned leveret – on occasion I laughed out loud at the beauty of the writing*.

We all long for those moments in our own lives, when everything clicks into place. My prayer for us all is that we might experience such moments: when we become aware that we are the right person, doing the right thing, in the right place. Mordecai speaking to his cousin Esther asks if she has her position, “for such a time as this.” Maybe God has placed us where we are for such a time as this.

In Jeremiah (29:11) the prophet communicates God’s word to the nation of Israel, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you.”

These verses can also provide us with comfort. We are made in his image, we are loved by him, we are known by him, and he has a plan for us. Discerning that plan is not always easy but God invites to join him from wherever we are.

We are all unique, no two people are alike, what is right for someone else may not be right for us. He is at work in you, through you and around you - in your family, your friendship circle and your individual networks.

May you take pleasure in something do well
May you find yourself in the right place at the right time
Every blessing
Revd Craig
* Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

Revd Craig Bishop Tel: 01386 841927

Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson
The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785
mobile 07979590826 Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk



Paths Around Willersey Scheme

July 2025

The P.A.W.S. Group has now been in existence for over six months and it seemed like a good time to have a recap on significant matters: The Establishment Objective of the

group is: To improve Willersey's main footpaths around the village, in regard to accessibility for users. The Group is a working party of the Willersey Parish Council and work under their auspices. The Parish Council has full and final responsibility for all decision making. There are five members, of the P.A.W.S Group all of whom are Parishioners of Willersey and love living in the Village.

Achievements of P.A.W.S group so far are:

- Provided a monthly update in the Church and Village News magazine. This gives parishioners; awareness of issues, what measures are being undertaken to try and rectify problems and an avenue of contact should they have the need.
- Provided similar informative newsletters on the Village Website and also on the 'William Willersey' Village Facebook Page.
- Established a liaison link between Parishioners, The Parish Council, County and District Council, and Gloucestershire County Highways.
- Taken action which resulted in the lowering of the kerb in Frampton Drive, enabling better passage for people who are; wheelchair users, pushing a heavy pushchair, or have mobility issues.
- Arranged a Volunteer Day which resulted in the clearance of overgrowing turf from the following footpaths: The path from the Willersey Village Sign to the County Boundary on the B4632, The Path in Badsey Lane by the recreation ground,

The Path that runs from Collin Lane to Main Street and the Path opposite the New Inn, at the Garage end of the raised section.

- Taken action which highlighted the appalling state of the entire footpath in Field Lane to the Gloucestershire Highways Department. This resulted in the resurfacing of Field Lane being placed on the list of tasks to be carried out by the Gloucestershire Highways Department.
- Reported potholes and disintegration of the Footpaths; from Pike corner to Ley Orchard Alleyway, the footpath in Collin Lane and the road in Collin Close, all of which have been repaired by the County Highways.
- Discovered and reported the blocked drain on the B4632 near the Village sign, to The Parish Council and County Highways Department. This has now been earmarked for clearance. This blockage is probably responsible for the repeated flooding of the footpath at this location.

The group will continue to try and achieve tasks related to its Establishment Objective.

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group
Contact email: willerseypaws@gmail.com



The **Welcome Cafe** is open every Thursday in St Peter's Church from 2 to 4:30pm. Donations to the Church are welcome. There is a childrens' corner with toys and crafts. Dogs are welcome too.

Prayer and Praise

AT ST PETER'S,
WILLERSEY

**We'd love to see you at a new,
informal worship service
happening on**

July 13th

6.30pm

**St Peter's Church, Willersey,
WR12 7PJ**

Guess the Year Quiz

Below are 12 questions listing 3 events occurring in that particular year, but can you remember the years?

- 1) "Don't Stand So Close To Me" by The Police became UK NO.1.
Indira Ghandi was murdered by two of her bodyguards.
Beverly Hills Cop was released.
- 2) The UK entered the European Economic Community (EEC).
In March of the year Pink Floyd released "Dark Side of the Moon".
Sunderland won the FA Cup, beating Leeds 1-0.
- 3) Madonna spent 4 weeks at No.1 with "Vogue".
Glasgow started its year as European Capital of Culture.
In March of this year, Poll Tax riots took place in London.
- 4) Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 80th birthday at Windsor Castle.
Arsenal moved into the Emirates Stadium. Richard Hammond (Top Gear) was seriously injured in a jet powered car.
- 5) Daft Punk with Pharrell Williams spent 4 weeks at No.1 with "Get Lucky".
Scientists confirmed that the skeleton found under a carpark in Leicester, was that of Richard III. Nelson Mandela died aged 85.
- 6) Sky television began broadcasting in the UK in February of this year.
During the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough, 95 people were sadly killed. November of this year saw the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 7) George HW Bush & Boris Yeltsin ended the Cold War at Camp David. Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Ruby Jubilee.
Betty Boothroyd becomes first female Speaker of the House of Commons.
- 8) Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was arrested.
The first DeLorean sports car was produced in Northern Ireland.
An assassination attempt was made on the US President Ronald Reagan.
- 9) The Euro was officially adopted by the Eurozone countries.
Europe won the Ryder Cup, the last time it was held at The Belfry.
Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics.

[Type here]

10) Kylie Minogue spends five weeks at No.1 with “I Should Be So Lucky”. Stefan Edberg and Steffi Graf are the two Wimbledon Tennis Champions. The Australian soap “Home and Away” premiered.

11) Band Aid 20 spent 4 weeks as the Christmas Number 1 in the UK charts. The liner RMS Queen Mary II was officially named by Queen Elizabeth II. Facebook was created by Mark Zuckerberg, initially for Harvard students.

12) “Saving Private Ryan” was released into cinemas.

“Believe” by Cher spent 7 weeks at No.1 in the UK charts.

Arsenal won their first Premier League title.

The answers are on page 16

Mike R



Recent Village Sightings

There has been lots of village wildlife encounters reported. So a big shout out in particular to Brenda, Ann, Anthony, Heather, Jenny, Sue & Paul, Cathy, Rob, Sarah, Pete & Gi, Natacha, Lynne, Clive & Irene, Lena, Gillian & Trevor, Nev & Mal, Tini, Sandy, Donald, Sue, Mike & Shirley, Robert and Nigel.

Jackdaws may not be everyone’s favourite nesting bird, but these highly intelligent and social birds with their “chak” cry, that live in small complex social groups are thriving locally and really worth checking out with their dapper grey headed plumage and acrobatic flying.

Whilst there has been good news of fledged blue tits, great tits, long-tailed tits, robins and blackbirds, with charming reports of youngsters still being fed by parents after fledging, there have been casualties too, with several reports of nest having been predated or disturbed. Maintaining a territory is important to some birds as demonstrated by a sighting of prolonged

aggressive squabbling between two robins. Although it could of course have just been a ‘domestic’?

But Brenda’s house martins have finally returned and are busy raising young; with another nearby property playing host to nesting martins too. Having more than one pair of nesting birds is key to their continued survival as a species in our village.

To underline the Willersey mammal activity highlighted in the last Nature Box several people have had recent unexpected evening encounters with badgers, foxes and hedgehogs. Whilst many of us will not have been fortunate enough to have experienced some of these brushes with nature – like the bright green cucumber spider noted, the beautiful painted lady migrant butterfly that’s arrived, the day flying scarlet tiger moth, busy varieties of different bees like the red-tailed and buff-tailed species spotted, the little owl encounter and the buzzard that appeared in a neighbour’s garden - it’s good to know these creatures are living alongside us and that together we are making space for nature.

The focus of this article is almost exclusively about our village, but there is always room for snippets of wildlife news close by, like the cuckoo sighting at a nearby works premises, especially as nesting swallows are given free rein by the owners to nest safely and raise their young here too.

And finally, in the last few weeks of July and hidden from view in the roof space of a handful of village properties, swift chicks will be sloughing off the ugliness that only a mother could love, begin wing-tip press-ups to build wing strength and lose excess weight, to become sleek flying machines ready for that maiden flight that if successful will see them constantly flying for two or three years before landing. You couldn’t make it up.

Bob Topp



Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Walks are detailed on our website.

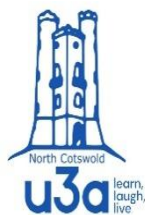
<https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/exploring/guided-routes/>

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY – Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground.

STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. **We welcome guide and hearing dogs** - sorry, others not allowed.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work. Details of the walks available are described on our website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary.**

North Cotswold u3a



Our Open Meetings are at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday of each month in Willersey Village Hall.

You can be sure of a warm welcome together with the opportunity of meeting members from many groups.

For information, please contact Liz Reeves, Membership Secretary Email: lizreeves17@gmail.com or Phone: 01386 430039

Poppy Party at St Peter's

I hope that you saw the poppy display that was arranged at the church for last Remembrance Sunday, the knitters at St Peter's would love to add to this and would like to ask you to help us, and so we are arranging a Poppy Party at the church on Saturday 20th September from 11.00 am until 3.00pm

Please feel free to call in at any time during the day and make a poppy with us. Don't worry if you can't knit or crochet there will be help, if you don't have any resources we have plenty.

Please just bring yourselves, men and women and children over 10, (for children under 10 there will be poppy related activities suitable for their age) and help us to add to our poppies so that we can make a really wonderful display outside the Church for Remembrance Sunday. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a wonderful atmosphere, so please come and help us.

For more details ring Carolynne on 859364
We hope to see you there.

Thank you Carolynne Adam

Willersey
Horticultural
Society



ANNUAL SHOW

Monday 25th August 2025

Village Hall : 2.00pm to 5.00pm

10 Classes in the Show

57 Categories in total

12 Childrens Categories

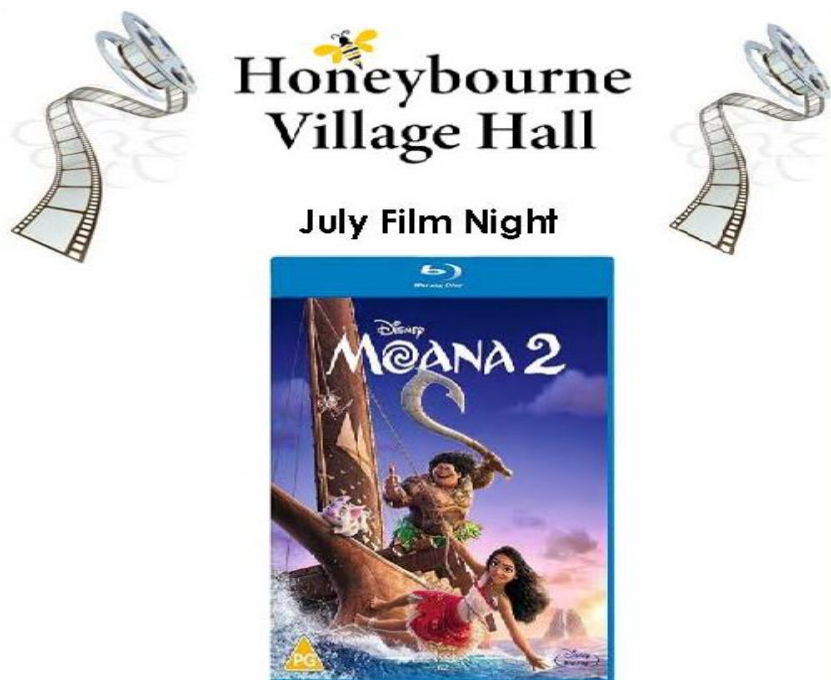
Vegetables, Fruits, Flowers,
Beverages, Preserves,
Photography, Cookery,
Arts & Crafts.



Schedule of Classes and entry forms available from :-

- St Peter's Church
- Taylor's Garage
- The Bell
- The New Inn
- www.willersey.org/horticulturalshow25.htm

Go on, enter a category or more this year !!



Saturday 12th July

Doors open 7pm

Tickets £5.00 pp

Refreshments and Raffle on the night

Tickets available online at

www.honeybournevillagehall.org

Moana 2 reunites Moana and Maui three years later for an expansive new voyage alongside a crew of unlikely seafarers. After receiving a unexpected call from her wayfaring ancestors, Moana must journey to the far seas of Oceania & into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced.



Saint Peter's Church Services July 2025



Mid-week **Holy Communion (BCP):**

Saint Peter's, every **Wednesday** at 11:00 am

Welcome Café, in Saint Peter's, every **Thursday** 2 to 4:30pm.

Your Church is open for you every day.

Special Evensong, Tuesday, 1st July at 4:30pm

Sunday 6 July	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 13 July	9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 6:30 pm Prayer & Praise
Sunday 20 July	11.00 am All Age Worship With dedication of Churchyard bench, in memory of Canon Anthony Harvey
Sunday 27 July	10:00 am Morning Prayer

Refreshments for the month of July

July 6 th	Christine and Richard
July 13 th	Rog McNeil Wilson
July 20 th	All Age Worship Team
July 27 th	Rachael and Poppy B
August 3 rd	Adine Keatley and Liz Webb

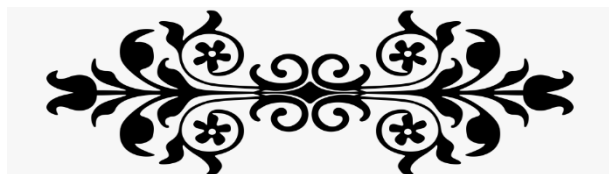
Church Cleaning for July Week ending

July 5 th and 12 th	Annie Payne and Sue Clark
July 19 th and 26 th	Ann Embury and Gillian Beale

Once again thank you for giving up your time to keep our Church clean and welcoming for visitors and worshippers alike.

Please say if cleaning materials need replenishing.
Vestry Key - Gillian Beale 01386 852958 or The Bell Inn

Brass Cleaning for July – Jennie Bond & Caroline Hardman



Willersey Farmers' Market

Thank you to those who continue to visit
Willersey Farmers' Market.

Please keep coming and then our traders will too. We have noticed a decline in footfall lately, and we are keen that the village continues to support the initiative.

June saw us putting all our stalls on the Village Green. We are now a very comprehensive food and drink market and that's where we want our emphasis to be.

Please feedback your thoughts and suggestions about the Farmers' Market by email to

Willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com

You will be entered into a raffle to win £15 to spend at the market.

Future dates for the Farmers' Market

Sunday 20th July

Sunday 17th August

Sunday 21st September

9.30 to 1pm See you there.

13

Cotswold Vale Embroidery Group

Jane one of our members led our June project - encrusted Pebble. We had all brought along pebbles of various sizes to cover with fabric which will firstly be decorated with embroidery stitches and then attached to the pebble create a paperweight. Plenty of opportunity to experiment with different stitches.

Month of July

Thursday July 3rd at Honeybourne Village Hall

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

A needle case embellished with the embroidery stitches and cute motives in Annette's own unique style!

For more information please ring Gillian 01386 852958.

THE AUGUST 2025 VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the August News must be received by Thursday **17th July 2025** unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest, thanks or notice of forthcoming events. Newsletter completion will start early the next day. Email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or phone Alan 858601 or Bill 858628, Thank you.

www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

The Village News is distributed to every house in Willersey and

Saintbury. More copies are also left at St Peter's Church, the Bell Inn, the New Inn, Willersey Garage and the Tourist Office in Broadway

Summer Reads – two short book reviews by Revd Craig

The Place of Tides by James Rebanks

James is a well-known author and farmer from the Lake District his previous books have described rural and farming life – its joys and challenges.

This book is a contrast, set on a remote island off the north Norwegian coast. James spends a season learning from a “duck woman.” A woman who inhabits the island caring for the wild Eider ducks and gathering their down. This was once a widespread and profitable practice, but it has been in long decline.

By spending time with Anna James learns of her skill, her temperament, her family and history. The book is like being wrapped in a warm eiderdown duvet with a view of sea: you notice the rhythms of the sea, a passing squall, the warmth of the sun and the joy of simply being. The book teaches the importance of waiting for the right time to act. Putting it down you return to your daily life refreshed and strangely inspired.

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

This is a charming and beguiling story of the author raising an orphan hare and what happens as a result. It is a simple and heart-warming story. Beautifully written so much so that at times I had to stop and re-read passages for the joy of the text. Once or twice, I laughed out loud not because of humour or a joke but because the prose was so delightful.

There is much wisdom and learning in these pages not just about hares, and agriculture but also about what it is to care for others. How we are often called to let go rather than hold on. It is an inspiring account of the interaction between a human and an animal that reminds us of the importance of notice, appreciating and cherishing the natural world all around us This book is like sitting on a comfy chair in the sunshine – everything seems a little better after reading a few pages.

Guess the Year Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) 1984 | 2) 1973 |
| 3) 1990 | 4) 2006 |
| 5) 2013 | 6) 1989 |
| 7) 1992 | 8) 1981 |
| 9) 2002 | 10) 1988 |
| 11) 2004 | 12) 1998 |

The quiz is on page 6

Father's Day at St Peter's

Father's Day is a day to celebrate which we did on Sunday. Carolynne took this service with her brother talking to us within the service about fostering. He has a son that he has fostered over the last few years. It was interesting to have this insight to such a caring world. It is good to have first hand knowledge.

Our hymns were all chosen for this theme. One being “Dear Lord and Father of mankind”.

The lesson was the story of Hannah giving her son to the Lord in gratitude for her prayer being answered.

After the Lord's prayer quotations about fathers were read out by members of the congregation. We ended with the hymn “God is love” and then the grace.

Please come and see us at our July service. It is on Sunday the 20th of July at 11:00 o'clock at St Peters. We would love to see you there. **16**



WI REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

Members don't have a monthly meeting in June as we always have a summer trip. This time we had a healthy enjoyable amble around the beautiful Batsford Arboretum.

The weather was perfect.

Seventeen members came all dressed in their cool summer attire and hats, chilled out and ready to explore. After gathering around the “Blue Mare”, who was on the mare trail in a previous year, we had a “meet and greet” with a lovely staff member. We were given maps and passes and then led to disappear among the fabulous trees and woodlands. Along the walk you discover the huge estate house and the church. Impressive!

The Arboretum was created in the 1800s by Lord Redesdale. He was grandfather to the Mitford sisters. Then the estate was bought by Lord Dulverton in 1919.

We all met up later in the Lovely Cafe and had tea and cake mooched in the shop then all drifted off home feeling very chilled out.

Sally's little dog Dora was so good and is now an honorary WI member.

NB early reminder Saturday August 2nd will be our coffee morning at the Village Hall between 10 and 12. Any donations of cakes gifts tombola raffle et cetera greatly appreciated. Contact any WI member. .



COMING UP IN JULY 2025

Our next meeting is on Monday 14th July 2025

at Willersey Village Hall. 7.15pm

Speaker: Robin Farnworth talking about the vital use of the defibrillator and a demo.”

Guests welcome, £5 on the door

Food donations for ‘Caring Hands’ at the meeting or contact Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road, Willersey.

Contact WI President Mal Jelfs on 858351 to hire crockery or maljels@icloud.com

Nature Box - Green Lungs

The reservoir was built in 1833. It had no public access and was, as I vividly remember, patrolled behind metal fencing by wardens with savage looking Alsatian dogs. Until that is in 2016 it was then transformed into Woodberry Wetlands and was officially opened by David Attenborough. Although still providing fresh water for Londoners it is now a haven for wildlife from diving terns to migrant willow warblers, feeding swifts and swallows; and with walkways, seating and a discrete coffee shop and all with the Shard and the London Eye on the skyline.

But such a concept is not new. London has many valuable green spaces for people to enjoy. Some grand such as Richmond Park, the Serpentine and Hampstead Heath – bequeathed or inherited from wealth and privilege. But like other cities there are many other local authority parks across the capital. Covid lockdown reminded many of their value for people as well as wildlife. But interestingly when you look across London these green lungs are not within striking distance for all. So it is noteworthy to know that Sadiq Kahn, the current London Mayor, has a target of achieving a green space that is within 400 metres for all Londoners and not just the affluent. Now that would be a notable legacy.

In 2019 London became the first National Park City in the world, celebrating the importance of becoming greener, healthier and a wilder environment. We are all richer for embracing the idea that urban areas everywhere should be for wildlife as well as humans, and that people from all walks of life can feel truly connected with nature.

But the same goes for rural areas too. We need to treasure and protect wildlife havens in and around our village like the Willersey Quarry – a special habitat for many threatened creatures. Selling the ‘family silver’ for short term gain, as has been suggested to the Parish Council, cannot be justified, particularly when local people are playing their valuable part in many modest ways like putting up nest boxes or bug homes, feeding birds, growing plants for pollinators, keeping a wild space in their garden with ivy or nettles for butterflies. Not on my watch should be the watch words for all of us when it comes to potential loss of irreplaceable habitat.

PUBLIC INFORMATION July 2025

MONDAY KERBSIDE WASTE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are 7th and 21st July 2025 Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am. Waste Hotline 01285 623123.

<https://community.cotswold.gov.uk/s/waste-collection-enquiry>

Here is the waste collection calendar. <http://willersey.org/dispmon2.pdf>
Please note that the situation on these can change at any time if say the weather is bad. Just leave your bins out for a late collection.

(Food waste is every week.)

PARISH COUNCIL The office is on the corner of the Village Hall. Open every Monday from 10.00am to noon. Outside these hours, please contact the clerk on 01386 853635 or email clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email willerseyhall@btinternet.com or see <https://www.willerseyhall.co.uk/>

METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306.
The MOBILE POST OFFICE Visits Willersey on **Friday at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.**

There is a **Post Office inside and a cash machine outside Broadway Co-Op.**

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE
Telephones 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEAREST LIBRARY Leamington Road, Broadway 01905 822722
Open Mon. Wed. & Fri. 9:30am – 4:30pm. Saturday 9:30 – 1pm

COTSWOLD FRIENDS Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments ring the Cotswold Friends Help Centre: transport section 01608 651115. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday.

SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50
National Bus Traveline	0871 2002233
Hedgehog	01386 841849
N. N. Cresswell to Evesham	01386 48655 for route R4
Diamond Bus to Stratford-upon-Avon	01527 813120 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham	01451 820369 for route 606

Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are at www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/ and on the Willersey website at www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus

Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police

Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105. Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999
Floodline – 0845 988 1188. Severn Trent. Sewage – 08007 83444

Thames Water – 0800 980 8800 British Telecom - 0330 1234 150

Police – Telephone 101 (999) www.gloucestershire.police.uk

[Type here]