



**Vicar's Letter June 2026**  
**'No such thing as Ordinary'**

The church's year follows a familiar pattern of seasons and festivals that help guide us through the story of our faith. As the months unfold, we remember Christ's death and resurrection, celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and give thanks for those who have shared the faith.

Following the feasts of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we have now entered a season known as Ordinary Time, which lasts right through until Advent.

This can sound, at first hearing a bit boring, like the Church settling back into routine after the great festivals have passed. I always though look forward to this season in which faith is woven quietly and steadily into the fabric of daily life.

The term 'Ordinary' doesn't actually mean normal or commonplace; it comes from the word ordinal (meaning 'counted') because the weeks are numbered in sequential order. It is a repeating pattern that itself carries a spiritual lesson, that much of discipleship is formed not in moments of spiritual intensity, but in persistence of prayer, kindness and forgiveness even when inspiration feels absent.

It reminds us that God is not only present in dramatic moments, but also in faithful continuity. A truth reflected beautifully by the liturgical colour of green – green being the colour of growth, of fields after rain, and of leaves slowly unfolding. We find that spiritual maturity often develops in this same hidden way, and that God frequently works through slower processes. A tree does not strain to grow; it simply remains rooted, and the same is often true for our spiritual growth.

The Gospel readings during this season often focus on the ministry and teachings of Christ as he encounters ordinary people whose lives are transformed by grace. These passages invite us to notice holiness within everyday life and, in a culture shaped by urgency and distraction, they provide a quieter rhythm which teaches patience with ourselves

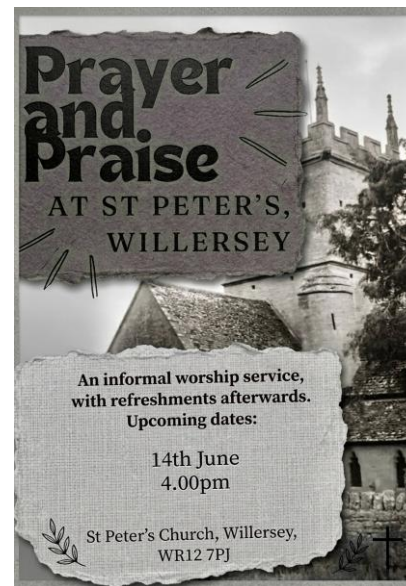
and with one another.

We live in an age that prizes achievement, visibility, and immediate results, yet the kingdom of God is often compared to small things: yeast in dough, a mustard seed, or treasure hidden in a field. The life of faith cannot always be measured by productivity; sometimes faithfulness simply means continuing to love, pray, and hope through seasons when little seems to change.

But our mission as disciples is to be sent out into the world to tell of our resurrection hope, and for this to shape our treatment of others. And to recognise – as we participate in the quiet work of the kingdom - that no time is truly Ordinary when offered to God. Have a great summer!

**Revd Jon Barwood**  
Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge  
Phone: 07777 148880  
Email: [jonbarwood@btinternet.com](mailto:jonbarwood@btinternet.com)

**Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson**  
The Granary, Main Street, Willersey  
Tel: 01386 852785 mobile 7979590826  
Email: [rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk](mailto:rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk)



**Saint Peter's Church services in June**  
**Patronal Festival of Saint Peter on the last weekend of**  
**June; note the special service of Holy Communion at 11:00.**

*Evensong, Tuesday, 9 June at 4:00pm*

<b>Sunday 7 June</b>	<b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday 14 June</b>	<b>9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)</b> <hr/> <b>4 pm Prayer &amp; Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 21 June</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 28 June</b>	<b>11:00 am Holy Communion for Saint Peter (BCP)</b>

**Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am.**

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

**Barry Knight**

Barry Knight passed away at home with his family on 23rd March.

Barry was an active member in the community he was Chair of Governors, floor ball coach for many years for Willersey school as well as coaching mums to participate in floor ball tournaments.

Barry also transported Father Christmas by carriage with his two Shetland ponies to the school Christmas parties for numerous years.

We are eternally grateful for the support of Evesham hub and out of hours district nurses who came out all hours to care and support us all.

We would also like to thank Diane and James from Peter Allen and sons Ltd Moreton in Marsh for their professionalism and support during this time

As a thank you to our district nurses a donation fund has been set up for the Evesham hub with Peter Allen & Sons

To contribute please contact [office@allenfunerals.co.uk](mailto:office@allenfunerals.co.uk) or phone 01608 650633

**St Peter's Flower Arranging Group** The flower arrangers continue to decorate the altar weekly. At the end of June it is St Peter's Day 29<sup>th</sup> of June our paternal festival, when all the flower arrangers will be descending on the church with summer blooms. Spare some time to visit the church and appreciate the displays and hard work which goes into them.

**Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's**

**Church cleaning for week ending**

June 6<sup>th</sup> )  
 June 13<sup>th</sup> ) Sandy Barnes and Elizabeth Milne James  
 June 20<sup>th</sup> )  
 June 27<sup>th</sup> ) Robyn Painter and Mal Smith

**Brass cleaning for June** Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan

**Refreshments for June**

June 7<sup>th</sup> 10am Pat & Robert Heming  
 June 14<sup>th</sup> 9am Sandra Spensley & Ann Tomblin  
 June 21<sup>st</sup> 11am Sally & Malcolm Maclean  
 June 28<sup>th</sup> Patronal Festival Jenny Bond & Gillian Beale

The key for the Vestry can be obtained from the Bell Inn or Gillian Beale at Florizel 01386 852958. Cleaning materials next to the sink and in Vestry tall cupboard.

If anything is getting low, please let me know so I can replenish it. Thank you for helping to keep or Church clean and welcoming. Gillian.

**St Nicholas Church, Saintbury**  
**June 13th 3pm**

You are all welcome to join us to celebrate C.R.Ashbee at his chosen place of worship. Tim Sexton and Andy Doran will sing songs from the Essex House Songbook followed by refreshments.

Donations welcome. Car park available.



In May our meeting will be after the printing of the June edition of the magazine, so, I would like to focus on the Parish Councillor vacancies that we currently have in the Village.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and is financed by part of the council tax. It consists of up to nine residents who either take decisions or must be consulted on most matters that affect our village. It is supported by a Clerk whose office is in the village hall. It is **not** party politically aligned.

Councillors are either elected or co-opted onto the council and the council now wishes to co-opt further members.

Duties will be to attend the monthly council meeting and help take decisions on a variety of issues including planning applications, highway matters and upkeep of the village.

The Council owns and administers the village greens, recreation ground, the village quarry, Pool Orchard and the cemetery. In the last few years, the council has rebuilt the village hall, extended the cemetery and installed new equipment in the recreation ground. In the coming few years, due to proposed developments, it is expected to receive sums of money to be used to further improve the village for residents.

No qualifications/experience are required but Councillors need to be team players and willing to participate via email, telephone and face to face on a regular basis. We all have different skills and experiences and have a mixture of a huge knowledge of Willersey, or are fairly new to the village.

Full support will be available to bring new Councillors up to speed. If you would like to know more please contact the Clerk, or come and speak to me- or other councillors.

Kevin O'Donoghue, email: [clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk).

[Jane.rintoul@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Jane.rintoul@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk) tel: 01386 853635

Willersey

Horticultural

Society



**ANNUAL SHOW**  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026**  
**Village Hall : 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

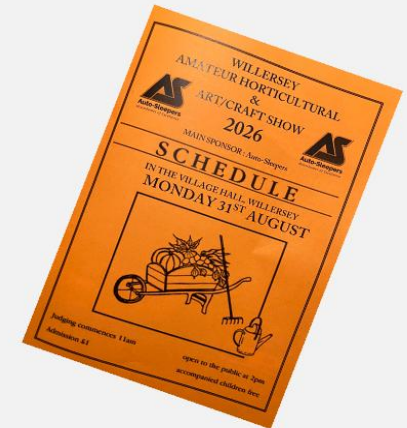
10 Categories in the Show

62 Classes in total

10 Children's Classes

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

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



Schedule of Classes and Entry forms available from :-

- St Peter's Church
- Taylor's Garage
- The Bell
- The New Inn
- [www.willersey.org/horticulturalshow26.htm](http://www.willersey.org/horticulturalshow26.htm)

## Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



### **Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens**

Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks are published on the website.**

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

#### **CNL60 – The North Face of Bredon Hill – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Moderate 3hr 6ml**

Starting from Elmley Castle we take the flatlands to Great Comberton where we tackle the ascent. While much of the walk is easy, there is a 600ft climb which gives us great views of south Worcestershire including the Malverns. At the summit there is a tower, the remains of an ancient fort and even an 'Elephant'. Please bring a snack/drink.

Start: 9.30am Park near The Queen Elizabeth pub, Main Street, Elmley Castle WR10 3HS.

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. 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.

#### **May Day Fete**

Joining with the primary school on May Day was a big success in linking the church and school together. It also helped in raising money for the Nave Tile Fund at St Peter's.

Thank you to friends of the school allowing us to share in your Fete. The weather was kind to us, not too hot for the mountain of chocolate on display. A children's toy, puzzle and bookstore, a chocolate tombola and a treasure map of the village altogether raised £300.

A big thank you to all who supported the event and to the willing helpers who assembled, dismantle tables and manned the stalls, not forgetting all the tickets prepared for the tombola.

Thank you



## Nature Box - A Love Affair Remembered

Like most love affairs it happened by chance.

The house we had built came with a number of defects - the builder eventually running off to France to escape his debts. But by a happy accident one flaw provided perfect accommodation under the eaves for swifts, and we were duly adopted.

So for twenty-five years swifts became an integral part of our lives: awaiting their arrival in early May, dragging the summer behind them; listening to their comings and goings; and rescuing a few of the fledglings who became grounded in the garden or trapped in the loft when ready to fly. How lucky were we? So the thought that they might now become but a distant memory just feels unthinkable.

Until recently there were seven swift nest sites in Main Street, but two buildings have seen renovation work and sadly the access to roof space for returning swifts has been lost. So a special thank you to those neighbours who continue to provide essential nesting sites for these iconic birds who only spend a quarter of their lives with us.

Although adult swifts can currently be enjoyed as they circle the village, young swifts in the coming weeks and yet to fledge and hidden away from view, will in some cases have to lose weight as their bodyweight-to-wing ratio is critical; as well as completing wingtip press-ups to be ready for their first flight. When they launch out of the nest in late July/early August they will likely head straight to subSaharan Africa - ahead of their parents - unguided and continuously flying for the next two or three years until they are mature and ready to breed. Only then will they touch land again.

Nature - you couldn't make it up. Swifts have very large mouths but eat selectively, picking off hundreds of individual insects at high speed rather than hovering them up like a basking shark.

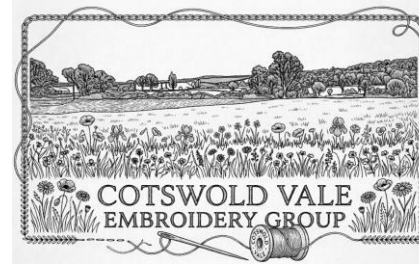
So here's the challenge. If you are yet to be totally sure you've ever seen one of these scimitar-winged marvels, make time to hover by the

village pond to identify one. Early evening is the ideal time when you can often see them seemingly chasing each other. With their sooty black appearance they have sometimes been called 'devil birds' and perhaps you will also hear them screaming as they circle Main Street.

## Help - with a capital H!

Hi, is anyone free on Saturday 6th June for an hour or so? 2 pm weather permitting. Garden needing attention- looking beautiful in a wild sort of way but lots of weeds. Hope to see you there. Please bring tools, I will bring the cake!

Thank you, Jackie



Mosaic stitching is a modern twist on darning. Annette, our teacher for the morning equipped us all with a square of nylon fabric and a diagram of the way our stitching should progress. With our fabric secured in an embroidery hoop

and all needles threaded, it was just a case of weaving over and under threads producing a neat pattern. Not quite as easy at first thought.

After our practise session, Annette gave everyone a paper pattern of a design for a bracelet. We could follow Annette's or if feeling brave make our own design. Using different coloured threads we proceeded to work a mixture of mosaic stitching and embroidery stitching of our choice. Very therapeutic but challenging for those wanting perfection! Practise makes perfect.

Next month we meet on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Honeybourne village hall.

Project? Preparation for embroidered scroll with Gay leading the session.

For more information please ring Gillian on 01386852958

**Pre-Match**

**Pork Roast**

**Saturday 27th June**

**From 3pm**

**Willersey Village Hall**

Games, live music and summer fun!

**Raffle—main prize an authentic England shirt!**

**Pork baps, hot dogs, Ice-creams**

Bring your own drinks, some cash and chairs (if the weather is nice)

Proceeds to restore the Church floor tiles

**HONEYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL PRESENTS...**

AN EVENING OF COUNTRY/FOLK MUSIC WITH...

**THE YIPPEE YI YAYS**

BRINGING LIFE TO COUNTRY CLASSICS BY THE LIKES OF JOHNNY CASH, KENNY ROGERS AND MORE, ALONG WITH FOLK REELS & JIGS

Licensed bar on the right

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY DOORS 7PM**

**TICKETS £10**

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT [WWW.HONEYBOURNEVILLAGEHALL.ORG](http://WWW.HONEYBOURNEVILLAGEHALL.ORG)

AT: HONEYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL, EVESHAM

**Willersey Village Hall**

The Village Hall Committee are seeking a new Treasurer to take over later in the year, no experience in accounting is necessary, just the use of internet banking would be useful.

For more information about what is involved please email: [contact@willerseyhall.co.uk](mailto:contact@willerseyhall.co.uk)

## June's General Knowledge Quiz



1. Which Whitney Houston Song is an anagram of “mention mine to me”?
2. Which famous fantasy adventure film was released in 1939?
3. How many stripes are there on the flag of the U.S.A.?
4. What year was Coronation Street first broadcast in the UK?
5. Which famous girl group was originally known as The Primettes?
6. Lacharophobia is a fear of which type of food?
7. Which female American singer shaved her head in 2007?
8. Which author wrote the “Chronicles of Narnia”?
9. Who sang the backing vocals on the hit song “You’re So Vain” by Carly Simon?
10. What is the name of the largest cricket stadium in the world?
11. What type of weapon does Thor mainly use?
12. What is the name of the fault line running 1200km through California?
13. What is the stage name of Paul David Hewson
14. What is the currency of Croatia?
15. What word beginning with V, describes the point where two sides of a triangle meet?
16. What is the hardest known material in the world?
17. What is the fastest growing plant in the world?
18. What is planet Earth’s ratio of water to land? a) 50/50, b) 60/40, c) 70/30.
19. Which famous scientist wrote “A Brief History of Time”?
20. How is 2020 written in Roman Numerals?

Answers on page: 17

## Willersey History Society

On **Monday 29 June** we will host a “**Show & Tell**” event in which all are invited to exhibit memorabilia and artefacts associated with the history of the village. The event will take place in **Willersey Village Hall**, starting at **7.00pm** and the entrance fee will be **£3.00**. Please bring along any items or records connected with the village’s history and share your knowledge together with any anecdotes about them. The event will be low key with small groups moving from one exhibit to another and there will be no requirement to speak to a large audience. If you have nothing to show you will be very welcome to come along and learn about the exhibits.

If you would like to get more involved with the society, please contact Jane, Hazel, Mike or David, or email the society at [willerseyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:willerseyhistory@gmail.com).



This month members of the committee went to Cheltenham and presented the Cobalt Unit with a cheque for £500 raised by our WI over the last twelve months. We also raised £500 for Sue Ryder and £111 for Campden Home Nursing. This month we enjoyed our third talk from Willersey’s very own Richard Bradley DL who gave us an insight into the role of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant in the county. Richard is a man of many talents; recent am-dram entertainer in ‘Footlights’, ex police officer, and wedding celebrant to name a few. So we were lucky that he was able to come and speak to us about his other area of expertise.

I have to confess at this point that I knew very little about the history (which goes back to King Henry VIII ) and background to this role and was surprised just how busy he has been. He has completed over one hundred events since April last year. I suppose you could say there are certain perks, like being invited to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, eating lovely canapés on a sunny afternoon and walking around Buckingham Palace grounds. But on a serious note it is also an honour not everyone can achieve and comes after a rigorous selection process based on long term public service, and Richard certainly deserves our thanks for his commitment that comes with this role.

What is also noteworthy is just how varied the events are that he has attended as Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Anything from opening a community centre to the Gloucester Day Parade or to the granting of British citizenship ceremonies. The uniform for official duties, from Kashkets in London, comes with a razor sharp ceremonial sword and spurs which jut out and could be difficult to go down steps in. Not something you are likely to want to wear. There are many protocols to work with and also humbling encounters with lovely brave people from all walks of life. Richard now has a wonderful collection of photos to remember his time in this role. Thank you Richard for sharing them with us.

One of his less serious roles on our WI night was to judge “*the best decorated bra*” no less. He chose Sue Ladkin’s with bees. Well done to Sue.

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### **Coming Up in June**

**Reminder:** there is no WI speaker meeting in the Village Hall in June. There is a boat trip for members down the River Avon with a cream tea.

If you would like to contribute to “*Caring Hands*” with a food donation please contact Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road Willersey.

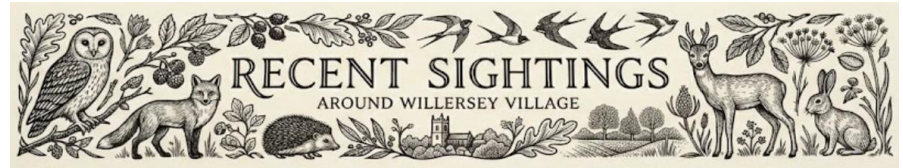
And if you would like to hire crockery or other items please contact Mal Jelfs on [maljelfs@icloud.com](mailto:maljelfs@icloud.com)

### **WILLERSEY FARMERS’ MARKET DATES FOR 2026**

June 21st, July 19th, August 16th,  
September 20th, October 18th,  
November 15th December 13th.

Remember - Always 3rd Sunday of the month by our duckpond.

**Email:** [Willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:Willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com)



But where to begin, with so many contributions from Pat, Brenda, Ainsley, Lynne & Chris, Shirley & Mike, Robert & Helen, Pete, Sarah, Holly & Tony, Gillian & Trevor, Lena, Pat & Roger, Hugh, Don & Meg, Nick & Jenny, Tini, Sandy, Richard, Gill, Cathy, Donald, Nigel, Mal and Sue. Thanks to everyone.

Well village swifts are back after their 9 month peregrination and first seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> May; house martins too courtesy of Brenda’s warm welcome and one other property; and despite the sad loss of some nesting sites a number of swallow sightings in and around the village with nesting now in progress.

Further news of hedgehog activity with seven separate venues reporting sightings; and one observer delighted to have seen their first ever hedgehog. Foxes sometimes get a bad press, so it was especially interesting to be shown footage of a fox and hedgehog sharing food together from the same bowl. Other unusual occurrences include a seemingly discombobulated male mallard duck appearing in Collin Close; a night time garden visiting badger; and a red kite seen flying off with a captured sizeable wriggling grass snake.

Not every nest box is used, but news of four safely fledged robins and busy blue tits is most welcome. Another nesting success involves blue tits ignoring the purpose built nest box but choosing instead an ornamental garden jar to raise their young. Reported sparrowhawks will likely have nestlings to feed, but nature often provides for them with immature birds for nourishment.

Butterflies are more in evidence with small white, peacock, speckled wood, orange tips and seemingly a profuse number of holy blues. Several people have also spotted newts as they move to and from small ponds in the dark. Elsewhere, another watery

update with froglets and more tadpoles in the same pond. Plus a possible rare sighting of a Potter Flower solitary bee.

And finally, a little way from the village, news of an intrepid off road cyclist pedalling to work encountering five young fox cubs. Now that would make anyone's day. If you would like to share wildlife sightings please message. [bob.topp@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.topp@btinternet.com)

#### **Advertising in the Willersey Church and Village News**

Whatever your needs in terms of reaching the local populace remember we deliver over 650 copies to all households in Willersey, Saintbury and adjacent parts of Broadway. We only seek to cover our printing costs which makes our prices very competitive – why not try us.

Contact Alan Gittings at [agittings@talk21.com](mailto:agittings@talk21.com) or 01386 858601 07734363670



### **North Cotswold** **Monthly Open Meetings**

**11th June 2026**

Alan Pilbeam

#### **Along the Banks of the Severn**

Open Meetings with guest speakers are at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday of each month in Willersey Village Hall. Why not pop in and join us. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Interested in joining? Please contact Liz Reeves, Membership Secretary Email: [lizreeves17@gmail.com](mailto:lizreeves17@gmail.com) Phone: 01386 430039

## **Paths Around Willersey**



June 2026 In February, the PAWS Group posted an article in the Willersey Church and Village News, highlighting the new Footpath and Crossing Point, which has been installed on the B4632 by Gloucestershire County Highways. This was following a request from Willersey Parish Council. The crossing point has been moved further from the blind bend in a bid to make crossing the new footpath and crossing point is better than before. The PAWS group has however received complaints regarding a possible safety issue concerning the new crossing point. Complainants have stated that the crossing point is still too close to the blind bend and that people crossing the road have very little time to cross, before vehicles coming around the blind bend are upon them. Similarly vehicle drivers have little time to see people crossing the road. Near misses have occurred. In consequence the PAWS Group has for some time been petitioning for the crossing point to be moved further away from the bend. Despite the group's efforts however it believes that there is little prospect of any alterations being made to the new layout. Thankfully, at present, the location doesn't apparently appear to be on the accident hotspot list and hopefully this will remain the case. The PAWS Group however cannot help but feel that the crossing point could easily have been placed further away from the blind bend in the first place. It feels that no extra cost would have been involved, as the same amount of footpath would have had to been laid!

If you have any concerns regarding this crossing point and indeed any footpaths that you consider are dangerous it is important that you report them to the Parish Council. The more people that report their concerns the more notice is taken. It is also very important that you take great care when crossing the road, especially at the aforementioned location.

The Group has continued reporting potholes to Gloucestershire County Highways via the 'Fix My Street link' and it seems to be an efficient method, with Highways completing the tasks fairly promptly. Anyone can do this just go to the website listed below!

Issues can be reported at: Willersey Parish Council:  
[clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org) telephone 01386 853635.

Gloucestershire County Highways <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group Contact email:  
[willerseypaws@gmail.com](mailto:willerseypaws@gmail.com)

# QUIZ

## June's General Knowledge Answers

1. One Moment in Time
2. The Wizard of Oz
3. 13 Stripes
4. 1960
5. The Supremes
6. Vegetables
7. Britney Spears
8. C.S. Lewis
9. Mick Jagger
10. Melbourne Cricket Grc
11. A Hammer
12. San Andreas Fault
13. Bono of U2
14. Croatian Kuna
15. Vertex
16. Diamond
17. Bamboo
18. 70/30
19. Stephen Hawking
20. MMXX

### **DEADLINE for July's CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS**

**Copy for the July News must be received by Wednesday 17th June 2026 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](mailto:willerseynews@gmail.com) or phone Alan 01386 858601 or Bill 01386 858628, Thank you.

The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at:  
[www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm](http://www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm)

Apologies to Anna Harvey of Wayside Nurseries whose photo should have appeared alongside her Q & A in last month's News.

Sorry Anna , but great photo !



## AND THE BELL CRACK'D...

.. an historic event in the village.

During ringing practice on Thursday 12th March 2026, the 4th bell in St Peter's church tower suddenly gave a dull 'thunk' and went completely out of tune. To be fair, it had been sounding a bit 'off' for a while, and investigations in the Belfry confirmed a small crack - about 3 inches long - at one of the two points where the clapper has been striking the metal since 1936.



The good news is the damage is small enough to be fixed. Re-casting a bell from scratch, as well as being vastly expensive, means it would no longer 'fit' with the rest of the set, which were all cast together in 1712. A new bell would sound markedly different in tone. Fortunately, the bell doesn't need to be replaced, but neither can it be fixed in situ. Instead, it must be taken to a specialist in Newmarket to be welded. So, bell number 4 has to come out! But how?

### **Removal**

The bell is 32" tall, 33" in diameter and weighs 7cwt. It hangs 20 foot up in the belfry directly above the ringing chamber. The only current access is by taking the narrow stone spiral staircase up to the ringing room, then climbing a ladder up through a small square hole in the roof.

.... Definitely not an option!



We are just trying to get access to the belfry!!!

We are awaiting a site inspection by a structural engineer to advise on the safest, easiest and cheapest way to extract the bell from its hanging position. One possibility is to take it out through the south louvre window, one of two that bookend the belfry; another is to remove the floor of the Belfry and lower the bell, first into the ringing chamber, then down through what appears to be a stone plug in the floor, leading into the vaulting arch inside the church below. In both cases, we need a stone mason to confirm there would be no lasting damage

to the structural integrity of the church.

Whichever plan is adopted, Taylors of Loughborough, the last remaining bell foundry in the UK, will be overseeing and managing the project.

## Insurance

The bad news is that the Loss adjuster has confirmed that our insurance does not cover breakages deemed to be the result of ageing and natural 'wear and tear'. So it's up to us to find the money to pay for the bell's restoration. This is likely to be in the region of £15,000 - £20,000.

## Fundraising

As well as applying for grants and appealing for benefactors, we are putting our heads together to think of ways to raise funds locally. To kick (!) things off, with the world cup just around the corner, we are planning a sweepstake (look out for details). Other fundraising ideas include a sponsored ring (donate and we'll stop!), pub quiz, Just Giving page, handbell ringing workshop, and a party in the village hall with live music. If you have any other suggestions to throw into the mix, please contact one of the ringers or email Ant Lishman at [antlishman@aol.com](mailto:antlishman@aol.com). Thank you for your support. We will keep you updated on what is happening and any village fundraising events in the pipeline.

## Keep calm and ring on

It's far from ideal. The missing bell creates a noticeable 'gap' or 'jump' in the peal, but your award-winning ringers remain undaunted! We will be keeping up our regular Thursday practices and Sunday service ringing (occasionally decamping to ring at Saintbury church) and treating this historic event as an opportunity to tackle methods designed for one less bell. We hope you enjoy our bespoke 'gappy' versions!

- Chrissy Wainwright

### SUMMER EVENING REPOSE

On summer evenings warm and long  
I listen to the thrush's song.  
The gentle rustle of the breeze  
As day prepares to take its ease.

And as I drift in deep repose  
Of all life's struggles I dispose.  
And when the night replaces day  
All my cares just fade away.

~ Patricia Batham ~



# Willersey Farmers' Market



## Meet "The Pod Father": Shawn Overthrow is our Trader of the Month!

If you've wandered through the stalls at the Farmers Market recently, you've likely been drawn in by the vibrant bottles and aromatic blends of **Flavour and Fire**. This month, we are shining the spotlight on the man behind the spice: Honeybourne local, Shawn Overthrow.

### A Family Affair

Shawn's business is a true labor of love, spanning three distinct ranges. While Flavour and Fire focuses on gourmet infused oils and dressings, his sauce labels are a nod to his family. Henry's Hot Sauce —his best-selling chilli range—is named after his eldest son, while the non-chilli range, Oscar's, is named after his younger son.

### From Fine Dining to Fiery Flavours

Shawn isn't just a producer; he's a seasoned chef. Originally from Evesham, he moved to Broadway in 1999 to work in the prestigious kitchens of the Lygon Arms. That culinary expertise is evident in every bottle he creates. While he loves a good Shiraz or a local Borderline lager, his true passion lies in the kitchen; he rarely eats takeaways, preferring to recreate his favourite dishes from scratch at home.

### More Than Just a Chef

When he's not crafting award-winning sauces, Shawn leads a surprisingly high-octane life. A dedicated fan of contact sports like boxing and MMA, he also spends his time as a Karate instructor. And if you're looking for him on a quiet evening, don't bother checking the TV listings—Shawn is a music lover who prefers a good playlist over a box set.

**Did You Know?** Shawn holds a title you might not expect: **"The Pod Father."** This isn't just a clever nickname from his school days; Shawn is a heavyweight in the world of competitive chilli eating. He has won numerous competitions, participated in extreme chilli challenges, and

even devises the challenges used in the "League of Fire." His prowess has earned him prestigious accolades from the Guild of Fine Foods and the Great British Food Awards.

### **Why He Loves Our Market**

Despite his international "chilli-world" fame, Shawn remains rooted in our community. "I love the picturesque views," Shawn says of our market, "and I enjoy how friendly everyone is."

**Shawn's Top Tip:** If you haven't tried them yet, his **Chilli Sauces** are the local favourite for a reason!

*Next time you're at the market, stop by the Flavour and Fire stall to say hello to Shawn. Whether you're looking for a mild dressing or a sauce that packs a "Pod Father" punch, he's got something for every palate.*

### **Gossip from Willersey Farmers' Market's Roving Reporter**

There can be only **one** story this month :- YES, HE'S BACK!

That smooth talking, blond haired old rascal Reverend Hubert is back at the Farmers Market on June 21st. This will be his 3rd appearance in Willersey. His first appearance was memorable for the effect he had on those much loved W.I. tea and coffee making ladies in the village hall kitchen. This is a man who knows how to make an impression, especially with the ladies. Cheeks blushed. Foreheads perspired. Even a lipstick suddenly appeared. Our W.I. stalwarts turned into giggling schoolgirls before our eyes. The Reverend loved them. In years gone by, the Reverend would have been called a "cad" or a "bounder". Now he's affectionately known as a "character" and he brings an extra sense of fun to the market.

The Reverend's gin based Summer Cup sold out on his first visit. Made in a village near Burford with plums, pomegranates, rhubarb and cranberries added to the gin, it's a great Summer drink when added to soda or prosecco. With much more stock on his second visit he almost sold out again.

He sells in many of London's top retailers including Fortnum and Masons, and also sells at Daylesford, but he enjoys coming to Willersey and offers us reduced prices.

WFM organisers knew they were on to a winner when they saw an elderly village resident, known to be a lifelong Donnington BB man, buying a bottle of the Summer Cup. More importantly, he came back for another one on the Reverend's second visit.

So everyone is looking forward to seeing him at the June market.

Reverend Hubert, live music and all our favourite stall holders - it's a recipe for a fun Sunday morning.

More revelations next month

### **BREAKING NEWS:**

**Live music at your next Farmers Market  
Sunday 21st June**

**Back by popular demand**

**Busker Max Stockin at 11 o'clock**

### **All Age Service Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Where do I start? Our service started with thanks and congratulations being given to Carolynne to celebrate 30 years since she became licenced to take services within the Church of England. She was presented with a card from the All Age Worship team and Rob presented her with a bouquet of roses, a clappy start to the service.

Each one of our services has a different atmosphere, inevitable as each has a different theme. Rogation being the subject this month. This is a service you would expect in a growing area such as ours. We still have the veg patch in the garden somewhere large or small. Carolyn took the service. Many years ago parishioners would have walked the bounds AKA parish boundaries to show which parish they lived in so they could be married or buried within that parish. This was done every seven years. As year went by this ceremony involved prayers so leading onto Rogationtide. In case you're wondering the word "Rogation" comes from the Latin word Rogate to ask. So leading on when Jesus met people he didn't presume he knew their problems. He encouraged them to ask out loud for what they needed.

If you think about the parables in the Bible and before miracles were performed he always asked what they wanted. In the CS Lewis book "The Magician's Nephew" Digory and Polly are sent out on a journey back to the Garden of Eden. They were surprised there was no food and Fledge the horse suggested they asked Aslan as Fledge thought he would like to be asked.

During the Service we walked around the church with prayers and hymns connected to Rogationtide. At the end of the service there was an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to celebrate. A cake was presented to Mike and we all enjoyed it with our coffee

and we were asked to remember Charlie Taylor who sadly is no longer with us. It would have been his birthday..

Once again we had a good service lots of positive comments and a big thank you to you all who helped to make it such a success.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES June 2026**

### **MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.**

The dates for the bins are 8th and 22nd June 2026.

Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am. The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123. [https://publica.force.com/sfsites/c/resource/CDC\\_Calendars/Mon\\_2.pdf](https://publica.force.com/sfsites/c/resource/CDC_Calendars/Mon_2.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 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](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk)

### **WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL**

To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email [willerseyhall@btinternet.com](mailto: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 Fridays 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 It's telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

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

**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.

### **TRAVEL 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 and on the Willersey website at [www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus](http://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 – 0800 783 4444

Thames Water – 0800 980 8800

British Telecom - 0330 1234 150

Police – Telephone 101 (999) [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

**NEED TO TALK? The Samaritans:** Call 116 123

**Childline:** 0800 1111