

Vicar's Letter August 2026

'Walking with the Great Gardener'

Recently I have been reading 'The Great Gardener: Learning to Walk Daily in the Presence of God' by Jo Claire. It's a book that speaks deeply into what lies at the heart of the Christian life.

I have always found that the natural world reveals something of the character and beauty of God. The image of God as the gardener of the human heart, I therefore find to be a particularly powerful one. Just as a skilled gardener nurtures growth, removes what hinders, and patiently cultivates beauty, so God seeks to tend our hearts and lives.

The author observes that when we try to manage life entirely on our own, we can become weary, overwhelmed, and spiritually unfruitful. Many of us will, I suspect, recognise this, especially when we attempt to control our emotions, wellbeing, future, circumstances, and to carry burdens we were never meant to bear alone.

Yet God longs for us to flourish by allowing him to cultivate the garden of our hearts. Trusting God can be challenging - surrender does not come naturally to us – yet we are reminded that placing our lives in God's hands is not a risk, because our hope rests in the One who loves us perfectly.

One of the book's most beautiful themes is its reflection on the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve flourished because they walked daily in God's presence. They knew who God was, and they knew who they themselves were. These gifts were damaged by the Fall, and humanity has lived with the consequences ever since. Yet we live not only with the reality of what has been lost, but also with the promise of what will one day be restored.

God remains committed to restoring what has been broken. Though he is beyond our full understanding, he continually reveals himself through Scripture, the beauty of creation, and through his steadfast love. God is an active presence; not distant or detached. He cares about what concerns us, rejoices in our joys, and shares in our sorrows.

We can prepare for that restoration by learning once again to walk daily in his presence, through our relationship with Christ, in which we discover our true identity, purpose, worth, and security. While we don't yet experience that reality in its fullness, we are already participants in God's great work of restoration.

The book concludes with a hopeful vision. One day God will walk fully among his people again, and all things will be made new. Until then, the world is being carefully tended, repaired, and restored under the loving care of the Great Gardener.

It's an encouraging message, full of wisdom and hope. So, let us be reminded that the Christian life is not simply about believing certain truths, but about walking daily with Jesus, allowing him to shape and nurture us as we journey towards the fullness of his Kingdom.

'Taking time to recognise, be thankful and love'

Revd Jon Barwood jonbarwood@btinternet.com
Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge Phone: 07777 148880

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

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



Parish Summer Special Hymns & Pimms



St Nicholas Church, Saintbury
6.00 pm, Saturday 15 August

A delightful summer evening of favourite hymns and fellowship in this beautiful setting.

Sing well-loved tunes, enjoy a glass or two of Pimms, spend time with friends old & new.

“We could take a walk across the fields...”

“Just look at that beautiful view!”

A convivial summer gathering for all.

*In aid of Saint Peter's Floor Appeal &
The Churches Conservation Trust*

For more information, email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

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WI Report for August

On another lovely, very warm summer's evening in July we gathered to hear our speaker, Angela Dunsby, a museum assistant at the John Moore Museum in Tewesbury, talk on the topic of “Whores, Toffs and The Three Penny Uprights”. She warned us about the explicit language that she would have to use in her talk on the history of prostitution as she took us on a journey through the ages from the time of the Romans to more recent years.

Apparently, the ‘work’ of prostitutes hasn't changed much but running through it is the appalling way women historically, have been treated which certainly had many in the audience nodding in agreement. From having their heads shaved to being pilloried, whipped, stoned and dragged through the streets, women prostitutes were blamed and shamed over many years in different towns across the country.

William Hogarth for example depicted the degradations in his paintings and engravings called ‘The Harlot's Progress’. Town leaders would worry that prostitution would bring their towns into disrepute, creating bawdy riots, crime and a public nuisance. So acts of Parliament such as the Disorderly House Act (1751) for example and the Contagious Diseases Prevention Act (1864) were passed.

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On Saturday August 1st Willersey WI is holding a Coffee Morning to raise funds for "Caring Hands"
Please come along and support us

P.A.W.S.

August 2026

A charity event has been organised by Villagers and Bell Ringers Maggie and Bob Topp, to raise money for the restoration of one of the Village Church Bells. The event is focussed on walking the equivalent distance from Land's End to John o'Groats. The event

Participants are invited to a donated celebratory Cream Tea in the Village Hall at 3pm on Sunday 23rd August 2026.

[illegible]

‘Circular Walk’ route around the Village (Dotted).

If you have any views or issues they can be reported at:

Willersey Parish Council: clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk
(or telephone 01386 853635). Gloucestershire County Highways:
<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

PAWS Group: willerseypaws@gmail.com

(Information contained in articles by the Group is believed to be accurate at the time the article is sent for inclusion in the Church and Village News).

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group.



Land's End to John o'Groats for a Cream Tea.

A virtual walk to help fund our church bell repair.

Oh no, I hear you say, that's miles. But with a 100 volunteers walking each day just 1.2 miles over 10 days – August 14th to Sunday 23rd – and lots have already committed, together we will have completed this iconic marathon distance, with a donated celebratory cream tea in the village hall at 3.00pm on Sunday 23rd August.

Lots of us Willersey folk are already walking this distance pretty much daily, and a 'tenner' to join in this community nonsense to raise a £1,000 to help fund the repair of the 4th bell probably isn't going to break the bank?

If you would be happy to join in this village effort to help, please chat to Maggie or Bob Topp or any of our ringers.

BRILLIANT! We now have 100 volunteer walkers taking part in our virtual walk to reach John o'Groats to help raise funds towards the repair of the 4th bell. Thank you all.

Please bring your buff coloured recording card to show to the burly, but friendly, Scotsman on the door. For any queries chat to Maggie or Bob Topp.

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 may be published on the website.**

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

Walking the Ways 4 (of 5) – Tuesday 4th August – Moderate 4.5 to 5.5hr 9ml A lovely mix of field, woodland & riverside paths with extensive views. Bring a snack/drink and lunch. Subsequent walk is planned for 15th September.

Start: 10.00am Black Horse Inn, Naunton. Please park considerably in the village. OS Map ref: SP 118 234. W3W: overlooks.widgets.newsstand

Winchcombe & Langley Hill – Wednesday 5th August – Moderate 2.5hr 5ml A popular short walk ascending Langley Hill to enjoy the ensuing views. Bring a drink/snack.

Start: 10.00am Winchcombe Back Lane car park (£1.50 all day)

OS Map ref: SP 023 284 W3W: redeemed.played.wimp

Three S's – Stanton, Stanway & Snowhill – Friday 21st August – Moderate 4hr 8ml A lovely walk taking in idyllic Cotswold villages & countryside. Bring a drink/snack.

Start: 10.00am Stanton Village Club car park.

OS Map ref: SP 067 343 W3W: skillet.metals.nuptials

Riders & Striders – A Cleeve Hill Circuit – Thursday 27th August – Moderate 3.5hr 6ml Mobility Aid Rating – Trampers. BOOKING ESSENTIAL see website Walk or Scoot to enjoy extensive views. Bring a drink/snack & lunch.

Start: 10.00am Cleeve Hill Golf Club GL52 3PW (parking charge applies).

OS Map ref: SO 988 273 W3W: foods.nurtures.dices. Trampler bookable: 01242 672025.

Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 26th May to the end of September – Easy 1.5hr. Expected donation £5.00

We will walk along the High Street and provide a historical tour of the town. From the granting of Campden's Charter in the 1180s, the growth of the town and its magnificent buildings, to the arrival of the Arts and Crafts movement. Refreshments available in the town after the walk.

Start: 2.00pm on Tuesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays. Meet at the Market Hall in the centre of town. OS Map ref: SP 151 392.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, no others.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.



St Peter's Pork Roast Success !



A massive thank you to everyone who joined us on 27th June! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised just short of £1,500 for our nave floor appeal. It was a perfect day filled with beautiful weather, succulent pork, flowing Pimms and Prosecco, and great games.

Congratulations to the young boy who took home the England shirt in our raffle!



Missed the event but still want to help?

You can still donate toward the nave floor:

-  Please use the card machine inside the church
-  or contact Rob McNeil Wilson on **01386 852785**.

General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) What is celebrated on 2nd February and is also a movie?
- 2) What planet is closest to the Sun?
- 3) What is the largest organ in the human body?
- 4) In what year did Margaret Thatcher die?
- 5) Who wrote the book Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car?
- 6) In which part of the body do you find the cruciate ligament?
- 7) What is the most populated city in Australia?
- 8) What is the name of the main antagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
- 9) When was the movie Titanic released?
- 10) What is the capital of Qatar?
- 11) What element is denoted by the chemical symbol Sn in the periodic table?
- 12) How many of Henry the VIII's wives were called Catherine?
- 13) What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2024?
- 14) What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford & Dustin Hoffman?
- 15) Which comedian was the second permanent host of "Never Mind the Buzzcocks" after Mark Lamarr?
- 16) What is the capital of Estonia?
- 17) Which popular video game franchise has released games with the subtitles of World of War and Black Ops?
- 18) In what US state is the city Nashville?
- 19) Which rock band was founded by Trent Reznor in 1988?
- 20) What is the currency of Denmark?

The answers are on **page 16**

COTSWOLD VALE EMBROIDERY GROUP

At our July meeting members continued with embroidering their scrolls. What a variety of designs. For our August meeting, a trip is planned to Harry and Floss craft shop in Alcester. We are then moving on to Hillers for lunch. Watch out at the Horticultural /show on Bank Holiday Monday for any embroidery in the craft category. It may be work from one of our members.

We meet on the first Thursday in the month
Honeybourne Village Hall 9:30am to 12:30pm

Project for September Sashiko

For details feel free to contact Gillian on 01386852958

JULY ALL AGE SERVICE IN ST PETER'S

Friendship should be a large part of our lives and so that is what we celebrated at our July service. Mark took the service and we started with singing "For the beauty of the Earth". The hymns always have a connexion to the service. Our bible reading this month was from John chapter 15 verses 9 to 17 talking about love and friendship ending with this "Then the Father will give you whatsoever you ask me in my name. This is my command love each other". Mark's talk was telling of people in the Bible who had been chosen by God and Jesus choosing of His disciples. Moses was chosen by God and David and of course Mary the mother Jesus. All chosen to play their part.

When putting the service together there were a lot of readings about friendship. Helen Steiner Rice's reading was one of these. Aesop's fables, the two men and the bear, the conversation with Wilbur the spider and Charlotte in Charlotte's Web and even Mohammed Ali spoke on friendship saying friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship you really haven't learned anything. "Brother, sister let me serve you" a for fitting hymn for this service. Thank you to all who helped with readings including Debbie, Bel and Ian. Some services seem more special than others and this was one of them. Thank you to the team and all of you for coming. **11**



Saint Peter's Church Services, August

Evensong services at 4:00pm, first Tuesday of each month

Sunday 2 August	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9 August	9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Saturday 15 August	6:00pm Saint Nicholas, Saintbury Hymns and Pimms
Sunday 16 August	11:00am All Age Worship
Sunday 23 August	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 August	11:00am Pebworth Benefice Service

Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am.
Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2 to 4:30pm

Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

Church cleaning for week ending

August 8th)
August 15th) Rachael and Poppy Barker
August 22nd)
August 29th) Flick and Lisa Marcham

Brass cleaning for August

Gillian Beale

Refreshments for August

August 2 nd	Pat and Robert Heming
August 9 th	Karen and Mike Barnard
August 16 th	All Age Worship Team
August 23 rd	Sandra, Ken Spensley and Ann Tomblin
August 30 th	Benefice Service at Pebworth
September 6 th	Adine Keatley and Liz Webb

Thank you everyone for keeping our Church looking clean and welcoming for visitors. Key from "The Bell" or Gillian Beale 01386852958 .



Agnieszka

SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR HOME WITH:

- Personal Care
- Companionship & Support
- Shopping
- Insured & CRB checked
- Full UK driving Licence

References available on request

☎ 07933 309 431

✉ agnieszka.jen1972@gmail.com

TOWER TOUR OPEN MORNING AT ST PETER'S

Bank Holiday Monday Morning, August 31st 2026, from 10am

See the bells inside the tower.

Find out what goes on upstairs when the bells ring out over the village.

Learn a little about our wonderful tradition of English Change Ringing.

Have a go at ringing a bell.

Meet our friendly band of bellringers.

Spaces are limited, so pre-booking is essential. For more details, and to reserve your FREE one-hour tower and ringing experience, call or message Robert Chadburn (on WhatsApp) on 07805 892086, email him at rchadburn1@gmail.com, or leave your name and a contact number with Sue or Lou at the Bell Inn and he will get in touch with you.

"I had no idea it was anything like that!"

"It's so much more complicated than I ever imagined"

"Great fun and interesting too"

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Bell 4 Restoration Appeal.

THE SEPTEMBER 2026 VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the September News must be received by Monday 17th August 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 or phone Alan 01386 858601 or Bill 01386 858628.. We aim to acknowledge emails received. The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at:

www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

To advertise in the magazine please contact Alan on above number or email agittings@talk21.com **14**

Recent Village Sightings

REMEMBER TO LOOK UP – swifts are departing for who knows where for another



already
9 months.

In recent weeks our gardens have been a haven for a myriad of wildlife. Plenty of reports of blackbirds busy feeding recently fledged young; and accounts of nesting robin successes; and green and greater spotted woodpeckers, sometimes with their youngsters in tow often being heard and seen; wisteria nesting pigeons plus another account of a female mallard with youngsters in a garden. It is after all only a guess but breeding may have gone well for many species.

Three contributors have witnessed muntjac deer in their gardens, two accounts of badgers visiting and a similar number of fox sightings. The extremely hot weather might have played a part in their garden visits. A number of reports of adult and juvenile grass snakes, along with an adder, not a snake that is often observed here. It has been particularly pleasing to hear too of three separate sightings of young hedgehogs on the move. Lots of butterflies have been observed with meadow brown, small white, red admiral, small copper mentioned most often, along with marmalade hoverflies and leaf cutter bees filling up bug homes in several gardens. Ladybirds seem to be enjoying a good year too, although other insects that act as good pollinators are currently in short supply, emphasised by my sad looking runner beans!

For some of those who have garden ponds it has been a challenge to keep them topped up, but they can be a lifeline for many creatures, particularly in the recent weather that may become the new normal. But their value has been underscored by one contributor sharing how much wildlife has appeared in a newly created pond, with a variety of birds being attracted, including an attractive snail eating song thrush and providing “...the best pest control method we’ve ever had.” Another contributor shared a particular garden drama involving a jackdaw’s nest, probably with eggs, being eyed up by a ‘thieving’ magpie. Only for one of the jackdaws to finally deliver some rough justice when “it flew down and gave the magpie a hiding, the two tumbling down the roof together in an angry, squawking, feathery

bundle. We haven’t seen the magpie since!”

One final account involved an owner’s cat being attracted to the unlit wood burning stove. On opening the stove door he discovered a bedraggled blue tit, having presumably fallen down the chimney. The cat quickly grabbed the bird in its mouth, but rapid action by the cat’s owner came to the bird’s rescue with the blue tit flying off seemingly unharmed after its narrow escape.

Occasional sightings of a little owl still being reported; and not far from Willersey. Backbreaking late evening work on the allotment was blessed with a visiting barn owl ghosting by. Wildlife news from Chrissie, Jo, Bill, Ashley, Derek, Peter, Andrea, Sandy, Alan, Sue, Louise, Sirlol, Mike, Shirley, Sue, Tini, Ainsley, Robert, Sarah, Pete, Gi, Donald, Gill, Heather, Ian, Leo, Brody.

If you would like to report local sightings to Nature Box, please email Bob Topp at bob.topp@btinternet.com

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Ground Hog Day | 2) Mercury |
| 3) Skin | 4) 2013 |
| 5) Ian Fleming | 6) Knee |
| 7) Sydney | 8) Iago |
| 9) 1997 | 10) Doha |
| 11) Tin | 12) 3 (Three) |
| 13) Olivia | 14) All the President’s Men |
| 15) Simon Amstell | 16) Tallin |
| 17) Call of Duty | 18) Tennessee |
| 19) Nine Inch Nails | 20) Krone |

The Quiz is on **page 10**.

Nature Box – Waiting for Nature

“You only need to sit still long enough in some attractive spot in the woods that all its inhabitants may exhibit themselves to you by turns.” Henry Thoreau

I was hoping to see the barn owl. Now sometimes such moments happen unexpectedly, but knowing where there were nesting birds was too tempting not to make time for an encounter with these beautiful, silent flying creatures living alongside us in Willersey.

As daylight morphed into dusk, and making myself less conspicuous, a world seemingly hidden in plain sight began to appear. Two magpies, often one of the first birds to give the alarm, spotted me and flew close by calling noisily. Assorted moths began to take flight, closely followed by hungry pipistrelle bats. As the light finally slipped away, a lone kestrel casually cruised down the hillside, perhaps seeking a last meal of the day or making for its nightly roost. But just then the eerie silence was suddenly broken by the loud barking of a muntjac deer either declaring its presence or perhaps noting mine?

Finally, almost when it seemed all that was present had been revealed, moving through the half light in absolute silence a barn owl appeared. Not from the direction I had imagined, but seemingly floating in absolute silence towards its nest carrying a small captured rodent, stopping briefly.

Of course, as others will have experienced, you don't always get to see what you might hope for, and this special encounter obviously involved a touch of good fortune. But in truth, letting nature do its thing, revealing some of the other wildlife on the village edge was magic enough. The barn owl was the icing on the cake.

Bob Topp

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A vibrant poster for a 'Boogie BINGO' event. The word 'Boogie' is in a pink, cursive font, and 'BINGO' is in large, colorful, illuminated block letters. A disco ball is in the top right corner. Below the title, it says 'IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT' with a green heart icon. The date 'SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST' is written in white, flanked by a pink star and a green star. The time '7PM EYES DOWN 7.30PM' is in pink and white. The location 'AT THE NEW INN, WILLERSEY.' is in white and green. At the bottom, a black box contains the text 'BOOKING ESSENTIAL' in pink and 'CONTACT 01386 853226' in green. A boombox icon is on the left side of the bottom section.

Boogie BINGO

IN AID OF
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT** ♥

★ **SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST**

7PM EYES DOWN 7.30PM

**AT THE NEW INN,
WILLERSEY.** ★

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
CONTACT 01386 853226



WILLERSEY
VILLAGE
TREASURE
HUNT
in aid of the
NUMBER 4
CRACKED CHURCH BELL

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026
START/FINISH WILLERSEY CHURCH
FIRST START 2.00PM
(TEAMS DEPART EVERY 5 MINUTES)

FAMILY FRIENDLY WALKING EVENT
MAXIMUM 5 PEOPLE PER TEAM
GRAND PRIZE AWARDED TO THE FASTEST TEAM WITH THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS
BONUS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
REFRESHMENTS FOR SALE
Delicious cakes and hot and cold drinks

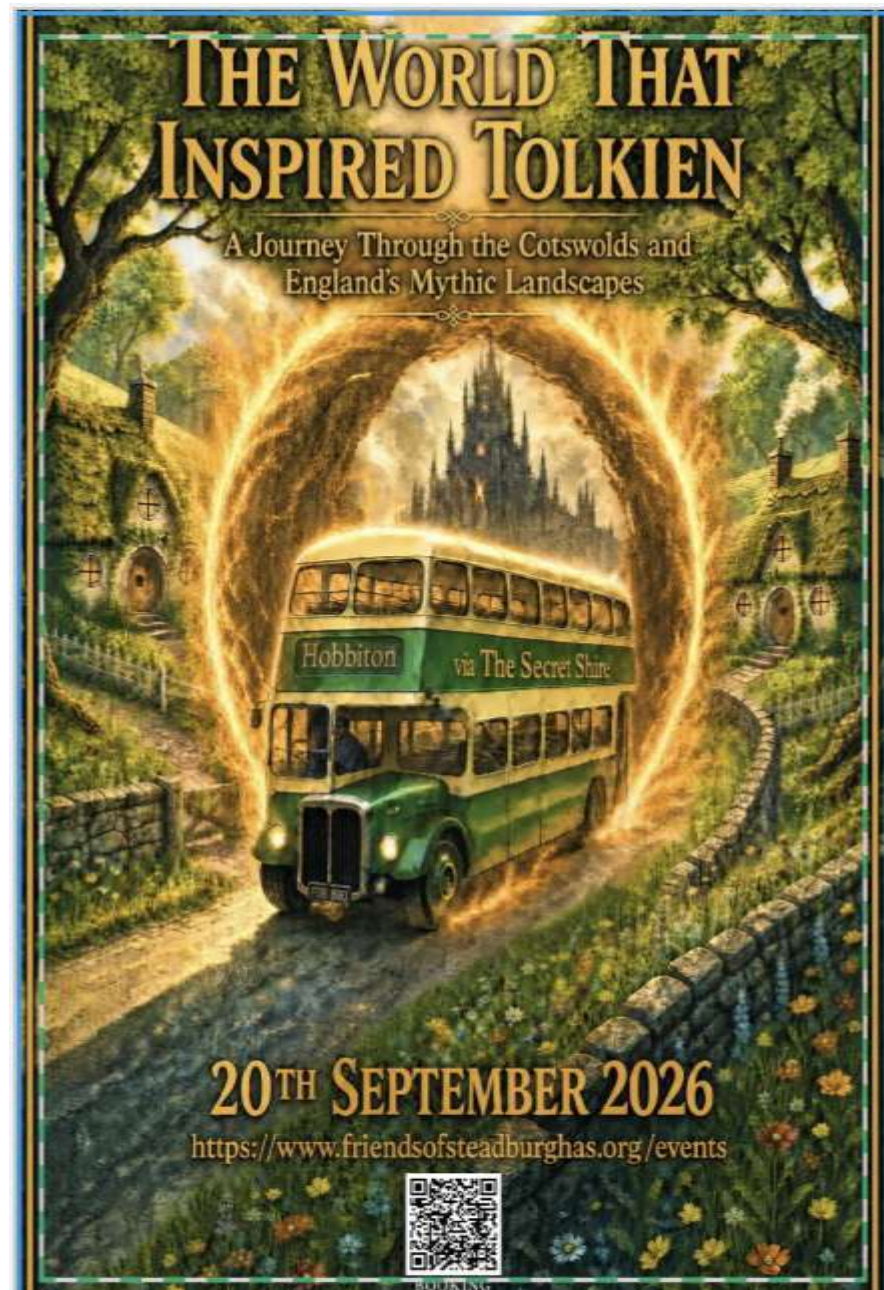
TRAIL SHEETS: £15 PER TEAM PAID IN ADVANCE
BOOK YOUR SLOT NOW!

BOOKING DEADLINE
MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026
CONTACT:
Siriol Hunter
Email: sirioljh@gmail.com
Mobile 07739 426360

<https://www.friendsofsteadburghas.org/events>

For further information about the bells of St Peter's and Saintbury search for [willersy.org](https://www.friendsofsteadburghas.org/events) then select St Peter's bells from the menu.

By Peter Kavanagh



THE WORLD THAT
INSPIRED TOLKIEN
A Journey Through the Cotswolds and
England's Mythic Landscapes

Hobbiton via The Secret Shire

20TH SEPTEMBER 2026
<https://www.friendsofsteadburghas.org/events>

BOOKING



Willersey C of E Primary School

'We learn together through faith, fun and friendship'

Clerk to the governors

Grade 6 (pts 15-20) £30,024 - £32,597 pa pro rata

Part time (approximately 40 hours per year)

Willersey C of E Primary School is seeking to appoint a Clerk to the Governing Body to act as an official channel of communication to and from the Governing Body and to enable the governing body to function smoothly and efficiently.

This is a part-time position involving attendance at six full governing body meetings per year (usually held in the afternoon or evening) and some home-based administrative work. Further details are laid out in the job description.

There are usually 6 full governing body meetings per year. The clerk may be required to attend any extraordinary meetings that may be called. Apart from the attendance at meetings, the remainder of the role can be carried out flexibly and can be mainly home-based.

Main duties include:

- Attendance at the six full governing body meetings each year
- Taking and typing of meeting minutes
- Preparation and circulation of agendas, minutes and other papers
- Recording of governor meeting attendance

- Advising the governing body on governance issues
- Booking governor training courses
- Facilitating parent governor elections and placing advertisements for other governor vacancies
- Other duties as outlined in the job description

Access to a computer and internet is essential for the role. Knowledge and experience of school governance would be helpful but is not essential as training will be provided.

Gloucestershire application forms together with a job description are available to download from the school website [Willersey Church of England Primary School - Vacancies](http://www.willerseyschool.org.uk) or go to www.willerseyschool.org.uk then 'our school,' 'vacancies' where you will find an application form and a job-description. Completed application forms should be e-mailed to the school office - admin@willersey.gloucs.sch.uk by Monday 3rd August 2026. The recruitment process will include questioning at the interview stage, verification of any appropriate qualifications, acquiring references and necessary safety checks.

We require two referees with the application form. We will obtain references for all shortlisted candidates prior to interview.

All shortlisted candidates will be required to complete a self-disclosure form in order to share any details of convictions, cautions, disqualifications etc. prior to interview.

Willersey C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share the same commitment.

This position is subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Willersey Farmers Market

Next Farmer's Market

Sunday 16th August, Be There!

Q & A Meet

Oli Hargreaves

Name?
Business Name
When did you start your business?
Where are you based?
What products do you sell?
What is your best selling product at WFM?
What do you like most about WFM?
Where were you born (optional)?
What's your favourite sport?
What's your favourite film or TV programme?
What's your favourite takeaway?

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
Red wine or white wine?
Bitter, lager or cider?
What's your favourite season of the year?
What would you say is your greatest achievement?
Something funny about you

Oli Hargreaves
Borderlines Brewing
2023
Meon Vale
Small batch craft beers
Meon Pale IPA (our best selling beer everywhere)
Lovely people
Leeds
Football (I am a big Leeds United Fan)

A New Life in the Sun
Pizza. If I open a tap room expect pizza to go with your beer
My sofa. I don't get to sit on it anywhere near as much as I would like to.
Red. Pinot Noir.
IPA, pale ale (it's what we brew and I brew what I love)
Summer (beers and barbeques)
Being a dad and setting up my brewery
I was in Emmerdale once (at least one of my arms was!)

Willersey
Horticultural
Society



ANNUAL SHOW

Monday 31st August 2025
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, Photography,
Cookery, Arts & Crafts.

NEW CLASSES AND TROPHIES FOR 2026 !

Reminder of dates & times :-

- Submit entry forms no later than 5.00pm Wednesday 26 August into Parish Clerk's letterbox at side of Village Hall,
- Bring entry items to Village Hall on Monday 31 August between 0930am and 1030am.
- Judging takes place from 1100am to 1200
- Village Hall opens from 2.00pm to 5.00pm
- Cup winners announced at 3.00pm

WILLERSEY WHISPERS

By Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter

How much do you think you'd pay for two (small) coffees at the Fish Hotel? An Americano and a Decaf Cappuccino. Go on, have a guess. I'll give you the answer towards the end of this piece. I just need a bit longer to get over the shock. Well, it costs you £3 for two coffees or teas at the Farmers Market Cafe on the 3rd Sunday morning of every month. Yes, £1.50 per drink and you get a free biscuit. Not just any old biscuit either. The choice included chocolate digestives, bourbons, ginger nuts and jammy dodgers at the last market. Hmmm, tough decision. I went bourbon with my coffee, then sneaked a jammy dodger late in the day. Of course there wouldn't be a FM Cafe if it wasn't for perennial volunteers Mal, Jackie, Sue, Annie and Phil. They give up their time every month with village hall funds benefitting from their efforts.

This is the Farmers Market team and the Village Hall team working together. I remember a cold, wet FM back in the Winter when I thought "Why on earth do the organisers do this every month?" Then I walked into the cafe and I immediately got it - it's for the Community Spirit. The Sunday morning cafe is always well attended with villagers meeting friends and making new friends. Malcolm and Sally's brilliant Church Cafe on Thursdays falls into the same category. It's all about Community Spirit. Jane, who initiated the FM, told me it was her overriding motivation - to have a regular social gathering in the village.

With four potential housing developments producing approximately 140 new houses in the next few years, our village will come under strain. Village infrastructure and amenities will be tested; the patience and good humour of village folk will be tested. Places like the Farmers Market Café will play an important role in allowing villagers to let off steam, sympathise, empathise and have a laugh. They will feel better after a £1.50 cup of tea, a ginger nut and a good old chinwag. So to the question in the first paragraph. The answer is £10.89 for two coffees at The Fish. Now, they will say that it's "proper coffee" in beautiful surroundings and of course, they're right. It's a great place for people watching, but give me a hobnob in the village hall all day long.

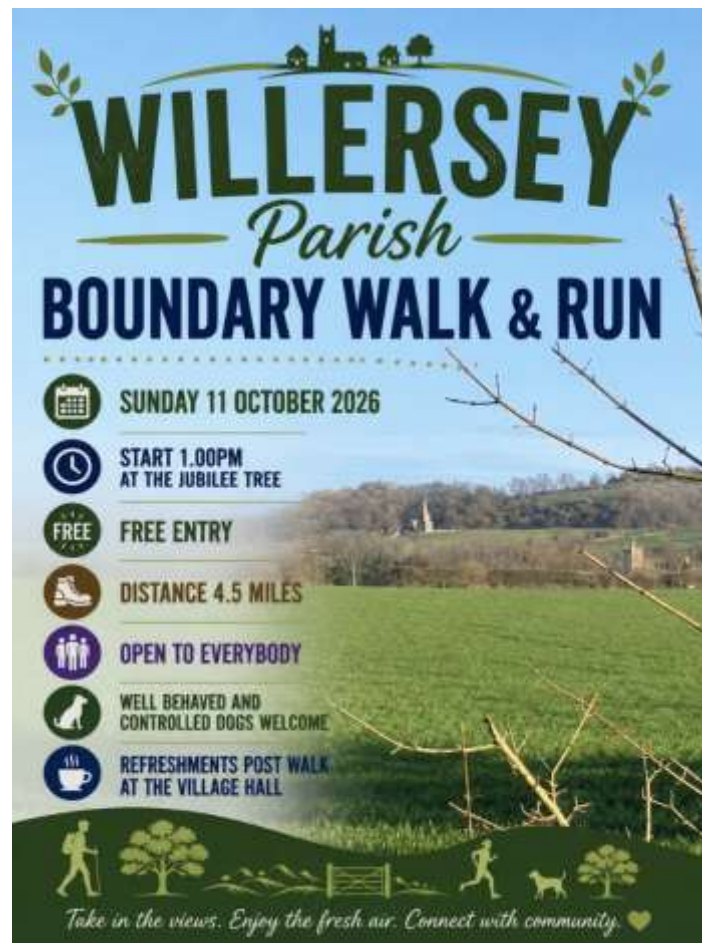
Finally, the Farmers Market Team has asked me, on their behalf, to congratulate Bill and Alan on winning the annual Willersey Community Award. They have produced this Village News for 11 years. Unpaid, unheralded, no personal agenda, never seeking praise or recognition. They just "get on with it" and they deserve our thanks and respect.

More revelations next month

SAVE THE DATE – PARISH WALK & RUN – SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER 2026

We're proposing to hold a Parish Walk around the northern boundary of Willersey Parish on Sunday afternoon 11 October 2026. The distance is an easy 4.5 miles (7 Km). We have obtained support from Willersey Parish Council and also sponsorship from Willersey Farmers Market to enable the event to go ahead.

Further details to be provided over the next few months.



If you would like to help with Marshalling or Volunteering on the day please let me know via email or text/phone. Mark Bridgeman Mobile 07976-111906 & email bridgeman757@btinternet.com



WILLERSEY FOOTLIGHTS



Once again we will be having a stall at the Bank Holiday Monday get together. We will be under the Jubilee Tree.

Any items to sell are always greatly appreciated:

Bric-a brac Toys , Books, Clothes, Gifts. etc
(sorry no furniture)

Please bring on Monday morning 10.00 onwards or contact Mal Jelfs – maljelfs@icloud.com.

Our funds go to our next production which always supports our chosen charities.

PUBLIC NOTICES AUGUST 2026

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are 3rd, 17th and 31st August 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.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

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email contact@willerseyhall.co.uk 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 at Broadway Co-Op.

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE

It's telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEED TO TALK? The Samaritans - Call 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

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

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 – 0800 783 4444

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

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