

Vicar's Letter October 2026

'A Harvest of Thanksgiving — and Honesty'

At this time of year, as we come to celebrate Harvest, our thoughts naturally turn to the abundance of God's creation: fields of crops, orchards heavy with fruit, vegetables from gardens and allotments, and the work of so many people who produce the food that finds its way onto our tables.

Harvest is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you — to God, to those who work the land, and to all whose labour enables us to be fed. Yet this year, perhaps more than most, our Harvest thanksgiving needs to be accompanied by something else: honesty.

For many farming families, the past year has brought extraordinary challenges. Unpredictable weather, periods of drought followed by heavy rainfall, difficult growing and harvesting conditions, and the changing patterns of pests and disease have made an already demanding occupation even harder. Livestock farmers face the continuing threat of

diseases such as bovine TB and Bluetongue, with the possibility of restrictions, testing, loss of animals and the disruption of carefully planned breeding programmes.

Alongside this are rising costs, fluctuating prices and financial pressures. The figures may be discussed in newspapers and farming publications, but behind every statistic there is a person, a family and a way of life. Long hours, financial uncertainty and the sheer unpredictability of farming can take a heavy emotional and physical toll. For some, there are painful questions about whether the farm that has been part of their family for generations can continue.

It is therefore important that our Harvest celebrations do not simply present a picture of overflowing abundance while ignoring those for whom this has been a season of loss or anxiety. Christian faith gives us permission to do both things: to give thanks and to lament.

The Bible is full of stories of people who know what it is to labour and see little reward. The disciples on the road to Emmaus knew disappointment and confusion; the fishermen in John's Gospel knew what it was to work through the night and bring in empty nets. Yet in both stories, God meets people precisely in the midst of their uncertainty.

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That is an important message for our rural communities today. We do not need to pretend that everything is straightforward, nor offer easy answers to problems that are genuinely difficult. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is to stand alongside one another, to listen, to pray and to offer practical support where we can.

Harvest also reminds us how interconnected we are. The food we eat connects us not only with local farmers and growers, but with producers and communities around the world. We are dependent upon one another, and that dependence is something to recognise with humility and gratitude. And finally, our Harvest thanksgiving points beyond the food on our tables to the deeper nourishment that God provides. At the Communion table, bread and wine remind us of God's generosity and of Christ's promise to be with us. Whatever uncertainties lie ahead, we are not abandoned. So this Harvest, as we give thanks wholeheartedly, let us also make space for grief as well as gratitude, as we remember and pray for those who farm and care for our countryside. And let us hold fast to the hope that, even in seasons when the future seems uncertain, God's presence remains steadfast.

With every blessing for this Harvest season.

Revd Jon Barwood

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Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson

The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785
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Willersey Parish Council Meeting 21 September 2026

Following a break over the summer, the Parish Council had a long meeting in September. I shall write briefly as the Village News awaits this contribution to go to print. I thank them for their flexibility. Firstly, we elected and welcomed Simon Donaldson to the Parish Council and look forward to his input.

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During the meeting, we considered our response to the planning application to extend Willow Green on Collin Lane. The PC were unanimous in their objection to another 38 homes and the Clerk summarised how many responses from “expert” organisations did not support the application or asked for additional evidence. Thank you to all those residents who made their response.

Roger Webb summarised the ongoing action and responses in regards to the sewage and water infrastructure for all the proposed developments and reminded us that the proposal to build nine new homes off Broadway Road had been rejected.

We discussed our response to the Local Plan and the proposed number of new homes for Willersey. Although the PC noted that it was less than we had feared, and it was almost equivalent to the proposed Willow Green extension, it was still too many. The PC voted to object.

We formalised some of the decisions the PC made over the summer in relation to the pond, the rotting tree on the recreation ground (rec), and the use of the rec for the Broadway football team.

We expressed frustration with the delay in resurfacing of the play area on the rec, and discussed the poor nature and possible action regarding the path running down the back of the rec.

With the sad closing of the Bell, the Council considered applying for Asset of Community Value status for the Bell. We will do some initial work reviewing the process and information required. I will write more on this next time.

We discussed meeting the new owner of the shop, to hear about their plans, our response to the consultation regarding the proposed twenty mile hour a limit in the village. We welcomed it, but also felt that enforcement of it was a key issue. Attendees and councillors shared concerns about particular traffic and parking hotspots. The PC was updated on the latest speed camera issues and their capture.

We revisited the issue of the Long Path and wider access around the village. The Parish Council will now take a proposal to the village.

The Parish Council will meet again on Monday October 19th 7pm
.Please follow us on facebook: Willersey ParishCouncil.

Jane Rintoul Chair



WI Report for October

Our speaker in September was Jack Boskett, a multi award winning photographer. His career journey began when he got his first camera aged five encouraged by his father. Another passion is all things to do with railways. Whilst still at school, a neighbour asked him to take a photograph of the Royal train which had stopped overnight in Ashchurch. He also managed to get an early morning shot of The Duke of Edinburgh leaning out of the window!

Since starting up a photography business in Tewkesbury aged 19 and largely self-taught, he has gone on to take thousands of images of the Royal family on state occasions over the last 16 years. These have been used all over the world in newspapers and magazines. A pool of photographers is commissioned by the Royal Press Office and their images are sent to Buckingham Palace for approval. Jack also showed us photos of the late Queen Elizabeth on her walkabouts and Royal visits. Allegedly, she indicated that she wanted to move on by changing her handbag from her left arm to her right! Jack's interest in trains means he is delighted that he has been officially commissioned to photograph the final days of the Royal Train, including inside the carriages, before its retirement in 2027. This will create a fascinating historical record.

We had an enjoyable evening looking at some stunning photographs and searching them out online is fully recommended.

Rosemary McLaren

Coming Up for WI in October

A fun “Cheese and Whine” night with a difference.
(Not a spelling mistake!)
Willersey Village Hall 7:15

Guests welcome on the door £5. Donations for
“Caring Hands” welcome and cards for sale for Cobalt
Charity.

WI crockery etc. for hire. Contact Mal Jelfs on
maljels@icloud.com

ONE MONTH TO GO! 📅

Can you believe it? We’re now just **one month away from our Sponsored Ring on Saturday 3rd October!**

Why not celebrate a **big birthday, anniversary or special occasion**, or take a moment to **remember someone special**, by sponsoring our wonderful team of bellringers as they take on their challenge in aid of the **Cracked Bell Appeal at St Peter’s, Willersey**.

💖 **Make a dedication and sponsor a ring:**

Sponsor our ringers here <https://form.jotform.com/262086314929059>
Then come and hear our merry group of bellringers **ring out across the village** on the morning of **3rd October**.

📅 We’ll be kicking off **bright and early at 9am**.

☕ There will be **refreshments and coffees in the church**, so come along, enjoy the traditional sound of the bells, support our ringers and help us raise the vital funds needed for the **Cracked Bell Appeal**. Whether you’re sponsoring a ring, making a dedication, or simply coming along to listen, it promises to be a **truly special morning**.

❤️ **Please join us if you can — and help us keep the bells ringing for generations to come!** Heather Lishman

Paths Around Willersey Scheme October 2026



What a glorious summer it has been. A little too hot for walking perhaps, especially for those people walking pet dogs who have been confined to either early morning or late evening, when it was suitably cooler. A ‘walk fest’ however has been organised by Mark, a village resident, and it is supported by Willersey Parish Council and Sponsored by Willersey Farmers Market. The event is called the ‘Willersey Parish Boundary Walk and Run’ and it is on Sunday 11th October 2026, starting at 1.00pm by the Jubilee Tree in Main Street. Mark has stated that the Willersey Parish Council Chairperson, who is also the organiser of Willersey Farmers Market, suggested to him that the Circular Walk around Willersey, which is being proposed by the PAWS Group, be included as a separate event on the day. This is an ideal opportunity for people who do not wish to, or who are unable to walk the longer distance of the main event, to join in the day’s activities. The ‘Boundary Walk’ also features a Boundary Run for those more athletic participants and both will be 4.5 miles long. The Circular Walk will be **one** mile long and commences at 2.30pm.

This event is an ideal opportunity for you to have a bit of fun, meet others and get to know a little bit about Willersey. This includes the Circular Walking Route that the PAWS Group is trying to establish as a suitable route for use by people of all abilities, to get around the Village.

People who do not live in Willersey are also most welcome. Refreshments are available to be purchased during the event, in the Village Hall. Thanks go out to Willersey Parish Council Chairperson for her suggestion to include the Circular Walk in the day’s events and to Mark the organiser of the event. Do come along and join in. **6**

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

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

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

Start: 9.30am St Peter's Church, Windrush, Burford
OS Map ref: SP 193 131. W3W: kite.sharp.goose

Start: 10.00am Birdlip school GL4 8JH. Park considerably on side of road. OS Map ref: SO 929 142. W3W: grudges.robots.overjoyed

Start: 10.00am Stanton Village car park WR12 7NE
OS Map ref: SP 067 344. W3W: fantastic.puddings.frame

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.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month supported by the WI

The WI will be supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month at The Farmers Market on October 18th.

This will be part of our WI promotion day, along with all the other village organisations. Raising money for charity is just part of what we do, so we couldn't let the opportunity go by.

We will be serving the refreshments with cakes and other scrumptious goodies. Cakes for this event will be gratefully received. There will be a small Pink Raffle - no prizes required. Please come along with some cash, see what we and other village organisations get up to.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support.
Jackie on behalf of the WI

Challenge the Brain Quiz!

- 1) Which land snake has the most toxic venom in the world?
a) Saw-scaled Viper, b) Black Mamba, c) Inland Taipan.
- 2) Who produced a series of oil paintings in 1943 known as the "Four Freedoms"?
a) Andrew Wyeth, b) Edward Hopper, c) Norman Rockwell.
- 3) Which sport is the Haka dance associated with?
a) Rugby, b) Hockey, c) Cricket.
- 4) What are the names of Popeye's four nephews?
a) Huey, Dewey, Louie, Stewy. b) Tom, Dick, Harry, Larry.
c) Peepye, Pupeye, Pipeye, Poopeye.
- 5) Which European country's national flag features 3 vertical stripes in the order of blue, white and red from left to right?
a) Netherlands, b) France, c) Russia.
- 6) On which river did a pilot by the name of Sully make an emergency landing in 2009?
a) Potomac River, b) East River, c) Hudson River.

- 7) Which 2016 song was an international hit for Major Lazer ft. Justin Bieber and MO?
a) Light it up, b) Lean On, c) Cold Water.
- 8) Can you unscramble the following word to reveal an act of betrayal: RASENOT?
- 9) Which film series stars "thunder buddies" Mark Wahlberg and the voice of Seth Macfarlane?
a) Family Guy, b) Ted, c) Step Brothers.
- 10) How many degrees do the interior angles of a triangle always equal?
a) 180 degrees, b) 360 degrees, c) 270 degrees.
- 11) Who wrote "The Canterbury Tales"?
a) Thomas Malory, b) Geoffrey Chaucer, c) John Milton.
- 12) What was the title of George Michael's first solo single?
a) Last Christmas, b) Faith, c) Careless Whisper.
- 13) Sara eats 5 sweets in January, 8 in February, 11 in March and 14 in April.
If this pattern continues, how many sweets will Sarah eat in October & November, of the same year, combined?
- 14) Which multinational corporation developed the PlayStation?
a) Sony Computer Entertainment, b) Microsoft, c) Nintendo.
- 15) What famous statue was originally named "Liberty Enlightening the World"?
a) The Statue of Liberty, b) The Lincoln Memorial, c) Christ the Redeemer.
- 16) Chris Martin is the lead singer of which famous British rock band?
a) Radiohead, b) Muse, c) Coldplay.
- 17) How many countries of the world begin with the letter Z?
- 18) Maundy Thursday commemorates which final event that took place between Jesus and his disciples?
- 19) What do the letters DC stand for in the United States capital Washington D.C.?
- 20) Which Shakespearean play is based on the short reign of a British king who was responsible for numerous deaths?

COTSWOLD VALE EMBROIDERY GROUP

Our September meeting entailed Japanese embroidery titled Sashiko. It takes the form of a running stitch creating geometric patterns. Very therapeutic. With Christmas appearing on the horizon next month we are beginning sewing for the Christmas Tree Festival. It was decided to make embroidered doves to hang on our tree. Our next meeting is on Thursday October 1st in Honeybourne Village Hall 9:30am to 12:30om. We pay £5 each session to cover hall and insurance fees. The money is also used for materials and a demonstrator if we choose someone to visit and introduce the group to a new technique or idea. Refreshments available from the Village Hall community Cafe. Details from Gillian 01386852958 Please note we did not travel to Ulster for an August outing, it was Alcester.

September All Age Worship - Bread of life

I always enjoy our Harvest Service with the church beautifully decorated and singing Harvest hymns and just a thought does anyone know why the harvest hymns are set so high up for singing? Answers on a postcard please. Even standing on tiptoe makes no difference. Mark took our service with the theme being bread. He spoke of chapters in the Bible where bread was mentioned. The Pharisees did not have a very varied diet in fact mostly bread. Throughout time bread has always been a staple food. There are lots of passages in the Bible where it is mentioned and the bread of life is a portion of life as in John's gospel. This is one of many examples.

One of the hymns 559 was treated as a prayer and read by members of the congregation standing in the pews like an echo moving around. Adine read her mother's poem written many years ago describing the antics of the flower arrangers during this season. It was humorous and mentioned many members of Toddington Church who are sadly no longer with us. Thank you to Richard, Bel, Deborah, Pat and Robert for their help during the service and to Mark for taking the service which was followed by a harvest lunch supplied by many members of the congregation. All in all, it was as a Harvest Festival should be. A happy and joyous occasion. Thank you to all who helped provide this FEAST.



Saint Peter's Church Services, October *Evensong services at 4:00pm, first Tuesday of each month*

Sunday 4 October	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 6 October	4:00 pm Evensong (BCP)
Sunday 11 October	9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 18 October	11:00am All Age Worship
Sunday 25 October	10:00 am Morning Prayer

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

Autumn Clean at St Peter's Saturday October the 17th
Come along and help with the autumn clean, mops dusters and cleaning equipment all provided. Start time 10:00am. Refreshments served through the morning with a soup lunch to conclude the clean. Come and join the happy band of volunteers

October Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

Church cleaning for week ending

October 3rd)
October 10th) Annie Payne and Sue Clark
October 17th Saturday Autumn clean All welcome to join in
October 24th)
October 31st) Rachael and Poppy Barker

Brass cleaning for October Carolynne Adam

Refreshments for Services in October

October 4 th	Rachael Barker
October 11 th	Deborah and Mark Taylor
October 18 th	All Age Worship Team
October 25 th	Adine Keatley and Liz Webb
November 1 st	Gillian Beale

Thank you again to all helpers giving their time to keep the Church looking so well cared for. If cleaning materials are running low please leave a note or let me Gillian know.

Now The Bell Inn has closed the keys can be obtained from Christine & Richard Sutcliffe at Traquair next door to The Bell email rghsutcliffe@aol.com or Gillian on 01386 852958



Agnes

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

Let's get Willersey Walking on Sunday 11th October 2026

Due to popular demand, we now have three events being held on Sunday 11th October. All three start from the Jubilee Tree in Main Street and will be flagged away by Willersey Resident and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Richard Bradley.

The Willersey Parish Boundary Walk & Run is a 4.5-mile route using public footpaths, tracks and lanes to the north of Willersey with some lovely views over the surrounding countryside.

The Willersey Circular Walk is a one-mile walk around the Village taking in the sights and features of our lovely Village.

Start times from the Jubilee Tree are :-

- ❖ 1.00pm Willersey Parish Boundary Walk (4.5 miles)
- ❖ 2.00pm Willersey Parish Boundary Run (4.5 miles)
- ❖ 2.30pm Willersey Circular Walk (one-mile)

See map on Page 7.

Refreshments (cash) will be available at the finish in the Village Hall raising monies for St Peter's Church "minton" floor and cracked bell restoration funds.

We are very grateful for the sponsorship from WILLERSEY FARMER'S MARKET which has enabled the event to be held.

*Take in the views. Enjoy the fresh air.
Connect with your Community.*

The Willersey Circular Walk

Date : Sunday 11th October 2026

Time : 2.30pm

Where : Jubilee Tree, Main Street, WR12 7PJ

Distance : One Mile

FREE Entry !!

Start Flag : Richard Bradley - The Vice Lord
Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

Open to everybody – Young & Not so Young 🍌

Refreshments (cash) in the Village Hall



sponsored by WILLERSEY FARMER'S MARKET

Sponsored by Willersey Farmers Market

WILLERSEY

Parish

BOUNDARY WALK & RUN

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

WALKERS START @ 1.00PM

FREE FREE ENTRY

DISTANCE 4.5 MILES

RUNNERS START @ 2.00PM

WELL BEHAVED AND CONTROLLED DOGS WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS POST WALK AT THE VILLAGE HALL (CASH)

Jubilee Tree, Main Street

Take in the views. Enjoy the fresh air. Connect with community. ♥

Raising funds for St Peter's Floor & Cracked Bell refurbishments

SPONSOR A RING!

Help keep our bells ringing!

Support the Bell Ringers of St Peter's Church, Willersey

SPONSORED RING • OCTOBER 3RD FROM 9AM

Our ringers will perform four 42-minute rings (the equivalent of four quarter peals), and we'd love the whole village to be involved!

£5

SPONSORS
ONE QUARTER PEAL

£10

SPONSORS
A HALF PEAL

£20

SPONSORS
A FULL PEAL

Of course, we'd love to sponsor the ringing many times over!

♥ DEDICATE YOUR RING

When you sponsor a ring, you can dedicate it to someone special.

For example:

"I would like to dedicate this ring to... [Name(s)]..."

You can also include a short personal message if you wish.

🏰 JOIN US ON THE DAY!

The church will be open throughout the morning.

- 🔔 Listen to the bells
- 🍵 Enjoy refreshments
- 👥 Meet fellow villagers
- ♥ Support this much-loved tradition

🍵 A small donation pot will be available for refreshments.

HOW TO SPONSOR

Complete the online form or collect a paper form from:

- 🚗 Taylor's Garage
- 🔔 The Bell (Sue or Lou)

Return completed forms with cash to the pub, the garage, or any of the bell ringers.

OR PAY BY BANK TRANSFER

Account Name: PCC WILLERSEY
Bank: Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-93-11
Account Number: 01620031
Reference: BELL4RING

SCAN HERE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM

Every sponsorship—large or small—helps keep our bell-ringing tradition alive.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

RAISING FUNDS FOR ST PETER'S CHURCH BELL APPEAL



Nature Box - Celebrating Corvids



We often refer to large black birds as crows. But as we know they might indeed be one of a number of similar looking birds all belonging to the corvid family. At first glance they can seem a bit tricky to tell apart, but particular characteristics can really help with identification.

During WW2 people were trained as plane spotters to identify enemy aircraft by their GISS – General Impression, Size and Shape, rather than fine detail. The same approach is really helpful in trying to identify birds. A jackdaw, with its silver-grey patch on the back of its head, couldn't stay quiet to save its life when in flight, seeming to be constantly calling “chak, chak, chak” and usually in large groups. They are particularly noted for their more acrobatic flight. Jackdaws can regularly be seen congregating by the village pond for a duck food handout; but they are in fact the most reliable church-goers - yes really, often nesting in the church bell tower and seemingly inured to the loud sound of the bells.

Rooks, with adults having that greyish-white skin around the base of their bill, and in the 17th century prized for their livers that were said to cure rickets, are also very gregarious, gathering at the end of the day in large groups at a rookery. They are often joined by jackdaws as they feed, and especially when they are heading to their night time roost – a regular sight over the village as they fly north. In times gone by the evening flight overhead of these two birds was an indicator for agricultural workers

to down tools and head for home and fireside comfort, perhaps via the pub?

Carrion Crows on the other hand are more usually seen in ones or twos or small family groups, with their direct ‘As the crow flies’ flight pattern; and have a characteristic often repeated harsh “caw, caw, caw” call. Crows are especially territorial and can often be seen as a pair chasing off buzzards daring to enter their patch.

Ravens are another even larger black bird that can be seen flying over the village - often in pairs as they mate for life - and signalling their presence with a really coarse and unmistakeable “cronk, cronk”, with eagle like wings and a diamond shaped tail.

There are other members of the corvid family such as magpies and the colourful jay, noted for its white rump often seen as it flies away, but we'll save those for another day.

Now I'm not going to ‘crow’ about these birds, but all of them are amazingly intelligent, renowned communicators and problem solvers with great memories; and in some crow species they are even able to improvise with found items that are then used as tools.

So, to summarise:- large flocks of birds most likely to be rooks and often accompanied by jackdaws with their more aerobatic flight; small groups with up 4/5 flying corvids probably common crows; and the largest of all, pairs of black birds quite likely to be ravens; big eaters from whom we have gained the word ravenous.

Now, come on, what's not to like?

Bob Topp

[Type here]

Willersey Parish Council

The Parish Council understands that many villagers are frustrated and fed up with objecting about development and feel that no one hears us. To be honest, as Chair of the Parish Council I feel the same.

However, I do think that we have been listened to in some areas e.g our issues with sewerage, flooding and lack of infrastructure. Thank you to the residents who continue to knock on Severn Trent's door.

The proposed Local Plan recognises many of our concerns and the proposed number of houses is probably less than we feared and they have accepted we are not a Principal settlement.

The PC will keep on objecting and raising issues even if we do not beat the development. Please find the time to object.

Also please follow our new Parish Council Facebook site.

[www.facebook.com/search/top?q=willersey parishcouncil%20](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=willersey%20parishcouncil%20) (One word ParishCouncil). I'm afraid our old site was taken over and renamed and we lost all our followers.

Thank you for making your views known and keep doing so.



CURRY FEAST NIGHT



LESS THAN 2 WEEKS TO GO!!

Saturday 10th October 2026 - Final tickets available

Come and join us for a wonderful **Curry Feast Night** in aid of the **Cracked Bell Appeal at St Peter's, Willersey**.

We're bringing the village together in the Village Hall for a special evening of delicious, authentic, homemade food, lovingly prepared using **Sheila's family recipes**, with good company and plenty of community spirit. **Bar opens: 7.00pm**



Dinner served: 7.15pm — one sitting



£25 per person — two course feast

Your evening includes a delicious homemade curry, side dishes, rice and a puri, followed by a wonderful homemade dessert.

With just **50 seats available**, this promises to be a lovely, intimate village evening — so **please book early to avoid missing out!** Come along, enjoy fantastic food, catch up with friends and neighbours, and help us raise much-needed funds

towards repairing the cracked bell at **St Peter's, Willersey**.



We'd love to see you there! Anthony Lishman

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/curry-night-10th-october-tickets-1998377094685>.

INDIAN CURRY NIGHT

ONLY 50 SEATS AVAILABLE!
Book early to avoid missing out!

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026

Come and join us for a wonderful Indian Curry Night in aid of the Cracked Bell Appeal at St Peter's, Willersey. ❤️

We're bringing the village together for a special evening of delicious, authentic, homemade food, lovingly prepared using Sheila's family recipes, with good company and plenty of community spirit.

BAR OPENS: 7.00PM **DINNER SERVED: 7.15PM — ONE SITTING** **£25 PER PERSON — TWO COURSES**

Your evening includes a delicious homemade curry, side dishes, rice and a puri, followed by a wonderful homemade dessert.

With just **50 seats** available, this promises to be a lovely, intimate village evening — so please book early to avoid missing out!

Come along, enjoy fantastic food, catch up with friends and neighbours, and help us raise much-needed funds towards repairing the cracked bell at St Peter's, Willersey.

We'd love to see you there! 🍷 🍛 ❤️

BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/curry-night-10th-october-tickets-1998377094685

ONLY 50 PLACES — DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!



Coming Soon

Ann and Sandra's Super Soup Fund Raiser

Saturday 7th November 12.00-3.00

at Willersey Village Hall

Just 50p entry on the door

With modestly priced

Delicious homemade soup & roll

Teas and coffees

Plus

Raffle with high quality prizes

Tombola stall

Homemade cake stall

Gift stall

A splendid opportunity to mingle and catch up with friends and acquaintances.

" All profits to be generously donated to the repairs of the 4th bell at St Peter's Church."

Willersey History Society

On Monday 16 November Alan Gittings will give a talk entitled "Cars, Trains and Willersey". The event will take place in Willersey Village Hall and will begin at 7.00pm. An entrance fee of £2 will be requested.

The latter talk is the final event in the programme as it stands. After 14 months and 7 events, the present steering group will have exhausted their capacity to lay on future events. We have been given lots of ideas and will continue to need speakers etc, but we also need support in arranging a future programme, producing presentations etc, liaising with speakers, booking the hall and supporting activities on the day. So if you'd like to see the group continue and can render assistance in



any way, please come forward. We will be very happy to support all who wish to join the group and help.

If you can assist with delivering or putting on a future event, please contact Jane, Hazel, Mike or David, or email the society at willerseyhistory@gmail.com. We've been delighted by the turnout from the village to previous events. Let's ensure Willersey History Society's continued activity into 2027 and beyond.

St Peter's Flower Group

St Peter's Flower Group was formed some years ago. Every Sunday apart from Lent and Advent, there are flowers on the church altar. Sunday's flowers are arranged by one of our group on a fortnightly rota. On the church's special dates ie. Easter, Patronal Sunday, Harvest Festival, the Horticultural Show, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas when the church is decorated to the full, all the group get together to decorate the church. The style of the arrangement is up to each individual. It can be modern, traditional or just a flower in a vase. Whichever is your way of displaying flowers.

Examples of some of the arrangements can be seen on

www.willersey.org/#flowers

We are always looking to welcome new members. Novices or experts or anyone in between, anyone who loves flowers. If anyone may be interested in joining our happy bunch we would love to see you. Please get in touch with one of our team and they will bring you along to one of our meetings. Our team for you to get in touch.

Alison Aydinlar, Sandy Barnes, Gillian Beale, Jennie Bond, Lynne Dyson, Ann Embry, Bel Jabelman, Elizabeth Milnes-James Tini Owens and Annie Payne.

Challenge the Brain Quiz! Answers

- 1) Inland Taipan 2) Norman Rockwell 3) Rugby
4) Peepeye, Pupeye, Pipeye, Poopeye 5) France 6) Hudson River
7) Cold Water 8) Treason 9) Ted 10) 180 degrees
11) Geoffrey Chaucer 12) Careless Whisper 13) 67 sweets (32+35)
14) Sony Computer Ent. 15) The Statue of Liberty 16) Coldplay
17) 2 – Zambia & Zimbabwe 18) The Last Supper
19) District of Columbia 20) Richard III

The Quiz is on pages 9 and 10

Willersey Farmers Market



Next Farmer's Market
Sunday 18th October,
Be There!

Q & A Meet **Joanna Salmon**

Name?

Joanna Salmon
The Merry Mouse Deli Van
(known as the Cotswold
Pudding & Pie Company)

Business Name

When did you start your business?
Where are you based?

2005
Winchcombe
British cheeses, pies of various
types, many other deli items

What products do you sell?

What is your best selling product at
WFM?

Rabbit pies

What do you like most about WFM?

Haooy atmosphere
Cheltenham

Where were you born (optional)?

Mountain biking

What's your favourite sport?

What's your favourite film or TV
programme?

Watchinh six nations
rugny
Indian

What's your favourite takeaway?

If you could go anywhere in the
world, where would you go?

Right now? bed.

Red wine or white wine?

Both.
Dry cider

Bitter, lager or cider?

What's your favourite season of the
year?

Spring

What would you say is your greatest
achievement?

Living with Myles

Did you have a nickname at school?

Late again

Well! We would never have
guessed that!

Sailing in Antigua with Rod
Stewart.
I was the boat's cook.

WILLERSEY WHISPERS

By Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter

Call me Mr Grumpy but if there's one thing that's guaranteed to get my goat it's being told how many shopping days there are until Xmas. Please keep that information to yourself. Xmas will be here soon enough. I fully expect to wander into John Lewis in Cheltenham next week and find tinsel, artificial trees and Xmas lights for sale. So I wasn't shocked when the WFM organizers asked me to forego my monthly Willersey Whispers drivel in the interests of informing village folk of FM plans in the run up to Xmas. To be fair, I know that WFM organizers have been hard at work for a few weeks now making their pre-Xmas market plans. So, have you got your diaries ready, or your phones? This is what's on and when :-

Sunday 18th October - Food and Drink stalls, and Craft stalls out on the village green. Inside the hall there will be an array of local Community Groups (U3A, WI, Probus, Table Tennis, Yoga, Line Dancing etc). This is an opportunity for village folk to discover clubs to try or to join.

Sunday 15th November - Live music with Food and Drink stalls on the village green, including that old rascal Reverend Hubert selling his Winter Gin Liqueur Xmas Gift Sets. At least 15 craft stalls in the village hall and this will be your first opportunity to pre book your audience with Father Christmas at the December market.

Thursday 26th November (7 - 9 pm) Willersey's Charity Xmas Shopping Event in the village hall. All craft stalls with a Xmas feel and all proceeds go to the Cracked Church Bell Appeal and to Campden Home Nursing. Last year over £800 was raised for charity at this event. It's always a very popular event with everyone enjoying mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 13th December (NB 10.30 - 2 pm). Willersey's Xmas Farmers Market. Food and Drink stalls on the village green and Craft stalls in the hall. Father Christmas will be in his grotto and all children will be given presents (pre booking required). Vale Connection Choir will be carolling (a big success last year).

So there's a lot to look forward to. I think I'm even feeling a stirring of Xmas spirit myself ! In September ? Surely not.
More revelations next month



THE NOVEMBER 2026 VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the November News must be received by Saturday 17th October 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



Saint Peter's

Prayer Over Willersey

Are you facing a difficult time, concerned about someone or simply in need of support in prayer? If so -and you are **over 18** -please consider calling on Saint Peter's prayer group, ***Prayer Over Willersey (POW)***.

POW operates via a controlled and confidential WhatsApp group. All prayer requests are restricted to POW members, all of whom believe in the power of prayer and are committed to treating every prayer request with care and confidentiality. Only the information you are comfortable sharing will be included and details are not essential.

We normally pray for each request for one week, although you are welcome to request a longer period of prayer if you feel this might be helpful.

To find out more or make a prayer request please contact Carolynne at: carolynneadam24@gmail.com

Hymns, Pimm's and a Summer Evening at Saintbury

There are some occasions when the setting, the season and the company seem to come together perfectly. Such was the case when over sixty people gathered at St Nicholas' Church, Saintbury, for a special service of Hymns and Pimm's – an opportunity to celebrate summer with familiar hymns, poetry and scripture readings, fellowship and, of course, a refreshing glass (or two!) of Pimm's.

As people arrived, there was time to explore the church and take in its remarkable setting. Perched high on the Cotswold escarpment, with magnificent views across the Vale of Evesham, St Nicholas' has been a landmark and a place of worship, welcome and community for nearly nine hundred years. Today the church is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust ensuring that this extraordinary building remains accessible (it is open for visitors every day) as a precious part of our heritage and community. The service began with the much-loved hymn Morning Has Broken, followed by poetry including W. H. Davies' Leisure and Mary Oliver's The Summer Day.

These helped to set the tone for a time which encouraged everyone to slow down and notice the beauty of the world around us. There was also an opportunity to hear something of Saintbury's long and fascinating history. The oldest parts of the church date from the Norman period, while much of the building we see today developed during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Norman doorways, medieval windows, ancient stonework and the tower and spire all bear witness to the many generations who have worshipped there. Inside the church are further reminders of its past: the medieval font, stone piscinas and carved sanctuary seating, together with traces of an even earlier history, including a Saxon mass dial and carved stone incorporated into the chancel wall.

As with so many ancient churches, the building is almost a history book in stone, with each generation repairing, adapting and adding something of its own story. Philip Larkin's Church Going provided a poignant reflection on this continuity.

The Bible readings from Ecclesiastes ("for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"), and Matthew ("consider the lilies of the field") seemed particularly apt in such a setting; and provided me with
much to reflect on.

In a world which can feel increasingly hurried, with endless demands on our attention, such an ancient church quietly invites us to pause. For centuries people have crossed its threshold in times of joy and sorrow: for baptisms and weddings, funerals and festivals, prayer and thanksgiving. The world around them has changed enormously, but this place has remained a constant presence.

That is one of the great gifts of our historic churches. They remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves. We receive these places from previous generations and have the privilege – and responsibility – of caring for them so that those who come after us can enjoy them too.

And I think there is something wonderfully appropriate about sharing a glass of Pimm's in such a place. Summer invites us to gather, talk, laugh, and appreciate the abundance of creation and simply to enjoy being together.

Hospitality and friendship are blessings worth celebrating. The service concluded with the Lord's Prayer and a final blessing, giving thanks for the church, those who care for it, and the opportunity to gather together.

Afterwards - with no immediate rush to leave - glasses were refilled, the church explored a little more, and conversations continued in the relaxed atmosphere of a summer gathering. All in all, a perfect evening!

Blessings,

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

There is now a shop at Willersey Garage.

Its opening hours are the same as the garage ie. Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Saturday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

The range of items although already large will increase over the next few weeks. <http://www.willersey.org/garage.htm>



A big thank you to everyone who donated items etc. for our stall on the Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday.

We have such a good time meeting people while raising money for our Society.

Cathy was also busy selling on 'Vinted' and raised £170 alone. We had lots of lovely 'stuff' and raised £671. Hence £841 in totalFantastic!!

This all goes towards our show next year (April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd). The proceeds always goes to our chosen charities .

So, thank you for all the support (anything left from the stall gets shared around our local charities).

Mal

**WILLERSEY W. I.
CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

at

The Village Hall

Saturday November 14th 10.00 – 12.00

Any donations towards cakes, tombola, raffle, fancy goods,
toys, books.

All much appreciated - ideal for Christmas gifts
and a cuppa and chat!

See you there!

The Vanishing Gnome

Please can anyone tell me
What's happened to our gnome.

Has he gone AWOL
Or found a better home?

His reassuring demeanour
Brought joy and pleasure.
He popped up wherever moved to
And became the village treasure!

But how can one so appealing
Be plucked from our streets?
The Willersey vigilant guardian
A cheeky smile for everyone he meets.

So if you know his whereabouts
And can bring him back to us,
Tell him about the timetable
For the local Hedgehog Bus



Recent Village Sightings



Tons of news and recent sightings from Angela and Jeff, Kev, Sandra, Hugh, Angela, Jackie, Sirlol, Mike & Shirley, Tom, Sue, Robert, Derek & Helen, Pete, Sue, and Sandy & Mike.

This has been a quiet time for many birds with native birds moulting, growing new feathers and so keeping out of sight of potential predators. Summer migrants are now gone and winter migrant arrivals yet to appear in and around the village.

Swifts have long deserted us but swallows were more recent departures and their migration passage was wonderfully captured by a contributor writing "Just returned from a memorable early morning late summer stroll which was bejewelled by countless swallows

[Type here]

refuelling by picking off individual airborne insects as they headed south west to South Africa". House martins have left too, but this has been a slightly better year for them here with three properties making space for them, hopefully to return next spring.

October will start to see incoming winter migration with European blackcaps starting to join us and popping up in our gardens; followed by fieldfares and redwings noisily seeking out berried trees and bushes as winter bites.

But there have been interesting reports of quite large groups of goldfinches on the wing; and sizeable groups of blue tits and great tits flitting between gardens. One observation recorded a mixed group of blackbirds – mature and juveniles – all travelling round together.

Another report of a decapitated pigeon is a reminder that sparrowhawks are slipping - often unobserved - through our gardens. There will be young hawks now having to fend for themselves, and very often being unsuccessful with their attacks, and starvation resulting in their demise come winter.

Other really welcome observations include a stoat and a barn owl, with foxes, badgers, muntjacs and hedgehogs still being seen; and huge numbers of ladybirds memorably noticed by diligent village garden tidy helpers.

Now is a good time to clean out bird boxes, and occasionally discovering unexpected nesting material – a sign that it may have been used, but the birds' comings and goings perhaps unseen. Next month's edition will have a focus on nesting, so if you have witnessed nesting successes in your garden or around the village this year it would be good to hear about events.

To report local wildlife sightings please email
bob.topp@btinternet.com

PUBLIC NOTICES OCTOBER 2026

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 Stratford-upon-Avon 01527 813120 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham 01451 820369 for route 606
Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are on the Willersey website
at www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **12th and 26th October 2026.**

Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am.

The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123. (Food waste every week.)

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/check-your-collection-day/>

Please note that the situation on these can change at any time. Just leave your bins out for a late collection.

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 01386 853306.

THE MOBILE POST OFFICE

Visits Willersey on Fridays at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.

Post Office inside and 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

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

Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police

Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105.

Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999 Floodline – 0845 988 1188.

Thames Water 0800 980 8800 Severn Trent. 0800 783 4444

British Telecom 0330 1234 150 Police Telephone 101 (999)

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