

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

*Burghill, Tillington,
Portway, Elton's Marsh,
St Mary's Park
-Hereford*

FEBRUARY 2026



Burghill Hereford community page

CONTENTS

3

The Reverend- Dr Phillip Brown

4-5

Parish Council update

6

Church services

7

Community events

8-19

Community
events/updates/services
Advert pricing (pg 9)

20

The delightful winter
flowering 'Moth Orchid'-
Gardening Club

21-32 & back pg

Adverts

33-35

Church, village & local
contacts

Entry deadline 20th of every month

If you would like to receive this magazine by email, please email the editor to be added to the mailing list.

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Lent: The Only Season Where Chocolate Becomes a Spiritual Battlefield...

Lent arrives every year with impressive punctuality and zero concern for your personal plans. One minute it's Ordinary Time; the next, someone is marking your forehead with ash while reminding you that you are dust—and also, apparently, not allowed to enjoy snacks.

For the uninitiated, Lent is a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and self-denial. For everyone else, it is a 40-day negotiation with God that begins boldly (“I will give up all sweets, social media, and unnecessary complaining”) and ends humbly (“I will give up... one specific type of biscuit, except on stressful days”).

The trouble begins with the Great Lenten Question: What are you giving up? This question is asked everywhere—church doors, office kitchens, family group chats—and your answer will be silently evaluated. Give up chocolate and you earn respectful nods. Give up gluten and people look confused. Give up “negativity” and everyone knows you’ve found the theological equivalent of a loophole.

Of course, Lent isn’t only about giving things up; you can also take things on. This sounds noble until you realise it usually means waking up earlier or praying daily. These commitments feel inspiring at 9 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday and deeply unreasonable at 6 a.m. on the first Thursday of Lent.

Then there is fasting. Fasting teaches many spiritual lessons, including the fact that you never knew how much you loved food until you were told not to think about it. Suddenly every advert features burgers, and someone in your workplace will inevitably bring cake.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday add extra complexity. The phrase “one full meal” becomes a theological puzzle, and “simple food” is interpreted with impressive creativity. Soup is analysed. Bread is weighed. Consciences are consulted—and occasionally ignored.

By the halfway point, enthusiasm fades. Prayer routines wobble. Sacrifices are accidentally broken, then deliberately broken, then deeply regretted. You consider starting Lent again “properly” on Monday, a strategy with a proven record of failure.

And yet, somehow, Lent works. Beneath the hunger and mild irritability, something shifts. You become more aware of your habits and your tendency to reach for comfort instead of reflection. By Easter, you are tired, slightly proud, and very ready for chocolate. The Alleluias sound better—and you promise yourself that next year you’ll choose an easier penance.

You won’t. But that’s Lent.

Phill.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES



The Parish Council met on Tuesday 13th January. There were thirteen councillors present and ten members of the public. Our Herefordshire Council Ward Councillor, Mrs Pauline Crocket was in attendance, as was our PCSO Adam Westlake. As always, our Clerk, Mrs Paulette Scholes ensured that the meeting was conducted effectively and in accordance with the various governance requirements expected of a local authority.

After welcoming those present and receiving apologies, we started with a public participation session, whereby local residents and stakeholders can brief us, raise issues and ask questions.

We firstly received an update from Cllr Crockett about Herefordshire Council's activities that might affect the Parish. These included an update on the 2026/27 Council Tax increase, Ofsted's confirmation of the significant improvement in Herefordshire's children's services and local traffic management.

We then opened the floor to local residents so that they could raise issues of interest or concern. We always listen carefully to these and do our best to respond. It is often the case that resolution sits outside of the Parish Council. In these cases, we do our best to raise the issue with the appropriate organisation. Issues raised included inappropriate parking at Redstone and tree planting on Tillington Common. Our tree surgeon will be asked to inspect the existing trees and advise on additional trees. Adam Westlake our PCSO gave an update on various issues of concern including a road traffic accident, speeding and an alleged garden intruder.

It was confirmed that a Community Speed Watch programme will be up and running in the near future. We are currently looking for volunteers, please see the article in this edition of the Community Magazine for further details.

We discussed three Planning Application. These are always determined by Herefordshire Council but we are consulted and respond reflecting local views. Herefordshire Council doesn't always agree with our views but we do influence the decisions made. Our detailed responses are always recorded in our minutes.

We have received a drainage grant from Herefordshire Council. The Parish Council agreed to look at how this would be spent by the end of March.

The Parish Council has received some flooding equipment, mostly flood-bags which are inflatable 'sand-bags' which expand on contact with water. However, there are not enough for all potentially affected properties. An article in this edition of the Community Magazine provides further details.

Our long-standing Clerk, Mrs Scholes sadly retires at the end of March and we are currently advertising for a replacement via the Herefordshire Association of Local Council's website (HALC).

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 10th March, 2026, 7.00pm. Please do come along and observe and / or make a contribution. The Parish Council currently has two vacancies, if you are interested in joining us and helping to make a difference locally, then please contact our Clerk (details on our website).

Detailed minutes of our discussions and decisions are always available on our website as soon as possible after our meeting.

Next meeting- 10th March 2026

Burghill Parish Council January 2026



CHURCH SERVICES Burghill Benefice



1ST	CANDLEMAS SUNDAY	
8.30am	St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg	All Age Worship
10.00am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas	All Age Worship
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	All Age Worship
5TH	THURSDAY	
9.30am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Celtic Worship
8TH	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
10.00am	St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg	Joint Benefice Eucharist
12TH	THURSDAY	
9.30am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Celtic Worship
15TH	THE NEXT BEFORE LENT	
8.30am	St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg	Morning Prayer
9.30am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas	Parish Eucharist
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Parish Eucharist
18TH	ASH WEDNESDAY	
10.30am	St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg	Ashing Service
7.30am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Ashing Service
19TH	THURSDAY	
9.30am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Celtic Worship
22ND	LENT	
8.30am	St Peter, Pipe-cum-Lyde	BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg	Parish Eucharist
9.30am	St Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas	Parish Eucharist
11.00am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Parish Eucharist
26TH	THURSDAY	
9.30am	St Mary the Virgin, Burghill	Celtic Worship

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Weekly Events

(All require booking unless stated otherwise)

We've done our best to provide accurate details, but dates and times may change. Be sure to check with organizers before making plans

Every Monday

- Pilates 9.30am
(Simpson Hall)
- Bell Ringing 7pm
(St Marys)
- Bridge Club 7pm (Every other wk) (Simpson Hall)

Every Tuesday

- Golden Meadow Play Group
10am (Simpson Hall)
- Short Mat Bowling 2pm
(Simpson Hall)
- Brownies 5.30pm
(Burghill Girlguiding HQ)

Every Wednesday

- Yoga 9.30am
(Simpson Hall)



Every Thursday

- Pilates 10.30am
(Simpson Hall)
- Ageless & Active 12pm
(Simpson Hall)
- Handbell Ringers 6.30pm 
(Simpson Hall)
- Rainbows 5.15pm
(Burghill Girlguiding HQ)
- Guides 7pm
(Burghill Girlguiding HQ)
- Bridge Club 2pm (Every other wk) (Simpson Hall)

Every Sunday

- Kendo 5pm
(Simpson Hall)

One-Off Events at Simpson Hall

- 3rd Feb - 7.15pm Gardening Club 
- 9th Feb - 6.30pm Copse Meeting
- 11th Feb - 2pm Knit One Natter Two 
- 27th Feb - 10am Community Café & Community Library
- 19th Feb - 2pm Retirement Club

A talk on Ukraine.

By Lesley Grady

Lesley Grady is Project Officer for Hereford diocese's support for Ukraine team, which has helped to welcome over 900 Ukrainian guests to the area. For Lesley the work has become more of a vocation than a job.



Friday 20th of February
St Mary the Virgin
Burghill
7.00pm

**We ask for a donation of £5pp to
contribute to Lesley's work with Ukrainian
refugees.**

Burghill & Tillington Gardening Club

Simpson Hall

February 3rd 7.15 pm

Yew trees and Burghill's ancient sacred landscape

We have Sue Watts-Cutler with this month's fascinating topic. Sue will be looking at the yew's amazing physical characteristics and how, even today, some ancient yew trees have survived thousands of years by regenerating themselves.

One residential area of Burghill has a surprising number of surviving ancient yews - but why were they originally planted? And what did they represent?

Could you be lucky enough to have one of these ancient trees in your own garden?

All are welcome, just £4 on the door to include refreshments.

sueanddavidrix@talktalk.net

ADVERT COSTS

Charges (yearly- Which is 10 editions)

1/8 page - £35

¼ page- £70

½ page- £140

1 full page- £280

Rear full page- £500

Charges (per edition)

1/8 page - £7

¼ page- £14

½ page- £28

1 full page- £56

Rear full page- £100

Simpson Hall Updates



The Simpson Hall Committee held its AGM on 14th January 2026
We are pleased to report that the Hall is being well supported.
Thank you.

At the meeting we thanked Graham Gilbert for his longstanding dedication to the Hall enabling users of all generations to enjoy the facility. He has on many occasions stepped in to fill vacant positions on the Committee.

At the AGM he was able to relinquish his present role as acting Chairman and our new Chairman Mike Aitken was elected.

Joe Helme stood down as Treasurer and Paul Kelly has taken up this position.

Twink has agreed to remain as secretary but will be shadowed this year by Helen Brown.

Andy Bailey has also kindly agreed to become a trustee.

We very much hope that 2026 will be a year that you are able to join in activities at the Hall, or perhaps hold a celebratory event yourself. To see the Hall Calendar for events or book a party please check the Simpson Hall website : <https://simpsonhall.uk/>

We look forward to welcoming you.

All good wishes
The Simpson Hall Committee.
Charity Number : 239038

Knit One, Natter Too

What could be better for a new aim (let's not call it a resolution) in a new year, than to learn a new skill, or take up again one you learned in the past? You don't have to be a knitter - bring your own craft project and come along. You can be sure of a warm welcome, whatever your interest or level of expertise. We have some (almost) complete beginners as well as more experienced members who are always willing to provide advice or practical help.



You are also welcome if you only want to natter!

We usually meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month in the Simpson Hall, from 2-4pm, with refreshments provided, paying £2 per session.

February meetings are on the 11th and 25th

If you need help with transport, do let me know.

Joanna Helme

Tel: 01432 760816

email:joannahelme@gmail.com

MURDER RETURNS TO BURGHILL ON APRIL 25TH

Keep the date free in your diary. Tickets will be available from 1st March.



**BRINGING
HEREFORDSHIRE
TOGETHER**

Community Digital Awareness Sessions
At the Simpson Hall, Burghill, HR4 7RW

The next free Digital Awareness Session will be on **Wednesday February 18th 2- 4pm**. Those attending are welcome to bring their own device, laptop, tablet, or smart phone and we can help you to access relevant sites for information, give advice on security such as potential Scams, setting up emails, filling in online forms etc, or simply just getting to grips with your mobile phone. Alternatively, we also have two laptops provided by the Herefordshire Community Fund which are available for your use.

Meanwhile if you would like more information or have a query, please leave a message, or text 07889285657 and we will get back to you. Alternatively, you may email:
janettepudsey@burghillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Burghill CAP & Community Library



Our next session is:

Friday 13th February 2026

10 am to 11.30 am at The Simpson Hall
during the Community Café Session.



The Copse Leisure Trust

Reg. Charity No. 1118865



The Copse Leisure Area is managed and run by volunteers. We are very concerned that food (as shown in the above photographs) is being dumped on site regularly. Evidence suggests that it could be someone running a business. If anyone has any information, could they please contact Sally Robertson on sal.rob@btinternet.com or telephone 07581 334900.

We will shortly be submitting an amended planning application and if approved, we will be steaming ahead with applying for grants.

The Copse short mat bowling has been very popular and we currently have two vacancies for anyone interested and who lives in the parish. This is in line with our charitable aims and objectives. For further details, please contact Colin Reynolds on 07703 343537.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and supporters for helping us achieve our aims on behalf of our community.

Burghill in Bloom February update



As we move into another year the BiB team, in cooperation with Burghill Parish Council, is planning to have our **annual Village Litter pick on Saturday 14th March 2026.**

We have ordered a good number of litter pick sets from Herefordshire County. The plan is to meet at the Simpson Hall at 1.30pm and have a short H&S talk then go out in teams throughout the village to locations of your choice.

Upon your return there will be refreshments provided free of charge. This event is open to all.
Please come and join us to ensure that our village is kept clear of litter.

Please contact John Parnaby on 01432 761564 to sign up.





Burghill & Tillington Good Neighbour Scheme Including the Community Café



We can help with any of the following:

- Delivering a hot meal from Burghill Valley Golf Club to any one in the village, on Monday to Friday
- **Trips** around the village and to town
- Running errands, such as fetching prescriptions, library books, shopping,
- Simple DIY jobs
- Befriending, if you would like **someone to talk to**
- **Socialising** at the Community Café or outings Simple gardening in an emergency

Contact Joe Helme: 01432 760816 or jfhelme@gmail.com

The Community Café

A warm welcome awaits you at the next café on **Friday 13th February from 10am to 11.30am**. Do join us for coffee or tea and delicious cakes and scones. Don't worry if you are on your own - you will soon find some friendly folk to chat to.

If you enjoy the café, why not bring along a friend or neighbour?

You can also browse books in the Community Library or look up information on the Talk Hub.

If you think you might like to take some goodies home with you, please bring a container. We look forward to seeing you.

Dates: Fridays: February 13th, March 13th & April 10th - 10-11.30am

The GNS Welcome Pack

Is now available for anyone new to the village. If you are new, or if you know someone who is, and would like a Welcome Pack, please contact

Joe Helme: 01432 760816 or jfhelme@gmail.com

GNS WINTER LUNCHESES

The Good Neighbour Scheme is holding soup lunches again this winter. They will be held on the last Friday of each month (except for December) between 12.30 and 2.00 pm in the Simpson Hall. All are welcome.



The dates are:
February 27th
March 27th



There will be a small charge of £1 for soup and a roll, and 50p for a hot drink and biscuit.

For more information, please contact Joe on 760816 or email: jfhelme@gmail.com

BURGHILL PARISH COUNCIL **Flooding Equipment**

Your Parish Council takes seriously the issues that Householders potentially face, or have faced, in respect of flooding events. Whilst we do not have a direct responsibility to provide sandbags or any other emergency equipment, it is thought entirely reasonable to have a small supply of reusable aqua sacs available to households within the Parish, which can be used where unexpected issues arise. These are suitable for protecting doorways to properties. If you have experienced flooding problems in the past, or are interested in receiving further information regarding this available equipment, then please contact the Parish Clerk: clerk@burghillparishcouncil.gov.uk



Your community needs you

Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers are needed to help run active CSW schemes and monitor the speed of vehicles at specified, safe locations.

Community Speed Watch, Burghill and Tillington

Community Speed Watch schemes are co-ordinated by the police but managed and run by Volunteers in the Community. The scheme enables local people to take an active role in road safety and make their community safer. The aim of CSW is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible but to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed within our parish. So now is the opportunity.

If you require more information or have decided that you would like to become a volunteer, please contact janetpudsey@burghillparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Community Speed Watch, Burghill and Tillington

Mike & Joyce's
TRIPS AND TOURS

Tuesday, 21st April

There's a chapel in the valley!
The Music Palace

Ynyshir, Porth in the Rhondda valley

Holding Paul Kirner's Theatre Organ Collection including the one from Hereford's Ritz Cinema!

Fare: £48.00
Including coach travel,
entertainment and a cream tea

We will learn about the collection, how they work, what work is involved in restoring them and enjoy a selection of music from some of these wonderful organs.

All started by the late Paul Kirner. Whilst being entertained, we can also enjoy an included cream tea.



This will only go ahead if we have enough interest early enough to make it worth while for both parties. So if you are interested, please let us know by:

6th March

For more information and bookings, contact: Joyce & Mike Potts
3 Cranstone, Upper Breinton, HEREFORD. HR4 7PL 01432 356392
joycepotts1912@gmail.com

Please make cheques payable to M & J Potts

FUN QUIZ!

Saturday, 7th February

**Stretton Sugwas
Village Hall**

Then 7th March

7.30pm start

£5 per person

Includes light refreshments/tea/coffee

Bring your own drinks/glasses

Doors open from 7pm / finishes about 10pm

Come as a team (max 6) or join with others when here

We are all very friendly and you will be made very welcome.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend, as it helps with knowing how many tables & chairs to set out and for catering purposes.

Contact:

Gail Hume - 07964 614407 / ssvinfo@gmail.com and

Joyce & Mike Potts - 01432 356392 / joycepotts1912@gmail.com



A small prize for
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Winning team, Losing team &
The best team name

Raffle!

Proceeds from:

The Quiz to the Village Hall,

The Raffle to Marie Curie

CHRISTMAS WINDOWS AT BURGHILL CHURCH

A huge thank you to all the village and church groups who decorated the church windows, porch and chancel for Christmas. The beauty of the church certainly brought great "JOY" (the Christmas theme for 2025) to everyone who experienced it.

We are so grateful to all those people who gave their skills, ingenuity and time to make the church look so lovely.

Could groups please remove all decorations by Saturday January 31st.

Liz Donovan

Burghill and Tillington Retirement Club

February: On Thursday 19th February there will be a talk by Age UK.

March: On Thursday 19th March by popular demand, the Hereford Ukulele band will be with us again. Bring your tuned singing voices that day!

Tickets for the draw, that take place at each meeting, cost £1. We meet in the Simpson Hall. We start gathering from 2pm onwards and commence at 2-30pm. The cost is £3 and it includes light refreshments.

The delightful winter flowering ‘Moth Orchid’

Orchids are often overlooked by the amateur, who tends to think of them as touchy pedigree specimen plants for the skilled connoisseur only. Although this may be true of some exotic species, the Phalaenopsis, or ‘Moth Orchid’ types are amongst the easiest long flowering houseplants. What’s more, they are winter flowering.

Moth Orchids have a flat, vaguely Narcissus-shaped, flower. These are borne on a smooth upright stem rising up above a rosette of thick basal leaves at soil level. Several buds on each stem will open progressively and, in a suitably cool room, each bloom can remain fresh on the plant for over a month, which means an extended winter flower display.

Colours include various combinations of pure white, hot pink, burgundy, rose-purple or yellow, many veined or patterned for extra appeal.

In the wild, Moth Orchids come from the warmer regions of Asia and grow on tree trunks and branches, where light levels are fairly low beneath the leaf canopy; this makes them adaptable to the centrally heated home here. Thus for best results, choose a light position in your house, out of direct sunlight and not shut behind window curtains at night.

The best temperature range is between 60 degrees F and 86 degrees F or 16-30 degrees C. Water as required but never allow the plant to get aridly dry for any length of time, nor stand it in water or water it in cold conditions.

Research has shown that the aerial roots of these plants thrive better with some light, so you will see many of these orchids sold in see-through pots rather than in black ones. They are best kept slightly pot bound but when you do need to pot them up, try to use a similar type of pot, just a little larger, and always use the special bark-based compost sold for this type of plant.

After flowering is finally over in spring, cut the old stem off at the base and start a feeding programme of Orchid fertiliser so that the plant rewards you with another grand winter show next year.

Sue Watts-Cutler (for Burghill and Tillington Gardening Club)

BOOK SWAP KIOSK

(The Old Phone Box by the Church)

- **SWAP A BOOK, TAKE A BOOK**

There is a new full section every two weeks.

(PLEASE USE THE SANITISER)

!!!PAPERBACKS BOOKS NEEDED!!!

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Church

Tel: 07721663638



Golden Meadow Playgroup

Tuesdays (term time only) 10-11:30am

£3 per family (rates differ for child minders)

Simpson Hall, Burghill for 0- 4 year olds

Join us for themed activities including messy/sensory play and crafts, regular areas (kitchen, tractors, playdough, puzzles), singing circle, story time and snack.

Tea and Coffee available for carers.

Dates for Dec/February

27/1- Normal

3/2- Farm with lambs from the Bishops'

10/2- Valentines Disco

17/2- No group- half term

24/2- Normal

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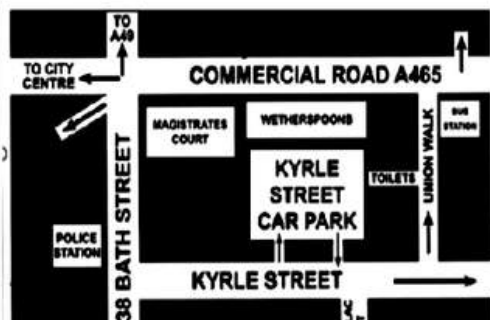
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email Natalie.clare2408@gmail.com
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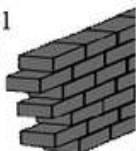
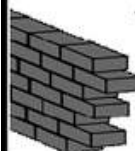
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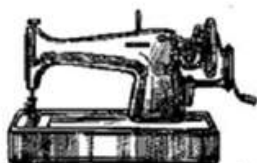


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Church email: burghillchurch@gmail.com
Church website: www.burghillbenefice.com

Churchwarden:

Dave Kelly (**Also Sacristy**) -
kelly.da2024@hotmail.com

Deputy Churchwarden:

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