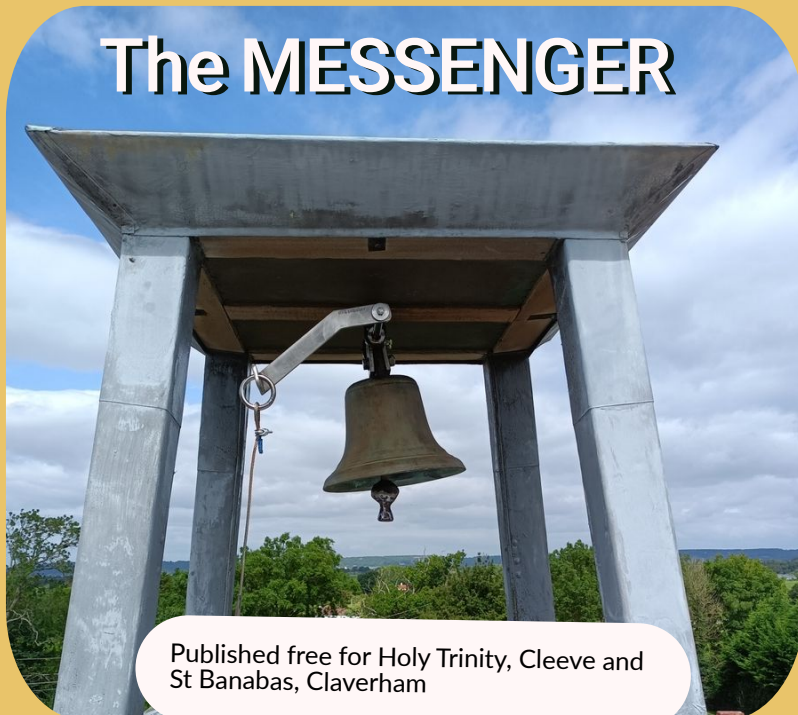


The MESSENGER



Published free for Holy Trinity, Cleeve and St Banabas, Claverham

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Issue 418 May 2026

Welcome to your May Messenger

Rev'd Daile writes -

The Prodigal Son is one of those Bible stories we know so well. But in the light of our Lent Course on Modern Day Slavery, I want to share with you this article written by **Lois Bosatta** from The Clewer Institute. In her article she offers a different perspective and suggests that it can teach about forced labour, 'choiceless choices', the shame and trauma of returning 'home' and the hope of welcome and restoration. She writes -

At this time of year, the Church reflects on the death and resurrection of Jesus, and what it means to us. We talk of redemption, the merciful restoration of our relationship with God, and the future when Jesus returns to conquer death, violence, abuse and sadness.

This epic demonstration of love echoes the care that God the Father shows for people throughout the Bible, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. This applies, too, for people in exploitation and slavery who we read about in scripture. For example, when God first starts to relay his vision for society to his people, He makes provisions for the poor and those in debt through work and patterns for liberation and declares that the society representing him should not exploit or financially, physically or sexually abuse workers. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul advocates for welcome, belonging, reconciliation and even leadership for ex-slave Onesimus, in his letter to his previous owner, Philemon.

One story you might not have noticed, is in the parable of the prodigal son. A man born into privilege finds himself in a place of such desperation and shame that he feels his only option is to give himself to servitude - in this case a kind of debt bondage - to a pig farmer.

I remember being told that this was shameful and his own 'rock bottom' due to the Jewish relationship with swine. In fact, the Greek says he 'joined himself to' this local man who set him to work, for no food or shelter. Doesn't this sound like bondage, a false job advert that ended up exploiting the man for his labour? It also reminds us that none of us, however privileged, are immune from situational changes which make us vulnerable to exploitation



These kinds of 'choiceless choices' exist in many parts of the world where formal employment isn't an option, and a person has to say yes to any opportunity where they might have their basic needs taken care of, only to find themselves being exploited because of a false promise of work. Survivors often find it very hard to return 'home', not only when 'home' doesn't exist because of war or climate devastation, but also when relationships are damaged because a community doesn't understand the complexities of their experiences.

A researcher once explored some of the issues around survivors returning home. Some faced disappointment or embarrassment as they returned without money and success, experiencing stigma, suspicion or gossip from friends and neighbours about their past. Some survivors also struggled with coping mechanisms and trauma which impacted their relationships, feeling guilt and shame about what transpired...

Of course, unlike many in situations of forced labour and debt bondage, the son in the parable remembered he had a home to go to and was able to eventually leave, knowing he had a place to belong even if he might not hope to regain his status. The father comes running out to welcome him, not as a slave or farmhand but as his son, honoured despite his previous choices or his latter circumstances.

Of course, unlike many in situations of forced labour and debt bondage, the son in the parable remembered he had a home to go to and was able to eventually leave, knowing he had a place to belong even if he might not hope to regain his status.

The father comes running out to welcome him, not as a slave or farmhand but as his son, honoured despite his previous choices or his latter circumstances.

This kind of welcome is what God longs to give every person who has hit rock bottom, feels ostracised, has been exploited or enslaved. That restored relationship from shame to 'sonship' is what Jesus made possible.

The journey of recovery from the traumas of such abuse can be a long road, and community can be an essential enabler of this. Community – or chosen family – is a place where we can feel seen, be shown grace and be supported to re-establish life after enslavement.

This story might prompt us to think about how we can provide such welcome and careful accompaniment to survivors who might become part of our communities.



WE SEE YOU.
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

**MODERN SLAVERY IS A CRIME.
REPORT IT**

Immediate danger? **Call 999**

Otherwise call the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline: **0800 0121 700**

Report suspicious activity:
Call your local police on 101

For more information on the signs of modern slavery, visit: clewer.org.uk

We pray today for all those who are still trapped by debt bondage, forced labour and all forms of exploitation and long for the day when they can find the welcome, restoration and grace that the son in this parable found.

**You are invited to join us.....
Holy Trinity Cleeve and St Barnabas Claverham**

3rd May - Holy Trinity
10am Holy Communion

10th May- St Barnabas
10am Holy Communion

17th May - St Barnabas
10am Holy Communion

24th May - Cleeve Village Hall
9.45am for 10am Cafe Church
An informal service starting
with breakfast



31st May - Holy Trinity
Trinity Sunday
10am Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us.
For more information
Tel: 01934 904765

7th June - Holy Trinity
10am Holy Communion

14th June - St Barnabas
'Patronal Service'
10am Holy Communion

21st June - Holy Trinity
10am Holy Communion

28th June - St Barnabas
10am Morning Worship

28th June at Bickley
10am Pet Service
- see poster for
more details



Yatton Benefice Services

1st Sunday 3rd May

8.30 am St John's: BCP Holy Communion
10.00am St Mary's: Holy Communion
11.00am All Saints KS: All Together

2nd Sunday 10th May

8.30 am All Saints KS BCP Holy Communion
10.00am St Mary's Yatton: Morning Prayer
11.00am St John's Kenn: All Together
6.00 pm All Saints GROUP Songs of Praise

3rd Sunday 17th May

10.00am St Mary's: Holy Communion
11.00am All Saints KS Holy Communion

4th Sunday 24th May

10.00am St Mary's Yatton Morning
Prayer/Communion
11.00am St John's Kenn: Communion

5th Sunday 31st May

10.00am St Mary's Morning
Prayer/Communion
11.00am All Saints KS or St John's Kenn -
Communion/Informal Service of the Word

Christian Aid Week, 10th - 16th May



Myra is our Christian Aid Organiser and has had a heart for Christian Aid since she first started collecting house to house for them in 1958 when she was 18.

A bit of history- Christian Aid was started by the Protestant Churches in England to help and support the millions of refugees and those suffering from poverty and hunger in Europe and across the world after the Second World War.

Christian Aid works in 26 of the poorest countries in the world. In Kenya, it is partnered and supporting Beacon of Hope, an organisation which is helping the people in a densely sprawling settlement of Nairobi where Fridah, a widow, lives with her twin sons, daughter and grandson in a rented corrugated metal shelter, struggling to feed the family and to pay school fees to educate her children. continued...

You can donate here: <https://cleeve-and-claverham-pcc.sumupstore.com/>

However, her life has been changed by Beacon of Hope who have trained and equipped her, and many others to cultivate the urban area in which she lives. She is now able to both feed her family from her produce and make a small income by selling excess vegetables at local markets. You can see Fridah and hear her story on the link at [Christian Aid Week 2026](#) - 7 days to make a

difference. Christian Aid Week which is really worth watching.

Our churches in Cleeve and Claverham have always stood with the poor and needy of the world and we hope to do the same this year in Christian Aid week. If you want to know more about the charity please talk to our Organiser, Myra Birdsall.

Camera, Lights Action!

On Monday 30th March, a group of volunteers visited Court de Wyck School to share the story of Easter with Kingfisher Class (children in year 3 and 4).

The story was told through the lens of a movie set, complete with clapper boards, props, characters and a movie set map. Children visited each of the 5 locations and imagined scenes from the last week of Jesus life.

They were encouraged to think about how each Camera, Lights Action! part of the story made them feel, and to wonder what questions they might ask.

A whole mix of emotions was experienced, and children had the chance to choose emoji stickers to describe how they felt. The children shared how they were angry, sad, confused and happy as they heard the different parts of the story.

The questions children wanted to ask were inciteful. I wonder if you have ever asked these questions – the children did!

Why do people hate Jesus?

Why were the religious leaders jealous?

Why can't the people stop being horrible?

Judas, why did you betray your friend?

How could his friends fall asleep?

Why did the Soldiers arrest Jesus when he had done nothing wrong?

Some children wanted to encourage Jesus, and wrote words like:
I won't leave you. I'm sorry this happened to you. Are you ok? Be strong.

And then when we learnt about Jesus rising from the dead, our thoughts turned to thanks and some of the children shared the following messages for Jesus.

'You really are God's Son' . 'You are the best.' 'Thank you for dying for us'.



As the children experienced the Movie Set, they created their own box of items, from a key ring, a pocket hug, to a bookmark to help remind them of the story – and to help them tell others what they had learnt. Which is what happened later in the week when Kingfisher led the Easter Service and retold the story of Easter to the rest of the school and parents who had come to watch. It's a wrap!

Daile , and the team of Easter in a Box 2026

Pattern of Services in Cleeve with Claverham



For the last few months the PCC have been considering the pattern of services in our Benefice. A decision was made that on the fourth Sunday there would only be one service and that would be Café Church. This was for several reasons, including the availability of people to lead the service, and the low attendance as most people attend Café Church.

Following these concerns, I have decided to extend this trial period for a further six months. This means that on the fourth Sunday there will be a service of Morning Worship at 10am at St Barnabas, however, if I am unable to find anyone to take the service or people willing to help there will not be a service.

I understand that Café Church isn't for everyone, but to have a service at St Barnabas on the fourth Sunday requires people who would be willing to read, open the church, operate the sound system and lead the service. These people need to be from among those who do not wish to attend Café Church. If this is you, please let me know and I can share with you what is required.

Can I ask everyone to check the Messenger for the services each month, as over the next few months there are some subtle changes to the

rota, including group services, patronal services, a pet service at Bickley and to see if there is a service on the fourth Sunday at St B. To help keep everyone informed we will print two months of services in the Messenger.

Rotas – to make compiling the rota easier, and less time consuming, we will have one list of readers/intercessors – which means you may be on the rota to read or lead prayers at either or both Holy Trinity or St Barnabas.

So, dates for your diary, which may not be on your current rota or have changed:

May 17th

The service of Holy Communion will now be at St Barnabas

June 28th

10am All Creatures Great and Small - A special service giving thanks for all of creation, but especially our pets – to be held at Bickley

10am Morning Worship in St Barnabas

July 12th

Group Service in Yatton Moor Benefice followed by lunch at Bickley.

Forthcoming PCC dates.

All will be held on Thursdays at Holy Trinity Church Room and start at 7.15pm

2026

May 14th – Extra meetings

June 18th

September 17th

November 12th

2027

January 21st

March 18th

Ukraine Update.

Dear friendsI've just heard from Andy and the good news is that transportation is very soon to be available again for our donations to Ukraine. He and others are also looking into getting their own vehicle which will allow more fluidity.

Current Items required:

Kitchen equipment, cutlery and cookware.

BUT PLEASE NO CROCKERY (it weighs a lot and subject to damage)
Bedding, duvets, blankets, pillows, linen
Medical Supplies, hygiene products, stoma bags, catheters
Mobility Aids....from walking sticks to wheelchairs
Large Candle Stubs....

continued...

Tools for building purposes...nails, screws, hammers, saws etc.
PLEASE NO CLOTHING....basically it's because Poland has put a fine of £1,200 for any clothing crossing the border. (Andy and others are trying to get a Romanian crossing going which will help)

If you feel you are able to help please email me on terandlib@yahoo.co.uk or message on 07902-137146 advising me of your donations. As soon as I have enough for a Collection I will be back in touch
Thank you all so much, *Libby.*

Easter Services

The Good Friday service was held at St Barnabas Church and led by Daile. The hymns, prayers and readings led us along the way of the Cross and Crucifixion of Jesus, each of us laying a stone at the foot of the cross on the altar. A sombre but meaningful service in preparation for the joy of Easter Day.

The first service of Easter Sunday was the Sunrise Service which took place at 6.30am where about thirty people from across the Group gathered around the fire pit for the outdoor service of Communion which was led by Daile

It was quite cold and drizzly but a joy to shout out those wonderful words 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'



We then filed into the church room where beautifully decorated tables had been laid.

A wonderful cooked breakfast prepared by Lin and her early rising catering team awaited us with Dave deftly wrangling the fried eggs!

We all did justice to their efforts washed down with tea, coffee and fruit juice!

At the end of our meal Daile gave each of us little white flowers with a sticky backing to put on the cross in the church. A symbol of our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice.

BINGO & EASTER EGGS!

At the Easter Sunday morning service, we were treated to a game of Bingo as part of Daile's talk, with folk getting involved by having to shout 'Alleluia' instead of the usual 'Bingo!'



The children enjoyed the annual Easter egg hunt around the churchyard and then busied themselves at the craft table, set up in the church, so they could feel part of the service itself, with one of them even helping Daile with some of the actual service!

It was lovely to see new and old faces at what was a really joyful occasion.

Afterwards, in the Church room, the traditional Simnel cake was served which was very much appreciated by everyone.

Many thanks to Lin and her helpers and, of course, to Daile for making our Easter celebrations so special.



Rev'd Daile writes - Your Ekklesia needs you

Ekklesia was a word used frequently by Bishop Alastair when speaking about the church during the Lent Course. The Greek word means a community – a group of people who have been called out, drawn out from society to be witnesses to the light of Christ in the communities in which they live.

At our APCM on 19th April, Daile reminded us that we should see ourselves not as a church - as in today's world the word church isn't always helpful – but as an ecclesia..

We were also reminded that we all have a role to play in the ecclesia, and we were asked to consider our interests and experience and answers to the following questions –

What can I do to help?

Is there a role I can be involved in to help ensure no one is over-burdened?

We are a community, and so do I know someone in the community who might be willing to support us in a particular way?

How do we build on what we already do well?

When you have answered these questions, don't wait to be asked, speak to Daile or one of the deputy Church Wardens to see what happens next.



Cleeve and Claverham
Mothers' Union

The Cleeve & Claverham Mothers' Union Worldwide Lunch will be held this year on **Wednesday 17th June**, from 12noon until 2pm in Cleeve Village Hall. **This event is open to all.**

The meal will consist of a hot jacket potato with a good choice of tasty fillings, various delicious pudding and tea/coffee. There will be a cake stall and a raffle.

This popular event is by ticket only, so a call to Lin on 838515 or Gill on 832917 will get you a ticket – priced at just £8

Lifts are available, just ask Gill or Lin when you book.

All proceeds are for the Mothers' Union Worldwide Fund, which enables valuable work to be carried out both in the UK and abroad.

At our meeting last week we welcomed Jenny Pascoe who came to talk to us about her involvement with The Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

A couple of years ago Jenny's husband collapsed at the bowls club. A 999 call resulted in the attendance of 2 category 1 ambulances, followed by the Air Ambulance helicopter. Sadly this was not enough to save him, but - as Jenny said - 'When God closes a door He opens a window'.

Her 12 year old granddaughter Sophie did some research, and discovered that it cost over £2000 just to get the helicopter off the ground. The GWAAC is totally charity based, and last year it cost over £4m just to keep flying.

Currently they are extremely worried about the rising cost of fuel. Staying free of government funding does have the advantage of leaving them free to train their own medics and operate without red tape.

The helicopters are able to land on the BRI, thus getting patients to the Heart Institute or Childrens' Hospital without having to cope with road traffic

Cont'd...



Sophie decided to raise money for this charity by doing a long distance swim, over a given period of time. She raised thousands of pounds by swimming 21 miles, equivalent to The English Channel!

She has received a national 'young fund raiser' award, coming second in the country. Sophie still continues with her sponsored swimming, and the family was invited to visit the GWAAC base. It was a wonderful experience, and Sophie happened to mention that for the last 10 years of her nursing career Jenny had taught Basic Life Support.

This was Jenny's 'window' opening: she now goes round on behalf of the GWAAC, giving talks and practical demonstrations on life support; mainly to secondary school pupils - years 7 to 10, but also to other groups. Apparently using a defibrillator is part of the school curriculum in many European countries, and the rate of survival is much higher than in this country.

We can still learn CPR, though for those of us who learned our timing to the rhythm of Nellie the Elephant, we are out of date - there is a modern Baby Shark to replace our old Nellie! It seems likely that we at Holy Trinity and St Barnabas may soon experience one of Jenny's training courses for ourselves.

Jenny has been shocked to see the deprivation in some of the areas where she has been to do her demonstrations in schools, and realises how important things like packs to stem bleeding in cases of stabbing are. These are called Blunt Trauma packs. It was reckoned that about 70 per cent of children in some areas take weapons to school.

It is important for people of all ages to know where defibrillators are situated. Many schools, sports clubs, village halls, pharmacies etc now have defibrillators installed. They come with clear instructions on use and it can be a life saver if someone has the courage to use it, or encourage someone else to go ahead and use it.

As well as dealing with cardiac incidents, the air ambulance teams are able to deal with severe bleeding/stabbing/road traffic accident incidents, they can perform a caesarean or an amputation if necessary. When it is too dark to fly there are rapid response vehicles.

They truly do take the hospital to the patient wherever they are needed, thus giving the patient the best possible chance.

Thank you Jenny for that very interesting and informative talk.

Hazel B

Future Meetings:-

12th May - Outing and lunch - Penny Bohn UK Cancer and Well Being Centre, Ham Green

17th June - World Wide Lunch - Cleeve Village Hall - 12 - 2

8th July - Toddler Picnic - Cleeve Village Hall 12 noon - 2pm

HOLY TRINITY "WELCOME ROOM"



All residents of Cleeve and Claverham are invited to the Welcome room sessions which have now started at Holy Trinity Church Room every Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4, hosted by your Welcome Room Ladies

There you will find good company, tea/coffee, biscuits and cake along with great company, conversation, puzzles, crafts and Qwirkle.

So why not come along, meet your friends and maybe make some new ones. If you need a lift or more details please ring Lin on 838515

THE CHURCH IN CLEEVE AND CLAVERHAM
INVITE YOU TO A

PET SERVICE

An opportunity to say thank you for the
gift of all creatures great and small!

Sunday 28th June 2026

10am at Bickley,

Main Rd, Cleeve BS49 4NU

All pets welcome, and if you can't bring
your pet, why not bring a picture of them!

Parking is limited. Please contact Elizabeth
to reserve a parking space on 07787 781716
or for directions. If raining don't worry as we
will be in a marquee!



FOCOS CAKE & TEA AFTERNOON at BICKLEY

on Thursday 2nd July 2026

An invitation to all in Cleeve and
Claverham



An early opportunity to get a note in your diary that there
will be a delicious Afternoon Tea event in the lovely
surroundings of Bickley on Thursday 2nd July, commencing
at 2.30pm.

Come along, soak up the ambiance, savour the delicious
cakes and scones, enjoy a hot or cold beverage and catch up
with all latest happenings, inside the marquee at Bickley.

Whilst you are enjoying your afternoon, don't miss the
chance to introduce yourselves to the Lamas and Bickley's
other wildlife.

To book your place for this popular afternoon out, please
ring the FOCOS hotline on either 832917 or 838515 – if
our call centre staff are unavailable, please leave a
message. The cost for this enchanting afternoon is just
£2.50. Lifts are available – just ask.

We look forward to welcoming as many guests as possible,
old and new, to the Bickley Tea Afternoon, now one of the
most favourite events in the FOCOS calendar.

CLEEVE COMMUNITY POP UP

Are you 65 or over? We'd love to see you!



Drop in for a warm cuppa, friendly chat, and helpful support from local agencies dedicated to you and your wellbeing.

Come along and meet:

Sian – Your Cleeve Village Agent
Tracy – From Improving Ageing in North Somerset

Whether you've got a question, need some advice, or just fancy a chat, we'd love to see you there!

The Maple, Cleeve, BS49 4NR
Wednesday 13th May 2026
1:30pm - 3pm

For more information contact Tracy

Call: 01934 416486

Email: info@vansmail.org.uk



THE CRAFTY VICAR



Invites you to a day of crafting,
company and lunch.

9th May

6th June

4th July

1st August

5th September

3rd October

1st November

10-4pm at

Holy Trinity Church

There will be an opportunity to learn new crafts, or bring your own crafts, painting, knitting, or sewing and craft in company.
No experience necessary - just come and enjoy!

The cost is £5, but there may be additional charges for materials depending on the crafts we are doing.

Bring something for lunch that can be shared with others, your crafts and yourself.

Let Daile (or Gill/Lin/June) know if you are coming
07810551447 or dailewilshire@live.co.uk

Around the villages

Claverham News

The next market at Claverham Village Hall will be on Saturday 16th May from 10am - 12noon.
All the usual local stalls and warm welcome
Claverham Ladies' Guild will be meeting on Thursday May 7th

Yatton Local History Society

talk by Katherine Groves on Commonwealth War Graves

Tuesday 5th May 7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.

Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Marianne Pitman

Yatton Music Society

16th May 2026

· This will be the final concert for Yatton Music Society's Spring season and will be an evening of French music which Meg Davies (clarinet) and Catherine Millege (piano) who have themed their concert 'Sous les étoiles'.



Their performance will include music from French composers selected to please the audience with soothing melodies interwoven with dramatic climaxes.

Meg is a first class honours graduate from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Catherine teaches and accompanies at the RWCM&D and at Cardiff University. She also undertakes freelance work for Welsh National Opera, BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

We are assured an evening of virtuoso music, and the evening will be even more memorable with refreshments provided with a French flavour.

The concert starts at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Tickets price £15, YMS members and students £10, accompanied children under 16 free. Details of this concert are on the Yatton Music Society's website www.yms.org.uk

North Somerset Arts.



The NSA Members' Exhibition is on 15th-17th May at Failand Village Hall which is featuring several local artists from Cleve and Claverham.

Over the weekend there will be talks and demonstrations from some of the members and craft activities for young people, also cakes and refreshments. Entry is free and the opening times are: Friday 15th May preview 6pm-8pm, Saturday 16th May 10am-6pm, and Sunday 17th May 10am-3pm.

Further details can be found on www.northsomersetarts.org

Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

June Richards	May 3rd
Sarah Cush, Nick Cush	May 17th
Andrea Stoddart Lin Mortimer	June 7th
Enid Pring Ron Pring	June 21st

Claverham Future.

Claverham Future would like to thank residents who have supported them in any way. They report that they are still waiting for the planning applications for a total of 270 houses to be built in the village to be submitted.

One site is in the field next to St Barnabas church, and the other on the main Claverham Road spilling onto the open fields.

When the applications are received by North Somerset Council you will have 21 – 28 days to submit any concerns about what matters most to you, either online or by post. These should be in your own words. If you need any further information please e mail at claverhamfuture@gmail.com

Daft Funnies

Clive recently replaced our rooster with a duck. We now wake up at the quack of dawn.



I was pleased to get a tank full of petrol for £60 today. Granted it was for my lawnmower but I am trying to keep cheerful!

Thank you for your contributions to this month's Messenger.

The June edition will be published on the last Sunday of May so any contributions for the June edition should be with me by **Monday the 25th May**.

As usual they can be sent on e mail to carole.perrott@gmx.com, put through the door of 15 Chestnut Drive Claverham, or given to me at church.

Useful Church Contacts

Church Office	Mon - Fri 09.30-11.30	01934 832184
Priest in Charge Cleeve & Claverham	Revd. Daile Wilshire dailewilshire@live.co.uk	01934 904765 or 07810 551447
Deputy Wardens	Dave & Lin Mortimer	01934 838515
	Elizabeth Vaughan	07787 781716
	Gill Roe	01934 832917
Safeguarding Officer	Jeannie Osmond	01934 832241
Websites	htcleeve.wixsite.com/cleeve-and-claverham yatttonchurches.org	
Donate online	https://cleeve-and-claverham-pcc.sumupstore.com/	