On The Edge November 2026



ISSUE No. 327

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St. Martin's Church
Rev'd Peter Marsh
Associate Priest
01453 546521
(not after 6pm please).
pcemarsh@gmail.com

November Services:

Sunday 1st – All Saints - 9.30am Family Service.
Sunday 8th – Remembrance Sunday - 9.30am Communion followed by Remembrance Service at the Cemetery 10.45 and Chapel for refreshments afterwards.
Sunday 15th – 2nd Sunday before Advent 9.30 am Family Service.
Sunday 22nd – Christ the King, Sunday before Advent - 9.30am Communion.
Sunday 29th – Advent Sunday - 11am Communion for the whole Benefice.

Join St Martin's Flower Arranging Team!

Do you have a love of flowers and some experience in arranging them?
We are looking for enthusiastic and creative people to join St. Martin's Church flower arranging team from January 2027. Contact Rossi Howe: rossihowe@icloud.com 07774 223560

A Harvest of Hope from an Evening of Fun

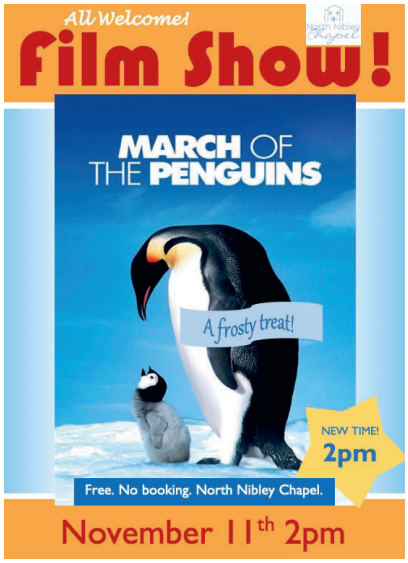
North Nibley's Harvest Supper supports Christian Aid, who (to paraphrase from their website) are a charity that fights poverty, injustice and inequality, supports vulnerable people, and challenges systemic structures. There are lots of ways in which they do this, but I'd like to share a story that is bringing a Harvest of Hope.

In Dagoretti, an "informal suburb" of Kenya's capital, most people earn less than a dollar a day. That's not enough to feed a family, let alone send children to school. (Education is not free in Kenya). Christian Aid have been making changes in Dagoretti: they have dug a well for clean water, provided tools and seeds, set up an allotment and begun educating women about what vegetables to grow to meet their families' nutritional needs. A vegetable industry is beginning to thrive. These women are growing their own food in tiny urban gardens and also supplementing the family income with the excess. What's more, they are passing on their skills so that more people can join in the scheme. The hope is that the industry will grow to supply goods beyond the local community thereby earning enough money for these people to exit poverty. Isn't this a Harvest of Hope worth celebrating?

The Harvest Supper was its usual ebullient, convivial affair – good food, warm atmosphere, excellent auctioneer and generous bidders competing for goods on the laden Produce Tables. Lots of laughter and noise throughout the night showed that everyone was having a good time. It's so rewarding to see Village Hall transform into this energy-filled hive by adding people. It's overwhelming to tell you that we raised £2250.

There's a lot that goes in to making the evening happen, as far back as August. By donating time and effort, there is no fiscal cost to the Harvest Supper; all the money raised goes to Christian Aid. Thank you to the organisers, the setter-uppers, the cooks, the produce donators, the disher-outers, the waiter service, the washer uppers, and the putter-awayers. Thank you for coming. Thank you for donating at the door and spending generously at the auction. North Nibley has made a difference to people who need a Harvest of Hope.

https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/collections/all-gifts



Upcoming:

4th 10-11.30am Connect Dementia Awareness.
7th Concert 7.30pm Cat Amongst the Pigeons/ Community Choir.
8th Refreshments following the Remembrance Sunday War Memorial service.
11th filmshow! 2pm The March of the Penguins. A frosty treat!
21st Messy Church 10-12 peparing for the Living Crib performance, sets, props, costumes, bells and so on. Incs lunch. + requires parent/ carer.
29th Cafe church 10am Service + Paul Woolner.

North Nibley Chapel

Jill Stephens
07778036699
jillrstephens@aol.com

Ramblings... with Jill

They say all good things come to an end! By the time you read this our wonderful Tyndale exhibition will have been dismantled and making its way back to Devon. We have felt very privileged to have been able to house it for nearly 3 months and so glad that so many have come into the chapel to see it. (it actually goes on November 2nd).

It has been so good to welcome everyone - villagers, walkers on the Cotswold Way, holiday makers from many countries looking for something to do and many, many people from the surrounding areas. The Bible Society group walking the Tyndale trail, a coach load from Gloucester, church goers and non-church goers but all appreciating the sacrifice made by William Tyndale so that everyone could read the Bible in the English language.

Des and his wife Beverley, worked to put the exhibition together for two years and then having it in their own church in Ide, decided that others might like to see it. Fortunately, they were very pleased when we asked to have it. Therefore, one Friday morning they drove up the M5, set up the exhibition and drove home again, saying we don't want anything for it, just enjoy it.

So, enjoy it we have and very reluctant to see it go. Unfortunately, they couldn't get to Nibley on September 5th when 50 people walked from Wotton under Edge to the Tyndale Monument and then 70+ people came to the chapel for a celebration service. There were people from England, Scotland and Wales and they were also able to appreciate the exhibition.

When Des and Beverley drive up the M5 on November 2nd, I hope I can really make them understand what an amazing 3 months we have had in the chapel. We are planning to take them out to lunch but that somehow doesn't seem nearly enough. Any good ideas?

Everyone is welcome to Chapel activities/ events. If you have queries please do contact the relevant person. Many are free, others ask a modest fee or donation.



SAVE the DATE!
7th December
12.30 for 1pm. Village Hall
Christmas Monday Lunch
For more details
Contact Theresa:
07891 232684



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THURSDAYS
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WOMEN'S CIRCLE
Nov 3rd 7.30-9pm



Nibley Swifts 2026 end of season report

The record-breaking series of heatwaves this summer proved difficult for some species (including many humans) but was an excellent one for swifts. Whilst you might think that the extended period of hot dry weather might mean fewer flying insects (swifts' only food source), in fact, a great year was reported by many swift projects around the country and Nibley Swifts was no exception.

By every measure it was the best year so far:

- We had 12 pairs in nests (previous best 8)
- 10 of these laid eggs – 17 in total (previous best 11)
- 14 of these hatched and all 14 fledged (previous best 10)

And we had many, many reports of interest in other boxes which bodes very well for next year!

This means since the first boxes were inhabited in 2021, 53 eggs have been laid, and 43 chicks have been reared to fledging so there are 43 more swifts in the world than there would otherwise have been.

There was also something of a holy grail moment – all along we've been looking forward to opening a previously unoccupied box to find swift eggs or chicks. This has never happened until this year when it happened TWICE – on Barrs Lane and on The Street.

The other good news to share is that Nibley Swifts has recently received funds from 2 sources – Nibley Festival and Orchard Revival who produce SOS – Save Our Swifts cider and make a small donation for every bottle sold. Not sure yet what this money will be used for – with over 100 boxes around the village still unoccupied, there's no great urge to make a load more. Although putting more on houses that already have occupied boxes might be a good way of encouraging further growth. There will be cameras fitted to this year's newly inhabited boxes and the return of the much-missed live feed will be investigated.

Peter Kirmond
www.nibleyswifts.org
kirmies@aol.com



It's November and both the domestic cricket and North Nibley's seasons are well and truly over.
We have our AGM in a few days time and I'll give an update on the highlights, such as they may be, in the next issue.
Overall it's been a good year for the club and we've enjoyed welcoming some new members all of whom have fitted in well and enjoyed their cricket at Nibley.

Our final event of the season was a golf day, very kindly organised by Ed Holcombe and Tony Jones, two of our long standing members, at The Bristol golf club. The weather was kind and it remained dry and sunny the whole day. Winners of the various awards (best round, nearest the pin, longest drive) were awarded bottles of wine, and around £400 was raised for the club.

I usually (always) make an appeal for new players when writing something for On the Edge but this month there's a slight twist. Maintenance and preparation of the square and wicket is carried out by a small group of willing volunteers carefully guided by club groundsman and fixtures secretary, Ewan Green. The fact is that a few more recruits would be very much appreciated in order to help out and perhaps cover times when some of the usual bunch might be away. On the job training will be provided and in all honesty it's quite good fun and not a particularly onerous task. If you feel you could spare an hour or so from time to time through the season then please get in touch with me or any other club member and make yourself known. No previous experience of ground care is required but if you happen to have some then that's a real bonus.

Finally, we have a small number of souvenir caps left following our Pratt Cup Victory in July. As worn by the winners themselves, these much sought after pieces of headwear are a limited edition (until we win it again) and may soon become collector's items. Made from top quality polyester they are fully adjustable and perfect for gardening, cricket, golf, spectating at sports events or simply showing your support for cricket in Nibley. Bearing in mind the time of year they could also be a great little stocking filler. They're a bargain at £5 and all proceeds go to the club's coffers. Please get in touch if you'd like one (or even two).



Chris Artingstall
Chairman NNCC
C.Artingstall@btinternet.com

Thank You

If you ever walk past the village hall in the day, you'll no doubt have heard the unmistakable sounds of pure happiness - children laughing, voices chattering away, footsteps rushing about, little squeals and laughter, and the occasional wonderfully mysterious noise that only makes sense in preschool and in this case, North Nibley Preschool.



The daily village walks, the wonderful arts and crafts creations, the bus trips to Dursley library, the Easter bonnet parade, the picnics, soft play, magicians and Christmas parties are just some of the highlights the children experience – as well as the end of preschool graduation. It truly is a special place which offers outstanding care and education – I know this because I attended it myself many, many years ago and have been on its committee for four years, with the last two as Chair. During this time, I have seen not only my children thrive as a result of attending, but also countless others. Its secret? Quite simply, the staff!



We have the amazing Early Years team to thank for the fun – Elaine, Becky, Catherine and Sara - who are so caring, kind and make it such a happy place to learn. We also have our wonderful Finance Officer, Rita, who, works hard behind the scenes to enable the smooth running of preschool finances and ensure all documents are completed on time.



And we also have the village treasure that is Julie Dyer as the Setting Support Officer. With endless kindness, warmth and good humour, she is the backbone of our preschool and an absolute champion of our children, our staff and our whole preschool community. She always goes above and beyond and the setting is immeasurably better because of her and everything she does. Julie usually writes this column but I've asked to take over the space this month to pay tribute to her and the staff as my last job as Chair, so to all of you – thank you!



Finally, thank you to the committee. Without you, we would not have a preschool so thank you for your time, passion and commitment. You help ensure our preschool is the best it can be and continues to thrive. In this hectic world, it is hard to find trustees so to those who have committed to being on the committee, thank you. We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful preschool in the village and incredibly lucky to have the staff and committee we do. And so, if you ever walk past the village hall in the day, stop for a moment and listen. Those sounds of laughter, chatter and excited squeals are more than just the sounds of children having fun. They are the sounds of a very special preschool, made special by the people who give so much to it.

Donna Findlay
Retiring Chair

This month's Biodiversity Group news





October has already been a busy month! Our talk, *What did we discover on Nibley Knoll?*, attracted a standing-room-only audience. We shared some of the fascinating wildlife recorded during the Bioblitz, from flower-rich grassland plants and butterflies to moths, bats and reptiles. The talk prompted some great questions and discussion, and we're looking forward to seeing how the Knoll evolves as we gradually develop and put some of our ideas into practice.

The following morning, volunteers turned out to plant **300 spring bulbs in the cemetery**. A huge you to everyone who helped! We hope they'll create a lovely display in the spring, and that we can add to them over the coming years.

What's next for the Knoll?

We are continuing to explore ways to care for the Knoll's different habitats. Ideas include trialling different approaches to grassland management, carefully thinning some diseased ash trees and coppicing hazel in the quarry, and managing the edges of the grassland to encourage a greater variety of wildlife. We are also keen to create deadwood habitats from some of the cut branches, providing homes for beetles, fungi and many other organisms.



These are ideas we are developing with advice from local wildlife specialists, rather than a finished management plan. We want to support biodiversity while keeping the Knoll welcoming and enjoyable for everyone who uses it.
Our surveys will continue too. A fungi survey with the Cotswold Fungus Group is planned for Friday 30 October, giving us the opportunity to discover more about another fascinating group of organisms.

Upcoming event: The Accidental Ecologist

Join Julian Moss, a member of our Biodiversity Group, on Thursday 19 November at Under The Edge Arts for a talk about discovering the wildlife and history of his smallholding in Waterley Bottom. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Free entry.
Find out more: https://www.wottonareacan.org/event-details-registration/the-accidental-ecologist

See page 7

Ideas for wildlife across the parish



Our work isn't just about the Knoll. We're also hoping to create a wild-flower bed around the Jubilee Oak on the Jubilee Field, building on our recent cemetery bulb planting.

Do you have an idea for a project that could benefit wildlife in North Nibley?

Perhaps there's a corner that could support wildflowers, a habitat that could be improved, or a project you'd like to help get started. We'd love to hear your suggestions, and new volunteers are always welcome.

Get in touch at **northnibleybiodiversitygroup@gmail.com**.

Knoll Information Boards

With the Nibley Music Festival closing its tent flap forever, the remaining funds have been distributed including a much appreciated donation to the Parish Council to provide Information Boards on Nibley Knoll to celebrate the diversity, history and importance of us all helping to preserve this special space.

We have a small group (Jules Miller, Roly Brown, Mark Bailey and Theresa Eames) looking at how we will deliver this project, but one of the key requirements is content. So we are asking you and anyone with a particular interest in any aspect of the Knoll and North Nibley for ideas of what we could include on the boards. Flora, fauna, history, geology, how the Knoll is managed, basically anything that might be of interest to the many people who pass through our beautiful patch oblivious to what is, what was or what could be there.

Currently looking at locating three boards around The Knoll, including one near the monument and hopefully one in a suitable location on the Cotswold Way in North Nibley village, particularly for those who might not visit the Knoll.

At this early stage we are looking for as many ideas and suggestions as we can get. We don't need lots of detail just yet and we can't promise to use every idea as space will be limited but we want to get the best mix of information to engage and inform the reader. Backed up by a QR code on each board where people can access more information or make a donation

Great News: The Biodiversity team hope to give us a monthly report on their activities- watch this space!

BRINGING IMAGINATION TO LIFE AT NORTH NIBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

There has been plenty of excitement on the playground at North Nibley C of E Primary School recently, thanks to some wonderful new additions that are helping to bring the children's imaginations to life!

We are delighted with our brand-new outdoor stage, which has quickly become a favourite spot for our children. From kings and queens ruling their kingdoms to exciting adventures and impromptu performances, it has already inspired some fantastic imaginative play.

Beside the stage is a little dressing-up shed, filled with a wonderful assortment of clothes and accessories our families kindly donated. With wigs, coats, bags and all sorts of interesting items to choose from, the children have been busy creating characters, telling stories and putting on their own shows. Our old storytelling chair has also found a new home on the stage, where it has been transformed into a magnificent throne, perfect for any aspiring king or queen!

The real star behind these wonderful improvements, however, is Gigi, one of our incredible school volunteers. Gigi has generously given countless hours of his time to help us improve our school environment. Whether it is building, creating, repairing, sorting or preparing resources, he is always willing to lend a hand. His practical skills, creativity and enthusiasm have made an enormous difference to our school, and we are truly indebted to him.

As well as constructing the stage, Gigi has created a series of sturdy wooden play platforms, made from decking and topped with artificial grass. These have added another dimension to our playground, giving children opportunities to balance, climb, move around and invent their own games. It is lovely to see how something so simple can inspire so much creativity and enjoyment.

What makes these improvements particularly special is that they have been made possible through the generosity of our school community. From parents donating dressing-up materials to Gigi sharing his time, talents and craftsmanship, it is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together.

At North Nibley, we believe that play is an incredibly important part of childhood. Through imaginative play, children develop friendships, confidence, communication skills, creativity and the ability to solve problems. We are continually looking for ways to make our outdoor spaces more engaging, exciting and full of opportunities for children to explore, and these latest additions have certainly done just that.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to Gigi for everything he continues to do for our school. His kindness, dedication and willingness to help have made a lasting difference, and we are incredibly fortunate to have him as part of our school community. Thank you also to all the parents who have donated dressing-up clothes and accessories.

The playground is now full of even more laughter, storytelling and imaginative adventures. Who knows what the next performance might bring? A royal coronation, a daring rescue or perhaps an entirely new story dreamed up by the children themselves!



Coffee powered by sunshine!

A new solar and battery system modernises the village shop and means the lights stay on, even during a power cut



In mid September, a solar and battery system was fitted at the village shop building: twelve solar panels on the roof and a 10 kWh battery. This is all part of upgrades to make the building more modern and resilient.

The clever part of the installation is a device called a Gateway. If there's a powercut, normally a solar and battery system has to turn off as well to avoid power going back to the grid when engineers are potentially working on the cables. But a Gateway physically isolates the cafe from the grid, allowing it to keep running on whatever battery and solar is available.

For a community place where coffee machines, ovens, fridges and card machines are essential, that's an important addition.

Of course, during the winter the solar panels don't generate as much, so the battery can be set to charge up overnight on cheap energy, and used during the day, reducing bills.

Next summer, the solar power can run the air conditioning to keep residents and visiting tourists cool. T & Cakes is certainly going to be busy when the temperatures rise!

The Village Shop Association would like to thank Tarragon and Dave for working around the wiring work, and the residents of Tyndale Close as the scaffolding was put up and taken down.

And finally we'd like to thank Simon and the team at Smart Energy West Midlands (www.smartinsulation.com) who efficiently installed a great value system.

Curious about clean energy? If you'd like to find out more, join us for a Q&A in **T & Cakes on Friday 27th November at 10am.**

And why not join the Village Shop Association to help the community asset for the long-term? Email Chris (treasurer@nnvsa.org.uk) for more info, or come to our next meeting at **North Nibley Village Hall on Tuesday 15th December at 7.30pm**.

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Christmas Monday Lunch



Monday December 7th
12.30 for 1 pm Village Hall



Join us for a welcome drink, traditional Christmas lunch, desert, carols sung by the school children, tea or coffee and plenty of festive cheer. Feel free to bring your own drinks.

Book a table with friends and family (they don't need to live in the village) or if you are on your own or in a small group, join us on Ruth's Table (The Monday Lunch was the idea of the late Ruth Kirkup). You can also book a delivery.

Booking is essential: email theresa.nibley@gmail.com or **call/text 07891 232 684**
No need to contact us if you have booked with The Village Eye.

Pay on the door by cash or card. Only £9 or pay what you can afford.

We will again be taking donations for a Christmas Homeless Charity. Last year due to your generosity we gave £96 to Caring in Bristol (which was then match funded to £192) towards supporting and feeding homeless in Bristol in the Christmas period. And we will be selling Preschool raffle tickets (we had several winners last year)

It does help planning if you can book early and please ensure you advise us of any dietary requirements when you book.

Look forward to seeing you if you can make it.

The Monday Lunch Team

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On The Edge Editors

The deadline for **December 2026/January 2027** is Tuesday **10th November**

Please email to nibleyote@gmail.com

Dave Beer 546251 — Dave Earle 546659
Alison Edwards 543441 — Kate Gordon 543329
Di Hay 544965 — Ann Larkin 543320
Fiona Saunders 548763 — Sue Shrimpton 544409

Please contact an editor if you wish to use any item from this newsletter



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Village Eye 2

Our October meeting started with some tasty pigs in blankets before Laura spoke about setting up her business at Middlewick farm and her passion for the care of her animals and seeing things through from field to fork. We had an informative afternoon learning about locally produced quality meat. Thank you, Laura, and Dawn.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 9th November at 2.30pm in the Chapel. (See below)

November's Village Eye meeting will be a talk by Eve from **Home Instead** about staying independent at home – and how planning ahead can help you stay in control of your future.

For most of us, home is where we would like to stay as we grow older- surrounded by familiar faces, routines and the community we know. This is particularly so in North Nibley, where traditionally there is a strong informal support network, and many longstanding friendships. **Home Instead** focuses on providing flexible support to help you maintain your independence. An example of this is a client who has a regular care professional visiting for 2 hours once a week. They might run errands, or a drive, stop for coffee or go for a walk together. This amount of regular support and companionship helps her to continue to do the things she enjoys whilst giving her and her family the reassurance of seeing someone familiar each week. Support fits around the individual's needs – whether that's companionship, shopping, preparing meals, getting out and about or practical help at home. If circumstances change, so can the support, helping people remain safely in their homes and communities as needs increase.

The meeting is open to all, whether with a view to exploring possibilities for yourself, or for family members or friends. You don't need care today to start thinking about tomorrow.