

NEWS MAGAZINE



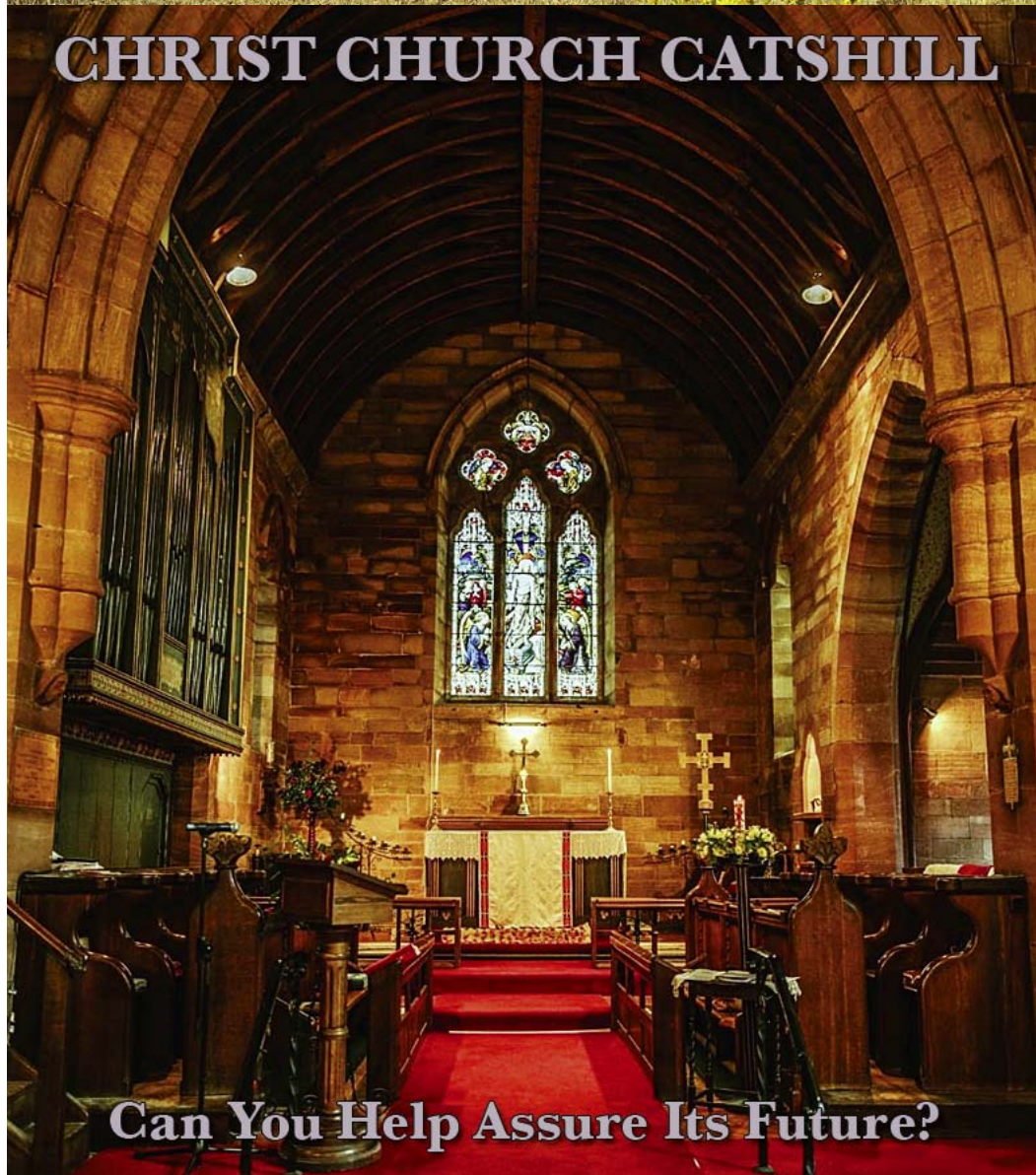
SPRING 2024

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

CHRIST CHURCH CATSHILL



Can You Help Assure Its Future?

Footpath Work Party



SINCE the last issue of the news magazine, the Catshill Footpath Work Party volunteers have been busy clearing footpaths in and around the parish.

We've fitted a new gate to open a previously blocked path off Wildmoor Lane,

fitted waymark posts and cleared the



path that connects Little Barnsley Farm and the Millennium Way and levelled a path that connects Lickey Rock and the Old Birmingham Road.

We meet every month to clear and maintain the public rights of way that exist in Catshill, Bournheath, Marlbrook and Blackwell.



For more information on the group go to: walks.catshill.com/footpath-work-party
Cllr. Brett Laniosh.

Community Carol Singing

JUST before Christmas, a group of around a dozen people from within our community gathered on the Methodist car park and then made their way around the village, pausing to sing an array of carols outside selected homes.

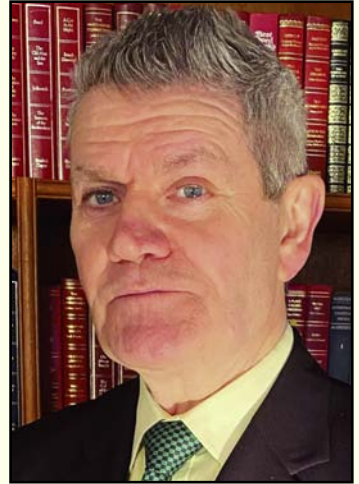
Those that had the pleasure of a surprise visit from the troupe have reported how much it was appreciated.

Let's do it again next Christmas!

WELCOME to the Spring 2024 edition of our parish magazine. It is great to see the back of winter and the prospect of milder (and hopefully drier) Spring weather.

Since the publication of our Autumn 2023 magazine, the Parish Council has been involved, with other local groups and churches, in the provision of several local events, including a Children's Halloween Party at Catshill Village Hall, the popular Bonfire & Fireworks event, the Christmas Lights Switch-on, and a Christmas Party at the village hall. We were also involved with planning for the Remembrance Service at Catshill War Memorial on the 12th November.

District Councillor Shirley Webb, Parish Councillor Jess Parry, and the Village Hall Committee, were responsible for organising the Childrens Halloween



Party at the village hall on the 31st October. So many children and parents attended, that a long queue formed outside the village hall, and it was deemed necessary to have three separate sittings. I would also like to thank Scout leaders Phil and Daren Lacey and their local Scout Group, who organised the Bonfire & Fireworks event, which was underwritten by the Parish Council. Thanks also to District Councillor Shirley Webb, Parish Councillor Jess Parry, the Village Hall Committee, and the local groups and churches, whose individual contributions helped make the Christmas Lights Switch-on the best attended switch-on we have ever had. Thanks also to Phil Lacey (chair) and his colleagues on the Village Hall Committee, plus Ukrainian Aid Charity BUSAR, Parish Councillor Sami Osman, and the many others, who helped organise the very successful Christmas Party on the 22nd December. Thanks also to local resident Chris Fabray, who generously contributed £50 for the 1st prize in the free raffle at the party. The Parish Council also provided some funding for this event.

At recent Full Parish Council meetings, we have awarded the following donations and grants:

- 1). **£200** donation to Bromsgrove Rovers AFC for providing the sleigh at the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.
- 2). **£1500** grant for a forthcoming event, to celebrate the recent 130th birthday of Catshill Village Hall
- 3). **£500** grant for a Games Hub for Youth events at Catshill Village Hall.
- 4). **£1661** grant to YMCA Worcestershire, to sustain and enhance their impactful mentoring program at Catshill Middle School.

The Parish Council recently purchased a new VAS (Vehicle activated sign), which has now been placed at one of the 6 camera poles which are positioned at several locations within the parish area. I also recently submitted a grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioners 'Safer Roads Fund', seeking funding for two VAS signs. I have recently been informed that my application was successful and that we have been awarded **£5,380**, to fund the two further VAS signs. Speeding is a problem

which is regularly brought to our attention. We hope that the presence of these extra VAS signs will encourage motorists to comply with the statutory speed limits.

Many of you may be aware of a recent Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at Stourbridge Road, adjacent to the War Memorial. One of the vehicles crashed into the railings at the war memorial, causing significant damage to the railings. Fortunately, no damage was caused to the actual war memorial. We are working with our insurance company to claim compensation from the insurance companies of the drivers involved in the RTC. We are also making formal representations to Worcestershire County Council Highways Department to improve the design and signage at the mini roundabout at that location, which we feel is not fit for purpose.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney

Winter Coffee Concert

BROMSGROVE Amateur Strings held a “*Winter Coffee Concert*” on Saturday 3rd February from 11am at Catshill Methodist Church Centre. The event was free and was appreciated by a large relaxed audience, who enjoyed coffee whilst listening to a concert of Renaissance music ancient and modern.

The conductor was Dr. Marco De Boni.

If you would like to join the talented Bromsgrove Amateur Strings, then just

turn up to one of their weekly practice sessions held at the Methodist Church hall on Saturday mornings – new members are always welcome!



Where in the Parish?



AS usual here is our fun where in the parish photo challenge.

Do you know where/what this is?

We'll post the answer on our Facebook page once all copies of this news magazine have been delivered, and we'll also print the answer in our summer 2024 edition for you.

So... did you get the answer to our last where in the parish? It was the “ghost advert” on the corner of the building opposite Harris Coaches in Meadow Road. It's quite hard to decipher what the advert actually used to say, so if anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Cllr Paul Masters.



SUNDAY 12th November saw another excellent turnout for the annual Remembrance service held in the Catshill Club and across the road at the War memorial itself.



The Blackwell Concert Band.



The Parade along Meadow Road.



Cllr. Bernard McEldowney Chair of Catshill & North Marlbrook PC.



Rev Simon Gudger.



Catshill School Pupils read out the names of the village war dead.



Children laid wreaths they had made.



Some of the wreaths laid on the war memorial.



The Flag Bearers.



Paul Hatton plays The Last Post.



A good crowd despite the rain.

Thanks to all concerned for making this a successful and meaningful day, including the **2nd Bromsgrove Boys' Brigade** drum corps for leading the parade, **6th Bromsgrove Scouts**, the **Blackwell Concert Band**, **The Churches of Catshill**, **Catshill Club**, **Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council**, **Roj Smith** (sound) **Paul Hatton** (bugle), **local school children** and *everyone* who helped in any way.

The Catshill Village Bonfire & Firework Display



The Bonfire takes shape.



Preparing for the event.



Bromsgrove Hog Roast.

SATURDAY 5th November witnessed another spectacular bonfire and firework display on the Meadow. Sponsored by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, this ever popular event was superbly organised by 6th Bromsgrove Scouts (based in Catshill).



The crowd arrives.



The CHV Poppy team.

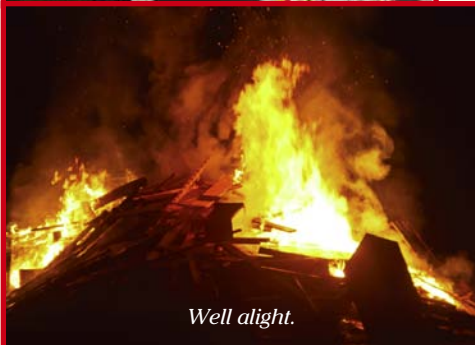
With a low cost entry fee, free parking, improved access, increased toilet facilities, a superb selection of food vendors and another top class pyrotechnic display by G Force fireworks, this continues to be our biggest community event each year.

The hard work organising and running this event is phenomenal – well done all concerned.



6th Bromsgrove Scouts.

Watch out for details of this years display!



Well alight.



Enjoying the display.



The fireworks lit up the sky.

THE annual Catshill Christmas Lights Switch On continues to grow... with more lights on the lampposts, community organisations hosting stalls both inside and outside the Village Hall, along with food vendors and the shops getting involved plus excellent entertainment from the Baptist Christmas Band, various singers, choirs, dancers and Santa and his elves. **Saturday 25th November** was a day to remember! Special thanks to Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, Catshill Village Hall and all who helped in any way.



The lights on the Village Hall



Catshill Baptist Christmas Band.



Stars Dance Academy.



The Chadsgrove Choir



Methodist Men's Choir;



Vinny Peculiar.



Santa Arrives.



Fairfield First School Choir.



Chloe May's Dance Academy.



Catshill Schoolchildren turn on the Christmas lights.

Community Christmas Meal



ONCE again the Catshill Village Hall took centre stage to host the annual Community Christmas Meal for elderly people within the parish, helping to elevate loneliness over the festive season. This year the event was not just for the elderly, but also Ukrainian families within our community, and around 70 people attended the event on 22nd December.

This year the meal was organised by the **BUSAR** (Bromsgrove Ukrainian Support and Relief) charity with sponsorship from your Parish Council and help from a host of volunteers including the Catshill Village Hall Trust.

BUSAR provided an amazing buffet and the guests were entertained by the Vintage Class Singers, and contributions from Chadsgrove and Catshill Middle School children who added to the festive feeling which was appreciated by all.

Catshill Scouts provided a mini bus for those that needed transport to and from the venue.



The Vintage Class Singers.



1910 and 1866 Chapels



1910 chapel & 1968 Church

MOST readers will be aware of the location of Catshill Methodist Church in Golden Cross Lane with its large car park in front.

However, this was not always the way it was! In this edition of From Our past we look at the two previous Methodist church buildings that stood on what is now the car park of the modern church.

The building to the right in the first photograph was the first purpose-built chapel on this site. It was built in 1866 at the cost of £198.

By 1910 the “new” chapel to the left in these photographs was built at a cost of £884, allowing the 1866 building to be used as school rooms, for social events, and wedding receptions etc. It had a stage and much village entertainment.

Both buildings stood side by side until the mid-1960s, when, to make way for the building of the current 1968 Methodist Church, the 1866 building was demolished. A “prefab” Youth Hall was also erected at the bottom of the land behind the 1910 building, to make up for the loss of the 1866 facility.

The 1910 building was eventually demolished in the 1970s, and further facilities have been added to the rear of the current 1968 church to compensate.

Thank you to Catshill Methodist Church for supplying these photographs.

If you have an interesting photo that you would like featured in From Our Past, then please let me know.

p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



Oak Tree House – Open Garden days

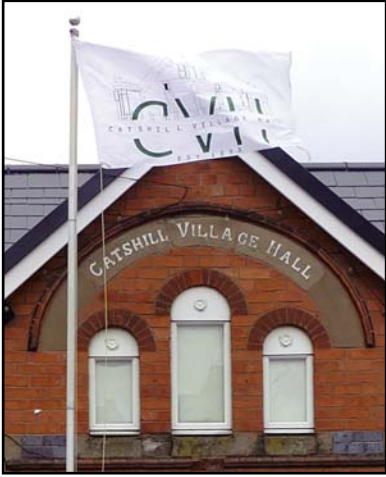
Once again Oak Tree House (504, Birmingham Road, Marlbrook) will be open to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on the following dates:-

Sunday 12th May 2024 & Saturday 18th May 2024

Opening times: **13:30 – 17:00** (both dates)

Admission: **Adult £4.00** (children free)

New Village Hall Flag



YOU may have noticed that the Village hall now proudly flies a flag featuring the hall's new, modern logo designed by Phil Lacey. It's all part of a major rebranding of the hall, which has recently been further enhanced with the redecorating of the meeting room.

As you may know the front part of the roof needed emergency replacement work last year, and the hall committee is now actively applying for grants, has an active GoFundMe page and has various fundraising events planned throughout this year in order to raise funds to replace the rest of the roof.

The Village Hall is a Non Profit Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

Visit www.catshillvillagehall.com for more details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's events will take place:

THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER

**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**



SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

BONFIRE



SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER

**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

**CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH ON**



More details will be provided later in the year.

Public Rights of Way in Worcestershire

There are 4604km (2861 miles) of network across Worcestershire, they can be found in towns, villages and the countryside. All Public Rights of Way should be denoted by a signpost or waymark. Some paths may be surfaced in towns but many follow tracks, cross fields or pass through woods in the countryside. The network is managed by the County Council with the help of volunteers



For information on Public Rights of Way please visit our website:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20237/public_rights_of_way





Among other things here you will find:

- The Public Rights of Way interactive map for reporting defects found on the network
- Ways volunteers help us to maintain the PRoW network
- Details of promoted circular and linear routes

Please remember to follow the Countryside Code
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code



Paths should be signed from the roadside and the route is often waymarked by coloured arrows. Different types of Public Rights of Way can be used by different users:

-  **Footpaths** - indicated by yellow arrows; for use by walkers only.
-  **Bridleways** - indicated by blue arrows; for use by walkers, horse-riders and pedal cyclists.
-  **Restricted Byways** - indicated by plum-coloured arrows; for use by walkers, pedal cyclists, horse-riders and horse drawn vehicles.
-  **Byways** - open to all traffic (BOATs) - indicated by red arrows; for use by walkers, pedal cyclists, horse-riders, horse-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles.

To view the Public Rights of Way interactive map please visit:
<https://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/Countryside>

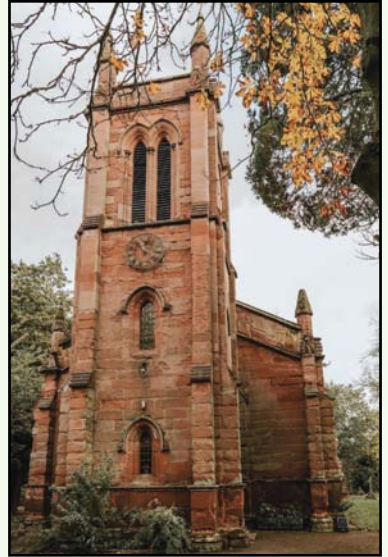


Please remember to follow the Countryside Code
If you have any comments or queries, please contact countryside@worcestershire.gov.uk



Christ Church Catshill

CHRIST Church in Catshill was built in 1838 and is probably one of the oldest buildings left to us in the village. It is loved by many for it's serene atmosphere, warm welcome and sense of history.



Its future, though, is by no means secure as our numbers are dwindling. We would welcome people to come and join us. We have services on the first 3 Sundays of the month (on the 4th Sunday we join our friends at Dodford Church).

We are also open for private prayer on Tuesday mornings 10-1 and there is the Catshill Connect group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons for a cup of tea and a chat. We are also looking for a new organist, perhaps you have always wanted to play the church organ?

You may have seen the Olympic Swimmer Adam Peaty on the TV recently telling us how much his mental health had improved by spending an hour every week being able to be in the calm of church and reflect in peace. Come along and give it a try. Plus, if you value having the old church in our village, please make use of it and help assure its future.

Useful Numbers

Bromsgrove District Council: **01527 881288**

Out of hours emergency: **01527 871565**

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team

01527 583733 / 0300 333 3000

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Contact Us

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