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PARISH COUNCIL email: westfeltonpc@gmail.com https://www.westfeltonparish.co.uk/	
POLICE, West Mercia Non-Emergency number	101
Oswestry Police Station	0300 333 3000
Safer Neighbourhood team—email: oswestryc.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	
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RSPCA Shropshire Branch	07703 567935
SAMARITANS	116 123
SCAMS (Banks, money) -  STOP SCAMS UK	159
SCHOOL – West Felton C E School	01691 610388
SHOP: West Felton Stores	01691 610863
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	0345 6789000
Anti-Social Report Line	0345 6789020
Shrops Councillor: Cllr David Walker	01743 256863/ M 07484 541576
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: MINISTRY vacant	
Church Warden: Dr Michael Davie	01691 610612
ST. CHAD'S: Chapel Warden: Mrs Ann Hampson	01691 610845
VILLAGE HALL Bookings	01691 610629
WASP Problems Emergency number	01691 831251 / 07772 006994
WATER - Severn Trent Water Authority	0800 783 4444
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: President: Rhian	07375 997 782

Year 34

OCTOBER 2026

ROUND and ABOUT WEST FELTON

www.westfeltonmagazine.co.uk

Supporting local business - Supporting the community

WEST FELTON

Arts &

CRAFTS

FAIR

Saturday 17th October, 10:30am – 2:30pm

West Felton Village Hall

Call 01691 610665 | Email: christinecurtis2022@hotmail.com

Reg: Charity number: 702175

W H A T 'S O N

Parish Council	Second Tues of the month, 7:30 School Hall
West Felton Walkers	10am Mondays, Punch Bowl EXCEPT...see page 19
Pilates Class	Tuesday mornings: 2 sessions: 9:30-10:30 & 10:45-11:45am Need to book online GYMATCH. Phone: Abi 07904 456 368
Badminton	Every Tues evening: 8pm to 9:30pm. Village Hall
Tuesday Tots	Every term time Tuesday 9.15 - 10.30 West Felton School
Felton Flexors	Wednesday mornings 9:30am to 10:30am Village Hall
Table Tennis	Thursday 7:30pm Village Hall
WI	2nd Thursday of the month 7pm Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	contact Glynnis on 01691 610336
Royal British Legion	INFORMAL MEETINGS 8pm Meeting, PUNCH BOWL first Monday of the month except Bank holidays then second Monday.

1 October	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	15
15 October	County Councillor Surgery see below	
17th October	WEST FELTON ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR	17
3 November	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING Village Hall	
6 November	7:30 POPPY CONCERT West Felton Village Hall	31

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3rd Thursday each month | Next surgery 15 October

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or **WHITTINGTON**: 10am to 11am at Senior Citizens Hall, Station Road,
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Cllr David Walker, Whittington Division: 01743 256863,
Email: CllrDavid.Walker@shropshire.gov.uk | M: 07484 541576

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Round and About West Felton

Articles/advertisement amendments for inclusion
in next issue
to Editor by email (preferred) or phone

Last day for submission of copy and
deadline for content changes
10th OCTOBER 2026

Editor: Colleen Hughes

Tel 01691 610300

colleenhughes748@btinternet.com

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--	---

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Parish Office: 5 Newtown Gardens

Baschurch, Shrewsbury SY4 2HF Tel 01939 262 881

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Chairman Cllr John THORNHILL 07714 759 466
Vice-Chairman Cllr Ozcan OZAGIR 07955 232 199
 Cllr David CURTIS 01691 610 665 (Rep WF Primary School & SALC Area Committee)

Cllr Alastair FORBES 01691 610 524
 Cllr Mick GREEN 07928 479 305
 Cllr Marian HESKETH 01691 610 441 (Rep for Village Hall).
 Cllr Chris JONES 01691 610 354 (Rep SALC Area Committee).
 Cllr Pat MABE 01691 610 400
 Cllr Ed NICHOLAS 01691 610 230 (Rep ABP committee)
 Cllr Neil SUMMERS 07523 318 005
 Cllr David WALKER 01691 897 117

Our Shropshire Councillor : Cllr David Walker T: 01743 256863
 Mobile: 07484 541576

Our Member of Parliament : Helen Morgan T: 01939 809387
 E: helen.morgan.mp@parliament.uk

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

Rosemary Wood	clerk@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
John Thornhill	john.thornhill@westfelton-pc.gov.uk
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WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETINGS 2026/27

13 October 2026	12 January 2027	13 April 2027
10 November 2026	9 February 2027	11 May 2027
8 December 2026	9 March 2027	

WEST FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Chairman Cllr John Thornhill

West Felton

Neighbourhood Plan Team

The team held a very positive meeting on 1st September and members had put in a lot of preparation for it. A detailed document entitled Project Initiation Document (PID) had been prepared for discussion and members had previously looked at examples of similar plans from other areas. The next major step will be to seek your views about the future of the village and what you would like to see happening and how it should develop. I am grateful that we already have a start on this and thanks to those who attended the Carnival and completed questionnaires. The responses are informing our next steps.

The next stage in the process will be to devise and implement a parish members questionnaire. This is being worked on and our next formal meeting to discuss this has been arranged for Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at the Village Hall. We will be looking at ways in which we can obtain the views of all members of the parish

of whatever age, and especially our younger members.

So my question to everyone is WHAT DO YOU WANT THE PARISH COUNCIL TO DO FOR YOU?

The work of this group will continue even after the decision on the current planning applications has been made. The **Neighbourhood Plan** is a proposal to develop and support the village to grow in accordance with the majority wishes of the parish. So when the team ask you to become involved in responding to the questionnaire then please tell us your views so we can respond. This proposal is for all the members of the parish far and wide and we would welcome your input into it in any way you wish.

Planning Applications

Many of you will be aware that three planning application to build houses have been submitted to Shropshire Council. By the time you read this a decision may have already been made on them. The Parish Council has been

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

very active in opposing these developments. Two of these applications were set to be presented to Shropshire Council for consideration on 22nd September. It was understood that the relevant Council Officer would make a recommendation that they be approved. The Parish Council was invited along with the Local Shropshire Councillor for the area and a member of the public to make representations. In preparation for that meeting it was agreed to hold an emergency meeting for members of the parish on Wednesday 16th at 7pm in the village hall to plan our approach and strategy to the applications and the presentations at the meeting and to those Councillors

making the decision in advance of it.

We considered a number of possible developments such as ensuring the War Memorial is tidied up for the Remembrance day Service; improving facilities for younger members of the parish; looking again at facilities for the football team and similar activities. We would like to hear your views so please send them in to the Clerk whose details are published in the monthly magazine 'Round and About West Felton' edited by Colleen Hughes. Many thanks to her for her work on this full and very informative monthly publication.

Please give us your views so we know what you want. ●



Shropshire Councillor Report

Cllr David Walker

Over the past month a significant amount of my time has been focused on the next Shropshire Local Plan, alongside continuing to deal with local highways, planning and community issues affecting West Felton and the wider area.

The Council is now approaching the formal commencement of plan-making following completion of the first scoping and engagement stage. Feedback from almost 1,000 responses has reinforced many of the points residents and parish councils have been making, including the im-

portance of infrastructure-led growth, protecting the environment, considering local circumstances, and ensuring communities have a genuine voice in shaping future development.

As Cabinet Member for Planning, I have spent considerable time working with officers on preparing for this next phase, reviewing consultation findings, shaping communications, and ensuring that the priorities of rural communities are reflected as the plan develops. A key message emerging from the consultation is that growth must be linked to infrastructure capacity and local needs rather than simply meeting numerical targets. This will remain an important consideration for

(Continued on page 9)

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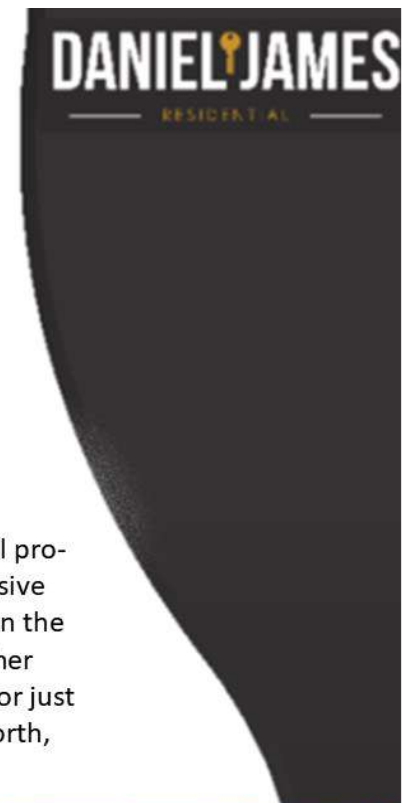
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(Continued from page 8)

villages such as West Felton.

Work has also been progressing on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which provides the environmental framework for assessing future development options, planning policies, and site allocations within the new Local Plan. The SEA considers matters such as biodiversity, climate change, landscape, heritage, water resources, and sustainable transport, helping to ensure environmental considerations are embedded in planning from the outset while also identifying opportunities to enhance and improve our environment. Consultation on the SEA will be out any day now.

National planning policy has also continued to evolve. During August the Government published further planning reforms, including changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and proposals affecting how planning applications are determined. I have been working with officers and Cabinet colleagues to understand the implications for Shropshire and to ensure that local communities continue to have an effective voice in the planning process.

Locally, I have continued to handle planning and enforcement enquiries raised by residents, while also monitoring proposals that could affect local infrastructure and traffic movements. Protecting the quality of life of existing

residents remains a priority, particularly where there are concerns about cumulative impacts, highway capacity, drainage and community facilities.

Highways matters have again featured prominently. Residents will be aware of resurfacing works between Queens Head and Rednal, where I have continued to liaise with officers and contractors regarding delivery and communications. Wider discussions have also continued around road maintenance, drainage, and highway improvements across the division.

Environmental matters have also received attention during the month. Discussions are progressing with partners on opportunities linked to nature recovery, woodland creation, green infrastructure, and the role these can play within the emerging Local Plan. These initiatives have the potential to improve biodiversity, increase climate resilience, and enhance access to nature across rural communities.

A substantial amount of work this month has been around the speculative sites in the village, two of which will be decided on the 22nd. These are both up for approval, but I am confident that there are strong grounds for refusal on all three sites. I have been working with residents on how we tackle the applications at the planning committee.

As always, if there is anything I can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me. ●



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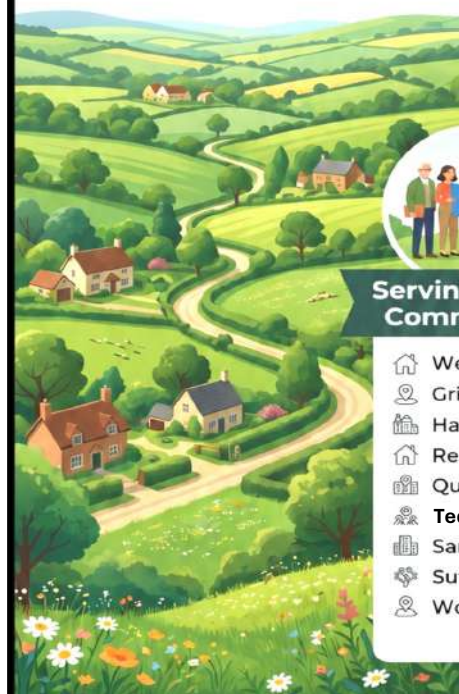
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Next Action Team Meeting: 3 November

The team will set the work plan to be communicated at a future public meeting.



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*Jo Lawson, Chair of Governors,
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- represent the school's stakeholders;
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- as a church school, monitor and support the Christian distinctiveness and church ethos of the school;
- act as an ambassador for the school.

(Continued on page 15)



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(Continued from page 13)

Local Governing Body meetings are generally held every half term on Tuesday evenings and should last no more than 2 hours. Governors are also encouraged to visit school at least once a term to learn more about the way the school works.

More detailed information on the role of a Governor is available on the National Governance Association's website (*Types of governor & trustee | National Governance Association; Interested in becoming a school governor or trustee? | National Governance Association*).

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(Continued from page 39)

ham on their many visits to the city. Their visits to the city got longer each time, and in April they stayed for a month so they could "carefully consider" if they really could make the move to Wales. Jeff said they drew up a list of the pros and cons and the disadvantages were "far outweighed". He said some of their friends think they are "crazy", [but] their three adult children have been supportive and are excited to visit once their parents find a home.

The couple have already started putting down roots, volunteering at the Wrexham Miners Project and supporting the children's hospice Hope House, in nearby Oswestry.

Jeff, who is also trying to learn Welsh, added they also want to get involved in Wrexham's bid to become the UK's City of Culture for 2029. He added that they would be sticking by Wrexham AFC whatever happens with the team in the future, and has put down a deposit on a season ticket.

"They can get promoted, relegated. It doesn't matter. That's our club," he said. "We're not coming for the club, that's a plus, we're coming for the community.●"

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Couple to move from Texas to Wrexham

from an article by Sarah Easedale, BBC Wales, 10 August 2026.

A couple from Texas who are moving permanently to Wrexham after discovering the city on the "Welcome to Wrexham" documentary series say it gives them a "feeling they haven't had anywhere in the USA". Jeff and Janice Ivey, from New Braunfels, loved watching the Disney show that follows the story of Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob Macilhenny's stewardship of the football club.

After visiting Wales seven times in the past two-and-a-half years, they have fallen head over heels with the city, its people and heritage.

Jeff, 62, who has UK citizenship from his Scottish ancestry, is currently in Wrexham house-hunting, while Janice, 65, is in the USA selling their home and awaiting her visa.

Jeff said they first visited in 2024 after watching an episode of the series featuring Wrexham band the Declan Swans, and they bought some of their merchandise. But when the package arrived there was just one hoodie inside instead of the two expected. Jeff emailed and another sweatshirt was sent, but the correspondence between him and the band's singer, Michael Hett, continued - and it was he who suggested the couple should

visit.

"If the order had come just fine, I would have sent an email saying, 'hey, thanks, got it,' and that probably would have been it," said Jeff.

"Because we had to keep emailing after that, it really piqued our interest."

Jeff and Janice made the transatlantic journey and "fell in love" with what they found. "We just felt so good about the community aspect of Wrexham," Jeff said, and that it was the people who ultimately convinced them for being so "welcoming and friendly" with a "lack of elitism or snobbery".

Jeff said they also felt an affinity with the city because of their own backgrounds. Janice grew up in a mining community in Pennsylvania, while he originally came from Pittsburgh, an industrial city with a strong history of mining, steel and manufacturing - just like Wrexham.

"[Wrexham] is a working-class town. It's got a rich legacy in history," he said. "The people and the history definitely remind us of places that we grew up." The couple were already looking to move from their current Texan home after Jeff retired from working in finance, and thought "what about Wrexham?"

Jeff and Janice have already got involved in community events in Wrex-

(Continued on page 41)

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With a change in weather and a busy holiday period we have still managed to have a good weekly walk around West Felton and an away walk to Chirk . We've been around Sandford, along the canal via Cupids Ramble, and to Pradoc sheltering from a rain shower in the lovely church.

Our away walk this month was to Chirk for a lovely 3 mile ramble under the aqueduct and along to Pont Faen and up and along to Chirk bank, crossing over the railway line and back along the canal tow path to walk over the aqueduct this time and lovely coffee and cake at Caffi Wylfa.





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Diary Of A Church Mouse *Sir John Betjeman*

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open has-
socks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with
straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's
seat),



And prosperous mice from fields
away
Come in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks
that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year
through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so,
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church
mouse,
Worship each week in God's own
house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.●

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Welcome to the latest update
from Healthwatch Shropshire.

healthwatch
Shropshire

The past few weeks have been
busy and impactful, as leaders
from across our local health and

care system come together to speak up for something that matters to us all,
ensuring your voice continues to be heard.

Health leaders unite to back an independent voice for patients

At a time when the future of local Healthwatch organisations is uncertain,
leaders from across the health and care system have come together to speak
with one voice. Their message is clear: patients and communities must
continue to have an independent organisation that listens to their experi-
ences and helps shape better services.

During a visit, Professor David Croisdale Appleby, Chair of Healthwatch
England, met with partners from the NHS, local government, the voluntary
sector and local MPs. Hosted by Healthwatch Shropshire and Healthwatch
Telford and Wrekin, the discussion focused on proposals within the Health
Bill that could abolish local Healthwatch organisations.

Despite uncertainty about the future, there was strong agreement on one
key point. Health and social care services must continue to be informed,
challenged and improved by an independent organisation that listens to
people's real experiences.

Partners highlighted the vital role Healthwatch Shropshire and Health-
watch Telford and Wrekin play in gathering feedback from local communi-
ties, including those whose voices are often unheard. This insight helps
decision makers understand what is working well and where change is
needed.

There was also clear recognition that independent scrutiny is essential.
Healthwatch was described as a trusted "critical friend" and a "community
conscience", giving people the confidence to speak openly and ensuring
their voices lead to real improvements.

As discussions about the future of Healthwatch continue, leaders across the
system remain committed to protecting an independent patient voice. The
message is simple but powerful: independent feedback is not optional, it is
essential to better health and social care.

To learn how you can get involved, including how to raise your concerns
consider writing to your local MP, visit Healthwatch Shropshire website.
Or get in touch:

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West Felton Women's Institute Summer/Autumn 2026



The carnival is over, Oswestry Show too and WFWI now looks forward to an autumn of enlightening gatherings.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stint in the carnival parade in July with our 'Let Us Eat Cake' theme. Costumes were all home-made, imaginatively depicting a variety of baked goods: fairy cakes, fruit cake, Bat-tenberg, chocolate cake (with sprinkles), strawberry shortcake and more, together with a colourful market stall for sales; you may well have heard us belting out 'We knew you were coming so we baked some cakes'. All good fun – though a 'trifle' warm to say the least! A shout out to 'Scrappies' of Church Stretton which is an excellent source of materials etc and especially to PJEvans Agri who kindly hauled us round on their trailer. Perhaps we'll be on their quad bikes next year!

Another contribution to the fabric of community life was our involvement with Oswestry Show. The morning was spent setting up then serving refreshments in the WI hut. On show for the WI competitions were our efforts in photography, baking and crafting as well as our creative entry for the 'Window Display': our five items on the theme of 'Fields, Forests and Green Living' included delicious pink elderflower cordial, an impressive hand-painted silk scarf, tasty hedgerow jam, an utterly convincing 'tree stump' cake and finally a paper crafted card – all set against a green backdrop decorated with handcrafted leaves and berries. These five gained the WI Shield for the highest total

marks for the exhibits themselves and a pleasing third prize for the overall display amongst stiff competition. There were triumphs too in the savoury scones competition, a 1st and 2nd for 'Rainbow' photographs, some success with Preserves plus a 3rd for the gluten free cake. Well done everybody for your skill and for so generously giving of your time.

We now look forward to our autumn get-togethers as the evenings draw in. September's treat is a talk on the history of magic from Jack Dent who no doubt will also have a trick or two up his sleeve to demonstrate to us. 'A magical short story' is the monthly competition and the flower competition resumes after our August break. In fact Sunflowers have been grown over the summer with some looking distinctly beanstalk-like by now – a near ten footer grown by Ali may well be our winner! Well, isn't it always sunny in Grimpo?

Our book club has been busy too with one recent read being a classic of travel writing from the thirties called 'A Woman in the Polar Night' by Christiane Ritter. Incredibly she survived the unbelievably harsh conditions of the Arctic regions – and lived in three centuries, having been born at the end of the 1800s and living until 2000 when she passed away at the age of 103! Next up is Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein', unsettling bedtime reading.

Nostalgic tunes are in the offing in October when Shrewsbury Light Orchestra

(Continued on page 27)

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Up the Garden Path with Topiarius

Tidying for winter and seed for next year

By October we are forced to admit that the weeds are winning, or at least they are far from being totally defeated, and will renew their energy (and numbers) next year. Notable amongst this year's crop were thistles (I didn't bother to find out which sort) that we have never had before in such quantity. Initially, they appeared near the river so we suspected that seed had come with winter flooding but later they were everywhere so presumably blew in. Who is to blame? Anyway, we will now have a few months to recover our weed eliminating energy.

Not surprisingly, the jobs list is not too long in October but there is one very important task which is to order seeds (including potatoes). I will follow my usual practice and make up my order through several suppliers, simply because there is no chance of getting all the varieties I want from one source. I just hope that everything I want is still available as in recent years a lot of my favourites have disappeared from the catalogues, either in favour of newer varieties or simply reduction of stock held.

There is also still harvesting to be done, including late apples and squash; the latter store best when really ripe. If you have a glasshouse, now is a good time to give it a clean to maximise light. We also have limescale from the mist system to remove, and like to spray insecticide and fungicide to ward off disease.

Mesh should be removed from tunnels over carrots and leaks as there is no longer fear of insect attack. If you have baskets or containers, the summer bedding will need to be replaced by plants, such as primulas, for winter. It is important that any tender plants such as pelargoniums put outside for the summer are brought back in to a frost-free place. Then, pruning and new project work can continue.

The experiment to add African marigolds to the glasshouse was a failure in that they failed to grow well while the French marigolds did their job again of keeping whitefly at bay. We did have whitefly on the brassica outdoors so it might be worth planting some marigolds there.

In a moment of idleness in the prolonged drought I wondered whether earthworms retreated deeper because they need moisture to "breathe" through their skin. But then I thought we watered the vegetables so our essential garden friends in that area wouldn't need to move. They can detect light so in the sunny times we have had they no doubt had the sense to stay below for fear of drying out in the heat. It is ironic that a creature that can push up to ten times its own weight is in danger from sun and dryness. A dead earthworm is not much use to the garden but research has indicated that their bodies contain many substances useful in medicine.●

Oswestry Rural South SNT (oswestryrs.snt@westmercia.police.uk)



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HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS 159 and 105 - A REMINDER

Some time ago Sue Ozagir told us about these numbers and having recently received a scam phone call, for which I was well prepared, thank you Sue! (Ed.) - I think a little reminder is now due. More and more bank fraud is being reported.

If you receive an unexpected call from someone claiming to be VISA/ MASTERCARD or a bank, don't speak, just hang up and dial 159, this is the UK's official, memorable, short-code to securely connect with your bank's fraud department. They will then be able to assure you that the caller was not truthful when she/he said there were £thousands on their way out of your bank!

Led by [Stop Scams UK](https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/), it works like 101 or 111: if you suspect a financial scam, you simply **stop, hang up, and call 159**.

How 159 Works

- **Secure Routing:** It connects to a vocal switchboard that transfers you directly to your participating bank.
- **Defeats 'Line Spoofing':** Fraudsters can sometimes keep a phone line open, or fake a dial tone. Dialling 159 forces a clean, authentic connection to the switchboard.

Participating Banks: Supported by major UK providers including Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, NatWest, Santander, and Nationwide, and others.

Best Practice:

- **Use a different phone**, or if you have only one device, wait 5–10 minutes (calling a friend first to ensure the line is cleared).
- **159 will never call you**—if someone calls claiming to be 159, it is a scam **Check the official Stop Scams UK guidance for full details.**

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particularly insurance have increased substantially over the years. The inclusion of cleaning and washing refers to care of the choir's garments and the cleanliness of the church in 1925. Payments for special collections are taken to reflect payments from monies taken at funerals and weddings. Today there is a payment for weddings and funerals payable to the Diocese which did not feature in the 1925 accounts

The comparison of the two accounts show similarities in total sums, though disparities in where money

came from how it was disbursed. The sum paid by the congregation towards parish share is similar when adjusted for inflation. This year of course the repairs to the church have caused a significant decline in church reserves. Although we were awarded grants, we had to find half of the sum ourselves as we were judged to be a rich parish.

The accounts give no details of the capital reserves of the parish and the tribulations of those who administered them over the last hundred years. That will require another article.●

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<https://www.energynetworks.org/>

A second useful number is 105 - it gives access to all your household utility companies, gas, water and electricity. If you have a problem, they can put you through to the appropriate company to see what's going on.

Many people don't know they should contact their **local electricity network operator** if they have a power cut. They often mistakenly call the **electricity supplier they pay their bills to**.

That's why the electricity network operators introduced 105 - to give customers an easy-to-remember number to call that will put them through to the local people who can help.

Our electricity distribution network operator is SP Energy Networks.

Power cut? Call 105 for free if you're in England, Scotland or Wales.

Alternatively, you can call: 0800 001 5400. @SPEnergyNetwork

The service is free and it is operated by Energy Networks Association (ENA).

The PowerCut105.com website provides customers with information on what to do in a power cut, as well as a tool to look up who their network operator is, by entering a postcode.

Each utility has a Priority Register, for this you need to be on a state pension or have some form of disability or long-term condition. If you are on the register the company will ring you within 2 hours of a power cut etc., to check that you're OK.

Note: Initially, you will need to ring each individual utility to register.

Both of these numbers are free of charge and can be called from your home or mobile phones.●

(Continued from page 23) West Felton WI

visits us - very appropriate as we look back on 105 years of friendship and fun in West Felton WI, having first established on October 6th 1921. We are forward-looking too of course, keen to improve our skills and learn more about our world whether that be through our informative talks or by

way of 'Via', the online learning platform available to us for free as members.

Do come along if you are a local lady and want to visit as an initial step (£5). We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Contact us on 07375997782. See you soon!●

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL-then and now. *Michael Davie*

One hundred years ago Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) were just getting into their stride following the Enabling Act of 1919 that set up PCCs. Prior to the origin of PCCs, the Rector and churchwardens were solely responsible for the running of the parish church. Indeed up until 1868 they had responsibility for setting the parish rate.

INCOME	1925	Adj inflation	Act 2025
Collection			
Parish church	80	6400	5740
St Chad's	46	3680	431
Special collection			
School house trust			1500
Fundraising			2240
Parish church	20	1600	2707
St Chad's	17	1360	
Free will contributions	56	4480	3768
Churchyard fund	61	4880	
Fees			2241
Tax reclaim			4469
TOTAL	280	22400	23096
EXPENDITURE	1925	Adj inflation	Act 2025
Salary	90	7200	991
Organist	24	1970	
Light and heat	23	1840	3500
Insurance & stamps	10	800	4500
Repairs	5	400	2400
Cleaning	8	640	
Washing	2	160	
Hire of Haslehurst/ Village hall	1	80	150
School treat	20	1500	1700
Parish share	34	2720	2000
Cheque book/ bank charge	1	80	152
Pay Diocese for funerals etc.			1369
Special collection	36	2880	2139
TOTAL	254	20270	18901

By 1925 West Felton PCC had a treasurer (Mr EH Bradley). In January 1926 he presented the accounts for 1925 to the Annual Church meeting. In this table are details of Income and Expenditure as they were in 1925 (headed 1925). The next column shows those figures adjusted for Retail Price index inflation (as recorded by 'Measuring Worth' accessed 12/8/26: £1 in 1925 is equivalent to ~ £80 today). The final column under income and expenditure labelled "Actual 2025" records data from the West Felton PCC accounts for 2025.

It is not particularly easy to get items to be equivalent since special collections in 1925 were not specified. Additionally special income such as grants (for repairs) and payments for clergy taking services in an interregnum are omitted in

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2025. Special collections are assumed to be from weddings and funerals. There was obviously a distinction in 1925 between the official collection (today's Gift Aid) and freewill (today's 'cash on the plate'). Apart from the dire effect of inflation, similarities between the two Totals are striking. In coming to that conclusion there is one glaring omission – today's parish share - see later.

On the income side the contribution made by St Chad's in 1925 was significant. At the time the Rev Owen Jackson of Tedsmore took many services and no doubt local people followed him. The grievous neglect of St Chad's shown by recent clergy has previously been recorded in these columns. The churchyard fund in 1925 had strong support. One person sent £10 (~£800 in today's money) because he was grateful that the churchyard was so well kept. In 2025 fees for weddings and funerals are to some extent an equivalent. The tax reclaim in 2025 (which actually covers 2 years) is a significant source of income. Charities in 2025 (the PCC is one such) can reclaim tax at 20% on gifts into church. Nowadays income tax is a burden borne by many. In 1925 relatively few of the population paid income tax.

The greatest expenditure in 1925 was incurred by employment with a caretaker on about £1.14s and 7d per week in old money, though whether



the person was full time or not is not stated. A labourer in 1925 might get £2/week. The parish share, known as the Diocesan quota in 1925, was a substantial sum and was the subject of adverse comment even in those days. Today's share is £20,000/yr for three tenths of a Rector. Most of this sum is derived from interest from trust funds which have been set up in recent years. The majority of these funds are held in the Lichfield Diocesan trust and do not form part of the PCC accounts. The relatively small amount of money paid to the Diocese in 1925 did not include the Rector's income. This came from tithe and glebe and in 1919 totalled £600 (Kelly's handbook 1919). This income source was abolished between 1936 and the late 1960's. The compensation was paid to the Church commissioners and to the Dioceses, not to the parishes, and has been a sore point with parishes ever since. In 2025 the salary line consists of honoraria paid to organists, largely for non-Sunday services. Light and heat and

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