

Community News

March 2026



St Michael's Church – A much loved Landmark



For more than seven centuries, St Michael's Church has stood at the heart of Childs Ercall. A grade II listed building, it dates to the 13th century, and although restored over time, it still carries the quiet character of its long history. One of the churchyard's most distinctive features is the old preaching stone, used by travelling ministers to address villagers in the open air. The Domesday Book of 1086 records

that there was a priest in Childs Ercall. The stone itself dates back to the 6th and 7th centuries and serves as a testament to the church's long-standing presence and its role in the spiritual and cultural life of the community. The church remains as a place of worship, celebration and comfort for the community and is a poignant symbol of the village's heritage. However, like many community assets it faces challenges to maintain its presence in our beautiful village. It needs to raise in the region of £11k per annum for the upkeep of the building. Whilst the sale of the Old School House and its land realised a significant sum for the Diocese of Lichfield, our church was sadly left without seeing any benefit from the proceeds. Plans to install running water to the church's kitchen, address the ongoing problem of water ingress to the building and to repair the magnificent organ have been delayed due to the ever-increasing costs of doing so. Parishioners can support the church through a monthly contribution scheme on which gift aid can be claimed. For anyone who can support our wonderful church, either through a donation or the monthly scheme please email, cepcc@hotmail.com, or pick up a direct debit information form from inside the church.

In and around....

Potholes are now applying for village status after multiplying exponentially



Hold on Jack ...the council are on their way .

After weeks of rain, and the sort of weather that makes you wonder whether the ark-building business might be worth revisiting, the parish roads have developed a new...texture. Some might call it "character". Others might call it "a hazard". Most of us, however, have settled on the more accurate term...**potholes**. They've appeared everywhere, multiplying faster than rabbits, and each one seems determined to outdo the others in depth, width, and ability to swallow a small hatchback. The council assures us repairs are coming "soon", which we all know is a wonderfully flexible word. In the meantime, please drive carefully, keep an eye out for suspiciously shiny puddles, and consider carrying a spare tyre... or two... or perhaps a small inflatable dinghy.

You can report sightings to Shropshire Council via their “Fix My Street” portal: improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk. Apparently the more we report, the more chance we have of seeing actual tarmac again.

The Old School House



Work on the old schoolhouse has started in earnest. Progress has been swift, although you might be forgiven to think that right now that the new owner (Bryan Crotaz) is in the process of demolition rather than restoration. Don't be fooled, though. The work thus far has exposed oak timbers that date back to the 17th century. Bryan will soon complete structural

work to prop up the old oak, following which the front wall will be removed and taken away to a specialist to fix and mend with reclaimed oak. The floors have been readied for the installation of the foam glass aggregate to insulate the floors, which will be done when the wall has been removed. Good luck Bryan. We are all looking forward to your dream being realised and a new life being given to a building that holds fond memories for many.

What's on....

Monday night is loyalty card night at the **Childs Ercall Village Club**. Events scheduled:

5th & 19th March – Coffee & Cake (11am – 1pm)

11th & 25th March – Prize Bingo (8pm)

14th March – Equine Tabletop Sale

27th March – Pop up Pizza

30th March – “Bring a block” – Cheese & Port Night

A message from James....(Chair, Childs Ercall Parish Council)



Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you, we'll be moving steadily towards Spring and Easter, with warmer weather and longer days on the horizon. Winter always brings its challenges in a rural parish like ours, as we all know, with wintry conditions affecting our roads, access, and local services. Although the Parish Council does not manage or maintain the highways, it is important that any areas of concern are reported promptly so they can be escalated to Shropshire Council. Please do continue to flag issues — it helps us build an accurate picture and push for action where it's needed. In January, we set our budget for the 2026/2027 financial year against a backdrop of continued financial uncertainty at Shropshire Council. Once again, it was a challenging process, but we remain committed to setting a fair and responsible budget so that the Parish Council element of your Council Tax remains as proportionate as possible. You can view the full budget on the Community Website. Wishing you and your families a very Happy Easter.

Have Your Say

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Jubilee Hall on **Wednesday 18th March** at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

An on-line version of this newsletter can be found on the website. (www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk)

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