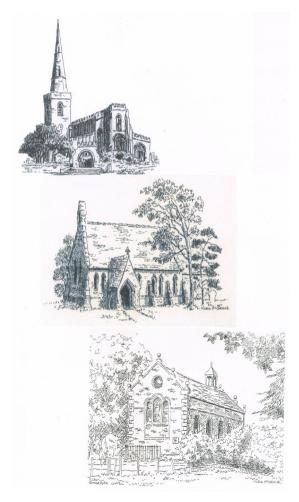
Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

July 2025
Price £1



Hello folks.

I wonder whether you were able to attend our recent Confirmation Service with + Julie? We had a wonderful time celebrating from our youngest Lily, who is 6 years old being admitted to Holy Communion, to our oldest who wanted to reaffirm his Confirmation vows some 79 years previously, when he was 11 years old! And others in between! Young lads from school in Smallwood, young adults who have joined the faith journey recently and other adults who have already been on their faith journey and decided that 'The time was right'. There is something rather special in participating in a Confirmation Service. The parts where we all get to reaffirm promises made on our behalf at our own baptism and now for ourselves somewhere further along that journey.

Life often throws a curve ball, and we wonder where God is, in the mess? We wonder whether He is hiding, busy, ignoring us, testing us, cross with us? I would want to say that it is none of those things: that God sits with us in the pain and the tears, in the joy and laughter, and says: I am with you whatever you think, whatever you feel. A life curve ball is just that.

It is also a time when we might look at that curve ball and ask what we might learn from that experience that brings us closer to God in the midst of it. I was speaking to someone yesterday who was telling me that in their daily readings the previous day they had been asked to give thanks to God for the struggle. And at that moment they were unable to do so.

It is in those moments that God draws close, when we are unable to move forwards on our own.

'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is near . . .'

Be at peace my friends and know God is there.

With Love

Heather

Editor – Mr W. Ball

The Old Vicarage, Reades Lane, Congleton, CW12 3LL. Telephone 01260 279276 Mobile 07710 234943

The Sunday services at Somerford Chapel continue with Evensong on the first Sunday of each month (6th July, 3rd August and 7th September). The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on 28th September. Do put these dates in your diary, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Chapel.

The Chapel celebrates its 300th birthday this year, and a special concert by Macclesfield Male Voice Choir will mark the occasion at 2.00 pm on Saturday 9th August. Tickets – of which only a small number are still left – are £12. Please contact Ken Wainwright for further details and to book on 01260 273397. All proceeds will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association for research into the disease which deprived us of Kath last September.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held in church on Sunday 8th June, Mr Trevor Massey was elected as Churchwarden following the resignation of his predecessor.

<u>As you know</u> Sandie Boynton and I organized an Astbury Garden Trail on Saturday 7th June and to be honest, given the weather forecast, I thought nobody would turn up. How wrong I was! Brave, cagouled people toured the gardens and enjoyed their tea and cake at Dorothy's and everyone had a good time.

Bear with me as there are a host of very kind folks to thank . . Gardeners – Chris and John, Sandie and Bill, Christine and Dave, Phil and Judith and Nick and I; Cake makers – Danielle, Sue, Jenny, Clare,

Dorothy, Emma, Sandie, Rachel, Rhoda, Brenda, Margaret A., Michelle, Margaret P., Naomi and Christine; Tea and cake servers – Brenda, Danielle, Mel, Louise, Cath and Jenny; Church stewards – Sally, Naomi, Mel, Clare and Colin; Plant donors – Jan, Judy and Carole.

A BIG thank you to Dorothy for the use of her 'party barn'. Another BIG thank to Jan Hardie-Woolridge for the plants and for her very generous donation.

What a wonderful day, despite the rain! A huge thank you to you all!

PS – Amazingly the total has now reached £1,915. Who would have thought such a wet day would generate so much money? I am delighted. I need to thank two more people who helped in the church – Kay and Steve. I also have an oval, silver platter which had a lemon cake on it. Is it yours?



A complete tea service, Royal Albert, Old Country Roses, has been donated to the church. I am suggesting £50. Is anyone interested?

All good wishes, Jane

Astbury Ladies' Fellowship: It was another sunny day for the Fellowship's June meeting. The chairman welcomed members and gave news of the Garden Trail which on a wet day had raised almost £2,000 for the church. Plants which hadn't been sold were taken to the church Sunday morning service and raised another £150. The few

remaining tomato plants had been well-received by the school. There was a letter from Brenda Sutton thanking us for the shrub rose we gave her and husband Eric for their 70th wedding anniversary.

Pamela gave details of the Fellowship lunch on 16th July at the Legs of Man. If you would like to join us or you haven't yet paid ((£27) please get in touch with her on 01260 290459.

Our speaker was Sara Bostock, who had recently trained to be a Samaritan. She asked us what we knew of the Samaritans – one reply was that they were someone you could phone if you were in distress. She said that as far as it went that was true., but she went on to emphasize that they were trained to *listen* empathetically and encouragingly – but not to give advice. She said we all ought to try and listen more in our busty world. The movement was founded in 1953 by Rev Chad Varah, an Anglican minister, and now had 200 branches. Sara was on duty for 3 hours at a time, and sometimes in the night. We thanked her for her interesting talk and then had a cup of tea (thank you Margaret and Pat) and drew the raffle. Somerford Chapel celebrates its 300th Anniversary on Saturday 9th August. The will be choral music and the concert starts at 2.00 pm. Tickets are £12, so please get in touch with Ken Wainwright if you would like one.



Carole presents Sara with a donation from the Fellowship

We meet again at the Legs of Man on 16th July, 12.15 for 12.30 pm. Please note that our September and October speakers have changed places: on 17th September we shall have Rev Anne Freestone with some 'Thoughts and Reflections' and on 15th October Peter Aston will tell us about 'The Old Saw Mill – Chapter 2'.

I look forward to seeing you on 16th July.

Carole

<u>Astbury Women's Institute:</u> At our WI meeting on 6th June, Margaret, our President, welcomed members and offered a warm welcome to the family members and friends they had brought along for the evening. She also welcomed our speaker Chloe Wallace, who had been invited to give us a talk entitled 'Make-up Tips and Tricks.'

After singing *Jerusalem* members stood for a minute's silence to remember Pat Wiltshier, who had sadly passed away suddenly at the end of May. Margaret paid tribute to Pat, who had been President of Brereton WI before its closure some years ago. She had attended our monthly meetings regularly and thoroughly enjoyed our seasonal lunches. Her funeral would take place at 2.00 pm on Monday, 16th June at The Birches Crematorium.

Birthday buttonholes were given to Maureen Steele and Brenda Sutton, who also received a pretty rose bush in celebration of her and her husband Eric's platinum wedding anniversary.



Anita Thompson, Brenda Sutton, and Rene Thompson.

The business of the evening began with a report from Kate Naylor, who had attended a local streaming of the NFWI Annual Meeting earlier in the day at Congleton Town Hall. It had been hosted by the local Cloud Group and had enabled local delegates and members to enjoy the speakers, who included Emma Bridgewater and Angela Strawbridge. Kate, as our delegate, voted on our behalf on this years resolution which stated that 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers.' Kate reported that the resolution had been passed by around 98% of the membership. It would form the basis for our next campaign.

Further business included a report from Catherine Pedley on the recent Dane Valley Group meeting at Lower Withington. The speaker had been novelist and poet Milly Johnson, who had given a very entertaining potted history of her life and the inspiration for her stories and verse. Forthcoming Dane Valley events included a fashion show on 26th June, at which both members and non-members would be more than welcome. There was also an invitation from Ken Wainwright to a choir concert to be held to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Somerford Chapel. It would take place at the Chapel on Saturday 9th August at 2pm. The proceeds would go to the MND Association and tickets were £12.00.

Members could also look forward to a summer meal at The Legs of Man on Friday, 15th August at 6.00 pm, the time chosen to enable our working members to join us should they so wish.

Margaret introduced Chloe, who talked about her surprising decision, as a lover of horses and a true country girl, to become a beautician. She demonstrated a casual daytime look on Margaret, who had volunteered to be her model. As this was Chloe's first ever WI demo, she was more comfortable making-up someone she knew well and who would not be offended by having those blemishes which needed concealing, described to the audience.

Chloe's demonstration was designed to help members make the most of their attributes and not to promote any particular brands, and she was happy to be fairly interactive. Lots of questions and chat ensued. Margaret was surprised how relaxing she had found the whole experience. The competition was for a make-up item members could

not live without, giving their reason. It was won by Carina Andrews, with Kate Naylor taking second place.

Our next meeting would be on 2nd July, when the speaker would be Louise Lloyd of The Cheeky Weasel Bakery. The competition would be for 3 homemade baked bread buns.



Our postbox topper in the village

If you would like to come along or need further information, please contact Margaret on 07581 095418, Liz on 07766 738004, or Kate on 07875 691170. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have and to arrange for a member to 'meet and greet' you on the night. You can also message us through our Astbury WI Facebook page.

Margaret Pearson (President)

Sartor's Quiz (Answers on page 16)

- 1. Who wrote the book *Mere Christianity*? a. John Bunyan; b. John Calvin; c. C. S. Lewis; d. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 2. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? a. Leonardo da Vinci; b. Michaelangelo; c. Titian; d. Raphael.
- 3. *Christ* from Greek and *Messiah* from Hebrew have the same meaning. What is it? a. Bread of Life; b. God with us; c. Anointed One; d. Prophet.
- 4. Who was Hannah's son? a. Cain; b. Isaac; c. Samuel; d. Solomon.
- 5. Which Psalm has 176 verses? a. 89; b. 99; c. 109; d. 119.
- 6. Which of these men was one of Jesus's twelve disciples? a. Paul; b. Timothy; c. Luke; d. Matthew.
- 7. Which of the following was bot a Jewish religious and/or political party at the time of Jesus? a. Zealots; b. Philistines; c. Pharisees; d. Saducees.
- 8. Granta was the Roman name for which of these places? a. London; b. Durham; c. Cambridge; d. Oxford.
- 9. Which member of the nobility is entitled to wear a coronet with pearls elevated on stalks? a. Marquess; b. Earl; c. Viscount; d. Baron.
- 10. Which of these is the most popular pub name in Britain? a. The Red Lion; b. The Royal Oak; c. The Crown; d. The Bull.

WORDS OF WIT & WISDOM

Accept human weakness, and focus on harmony and your collective strengths as a family. After all, who else loves you regardless of what you do? And where else can you go to find the comfort and strength that come from that kind of support system?

UCB Word for Today, Friday 11th June 2021

Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. Proverbs 19, 20

People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care! You demonstrate the love of God by being 'peace-loving, gentle, reasonable and full of mercy.'

James 3, 17, UCB Word for Today, Monday 13th June 2022

The splendour falls on castle walls And sunny summits old in story: The long light shakes across the lakes, And the wild cataract leaps in glory.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892

He never let the sun go down on his wrath, but there were some colourful sunsets while it lasted.

A. A. Thomson, of W. G. Grace

Friday 11th February 1944

Bobby Andrews tells me a new story about Mrs Patrick Campbell. Terribly bored by an elderly scientist drooling away about ants – 'They are wonderful little creatures; they have their own police force and their own army' – she leaned forward and said, with an expression of the utmost interest and in a voice like damson-coloured velvet, 'No navy, I suppose.'

The Selective EGO, The Diaries of James Agate, ed Tim Beaumont

Like everyone else, Montaigne ran up against the major perplexities of existence: how to cope with the fear of death, how to get over losing a child or a beloved friend, how to reconcile yourself to failures, how to make the most of every moment so that life does not drain away unappreciated. But there were smaller puzzles, too. How do you avoid getting drawn into pointless argument with your wife, or a servant?

Sarah Bakewell, How To Live: A Life of Montaigne, pp 4-5

He is not far from each one of us. In him we live and move and have our being.

Acts 17, 27-28

FASCINATING FACTS

Constantine The Great

On 25th July 306 the Roman emperor Constantius Chlorus died at York with his son Constantine at his bedside. The first thing to be said about the new emperor, Constantine, is that no ruler in all history – not Alexander the Great, nor Charles, nor Catherine, not Frederick, nor even Gregory – has ever more fully merited his title of 'The Great'; for within the short space of some fifteen years he took two decisions, either of which, alone, would have changed the future of the civilised world. The first was to adopt Christianity, which had been the object, only a generation previously, of persecutions under Diocletian more brutal than any that it has suffered before or since, as the official religion of the Roman Empire. The second was to transfer the capital of that empire from Rome to the new city which he was building on the site of the old Greek settlement of Byzantium and which was to be known, for the next sixteen centuries, by his own name: the city of Constantine, Constantinople. Together, these two decisions and their consequences have given him a serious claim to be considered – excepting only Jesus Christ, the Prophet Mohammed and the Buddha – the most influential man who ever lived.

John Julius Norwich, *The Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean*, pp 50-51

Evelyn Waugh and Railways

The Railway Club was, with his friendship for John Sutro, Evelyn Waugh's happiest Oxford memory. The club was founded by John Sutro and gave expression to that railway romanticism and railway scholarship which dates almost from the time of George Stephenson, and of which John Sutro was an enthusiastic and learned amateur. The cult appears to have declined with the disappearance of the fiery steam engine and the rise of the more efficient and restrained diesel locomotive. Except for an inaugural meeting in John Sutro's rooms, the sessions of the Railway Club were held on the railways.

They occurred only three or four times a year. A private dining-car would be hired and attached to the Penzance to Aberdeen train. Dinner would be served to the club on the journey from Oxford to Leicester, where the members would disembark and after half an hour board a second private dining- car in which there were speeches over drinks as a north-south train carried them back to Oxford. The major speakers were usually Harold Acton and John Sutro, the latter, as a 'mimic of genius', rarely using his own voice. The first of these dinners took place on 23rd November, 1923, the last on the London to Brighton line in 1963. 'In later years,' wrote Evelyn, after we had gone down, our meetings became more elaborate. Chefs were recruited from London restaurants and fine wines added to the fare. Silver cigarette boxes were presented to astonished engine-drivers and reception committees met us at our destinations.' The final 1963 meeting was entirely at Evelyn's instigation.

Christopher Sykes, A Biography of Evelyn Waugh, p 46

ASTBURY & SMALLWOOD PARISH NEWS

is also available in large-print format.

Please let Mr Ball know if you require such a copy.

Editor – Mr W. Ball

Telephone 01260 279276 email wbbtov@gmail.com Cover Drawings of St Mary's Church, Astbury, St John's Church, Smallwood and All Saints' Chapel of Ease,

Somerford by Marie McCormick

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Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

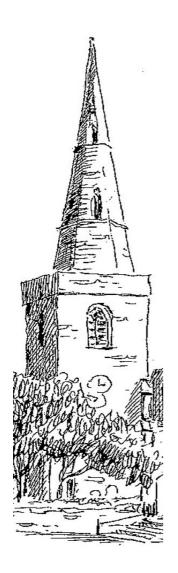
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The August issue will be published on 27th July Last Date for material 18th July The September issue will be published on 31st August Last Date for material 22nd August The October issue will be published on 28th September Last Date for material 19th September The November issue will be published on 26th October Last Date for material 17th October The December issue will be published on 30th November Last Date for material 21st November The January 2026 issue will be published on 28th December Last Date for material 19th December The February issue will be published on 25th January Last Date for material 16th January The March issue will be published on 1st March Last Date for material 20th February The April issue will be published on 29th March Last Date for material 20th March The May issue will be published on 26th April Last Date for material 17th April The June issue will be published on 31st May Last Date for material 22nd May The July issue will be published on 28th June Last Date for material 19th June

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SERVICES Wednesday	8.00 am 8.00 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm 6.30 pm 11.30 am 2.45 pm	1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays 2nd Sunday 1st & 3rd Sundays 2nd & 4th Sundays 5th Sunday 1st & 3rd Sundays 2nd & 4th Sundays every Wednesday every Wednesday	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Family Service with Compline Evensong Holy Communion Community Worship	BCP CW

Funerals and Services of Holy Baptism & Holy Matrimony by arrangement with the Wardens

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Hon. Asst. Secretary	Mr A. Bailey	01260 640616	
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01260 279276

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Head Teacher Miss P. Blythe 01260 272528
Chairman of Governors Mrs K. Moore 01260 290135

WEBSITES www.astburychurch.org.uk

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Astbury Church choir meets to practise every Friday evening between 7.00 and 8.00 pm.

Astbury Church bellringers meet to practise every Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 9.30 pm.

ASTBURY ROTAS for CLEANING & BRASS – currently suspended

		8.00 am	11.00 am	6.30 pm
June	29th	Bill Ball		
July	6th	Jean Nadin	Andrew Bailey	Peter Snape
	13th	Bill Ball	Brenda Cook	Peter Snape
	20th	Bill Ball	Neville	Peter Snape
	27th	Bill Ball	Carole Goodwin	Peter Snape
August	6th	Jean Nadin	TBA	Peter Snape

Answers to Sartor's Quiz this month (page 9) 1 - c; 2 - b; 3 - c; 4 - c; 5 - d; 6 - d; 7 - b; 8 - c; 9 - b; 10 - a.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

May 29th Cheryl Yvonne Tyson & Vu Anh Nguyen

Burial of the Dead

May	29th	Rita Pauline Ellermeyer	96 ashes
June	14th	Kathleen Marchant	85 ashes

JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEKS

JUNE				
Sun	29th	St PETER -	- TRINITY II	
				July Parish News published
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	NO SERVICE
		11.00 am	Smallwood	Benefice Service
		11.00 am	Astbury	NO SERVICE
		4.00 pm	Astbury	YAS Club
JULY				
Wed	2nd	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.45 pm	Astbury	Community Service
		7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute
Sun	6th	TRINITY I	П	
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.30 pm	Somerford	Evensong (BCP)
		4.00 pm	Astbury	YAS Club
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
Wed	9th	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.45 pm	Astbury	Community Service
Sun	13th	TRINITY I	V	
		8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	All Age Service
		11.00 am	Astbury	Family Service
		4.00 pm	Astbury	YAS Club
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong (BCP)
Mon	14th	7.00 pm	Astbury	PCC Meeting
Wed	16th	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		12.30 pm	Legs of Man	Ladies' Fellowship Lunch
		2.45 pm	Astbury	School Leavers' Service
Fri	18th	6.00 pm		Copy date for August Parish News

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

JULY				
Sun	20th	TRINITY V		
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		4.00 pm	Astbury	YAS Club
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
Wed	23rd	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.45 pm	Astbury	Community Service
Sun	27th	TRINITY V	Ī	
			_	August Parish News published
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Worship for all
		11.00 am	Astbury	Family Service
		3.00 pm	Astbury	Congleton Community Choir Concert
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong (BCP)
Wed	30th	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.45 pm	Astbury	Community Service
AUGUS	T			
Sun	3rd	TRINITY V	II	
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.30 pm	Somerford	Evensong (BCP)
		3.00 pm	Astbury	Troublesome Reeds Concert
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
Wed	6th	11.30 am	Astbury VH	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.45 pm	Astbury	Community Service
Sat	9th	2.00 pm	Somerford	Anniversary Concert

St Mary's Church, Astbury

Cartlidge,
Newbold Astbury & its History
£9.50

Head,
Congleton Past & Present
£9.50

Brazier, St Mary's Church guide £3.95

Gomme, Notes on St Mary's Church £2.50

Cartlidge, A brief History of St Mary's Church £2.50

Memorial Inscriptions 1618 – 2004 on CD or memory stick £12

Parish Registers 1572 – 1910 on CD or memory stick £20

Memorial Inscriptions 1618 – 2004 & Astbury Registers of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1572 – 1910 on CD or memory stick (flash drive)

£32

Cards, Postcards, Notelets, Gifts &c &c from 25p

Available in Church or by post (add £ p&p): contact Mr Ball 01260 279276

Are you interested in tracing your ancestors?

Even before television programmes such as *Who do you think you are?* many people had begun to research their Family History and were discovering their ancestors. Among the best resources, of course, are the records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials held in Church Registers and the Inscriptions on the Gravestones in Churchyards.

21 years ago, we published a computer CD which contains all those inscriptions (from 1608) and also lists the burial places of everyone buried in our churchyards since 1892. It is easy to search through the more than 10,000 names recorded. The CD costs £12 (plus £2.50 p & p), cheques payable to *Astbury PCC*) and is available from Mr Ball.

A companion DVD followed shortly afterwards containing images of our Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1572 to about 1910 is also available. This costs £20 (plus £2.50 p & p) and is also available from Mr Ball.

As a result of advances in technology, the CD and DVD are available also together on one memory stick (at £32 (plus £2.50 p & p).

Lastly, the Report on our Eagle Lectern from the Hamilton Kerr Institute at Cambridge University is also available as a CD or on a memory stick (cost £5) containing the various documents in Microsoft Word or Adobe Reader format for you to print your own copy.