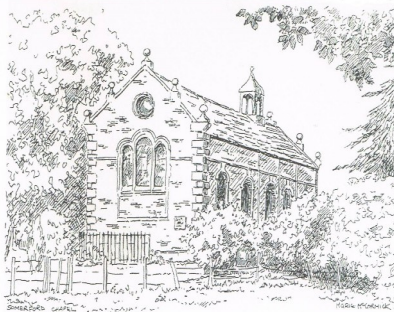
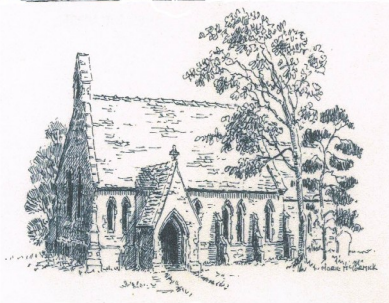
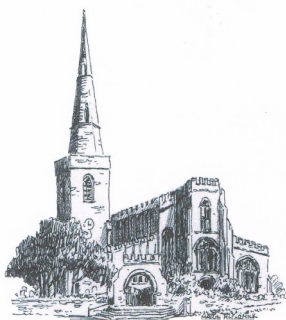


# Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

June 2026

Price £1



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**Telephone 01260 702512 email [revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk](mailto:revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk)**

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**Reader – Prof Denise Morrey-Carter**

**Telephone 01260 702512 email [revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk](mailto:revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk)**

**Let the little children come to me.**

**Matthew 19:14**

Dear friends,

Youth ministry is important to me. However, it can seem like a problem for many rural Churches because we don't see many children at our Sunday morning services. Times have changed and children don't attend Church services every week with their families in the way they would have done in the past. When I was on the Foundations for Ministry training, the fall in numbers looked gloomy. However, I think the rock on which children's faith is built on is in their Church School community. Amazing things are happening in these places. Church is happening. It is just happening differently. I am a teacher at Smallwood Church of England Primary School. This year I have been teaching Religious Education to children in Year 3 and 4. I write to you with good news!

Year 3 are a joy. They are a very enthusiastic group and they have loads of questions. We have been exploring the questions, 'What shapes faith?' and 'How do people show their faith?' This has meant we have looked at The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, the Easter Story and teachings of how Jesus lived his life and some of the Parables. We have had some excellent discussions and 'Ahh I get it now!' moments about why Jesus was sent to us. They have reflected on people they know and themselves. Some of the comments have been really interesting. One student remarked, 'Well, I am a Christian but I

don't go to Church because my mum and dad don't go, but that is okay I still pray', another one said, 'I believe in God but people might not know from how I dress, I don't wear a cross', to which another child said, 'It doesn't really matter if you show it with a symbol or not, or if you go to Church, it is how you live your life that matters.' At the end of this session, one student came to me and said, 'Mrs Molyneux, when will we get our own Bibles? It is just I really, really want one and we don't have one at home.'

Last week, Year 4 were exploring mission and charity in faith. We looked at Islam and Christianity and various faith-based charities. We began with a task where I gave them a list of values (love, faith, trust, friendship, hope, generosity, truth, kindness, forgiveness, courage, humility, stewardship and service) and I asked them to rank these in order from the most important to the least for creating a fairer world or 'God's Kingdom'. They had to be prepared to give reasons why they had come up with their choice. If I am honest, I underestimated how sophisticated their reasoning would be. They all did a brilliant job of arguing for their choices and they had taken on board the work we had done about Easter and Jesus' teachings as many of them chose 'love', 'service' and 'forgiveness'. Excellent, this meant I could tick off the Diocesan assessment criteria they were meant to have hit! However, one student really made me think. Out of 26 children, she was the only one who had chosen 'Hope'. She said, 'Mrs Molyneux, the answer has to be hope, because without it everything else is pointless and people wouldn't do anything else because they would think, 'What's the point?'

During Lent, I ran a Lent group based on the film *Wicked*. I was overwhelmed when 14 young people at school had signed up to take part instead of playing outside at lunch time. These children were serious about their faith and want to know more. They had a really clear understanding of how they can make a difference in a world which is full of power, exploitation and consumerism. They want to do things differently. Many children joined in with '40 Acts' during Lent. They want to live the Gospel. They don't do Church how I did it when I was 8 but it doesn't mean it isn't happening. Their world is different. It is changing dramatically in ever shorter spans of time. They may not

go to church on Sundays but they often visit the church building every couple of weeks with school. Some go to their own Churches near to their homes in Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager.

At school we are still ‘doing Church’. We are a Church. We participate in prayer, reflection and fellowship every day. We have whole school worship each day and a service weekly with Rev Heather. We use holding crosses and prayer stations. We all know the Lord’s Prayer and its meaning. We love, forgive, serve others, and learn how to be caretakers of creation. We teach them to be ‘Courageous Advocates’ and walk in Jesus’ footsteps. They can tell you how they can ‘Let their light shine’ and why it matters. The children are overflowing with hope and enthusiasm. They start life with a Kingdom mindset already in their hearts.

Sophie Molyneux

-----

Editor – Mr W. Ball

The Old Vicarage, Reades Lane, Congleton, CW12 3LL.

Telephone 01260 279276 Mobile 07710 234943

The Sunday services at Somerford Chapel will continue with Evensong at 2.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month (7th June, 5th July, 2nd August and 5th September). The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on 27th September and the Christmas Carol Service on 12th December.

There will also be a concert in aid of MND research by Audley Male Voice Choir on Sunday 9th August at 3.00 pm.

Do put these dates in your diary, and we look forward to welcoming to the Chapel.

The Archdeacon’s Visitation this year for Congleton and Nantwich deaneries will take place here at 7.30 pm on Monday 19th June. The Churchwardens MUST and the Sidespeople should attend to be sworn into office. Any new Sidespeople MUST attend.

One for your diary: Sunday 5th July at 2.00 pm in church: Janet Pazio (viola), Catherine Young (cello) and David Roberts (piano) will be playing classical music including Bach and Beethoven. The concert will last about an hour and tea and cakes will be served. This is a free concert but much needed donations would be appreciated.

Jane Sharman

Astbury Ladies' Fellowship: Chairman Carole welcomed members and guests to the May meeting. It had been Astbury May Day just four days before and there was a selection of plants from the Fellowship plant stall for members to choose from later.



We began with Peter Aston's talk on the Roman presence in Cheshire. The Romans established forts in England, an important one being at Chester. In this region at the time of Agricola in AD 79 the fort was at Kinderton (Middlewich), an important area for obtaining salt, a precious commodity. The people lived in walled farmsteads in thatched huts reputed to be 'warm and cosy'. It is believed that there was a marching camp at Astbury in the region of Bent Farm. This was a temporary fort which could be set up to deal with any troubles in an area and then could be moved on. It was an interesting look back into

those times and members asked questions. Peter then gave an update on ‘The Old Saw Mill’, a project he has been very involved with for a long time. They had had to move from those premises where they had made cider to sell, but had now acquired a field under the auspices of the Holford Charity which they hope to clear and have a community garden and allotments in the future. They are still selling cider, now made at another source, and he had brought apple juice and cider vinegar to the meeting. Linda gave members a taste of apple juice to try and you could buy some if you wished.

Gwen and Margaret Pearson went into the kitchen to make our cup of tea (thank you, both, for standing in for Anita who was playing in a bowling match for Astbury WI). Members could then look at the plants for sale, surplus from the May Day, where our plant stall taken over £300 on a busy, amazing day. Many thanks to the people who had given us plants so generously. Their money will go to church, particularly for buying flowers for arrangements. We had our cup of tea and drew the raffle. We prayed that members who are unwell would soon get better. Our very warm congratulations went to Brenda and Eric Sutton who have just celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary. When asked about her wedding day, Brenda said there had actually been a bit of snow.

Pamela Price is taking names for the Fellowship Luncheon on Wednesday 15th July at the Legs of Man (£29). If you would like to please contact her on 01260 591518.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th June at 1.30 pm in Astbury Village Hall, when we shall have Kath Reynolds – always an hilarious speaker – on the ‘Swinging Sixties’.

We need to have a great fundraising year for our lovely church. We shall have concerts which we hope you will support and enjoy – details to come. If you feel you could make a donation please get in touch. We look forward to seeing at the next meeting. All best wishes.

Carole (07484 525829)

Astbury Women's Institute: President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. *Jerusalem* was sung and our May birthday buttonholes were then distributed. We had two competitions this month – 'A spring cleaning tip' and 'Fan in any medium' judged once again by Jen Fagan. The ingenious cleaning tip was won by Claire Dunning and the Fan competition, which will go forward as our entry to The Dane Valley group, was won by Cath Cunliffe.



We had an absolutely superb Jacob's Table supper, with an amazing array of tasty food provided by the members. Everybody said how delicious the offerings were and I'm sure no one went home

hungry. There certainly seemed to be a lot of happy lively chatter during the meal, suggesting everyone was enjoying the evening. We did not have a speaker this month because it was a special meeting for us to ratify the two proposed NFWI resolutions which were chosen by the membership from a shortlist of five.

Accessible Public Toilet Facilities to promote dignity health and social inclusion – this resolution will call for accessible, clean, free public toilets, which are fundamental to inclusion and well being especially for women, older people, disabled individuals, parents and carers. It invites WI branches to take meaningful action – through advocacy, partnership and community engagement – to support local authorities and civil society in reversing the closure trend and ensuring dignity for all.

Action on Women’s Homelessness – here the WI urges homelessness charities and all levels of government to take action to reduce women’s homelessness, reduce the number of women at risk of homelessness and improve the quality of temporary accommodation. We call on all WI members to support homelessness organisations in their communities and campaign to ensure that all women have a place they can safely call home.

The votes were unanimous and both resolutions will go forward to be debated at the NFWI AGM in June. We then finished the evening off with the National Anthem accompanied by Lisa Cartilage on piano. And the meeting was closed.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30 pm. All are welcome and should you wish to find any more information about Astbury WI please contact Kate Naylor on 07875 691170. We always warmly welcome new members!

Dotty Kallis

-----

# Congleton Bible Week

Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th June 2026



## LIVING SUCCESSFULLY IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

PASSAGES FROM 1 PETER



GUEST SPEAKER

**STEPHEN  
GAUKROGER**

### EVENING SESSIONS

**Thursday 11th June 7.30pm** New Life Church, West Road

**Friday 12th June 7.30pm** St Stephen's Church, Brook Street

**Saturday 13th June 7.30pm** St Stephen's Church, Brook Street

**Sunday 14th June 6.00pm** Congleton Pentecostal Church, Cross Street

For further information contact Andrew Calvert  
email: [andrew.calvert1@sky.com](mailto:andrew.calvert1@sky.com) or Tel: 01260 273635

**SIGNING FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED AT ALL EVENING MEETINGS EXCEPT THURSDAY**

Sartor's Quiz (Answers on page 18)

1. Which Roman made the ancient city of Tarsus in Asia Minor the capital of the Roman province of Cilicia in 67 BC? a. Pompey; b. Augustus; c. Julius Caesar; d. Mark Antony.
2. Tarsus was the birthplace of which famous convert to Christianity? a. St Mark; b. St Luke; c. St John; d. St Paul.
3. Where was he going when he was converted? a. Jerusalem; b. Jericho; c. Damascus; d. Rome.
4. Who tried to seduce Joseph? a. Potiphar's wife; b. Lot's wife; c. Jezebel; d. Bathsheba.
5. In which land did Moses die and was buried? a. Israel; b. Judah; c. Edom; d. Moab.
6. Who travelled with Paul of one of his missionary journeys? a. Barnabas; b. Doreas; c. Peter; d. Andrew.
7. When Paul wrote a letter to Titus, where was Titus supervising the churches? a. Athens; b. Corinth; c. Crete; d. Thessalonica.
8. More than how many different kinds of cheese are made in France? a. 100; b. 200; c. 300; d. 400.
9. Roquefort cheese is made from the milk of which animal? a. Cow; b. Goat; c. Yak; d. Sheep.
10. Which famous footballer was chosen by the Football Writers' Association as their player of the year in 1948 and again in 1963? a. George Best; b. Bobby Charlton; c. Tom Finney; d. Stanley Matthews.

-----

**WORDS OF WIT & WISDOM**

- I know that my Redeemer lives. Job 19, 25  
Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.  
Westminster Shorter Catechism  
A drama critic is a man who leaves no turn unstoned.  
My speciality is being right when other people are wrong.  
George Bernard Shaw

To eat humble pie is sometimes a healthy thing to do. Chris Patten

Men write history for the same reason that they write poetry, study the properties of numbers, or play football – for the joy of creation.

A. J. P. Taylor

Judge: I have read your case, Mr Smith, and I am no wiser now than when I started.

Smith: Possibly not, My Lord, but far better informed.

F. E. Smith (1872 – 1930)

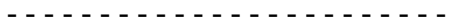
About anyone so great as Shakespeare, it is probable that we can never be right; and if we can never be right, it is better that we should from time to time change our way of being wrong.

T. S. Eliot

Asked what he had learned from his years at Eton and Oxford University, Canon Chasuble replied, ‘Respect and admiration for great writers and great scholars in all fields, in their pursuit of truth, and for some of the finest mediaeval architecture in Europe.’

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7, 24



## FASCINATING FACTS

C. B. Fry was the kind of guy  
You'd always want in your team,  
He would boost your score  
By a hundred or more.  
Clear your mantelpiece for his party piece;  
Without a run or a hop, he could jump on top.  
Multi-talented, with no trace of mania,  
He turned down the offered throne of Albania!

Canon Chasuble: *Idol Thoughts of an Idle Fellow*

William Schwenk Gilbert (1836 – 1911) at the age of two, whilst being looked after by a maid, was kidnapped in Naples, his parents paying £25 for his safe return. Child kidnap would be part of the plots of HMS Pinafore, The Gondoliers and The Pirates of Penzance. At the age of seven, Gilbert was in school in Boulogne and was a fluent French speaker. At thirteen, in school in London, he had the reputation of being a clever, bright boy, who was extremely lazy, but he could work so quickly that his idleness was no handicap to his abilities.

Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842 – 1900), at the age of eight, was becoming relatively proficient at nearly all of the instruments in the band at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, where his father was bandmaster. Having an excellent singing voice, he joined the Chapel Royal Choir and became the first boy to sing solo at the christening of one of Queen Victoria's children. He was patted on the head by the Duke of Wellington and rewarded with a half sovereign from the Prince Consort. Before he was thirteen he saw his first music published.

The saltwater crocodile, our largest living reptile,  
Is twenty feet long, and awfully strong.  
But have no fear; in fact, give a cheer;  
It's not yet been near to Astbury Mere.  
These leviathans may well keep clear,  
But is there Cheshire salt in Astbury Mere?

-----

Montaigne: Philosopher, c'est apprendre à mourir  
(To be a philosopher is to learn how to die)

As we grow older, it's difficult to maintain  
Storage spaces in the brain,  
And it's difficult to find  
Feather dusters for the mind,  
Desirable, if not a must,  
To banish the cobwebs and the dust.  
To preserve facts, dates and quotes,  
It pays to use diaries and notes.  
And, if old age is not yet chronic,  
There are aids, digital and electronic.  
To keep our brain cells active,  
We should ponder many things,  
Apart from ships and shoes  
And sealing wax, cabbages and kings.  
The Leisure Centre makes our day,  
With special rates for the U3A.  
At badminton or table tennis,  
We make give our opponent a good match,  
Or, if we slip, help keep the paramedics up to scratch.  
We, who are no longer one and twenty,  
Must obey the rule 'Festina lente!'  
And, if your grade in Latin's lowly,  
The two words tell you, 'Make haste, slowly!'                      A. T., 28.12.2018

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***Astbury & Smallwood Parish News***

**Publication & Copy Dates 2026**

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The July issue will be published on 28th June

Last Date for material 19th June

The August issue will be published on 26th July

Last Date for material 17th July

The September issue will be published on 30th August

Last Date for material 21st August

The October issue will be published on 27th September

Last Date for material 18th September

The November issue will be published on 25th October

Last Date for material 16th October

The December issue will be published on 29th November

Last Date for material 20th November

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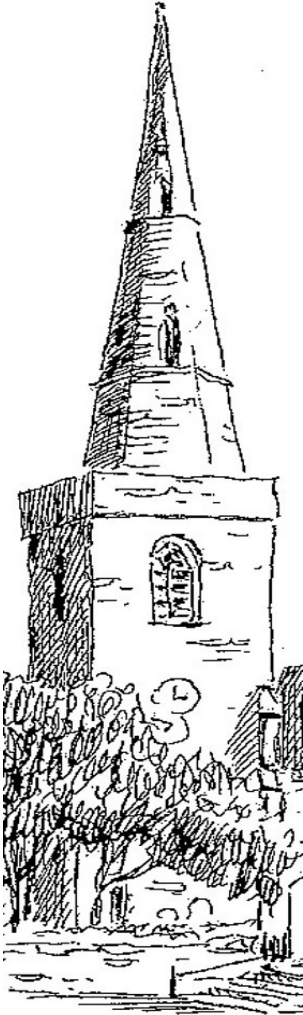
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		Andrew Bailey	01260 640616
		Prof Denise Morrey-Carter	01260 702512
CHURCHWARDEN		Dr S. Drage	01260 270217
<b>SERVICES</b>	8.00 am	1st & 3rd Sundays	Holy Communion BCP
	8.00 am	2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays	Morning Prayer BCP
	11.00 am	1st & 3rd Sundays	Morning Praise CW
	11.00 am	2nd & 4th Sundays	Holy Communion CW
	11.00 am	5th Sunday	Benefice Service
	6.30 pm	1st & 3rd Sundays	Compline
	6.30 pm	2nd & 4th Sundays	Evensong BCP
Wednesday	11.30 am	every Wednesday	Holy Communion CW
	2.45 pm	every Wednesday	Community Worship

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

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Hon. Asst. Secretary	Mr A. Bailey	01260 640616
Hon. Treasurer	Ms P. Kaur	
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SIDSEPEOPLE	see ASTBURY ROTAS	
BELL RINGERS TOWER CAPTAIN		
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Chairman of Governors	Mrs H. Bourke	

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CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTOR

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*

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ASTBURY ROTAS

8.00 am

11.00 am

6.30 pm

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Answers to Sartor's Quiz this month (page 10)

1 – a; 2 – d; 3 – c; 4 – a; 5 – d; 6 – a; 7 – c; 8 – c; 9 – d; 10 – d.

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FROM THE REGISTERS

*Holy Matrimony*

May	2nd	Charlotte Stephanie Dean & Jack Mitchell Smith
May	9th	Kate Sarah Barnes & Finlay James McCance

*Burial of the Dead*

April	24th	Andrew Brown	43	
April	28th	Margaret Sargeant	79	
May	20th	Stephen Parrott		ashes

-----

## JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEKS

### MAY

**Sun 31st TRINITY SUNDAY**

11.00 am Smallwood

June *Parish News* published  
Benefice Service

### JUNE

Wed 3rd 11.30 am Astbury

Holy Communion (CW)

7.30 pm Astbury

Women's Institute

Sat 6th 2.00 pm Astbury

Holy Matrimony

**Sun 7th TRINITY I**

8.00 am Astbury

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Smallwood

Holy Communion (CW)

11.00 am Astbury

Morning Praise (CW)

2.30 pm Somerford

Evensong (BCP)

6.30 pm Astbury

Compline

Wed 10th 11.30 am Astbury

Holy Communion (CW)

**Sun 14th TRINITY II**

8.00 am Astbury

Morning Prayer (BCP)

9.30 am Smallwood

Morning Praise (CW)

11.00 am Astbury

Holy Communion (CW)

6.30 pm Astbury

Holy Communion (BCP)

Wed 17th 11.30 am Astbury

Holy Communion (CW)

Fri 19th 6.00 pm

Copy deadline for *Parish News*

Sat 20th 12.00 noon Astbury

Holy Matrimony

**Sun 21st TRINITY III**

8.00 am Astbury

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Smallwood

Holy Communion (CW)

11.00 am Astbury

Morning Praise (CW)

1.00 pm Astbury

Holy Baptism

6.30 pm Astbury

Compline

Mon 22nd 7.30 pm Astbury

Archdeacon's Visitation

Wed 24th 11.30 am Astbury

Holy Communion (CW)

1.30 pm Astbury

Ladies' Fellowship

***Joint Parishes Calendar, continued***

**JUNE**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>TRINITY IV</b>		
		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Morning Praise (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong (BCP)

**JULY**

<b>Wed</b>	<b>1st</b>	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute

**Sun 5th TRINITY V**

		8.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Holy Communion (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		2.30 pm	Somerford	Evensong (BCP)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Compline
<b>Wed</b>	<b>8th</b>	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
<b>Thu</b>	<b>9th</b>	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

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**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](mailto:wbbtov@gmail.com)

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St John's Church, Smallwood and All Saints' Chapel of Ease,  
Somerford by Marie McCormick

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