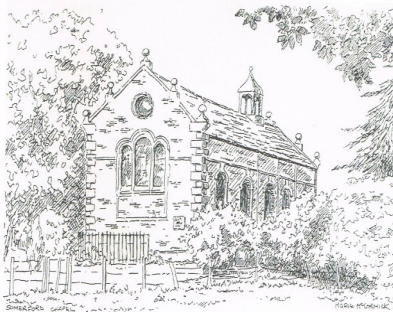
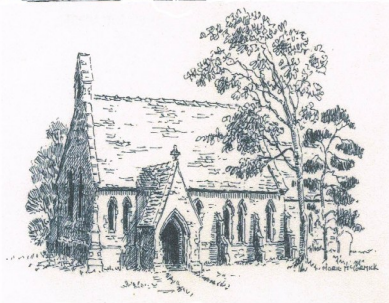
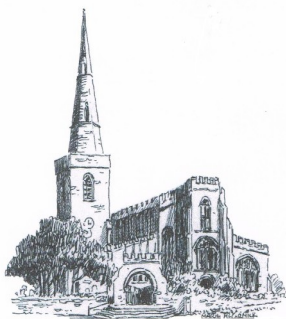


Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

August 2026

Price £1



Rector – Rev Heather Carter

Telephone 01260 702512 email revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk

Assistant Priest – Rev Steph Morris

Telephone 07703 587003 email revstephmarris@gmail.com

Reader – Andrew Bevington

Telephone 07957 961140 email a_bevington@sky.com

Reader – Andrew Bailey

Telephone 01260 640616 email aghsbailey@sky.com

Reader – Prof Denise Morrey-Carter

Telephone 01260 702512 email revdheather@astburychurch.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I thought it might be useful to have a short update on the church building, whilst also reflecting on what this means for our faith and the future.

This year the Fabric Committee of the PCC has been trying to address some of the urgent repairs identified at the recent Quinquennial Review, and to start to consider what funding we might to apply for. The first project has been focussing on issues with the external north-facing wall in the Vestry, and the roof in that corner. A recent visit from a structural engineer has recommended emergency propping of the roof, and temporary closure of the Vestry, along with further investigations of the wall and its supports.

The other major project is concerned with the condition of some parts of the Spire, including the lime mortar between stones, the state of some stones and the supporting internal structures (possibly a cruciform or ring-beam). This also needs further investigation.

It is intended that these works will be submitted as part of a bid to the next round of funding for the September call for Historic England's Places of Worship Renewal Fund (PWRF), but an important focus for this is to be able to persuade Historic England of the wider role of St Mary's in supporting the local community, and even the broader group of churches within Congleton, which it serves as a patron.

As I have been working on this building project as a Lay Minister, and a member of the Fabric Committee, it has also caused me to re-consider the importance of buildings and the history of the church for my own faith, and how much the values and beliefs that we hold as Christians have been shaped and formed by this history. I am just finishing reading ‘Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind’ by Tom Holland, a really special book about the history of Christian faith, and how much this has shaped the values that we hold as a society, because of the revolution of ‘Christianity’ just over 2,000 years ago. I have realised how important historic buildings like St Mary’s have contributed to this faith, and in developing a message centred on love and concern for others.

St Mary’s is a really special church, so if you would like to tell us of other ways in which it does support community activities, and its broader role, it would be really good to hear from you.

Denise Morrey-Carter

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 (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.

Dates for your diary: Afternoon events:

8th August at 3.00 pm: Troublesome Reeds, Liz Cuttell and friends.

23rd August at 2.00 pm: The Sunshine Ukelele Band

28th September at 2.00 pm: Archie.

We will need cake for these concerts (I have already made a fruity traybake!) Please make a cake in order to thank the musicians and raise more money for the church.

Evening events:

Fashion Show 24th October 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Christmas Fair 14th November 11.00 am – 4.00 pm

A Murder Mystery Evening 21st. November 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel 27th November 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

We shall be serving wine at these evening events

Russell Watson Concerts: 16th, 17th & 19th December (tickets sold separately)

Tickets for A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel can be booked online at <http://bit.ly/4vhY0pu>

Watch out for online booking for the other evening events.

Here's hoping we have a very successful Summer/Autumn.

Jane Sharman

Astbury Ladies' Fellowship: On a hot sunny day, Fellowship members met at the Legs of Man for the July luncheon. The chairman welcomed everyone, including our former secretary, Jan Hardie-Woolridge, and new guest, Isobel Beech. We prayed that we might tackle a financially challenging year ahead with motivation and energy. During Grace we gave thanks for our families, friends, fellowship and good food. The prawn cocktails and melon started to arrive and members began to enjoy a very good meal. Turkey, lamb, beef and poached salmon followed and then the sweet trolley with all those choices. During coffee time we thanked Pamela for arranging it all for us once more, and Carole presented her with tokens of our appreciation.

A few notices were given out – there won't be a Fellowship meeting in August, but various fundraising events which we hope everyone will support and enjoy. On Saturday 8th August Liz Cuttell and two friends will play their 'troublesome reeds' in Astbury Church at 2.00 pm and on the 26th the Sunshine Ukelele Band will play for us – admission free, donations appreciated. There will be many more events in the autumn to look out for.

June and Arnold Taylor celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary – June is a former member and Arnold sometimes read poetry to us at Christmas. I have taken them a plant and card with our warmest congratulations. Arnold showed me a picture of them on their wedding day – a very handsome couple. Arnold has written the quiz for the Parish magazine for a number of years.. June had been to church, the first time in along time and had so enjoyed meeting everyone.

The lunch would down with much chatter. We noted that Jan Hardie-Woolridge would give us a flower arranging demonstration at our meeting on 16th September at 1.30 pm in Astbury Village Hall. At our October meeting (Wednesday 21st) we are holding a fund-raising event which will be an open meeting, when Bill Ball will give a talk about the church. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 12.30 pm, then go across to the church for Bill's talk. There will be time to look round, then come back to the Village Hall for refreshments. Please tell your friends about this event – it is free, but donations will be very much appreciated. Let us fill the Hall! Members' help will be needed.

I look forward to seeing you at Jan's demonstration on 16th September at 1.30 pm.

Carole (07484 525829)

Astbury Women's Institute: President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. *Jerusalem* was sung, accompanied by Margaret Hollinshead on piano. Our July birthday buttonholes beautifully made as usual by Cath Cunliffe were then distributed.

Our competition this month was 'A picnic Item' organized and displayed by Jen Fagan and as per the long standing tradition at Astbury meetings, the competition was judged by our speaker on the evening. It was won by Jane Tarrant with her favourite picnic rug. There were some other very imaginative entries, including a bug zapping gun!

This month's speaker was Gary Conley with his talk 'Ay up the pies have come!' and he entertained us with his poignant tales of the history of Working Men's and Social Clubs and his hilarious tales of

working the circuit in the 1970s. Stories, singing, jokes, gossip and inside information, the whole room was laughing out loud and we had a great evening full of reminiscences. Not one person went home without a smile on their face. We have already booked him to come back with his tales of his time down the mines.



The usual tea cake and raffle ended our evening. We then finished with our National Anthem assisted once again by Margaret on piano and the meeting was closed.



At our next meeting, we are joining our friends at Swettenham WI. It's on Wednesday 5th August. 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

Sartor's Quiz (Answers on page 14)

1. Which translation of the Bible was first published in 1611? a. New International Version; b. Septuagint; c. Vulgate; d. King James Version.
2. Which of these is not a book of the Bible? a. Isaiah; b. Hezekiah; c. Jude; d. Zephaniah.
3. An omer is an ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure. It is what fraction of an ephrah? a. Half; b. Quarter; c. Fifth; d. Tenth.
4. In which modern country is Mt Ararat, where Noah's Ark is said to have landed, the highest mountain? a. Israel; b. Turkey; c. Jordan; d. Syria.

5. Which name is traditionally given to the youngest son in the family? a. Isaac; b. Joseph; c. Benjamin; d. Jonathan.
6. Which of these New Testament books is the odd one out? a. Jude; b. Philemon; c. 1 Timothy; d. Titus.
7. What was the name of Timothy's mother? a. Elizabeth; b. Esther; c. Eunice; d. Elisheba.
8. Who 'found Rome brick and left it marble'? a. Julius Caesar; b. Augustus; c. Cicero; d. Hannibal.
9. In which Italian city would you find the Ponte Vecchio? a. Florence; b. Milan; c. Naples; d. Rome.
10. What is a chota peg? a. Hat peg; b. Clothes peg; c. Tent peg; d. Small drink.

WORDS OF WIT & WISDOM

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7, 12: The Golden Rule

When a merry maiden marries
Sorrow goes and pleasure tarries;
Every sound becomes a song,
All is right and nothing's wrong.

W. S. Gilbert

Marriages are made in heaven and fought out on earth.

Susan N. Atwater

Pastor Tony Jenkins consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. 'Does it really bother you that much?' the doctor asked. 'It's not just me,' Jenkins replied. 'It's bothering the whole congregation!'

UCB *Word for Today*, 8th March 2018

The way to bore people is to insist on telling them everything.

Voltaire

English: Once bitten twice shy.

French: Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide.

(A scalded cat fears cold water)

French: Pierre qui roule n'amasse pas mousse.

English ?

A Christian shoemaker is not one who sings psalms while he makes shoddy shoes. He is one who makes good shoes. Vernon Sproxton

I am the Lord that healeth thee; (Exodus 15, 26)

Mine is the Word that sets men free.

If thou wouldst my disciple be,

Take up thy cross and follow me.

A. T.

FASCINATING FACTS

At midday on 17th June 1942, Winston Churchill left London by train for Stranraer on his way to Washington for his third meeting with President Roosevelt in ten months. At Stranraer, a motor boat took Churchill to the Boeing Clipper, a huge flying boat, which had brought him back from Bermuda in January. The start was timed for after dark, to avoid meeting a German Focke-Wolf plane which was apt to cruise over the Western Approaches, and the flight over the Atlantic took twenty six and a half hours.

Germany's great Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, pioneered the modern welfare state with such things as unemployment insurance and old age pensions in Germany in the 1880s, and his example was followed throughout Europe. Governing in the late nineteenth century now required trained servants. Foreign offices could no longer provide congenial refuges for gentlemen who liked to dabble in foreign affairs. Statistics became an important tool and public opinion a new and unpredictable factor in government.

Margaret MacMillan: *The War That Ended Peace*, p9

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834 – 92) was an English Baptist preacher. Born in Essex into a family of Independent ministers, in 1854 he became pastor of the New Park Street Chapel in London. He drew such large crowds with his often humorous sermons that the Metropolitan Tabernacle, seating 6,000, was erected for him (1859 – 61). Apart from 50 volumes of sermons, read worldwide, he wrote collections of pithy sayings in *John Ploughman's Talk* (1869) and many other works. Edith Gilling Cherry, writer of the hymn *We rest on thee our Shield and our Defender*, was so moved by his death that she wrote two sets of verses, *Midnight* and *Morning* or *The Passing of Pastor C. H. Spurgeon*; *Midnight* that night, before she went to sleep, when she heard he was dying, and *Morning* before getting up next day, when the morning papers announced his death.

If you hear a Frenchman talking about 'le ball-trap', he is talking about clay-pigeon shooting.

Thersites: 'I didn't want to know that!'

(Thersites, one of my favourite characters in Homer's *Iliad*, was the voice of protest in the Greek Army before Troy.)

We are pleased to announce that Sartor celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary on 14th July. For those who are not aware, his Latin pseudonym (the Latin for a 'tailor') hides Mr Arnold Taylor, who has been entertaining and educating our readers since his print debut in the December 2012 issue of *Astbury and Smallwood Parish News*. We send our heartiest congratulations to Arnold and June for their significant anniversary.

ALAN FINNERON
Funeral Directors

A Professional Caring Service assured from
CONGLETON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT
Family Run Funeral Directors

Green and Eco-friendly options include **The Coffin Cover**
"a revolution in coffin design"
Dignified external appearance with a simple
internal coffin for burial or cremation.

Pre-Paid  *24 Hour*
Funeral Plans *Service*

 Licensed Member of the British Institute of Funeral Directors
Member of the National Association of Funeral Directors 

32, West Street, Congleton, CW12 1JR
Tel: 01260 277622
www.afinneron.co.uk

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News

Publication & Copy Dates 2026

Publication is on the last Sunday of the preceding month –

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

EGERTON ARMS HOTEL

Cheshire Pub & Dining with Rooms

Peel Lane, Astbury,
opposite St Mary's Church

Tel 01260 228546

~~~~~

Fresh Home-made Food

Real Ales, Beers, Spirits and Soft Drinks

Extensive Garden & Terrace area

Dog Friendly Pub

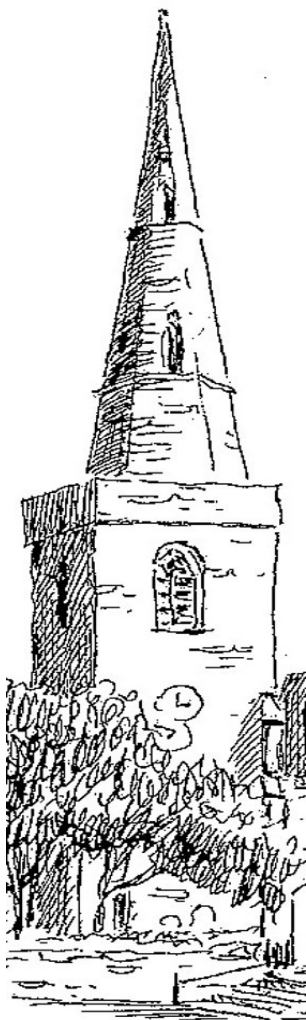
Six Deluxe En-suite Rooms

Function Room available

5 Star Hygiene rating

~~~~~

**A COMMUNITY PUB IN THE
CENTRE OF ASTBURY**



We look forward to welcoming you

St MARY'S CHURCH, ASTBURY

Registered Charity No. 1178664

RECTOR	Rev Heather Carter	01260 702512
ASSISTANT PRIEST	Rev Steph Morris	07703 587003
READERS	Andrew Bevington	07957 961140
	Andrew Bailey	01260 640616
	Prof Denise Morrey-Carter	01260 702512

CHURCHWARDENS	Dr Sally Drage	01260 270217
	Mrs Brenda Cook	01260 290194

SERVICES	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

Hon. Vice Chairman	Mr A. Bevington	07957 961140
Hon. Secretary	Prof D. Morrey-Carter	
Hon. Asst. Secretary	Mr A. Bailey	01260 640616
Hon. Treasurer	Ms P. Kaur	
DEANERY SYNOD	Mrs C. Goodwin, Mrs K. Reading	
ELECTED PCC MEMBERS	Mrs M. Armstrong, Mr A. Bailey, Mrs D. Barnett, Mr A. Bevington, Mrs K. Bolton, Mr T. Buiskool, Mrs B. Cook, Dr S. Drage, Mrs L. Gleaves, Mrs J. Goodier, Mr J. Hulse, Mrs M. Keene, Dr J. Moore, Prof .D. Morrey-Carter	
CO-OPTED PCC MEMBERS	Miss P. Blythe, Ms P. Kaur	
SIDSEPEOPLE	see ASTBURY ROTAS	
BELL RINGERS TOWER CAPTAIN		
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	Mrs B. Cook	
CHURCH RECORDS	Mr W. Ball	01260 279276
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Mr J. Hulse	
FLOWERS	Mrs B. Cook.	
JUNIOR CHURCH		
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Mr W. Ball	01260 279276
ORGANIST	Dr S. Drage	01260 270217
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR	Mr A. Bevington	07957 961140
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING	Mrs S. Brightwell	07857 234686

ASTBURY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Lane, CW12 4RG.

Head Teacher	Miss P. Blythe	01260 272528
Chairman of Governors	Mrs H. Bourke	

WEBSITES – www.astburychurch.org.uk www.facebook.com/StMarysAstbury
CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTOR

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News – August 2026

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*

Answers to Sartor's Quiz this month (page 7)

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

July	9th	Verity Anne Johnson & Paul Anthony Bullivant
July	17th	Devon Ann Cartwright & Mark Barnes

Burial of the Dead

July	3rd	Patrick James Rodgers	84
July	7th	Kathleen Craven	91
July	20th	Alice Muriel Hough	98
July	21st	Leonard Whalley	85
July	22nd	Carol Porter	81

JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEKS

JULY

Sun 26th TRINITY VIII

		8.00 am	Astbury	August Parish News published
		9.30 am	Smallwood	NO SERVICE *
		11.00 am	Astbury	Morning Praise (CW)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Wed	29th	11.30 am	Astbury	Evening Prayer (said) (BCP)
				Holy Communion (CW)

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

AUGUST

Sun 2nd TRINITY IX

		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	5th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Sat	8th	3.00 pm	Astbury	Troublesome Reeds Concert

Sun 9th TRINITY X

		8.00 am	Astbury	Morning Prayer (BCP)
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Morning Praise (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		3.00 pm	Somerford	Audley MVC Concert (page 4)
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evensong (BCP)
Wed	12th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Sat	15th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

Sun 16th TRINITY XI

		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	Evensong (BCP)
Wed	19th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Fri	21st	6.00 pm		Copy deadline for <i>Parish News</i>

Sun 23rd TRINITY XII

		8.00 am	Astbury	NO SERVICE *
		9.30 am	Smallwood	Morning Praise (CW)
		11.00 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		2.00 pm	Astbury	The Sunshine Ukelele Band Concert
		6.30 pm	Astbury	Evening Prayer (said) (BCP)
Wed	26th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
Sat	29th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

* Due to Ministry Team holidays, not all services will be held in July and August

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

AUGUST

Sun 30th TRINITY XIII

8.00 am	Astbury	September <i>Parish News</i> published
9.30 am	Smallwood	NO SERVICE *
11.00 am	Astbury	NO SERVICE *
2.30 pm	Somerford	Hymns and Pimm's Picnic
6.30 pm	Astbury	NO SERVICE *

SEPTEMBER

Wed	2nd	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)
		7.30 pm	Astbury	Women's Institute
Fri	4th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony
Sat	5th	12.00 noon	Astbury	Holy Matrimony

Sun 6th TRINITY XIV

		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	9th	11.30 am	Astbury	Holy Communion (CW)

* Due to Ministry Team holidays, not all services will be held in July and August

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

© Exors of Anthony McCormick.

For permission to reproduce any of the drawings, contact Mr Ball
Typeset & printed at The Old Vicarage, Reades Lane, CW12 3LL

Brother MFC-J5330DW (A4) & MFC-J5910DW (A3)

P – 5330 – 260722 – Ap19