PARISH NEWS

The Beane Valley Benefice

www.achurchnearyou.com
St Mary the Virgin Aston, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary the Virgin Stapleford,
St Michael and All Angels Waterford, St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

November 2026

As I write this letter, I find myself reflecting on the next few weeks which draw us into a season of deep reflection, remembrance, and expectant hope as we journey through a powerful sequence of festivals that connect our past, present, and future in Christ.

We begin with All Saints' Day, (November 1st) where we rejoice in the glorious company of the holy men and women who have gone before us. This is not just a look back at historical figures, but a celebration of the "cloud of witnesses" cheering us on today. We are reminded that holiness is found in ordinary lives lived with extraordinary love, inspiring us to walk our own paths of faith with renewed courage.

Following closely is the commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day November 2nd). In this tender season, we hold our loved ones who have died before God. We name our grief, but we do so in the light of the resurrection hope. Our prayers for those who have gone before us are a continuation of our love, bridging the gap between heaven and earth.



This spirit of memory deepens as we gather for Remembrance Sunday (8th November). Together with the wider community, we meet to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts past and present. We pray for veterans, for those currently serving, and most fervently, for peace in our fractured world. It is a call to us all to be active peacemakers in our daily lives.

The Church liturgical year reaches its grand climax on the feast of Christ the King (22nd November). This Sunday challenges our worldly understanding of power. We worship a King whose crown was thorns and whose throne was a cross. Honouring Him as Lord means aligning our hearts with His kingdom of justice, love, and peace and letting His grace rule our daily lives.



Finally, the great wheel of the year turns, and we come to Advent Sunday (29th November), marking the start of a new Church year. Advent invites us into a holy pause. We live in a culture that rushes us into Christmas commercialism. Alongside this, the Church offers us a sanctuary of quiet waiting and preparation. It is a dual season of expectation: we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's first coming as a vulnerable baby in Bethlehem, while looking forward in hope to His final return in glory.

As we walk together from remembrance to expectation, may this rich journey bless you, your families and all those you love. Let us walk these sacred weeks together in prayer and fellowship giving thanks for all that we can share together.

With my prayers and good wishes, Archdeacon Janet

Living God's Love

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

Beane Valley Benefice Services November 2026

ALL are welcome

Although we are currently without a permanent Rector, services in the Benefice continue with the assistance of visiting clergy. Please do join us – you will be made very welcome!!

Sunday 1st November
11am Watton TAC Contemporary Service
11am Aston Family Service
11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise
6pm Watton TAC Prayer and Praise
No service in Bramfield or Waterford today

Sunday 8th November
10.45am Watton REMEMBRANCE DAY service
11am Aston REMEMBRANCE DAY service
11.15am Stapleford REMEMBRANCE DAY service
No service in Bramfield and Waterford today

Sunday 15th November
11am Watton TAC Contemporary Service
11am Aston Holy Communion
11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise
11.15am Waterford Morning Prayer
No service in Bramfield today

Sunday 22nd November
9.30am Watton Prayer and Praise
11am Watton TAC Psalm Sunday
11.15am Bramfield Holy Communion
11.15am Stapleford Holy Communion
No service in Aston or Waterford today

Sunday 29th November
11am Watton TAC Contemporary Service
11.15am Waterford Parish Holy Communion
4pm Watton CHRISTINGLE
No service in Aston, Bramfield or Stapleford today

Sunday 6th December
11am Watton TAC Contemporary Service
11am Aston Prayer and Praise
11.15am Waterford Holy Communion
4pm Stapleford Gifts and Carol Service
6pm Watton TAC Prayer and Praise
No service in Bramfield today

Wednesday 18th November 2.30pm STAPLEFORD VILLAGE **TEA AFTERNOON in CHURCH.** All are welcome for tea, coffee, cake and chat.



NEW ADDRESS: Fortnightly MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study Fellowship 37 Trafford Close, Stevenage, SG1 3RY with tea and biscuits All are welcome Contact Pauline at pauline.manley1966@gmail.com



Baptisms - We Welcome
Rafe Chesterman-Stearn who was baptised in St Andrew and St Mary, Watton at Stone on 20th September



RIP – We Remember With Love
Frances Stroomer whose funeral and burial took place at St Andrew and St Mary, Watton at Stone on 30th September

On-line bereavement support
griefshare.org; thebereavementjourney.org; cruse.org.uk; teardropgrief.co.uk; ataloss.org;

CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer and visits:

WATERFORD St Michael and all Angels open DAILY 10am – 4pm for more information Contact Churchwarden Malcolm 01992 552531 m.t.wandrag@gmail.com

WATTON at STONE St Andrew & St Mary open DAILY 10am – 3pm for more information Contact Churchwardens Ian and Helen

ASTON St Mary's open **Sundays 12 noon - 4pm** and **Wednesdays 10am - 5pm**. Contact Churchwarden Sara 01438 880750

BRAMFIELD St Andrew's Church. For visits contact Churchwardens Dorothy 01992 582132 or Peggy 01992 550467

STAPLEFORD St Mary Open weekends. For visits contact Peter 07870 681542, John 07773 392991 or Lesley Atterwill 07773 392992
Opening churches is important. If you would be willing to join a rota to help open and shut any of the churches please contact the Churchwarden.

Sunday 29th November CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 4pm at Watton Parish Church



Join us for this popular children's service with blessing of oranges and collection for the Children's Society. Every child takes home their own Christingle orange.

TAKE AWAY CHURCH (TAC)

NEW! EVERYONE WELCOME

FOR THE *CURIOUS*
FOR THE *DOUBTFUL*
FOR THE *WONDERING*
FOR THE *INTRIGUED*

We all have questions we have wanted to ask,
about life, faith…what's going on…
But there's never been the right time or place…
Could this be your time? Come and join us…

If you are interested, please contact us to reserve your place…

Please give us a ring 07780 452478
Or email Richard@Takeawaychurch.com
Details available from Alpha – Alpha:uk@alpha.org





Play Space

Toddlers and Babies!
A village place for Mums, Dads and carers to meet
Watton at Stone

Tuesday mornings (Term time only)
Memorial Hall, High Street
Parking available.
Time: 9.30am – 12noon
Cost: £5.00 per child, and £1.00 per sibling

A lunch snack will be provided for the children.
Singing time at 11.30am

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the Parish church. Contact details: Sharon @ 07931 325288



Come along and play, draw, paint, read, create, build, listen, sing, ride, eat and have fun!!!



TAC Tweens for Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8.
Friday evenings from 6.15pm to 8.15pm
Meeting at The Memorial Hall, High Street, Watton at Stone
UP AND COMING DATES FOR THE DIARY:

November 13th and 23rd
December 4th
Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke,
Tuck Shop and Refreshments
£3.00/person.
For further details, contact Sharon:
07931 325288



CARING for our CHURCHYARDS

TUESDAYS 10am Waterford Church and Churchyard Working Parties contact Churchwarden Malcolm **m.t.wandrag@gmail.com**

To help in **Stapleford, Watton or Bramfield** Churchyards contact the Churchwardens.

ASTON Church and Churchyard Working Parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara **wardenstmarys@gmail.com**

All our churchyards are cared for by Volunteers...could YOU offer occasional help?

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

BRAMFIELD

WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

Bramfield Carpet Bowls
Meets Village Hall
Monday eve 7pm to 9pm
Enquiries Mike Jones
01992550182

Parish Council Meets
Every other 3rd Tuesday of the Month
Clerk Chris Underhill
07714 711253

Village Hall Committee Meets
1ST Tuesday of the Month 8pm
Contact Cheryl Jackson
01992 583958

Bramfield Book Club
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Contact Louise
01992 583173
Gibbslouise83@gmail.com
Please Note
We are currently not taking new members but you can join our waiting list

Bramfield Parish Council

We meet on the third Tuesday of every other month at 19.30 in the village hall. So, this means January, March, May, July, September and November.

Did you know we have a parish website? We have a bit of history, contact details and all documentation such as minutes posted there. Feel free to have a look at bramfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?



Bramfield has a well-kept Tennis Court that is open for use for families from the Village and beyond, we offer a very reasonable Family Membership Fee at £25.00 per year. To take advantage of this amazing deal. Call Cheryl Jackson on 01992 583958.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bramfield Quiz Night
Saturday 14th November - 7.30 pm Bramfield Village Hall - tables of 8
Tickets £8.00 each from Cheryl Jackson 01992 583958 or email
cheryljackson1@aol.com

Bramfield Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 29th November 11am to 2pm - Bramfield Village Hall
Christmas crafts. Cakes, Tombola, Mulled wine, Mince Pies Raffle and lots more

STAPLEFORD

Tai Chi QiGong
Tuesdays 7-8pm Stapleford Village Hall

A relaxing form of Tai Chi. £5 per session pay as you go. Come along and give it a try - all welcome from the villages and wider. Suitable for all abilities, can be done seated. After the autumn break classes start again on 3 November.

Social Art Group
Wednesdays 10am-1pm Stapleford Village Hall

A group of artists who meet once a week to work on their own artworks in a social setting. Come along for a trial session for £3.

Tea Afternoon
3rd Wednesday of the month 2.30-4pm
Stapleford Church

Share tea, coffee, cake and conversation. Free, although donations are welcome. Open to all.

WATERFORD

Waterford Parish News



Looking forward to Christmas!

There's a definite chill in the air now, the days are getting shorter and I can't believe that it's already November! How has the time gone so quickly, you may ask?

Well, in Waterford we've been busy - enjoying a hilarious Quiz Night, run by our own James Bond and Miss Moneypenny, Lacey and Stuart Owen who entertained and challenged us with some great questions and lots of laughter. Then we were awed by a fantastic (low noise) firework display that didn't terrify the neighbourhood, as we sipped our mulled wine and hot chocolate by the roaring bonfire. Both events were sellouts!

Now we're heading towards the latter part of the year and our last event is the **Waterford Christmas Cafe on Saturday 5th December**. I have been reliably informed that Waterford is on the 'nice' list and we can expect a visit from the Great Man himself together with one of his elves! There will be delicious food to tempt you and wonderful crafts to buy and of course an opportunity to have a chat with Father Christmas! So put the date in your calendar and make sure you don't miss out!

WATTON AT STONE



Harvest Donations

The Hertford Food Bank thanks the congregation and Watton School for the generous donations to the Harvest services which have been given to the Food Bank.



Watton-at-Stone library is open every Tuesday morning 10-12 at the Nigel Poulton Community Hall where there is a good selection of books and jigsaw puzzles

Watton Book Worms



It has been 10 years since our group first met. Many books now fill our shelves or e-readers and we are looking forward to many more good discussions. We meet on the **third Friday** of the month **at 7pm** to chat about the chosen book over drinks, snacks and sometimes a dessert.

To find out more please contact:
wattonbookworms@gmail.com



Choir Master / Music Director Wanted



We're a lovely community choir that sings for fun and is seeking a Choir Master/Music Director who can lead us in a wide range of songs

If you'd be interested please contact :
wattonatstonechoir@gmail.com

Hertfordshire resident loses £63,000 to fraudsters

A fraudster posing as a banking investigator has stolen around £63,000 from a resident in Watford.

The victim, who is aged in their 70s, was contacted by a fraudster who claimed to be working for their bank. The fraudster claimed that Manchester Police were investigating some suspicious withdrawals from the account and asked the victim to hand their bank card and details to a courier that was sent to their address. After doing this, the fraudster called again and instructed the victim to send their jewellery to them, for 'safekeeping', through another courier the fraudster had sent.

The bank card was then used to spend tens of thousands of pounds, which along with the value of the jewellery, brought the victim's losses to more than £63,000.

Fraud Triage Manager, Julian Griffiths, from the Serious Fraud and Cyber Unit, said: "Courier fraud is one of the most reported and prolific scams and typically victims' losses run to thousands of pounds. More than £1.8m has been lost by Hertfordshire residents during 2026 to this kind of fraud.

"In most of these cases the fraudster tries to convince their intended victim that they are investigating fraud on their bank accounts, often posing as a police officer or bank staff to make it sound more genuine."

If you receive a message or call you are not expecting, you should be suspicious. The vital things to remember are that someone working for your bank, or the police would:

· **NEVER ask for your bank account details or PIN, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be.**
· **NEVER ask you to withdraw money or purchase high value items and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.**
· **NEVER ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means.**

If you are not happy with a phone call or message and are suspicious of a conversation, end it and call 101 or report online herts.police.uk/report. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress call 999 immediately.

Remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to police, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender.

Alternatively, use a mobile phone or a neighbour's phone or test your landline by phoning a friend or relative first, to ensure you aren't still unwittingly connected to the offender.

If you have concerns about your bank account, visit your local branch.

How to protect yourself:

Remember to follow the above advice. In addition to this, some phone companies offer call screening services that can be effective in blocking marketing cold calls and bogus callers. Contact your phone company and ask about call screening and caller display services.
How can you help?

· Please share this information with your older relatives and friends: this crime has a devastating effect on people and we need to raise awareness to prevent further people becoming victims.

· Report any calls you believe are suspicious as we may be able to trace where the calls are originating from. Please remember, to wait at least five minutes before calling police or use a mobile or neighbour's phone.

· Report suspicious activity at cash points. If you see someone spending a long time at a cashpoint, using a number of different cards and have a hood up or their faces covered, contact police immediately. Often offenders will use cashpoints in the early hours.

For more advice and information about fraud visit: www.herts.police.uk/cyber-fraud.

Please visit Report Fraud for additional information: UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud



Waterford Nature Notes

Feeding Birds, please read and follow this advice, spread the word to family, friends and neighbours.

A disease that is caused by a parasite has destroyed much of the population of Greenfinches in Hertfordshire, has had and is still having a significant impact upon other garden species, including other finches, Wood Pigeons, Doves and others that visit bird feeders. Neighbours in Timber Orchard reported a Goldfinch that was showing the symptoms of the disease, *trichomonosis,* and were on their way home to clean their feeding stations. Symptoms include but are not limited to: signs of general illness; lethargy; fluffed-up plumage; difficulty in swallowing or laboured breathing; wet plumage around the bill; drooling saliva or regurgitating food that they cannot swallow; a visibly swollen neck.

Here is the latest evidence-based advice from a research project into the disease, updated in April this year.

Do not feed seeds or peanuts between May and October. Mealworms and fat or suet products, which are not generally used by species affected by the disease, may be offered throughout the year BUT, use products that do not contain seeds AND remove fat and suet products every other day, cleaning the feeder before refilling it - would you eat suet that had been sitting in the open air for longer than that?

Offer food little and often, do not allow food to remain in feeders, empty them regularly, wash, rinse and dry before refilling.

Birds are familiar with food sources becoming redundant and will adapt, you can help promote this behaviour by removing your feeders altogether for a few days, periodically. This is one of the reasons that birds collect in roosts, a bird that has fed well will appear to others to be in better condition so, when they leave the roost, will be followed by birds that hadn't fed so well the day before.

Empty and clean water baths, bowls, etc. daily.

Proprietary brands of specialist disinfectants are available from supermarkets, pet shops, etc. but a weak solution of household bleach is effective, equipment must be rinsed thoroughly if using bleach.

Move the feeding and drinking stations regularly and often. One of the symptoms of diseased birds is that they regurgitate or spit out food, moving the stations will cause the parasites on the dropped food to die, thereby limiting the spread.

Collect and dispose of any food that has fallen below feeders.

I know this will reduce the number of visits to your garden but, if you really care for wildlife, you will forego your sightings in favour of protecting our birds.

For the full story visit bto.org and search on "feeding garden birds". With Avian Flu, the virus killing Blackbirds, and the general loss of habitat, we are in a crisis.

Please remember, this advice from BTO and RSPB is based on *research* by them and others, it is important that it is followed. Research-based advice is the best that can be given at the time.

Please follow the advice, if it changes in the light of further research I will provide an update. Being without your garden friends for a few weeks here and there is better than being without them for ever.

Malcolm

WATTON SPORTS CONTACTS

PILATES	Laura Jeffs 07710 408974
CYCLING	Alan Headland 01920 830351
WATTON VETS FOOTBALL	Steve Betts 07970 698139
YOUTH FOOTBALL	Derek Hill 01438 813684
LADIES FOOTBALL	Steve Betts 07970 698139
SATURDAY FOOTBALL	Paul Reynolds 07794 791978
ARCHERY	John Meischke 07970 083256
CRICKET	Brad Williams 07801 790915
SHOTOKAN KARATE	Peter Khera 07866 374674
TENNIS	Karen Wing 07984 690727
RAMBLING	Maurice Gordon 01920 426344
TABLE TENNIS	Steve Block 07870 779949

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
KAREN WING
07984 690727

CLUB COACH & CAPTAIN
IAN VOSPER
07960 519373

WATTONTENNISCLUB@OUTLOOK.COM

Bell Ringing

Watton at Stone

Monday evenings 7pm

All abilities welcome

You've probably heard us quite a lot over the summer along with some visiting bands.

Watton at Stone has 8 bells so we have a full octave that can be rung making us quite popular in the ringing community.

All our ringers have had a great year improving their skills and meeting fellow ringers around the county and wider.

We are incredibly excited to have 4 new ringers this year and we had 3 last year making us a very actively growing band.

And we're one of the few towers who has their own 2 teachers!

Bellringing has a reputation of being a dusty old hobby but that's a terrible misrepresentation. It's a very active hobby, keeping your body and mind strong. And there are so many areas to explore, such as maintenance, teaching, composing, historical revival, team leading, competitions and events. Or just plain ringing. Children from 11+ can ring, so you often meet lots of family ringers.

We have a very friendly fun band always keen to help each other and have a laugh with and we often have a pub visit lined up.

You don't need to attend church and you don't need any experience. If you're curious, email us for a tour or more info

Bellringing111@gmail.com

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FREE ENTRY

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

WATTON MEMORIAL HALL
118 HIGH STREET, WATTON AT STONE

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2026
11AM - 4PM

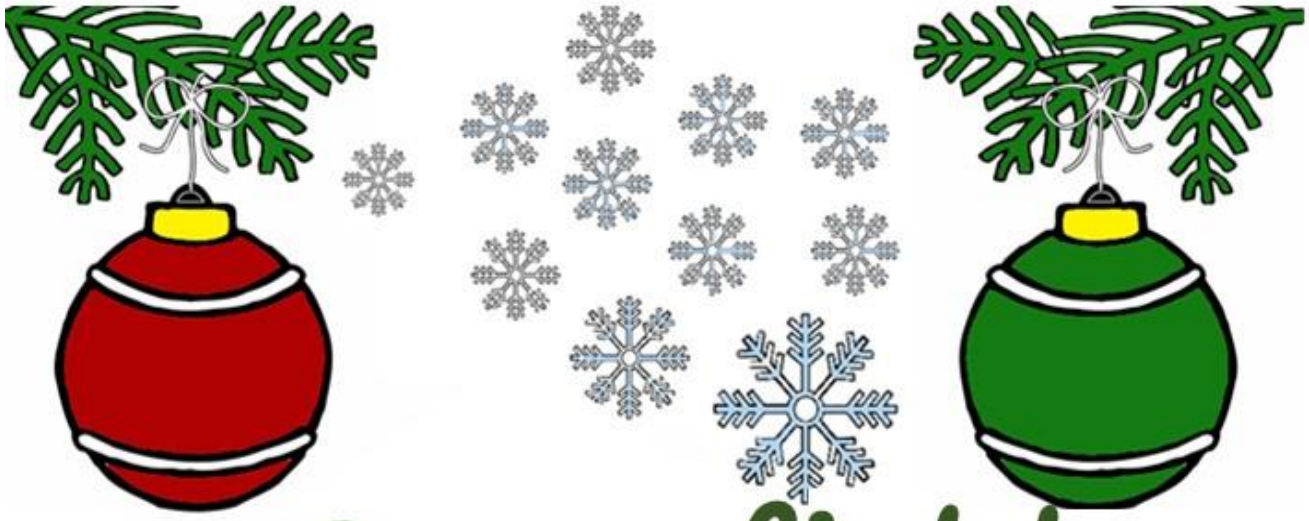
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NERVE TUMOURS UK



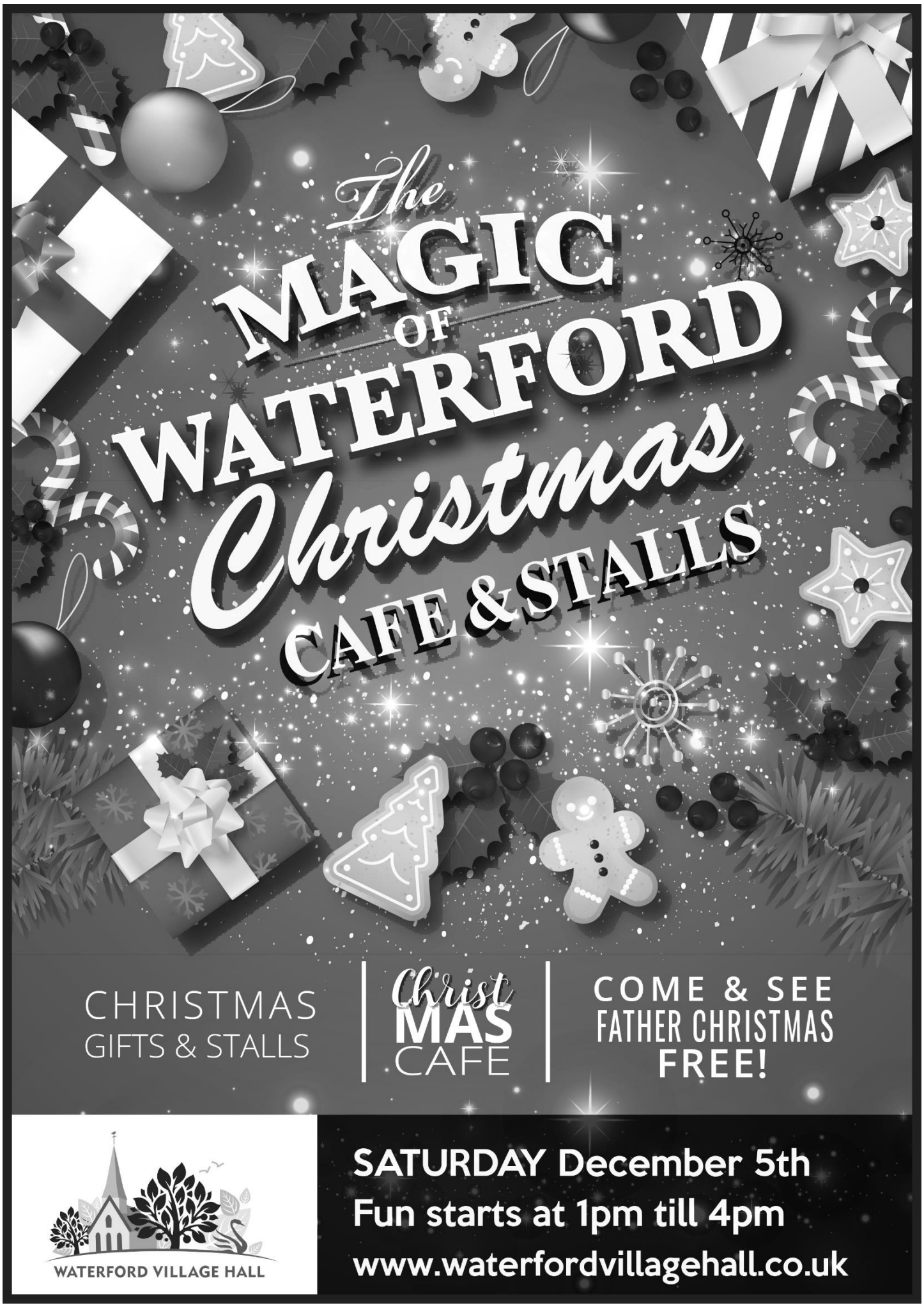
Bramfield Village Hall

Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 29th November

11am to 2pm




The
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OF
WATERFORD
Christmas
CAFE & STALLS
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS & STALLS
Christ
MAS
CAFE
COME & SEE
FATHER CHRISTMAS
FREE!
WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY December 5th
Fun starts at 1pm till 4pm
www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk

PRINT DEADLINE
Please send any items for the next edition
BY 12TH OF THE MONTH
To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

Bramfield
Jenny Clayton
3 Bury Lane, Bramfield
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jenny@jmsprojects.co.uk

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(01992 536405)
caroleccleston@btinternet.com

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(01992 584040)
rayjcole1@tiscali.co.uk

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iancknight31@gmail.com

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Denise Hodgson

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS .....

We are on Facebook

- **St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone**
- **St Mary's Aston**
- **St Mary the Virgin Stapleford**
- **St Michael and all Angels Waterford**

And you can also access an electronic version of the Parish News from either of the following websites:
www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-014A
www.watton-pc.org.uk/news/

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals, burial of ashes, blessings, confirmation or offers to help, please contact the relevant Churchwardens

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Watton at Stone

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Waterford

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Stapleford

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Bramfield

BENEFICE DETAILS
Please contact your local Churchwardens

Churchwardens
Aston: Sara Hudson (01438 880750)
Tim Alexander (01438 880519)
Bramfield: Peggy Wareham (01992 550467)
Dorothy Abel Smith (01992 582132)
Stapleford: Nicola Page (Church rep) (01992 302501)
Lesley Atterwill (Church Rep) (07773 392992)
Waterford: Malcolm Wandrag (01992 552531)
Watton: Ian Knight (07778 401799)
Helen McCash (07817 384117)

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stuarbutcher01@aol.com

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