

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday	2nd July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Ted's Mixing Bowl
Wednesday	2nd July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Craft, Cuppa & Chat
Wednesday	2nd July	7pm	Leebotwood VH	Filling Station
Friday	4th July	5.30pm	Dorrington VH	Youth Club
Saturday	5th July	4pm	Leebotwood VH	Summer Social
Saturday	5th July	6.30pm	Stapleton VH	Bond Themed Film Night
Sunday	6th July	9.30am	Stapleton Church	All Age Worship
Sunday	6th July	10am	Woolstaston Church	BCP Communion
Tuesday	8th July	10am-12pm	Stapleton VH	Chat & Do
Tuesday	8th July	3.15-5.30pm	Dorrington VH	Messy Church Animal Family
Tuesday	8th July	7.30pm	Dorrington VH	Dorrington WI
Wednesday	9th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Ted's Mixing Bowl
Wednesday	9th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Craft, Cuppa & Chat
Wednesday	9th July	7pm	Leebotwood VH	Smethcott WI
Sunday	13th July	9.30am	Stapleton Church	Holy Communion
Sunday	13th July	11am	Dorrington Church	Holy Communion
Sunday	13th July	11am	Leebotwood Church	Morning Prayer
Sunday	13th July	6.30pm	Smethcott Church	Evening Prayer
Monday	14th July	7.30pm	Longnor VH	Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	16th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Ted's Mixing Bowl
Wednesday	16th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Craft, Cuppa & Chat
Sunday	20th July	10.30am	Longnor Church	Holy Communion
Sunday	20th July	11am	Dorrington Church	Informal Worship
Sunday	20th July	6.30pm	Stapleton Church	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	22nd July	10am-12pm	Stapleton VH	Chat & Do
Wednesday	23rd July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Ted's Mixing Bowl
Wednesday	23rd July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Craft, Cuppa & Chat
Friday	25th July	7pm	Longnor VH	Longnor Village Social
Sunday	27th July	10.30am	Leebotwood Church	Benefice Communion
Wednesday	30th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Ted's Mixing Bowl
Wednesday	30th July	10am-12pm	Dorrington VH	Craft, Cuppa & Chat
Sunday	3rd August	10.30am	Woolstaston Church	Benefice Communion
Thursday	21st August	7.30pm	Stapleton VH	Stapleton's Antique Roadshow
Tues-Fri	26th-29th Aug	9.45am	Stretton Parish	Kid's Holiday Club
Saturday	6th Sept	2pm	Picklescott VH	Late Summer BBQ
Saturday	4th Oct	6.30pm	Stapleton VH	Italian Themed Evening
Friday	28th Nov	7pm	Stapleton VH	Music Night



St Michael and All Angels
Woolstaston



St Michael and All Angels
Smethcott

Steeplewood Fold Magazine



St Mary
Longnor



St Mary
Leebotwood



St John the Baptist
Stapleton



St Edward
Dorrington

All entries for the next edition must be submitted no later than **14th July**, and just a reminder that the next edition is our **August/September double edition**. To organise subscription to this magazine please contact Emily Hill (07471 474924) or email steeplewoodfoldmagazine@gmail.com and monthly delivery can be arranged.

July 2025

45p

We are the Benefice of Steeplewood Fold including:
St Edward Dorrington,
St Mary Leebotwood,
St Mary Longnor,
St Michael and All Angels Smethcott,
St John the Baptist Stapleton
St Michael and All Angels Woolstaston.

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To arrange a Christening (Baptism) or Wedding, please contact our Rector Rev Laura.

You may find some useful information here:

<https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/for-parents/>

<https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/>

For general information you may find the website

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/useful>.

For general enquiries please contact Rev. Laura on:

revlaura72@icloud.com

01743 719578

Rev. Laura is out of the office on Monday mornings and Fridays.

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Schools

St Edward's C of E Primary School, Dorrington

The Head Kerrie Lewis 01743 718462
Nursery School Penny Hill 07890 021734

Longnor (C of E Controlled)

The Head Lisa Edgerton 01743 718493

Village Halls – Booking

Dorrington	Stephen Thornton	07762 449935	info@dorringtonvillagehall.co.uk
Leebotwood	Susan Morgan	01694 643353	Leebotwoodbookings@gmail.com
Longnor	Sandra Hasted	01743 718255	
Picklescott	Stephen Day	01694 751479	stephen.day35@gmail.com
Stapleton	Susan Wills	01743 719071	susanwills769@gmail.com

Dorrington and Leebotwood Brownies

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Asst. Brownie Guider Hannah Ashton 07590 618230
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“The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.”

Promoting a Safer Church, House of Bishops.

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child or adult, or have suspicions about the behaviour of an adult:

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Rector:	or,	Benefice Safeguarding Officer
Rev. Laura Hnatiuk,		Mr Mike James

01743 719578
revlaura72@icloud.com

01743 718110

Hereford Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor: Mr Carl Steventon – 07593 817717
Hereford Diocese Safeguarding Team - 01432 373300

Keep a record of what has happened,
your concerns and your actions.

Only share with others who ***need to know***.

NOTICE

New Editor Needed

Our editor has made the decision to step down, so we are looking for a new volunteer to take up this role.

Handover training will be given until you feel confident, however prior knowledge of publisher software would be helpful. If you do not already have publisher software, the cost of this will be covered by the magazine committee.

Please get in contact Rev Laura (revlaura72@icloud.com) or the chair of the magazine committee, Margaret (advertisingsteeplewoodfoldmag@gmail.com) if you'd like more information or to volunteer for this post.

Please consider if you could take up this role, we have not yet had any enquiries despite months of asking.

A message from the Rectory written by Emily Hill, Rev. Laura's Daughter

This year the Diocese of Hereford has called us to a year of engagement. We live in an age where communities don't seem as close-knit as they are once remembered to be, technology allows us to engage with people across the world but instead we are often met with bleak news and people can feel lonelier than ever. Our churches can give us a physical hub for fellowship, but we are called to go out and be a light to others, this is what engagement means to me.

Church has always been a part of my life, it's a huge privilege of mine to have been surrounded, cared for and inspired by so many people who loved God and loved one another. I have found that often it's the "smaller" actions that have a profound impact on me and my faith: the offer of a cuppa, an invite somewhere or the sound of a choir. But engaging doesn't only benefit the people around us, it gives us the opportunity to be part of a wider community or have a sense of belonging and purpose. 1 Corinthians 12 likens the church to a body, reminding us that despite the body having many different parts, each part has its own special function, but for the body to be whole it needs each part equally. This is true of our own parishes too, everyone has a strength and if we can help people to flourish, the church will flourish. I'm not a great speaker (or blogger, as it turns out!) so standing in a pulpit will never be my strength, but I am quite nerdy and so love our weird little church rules and synodical processes, they bore some people but I find them strangely fascinating. I know some great youth workers, vicars and sidespeople, they are well suited to their roles and I take great comfort knowing they are there, helping our church to grow in ways I couldn't.

I wonder though, if you've ever found yourself in a role that you don't think you're good enough to do? I'm the first to admit that I really struggle with imposter syndrome when I'm in my church roles, surrounded by very intelligent, experienced people that seemingly find it all so easy, but I know I'm not alone in this. Honest conversations with people in all levels of the church have made me realise that so many of us struggle with imposter syndrome, but why? We believe that God has a plan for us, and if we're just trying to do our best, then what is there to doubt?

I find that in church we are often good at assuming that a calling is something big, a change that might require you to uproot your life, move house or change jobs; but we can't underestimate those 'smaller' callings and actions; engagement can look different for everyone. But more importantly, please never underestimate yourself, you're not an imposter, we're all just doing our best, hoping that we are fulfilling the purpose that God has for us.



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From the Diocese - Written by the Archdeacon of Hereford, Ven. Derek Chedzey

Darkness and light are often a shorthand in our western popular culture for the forces of good and evil. We know instantly in films and television who the heroes and villains are often by the colour of their clothes. So often arguments in our culture are often presented as binary choices between right and wrong, good and bad, left wing or right wing, etc. Just look at the reporting in our news media about world events and you quickly see that we are presented with clear choices rather than any sense of nuance. I was listening on the radio as I prepared to write this, and what was being suggested was that when it comes to political debate most people would prefer nuance to bold binary statements.

In many other cultures too, darkness represents evil or hidden unsavoury activities. Alongside this we may find that many of our human fears revolve around darkness and what hides in it. Yet what has struck me recently is that in scripture the idea of darkness is not always so binary. I want to challenge you to look again at what the writers of the bible say and begin to understand darkness with the eyes of faith rather than through the lens of culture. In Psalm 139 the psalmist talks about darkness from God's perspective :

"Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You." Psalm 139:12

God does not differentiate light and dark in the way we do, after all he created both of them. We do not live in a 'ying and yang' universe of two equal powers of good and evil or opposing forces of light and dark like a celestial chess set. We don't live in a Star Wars like universe with mystical forces at play that are held in balance with a constant struggle of the dark side and the light side!

The bible however does use the ideas of light and dark to differentiate between those who love and follow God and those do not. Isaiah in his prophecy about the coming Messiah reminds them that when God comes to live amongst them then the light of the kingdom will shine on them. The prophet reminds them in a powerful metaphor that the light of the kingdom will dispel and overcome the darkness.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." Isaiah 9:2

We should however never equate that with two equal and opposite powers. Instead, it is an analogy which helps us understand that we have choices and God represents the best choices available to us. Many of the New Testament writers talk about the Christian faith as choosing to live in the daylight rather than in the night time. They want the early church to understand that we need to live consistently, transparently and in the open so people can see the difference our faith makes to the way we live our lives. John in the great prologue to his Gospel uses exactly this picture reminding us that God cannot be overwhelmed or swept away by the darkness.

"What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.." John 1:5 Message

It reminds us too that even at the very darkest moments of our lives God has not walked away from us, he is not absent, and he stands alongside us. Matthew in his Gospel recognises this when he records these words from Jesus to his disciples.

"What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops." Matthew 10:27

Jesus wants the disciples to know that he is with them and alongside them at every stage and he will not turn his back or walk away from us. It is the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost who whispers to our hearts and guides us in our daily lives, it is the Spirit who will give us the words to speak when we don't know how to pray. If as you read this because of life's circumstances you feel trapped in the darkness, remember that God stands in it with you.



St Edward's Dorrington

July Services

13th Holy Communion—Rev Laura Hnatiuk

20th Morning Worship—Lay Leaders

27th Group Service at Leebotwood

Services during July, with the exception of the 27th will be in Dorrington church. Tea and Coffee will be served at the conclusion of all our services. If you are near the church at about 12 noon and would like to join us for refreshments please do so, you will be very welcome.

Many thanks to those that have provided flowers in the church recently, this is greatly appreciated and keep up the good work.

Filling Station takes place on the first Wednesday of each month. Plenty of tea, coffee and cake will be served from 7pm, followed by a time of worship and a talk given by an invited speaker. The speaker in July is Terry Hotchkiss who will conclude our theme of Light in the Darkness. This has been an excellent theme with each speaker bringing something different for us to think about. Please make every effort to attend and enjoy fellowship, worship and teaching in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Ted's Mixing Bowl continues Wednesday morning, numbers are good, and we are thrilled to welcome the nursery every other week when noise levels go through the ceiling. Many thanks to those who run this event. I go for the cake!!!!

We have been very saddened to hear of the death of **Dennis Oakley**, suddenly at the end of May. His funeral service took place at St Edwards on the 27th June. Den had been Church Warden on a number of occasions and served the church in many ways. I remember one harvest service when Den acted as auctioneer to sell off the produce at the end of the service. Doing so in a very humorous way. We send condolences to his wife Barb, daughters and all family members. Den will be greatly missed in the village.

During the month of August there will be one service of Holy Communion each Sunday. Please make sure you are aware of the location for each service and the time the service starts. This enables our excellent teams of Lay Leaders to have a well-earned break.

A thought... Jesus gave us a new commandment "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13) In this world where there seems to so much strife and discord, where it seems a lot of people only think of number one. Let us ask the question am I a loving person. Remember kindness is love in action, so let us all try to be more loving and kinder to one another. A challenge try to do one act of kindness each day and see what happens and how it makes you feel.

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Times: 7.45am - 8.45am

Cost: £3 per child (£2 for additional siblings)

After School Club Information - A light tea is served daily. Weekly food choices & activity timetables are available on our school website and in our school newsletter. Themed nights every 2 weeks.

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Full Session £8.00 per child (£4.00 for additional siblings)

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What's On @ Dorrington Village Hall

	Weekly	Monthly
Monday	Chair Yoga 2pm—45mins Short Mat Bowls 2-4pm	
Tuesday	Clatterbugs 9.45-11.30 Zumba 6.30-7.30pm	WI second Tuesday of the month 7.30-10pm
Wednesday	TEDS 10-12- coffee morning all welcome Craft, Cuppa & Chat 10am-12pm Everyone is welcome even if just for a chat.	Dorrington Young Farmers First Wednesday of the month 7.30-9pm
Thursday	Badminton 9.30-11.30 Yoga—General class all welcome 2pm— 1hour 15mins Brownies 5.30-8.30pm	
Friday		First Friday of the Month Youth Club 5-8pm
Saturday	Diana Griffiths School of Dance & Drama 9-3.30	

EVENTS: for more information see our facebook page.

Tea Dance first Sunday of the month.

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Dorrington WI

Dorrington WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Dorington Village Hall.

We are a friendly group, enjoy our meetings, have fun and love learning new things. We have a variety of activities and speakers planned for this year.

July 8th – Posh Picnic

August – Dorington Bowling Club - DTBC

September 9th -Shrewsbury History

October 14th – Biscuit Lady!

November 11th – Making a light up bottle

December 9th – Wine tasting with Cheese



If you would like to come along but feel slightly nervous about coming alone and meeting with us, or not sure if WI is for you, please do give myself or Margaret a call, we are more than happy to chat to you about our group and arrange to welcome you at your first meeting. You are welcome as a guest to 'try us out' but I am sure you will love it and will want to join Dorington WI.

I joined a couple of years ago, I was newish to the village and nervous, but I was made ever so welcome and now feel such a part of 'our village', I have made lots of new friends.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our group.

Secretary - Rachel Wintle – 07898213032

President – Margaret Roberts - 07419847846



Community Coffee Morning every Wednesday

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We are a small friendly group of crafters.

We meet every Wednesday morning between 10am and 12pm.

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Dorrington Village Hall

Contact: Rosie Gittings

Email: rosie6857@gmail.com

The Beeches Medical Practice

The Dorrington Surgery

T: 01743 874565 - E: thebeeches.medicalpractice@nhs.net



We are actively promoting our "use it or lose it" campaign which is encouraging all patients that we can potentially dispense medication to use our dispensing services. To meet the criteria you need to live over 1 mile from a retail Pharmacy.

If you are on regular medication and are interested in becoming a dispensing patient speak to a member of the dispensary team and they can nominate you in our system.

We are able to offer medication supplied in a pill organiser (dosette box), which is a multi-compartment compliance, used for storing scheduled doses of medication. This is great for some patients on a lot of medication to remember to take their tablets at the correct time of day. Please speak to Lisa, Dispensary Manager to discuss further if you or a family member is interested.

We now have some delivery hours we are able to offer to patients that struggle to get out of the house, please speak to Lisa, to discuss if you're interested.

Opening Times

Monday 8:30 - 13:00

Tuesday 8:30 - 13:00

Wednesday 8:30 - 13:00 /
14:00 - 18:00

Thursday 8:30 - 13:00

Friday 8:30 - 13:00

Weekend - Closed

E: prescriptions.dorrington@nhs.net

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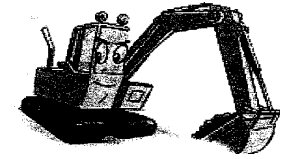
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St Mary's Leebotwood

Church Cleaning

Sunday 6 July	Helen Howse/Di Brotherton
Sunday 13/20 July	Cherry Downes
Sunday 27 July	Anne Hone
Sunday 3 August	Anne Hone

Flowers

Sunday 6 July	Mary Duddell/Doreen Lloyd
Sunday 13/20 July	Jenny Griffiths/Lynn Williams
Sunday 27 July	Anne Hone
Sunday 3 August	Anne Hone

It was noted at the PCC that the Church is very grateful for a recent legacy and gift which will be put towards the roof project – thank you.

Forth coming events for your diaries:

Pottery and Prosecco on 26th June – sold out
Historic Churches Cycle Ride/Walk/Drive 13th September and Fete at the Church – details to follow next month
Scarecrows during September-October – details to follow
Harvest Service on Sunday 12th October
Harvest Supper on Friday 17th October

Recycle for the Roof is relaunched for 2025 – please see poster in magazine. An excellent opportunity to revamp wardrobes.

Leebotwood has two weddings this summer and we pray for the couples to enjoy their days and wish them well in their futures together:

June 7th Sarah Elvins married Alan Jones
and on
August 1st Katie Parkes and David Round are to be married

The next PCC meeting is 4th September in the Village Hall.

Services for July:

13th July 11am Morning Prayer
27th July 10.30am Benefice Communion

Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council Meeting

14th July 2025 7:30pm Longnor Village Hall

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St Mary's, Leebotwood

Recycle For The Roof Is Back!!

Do you have clothes that no longer fit and that you no longer wear?

Why not donate them to the church to help us raise funds for the roof

We are asking for donations of good quality, second hand, women's, men's and children's clothing

DONATION DROP OFF POINTS
LEEBOOTWOOD CHURCH
DORRINGTON RECTORY

UNABLE TO DROP OFF IN PERSON
 Ring Tony Potts on 07713 064 629
 or Karen Mason on 07800 960 673
 who will arrange to collect and drop off on your behalf

All funds raised will be used for the restoraion of our parish church




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Leebotwood Village Hall

SUMMER SOCIAL- SATURDAY JULY 5TH

4pm til 8pm

Summer sun (hopefully!), live music from 'Macey O '5pm til 6pm ,
Bring friends and family .
BYO drinks, nibbles or picnic etc

Next village hall meeting-7.30pm Tuesday August 12th at the village hall. All very
welcome.

Yoga

Thursdays 9.30am
tel. Becca 07905 236805

Small Holders Group;

2nd Thursday of every month
Email shopshiresmallholders@gmail.com

Art class

email Lesley Brown for dates
lesley@lesleybrownart.co.uk

Need extra table cloths for your summer party?

trestle tables , comfy dining chairs ,party glasses etc for hire. Donation only.

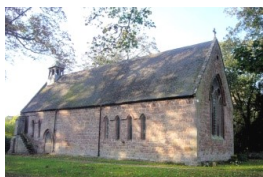
If you would like to hire the hall for any events or hire crockery/glasses/tables/
chairs or hot water urns etc please contact tel Heather 07910 117106 or bookings
secretary

Bookings secretary on 01694 643 353

Or leebotwoodbookings@gmail.com

CPR/Defib awareness session.

Monday August 11th 7pm . In the village hall.
Call Heather 07910 117106



St Mary's Longnor

Service

20th July 10.30am

Holy Communion

Sidesperson

Annabel Warburg

Reader

Trevor Thomas

27th July 10.30am

Apologies that there will be no service in Longnor on 13th July.

Altar Flowers & Brasses

5th & 12th July

Liz Holdsworth

19th & 27th July

Caroline Francis

Church cleaning

Annabel Warburg & Sophie Corbett

Longnor Flower Festival – THANK YOU!

On behalf of Longnor PCC, we would like to say a huge thank you for the wonderful support we had for last month's Flower Festival in celebration of the 750th anniversary of Longnor Church. We are extremely grateful to everyone who created gorgeous floral displays in church, baked cakes, grew plants, donated books, jigsaws and raffle prizes, helped in the Village Hall with stalls and refreshments, and to everyone who came along to support the event and make it such a joyful success. And a big thank you to the children of Longnor School for all their fabulous artwork and planters.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and hard work, we raised a fantastic total of over £2,500.

Ride & Stride for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust – Saturday 13th September

Ride & Stride is a nationwide church-crawl where you can visit as many (or as few) churches as you like, between 10am and 6pm. You can walk, run, cycle, ride or drive. Just collect a few sponsors and then plan where you want to go – there is no set route – and enjoy visiting some of Shropshire's beautiful churches (many of which will be offering refreshments to help you on your way).

To take part, download a sponsorship form from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust website www.shropshirehct.org.uk/, where you can also find more information. Or contact Annabel Warburg (annabelwarburg135@gmail.com). The money you raise will be shared 50:50 between your nominated church and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs and renovations. Please nominate Longnor Church!

Longnor Village Socials

Come along to the Village Hall from 7.00pm on the last Friday of every month for a family-friendly get-together, a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Bar and refreshments available. Everyone welcome.

Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council Meeting

14th July 2025 7:30pm Longnor Village Hall



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**We enjoy a bit of everything...
walks, talks, days & evenings out,
and everything in between whilst at the
same time, helping our community.**

Your nearest Inner Wheel Club is:



Inner Wheel Club of Shrewsbury
We meet at the Beaconsfield Club Shrewsbury
on the second Wednesday in the month at 12.30pm
Contact Margaret Evason 07870 346180
mvevason@gmail.com
for further information



www.iwdistrict20.com



St. Michael and All Angels Smethcott
*Encouraging the whole community to discover the
good news about Jesus Christ*

13 July
27 July

Flowers and Brasses

Geoff Jarrett
Ruth McKim

Cleaning

Nicola Strudwick
Ros Tiernan

Thought for the month

Perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Services:

13 July will be our lovely evening service starting at 6.30 pm. This will be followed by a barbecue (weather permitting). If possible please bring chairs and a drink of your choosing.

27 July will be a benefice communion service starting at 10.30 in Leebotwood church. All very welcome.

Forthcoming Services –

Saturday 11 October is the date of our Harvest Supper and Auction. Further details will be available nearer the time.

Sunday evening 19 October will be our Harvest Festival

Many congratulations to Rachael and Doug, married at Smethcott Church on 21 June. We wish them many happy years together.

We would like to thank all the volunteers helping out at the Evening Service in June and the churchyard mowers.

June Meeting Report

I can only describe the June meeting as euphoric! A whole coachload of us visited Bodnant Gardens the day prior to our meeting. Our 'Time to Chat' slot ran well over time. But we did manage to settle down ready to listen to our speaker who was Sophie Eades from the Community Resource team. Although titled 'Falls Awareness', it was so much more than that. Focussing initially on building body strength, eating well and maintaining contact with your community and friends, Sophie had numerous tips for living more safely as you age. Having a key safe box, in case of an emergency is a great idea. But if you leave your key in the lock on the inside no one can actually get in. Removing rugs and trailing wires and using night lights for safety makes sense. Being aware of who to contact for help with simple tasks was highlighted. Community resources can do such things as change lightbulbs. Far better than trying to do it yourself and having a fall in the process, just ask for help

Margaret proposed the vote of thanks and Sophie remained behind to answer personal questions and take names for further contact if requested. As a Resource Team Officer she is able to refer people to the appropriate help team for future assistance. Several members requested this support and will be contacted privately in the near future. Sophie also judged our flower of the month competition and it was won.....once again, by our prolific gardener, Christine G.

The business meeting was fairly brief, but very positive and a lot of progress. Sarah has checked our insurance status with a view to allow us to plan a stall for the local Tractor Run event in September.

We need someone to take over the sale of the NFWI Raffle tickets for this year. A Book of photos from our archive needs to be reviewed and have details of people places and the events all labelled for the future. We were reminded that there is another of the WI Road Trips to be held at Roden, all welcome to come along and meet other WI groups in the area.

Margaret W has updated the Whatsapp planning group for the show exhibits we need for Minsterley and Burwarton shows. Members were invited to join in with suggestions for the exhibits. Our first meeting was also arranged for a weeks time.

Suzanne was congratulated for arranging a hugely successful trip to Bodnant Gardens. The weather was wonderful, the garden tour given by one of the Bodnant Volunteers was really interesting and everyone had a wonderful time. Suzanne is already looking for another place to visit next year. Thank you for all your hard work Suzanne.

Our next meeting. July 9th Leebottwood Village Hall Steve Cross, Shropshire Falconery

Everybody Loves Owls.

There is no meeting in August

Information Suzanne Gill 07749575833





**SMETHCOTE
WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE**



Youth Club

**Fridays 5:30pm to 7:30pm
@ Dorrington Village Hall**

Ages 9-16
(Under 9's must bring a parent and one parent per child please)

	3 January 2025
	7 February 2025
	7 March 2025
	4 April 2025
	2 May 2025
	6 June 2025
	4 July 2025
	5 September 2025
	3 October 2025
	7 November 2025
	5 December 2025

For more information please contact Edward Marvin
(07985103213)

Dorrington Bowling Club

Why don't you try bowling?

Bowls is a sociable sport played by people of all ages and abilities. We bowl throughout the year, outdoors in summer and indoors in winter. You need no special equipment to start, we will lend it to you.

To learn more about indoor bowling contact Tom Hewitt 01743 718420 or for outdoor bowling contact Peter Smith 01743 719294.



Dates for July and August

Our meetings run all through the summer,

July 8th & 22nd
August 5th and 19th.

There will be things to do, but its also a great time
to make progress with your own work.

Stapleton Village Hall



Chat&Do

Information Carol 01743 718451
beaumont.carol@gmail.com

Coffee Craft & Conversation
All with a great Cuppa and Cake
10am - 12pm, £3 per session

SMETHCOTE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Programme May - July 2025

May 14 Leebotwood The Biscuit Club
Vic Graham

June 11th Picklescott Falls Awareness
Sophie Eades, Community Resource

July 9th Leebotwood Everybody Loves Owls
Steve Cross Shropshire Falconry

THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

We meet at 7pm for refreshments and Time to Chat
the meeting starts at 7.30

More information, contact our President
Sizanne Gill 07749 575833



St John the Baptist Stapleton

Please check the centre of the magazine for information about Services here at Stapleton and all other Services in our benefice.

Our morning Services at Stapleton will continue at the time of 9.30am in July, this will be reviewed in September.

100 Club winners in July

£20 65 The Beever family

£10 27 Colin Heywood

Green bin

The green bin in the Churchyard is shared with the village hall.

The village hall kindly paid the annual charge for it.

When going to use it recently the Church and village hall have found it is full or not even there. Please respect those who use it and have paid for it. Thank you

Thank you to all who supported the Bookfest, if you missed it lots of books are in the Church porch.

The Library van will be at the Lychgate on 1st 15th and 29th July

Dates for your diary

13th September Church clean up

28th September Harvest Festival and Lunch.

During July there are events in the Village hall which you will find highlighted in the magazine, on Facebook or on the Parish notice board outside the village hall.

1st Dorrington & Leebotwood Brownies



Dorrington Village Hall

6.30 - 8pm, Thursdays in Term Time

Brownies is for girls aged 7 -10 years old, we play games, make friends and have fun doing crafts and outdoor activities.

If your daughter would like to join us now or in the future, give us a ring and we'll tell you more.

Contact: Ruth Lawrence Brownie Guider 07830 815071

Hannah Ashton Asst. Brownie Guider 07590 618230

Or email: dorringtonbrownies@gmail.com



Badminton

**Monday nights – 8pm to 10pm at
Church Stretton Sports Centre**

£6

If you enjoy playing badminton, then feel free to come and join us.

We play doubles, making up teams with whoever has the energy to keep going – we don't play to a league or table.

If you're interested, please contact James on 07979474326, or just turn up.



FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER



STAPLETON VILLAGE HALL
will become Ronnie Scott's
for the evening

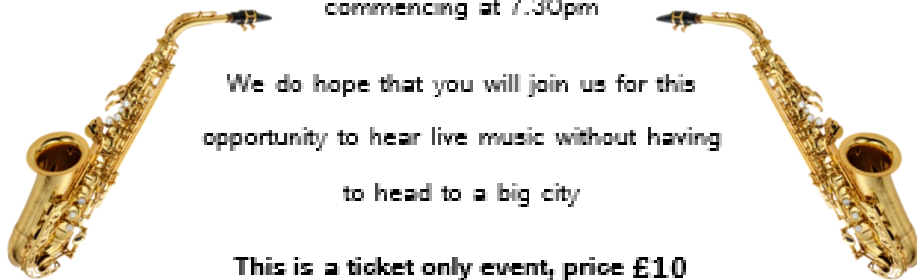
We are delighted to be able to welcome the local Shropshire Jazz
 Group 'HOOT' for an
 informal and relaxed evening of live music

Bar will open at 7pm with the set
 commencing at 7.30pm

We do hope that you will join us for this
 opportunity to hear live music without having
 to head to a big city

This is a ticket only event, price £10

available from Sue, our Bookings Clerk, email - susanwillis769@gmail.com

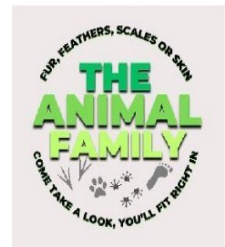


REV. HENRY FLETCHER'S, MUNSLOW'S AND POOR'S LAND CHARITY

This is a reminder that this charity exists to help residents of Smethcott Parish who are in need, and additionally for the general or individual benefit of the inhabitants, as the trustees see fit.

There are five trustees. Chair being Rev. Laura Hnatiuk, Two trustees nominated by the Parish Council, currently Martin Morris and Tony Phillips, and two co-opted trustees currently Carolyn Brunt and Geoff Jarrett.

If you feel that you, someone you know, or your organisation may be eligible and would benefit from a grant then please feel free to contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Miss Sophie Forbes (07890 149383) or any of the trustees direct. Your application will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



TUESDAY 8th July
From 3:15-5:30
Dorrington Village
Hall SY5 7LD

Come and meet some of Gods AMAZING creatures with The Animal Family.
 An incredible hands-on animal experience at Messy Church!

Please RSVP to our free event (donations welcome)

For more info contact Sam: samadelan@gmail.com or tel: 07967355024
 children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult





St Michael and All Angels Woolstaston

Church Flowers:

Sunday 6th July - Tipton Family
August 3rd - Allison Rodenhurst

The next service will be on July 6th at 10 am.

We all enjoyed the flower festival at Longnor Church, the flowers were fantastic, everybody had worked so hard to have a great event.

Dear Friends

The next Filling Station meeting will be on Wednesday 2 July 2025 at Leebotwood Village Hall at 7.30 pm with refreshments available from 7.00pm.

The speaker will be Terry Hotchkiss Pastor at Grace Church Shrewsbury, talking on this year's theme 'Light in the darkness' John 8:12.

There will not be a meeting in August. The following meeting will be on 6 September 2025.

We hope you can join us.



SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

An Italian Themed Evening



A meal of Lasagne, salad and garlic bread,
followed by an Italian dessert

A vegetarian option will be available

Doors and bar open at 6.30pm

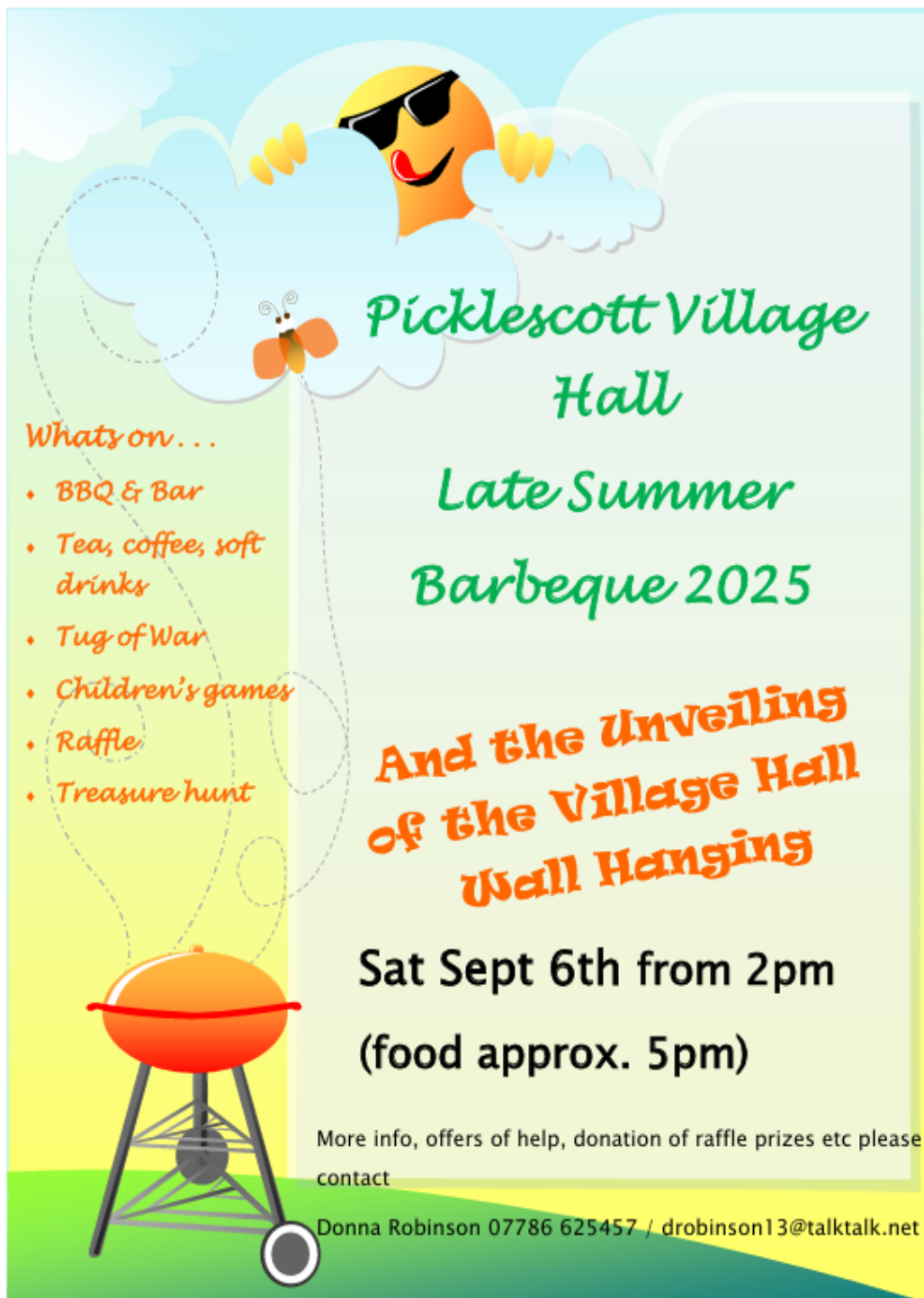
Meal will be served at 7pm prompt

followed by an Italian themed film

**Tickets £12.50, please purchase by
September 22nd to allow for catering**



Tickets from Sue, our Bookings Clerk, email - susanwills769@gmail.com



Monthly column from Chris Naylor, Shropshire Councillor for the ward of Burnell

As a new councillor here I'm still finding my feet and thinking through how best to assist residents and readers. The villages in my Burnell division most relevant to you are I guess Dorrington, Leebotwood, Longnor, Ryton, Stapleton - so here's a quick update of local news.

I should start by saying I was very pleased to get to the very lively Stapleton Market and the popular Ryton hall VE event - and recently the impressive Longnor Village Flower Festival. All proof that our villages here are full of life and activity!

Meanwhile in Leebotwood a key problem as villagers know all too well is the challenge of crossing the busy A49. Particularly affecting school children trying to get their morning bus, of course. So I was pleased to get the A49 Route Manager Joe Walmsley to visit informally and meet with resident Rebecca Hill - who's led the campaign for a crossing - recently.

If you want to hear more about National Highways plans, Joe and colleague will be visiting again on Tues July 8th 630pm, Leebotwood Village Hall, to give an update. Leebotwood residents very welcome. From our recent site meeting Joe very much accepts the need for the crossing and is keen to help - but faces challenges getting budget (and I fear the recent Spending Review may not help).

Unsurprisingly another key issue here is the state of our local roads as well. I met with residents on New House Lane near Stapleton and indeed brought the new Portfolio Holder for Highways Cllr David Vasmer to see for himself the awful pothole and drainage problems there. With Council finances very tight, as we all know, he can't promise quick fixes - but I know he's thinking hard about what can be done. I also showed him the Stapleton/Moat junction road, and I'm pleased that's now been scheduled for repairs July 11th-23rd, as have a couple of other local roads. I very much hope the quality of work makes the inevitable delays worthwhile...

Finally I should flag something quite exciting which this new Lib Dem administration is keen to explore. That is, closer working with Town and Parish Councils. This may suit some local councils but there's no pressure, it won't suit all. The thinking is that parish councils often know much better than the officers in Shrewsbury what local priorities are, and may well be much better at getting things done. So if, for instance, there's a local street cleaning need, then perhaps it'll happen better and quicker if Shropshire Council passes relevant funding to the local council to get on with it. A letter has already gone out to Parish Clerks and a survey is set to follow shortly.

In signing off I should say I try to be in all the Burnell villages once a week. If you'd like to meet, or if there's events you'd like to invite me to, please let me know.

Chris Naylor chris.naylor@shropshire.gov.uk The Batch, Batch Valley, All Stretton SY6 6JW

Letter from Stuart Anderson, MP for South Shropshire

It is a great honour to have been re-adopted as the Conservative parliamentary candidate for South Shropshire, just eleven months in my first term in office. I have spent over forty years of my life in the Marches, having grown up in Herefordshire and spent much of my childhood in Shropshire. I am humbled to represent, as its MP, an area that is so close to my heart. These are vital times for Shropshire, and my plan sets out how I will champion the needs and aspirations of our while community to ensure that it can flourish.

I was delighted to host my first 'Meet the MP' event in Much Wenlock. It was a pleasure to speak with residents who do not have specific casework enquiries but enjoy discussing topics of local interest. Please check my website for up-to-date information on future events and contact me to book a place. In Shropshire, I was also pleased to meet with the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. Local government is responsible for more than 800 different functions. So, it was insightful to learn about the challenges they face in serving rural areas like ours. I also held a round table event with Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, which does so much to help our local businesses. By meeting with some of our largest employers in the area I can understand how we can unleash rural prosperity.

My Pothole Patrol has demonstrated the importance of improving the condition and quality of our roads across South Shropshire. The new government has decided against the last government's long-term approach to investing in our highways—publishing allocations for the next year alone. A quarter of funding has also been held back until councils can prove that they are meeting stringent criteria. I have contacted Ministers with my findings and submitted a list of every road residents have raised with me to Shropshire Council to ensure these roads are repaired as soon as possible.

From speaking to local businesses and residents, I know that everyone holds our markets towns in the highest regard. However, increased costs and reduced footfall has hit the market towns. To support the revival of our high streets, I am seeking the views of local residents and businesses in my new survey. So, I am asking everyone to spend five minutes to fill in my survey and support our local towns. The findings will shape my plan, as I work with key stakeholders to ensure that our other market towns can thrive. I have started with Bridgnorth and then will roll it out to other market towns across South Shropshire. With over 1000 contributions already, this is clearly a campaign that people care deeply about.

Continued onto next page...



The poster is for a 'Desert Detectives Holiday Club' held from August 26-29, 2025. It features a yellow background with a large magnifying glass in the center. Inside the magnifying glass is a desert scene with pyramids and a small cross symbol. The text 'Desert Detectives' is arched over the top of the magnifying glass, and 'Holiday Club' is arched below it. In the top right corner is the Stretton Parish logo. The dates '26 - 29 August 2025' are prominently displayed. Below the dates, it says 'For all children aged 4-11 years'. Further down, it lists 'Register from 9:45' and 'Activities 10 - 1'. The location is 'St Laurence's Church & The Parish Centre Church Stretton'. A circular callout on the right says 'Join us as we discover: Bible stories, Craft, Games, Challenges, Fun'. At the bottom left is a QR code with the text 'Scan here for more info & to book places'.

Desert Detectives

Holiday Club

26 - 29 August 2025

For all children aged 4-11 years

Register from 9:45
Activities 10 - 1

**St Laurence's Church &
The Parish Centre
Church Stretton**

**Join us as
we discover:**
Bible stories
Craft Games
Challenges
Fun

 **Scan here for more info &
to book places**

Stretton Parish



THURSDAY 21 AUGUST

We are delighted to welcome Maryanne and Alexander from Halls Auction House for

STAPLETON'S VERY OWN ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

Maryanne specialises in Silver and Jewellery and
Alexander in Watches, Art, Sculptures, Ceramics, Glass and Clocks

They will be giving a short presentation and then there will be an opportunity for you
to bring along treasured items and family heirlooms for valuation

Entry £2 per person, payable at the door.

The presentation will begin at 7.30pm



Letter from Stuart Anderson, MP for South Shropshire

Continued...

I have raised several key concerns from high street businesses in Parliament recently. At Oral Questions to the Ministry of Justice, I asked how removing short-term prison sentences would help deter and punish retail crime. In a Westminster Hall debate I raised plans to change business rates for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. Having visited and spoken with many fantastic local publicans, shop owners and restaurants, I want to see these businesses supported now. I called for a return to the previous 75% rate relief and a cut to food and drink VAT.

I was thrilled to receive news that the Post Office in Cleobury will reopen after being closed since April 2023. This was an issue that was brought to me by local residents such as Ruth, who collected hundreds of signatures from residents on a paper survey. After a concerted local campaign and raising this with the Post Office I am delighted that we have secured the future of this service. The Post Office will open on June 27th. On another win for the high street, I welcomed Dudley Building Society opening in Bridgnorth, reversing the trend of banking services leaving our local towns. I will continue to help our local communities retain the shops and services we need.

I will be hosting some advice surgeries and 'meet the MP' sessions if anyone would like to attend please see the details below:

Advice surgeries

Friday 11th July - **Craven Arms**

Friday 8th August - **Ludlow**

Meet the MP

Friday 31st July - **Cleobury Mortimer**

Wednesday 20th August - **Clun**

For booking and further details please contact the office by email
(stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk) or phone (01746555025).

Check the website for latest updates <https://www.stuartanderson.org.uk/meet-stuart>.

We are delighted that Bishop Richard will be joining us for a Deanery Confirmation Service:

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock (time TBA)

If you'd be interested in Confirmation please do get in touch...

Once we've finalized our list of candidates we will be arranging some preparation, this is a good way to explore your faith with others who are thinking about confirmation and is a safe place to ask any questions you have about God, Jesus and the journey of faith. Joining in with the preparation does not commit you to Confirmation – it's ok to say that now is not the right time for you!

Confirmation is open to young people (secondary school and over) or adults of any age. Preparation for Confirmation can be tailored to suit each candidate, fitting around school, study or work.

What is confirmation?

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of faith. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.



You don't need expert knowledge of the church, or a photographic memory of the entire Bible. You don't need a blind unquestioning faith – curiosity is good. You don't need an unshakeable faith – Confirmation is simply saying "I'll do this journey with God".

If you've never been baptised, don't worry, talk to me and we can arrange for you to also be baptised at your confirmation. If you were baptized and/or confirmed within another denomination, such as Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist etc we can arrange for you to be 'Received in to Communion with the Church of England', if you would like.

The local Christian community will promise to support you and pray for you. The bishop will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with oil. This is a sign of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

At confirmation you may be asked if you would like a sponsor to stand with you as a symbol of their journeying with you in faith. Usually this is someone who has previously been confirmed. It may be one of the people who has prepared you for confirmation or it may be a youth worker, a good friend, a relative, or a Godparent.

Rev. Laura Hnatiuk – 01743 719578 – revlaura72@icloud.com



Bond is back in Stapleton!

Join us for a

James Bond Themed Film Night

Stapleton Village Hall

Saturday 5th July 2025

Event Starts 6.30pm

Bar, Cocktails and Canapes

Optional Dress code: Tuxedos/Cocktail Dresses



Tickets £10pp

To book please email

Susanwills769@gmail.com

Or

Tel: 01743 719071



Join us for the
Leebotwood Village
Summer Social



Saturday July 5th

from 4pm till 8pm



Live music from Macey O 5pm -6pm

BYO drinks and a picnic

**Share an evening with friends old
and new**

EVERYONE welcome

Free entry

Cash donations
accepted on the
day

Help Keep the
Village Alive

For more info telephone 01694 643353



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHARITIES DIRECTLY AND
ENJOY A LADIES LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

IF SO WE ARE AN ORGANISATION RUN BY VOLUNTEERS TO RAISE FUNDS
FOR YOUR LOCAL CHARITIES. ALL MONEY GOES TO A LOCAL CHARITY IN
THE SHREWSBURY AREA.

WE HAVE LUNCHES APPROXIMATELY THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR TO
WHICH ALL LADIES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.
COME BY YOURSELF OR WITH FRIENDS, OUR UPCOMING DATES FOR
2025 ARE:

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL

THURSDAY 3RD JULY

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

CONTACT BEV 07817 665631 OR EMAIL beverleygill1@gmail.com

Services in July 2025 – Lectionary Year C

Sunday	Dorrington	Leebotwood	Longnor
6th July 3rd Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Isaiah 66: 10-14 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20			
13th July 4th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Deut. 30: 9-14 Luke 10: 25-37	11am Holy Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk	11am Morning Prayer Lay Leaders Team	
20th July 5th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Genesis 18: 1-10a Luke 10: 38-41	11am Informal Worship Lay Leaders Team	All go to Longnor	10.30am Holy Communion Rev Laura Hnatiuk
27th July 6th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Genesis 18: 20-32 Luke 11: 1-13	10.30am Benefice Communion – Leebotwood Rev. Mark/Claire Sanders		
3rd August 7th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Ecc. 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23 Luke 12: 13-21			

Smethcott	Stapleton	Woolstaston	Also This Month
	9.30am All Age Worship Mike James	10am BCP Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk	Wednesday 2nd July 7pm onwards Filling Station Leebotwood Village Hall
6.30pm Evening Prayer Lay Leaders Team	9.30am Holy Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk		
	6.30pm Evening Prayer Mike James		
10.30am Benefice Communion - Woolstaston Rev. Laura Hnatiuk			