

Dates for your Diary

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 3rd August | 10.30am | Woolstaston Church | Benefice Communion |
| Sunday | 10th August | 10.30am | Stapleton Church | Benefice Communion |
| Monday | 11th August | 7pm | Leebotwood VH | CPR and Defib Awareness |
| Sunday | 17th August | 10.30am | Longnor Church | Benefice Communion |
| Thursday | 21st August | 7.30pm | Stapleton VH | Stapleton's Antique Roadshow |
| Sunday | 24th August | 10.30am | Smethcote Church | Benefice Communion |
| Tues-Fri | 26th-29th Aug | 9.45am | Stretton Parish | Kid's Holiday Club |
| Sunday | 31st August | 10.30am | Dorrington Church | Benefice Communion |
| Saturday | 6th Sept | 2pm | Picklescote VH | Late Summer BBQ |
| Sunday | 7th Sept | 9.30am | Stapleton Church | All Age |
| Sunday | 7th Sept | 10am | Woolstaston Church | Communion |
| Monday | 8th Sept | 7.30pm | Leebotwood VH | Parish Council Meeting |
| Saturday | 13th Sept | All Day | Across the Churches | Ride and Stride |
| Sunday | 14th Sept | 10am | Stapleton Church | Communion |
| Sunday | 14th Sept | 10.30am | Longnor Church | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday | 14th Sept | 11am | Dorrington Church | Communion |
| Sunday | 14th Sept | 6.30pm | Smethcote Church | Evening Prayer |
| Sunday | 21st Sept | 11am | Leebotwood Church | Communion |
| Sunday | 21st Sept | 11am | Dorrington Church | Informal Worship |
| Sunday | 21st Sept | 6.30pm | Stapleton Church | Evening Prayer |
| Friday | 26th Sept | 7pm | Longnor Village Hall | Harvest Supper |
| Sunday | 28th Sept | 9.30am | Stapleton Church | Harvest Festival |
| Sunday | 28th Sept | 9.30am | Smethcote Church | Communion |
| Sunday | 28th Sept | 10.30am | Longnor Church | Harvest Festival |
| Sunday | 28th Sept | 11am | Dorrington Church | Harvest Communion |
| Sunday | 28th Sept | 6.30pm | Leebotwood Church | Evening Prayer |
| Wednesday | 1st Oct | 7pm | Leebotwood VH | Filling Station |
| Saturday | 4th Oct | 6.30pm | Stapleton VH | Italian Themed Evening |
| Saturday | 4th Oct | 7.30pm | Leebotwood VH | Quiz Night |
| Sunday | 5th Oct | 9.30am | Stapleton Church | All Age Worship |
| Sunday | 5th Oct | 10am | Woolstaston Church | Harvest Communion |
| Saturday | 11th Oct | 9.30am | Stapleton VH | Bookfest and Breakfast |
| Saturday | 11th Oct | — | Picklescote VH | Harvest Supper |
| Friday | 17th Oct | 7pm | Leebotwood VH | Harvest Supper |
| Sunday | 19th Oct | 6.30pm | Smethcote Church | Harvest Festival |
| Friday | 28th Nov | 7pm | Stapleton VH | Music Night |

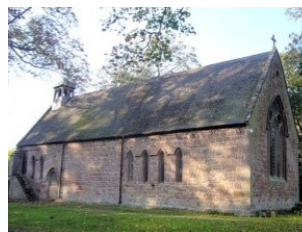


St Michael and All Angels
Woolstaston



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 September**. To organise subscription to this magazine please contact Emily Hill (07471 474924) or email steeplewoodfoldmagazine@gmail.com and monthly delivery can be arranged.

August / September 2025

70p

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.

Useful Contacts

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revlaura72@icloud.com

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Tim Main

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Christine Oakley 01743 718611

Woolstaston Neil Cadman 01694 751275
Henry Beaver 07976 103806

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

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| 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

Brownie Guider Ruth Lawrence 07830 815071
Asst. Brownie Guider Hannah Ashton 07590 618230
Or email: dorringtonbrownies@gmail.com

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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.

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Contact –

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

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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***.

A message from the Rectory written by Rev. Laura

“I love the old traditional service....”

I often hear this sentiment expressed, and the reasons why folk like the traditional services from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer are myriad. For some it's the nostalgia of worship as a child, for others it's the lyrical traditional language. However as much as some love it, others struggle to understand the words, or the theology behind the phrases. As the one leading I often wonder what people think as we worship through those old words, and so, through the magazine I'll be exploring the BCP, and how the old words are still present in our modern equivalent - Common Worship.



Liturgy - is the customary public ritual of worship we participate in, during a service in church. It is the words used, along with prayers and hymns, that forms the basis of the service. Liturgy is a communal activity of praise, thanksgiving, remembrance, supplication, and repentance.

The word liturgy, derived from ancient Greek, means work or service for the people, reflecting that worship is offered by people, on behalf of the community or people of God.

In the complex history of the Church of England - from it's early beginnings before the Norman Conquest, through generations of public worship and monastic traditions, and on through the tumultuous years of the Reformation, the liturgy has been a statement of belief of the church, of its theology. However, as the Established Church coming in to being under Henry VIII, and through the troubled religious landscape of successive Tudor monarchs, it has also been a method of social and political control.

There have been a number of editions of the Book of Common Prayer, the first English prayer book, for the English church, recognising the monarch as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The first edition of 1549, written by Thomas Cranmer, was compulsory in all parish churches, seeking to unite the people with God, and with the rulers of the nation. Although successive editions through the years have tweaked and re-tweaked those ancient words the heart of the BCP, as a statement of unity and belief remains constant... in the coming months we'll look at those words in more detail...

From the Diocese - Written by the Dean of Hereford Cathedral, the Very Revd Sarah Brown

Flush not busted!

It is too easy to have our perception of the Church of England prejudiced by media accounts of our general awfulness, our dismal failures and our decline- It is also extremely hard - and sometimes demoralising work keeping on with a much loved but apparently unsustainable model of ministry. Are we- we might wonder- doing that against all the odds because it is right and God's will- or because we of a certain generation can't bear to let it go and no obvious replacement is evident? Whether you are part of a tiny church in the middle of a farm or a larger church, priory or cathedral these uncomfortable questions might occur to you from time to time.

I want to offer two rebuttals to the general sense of the weakness of the church. The first is simply that the gospel rather stands on weakness and apparent defeat! Some might say that the Church thrives on it because it stops trying to please the world and focuses on being faithful to the Lord. That is a very hard path- and for churches in places like North Korea, India, and Sub-Saharan Africa - a devastating one. But small and weak keeps on keeping on with its eyes on Jesus. Perhaps most of us are not small and weak enough to let go and rely totally on God. I am not brave enough to incite you all to cast aside wealth and community popularity although I'm pretty sure that Jesus was fairly clear about such things- not least because in today's compliance laden society it would incite breaking the law of the land in many ways and He didn't recommend that. But I am sure that we are less small and weak than we think. Remember Elijah thinking he was the only servant of God left in Israel and God telling him to get a grip because he actually had a sizeable number of faithful Israelites on standby?

The second rebuttal reinforces the point. I sit on the board of trustees of the Benefact Trust, which owns a financial services company that you might recognise as Ecclesiastical Insurance. Benefact gives a significant proportion of its annual profits to the Trust for the sole purpose of providing churches and church organisations with grants to assist with building projects and community transformation work. I am on the board to represent and articulate the broad needs of parishes and cathedrals and I love the days when we consider applications and see what is going on across the church. What is going on is phenomenal!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Church is not dead or even dying. Where there is, missional vision and aspiration for community there is life. Where there is nothing, but steady prayer and faith God can and will work for the good of those who love him and for the coming of His Kingdom.



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St Edward's Dorrington



Services in August will be group services. Services will start at 10.30am

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| 3 rd | Woolstaston | 24 th | Smethcote |
| 10 th | Stapleton | 31 st | Dorrington |
| 17 th | Longnor | | |

September at Dorrington 11am start. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of each service.

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 14 th | Holy Communion | Rev Laura |
| 21 st | Lay Leaders | |
| 28 th | Harvest Holy Communion | Rev Laura |

Please note that the service on the 28th is a Harvest service, if anyone is willing to help decorate the church, please let Chris or Judith know. It would be good to have plenty of flowers and produce on display. The children from St Edwards school will also be celebrating Harvest in Church, date and time to be confirmed.

Due to the first Wednesday of September being early and many leaders are away; Filling Station will recommence on the first Wednesday in October. Leaders are meeting on the 22nd July to confirm speakers and the theme for the coming year. I would like to express my thanks to all who have helped to make this meeting so successful this year, setting up the hall, organising music, making and serving refreshments and clearing away at the end.

Ted's mixing bowl continues on Wednesday mornings, numbers are good, and we are thrilled to welcome the nursery every week when noise levels go through the ceiling. I go for the cake!!!! During August we will not have the Nursery so it will be quieter. I would like to thank everyone who helps to make this event so successful, opening the doors, putting out chairs, tables and toys, the cake maker and those who serve. You do an amazing job and your service is appreciated.

Many will be off on holiday over the summer, I pray that you will have a wonderful time of rest, relaxation both physically and spiritually. It is good to be still Psalm 37:7 tells us so. During that time spiritually we can renew our TRUST in GOD, COMMIT our way to HIM and DELIGHT in all HE has done for us.

But we can not stay still all the time. When refreshed we need to move on. Read Joshua 3. Joshua allowed the people to rest, then he told them what to do as they got ready to move.

1. Prepare. Not only did they need to pack up everything they needed to make sure that their relationship with God was right. Joshua tells the people to consecrate themselves to the Lord. Read God's word, study it, pray and listen. Then when it's time we can move on.

2. Promise. Hold on to the promises God has made in his word. I will never leave you or forsake you and many others. Our God does not want us just to wait; he calls us to go. Matthew 28 v 19 - 20.

3. Presence. Remember that our God is always with us, the Israelites in Joshua's time had the Ark to remind them of God's presence. We have the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives. Go forward assured of this.

4. Procession. If you read Joshua, you will see that when the people had prepared, held on to his promises and were assured of God's presence they moved. We move forward as we reach out to others with the message. John 3:16. 5



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Breakfast Club Information - Breakfast is served daily until 8.30am. Weekly food choices & activity timetables are available on our school website and in our school newsletter.

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.

Times: 3.15pm - 6.00pm

Cost: £4.00 per child from 3.15pm - 4.30pm

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

We accept Tax-Free Childcare. Bookings via Google Forms links. For more information visit our website or contact the school office.

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| | 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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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.

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St Mary's Leebotwood

Church Cleaning

Sunday 3 August
Sunday 10/17 August
Sunday 24/31 August
Sunday 7/14 Sep
Sunday 21/28 Sep
Sunday 5 October

Anne Hone
Susan/Emerson Morgan
Maryjane Hargreaves
Karen Mason/Lisa Lupton
Elaine Jones/Eileen Woolmer
Anne Hone

Flowers

Sunday 3 August
Sunday 10/17 August
Sunday 24/31 August
Sunday 7/14 Sep
Sunday 21/28 Sep
Sunday 5 October

Anne Hone
Margaret Wilson
Maryjane Hargreaves
Stella and Jim
Heather Capewell Hughes Kirsty Davies
Anne Hone

Karen, Lisa and Kelly organised a very successful **Pottery and Prosecco evening** in June and report:

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Pottery and Prosecco evening held to raise funds for the upkeep and restoration of Leebotwood church. It was a fantastic evening led by local potter Lucinda Lovesay of lucindalovesay.com, who generously donated her time and use of kiln to help us. Everyone's mugs looked fantastic. Keep an eye out in the spring for details of our next Pottery and Prosecco Fundraiser!



On Friday August 1st Katie Parkes and David Round are to be married at Leebotwood, we wish them well in their future together.

Forth coming events for your diaries:

Historic Churches Cycle Ride/Walk/Drive 13th September – anyone wishing to sponsor or participate please contact Anne. Funds raised by this event are shared between nominated church and the Historic Churches Trust for the upkeep of historic churches.

Scarecrows during September-October – see attached advert

Harvest Service on Sunday 12th October

Harvest Supper on Friday 17th October – see attached advert

Recycle for the Roof is relaunched for 2025 – please see poster in magazine.

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

Leebotwood has no services in August as each church has one Communion during the Summer and ours was at the end of July.

Services for September:

21st 11am Holy Communion
28th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council Meeting:

Monday 8th Sept 2025 7:30pm Leebotwood Village Hall

Organised by Leebotwood PCC in aid of St Mary's Church, Leebotwood

SCARECROW COMPETITION



Entry Fee £3

**OPEN TO ALL
RESIDENTS &
BUSINESSES IN
LEEBOOTWOOD &
SURROUNDING
PARISHES**

Build your own scarecrow for a
chance to win!

**PRIZES INCLUDE £100
GB TOURS VOUCHER
& TICKETS TO LOCAL
ATTRACTIONS**

Display your scarecrows outside your home/work from **27th September**.
Judging will take place **11th October** with winners announced **12th October**

Enter online at <https://leebotwoodpcc.square.site/>
or email Lisa at leebotwoodpcc@gmail.com
or telephone Karen on 07800 960 673

Ben Carter

**Landscaping, Grounds, Property
Maintenance**

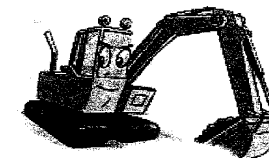
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EMAIL: asmorrisandson@hotmail.co.uk

St Mary's, Leebotwood

HARVEST SUPPER

And Produce Auction

Leebotwood Village Hall

17/10/25

Ticket price

£10 per adult

£25 family (2 adults, 3 children)

Time : 7pm, food served 7.30pm

Alcoholic bar

Purchase tickets online at

<https://leebotwoodpcc.square.site>

Or Call

Ann - 01694 722970

Karen - 07800 960 673





St Mary's, Leebotwood

Recycle For The Roof Is Back!!

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

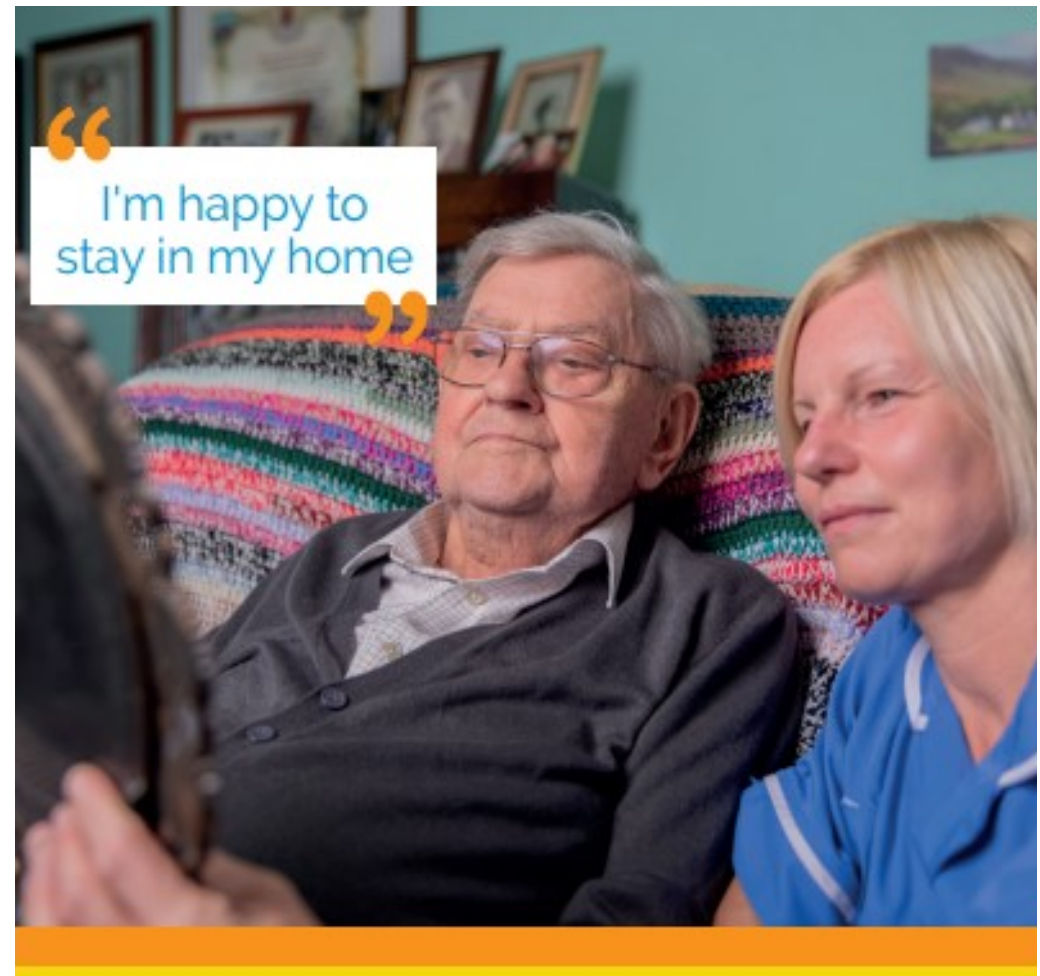
Why not donate them to the church to help us raise funds for the roof

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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Home
is where the heart is
Let's keep it there



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 £2 per family, All welcome.

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Mobile: Mike—07903 685 947

James— 07817 204 654

Website : info@mwdowneselectricalcontractors.co.uk

Leebotwood Village Hall

The summer sun shone for our 'SummerSocial' with lots of laughter and beautiful singing from the very talented Macy O.

Got a spare 6 hours, spread over a whole year???

Surely not too much!

Next village hall meeting-7.30pm til 9pm max, Tuesday August 12th at the village hall. All very welcome.

CPR/Defib awareness session.

Monday August 11th 7pm . In the village hall.

Call Heather 07910 117106

N.B.This is not a 'certificate for work 'event.

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

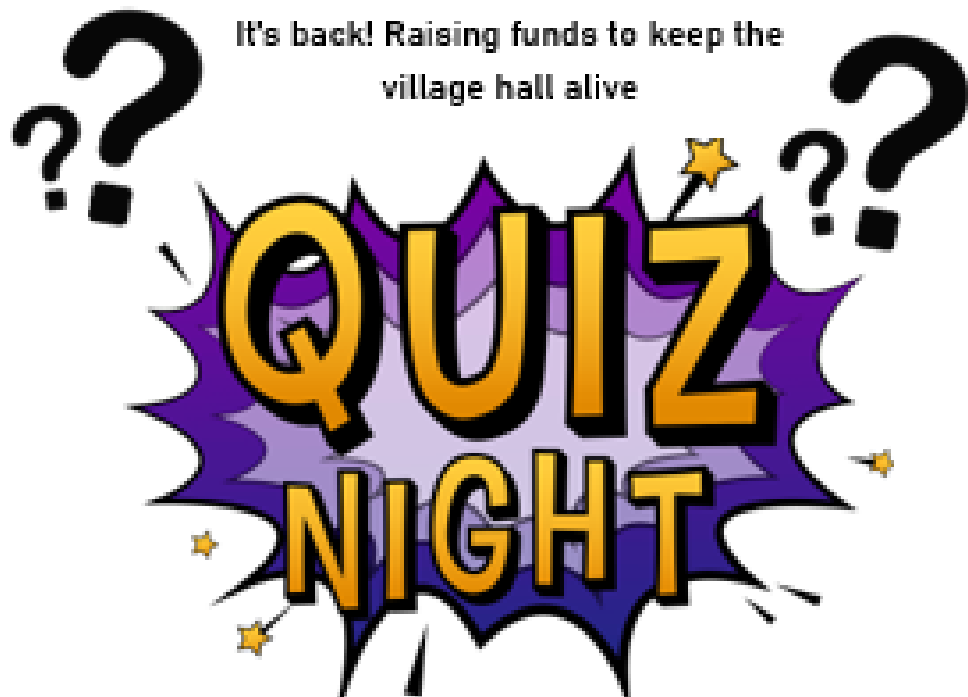
Need extra table cloths for your summer party?

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



It's back! Raising funds to keep the
village hall alive

@ Leebotwood Village Hall
October 4th

7.30pm start

Teams of up to 6
£10 per person to include a meal

bring your own drink

*Book early to avoid
disappointment!*

Susan 01694 643353

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There is a Club Near You!



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 Mary's Longnor

Altar Flowers & Brasses

August Annabel Warburg
7th & 14th Sep Amanda Lansdell
21st & 28th Sep Louise Downes

Church cleaning

Annabel Warburg & Sophie Corbett

Service

17th Aug 10.30am
14th Sep 10.30am
28th Sep 10.30am

Group Service
Morning Prayer
Harvest Festival

Sidesperson

Annabel Warburg
Norene Dunn
Trevor Thomas

Reader

Norene Dunn

Harvest Supper – Friday 26th September

We are planning a Harvest Supper in Longnor Village Hall on Friday 26th September. Details are still being discussed with the Village Hall Committee and will be circulated nearer the time, but please put the date in your diaries. Everyone warmly welcome!

Harvest Festival – Sunday 28th September

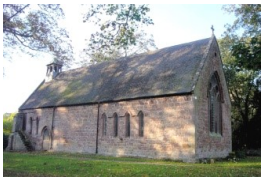
A celebratory Harvest service will be held in Longnor Church on Sunday 28th September at 10.30am, followed by coffee and cake in the Village Hall. Everyone very welcome. All donations of fresh and tinned produce gratefully received, which will be taken to the Shrewsbury Ark and the Shrewsbury Food Bank after the service.

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!

Continued onto next page...



St Mary's Longnor

RNIB Appeal for used stamps and foreign or old coins

The RNIB is always grateful for used postage stamps, surplus foreign currency, or any unusable old British currency, which they can recycle into funds for much-needed services to support blind and partially-sighted people. There are collection boxes for stamps and coins at the back of Longnor Church, which we will pass on to the RNIB. Many thanks for your donations.

The Shrewsbury Ark, which provides a safe haven in the town centre for homeless and vulnerable people, is always grateful for donations of non-perishable food items such as tea, coffee, sugar, cereals, tinned meat and fish, baked beans, cup-a-soups, washing powder and toiletries. There is a box for donations at the back of Longnor Church. - Do please help fill it up!

Library Bus

The Shropshire Mobile Library comes to Longnor every other Tuesday and is a wonderful thing! Dates during August and September are 12th August, 26th August, 9th September and 23rd September. It stops at the bottom of the lane up to the church and village hall between 9.00 and 9.15am.

Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council Meeting:

Monday 8th Sept 2025 7:30pm Leebotwood Village Hall



Bridge Is Fun!

Conover Duplicate Bridge Club is a small and friendly club
that is always welcoming new members!

@ Conover Village Hall!

Only £2 per session, every Friday evening @ 6.30pm

Coffee & Biscuits Included!



For further information visit www.bridgewebs.com/conover/



NOT IN AUGUST—Next film night on
September 16th

FILM Night

Every 3rd Tuesday of
Each Month
Picklescott Village Hall
Doors Open at
7:00pm

FOR NEXT FILM DETAILS CONTACT
DONNA 07786 625457



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

10 August
24 August

Flowers and Brasses
Victoria Main
Sophie Forbes

Cleaning
Ceri Lewis
Hilary Day

Thought for the month

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well ..
for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast
and will never let us go.—Julian of Norwich

Services:

10 August will be our 6.30 evening service in church followed by a barbeque
if the weather is good. Please bring seating and a drink if you so wish. It
would be good to see as many as possible.

Please refer to the centre of the magazine for the date of our Communion
Service in August.

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

Picklescott Village Hall Events

Picklescott Pictures at 7.30 pm every 3rd Tuesday of the month until June
(doors open at 7) Contact Donna Robinson on 07786 625457 for film details.
Further details on picklescott.org.uk website.

At our July meeting in Leebotwood we met for the last time until September. Glorious weather ensured a great turn out for the visit of Steve and Lisa from Shropshire Falconry with their beautiful birds. First to show

their feathers was a wonderful tiny Kookaburra, quite sleepy but happy to be seen. A Red Footed Falcon followed next. Very rare and only small. Being fed three times a day means that it is growing very quickly. The owls came next. We saw a rescued owl called Humphrey, a beautiful white Barn Owl with spotted under breast feathers denoting female gender. A Hawk owl, not too keen to display the hawk like feathers he had. Finally, the star of the show a Bengali owl who was quite at home in a WI group. Members were able to experience the owl flying to their gloved arm and watch as it swooped around the room. Whilst the owls were a delight, we were able to understand just how much work and dedication has gone into the care and ongoing welfare of the birds at the centre. Working alongside other conservation groups such as the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and in education settings, is an ongoing and valuable part of their work. Suzanne proposed a vote of thanks for a memorable visit from Shropshire Falconry.

A break for refreshment, followed. Thank you to those members who brought along snacks for our bring and share refreshments. Some very tasty items were contributed for us to enjoy. Quite a festive evening.

There is no meeting in August so we had quite a lot to cover in our business meeting. Minsterley and Burwarton shows are in August and the organisation of entries, staging, and delivery is ongoing. The show group had a request list for props for staging and information was shared of the potential exhibits and the theme that has been chosen. Further meetings are planned to finalise all displays.

Our treasurer reported our financial situation which is currently reasonable but we will need to do more fundraising this summer. Our next Fundraising event will be a pop up refreshment tent at Cruckton ploughing match in September. Volunteers were called for to make cakes and help on the day.

Margaret updated our social calendar with an invitation to All Stretton WI when their speaker is Matt Halstead, a well known local amateur astronomer and village pantomime actor. Bookings need to be made with head office for all other events advertised in this months County news.

There is no meeting in August but our members will be busy with shows and other events. On September 10th we meet at Picklescott village hall at 7pm for our first Autumn meeting. We hope you will join us, have a wonderful summer.

Information Suzanne 07749575883

SMETHCOTE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Youth Club

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

Fridays 5:30pm to 7:30pm

@ Dorrington Village Hall

| |
|------------------|
| 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)



*Your friendly local
Coffee and Craft Group.
We chat, eat cake, put the world
to rights and enjoy some simple crafts.*

*Stapleton Village Hall SY5 7EF
10am - 12pm
All materials supplied £3 per session*

**Every other Tuesday
throughout the year.**

*Information Carol 01743 718451
beaumont.carol@gmail.com*

Dates for the Summer Months.

August 5th and 19th

September 2nd. 16th and 30th



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.

Please check the centre of the magazine for information about Services in August and September, especially note changes in the rota during August due to holidays. The Group Service at Stapleton will be on 10th August

100 Club winners

August

£20 98 Alex and Robin Jukes Hughes £10 24 Carol Beaumont

September

£20 67 Charles Evason £10 11 Callum Hughes

The Library Van will be by the Lych gate on 12th and 26th August and on 9th and 23rd September at 10am.

Harvest Festival and Lunch

This year our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 28th September at 9.30am

The Harvest lunch will follow this at 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

We would like donations in Church of non-perishable items for us to give to the food bank at the Barnabas Church centre.

A donation of sweets and raffle prizes for the lunch will be very welcome. Please see separate advert.

Dates for your diary

- 21st August Halls Auctioneers event
- 14th September Church and Churchyard clean up
- 14th September Ride and Stride in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust
- 16th September PCC meeting at Rectory Cottage – 7.30pm
- 28th September Harvest Festival followed by Harvest lunch
- 4th October Italian film night
- 11th October Bookfest and breakfast



St John the Baptist Stapleton

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 28th September 2025

at 12.30pm

Stapleton Village Hall

Two course hot meal

Bring your own drink



Raffle

Tickets £10 per person - Family concessions

From Sue James 01743 718110

sue mikejames@gmail.com

Book Fest at Stapleton Village Hall

Saturday 11th October 2025

Come and get your breakfast
from 9.30am onwards
or enjoy a cup of tea/coffee
and slice of cake later on.



Then take a look at a
vast selection of new books
and those not so new.
You will fail to go home empty handed!



We close at 1.00pm

Proceeds in aid of St John the Baptist Church



RSPB Shropshire Local Group



Meetings are held at Bayston Hill Memorial Hall on the 4th
Tues monthly from September to April (exc Dec). Meetings start at
7.15pm. Refreshments are served in the interval.

On Tuesday September 23rd Steve Dawes takes us to the Laikipia plateau in Kenya in search of African Wild Dogs and an even rarer Black Leopard. "This talk describes a trip I made specifically to see and photograph the African Wild Dog. It had been a lifetime ambition of mine, and one I had failed to achieve despite numerous attempts all over Africa. The Laikipia plateau is also renowned for having a very rare Black Leopard and the talk follows the trials and tribulations of my trip, predominantly capturing the mammals and birds of this part of Kenya. It ended up being the BEST wildlife experience of my life thus far!"

To contact us and find out more about what we do (including our monthly fieldtrips): you can find us on Facebook, email shrewsburyrspbgroup@gmail.com or visit <https://group.rspb.org.uk/shropshire>



Shropshire Ornithological Society

The home of birding in Shropshire

Meetings run from October to April and take place at Bayston Hill Memorial Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.15pm. Entry charge £2 for non-members, members free. Refreshments are served during the interval for a small fee.

Wednesday 1st October – Steve Dawes: Well-known local wildlife enthusiast and photographer presents "Shropshire – My Back Garden and Beyond". This talk aims to showcase some of the County's diverse wildlife, starting in Steve's own back garden. We then go further afield around Shropshire recounting some of Steve's favourite places and the wildlife that can be found there.

Please check the website in case of changes to the programme. You can also find details of our fieldtrips on our website. To find out more visit www.shropshirebirds.com



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



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.

Badminton

Monday nights – 8pm to 9.30pm at Church
Stretton Sports Centre

£4.50



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.



St Michael and All Angels Woolstaston

Church Flowers

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 3rd | Allison Rodenhurst |
| September 7th | Neil & Mary Cadman |
| October 5th | The Dawson Family (Harvest Festival) |

There will be a Benefice Service on 3rd of August at 10.30am.

We want to wish everyone in the Steeplewood Fold Group who has reached the wonderful age of 80 a very Happy Birthday.

Our Harvest Festival will take place on the 5th of October at 10am, would the usual people who decorate the Church please do so.

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.

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

Lots to learn still...

Even though it's now – when you're reading this – 3 months since the Council elections, and 2 months since the previous Leader Lezley Picton handed over to the new Leader Heather Kidd, I'm still very aware I've lots to learn.

So I remain keen to be invited to events across the Steeplewoodfold parishes, and to hear from residents about problems and indeed successes. To be honest I continue to be very unhappy at the state of the roads round the Burnell division. One of the mobile library drivers round here – I'm surprised she still makes it through at all – says she creeps over the deepest potholes at just one mile an hour.

However, the Council has been getting a few more highway repairs done recently, at last: a lot of patching around Stapleton, including outside the church; major resurfacing by Home Farm Condovery; and a new footbridge going in at Boreton Ford. Inevitably this can be very inconvenient for local residents for whom my sympathies. I'm also in contact with a Parish Council Chair who suggests the way forward is to find someone locally to fix our potholes, paid by the Council but without all the overheads of working through a big contractor.

Two other local news items I'd like to mention. Both about roads and travel! Firstly I was very pleased to help organise a public meeting at Leebotwood village hall with the National Highways A49 Managers, about the campaign for a pedestrian crossing and lower speed limits. The meeting was supported by Rebecca Hill, who's led the campaign, and the Parish Council kindly helped publicise. The good news was that National Highways agree the need – the bad news though is they don't know future budgets yet, and don't know what they can afford. So we have to keep up the pressure and I'll be discussing with parish councillors.

Secondly – and more positively – I've just recently met the headteacher and several pupils (members of the school's council) at Longnor School, where I presented a Council award for their 'active travel' planning – encouraging pupils where safe to walk or cycle to school. I've also now been told that plans are progressing for a 20mph limit past the school, which should of course facilitate 'active travel'.

Finally I should mention that parish councillors in Dorrington are seeking to press on with the final stages of their Neighbourhood Plan and asked my help. Though central government funding for such plans has now been cut, I'm trying get the Council to commit to finishing it off. An agreed Plan will be very helpful for managing development locally.

In signing off I reiterate that I try to be in all 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, SY6 6JW

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 - susanwills769@gmail.com

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

Letter from Stuart Anderson, MP for South Shropshire

On 4th July, I celebrated my first year as the Member of Parliament for South Shropshire. I am grateful to the thousands of residents who have contacted and supported me in my first year as our community's champion in Westminster. Together, we have successfully opposed restrictions to winter fuel payments, prevented the closure of post offices, and supported local assets like our community pubs, historic churches, and village halls. Having spent over forty years in the Marches, I am delighted to have already been re-adopted as the Conservative parliamentary candidate for South Shropshire.

In June, I welcomed the government's climbdown in its restrictions on winter fuel payments. The decision means that those who reach State Pension Age by 21st September 2025 and have an annual income of £35,000 (or below) will benefit from the payments. In Parliament, I voted against botched plans to reduce welfare support, sharing in the debate my experiences of receiving welfare support. Ministers should adopt an approach that will deliver a welfare system that is affordable, sustainable, and helps people back into work wherever possible.

Last month, the Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered her Spending Review. She set out how the government will spend around £600 billion in each of the next few years. I am concerned that decisions in the Spending Review do not pay enough attention to the needs of people living in rural areas like South Shropshire. The government's spending plans, which include an extra £113 billion for infrastructure, are mostly focused on urban areas. I do not believe that rural areas like ours, which contribute £250 billion to the economy each year, are receiving enough support. It is my mission to change this for the better in the years ahead.

I have consistently championed investment in our community hospitals as an integral part of rural healthcare provision in South Shropshire. Yet, I am concerned that hospital capital maintenance budgets could be cut by up to a fifth next year following the recent Spending Review. As such, I have urged the Chancellor to extend funding for rural healthcare provision. This would enable further upgrades in South Shropshire, such as the immediate need for upgrades at Ludlow Hospital and the need for a new rebuilt hospital at the Eco Park.

As a veteran, I was proud to support Armed Forces Week in Shropshire. It was a vital opportunity to pay tribute to the selfless service of the Armed Forces community, including their loved ones. Together with other charities, the Royal British Legion has transformed the prospects of veterans for the better. I was delighted to meet with them in Parliament to celebrate the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC). I also attended Shropshire Armed Forces Family Fun Day at Shrewsbury Castle. Home to over 4,000 veterans, they represent nearly a tenth of households in South Shropshire. I am calling on local businesses, charities, and organisations to pledge their support for our veterans and salute our forces by signing the AFC.

Continued onto next page...

Letter from Stuart Anderson, MP for South Shropshire

Small Charity Week celebrates the role small charities play in local areas. Despite their huge impact, small charities are often under-funded and struggle for visibility. Nearly half have said rises in employment costs, including April's hikes in National Insurance Contributions, will negatively impact them. I am committed to supporting our local communities, and so I have launched a Community Support Finder tool on my website. This details the latest support available for charitable organisations in South Shropshire and beyond.

Village halls play an integral role in rural communities like South Shropshire. Last August, I called on Ministers to unlock funding the last government had committed to upgrade these venues, many of which were built after the First World War. I am glad that Ministers have accepted my request to provide further funding for upgrades at more venues. More details are available on my website.

Advice Surgeries

Friday 8th August – Ludlow
Friday 5th September – Church Stretton
Friday 3rd October – Bridgnorth

Meet the MP

Thursday 31st July – Cleobury Mortimer
Wednesday 20th August – Clun
Friday 26th September – Cross Houses



Time for You

Yoga & Art Retreats

24th – 26th June 2025
30th Sept – 2nd Oct 2025

- Hatha yoga sessions (slow paced)
- Nature-based art workshops
- Woodland bathing
- Evening relaxation session
- Full-board
- Two nights ensuite accommodation

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Single Occupancy £550 per person | Shared Occupancy £450 per person |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

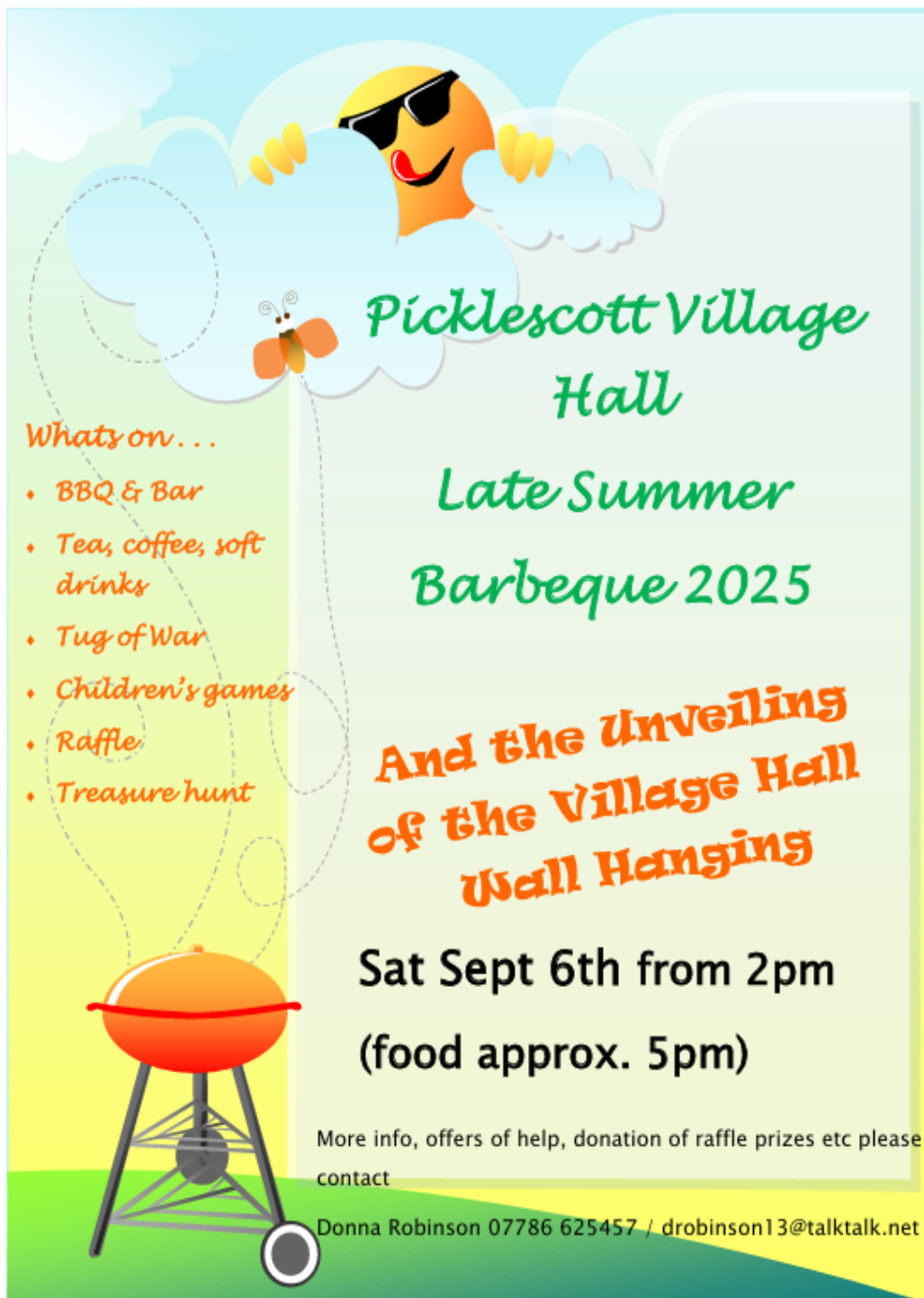
Refer a Friend Offer: £25 off each
Terms & conditions apply



Eaton Manor Country Estate
01694 724814
events@eatonmanor.co.uk
www.eatonmanor.co.uk/retreat

LEARN MORE

Eaton-under-Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DH



Picklescott Village Hall

Late Summer Barbeque 2025

And the Unveiling of the Village Hall Wall Hanging

Sat Sept 6th from 2pm (food approx. 5pm)

Whats on...

- BBQ & Bar
- Tea, coffee, soft drinks
- Tug of War
- Children's games
- Raffle
- Treasure hunt

More info, offers of help, donation of raffle prizes etc please contact

Donna Robinson 07786 625457 / drobinson13@talktalk.net

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





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



| Smethcott | Stapleton | Woolstaston | Also This Month |
|--|--|--|---|
| | 9.30am All Age Worship Mike James | 10am BCP Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | |
| 6.30pm Evening Prayer Lay Leaders Team | 9.30am Holy Communion Rev Laura Hnatiuk | | |
| | 6.30pm Evening Prayer Mike James | | |
| 9.30am Holy Communion Rev Laura Hnatiuk | 9.30am Harvest Festival* Mike James | | |
| | 9.30am All Age Worship Mike James | 10am Harvest Communion* Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | Wednesday 1st October 7pm onwards Filling Station Leebotwood Village Hall |

Services in September 2025 – Lectionary Year C

| Sunday | Dorrington | Leebotwood | Longnor |
|---|---|--|--|
| 7 th September 12 th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Deut. 30: 15-20 Luke 14: 25-33 | | | |
| 14 th September 13 th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Exodus 32: 7-14 Luke 15: 1-10 | 11am Holy Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | 10.30am Morning Prayer Lay Leaders Team |
| 21 st September 14 th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Amos 8: 4-7 Luke 16: 1-13 | 11am Informal Worship Lay Leaders Team | 11am Holy Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | All go to Leebotwood |
| 28 th September 15 th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Amos 6: 1a, 4-7 Luke 16: 19-31 | 11am Harvest Communion* Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | 6.30pm Evening Prayer Lay Leaders Team | 10.30am Harvest Festival* Lay Leaders Team |
| 5 th October 16 th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Habakkuk: 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4 Luke 17: 5-10 | | | |

* Harvest Readings - Deuteronomy 26: 1-11, John 6: 25-35


**Stretton
Parish**



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

Services in August 2025 – Lectionary Year C

| Sunday | Dorrington | Leebotwood | Longnor |
|--|---|------------|---------|
| 3rd August 7th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Ecc. 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23 Luke 12: 13-21 | | | |
| 10th August 8th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Genesis 15: 1-6 Luke 12: 32-40 | 10.30am Benefice Communion – Stapleton Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | |
| 17th August 9th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Jeremiah 23: 23-29 Luke 12: 49-56 | 10.30am Benefice Communion – Longnor Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | |
| 24th August 10th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Isaiah 58: 9b-14 Luke 22: 24-30 | | | |
| 31st August 11th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Proverbs 25: 6-7 Luke 14: 1, 7-14 | 10.30am Benefice Communion – Dorrington Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | |
| 7th September 12th Sunday after Trinity Green, Ordinary Time Deut. 30: 15-20 Luke 14: 25-33 | | | |

| Smethcott | Stapleton | Woolstaston | Also This Month |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 10.30am Benefice Communion – Woolstaston Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 10.30am Benefice Communion – Smethcott Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | | | |
| | | | |
| | 9.30am All Age Worship Mike James | 10am BCP Communion Rev. Laura Hnatiuk | |