PARISH NEWS

The Beane Valley Benefice

www.achurchnearyou.com

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

October 2025



What a summer we have had! Gardens are so dry; farmers are worried that there has been insufficient water to sustain their crops and the leaves on the trees are already starting to show their beautiful autumn colours.

Whereas once our seasons were predictable with cold, wet winters; springtime with its sunshine and showers gradually warming into summer, followed by crisp bright autumn days; today's seasons are much less reliable. In some parts of the world we have witnessed horrendous floods, in others dreadful drought; there have been earthquakes and landslides so that the shape and nature of the earth is changing. And the weather is predicted to get more changeable, and hotter. A far cry from the world we learn about in the book of Genesis where we read "God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good".



In God's world there were seasons which could be relied on, a time for sowing and a time for reaping; as the hymn "All things bright and beautiful" reminds us there were cold winds in the winter, and pleasant summer sun, ripe fruits in the gardens and rushes by the water. A wonderful created world over which He gave us dominion; expecting us to care for and look after the world He had made.

But have we? We have hunted animals to the brink of extinction; cut down rain forests for gain; diverted rivers and streams to get water where we want it, not where it was meant to be. We have used nature as our personal store without any thought for how we could replenish and replace what we have used. We have viewed as gloom-mongers those who have warned against tampering with nature - even our own King was vilified for what were seen as his "cranky" comments about the environment.

And now we are facing some serious choices. Do we just carry on regardless, and trust that someone else will sort out the problem, or do we begin to take responsibility to redress the balance, to redeem and recover what is lost by reducing our use of plastics; recycling waste and reclaiming land and waterways; being more vigilant about our use of water?



Oh! I can hear you saying, "I can't do much to help from my little corner", but we can. If each of the 60+ million people, who live on this little island alone, reduces their use of plastics, water and fossil fuels by 10% it will make a massive difference.

Then, as we hear in the book of Isaiah "Waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert, and the wilderness will blossom and burst into song", and once again the earth, and all that is in it, can be good.

Ann





Beane Valley Benefice Services October 2025

ALL are welcome

Until the vacancy of Rector to The Beane Valley Benefice is filled following Rev Jenny's retirement, the Churchwardens of each church will be responsible for organizing services. Therefore, services may vary each month.

5th October

11am Aston Prayer and Praise

11am Watton Contemporary Service

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise

11.15am Waterford Holy Communion

No service in Bramfield today

12th October

9.30am Watton HARVEST FESTIVAL Holy

Communion

11am Aston Family Service

11.15am Bramfield Holy Communion

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise No service in Waterford today and no

Contemporary service in Watton

19th October

11am Aston Holy Communion

11am Watton Contemporary Service

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise

11.15am Waterford Morning Prayer

No service in Bramfield today

26th October

9.30am Watton Holy Communion

11am Watton Contemporary Service

11.15am Bramfield Prayer and Praise

11.15am Stapleford Holy Communion

No service in Aston and Waterford today

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals, burial of ashes, blessings, confirmation or offers to help, please contact the relevant Churchwardens (details on back page)

RIVER BEANE RESTORATION ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING Wednesday 15th October 2025 19.00-21.00hrs

Venue: Memorial Hall Watton at Stone

Theme: Introducing the River Beane Flagship project.

Midweek Services



Bramfield Open Church Wednesdays. Services postponed until further notice.

Wednesday 15th October 2.30pm STAPLEFORD VILLAGE TEA AFTERNOON in CHURCH All are welcome for tea, coffee, cake and chat.



Fortnightly MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study

Fellowship 3 Long Ridge Aston with tea and biscuits All are welcome Contact Pauline at pauline.manley1966@gmail.com



Weddings – we celebrate the marriage of James Keens and Suzy Homer at St Andrew and St Mary's Watton at Stone on 13th September



RIP - We Remember With Love

John Skull whose ashes were buried at St Mary's Aston on 14th September

On-line bereavement support

WATTON HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS

Gifts to Watton's Harvest Festival will be donated to the Hertford Food Bank this year. Listed below are items they have requested. Thank you.



- Long Life Fruit Juice
- ☑ Tinned Potatoes
- ☑ Tinned Vegetables
- ☑ UHT Milk, Coffee & Tea
- Cooking Sauces
- ☑ Rice & Pasta
- ☑ Tinned Rice Pudding & Custard
- Shower Gel, Soap, Toothpaste



Support the Hertford, Ware & District Foodbank by donating an item or two. Thank you.



Scan for more info

CARING for our CHURCHYARDS

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

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

ASTON Church and Churchyard Working Parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara wardenstmarys@gmail.com All our churchyards are cared for by Volunteers...could YOU offer occasional help?

CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer and visits:

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

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

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

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

STAPLEFORD St Mary Open weekends. For visits contact Peter 07870 681542, John 07773 392991 or Lesley Atterwill 07773 392992

Opening churches is important. If you would be willing to join a rota to help open and shut any of the churches please contact the Churchwarden.



TAC Tea Room

Memorial Hall,

Watton at Stone

Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm Fridays (TERM TIME only) 2pm - 5pm

A selection of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, shortbread and scones to enjoy in our Tea Room or to TAKE AWAY!

We also take orders for birthday cakes.

Pop in or text Sharon @ 07931 325288 to order

any of our products for delivery

Card or cash are accepted.

TAC Tea Room is enabling us to support the community. Please support us too!!



+

Play Space

क्ष्रक्ष क्ष

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

Tuesday mornings (Term time only)

Memorial Hall, High Street Parking available.

Time: 9.30am - 12noon

Cost: £3.00 per child, and £1.00 per sibling

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

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the

Parish church. Contact details:

Sharon @ 07931 325288

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



WATERFORD & HERTINGFORDBURY WI

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 2nd October at 7.30pm

Our talk this month is "An Introduction to Life in the ATS during WWII". Our speaker, Ruth Cable, will be telling us about her mother's experiences in the ATS, from her extensive letters to her own mother during the war. This will be followed as usual by tea and cake and then a catch up on all local and national WI news and events.

Last month we enjoyed a talk about country house servants.....apparently Downton Abbey wasn't far off the mark. It was interesting to think of our ancestors' experiences just up the road at Woodhall Park. For our August Garden Tea this year we took part in the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance "Brew for the Crew" appeal, and raised £175 through donations for tea and cake, as well as a bring & buy with our own pop up shop. All items not sold were then donated to EHAA's own shops.

You are most welcome to come along as a visitor; there is a suggested donation of £5 which includes refreshments and raffle. We meet in Waterford Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7.30pm.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES <u>BRAMFIELD</u>

WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

Bramfield Carpet Bowls

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

Parish Council Meets

Every other 3rd Tuesday of the Month

Clerk Chris Underhill 07714 711253

Village Hall Committee Meets

1ST Tuesday of the Month 8pm Contact Cheryl Jackson 01992 583958

Bramfield Book Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm At the Village Hall. Contact Louise 01992 583173 Gibbslouise83@gmail.com

Bramfield Parish Council

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

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

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

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

Bramfield Harvest Supper

Friday 10th October at 7pm
Bramfield Village Hall
It's a bring and share, so we get a
Mixture of hot and cold
Tickets are £8.00 to secure a place
Contact Peggy 01992 550467.
Raffle and Quiz..no bar so bring a bottle.

SAVE THE DATES:

Bramfield Quiz Night

1st November 7.30pm Tables of 8 to include Ploughman's Supper £8.00 per person

Christmas Bazaar

30th November 2pm to 4pm

Both in Bramfield Village Hall.

STAPLEFORD

News from Music at St Mary's!

A huge **thank you** to everyone who shared such kind words following our recent concerts with the **Toccata Quartet** and **Portrait Players**. Your support and enthusiasm mean the world to us, and it confirms why we love curating such a **diverse and inspiring musical programme**.

Now for the exciting part...

At 7.30pm on Saturday 11th October 2025, at St Marys Church Stapleford SG143NB we are thrilled to welcome two phenomenal international musicians to perform a truly unmissable recital:

Geirþrúður Anna Guðmundsdóttir (Cello)
An Icelandic-American virtuoso who's graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Southbank Centre,
Warsaw Philharmonic, and more. Known for her technical brilliance, emotive depth, and a bold, magnetic stage presence, her performances have been described as "extraordinarily musical" (Morgunblaðið, Iceland).

Antoine Préat (Piano)

A Naïve Records exclusive artist and multi-award-winning Franco-Belgian pianist, Antoine brings a fresh and compelling voice to the piano. He's performed at top venues including **Wigmore Hall**, **Salle Gaveau**, and the **Frederyk Chopin Institute**, and has featured on **BBC Radio 3**, **France Musique**, and more.

Together, they promise an **electrifying evening of world-class music** right here at our local venue – an opportunity not to be missed!

■ Tickets are £20, including a complimentary glass of wine. Reserve yours now by emailing musicatstmarys@outlook.com or calling 07963 260715.

We can't wait to share this special evening with you.

WATERFORD

Waterford Parish News

Did you know that Bonfire Night was started by James 1st in 1605 when he decreed that November 5th should be a day of national thanksgiving. The Gunpowder plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James 1st had been foiled, the King's life was saved and Bonfire Night was born.

If he were alive today, I'm sure James 1st would have loved to come to Waterford to celebrate Bonfire Night with us and our huge bonfire, wonderful, low noise fireworks, delicious barbecue and bar selling mulled wine, beer and our speciality hot chocolate.

So do come along and join in the fun! This year it will be held on **SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER**; doors will open at 5.30pm, the bonfire will be lit at 6 and the fireworks will be fired at 7pm.

Tickets will be available online from Friday 17th October for registered residents and on general release from Friday 24th October. (Or contact a Committee Member)

Tickets sell out quickly so make sure you're registered as a village resident for priority booking.

It will be a great night for the whole family – fit for a king!

A reminder...

As we announced last month, after five years of dedicated effort—countless surveys, reports, and overcoming many hurdles—we are absolutely delighted to announce that planning permission for the new Village Hall has finally been granted!

This marks a huge milestone for Waterford and opens the door to an exciting future for our community.

Now the real work begins—and we need everyone in the village to get involved!

How can you help?

- Do you have business contacts who could sponsor the hall or offer services for construction?
- Can you help fundraise, donate, or volunteer your skills?
- Would you like to join our new Fundraising Sub-Committee?



If so, please get in touch! This project's success depends on the support and passion of our whole community. Together, we can turn our vision into reality.

REMINDER

Waterford Churchyard Working Party Saturday 4th October 1000-1300. Tea and cake provided.

WATTON AT STONE



Successes at Watton Garden and Produce Show.



Many people enjoyed the show on Sunday 7th September once again this year.

There were 31 exhibitors and a total of 183 entries, the highest number that we have had for several years.

Winners:

Fruit and Vegetables classes David Wilkinson
Domestic classes Andrew May
Floral classes Marion Blacktin
Children's classes Jacob Smith

'Best in Show' went to Mary Wills for a wonderful butternut squash. Best entry in the Domestic section went to Sharon Knight for some very tasty courgette and walnut muffins.

Thank you very much to everyone who entered and those who came along on the afternoon, it was a really successful community event.

Alexandra Abel Smith drew the raffle and presented the prizes at the end, tea and home made cakes were enjoyed by all and there was produce from the allotments for sale.

Many thanks to the judges, Alexandra Abel Smith who presented the prizes, the businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes and the hardworking committee.

Raffle Prizes were donated by:

- The Bull
- The George and Dragon
- Emily Rose hairdresser
- Bridget B's
- Fortune's House
- Budgens
- Crumbs
- Boys 2 Men
- and committee members

Carole Moore (Chairperson)



WATTON-AT-STONE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open every Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 in the Nigel Poulton Community Hall. Loads of books to choose from including Children's books, plus various jigsaw puzzles. No charges or fees involved or borrowing time constraints. Come along and have a browse

Watton Ramblers Walk Programme:

Every Tuesday there is a short slow walk (max 1 hour) starting from the Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 10 o'clock.

We are lucky in Watton to have an abundance of routes taking us just into the wonderful countryside that surrounds the village. The choice of route is dependent on the weather and ground conditions and any preference from those attending.

We don't walk in the rain!!

Newcomers are welcome, particularly those recovering or who need a little gentle exercise in good friendly company.

(No payment required and no need to book. Further details from Maurice 01920 426344)

SPORTS GROUPS CONTACTS

-	
PILATES	Laura Jeffs
	07710 408974
CYCLING	Alan Headland
	01920 830351
WATTON VETS	Steve Betts
FOOTBALL	07970 698139
YOUTH FOOTBALL	Derek Hill
	01438 813684
LADIES FOOTBALL	Steve Betts
	07970 698139
SATURDAY	Paul Reynolds
FOOTBALL	07794 791978
ARCHERY	John Meischke
	07970 083256
CRICKET	Brad Williams
	07801 790915
SHOTOKAN	Peter Khera
KARATE	07866 374674
TENNIS	Ian Knight
	07778 401799
RAMBLING	Maurice Gordon
	01920 426344
TABLE TENNIS	Steve Block
	07870 779949

WATTON BOOK WORMS

We usually meet on the third Friday of the month at 7pm to share supper and thoughts on our book of the month. All are welcome.

Contact peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk

Waterford Nature Notes

We have an artificial waterspout in our garden, pond water is pumped around underground pipes, at one point there is a hole in a wall out of which the water drops for about a foot then flows back into the pond. A Magpie discovered the spout and spent several minutes drinking from the falling water. Some minutes later, the same or another Magpie arrived and spent a good ten minutes splashing about under the waterfall, jumping up onto a nearby step then plunging back into its shower bath, after which it was thoroughly soaked, it then spent another 15-20 minutes perched on the fence shaking itself dry and preening. The whole process was so long that I wondered whether the bird was getting rid of an infestation, for example of mites.



Following my comment about Cabbage White caterpillars being an economic pest, my Southgate correspondent, a Devonian by birth and upbringing, who therefore puts jam first, told me of an incident that was reported in The Western Morning News. Back in the 1950's, the school bus stopped one day next to a field of cabbages and they all got out to listen to the sound of the caterpillars munching the leaves, there was, of course, far less traffic on the roads.

When our children were young, they had a picture book, "Where do butterflies go when it rains?", after many pages of questions such as, "Do they go to bed?" The answer was quite simple - they rest on the underside of leaves. In fact butterflies and moths will find any dry spot such as a crevice in the bark of a tree, amongst the foliage of a dense bush. Whilst rain will not of itself kill butterflies and moths, it will affect their ability to fly so they must find shelter. For similar reasons, wasps will stay in the nest during rain. Wasps don't actually sleep as we do when in the nest but become inactive. At present we have two wasp nests in our walls, one in the cavity between the outer and inner walls, on warm days, when the wasps are very active, the buzzing can be heard inside the room while on cold or wet days, there is no buzzing.

It was in 2016 that we began to manage the churchyard for wildlife. With advice from the diocese and 'Caring for God's Acre', a charity, we made our plans. The major change that we made was just to stop mowing every piece of grass flat. Churchyards, particularly older ones have generally been uncultivated and not treated with



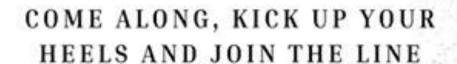
chemicals such as weed-killer and insecticides, this makes the land an important habitat. There is a folder in the church porch that explains the areas that are mown and those that are left to grow. Leaving areas unmown provides not only shelter and food for birds and mammals but also allows a variety of plant and insect life, which, in turn provide more food and other benefits. The reason I mention this now is that, even after nine years, we have identified another plant that has found its way into the churchyard, Stone Parsley, *Sison amomum.* This brings our total to 103 species and we haven't introduced a single one of those.

While in the churchyard one day, I met George, a retired farmer, who farmed the land around Waterford for many years. George was born into a farming family and was a farmer throughout his life. George and I have discussed the tidiness of the countryside several times in the past, sometimes robustly, some of our views coincide, others don't, for example over whether the churchyard should be kept tidy throughout rather than the long grasses, brambles and nettles where we allow them to grow. I think we have the balance about right but I appreciate that others don't hold similar views and that their views can be equally valid. For example, I disagree with the council's position on leaving the grass uncut around the War Memorial and am grateful that Paul, who lives opposite, has taken it upon himself to keep it tidy.

One very good example of diversity in land management was on a farm, where we rented a holiday cottage. The farmers had Barn, Little and Tawny Owls nesting on their farm and were concerned by the road kills that occurred almost every year. The farmers had reduced the numbers of roadkill simply by allowing their hedges, where their land bordered a road, to grow taller thereby forcing the owls to fly higher and avoid being hit by tall vehicles.



Malcolm





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SUNDAY November 2nd Fun starts at 5.30pm www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk



PRINT DEADLINE

Please send any items for the next edition

BY 12TH OF THE MONTH

To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

Bramfield

Jenny Clayton 3 Bury Lane, Bramfield (01992 538712) jenny@jmsprojects.co.uk

Stapleford

Carol Eccleston
1 Clusterbolts, Stapleford.
(01992 536405)
caroleccleston@btinternet.com

Waterford

Ray Cole 3 Bramfield Lane, Waterford (01992 584040) rayjcole1@tiscali.co.uk

Watton at Stone

Denise Hodgson 33 Lammas Road, Watton (07446 161125)

General enquiries

Denise Hodgson
parish.news.beane@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

lan Knight (07778 401799) iancknight31@gmail.com

EDITOR

Denise Hodgson



KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS

We are on Facebook

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

And you can also access an electronic version of the Parish News from any of the following websites:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7907/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7898/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7885/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7903/

www.watton-pc.org.uk/news/

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



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



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



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



BENEFICE DETAILS

Please contact your local Churchwardens

Churchwardens

Aston: Sara Hudson (01438 880750)

Tim Alexander (01438 880519)

Bramfield: Peggy Wareham (01992 550467)

Dorothy Abel Smith (01992 582132)

Stapleford: Nicola Page (Church rep) (01992 302501) Lesley Atterwill (Church Rep) (07773 392992)

Waterford: Malcolm Wandrag (01992 552531)

Watton: Ian Knight (07778 401799)

Helen McCash (07817 384117)

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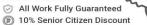
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