

# PARISH NEWS

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://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

**December 2025 and January 2026**



Here we are, rushing headlong into Christmas, with all that has to be done. There's the house to decorate, the cards to write, the food to order, the presents to buy. Decisions to be made - whose house will we meet in, who will bring Granny? All annual dilemmas which occupy much of our thinking time.

Of course, there are those for whom Christmas is not a happy time. Those who are homeless; the lonely and bereaved; those who can't afford expensive food and presents. People who will be glad when it is all over, and normal life can resume.



Whichever category you are in we maybe all just need to stand still a while and consider - why do we have a season called Christmas? Well, the clue is in the name - the mass of Christ - a celebration of a holy child, sent to earth to bring good news. A season which doesn't need a lot of money or fuss, a season when we can just be still, and give thanks, that God sent his Son to earth to be our Saviour.

Because, all too soon it will be behind us, and we will be negotiating New Year's eve - that perennial decision to be made - do we make a New Year's resolution or not? It is a statistic that most New Year's resolutions are forgotten by January 17<sup>th</sup>, so it is questionable whether there is any point.

If we can only think of cutting back on chocolate, or not drinking wine every day, then there probably *isn't* any point. Those are the resolutions which are all too easily broken, and which, in any event, have little or no impact on the world around us.

Much better just to resolve to be better at the things that matter. Extending a friendly hand to someone who is lonely; doing what we can to preserve the environment; being the sort of people God would want us to be; trying to make a difference in a world which seems beset by trouble and darkness.

Jesus said there are only two commandments: that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind; and that we should love our neighbour as we love ourselves. If we can do this then we can move forward into the New Year safe in the knowledge that the small patch of earth which we each inhabit can be made better by our actions.



So, leaving you with this thought, I wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas, and a healthy and contented New Year.

Blessings

Ann



**NEW RECTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE** - Sadly it was not possible to appoint a new Rector to the Benefice following our initial advertisement which closed at the end of October. A second recruitment drive will take place early in 2026 supported, as before, by the Diocese. In the meantime, services in each of our churches continue so please **JOIN US** this Christmastime to celebrate the Festive Season!

## **Beane Valley Benefice Services**

**December 2025**

**ALL are welcome**

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

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Waterford** Holy Communion  
**4pm Stapleford** **CAROLS AND GIFT SERVICE**  
No service in Bramfield today

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am Watton** Holy Communion  
**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Family Service  
**11.15am Bramfield** Holy Communion  
**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise  
No service in Waterford today



### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**4pm Watton** **CAROL AND GIFT SERVICE** by candlelight  
**4pm Aston** **CAROL SERVICE**  
**6pm Stapleford** **CAROL SERVICE**  
**6pm Waterford** **CAROL SERVICE**  
No service in Bramfield today

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4pm Aston** **CRIB SERVICE**  
**4pm Watton** **CRIB SERVICE**  
**6pm Bramfield** **CAROL SERVICE**  
**8pm Aston** **CHRISTMAS MASS**  
**11.30pm Stapleford** **MIDNIGHT MASS**  
**11.30pm Watton** **MIDNIGHT MASS**  
No service in Waterford today



### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10am Aston** Family Service  
No services in Bramfield, Stapleford, Waterford or Watton today



### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am Watton** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Bramfield** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Stapleford** Holy Communion  
No services in Aston or 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)*

**January 2026**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Waterford** Holy Communion  
No service in Bramfield today

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.30am Watton** Holy Communion  
**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Family Service  
**11.15am Bramfield** Holy Communion  
**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise  
No service in Waterford today

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Holy Communion  
**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Waterford** Morning Prayer  
No service in Bramfield today

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.30am Watton** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Bramfield** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Stapleford** Holy Communion  
No services in Aston or Waterford today and no Contemporary Service in Watton

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service  
**11am Aston** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise  
**11.15am Waterford** Holy Communion  
No service in Bramfield today

### **Midweek Services**



**Bramfield Open Church Wednesdays.**  
Services postponed until further notice.

**STAPLEFORD VILLAGE TEA AFTERNOON in CHURCH** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
**2.30pm** (wear a Christmas hat or jumper) and **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2.30pm**. All are welcome for tea, coffee, cake and chat.



JOY  
NOEL  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
PEACE HOPE  
WISEMEN  
CHRISTMAS  
BELIEVE FAITH  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
THANK YOU



### **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](mailto:pauline.manley1966@gmail.com)



## RIP – We Remember With Love

**Barbara Fletcher** whose ashes were buried at St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 30 November

**Janet Guinn** whose ashes were buried at St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 5<sup>th</sup> December

### On-line bereavement support

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org); [thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org);

[cruse.org.uk](http://cruse.org.uk); [teardropgrief.co.uk](http://teardropgrief.co.uk);

[ataloss.org](http://ataloss.org);

### CARING for our CHURCHYARDS

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



Join the Watton church  
choir as we lead **CAROL  
SINGING** at The Bull on  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**December at 7pm**



**MISSING YOU TREE** ribbons are  
available in each church under the Missing  
You Tree. There is a pen for you to write  
your loved ones' names and any messages  
to remember those we love who are with God. From All  
Souls 2nd NOV 2025 to Candlemas 2nd FEB 2026.

*They whom we love and lose are no longer where they  
were before. They are now wherever we are.*

*(St. John Chrysostom)*



**Hertford & Ware  
Foodbank**

## Christmas Appeal

**Please help by donating an item or two from our  
wish list this winter and support those facing crisis.**

Christmas Pudding

Stuffing

Long Life Fruit Juice

Tinned Potatoes

UHT Milk

Mince Pies

Tinned Ham

Tinned Salmon

Tinned Custard

Chocolates

**Donation Points can be found in: Tesco, Sainsburys, ASDA**

**or direct to the Foodbank Centres at:**

**United Reform Church, Hertford**

**or The Foodbank at the Priory, Ware**



Hertford,  
Ware & District  
**Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell

**Thank you!**

Registered Charity Number 1157028



### 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

**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!!!



## TAC Tweens.

**A Youth Group for...**

**Year 6s, Year 7s, and Year 8s...**

**Meeting on Friday evenings,**  
**from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.**

**December 12th**

**January 16th and 30th**

**At the Memorial Hall,**  
**High Steet, Watton at Stone.**

**Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke,**  
**Tuck Shop and Refreshments**

**For further details, contact Sharon:**  
**07931 325288**

## HEDGEROW HEROES

For much of the natural world, this time of year heralds a quieter period to come, after the leaves have fallen and the last berries have been plucked by chattering blackbirds, the air will turn crisp, and thoughts will look to the bustle of next spring. This time of year however, is the busiest for those of us planting new hedgerows, when the trees are dormant, and ready to be put in the ground.

Join me, James, and CPRE Hertfordshire to help reach our aim of planting 2km of new hedgerows, providing a crucial habitat for wildlife of all kinds, and helping enhance the beauty of our countryside. Planting will be held at **Woodhall estate, near Watton at Stone**, and we have a few dates for this side of New Year already organised, the 26th and 30th November, and the **3rd, 10th and 14th of December**. Please bring your own lunch, and tools/gloves if you have them - we'll provide the rest (including lots of cups of tea). If you're interested in getting hedging, email [james@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:james@cpreherts.org.uk) or visit [www.cpreherts.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering)




## KIDS SPACE

**Friday afternoons (term time only)**  
**3.30pm—5.30pm**  
**Closed 12th December**  
**19th December 'Christmas Bake Off'**

Memorial Hall, High Street  
 Parking available

**Age Range: Up to Year 6**

Activities: Crafts, play, games, sewing,  
 Bible story and singing.

Cost: £3 per child, and £1 per sibling.  
 Hot chocolate and fruit on arrival and finish  
 with Pizza and Pasta  
*Homemade cakes and scones available  
 to purchase from the Tea Room*

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

## Can you answer all these questions?

If you can, the first letter of each answer makes a letter of a well-known Christmas carol. Can you guess the carol? (*Answers on page 11*)

- ★ Who was the King when Jesus was born?
- ★ How did Herod feel when he heard about Jesus?
- ★ What sort of place was David's City?
- ★ What was Jesus born to be?
- ★ How many wise men came from the Orient?
- ★ Where did the Angels come down from?
- ★ What time of day did Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem?
- ★ The Angels were known as a heavenly what?
- ★ Who did Jesus come to save?
- ★ What did the heavenly bells do at Christmas time?
- ★ Who told the Shepherds about Jesus?
- ★ What gifts did the Shepherds bring?
- ★ How did Mary travel to Bethlehem?
- ★ What sort of calendar tells the story?
- ★ Where had Mary and Joseph travelled from?
- ★ What did the wise men bring?
- ★ What sort of special life does Jesus offer?
- ★ What might Mary have sung to get baby Jesus to sleep?
- ★ Who were the first people the Angels told about Jesus?
- ★ What led the wise men to the stable where Jesus was?
- ★ Where did Joseph try to find a room for the night?
- ★ What play tells the story of the birth of Jesus?
- ★ Who was Jesus' real Father?

## WATERFORD & HERTINGFORDBURY WI

**TURKEY RAFFLE:** Thanks to everyone who took part in our prize draw. It was won by ticket No.109, Stuart Orton of Waterford.

### NEXT MEETINGS:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December & Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm

At our December meeting we will be entertained by a magician and ventriloquist, followed by festive refreshments, secret santa and a catch up on all local and national WI news and events. Check for details on the January meeting on our Facebook page.

In October we had a fascinating talk about Life in the ATS during WWII, drawn from the speaker's own mother's letters. In November Daisy Roots Nursery from Hertford Heath gave us a presentation on how to plant year round and which gardens to visit in which month. Some of their extensive range of perennials were on sale on the night. We visited the TAC tearoom in Watton in November – highly recommended! See their ad in this mag for details. We're now planning our new year meal and other events for the coming year - you are most welcome to come along; there is a £5 visitor charge which includes refreshments and raffle.

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

### **BRAMFIELD**

#### WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

##### **Bramfield Carpet Bowls**

Meets Village Hall Monday eve 7pm to 9pm  
Enquiries Mike Jones 01992 550182

##### **Parish Council Meets**

##### **Every other 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

Clerk Chris Underhill 07714 711253

##### **Village Hall Committee Meets**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month 8pm  
Contact Cheryl Jackson 01992 583958

##### **Bramfield Book Club**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Contact Louise 01992 583173

[Gibbslouise83@gmail.com](mailto:Gibbslouise83@gmail.com)

##### Please Note

We are currently not taking New members but you can Join our waiting list

### **WATERFORD**

It was universally agreed that this year's Fireworks Night was the best one Waterford has ever hosted. 'Fully Fused Fireworks' delivered a dazzling display of sparkle and colour and thanks to the low noise effect of the fireworks, everyone – from the youngest to the oldest – could enjoy the show. The refreshments catered for all tastes, offering hot dogs, a bar, mulled wine and hot chocolate which was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. The ever-popular 'light' toys added extra excitement for the children, making it a fantastic evening for everyone. And to cap it all, we made £2,300 profit to go towards our New Village Hall Fund!

As always, Waterford has more festive treats in store. Our Christmas Craft Café is just around the corner – join us on **SATURDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> December from 1–4 pm**, to enjoy some Christmas cheer. Indulge in culinary treats like mince pies and sausage rolls while the children's craft stall will keep the little ones entertained. The local craft stall will feature a range of handmade treasures, and there will be a raffle and a chocolate tombola. Best of all, we are reliably informed that the Big Man himself is popping by to meet our local children. So, note down the date and join us for some festive fun.

For those of you out there who are bakers, please break out your 'Star Bake' to add to our delicious refreshments. Bring them to the Village Hall on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10-12pm.

Finally, behind the scenes, significant progress is being made towards our New Village Hall. A dedicated team is



NEW VILLAGE HALL



handling all the preliminary tasks needed to kick off this momentous project. To launch this initiative, we are hosting an Open Evening on 29 January to present our plans to the community and share a glass of wine as we begin our fundraising campaign and engage the whole village in our giant group endeavour. We invite everyone – whether you've got skills, contacts or simply enthusiasm, to get involved. Let's make 2026 the year we turn our New Village Hall into a reality. If there's one thing Waterford excels at, it's working together to achieve wonderful things!

### Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal

The recent house to house collection in Waterford for the poppy appeal raised a magnificent £455.27 up from just over £300 last year. Well done to the generous people of Waterford.

Tony Oakden

## WATTON AT STONE

### St Andrew and St Mary's

A Big THANK YOU to everyone who came to our **Remembrance Day Service** on 9 November. It was lovely to see the church full for this special service which included our uniformed groups parading their flags, wreath bearers, the choir, organist and the annual appearance of our trumpeter sounding Last Post and Reveille. You may have heard the bells ringing muffled as a mark of respect (explanation in November edition). A collection was taken and £325 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

#### CANDLELIT CAROL AND GIFT SERVICE – 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm:

Our hugely popular and **atmospheric festive** service. This is our traditional Christmas service of Lessons and Carols and you are invited to bring a wrapped gift for a child in the local refuge who may not otherwise receive any gifts this Christmas. **Please attach a tag** detailing whether the gift is for a boy or girl and the age. Gifts for mums are also welcome, again with a tag please. It's a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas celebrations!



#### CRIB SERVICE – 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm:

This very popular children's service will once again be held in the parish church on **Christmas Eve** facilitated by Sharon and Richard Knight from Take Away Church (TAC). It's a great service for the children as excitement builds for the Big Day!

#### MIDNIGHT COMMUNION – 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm:

Our fantastic final service in the run up to Christmas – join us for this **festively traditional service** welcoming in Christmas Day, held by candlelight.



### Watton at Stone Tennis Club AGM

The Tennis Club AGM will be on 6<sup>th</sup> January at the Pavilion at 8pm

### Watton at Stone Scout and Guide Group

## SCOUT MAIL SERVICE



We will again provide our free Christmas card delivery service for Watton at Stone residents.

Post your cards (No stamp required) through the Scout Mail Christmas letter box in Budgens between **2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December**.

The cards will be sorted and delivered by Scout members to addresses in Watton village only between 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Donations are always gratefully accepted. Cheques should be made out to "Watton at Stone Scout & Guide Group" or cash in a sealed envelope in the mailbox.

BACS donation is preferred. Account name: Watton at Stone Scout & Guide Group, account number 00103348, sort code - 30 94 17

Please put "Scoutmail" as the reference.

Charity number 302602. Any questions to Richard Wing 07393 620103

COME ALONG, KICK UP YOUR  
HEELS AND JOIN THE LINE

## LINE DANCING

EVERY THURSDAY  
AFTERNOON

War Memorial Hall,  
118 High Street, Watton at Stone

£5 PER SESSION

For details contact  
Rachel/Sue 07833 230 861







*The*  
**MAGIC**  
*OF*  
**WATERFORD**  
*Christmas*  
**CAFE & CRAFT**

CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS & CRAFTS

**Christ  
MAS  
CAFE**

COME & SEE  
FATHER CHRISTMAS  
FREE!

**SATURDAY** December 6th  
Fun starts at 1pm till 4pm  
[www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk)



WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL



# FESTIVE LUNCHEON

If you'll be spending the festive season on your own, you're warmly invited to join us for a fun afternoon with friendly company, delicious food, and a welcoming atmosphere.

 **Saturday, 27th December**

 **Nigel Poulton Centre Pavilion,  
Watton-at-Stone**

 **12:00pm**

**MENU:** Soup, hot and cold finger buffet, desserts, mulled wine, teas and coffee

**ALSO FEATURING:** Quiz, raffle, music, and gifts

**SUGGESTED DONATION: £8**

**TRANSPORT PROVIDED IF NEEDED**

**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, CONTACT:**  
Natasa at Take Away Church  
 **07930 536146**



WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL

# Waterford Nature Notes

Here's a good word for a crossword : 'allopreening', my Somerset Correspondent told me of this after he had watched one of a pair of Jackdaws grooming the other. I have only ever known this interaction between birds, and the word is specific to birds, as 'social grooming'.

If you entered a supermarket or visited a farm shop in October, you will have seen thousands of pumpkins for sale, one local supermarket had 3,200kgs on display. The pumpkins won't be used for food, but for Hallowe'en decorations, the boxes are labelled as "carving pumpkins". It is estimated that around 3500 acres of land were used to grow pumpkins, this is agricultural land that has been taken out of food production. Estimates give a figure of an average of 2,200 plants per acre, the total number is, therefore 7,700,000 plants. Each plant needs around an average through its life of 73 litres of water per week. The growing time from seed to harvest is approximately 15 weeks. The quantity of water consumed is, therefore:  $7,700,000 \times 73 \times 15$ , an inexpressible number on a calculator. Using long multiplication, that works out at 8,430,500,000 litres of water. London's largest reservoir is the King George V, in the Lea Valley at Chingford, which holds 12,492,000,000 litres, so two thirds of that huge reservoir (view it on an OS map and search on-line for the water levels during droughts) is used every year just to grow pumpkins for decoration. Stop it! Hallowe'en Pumpkins are a recent import from the USA, sometime in the 1980's. It is not the farmers that are to blame for this waste of land and water, farmers are having to diversify to make ends meet, if they were paid a fair price for producing food, they wouldn't need to chase the market.



Incidentally, in the mid to late 1980's, when our children were at Junior School, we went to a parents' evening, we asked why our children were not being taught long division and multiplication, the answer was that nobody uses it because we have calculators - see above regarding calculator unable to cope. The teacher asked when I had last used long arithmetic, that very day I had had to calculate my use of an overtime budget for the forthcoming year, computers weren't a common feature of life, and my employer at the time didn't provide calculators so I was forced back on long arithmetic. Apart from that, the use of various forms of arithmetic, including mental, which our children also weren't taught, leads to skills in numeracy. Many people of my generation and earlier can calculate the VAT on a sale faster than the shop assistant that is using a calculator.



Wouldn't you just know it, yet another failure in what was dreamed-up as a good scheme, "Carbon offset". The idea was for companies, governments, even individuals, to plant trees to offset their carbon emissions, e.g. from air travel. Many thousands of acres of trees, usually quick-growing conifers, were planted, taking up yet more agricultural land. Trees are now so stressed that they are creating more carbon than they are taking up. A few years ago a Welsh, tenant hill farmer tried to buy a farm that was for sale, he arranged the banking and was just about to close the purchase when the land agent told him that the owner had received a better offer. The offer was from a Swiss firm that sold carbon

offset credits. The farm was taken out of food production. Incidentally, the Swiss firm receives a grant from our government for offsetting carbon, which is no longer happening.

I wasn't able to go to Abbotsbury Swannery for the Cygnet Release this year. My Somerset correspondent reported that they ringed around 200 cygnets, I think the number last year was less than half that. The Swannery had events planned for their final week but had to refund people that had bought tickets because they had to close one week early due to Avian flu being found in the colony. My correspondent also sent me a beautiful photograph of an Osprey over The Fleet, if you wish to know more about this visit:

<https://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-translocation/>

Malcolm

## 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](mailto:peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk)



# **Watton At Stone Primary and Nursery School**

## **Break the Rules Day**

Lots of fun was had on Break the Rules Day at the end of half term and the money was raised is going to be put towards some new outdoor equipment.



### **Black History Month**

- In Nursery and Reception, the children watched a short film called 'Hair Love'
- Year 1 created their own Kente cloth patterns
- Year 2 looked at the life and work of Mary Seacole
- Year 3 looked at Martin Luther King's 'I had a dream' speech
- Year 4 explored the poem 'Who am I?' and sang African call and response
- Year 5 learnt about the mathematician Katherine Johnson
- Year 6 learnt about the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and created their own versions of his work

### Remembrance Day service



## **Well done to Yellow house!**

Yellow house earnt the most house points in autumn 1 and their well-deserved treat included a non-uniform day, a pumpkin hunt, pumpkin colouring competition and some tasty treats.



Year 6 have completed a DT project which saw them plan, create a template and then make a waistcoat for their teddy bear. They used both a sewing machine and hand sewing to make their waistcoat.

## What we are looking forward to

Thoughts are beginning to turn to Christmas, with preparations underway for the Xmas Bazaar on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm – 5.30pm. The children will also be preparing for their Christmas performances and are looking forward to a visiting theatre company who will be performing Beauty and the Beast.

**Have you ever thought about becoming a governor?**

We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join the Governing Body.

Governors ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school, monitor and examine the educational and financial performance of the school and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher.

If you are interested in the role or would just like an initial informal conversation, please e-mail [admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk)

## Watton At Stone Nursery Admissions 2026-2027

Early Years Quality standard  
award 2022-2023

Led by a qualified teacher



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- ★ Who was the King when Jesus was born? **Herod**
- ★ How did Herod feel when he heard about Jesus? **Angry**
- ★ What sort of place was David's City? **Royal**
- ★ What was Jesus born to be? **King**
- ★ How many wise men came from the Orient? **Three**
- ★ Where did the Angels come down from? **Heaven**
- ★ What time of day did Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem? **Evening**
- ★ The Angels were known as a heavenly what? **Host**
- ★ Who did Jesus come to save? **Everyone**
- ★ What did the heavenly bells do at Christmas time? **Ring**
- ★ Who told the Shepherds about Jesus? **Angels**
- ★ What gifts did the shepherds bring? **Lambs**
- ★ How did Mary travel to Bethlehem? **Donkey**
- ★ What sort of calendar tells the story? **Advent**
- ★ Where had Mary and Joseph travelled from? **Nazareth**
- ★ What did the wise men bring? **Gifts**
- ★ What sort of special life does Jesus offer? **Eternal**
- ★ What might Mary have sung to get baby Jesus to sleep? **Lullaby**
- ★ Who were the first people the Angels told about Jesus? **Shepherds**
- ★ What led the wise men to the stable where Jesus was? **Star**
- ★ Where did Joseph try to find a room for the night? **Inn**
- ★ What play tells the story of the birth of Jesus? **Nativity**
- ★ Who was Jesus' real Father? **God**






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To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

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