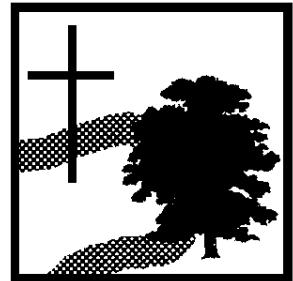


# PARISH NEWS

## *The Beane Valley Benefice*

[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



**February 2026**

As I write this letter, we have just celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>) when the Wise Men arrived to bring gifts to the infant Jesus. This is often the time when households take down their Christmas decorations.

As you read this letter at the beginning of February, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 40 days after Christmas. This event marks the end of the story cycle of the Nativity and early childhood of Jesus.

When Mary and Joseph went to the temple in Jerusalem to present Jesus they encountered two religious individuals, Simeon and Anna, who immediately recognised the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah. Simeon's prophecy, found in Luke's gospel (Luke 2:25-35) led to the feast being known as Candlemas, where candles are often blessed and carried in procession to symbolise Christ as the Light of the World.



So, whilst our Christmas decorations may come down in early January, the traditional Christian church season encompasses this entire period, concluding with the Temple presentation that formally bridges the Nativity stories with the rest of Jesus' life and ministry.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent



Simeon's final words of prophecy move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter. 40 days before Easter we come to Ash Wednesday, this year being 18<sup>th</sup> February. This day marks the start of Lent and our preparations for our Easter celebrations. Morning Prayer will be held at 10am at Bramfield to mark this day.

In our society today, there is often a debate about whether to "give up" something for Lent, such as chocolates or alcohol or in more recent times, whether to "take up" something for Lent such as reading a Lent book or following a Lent App, making time for prayer or reflection each day or just taking time to review how we live our lives.

Whatever your preference, I'd like to encourage us all to take time during Lent to think and reflect about how we use the gifts that God has given to each one of us to serve God and our neighbours. God calls each of us to work together for the good of the world in which we live. By working together, we can make a difference in our communities whilst making the love of God known to those we meet. As Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care". A good thought indeed for our Lent reflection of our calling to serve God.

With my prayers and good wishes for your Lenten observance,

Archdeacon Janet



## Beane Valley Benefice Services

February 2026

### **ALL are welcome**

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

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February CANDLEMAS (end of Missing You Ribbons)**

**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

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**Start of Lent**  
**10am Bramfield** Morning Prayer  
*With imposition of ashes to mark the start of Lent*



#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

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

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

**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



### **Midweek Services**



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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto:pauline.manley1966@gmail.com)



### **RIP – We Remember With Love**

**Malcolm Hadley** whose funeral and burial took place at St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 15<sup>th</sup> December  
**Jason Stroomer** whose funeral and burial took place at St Andrew & St Mary's Watton on 16<sup>th</sup> January

**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);

*'Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before; they are wherever we are.'*  
 (St John Chrysostom)

### **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?**

*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)*

## **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.**

## **Play Space**

**Toddlers and Babies!  
A village place for Mums,  
Dads and carers to meet**

**Watton at Stone**

**\*\*CLOSED TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY\*\***

**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 Tea Room**



Memorial Hall,

Watton at Stone

**Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm**

**Fridays (TERM TIME only) 2pm - 5pm**

**\*\*CLOSED Tuesday 24 February\*\***

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!!



## **KIDS SPACE**

**Friday afternoons (term time only)**

**3.30pm—5.30pm**

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



**TAC Tweens for Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8.**  
**Friday evenings from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.**  
**Meeting at The Memorial Hall.**

**UP AND COMING DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

**January: 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**February: 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**March: 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke,  
Tuck Shop and Refreshments  
£3.00/person.**

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



**Take Away Church (TAC) - "Thank You"...**

It seems a long time ago given a double issue of the Parish News – December / January, but we would like to take this opportunity of saying some very big overdue “Thank yous”...

Firstly, for all the support we got from the village for our Big Quiz Night...at the War Memorial Hall. This was the first time we have ever done a quiz, and the support and encouragement we got was amazing. Thank you to all those that came along – in all we had 79 people who joined us for the evening, and to those who supported on the sidelines.

We did this as a joint venture, supporting the charity Tear Fund. After costs, we made total of £1095.00 which we split with Tear Fund. The money we raised will be going towards our Children’s resources for the various groups we hold in the village – PlaySpace, KidsSpace and Tweens.

A big “Well Done” to everyone that took part.

The results were as follows:

In 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – ‘Allotmentees’ with 50 points.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – ‘Watton Earth’ with 50.5 points...

and the winning team...

In 1<sup>st</sup> Place – ‘Clangers’ with 54 points. Hopefully they will defend their trophy next year!

“Thank you” to the TAC Team for all pulling together and enabling this event to happen. A big “Thank you” to the generous providers for our raffle:

*Budgens; Fortune Chinese Restaurant; Emily Rose Hairdressers; Tay Barbering; The Bull Public House;*

*The George and Dragon Public House; The Country Café, and Dunelm, St Albans...as well as a number of gifts donated by private individuals, which went on to make a lovely closing event to the evening.*

Our next event was our final Children’s Group of the year...a ‘Bake-off’. Again, this was held at the War Memorial Hall. Our entrants were from KidsSpace and Tweens. We supplied a range of cookies and cupcakes, and the children had to provide a presentation platter / plate and their own ingredients to decorate them. They had to decorate 6 shaped cookies and 4 cup cakes. We had 19 entrants, ranging from Reception (4 yrs old) to year 8 (12 yrs old).

The standard of decorating skill and imagination was outstanding...they all did amazingly well. Choosing the respective winners was not an easy task, and a big “Thank you” to Mrs Frances Paxman for taking on the Judging role. Decorated Wooden Spoons were awarded to the respective top three place in each of the groups.

**KidsSpace:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Charlie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Cara; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Nathan.

**Tweens:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Immy and Safie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Adam; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Felicity and Evie.

Ultimately everyone was a winner, and all the contestants went home with a festive cup filled with marshmallows, sweets, chocolates, a sachet of hot chocolate, and seasonally decorated teaspoon. Well done to you all...amazing stuff. “Thank you” to Sharon and the TAC Team for enabling this event to be as successful as it was. We are looking forward to everyone coming back in December to take part again, and hopefully defend their respective titles!

Our last event of the year was our Festive Lunch at The Nigel Poulton Community Hall. A repeat of what we found to be a successful event last year. This was a lunch primarily for local people who are predominantly elderly, or on their own. This was well attended with a full house. It was a fun Lunch; Mulled wine, soup and rolls, a finger buffet and selection of desserts with tea and coffee...We had a quiz, carol singing and a raffle...again no one went home empty handed, with all our guests going home with a small gift. A big thank you to Tasa and her amazing team of volunteers for making the lunch a success...and another big “Thank you” to our very generous supporters for the raffle prizes and the gifts:

*Jane Abbott design; Dunelm, St Albans; Budgens; and Mardley Stores... and a few private contributors.*

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year, and look forward to meeting up with you at one of our events in the new year – TAC Team x

## WATERFORD & HERTINGFORDBURY WI

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

February is our annual meeting where we elect the committee for the following year. After this we will play a selection of board games.....this can get quite serious, particularly the scrabble! Only members may attend this meeting, but we will have a brand new programme of talks from March and will keep you updated – visitors are welcome to any other meeting.

At the end of November we held wreath making sessions at Stapleford Village Hall, all the greenery was sourced locally. With fizz and nibbles it was great fun and everyone went home with a lovely fresh wreath. At our December meeting we hosted a magician and ventriloquist and in January we learnt all about 'Bees, Beekeeping and the Fascinating World of Honey' from local Amber Bees. Coming up we also have our New Year meal at The Grandison, and a theatre trip to St Albans.



Our next "Let's Sing Together" day: Haydn's Creation

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**St Martin's Church, Knebworth**

Knebworth Community Chorus celebrated Christmas in grand style in December at our Christmas concert, with a packed audience joining in enthusiastically. There was even a visit from Scrooge. It was an uplifting and hugely enjoyable way to start the Christmas season. Videos and a review are on our website and YouTube channel now.

That concert was also a prelude to our new season of events for 2026. The first is our next **"Let's Sing Together" day on Saturday 14 March**. We hold these twice a year so that singers come together to sing a musical piece from scratch in a day.

In March we will be singing from Haydn's "Creation". This is a joyful and exuberant work, from which we will sing the Choruses that mark each day of the Creation. We are delighted to have three soloists joining us, along with Richard Carr on the Organ. Our Musical Director, Derek Harrison will lead the events.

The day will run from 10am to 5pm with breaks (BYO lunch). There is also an optional rehearsal on Saturday 7 March in Knebworth for those who want to be reminded of the music beforehand. The day finishes with a free informal performance at 4pm to which all are invited.

The cost to take part as a singer is £25 and absolutely everyone is welcome, whether or not you've sung with

us before. To register, or for more information, please email [knebworthchorus@gmail.com](mailto:knebworthchorus@gmail.com) or call 01438 817 992.

Please also visit our website –

[www.knebworthchorus.org.uk](http://www.knebworthchorus.org.uk) – for more details and information about singing with or listening to the Chorus.

## **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

[Gibslouise83@gmail.com](mailto:Gibslouise83@gmail.com)

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



On January 9th, Bramfield Church commemorated 500 years since William Tyndale translated the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into English 1525-1526.

For this he was burnt at the stake for heresy but within a few years Henry VIII ordered a copy for every parish church in England. We read from the Authorised Bible and the Revd. Susan Stilwell preached on Tyndale's life and work.

##### **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](http://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.



## **STAPLEFORD & WATERFORD**

### **Stapleford Parish Council and road safety**

Stapleford Parish Council has initiated a campaign to tackle excess speeding along the main A119 through Waterford and Stapleford. There is also an increasing problem with 'rat running' traffic through Vicarage Lane in Waterford.

The Parish Council are keen to hear the views of villagers and gain more support from our residents to try and tackle these issues. We were especially grateful that our MP Chris Hinchliff pledged his support when he attended a meeting with us last year.

We will discuss the campaign further at our February meeting as follows:

Date: 19th February 2026

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Waterford Village Hall, 2 High Road, SG14 2PR

We welcome residents of both villages to come and take part and also find out more about our regular work as well!

#### **Contact Details**

Clerk: Danielle Houghton

· Email: [Staplefordpc@yahoo.com](mailto:Staplefordpc@yahoo.com)

· Phone: 07541 792894

· Website: <http://www.staplefordpc.co.uk>

**Waterford Recreation Committee** is hosting an Extraordinary General Meeting on **Wednesday 11th February at 7.30pm**

The aim of the meeting is to show community support for our new community hall.

To be eligible for grant applications we must demonstrate clear community support - without this, we cannot begin fundraising.

Please come along, bring a neighbour, view the plans, meet committee members and other villagers.

*Wine and nibbles provided.*

**Your attendance really matters!**



## **WATTON AT STONE**



### **Watton at Stone Fete**

We are collecting donations for the fete on **Saturday 28th March** between 10 and 12 o'clock.

Please bring along any good quality, saleable items eg toys, books, bric a brac, or bottles for the bottle stall to the Scout Hut in Mill Lane.

Thank you in advance



### **Watton at Stone Scout Group - Recruitment and New Scout Hut**

We are a thriving village Scout Group with over 80+ young members (6-18yrs of age) spread across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts sections.

The sections run great programmes, providing fun and adventure as well as giving members skills for life.

We have a large waiting list of people both from the village and the surrounding area.

After a nine month process, I am delighted to announce Watton at Stone Scout Group has been granted planning permission for a new hut.

The new hut will be a modern design and look, in the same location and footprint as the old hut. A new internal layout of the hut will provide a bigger space in the main hall. The new hut will be ECO friendly, use state of the art materials and be solar ready. The cost of the new hut will be around £160-£170,000 and we have secured £40,000 of funding to date.

If you have access to funds or funding ideas, please contact me.

For the Group to expand we need more adult helpers (all ages) - we would love to hear from you if you can give 1-2 hours of voluntary time each week. Great training and support are provided.

Please contact me if would like to chat about volunteering.

Thank you,  
Richard Wing - Group Lead Volunteer (07393-620103)



### **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 [petereverden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petereverden@hotmail.co.uk)



## Carol and Gift Service

**Thank you** to everyone who brought gifts to the Carol and Gift service in December

which were sent to a local Women's refuge. The gifts were so beautiful, and they really made a massive difference to the women and children in refuge at a very difficult time. Staff at the refuge were very overwhelmed with the generosity of everyone, especially with the cost of living at the moment.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2025



Thank you to all who donated to the appeal this year, a total of £3,730.80 which includes £256 donated via the QR code, was raised. Thanks to all the door to door collectors, the schools, the church and all the shops and pubs who allowed us to place collection boxes on their premises. Thanks too, to the wonderful knitters of Watton whose displays were a work of art.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, thank you,  
Lyn Oakman



**A big thank you** to all who supported our **Christmas Fayre** back in November last – it seems a long time ago!!!! We have raised £5,000, this due to the fayre, stalls at other events and donations from Fairview Homes “Wattons”, Amco Giffen (working at Railway Station), various private donators and Alan being rented out as Father Christmas. We have a number of ladies constantly knitting, cooking and supporting throughout the year. All monies go to a worthy cause Nerve Tumours UK, so thank you people of Watton for all your support.

Happy New Year and let's look forward to 2026!!!!  
Christine Grant

## 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 FOOTBALL	Steve Betts 07970 698139
YOUTH FOOTBALL	Derek Hill 01438 813684
LADIES FOOTBALL	Steve Betts 07970 698139
SATURDAY FOOTBALL	Paul Reynolds 07794 791978
ARCHERY	John Meischke 07970 083256
CRICKET	Brad Williams 07801 790915
SHOTOKAN KARATE	Peter Khera 07866 374674
TENNIS	Ian Knight 07778 401799
RAMBLING	Maurice Gordon 01920 426344
TABLE TENNIS	Steve Block 07870 779949

## Watton at Stone Community Choir



**Join us!**

*No auditions or experience necessary  
Wednesdays at 7pm*

please contact :  
**wattonatstonechoir@gmail.com**

# Waterford Nature Notes



While I was driving along Anchor Lane from Wadesmill to Tonwell, I spotted three Egyptian Geese grazing in a field. I can't remember when I last saw this species around here, my Southgate correspondent often reports to me upon these in his local parks and has been doing so for many years. The Southgate geese breed freely upon the lakes in two parks, usually raising broods of five but, on occasions seven or even up to nine. It seems that the geese have learned to recognize my correspondent and his wife because, although they have never fed them other than by casting appropriate food onto the water, the geese and their goslings, upon sighting them, will leave the water and come to them looking for food. It is only in recent years that Egyptian Goose has been included in books as a British Bird.

There have been reports of large Siskin flocks around the county, as many as 100 on occasions. As I have reported before, this species, along with several others, was a summer visitor until fairly recent years but gradually has become a resident, staying through Winter.



I read about efforts that have been made between St Albans City Council, Herts. and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) and Butterfly Conservation to create areas that support butterflies. Surveys of the areas between 2022 and 2025 showed a 350% increase in numbers and, in the year 2025, the increase has been 80% upon 2024 numbers. What wonderful news. HMWT has done and continues to do wonders for nature in our counties, they have now topped 24,000 members. If you have any interest in nature, conservation and climate and are considering contributing, please think about joining, 50% off first year membership if you join in January:

<https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/newyearoffer>

Yet another example of changing seasons, the traditional time for Hazel catkins is late Winter to early Spring, i.e. end of February to end of March, I saw full-grown catkins more than a week before Christmas.

There have been some reports of suspected bird flu around Hertfordshire and nearby counties. It is water birds that are most likely to suffer. It would be wise to take precautions, even if there have not been any reports locally. Do not enter water or allow your pet to do so, don't handle or allow your pet to pick up any dead bird. Whenever refilling your bird-feeders use a disinfectant to wash out any pathogens that might have been imported, proprietary brands are available but a weak solution of bleach, about 8 or 10 - 1 followed by thorough rinsing will be just as effective.



On Christmas morning I was up at around 6a.m. to let the dogs into the garden, I heard many owls calling. There was a Tawny in the churchyard, another somewhere across the marsh, two more in the Sycamore wood of John Oakins, another in the plantation above 10 Timber Orchard and a Little Owl somewhere in the trees behind 3 and 4 Timber Orchard. The owl that had been calling in the churchyard flew across to the plantation above Timber Orchard and was silhouetted against the dawn, twilight sky. How wonderful that there is such a strong population. Barn and Short-eared have also been reported locally meaning that the only British species not seen are Long-eared and Snowy but the Snowy is a rare, Winter visitor to the very North of Britain, such as the Shetlands.

Malcolm

We all have questions we have wanted to ask,  
about life, faith...what's going on...  
but there's never been the right time or place...  
Could this be your time?

We are looking at running a daytime Alpha Course after Easter – April time.  
This will probably be a lunchtime course, and we will be providing soup and a roll with beverages.

If you are interested, please contact us...

Please give us a ring 07780452478  
Or email Richard @Takeawaychurch.com  
Alpha: uk@alpha.org

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



# Working together for Waterford Village

## EGM: UPDATE ON NEW VILLAGE HALL

Following the great news that we have planning permission for our new hall, we now need to show that Waterford Village is united in supporting us in this venture. To be eligible for grants, we must demonstrate clear majority support, without this we cannot even begin to fundraise.

**Your attendance really matters.**

Please attend this EGM to register your opinion. And bring your neighbours! Let's work together to make the new community hall a reality.

Wine and nibbles, look at the plans, chat with neighbours.

## Everyone welcome!

If you can't come,  
please email your support on  
**[waterfordvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordvillagehall@gmail.com)**  
or write your name, address and  
telephone number on paper and post to  
5 Goldings Lane SG14 2PT



**WEDNESDAY February 11th  
7:30pm start  
[www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk)**

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. 6.30pm for 7pm start.**

Mastermind or the Weakest Link?

Come and find out!

Organise a team of eight and contact Sarah Baldwin to  
book your table

on 07775337270 or email

[sarahebaldwin59@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahebaldwin59@hotmail.com)

If you cannot make up a complete team then please let  
us know as we may be able to put you in touch with  
others to make up a full table.

Cost is **£10.00** per person.

Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, WATERFORD

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

**Bramfield**

Jenny Clayton  
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