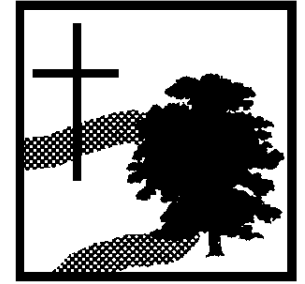


PARISH NEWS



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

June 2026

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM



It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

PSALM 74:17

By the time you read this June edition of the Parish News, we shall officially be in the Summer season, looking forward to long warm days ... picnics, garden parties, holidays and pretty much anything al fresco! Well, let's be hopeful that the weather holds up!

Seasonality is important to us, the Psalmist writes 'it was you who set all the boundaries of the earth, you made both summer and winter' (Psalm 74:17). Like everything in our lives, we need boundaries to give us a sense of protection and security, for example parents helping to establish boundaries for children until they are old enough to do this for themselves.

Boundaries may also be of a spiritual nature, where it's not so much about following a list of rules and regulations, but more about having some guiding principles to live by, that help us to have a healthy relationship with both God and others.

These boundaries help us to recognise who we are in God's sight, rather than other people's ideas about us! Boundaries also help us to grow in faith, peace and holiness as we are reminded of in St Paul's Letter to the Galatians; 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit'.

So, this Summer, enjoy the bounty of the harvest, and step out with the Spirit.

With love and blessings,

Rev Sue Stilwell

RECTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Sadly, the second round of recruitment failed to attract any candidates to the position of Benefice Rector and so we will continue to advertise the position. Huge thanks to the churchwardens, volunteers and visiting clergy for the enormous amount of extra work needed to keep the Sunday services and other church business and activities going.

Beane Valley Benefice Services

June 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 7th June

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 14th June

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 21st June

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 28th June

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 5th July

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

Wednesday 17th June 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



RIP – We Remember With Love

Frank Boddy whose funeral and burial took place on 8th May at St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

Lewis Spicer interment of ashes on 13th May at St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

Graham Hale interment of ashes on 30th May at St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

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

On-line bereavement support
griefshare.org; thebereavementjourney.org;
cruse.org.uk; teardropgrief.co.uk;
ataloss.org;



Weddings – we celebrate the marriage of

Rachael Hunt and Thomas Swift on 24th May at St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

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?

HertsHelp is a free, confidential service in Hertfordshire that connects residents with local community organisations, voluntary groups, and statutory services for support with various issues. Funded by Hertfordshire County Council, it acts as a single point of access for advice on care, cost of living, housing, and crisis support.

Phone: 0300 123 4044 (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am–5pm; Wed 9am–7pm; Sat–Sun 10am–4pm).

Email: info@hertshelp.net.

Text: hertshelp to 60060

CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer and visits:

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

WATTON at **STONE** St Andrew & St Mary open DAILY 10am – 3pm for more information Contact Churchwardens 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 Churchwardens 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.



KIDS SPACE
Friday afternoons (term time only)
3.30pm—5.30pm
Memorial Hall, High Street
Parking available
(Venue subject to change during Summer Term—details will be advised)
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



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 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:

June 5th and 19th

July 3rd and 17th

Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke,

Tuck Shop and Refreshments
£3.00/person.

For further details, contact Sharon:

07931 325288



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!!



WATERFORD & HERTINGFORDBURY WI



NEXT MEETING: Thursday 4th June 7.30pm
Dunton Folk will be visiting and we will learn about the history of Sea Shanties, with demonstrations and participation! Maybe also something about the story of Morris dancing; it promises to be an interesting evening exploring some of our rich heritage.

Last month we had a blind food tasting evening, rating different brands and supermarkets on their crisps, cheese, digestive biscuits and chocolate, and there were plenty of surprises. We also had a bring and buy sale and presented our outgoing Treasurer with a plant and voucher after her 18+ years of service to our WI – many thanks to Chris Dye, and we wish our new Treasurer all the best.

We voted to carry the two new national WI campaigns forward: 'Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health & social inclusion' and 'Action on women's homelessness'. Campaigning has always been an important part of the WI movement over its 110 year history.

Visitors welcome - first meeting free, then you may come to 2 further meetings at £5 before deciding whether to join or not. We meet on the first Thursday of every month in Waterford village hall at 7.30pm. Look us up on Facebook.

Celtic Harmony Camp

Escape the everyday this summer at Celtic Harmony Camp! Our weekends feature the magical Faery Trail and Disc Golf, which is also available for private party bookings to celebrate your special milestones. During your visit, the Woodland Bistro remains open to serve a variety of light lunches and refreshments in our stunning woodland setting.



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

BRAMFIELD

WHATS 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

Please Note

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

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.



STAPLEFORD

Tai Chi QiGong

Tuesdays 7-8pm Stapleford Village Hall

A relaxing form of Tai Chi. Suitable for all abilities - can be done seated. £5 per session pay as you go. Come along and give it a try!

Social Art Group

Wednesdays 10am-1pm Stapleford Village Hall

A group of artists who meet once a week to work on their own artworks in a social setting. Come along for a trial session for £3.

Tea Afternoon

**3rd Wednesday of the month 2.30-4pm
Stapleford Church**

Share tea, coffee, cake and conversation. Free, although donations are welcome.

WATERFORD

Our Parish News this month comes with two lovely invitations. First up is the **Annual General Meeting** of the Waterford Recreation Committee on **Thursday 17th June at 8pm** in the Village Hall. Please do come along to hear the latest news about the new village hall, meet the Committee, ask questions, join us, volunteer as a helper—or simply listen and smile. Everyone is very welcome, and we'd love you to stay afterwards to meet your neighbours over a glass of wine and a few nibbles. We really look forward to seeing you there!

Our second invitation is to our flagship event: **Waterford Village Fete on Sunday 6th September**. Plans are already under way, so please watch this space for more details. It's set to be bigger and better than ever, and we can't wait to welcome you!



WATTON AT STONE



1st Watton at Stone Guides have presented several bronze awards this term and one 10 night away badge which Annyah completed after she went on the introduction to the hills trip with the scouts and guides of Hertfordshire in the Peak District.

They have taken advantage of the lighter nights with outdoor activities including firelighting and rock art, made personal shields for St. George's Day and have nearly completed their First Aid badge.

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



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	Karen Wing 07984 690727
RAMBLING	Maurice Gordon 01920 426344
TABLE TENNIS	Steve Block 07870 779949

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY CLUB COACH & CAPTAIN
 KAREN WING IAN VOSPER
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wattonatstonechoir@gmail.com

Waterford Nature Notes

I have been away from home since early April so have not been able to spot the first arrivals over our villages of the Summer visitors - Cuckoos, Swallows, Martins and Swifts. The first reported of each of these on the Hertfordshire Records were: Cuckoo - 9th April; Swallow and House Martin - both on 24th March; Swift 15th April. I am looking forward to returning home and, with luck, seeing a squadron or two of Swifts over Hertford. I know I have said this before but the proper collective noun for Swifts is a 'scream', squadron is my own name.



The Hertford Swift Group, affiliated to Herts. and Middx. Wildlife Trust, was formed in 2019, among other things, the group gives talks about Swifts, run guided walks and install nesting boxes at suitable sites. We are currently discussing with the group whether our church will be a suitable site and whether we will apply for the necessary permission if it is suitable. While looking around the church with two members of the group, one of them pointed out Great Tits feeding their young. The young were in one of the hoppers at the top of the drainpipes, I assume that the long spell of dry weather made such a place inviting, I hope the brood fledge before we have some proper rain.

My wife, Marian, recalled a mnemonic to assist with remembering the hierarchy of classification of living organisms, known as taxonomy, it is: **K**ids **P**refer **C**heese **O**ver **F**ried **G**reen **S**pinach, meaning **K**ingdom **P**hylum **C**lass **O**rders **F**amily **G**enus **S**pecies. The classification of a human is:

Kingdom -Animalia; Phylum - Chordata; Class - Mammalia; Order - Primates; Family - Hominidae; Genus - Homo; Species - Sapiens. There is a higher level than Kingdom, that of Domain but it is not used commonly and there are some sub-levels, also not used commonly. This might be useful for anyone about to take their GCSE exams.

My Southgate correspondent tells me that the Black-headed gulls all left his local park lakes at the end of March but that the Herring gulls (about a score) that arrived about 18 months ago seem happy to remain. Whilst he has never seen any evidence of Bird Flu the numbers of wildfowl in both parks are down both by species and numbers, over the years he has counted up to 11 species on the water but this year no more than 6. Both the Canada Geese and the Greylags have produced broods. The Greylags have 12 goslings but whether this is one brood or two is not clear as parents keep them all close together in a creche, surrounded by the rest of the gaggle. The pair of Swans in Broomfield Park have nested for the 5th year in succession and have been sitting for about 3 weeks.

I have had many reports of Cuckoos calling all around Waterford, so many and over such a range that I think it will be more than one. It is only the male that utters the familiar sound. I have been asked by several people whether the constant calling means that a male can't find a mate but Cuckoos will mate many times, both sexes mating with any of the opposite sex that is available.

Having been away since writing my last edition, there isn't much more to say. We saw some Oystercatchers in Tasmania. I recognized them as such because they resemble our native Oystercatchers so closely, in fact when



UK Oystercatcher

comparing photographs of the two I could detect only very minor differences in the exact pattern of markings. The Australian Oystercatcher is known as the Pied Oystercatcher, scientific name *Haematopus longirostris* meaning long-billed, the Oystercatcher known to us is *Haematopus ostralegus* meaning oyster-gatherer. This is a very good example of why taxonomic definition is important.



Pied Oystercatcher

I should have mentioned last month the St Albans Cathedral live camera on the Peregrine nest, here is the link: <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/peregrine-live-cam>

An Apology

To Mr Edward Pearce and his company, River Beane Developments.

In my last Nature Notes I made reference to seemingly inadequate provision for drainage from Chalk Stream Close into a watercourse that leads to the River Beane. My information was flawed because I had not researched sufficiently.

Malcolm

Chalk Stream Close Drainage

The outlet was installed during the early stages of development and not when finished. Obviously Malcolm is implying that this was installed at the last minute to avoid earlier detection. This method of drainage was approved by all relevant authorities and meticulously designed by engineers to include a filtration and drainage system under the permeable drive with little, if any, water actually discharging from the outlet. Ecological surveys, Ecological Impact Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Flood Risk Assessments were all carried out by far more qualified people than Malcolm, unless he can advise otherwise?

All surveys / reports were approved by EHDC planning department and all conditions have been complied with, all available on the planning portal to review and educate about the development.

One last point, we did not choose the name for the development, my first choice was to name it after my, at the time, terminally ill Father, which the council refused. Instead, the Council gave us limited options to choose from and we felt Chalk Stream Close was most appropriate, I'm sorry he finds that ironic.

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The background of the poster features a stylized illustration of a village scene. It includes a church with a tall spire, a tree with leaves, and a banner that reads 'WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL'. The illustration is in a light grey tone.

AGM

WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL

WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL AGM
JUNE 17TH 2026 8pm START

Everyone welcome. Stay on afterwards and meet your neighbours over a glass of wine and nibbles. Meet the Committee, ask questions, join us, volunteer as a helper, or just listen and smile.

WATERFORD VILLAGE

FETE

SUNDAY 6th Sept

KEEP THE
DATE FREE!

WRITE IN
YOUR DIARY!



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
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(07446 161125)

General enquiries and Submissions

Denise Hodgson
parish.news.beane@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ian 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 either of the following websites:

www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-014A

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

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals, burial of ashes, blessings, confirmation or offers to help, please contact the relevant Churchwardens

BENEFICE DETAILS

Please contact your local Churchwardens

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



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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