

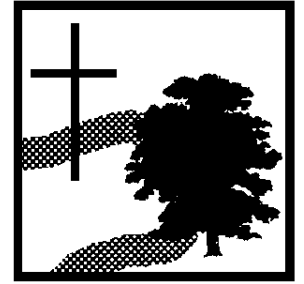
PARISH NEWS

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

July and August 2026



What do you think of when you hear the word "Church"?

At its highest level the Church is a world-wide organisation whose task is to bring the word of God to the people. It is managed from head-office in Lambeth palace under the watchful eye of the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are Anglican churches in every country in the world; churches of all different styles and dimensions; some of them operating at great risk in cultures which ban the Christian faith.

Nationwide there are some 16,000 Church of England churches, including 42 cathedrals. They are all different; different in history, style and churchmanship; yet they are all the same – all dedicated to provide a service to believers and non-believers following the pattern set by Jesus.



Closer to home we have St Albans cathedral, which supports 400 parish churches across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire; including our own Beane Valley Benefice, comprising the five churches of St Andrew and St Mary, Watton; St Andrews, Bramfield; St Michael and all Angels, Waterford; St Mary the Virgin Stapleford; and St Mary's, Aston.

Under normal circumstances churches are headed up by a Priest – the Vicar or Rector – with a panoply of helpers – Lay Ministers, Churchwardens; helpers who care for the fabric of the building cleaning and repairing; people who do the flowers, or open up the church during the week for visitors, who get things ready in preparation for weddings or funerals, who make sure there is warm water in the font for a Baptism.

Some might think that since our much loved Rector, Revd Jenny, retired a year ago the work of the church has paused. But it has not - we are still there, doing the work of God continuing to provide for the spiritual needs of the five parishes. Because, in essence, the 'Church' is not the buildings, it is the people – all of you, reading this letter. The beloved family of God.

So a big shout out to all those who have pitched in to help during the vacancy – the retired clergy who have dusted off their robes and come to lead us in worship; all those previously mentioned who have continued the work of maintaining the buildings, making them available to everyone and anyone who has a need; those who volunteer to deliver this Parish News, and of course a big mention to Denise Hodgson who has edited this wonderful magazine for 10 years, keeping us all in touch with each other.

So, as I wish you all a peaceful and joyful summer, please join us in our prayers for a new Priest to lead us as we continue God's work.

Ann





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

Beane Valley Benefice Services

July and August 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 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

Sunday 12th July

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 19th July

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 26th July

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 2nd August

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 9th August

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 16th August

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 23rd August

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 30th August

11.15am Stapleford Benefice Holy Communion
No service in Aston, Bramfield, Watton or Waterford today

Sunday 6th September

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 15th July and 19th August 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

Joan Baker whose funeral and burial took place at St Mary's Aston on 29th May

Dorothy Watling whose funeral and burial took place at St Mary's Aston on 15th June

'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;

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
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.**



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!!



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: £5.00 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 6pm to 8pm

Meeting at the Memorial Hall

UP AND COMING DATES FOR THE DIARY:

July 3rd and 17th

From September

Friday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Meeting at The Nigel Poulton Community Hall.

September 11th and 25th

October 9th and 23rd

Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke,

Tuck Shop and Refreshments

£3.00/person.

For further details, contact Sharon:

07931 325288

Summer Adventures at Celtic Harmony Camp!

Looking for a summer escape close to home? Celtic Harmony Camp is open every weekend from 13 June to 23 August for families to explore, except on 4 and 5 July.

Visitors can step into the magic of the "Faery Trail", take on a fun challenge with "Brickendon Disc Golf", or even book a "Disc Golf Party" for a special celebration. The Woodland Bistro will also be open at weekends, serving food, cakes, coffee, and refreshments in a peaceful woodland setting, with the opportunity to visit the Prehistory Centre.

There are also special dates to look forward to in July. Families can join the "Celtic Warrior Experience" on 24 July, an action-packed outdoor adventure inspired by ancient skills and warrior training. From 27 to 31 July, we will also host "The Games", running daily from 10am to 4pm.

For anyone interested in getting involved behind the scenes, the Volunteer Taster Day takes place on Saturday 18 July. It is a great opportunity to find out more about volunteering, from supporting visitor experiences to helping with conservation work.

Pre-booking is recommended for all visits. Please visit www.celticharmony.org for more information.

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.



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



STAPLEFORD

Music at St Mary's Saturday 25th July at 7.30 pm Yuko Sano (Piano) St Mary's Church, Stapleford, Herts SG14 3NB

For our next concert on Saturday 25th July at 7.30pm we are extremely excited to welcome back Yuko Sano.

For those of you have been to one of Yuko's previous concerts at St Mary's you will know what an extraordinarily talented pianist Yuko is.

Yuko Sano made her concerto debut aged 15 with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, having given her first international performance in Salzburg at the age of 8. She has since performed at major venues across Europe, South America, and Asia.

Tickets at £20 each can be reserved by replying to this e mail musicalstmarys@outlook.com or by phone to 07963 260715 (Niki Page).

Read more about Yuko by clicking on her website link below:

<https://yukosanopiano.com/>

To whet your appetite further below is a link to a recent concert performance

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHIoA622GpApSNHL20XFmQA>

We do hope that you can join with us in what should be a very special evening of music.

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

St. Michael and All Angels, Waterford hosted a wonderful musical event on 30th May. Five different performers gave up their time to deliver a diverse mix of music which included everything from folk to classical. The quality of the music was outstanding and was enjoyed by a good sized audience. Tea and home made cake was enjoyed in the village hall afterwards. The event raised £395 which will go towards creating better wheelchair access to the church. A huge thank you to the performers: Anne-Marie Pollard, Dear Wife, Rachel Chaplin with family and friends, Alice Cecil and Peter Crossley for supporting the event and for their wonderful performances.

Thanks also to all those who came along and supported the event.

Upcoming event

Waterford Harvest Supper is being held on 26th September. Please see the poster for further information. All are welcome.

Waterford Village Hall

As summer unfolds, there are some wonderful opportunities for us all to come together and enjoy village life in Waterford. Alongside these events, we are actively working to make our new Village Hall a reality - a project at the heart of our community.

Waterford Village Picnic – Saturday 12th July, 1:00–4:00pm

We are delighted to confirm the new date for the Village Picnic, which promises to be a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon for all.

There will be live music from the talented Lloyd Crowley, providing the perfect backdrop to a leisurely summer gathering. This time we have booked the sun, so do bring along your picnic, rug or chairs, and your favourite refreshments, and come ready to enjoy good company and village bonhomie.

There is no entrance fee, but a suggested donation of £5 per family would be very much appreciated, with all proceeds going towards the new village hall. The sun comes free!

Waterford Village Fete – Sunday 6th September

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for this year's Village Fete, always one of the highlights of the Waterford calendar.

The fete is a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together and enjoy a traditional afternoon of fun and festivities.

We would very much welcome offers of help, whether in the lead-up to the event or on the day itself. We are

also keen to hear from anyone with new ideas or suggestions to make this year's fete even more special. If you would like to get involved or have an idea to share, please do get in touch. Your support and creativity are what make these events such a success.

Fundraising for the New Village Hall – How You Can Help

Our new Village Hall is a vital community project, and we are grateful for the support already shown by so many residents.

One suggested option is a voluntary community contribution of around £10 per month for one year, if you are able. Even small contributions can make a big difference.

Standing Order Details:

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 67263149

Account Name: Waterford WRC

We warmly welcome donations, fundraising ideas, useful contacts, or any skills and experience that could help support the project.

This is a true community effort, and its success depends on all of us

We hope to see many of you at these events and look forward to sharing some lovely moments together as a community.



NEW VILLAGE HALL

2 nd Prize	£75 Cash - Donated by Watton PC	Ian Tyler
3 rd Prize	Tewinbury, Afternoon tea for 4 people – Donated by Highway Cycles	Bill Welch
4 th Prize	£50 Marks and Spencer Voucher – Donated by Highway Cycles	Joan Love
5 th Prize	£50 Garden Centre Voucher – Donated by Highway Cycles	A Smith
6 th Prize	Sunday Roast for two at The George and Dragon – Donated by George and Dragon	Joe Thomas
7 th Prize	£20 McMullen Voucher – Donated by McMullens	Glenn Bayford
8 th Prize	£20 Crumbs voucher – Donated by Crumbs	Catherine Hammond
9 th Prize	£20 Hair Voucher – Donated by Emily Rose Hair and Beauty	Brenda Marshall
10 th Prize	Man's Haircut – Donated by Tay Barbering	Simon Stenhouse
11 th Prize	Bottle of champagne – Donated by McCash and Hay	Jade Neale
12 th Prize	£20 Marks and Spencer Voucher	Helen McCash
13 th Prize	£20 One4All Voucher	Chris Paxman
14 th Prize	Caddy of Tea Bags – Donated by Van Hage	Frances Paxman
15 th Prize	Mot Voucher – Donated by Watton Service Station	Maddy Berry

WATTON AT STONE



Watton Village Fete

A BIG Thank You! to everyone who braved the sweltering temperatures and came to this year's fete. Because of the record breaking high temperatures, attendance at the fete was down considerably from last year but we still made a profit of £6,800 which will go towards maintaining the fabric of our beautiful, historic village church. Thank you so much! We very much missed the dog show which had to be cancelled because it was too hot but we're looking forward to holding it again next year when the temperatures will hopefully be more temperate.

Winners of the Grand Draw were:

Prize	Prize and donator	Winner
1 st Prize	£200 John Lewis Voucher – Anonymous	Lyn Oakman



The Watton at Stone Swifts

The recent fascinating talk about Swifts, given by the Hertford Swift Group, was well attended. It gave us a wonderful insight into the incredible world of these tiny birds, whose numbers have sadly been declining in the UK over several years.

Following the talk, several people signed up to have a Swift box attached to their houses, to attract more Swifts to Watton. The Swift Group assessed the suitability of these houses and two weeks after the talk, were climbing up ladders to fit boxes in Watton (more to be fitted) and also went to Walkern. However, due to thunder, lightning and heavy rain they had to abandon their task for another day!

The birds may not take up residence for a while and of course, are only here for a short time in the Summer (May to early September), depending on the conditions as they migrate.

Do keep your eyes and ears open to see and hear these charming birds as they zoom around. Mill Lane and around the Bull and The George and Dragon are favourite spots.

Waterford Nature Notes

After May's Nature Notes, I promised myself I would now stick to reporting and stay away from comment but having read about the number of protected birds of prey that are being killed on shooting estates and the government's idea of capping prices on milk, eggs etc. when the supermarkets are already squeezing farmers, I have just broken that resolve.

Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) published a report this month on the numbers of birds of prey that have been killed and a map of locations. There are several areas in which the number of such birds killed is over 10 and they are all in areas where there are shooting estates. BBC News website on 1st June reports on a tagged, White-Tailed Eagle that disappeared having last been tracked to a shooting estate in North Yorkshire, the tag stopped transmitting. Another story is that of a head gamekeeper on a shooting estate being recorded discussing how to kill Hen Harriers in a roost, he was fined £1,500, the report does not say whether he lost his job, if not, the landowner is surely conniving at the killing. If the sentence had been a few months in prison would the landowner have served that on behalf of the gamekeeper? Possibly not. Many birds of prey go missing in '*areas associated with game shooting*' is it time for licensing of game shoots? One argument against licensing is that it penalizes compliant estates, such as Woodhall, which does not feature at all on the map. In the 30 years that I have lived here, I have never heard of a single bird of prey being killed deliberately in this area. Compliant estates have nothing to fear but will suffer from additional costs.



An old rhyme about the Cuckoo has a line, "*in June he changes his tune*", "Cuckoo" becomes "Cuck". The local Cuckoo got his dates wrong, on 30th May, I heard "Cuck, uc" repeated endlessly.

I have seen only one Swallow locally, it wasn't hunting but was just passing through on a direct line. On a farm that I visit every week all the old wooden barns with open sides and doors have now been converted to light industrial premises, necessary for the farmer to maintain a viable business but, sadly, a loss of habitat for Swallows; when I first visited about 15 years ago there were a couple of dozen nests, now there isn't a single one. Even a garden shed with an open door or window could provide a site and don't forget to keep a muddy puddle for Swallows and Martins to collect for nest building.

A Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) has appeared in the churchyard. Orchid seeds are the smallest of all plants, grains of dust, and are dispersed by wind. The closest to the churchyard that I know are a couple of hundred yards away, around several twists and turns so either this has grown from a long-dormant seed or might have been transported on someone's shoe or a bird's foot.



Jenny Gray saw this in her garden just before the heatwave began. I think it is a young Stoat, known as a 'kit' but equally could be a Weasel kit. I asked Marcella Randall, daughter of 'Audrey the Badger Lady' for an opinion, there are several indicators that we agreed mean that it is likely to be a Stoat but there is no convincing evidence either way. Jenny's garden is fairly secure, the only way in for a wild animal seemed to me to be a three-inch high gap beneath her garden shed, it is even possible that there is a family living there. Wild animals do not usually make themselves obvious in vulnerable places and situations so, if you see something unusual, please report it and keep an eye on it. Examples might include a Hedgehog being out in daylight, an animal trapped in a place without an escape route, or in the open on a hot day

without access to water. An internet search will lead you to an appropriate rescue organization, if all else fails, the Code of Practice of The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons asks that all vets will treat wild animals free of charge. For many years, I helped Audrey catch injured and distressed badgers, she was never turned away by a vet. Sadly, things have changed now that many independent practices have been taken over by corporate institutions. Herts and Middx Badger Group now offers a contribution towards costs to any practice that treats an injured animal, yet another drain on their funds.

Safety in Cold Water

During the recent, hot spell, which coincided with school half-term holiday and a Bank Holiday week-end, at least 15 people, mostly teenagers, died while swimming in rivers, lakes and the sea. I only know what has been reported in the press but I suspect that some of these tragic incidents resulted from coldwater shock. Coldwater shock happens when the body is immersed suddenly into cold water, somewhere around 15° or less, rivers, lakes and reservoirs rarely exceed this even on hot days. The water might be warm on the surface but that will be only about the top 30cms, below that level the temperature drops quickly. No matter how strong a swimmer you are nor how used you are to swimming in cold water, the risk is always there. In 2004 the 21 year old, British sailboarding champion, Andy Funnell died from coldwater shock after falling from a jet ski into the sea on a warm Summer's day. There are safe ways to enter cold water, for example slowly and accustoming your body to the change in temperature by splashing water over your skin but, above all, do not jump or dive in, apart from the element of shock there could be hidden dangers such as discarded shopping trolleys. Ware lido is now open throughout the year but isn't heated from October until the end of April; before being allowed to swim, patrons are required to complete an induction to coldwater swimming, see: <https://ware-priory-lido.lemonbooking.com/page/cold-water-swimming>. This advice is relevant to having a dip in any cold water. Even in Summer British sea temperatures rarely exceed 20° and are usually several degrees below that, inland waters, even still ponds and lakes remain cold throughout the year.

If you see someone in difficulty, do not enter the water to attempt a rescue, remember this rhyme:

"Reach, throw,
Wade or row."

Reach - use a walking stick, broken tree branch, etc.; **throw** - a rope or a life buoy or anything else that will float that the person can hold onto for support; **wade** - not above thigh deep and less than knee deep if there is a current, use a stick to test depth and avoid obstacles; **row** - if there is a boat nearby.

This applies equally to pets, a few weeks ago two people, entered the sea to attempt a rescue of their dog, one died, the other was rescued and taken to hospital, the dog got out unaided, a scenario that is repeated year after year.

See: <https://www.rlss.org.uk/Listing/Category/summer-water-safety> and

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-for-teenagers>

Malcolm



BRAMFIELD
Fun Dog Show
& Fete

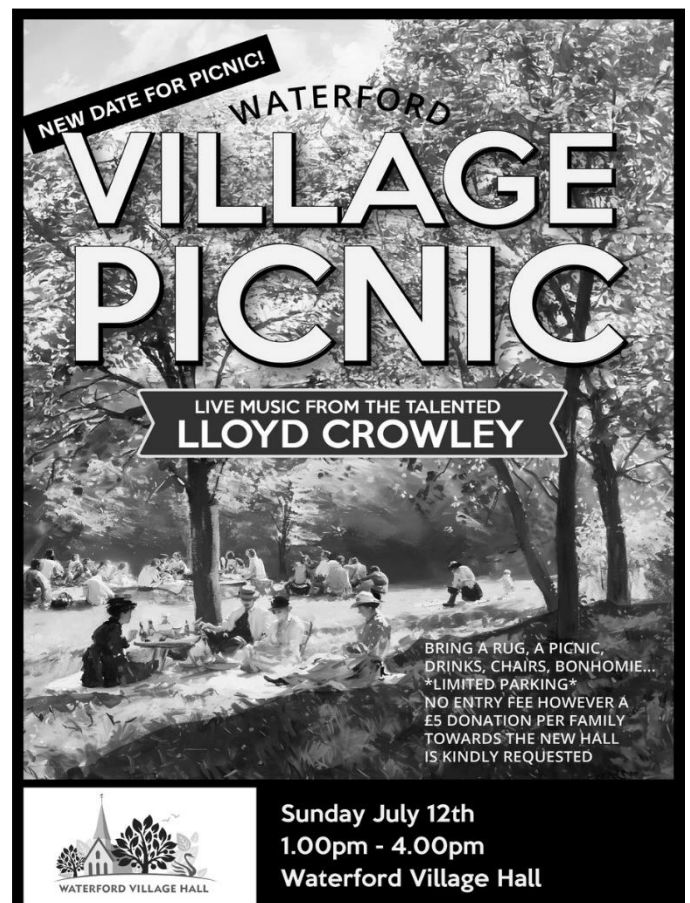
COME AND HAVE
SOME SUMMER
FUN!!

FUN DOG SHOW 5 CLASSES
1ST CLASS 1.30PM!
HAVE A GO DOG AGILITY



Sunday 5th July
1pm-4pm

BOUNCY CASTLE AND OBSTACLE COURSE
CREAM TEAS AND BBQ
TOMBOLA
RAFFLE
FUN AND GAMES



NEW DATE FOR PICNIC!

WATERFORD
VILLAGE
PICNIC

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE TALENTED
LLOYD CROWLEY

BRING A RUG, A PICNIC,
DRINKS, CHAIRS, BONHOMIE...
LIMITED PARKING
NO ENTRY FEE HOWEVER A
£5 DONATION PER FAMILY
TOWARDS THE NEW HALL
IS KINDLY REQUESTED



Sunday July 12th
1.00pm - 4.00pm
Waterford Village Hall

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School

Reception trip to Mill Green Museum



Reception class enjoyed a trip to Mill Green Museum. They had a tour of the Mill, made bread and investigated grain and cogs and planted cress to grow at home. The children also listened to the story of The Little Red Hen and retold the story by becoming the characters.

Watkins Hall Farm

The school are lucky to have connections with Watkins Hall Farm and all of the classes have an opportunity to visit the farm throughout the year. The purpose of the visits are carefully planned against the curriculum for each year group.

Year 2 recently visited the farm to learn about local habitats and microhabitats, where they found and identified minibeasts in the fields, hedges and woodland.



Years 3 and 5 also recently visited the farm. Year 3 visited as part of the Geography topic '*Where our food comes from*' and Year 6 as part of their DT topic *Farm to Fork*. The children learned about how different food groups grow, the types of climates needed for crops and animals to survive and about the journey food takes from farms to our supermarkets and homes.



Year 6

We are very proud of Year 6 who showed real determination, resilience and positive attitude towards their recent SATs tests.



Following SATs week, Year 6 visited Henry Moore Studios and Gardens. They had a guided tour of the sculptures, visited Henry Moore's study where he sketched and then spent the afternoon drawing some of the sculptures.



Sue's Afternoon



Tea Party

at 64 Rivershill

Sunday 26th July 2.00-5.00pm

Bring & Buy <> Raffle <> Jams

Proceeds to



Essex & Herts
Air Ambulance

20
YEARS
SAVING
LIVES

and the



Charity

Music at St Mary's

Piano Recital

7.30pm Saturday 25 July 2026

St Mary's Church Stapleford SG14 3NB



JOHN STEINWAY ARTIST
YUKO SANO

A POETIC PROGRAMME
OF REFLECTION WIT
AND VIRTUOSITY

*A rising star... her playing speaks
intimately to the listener, imbuing
each note with distinct meaning
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YUKO SANO

CHARITY No. 632157

HERTFORD
ASTRONOMY GROUP

PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE!



**WEDNESDAY
12TH AUGUST**



17:30 – 20:30



**BRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL
BURY LANE, BRAMFIELD,
HERTFORD SG14 2QL**



**SOLAR TELESCOPES
& VIEWING GLASSES**

*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

**WATERFORD VILLAGE
FETE**

SUNDAY 6TH SEPT

KEEP THE
DATE FREE!

WRITE IN
YOUR DIARY!



Watton-at-Stone
Allotment and Garden
Association

Autumn Show

-  Memorial Hall - Watton At Stone
-  Sunday 6th September 2026
-  Drop off entries between 10am and 12 noon
-  Doors open to public 2pm
-  Prizes awarded at 4pm

ENTRY CATEGORIES

-  Vegetables
-  Fruit
-  Flowers
-  Home Produce
-  Colouring Competition
-  Children's Classes

*All are welcome
to enter and attend*

GROWN
WITH CARE
SHARED WITH
PRIDE

WATERFORD
HARVEST SUPPER

with

LIGHT
Entertainment

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26
SEPTEMBER
7PM

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The evening also includes:

A Fish/Chicken and Chips supper
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To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

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Jenny Clayton
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(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 and Submissions

Denise Hodgson
parish.news.beane@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ian Knight (07778 401799)
iancknight31@gmail.com

EDITOR

Denise Hodgson



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BENEFACTORY DETAILS

Please contact your local Churchwardens

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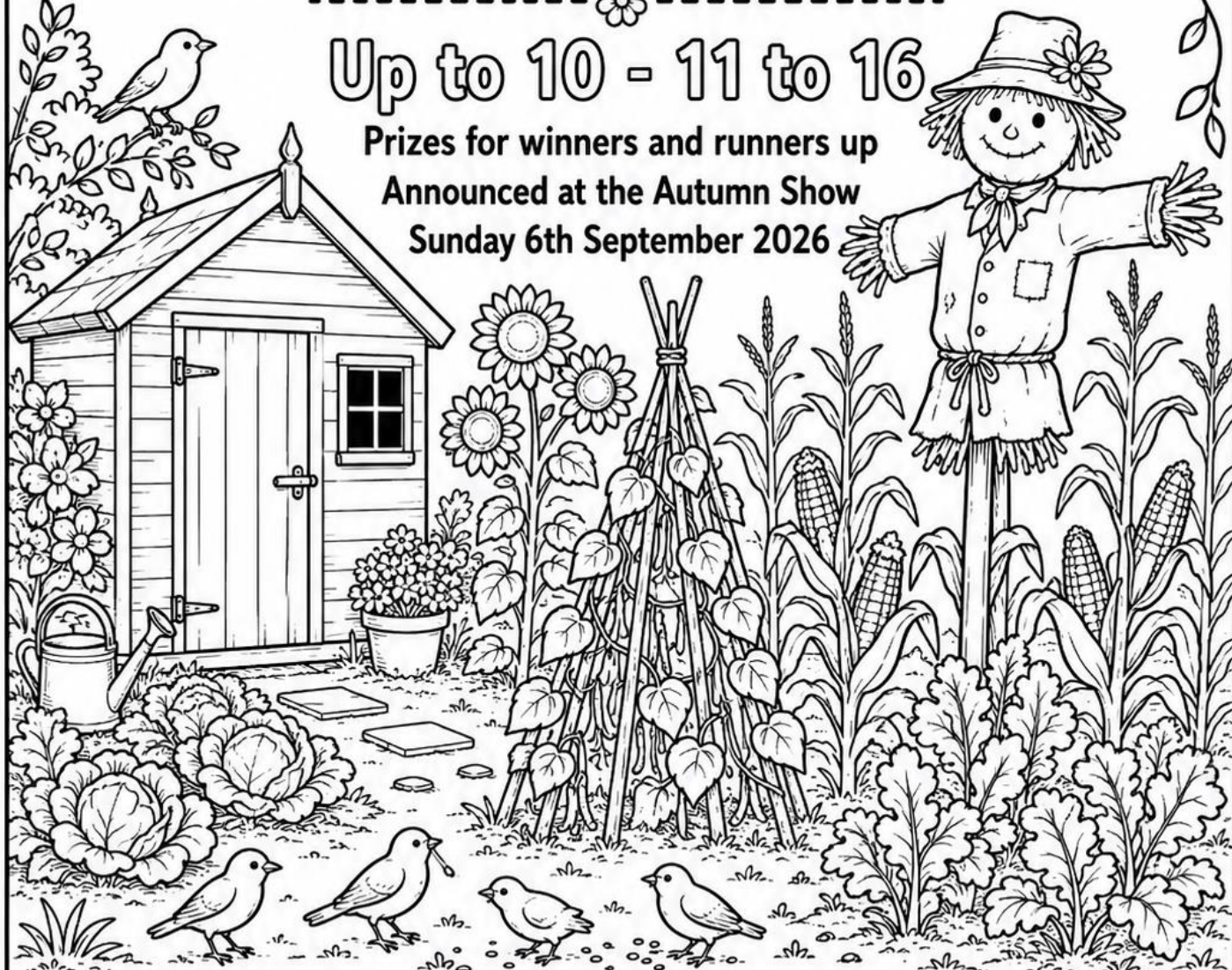
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Watton At Stone

Allotment and Garden Association Children's Colouring Competition

Up to 10 - 11 to 16

Prizes for winners and runners up
Announced at the Autumn Show
Sunday 6th September 2026



Submit entries to: colouringcomp2026@gmail.com

with the Young Artists Name, Age, Parent or Guardians Name, address and mobile number.

Competition entries must be received by 4pm on Tuesday 1st September 2026

Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association proudly present
THE ANNUAL VILLAGE GARDEN and PRODUCE SHOW

List of classes for the show – Sunday 6th September 2026

Please put an **X** in each box for each class you are exhibiting

ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS PER ENTRANT IS PERMITTED



A	FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLASSES
1.	APPLE dessert - 3 of one variety
2.	APPLE cooking - 3 of one variety
3.	PEAR - 3 of one variety
4.	RASPBERRY - 7 fruits with stems attached
5.	BLACKBERRY/HYBRID BERRY – 7 fruits stem attached
6.	ANY OTHER FRUIT not mentioned in any other classes 3 fruits
7.	TOMATO - 5 round fruits 1 ½” to 2” diameter with calyces attached
8.	TOMATO - 5 cherry with calyces attached Max 1” diameter
9.	TOMATO - 5 plum with calyces attached
10.	CUCUMBER - 2 fruits 4” to 12” long Greenhouse type
11.	CUCUMBER - 2 fruits 4” to 12” long Ridge, Outdoor type
12.	COURGETTE - 2 fruits 6” to 8” of edible fruits
13.	MARROW - 1 fruit, heaviest in show
14.	PUMPKIN – Any Type
15.	BUTTERNUT SQUASH
16.	ONION - 5 bulbs, after cleaning
17.	SHALLOTS - 5, after cleaning
18.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety white skinned
19.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety partly coloured skinned
20.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety coloured skinned
21.	CARROTS - Long. 3 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem
22.	CARROTS - Any other type. 3 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem e.g. short stump
23.	BEETROOT - globe, 3 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem. Max 3” diameter
24.	PARSNIPS - 3 with at least 1” of leaf stem
25.	SWEETCORN -2 cobs with ¼ of sheath removed
26.	CABBAGE - hearted -1 head with 2” of root attached
27.	RUNNER BEANS -5
28.	FRENCH OR DWARF BEANS – round podded Green -5
29.	OTHER VEGETABLES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE CLASSES e.g. calabrese (broccoli head) -1 head; cauliflower -1 head; Brussel sprouts -3; leeks -3; pepper (sweet) -3; chillies -3, aubergine -1
30.	COLLECTION OF 5 DIFFERENT VEGETABLES- 1 of each type
31.	WONKY VEGETABLE

B	CUT FLOWERS Minimum 6-inch stem	PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN
32.	ROSE – hybrid tea – single bloom	
33.	ROSE – floribunda/cluster – single stem	
34.	DAHLIA – vase of 3 stems	
35.	VASE OF ANNUAL GARDEN FLOWERS – 3 to 6 stems	
36.	VASE OF PERENNIAL GARDEN FLOWERS – 3 to 6 stems	

	C	CHILDREN'S SECTION (Age under 12 years except Entry 38)
	37.	Painted Stone
	38.	Poster Colouring Competition (Age up to 10 & 11 to 16 please delete as necessary) See poster entry form in Parish News
	39.	Vegetable Monster (can be made of a collection of vegetables)
	40.	Painted wooden spoon, decorated as a flower in a flower pot
	41.	Any Baked Item
	42.	Plant that I've grown from seed
	D	DOMESTIC SECTION
	43.	Jar of jam - any fruit
	44.	Jar of marmalade
	45.	Jar of jelly - any fruit
	46.	Jar of chutney – any type
	47.	Four scones - sweet
	48.	Four scones – savoury
	49.	Iced Chocolate cake
	50.	Apple pie with pastry top and bottom
	51.	Fruit cake
	52.	Victoria Sponge any filling
	53.	Plate of 5 decorated cup cakes
	54.	Plate of any other baked recipe or any cake not in the above classes. <u>PLEASE SPECIFY ON ENTRY CARD</u>
	55.	1 small loaf of speciality bread
	56.	Speciality baking e.g. GF, DF, vegan. <u>PLEASE SPECIFY ON ENTRY CARD</u>
	57.	1 bottle of Homemade wine
	58.	1 bottle of Homemade spirit liqueur (e.g. Sloe Gin)

Total number of classes you are entering		At 30p per class TOTAL	£
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EXHIBITORS NAME:	
TELEPHONE NUMBER	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	

ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED AND STAGED BETWEEN 10AM AND NOON AT THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL ON SUNDAY 6TH September 2026. PRODUCE TO REMAIN ON DISPLAY AND ONLY REMOVED AT THE END OF THE SHOW at 4pm.

An area for the presentation of exhibits plates for loose exhibits and cakes will be available. If you are happy for your produce to be sold at the end of the show, please tick this box

ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS PER ENTRANT IS PERMITTED ☐

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