

STANNINGTON

Autumn 2026 Issue forty



KIDS PLANT TREES
STANNINGTON'S LYCHGATE
DREAMING THE IMPOSSIBLE
STANNINGTON PARK
KATE MUGRIDGE INTERVIEWED

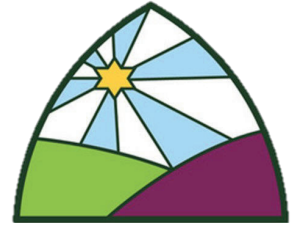
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A magazine for everyone in Stannington



What's on at Christ Church
Church Street, Stannington
A church with Silver Award Eco status.
The church building is wheelchair accessible.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday	09.00	Holy Communion (quiet service). Common Worship: contemporary language Common Worship: traditional language Refreshments: every Sunday
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 2nd & 4th Sunday		
Sunday	10.00	
1st and 3rd Sunday 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday	10.30	Morning Service Morning Service with Communion Kids Groups meet Youth group meets

Recordings of some of these services are available through our website
www.christchurchstannington.org

Other Regular Events

Monday 12.00-13.00	Food Bank , at Stanwood Methodist Church
Tuesday 09.30-11.00	Baby Time , in church, during term time
Tuesday 10.30-11.30	Natter , at Hall Park Community Centre
2nd & 4th Tues 14.00-16.00	Craft and Conversation , in church.
Various days and times	Small groups , email beth.burras@gmail.com for details
1st Saturday 09.00-10.15	Breakfast with Talk organised by the men of Christ Church, in the church hall. Booking essential, via church email address please.

Parish Priest: **Revd. Nick Lattimer** Tel: 0114 437 1071
E-mail: nick@christchurchstannington.co.uk

Associate Priest: **Revd. Alison Cook** Tel: 0114 437 1071
E-mail: alison@christchurchstannington.co.uk

Operations Coordinator: **Kate Mugridge:**
In the office 9.00 to 14.00 Monday to Thursday. 0114 437 1071
E-mail: kate@christchurchstannington.co.uk
Working from home 9.00 to 11.00 Friday 07597 684 640

For more information: www.facebook.com/ChristChurchStannington
Website: www.christchurchstannington.org

Christ Church Stannington

A Light on the Hill.

We want to see lives and communities shining with Jesus' love.

Andy Wier, Reader and Licensed Lay Minister writes

One of the things I love about living in Stannington is being surrounded by trees and rivers. To relax and unwind, I often go walking or running along the Rivelin and Loxley valleys or in the hills beyond Stannington. I usually come home feeling calmer than when I left, or with fresh perspective on a problem that's been bothering me. I don't think I'd get that feeling from just going to the gym. For me there's something about being outside in nature that is deeply refreshing. It's good for my physical and mental health, makes me feel more alive, and brings me closer to God.



I think that Jesus enjoyed being outside because the stories he told were full of illustrations from the natural world. I've recently been thinking about one of these stories, the parable of the mustard seed. Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... Though it is the smallest of seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of plants and becomes a tree so that the birds come and perch in its branches" (Matthew 13: 31-32). To me, this speaks of the way that God often works through things which are small, seemingly insignificant, and easily overlooked, but which contain enormous potential.

Apparently, there are about 4.5 million trees in Sheffield so I'm guessing there must be thousands in or around Stannington. I find it incredible to think that each of those trees, even the very tallest ones, began life as a tiny seed. As I reflect on the stories that Jesus told about growing seeds, I'm reminded that for a tree or plant to be healthy, it needs to grow down (putting down deep roots) before it grows upwards. I think that's true for us as people as well. Over time I've begun to realise that if I want to live a life that is fruitful and meaningful, I need to pay attention to the person I am 'beneath the surface' – who I am when no one else is looking. For me, that requires acknowledging both the good things and bad things about myself and daring to believe that, despite all the times I mess up, I'm known and loved by God.

One of my favourite prayers in the Bible also uses the picture of tree roots. When he prayed for some of the first Christians, the apostle Paul wrote: "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:17-18). I pray that you too would know that God loves you, and that His love would take root and bear fruit in your life in beautiful unexpected ways.

Andy



Dates for your diary:

26th September 3pm: Autumn Sing followed by refreshments

4th October 9am & 10.30am: Harvest Festival services

1st November 4pm Memorial Service:

A service for those who wish to remember those they have lost, particularly in the last year

8th November Remembrance Sunday

A service gathering at the Stannington War Memorial at 10.45am for two minutes silence at 11am, moving into church to continue the service.

5th December 3pm: Christmas Sing followed by refreshments

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Dreaming the Impossible

By Elissa Colwill

In early August, a few other leaders and I took nine youth away camping, to attend a youth festival called "Dreaming the Impossible". It was an amazing week of incredible worship, challenging talks, and time spent building relationships with each other.



The youth all had a wonderful time, even saying that they wished we could stay for longer (although I was ready to get back to my own bed and shower!)

The theme of the week was discipleship, so we got to listen to some amazing talks about the different qualities of a good disciple. It was fantastic to see the youth engage with the talks, standing up for prayer, and even praying for others. Many of them encountered the Holy Spirit and prayers were



answered; a few of them even took the brave step to go up to the front to give their lives to Jesus.



The loud concert style worship was the favourite part for many of the youth, with several of them opting to keep going with late night worship till 11pm.

Of course there was plenty of fun with lots of henna being done, a "battle of the DJs" disco, shopping, food, and many, many slushies (I've been reliably informed that the tropical one was the best).



I can't wait to see how God keeps working in the lives of these young people and I'm already looking forward to Dreaming the Impossible 2027!

■

Parish Registers

Confirmation

We congratulate on her strengthening of faith
12th July India Parker (at Ranmoor St John)

Funerals

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of
20th Aug Susan Munday

Burial

24th Aug Sheila Harmsworth

Cremations

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of
20th Aug Jocelyn Marshall

Burial of Ashes

We offer sympathy to the family and friends of
6th Aug Neil Chatterton

To arrange Baptisms, Banns and Weddings please contact the clergy or email info@christchurchstannington.co.uk.

A New Community Tree Nursery takes Root by Steph Mullen

On a hillside near Stannington, looking out over the Rivelin Valley, something is quietly taking shape. A new community tree nursery, initiated by local not-for-profit Kids Plant Trees, is working towards a greener South Yorkshire.

For six years, Kids Plant Trees has focused on getting children and families outdoors, planting trees across the region. Since 2020, over 24,300 trees have gone into the ground, with more than 6,300 people taking part — most of them children. It's an impressive record, but the team behind it have a bigger ambition: to grow the trees themselves, from seed collected locally, rather than relying solely on nurseries elsewhere.

Co-founder and Director Steph Mullen says, "We're really proud of what we've achieved so far, and we want to expand on it by giving children (and grown-ups) the opportunity to learn about the whole life cycle of trees - and to be part of something that's going to make a positive difference for generations to come."

That ambition is now becoming reality. A successful application to The National Lottery Community Fund, along with support from The Tree Council's Growing Together scheme, has allowed them to set up the infrastructure needed to start growing trees — raised beds, a shelter, and equipment for collecting rainwater for irrigation. Seeds are gathered from across South Yorkshire, meaning the saplings that eventually go into the ground will be well suited to our local climate and soil, and won't have clocked up the miles getting here.

None of this happens on its own. Volunteers have been coming to help with the practical work of growing trees from scratch: sowing seeds, potting

on saplings, digging and weeding beds, building raised beds and frames to protect the young trees. Some tasks need a bit of know-how — a spot of joinery here, some gardening experience there — but plenty don't, and there's been a real mix of people getting stuck in.

Elliott Green from BBC Radio Sheffield, who volunteered as part of their Make a Difference day, says, "What I've enjoyed the most is just being outside in nature... you feel better and so much more rewarded doing something outdoors with fresh air, trees, birds tweeting, cows, horses. This is on the doorstep and you have to make the most of it."



Elliott Green

It's a sentiment the team hears often — that there's something restorative about the work, alongside the practical value of it. Volunteers say they've picked up new skills, and found the sessions as good for their own wellbeing as for the trees they're helping to grow.

With school visits also planned for the future, the hope is that the community tree nursery will become a place where people of all ages get hands-on with nature — not just planting trees, but understanding how they're grown in the first place.

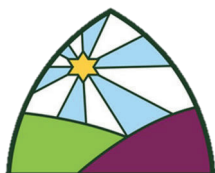
Anyone curious about the project, or keen to get involved, can find out more at kidsplanttrees.org/community-tree-nursery, or email treenursery@kidsplanttrees.org.

Sessions currently run on Tuesdays and Fridays during term time, with volunteer places bookable via tickettailor.com/events/kidsplanttrees.

Contact: For further information, please contact Steph Mullen at steph@kidsplanttrees.org ■



A volunteer weeding around young trees at the community nursery



Baby Time

Is like Toddler group but is for babies from birth to 24 months. Mums-to-be are also welcome.

Come to meet with other mums, dads and grandmas. Toys, play-mats, good coffee and toast supplied. We are open from 09.30 on Tuesdays; drop in any time up to 11.00.

Find us:

Inside **Christ Church**, Church St, Stannington

Every **Tuesday** in term time **09.30 -11.00**

No charge – donations for tea & coffee welcome

Need to book? No. Just **drop in anytime**.

No Baby Time on October 27th.

Last Baby Time of 2026, December 15th.



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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editorial committee, the officers or the Clergy of Christ Church Stannington.

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Stannington's Lychgate

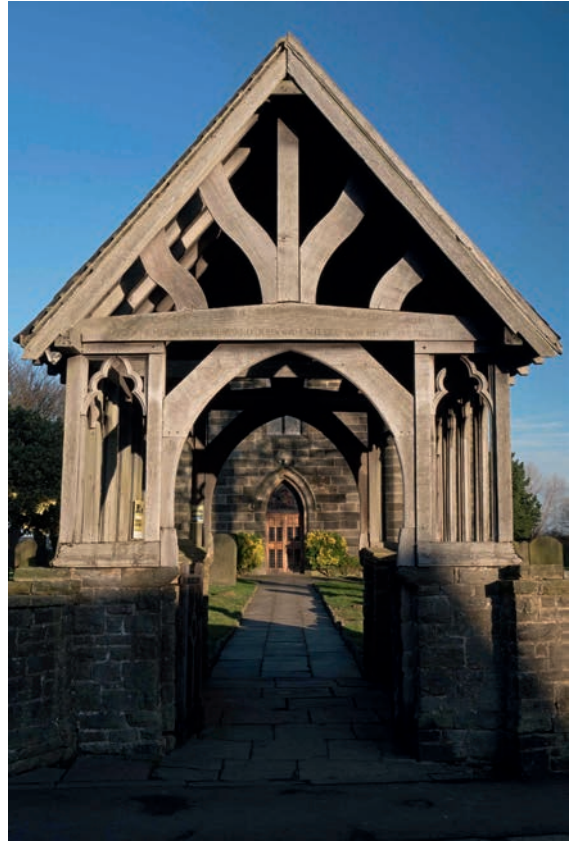
Having a lychgate at the entrance to a church might be something we take for granted, as part of church architecture. But in fact most lychgates are only found in the UK with the majority in England. So why did the English come up with them?

The clue is in the name. It comes from the Old English or Saxon words 'lich' meaning corpse and 'yate' meaning gate. They were built as a resting place for a body before burial. In medieval times there were no mortuaries so a body would be wrapped in a shroud and carried to the church on a bier where it would wait outside until it was time for the funeral one or two days later. The gate provided shelter for the body, and also for those who would keep vigil, watching over the body out of respect and to protect it from body snatchers. Sometimes seating was provided for those watching and there could be a slab for the body to rest on. Lychgates began to be built in the 7th century with the majority dating from the 14th and 15th century. Many were built from wood which quickly decayed so over time they were replaced with brick or stone structures. Generally, they were constructed with two gable ends and a pitched roof made of wood or clay tiles or thatched. Some gates were carved with decorative features and some might have the names of people inscribed on them.



Wedding Day at Stannington by Joe Scarborough

In medieval times the funeral service began at the lychgate, clergy joining the mourners at the gate. That tradition is still remembered in the way that the minister will still walk down the path to the gate to greet the family and then lead the coffin into church. There have been several occasions in Stannington when I have been glad to shelter under the roof of our lychgate, sheltering as often from the wind as from the rain.



However, by the 1700's traditions changed. Partly due to the reformation and partly because more people could afford to have coffins. But the gate still served as the principle gateway into the church yard marking the boundary of consecrated and unconsecrated ground. The roof and walls mean that as you step through you can sense that change and maybe that is a prompt to remember God's presence reaching out to you. In Yorkshire in particular another tradition grew up around lychgates. During a wedding the village children would come and close the gates. The bride and groom would need to pay them to open the gates at the end of the wedding.

During the 19th Century it became popular to build lychgates as a memorial to a significant person and again after the First World War lychgates were built in memory of those who had died in the war. The lychgate in Stannington is a relatively modern one. Stannington church was built in 1830, long after the medieval traditions. However, the gate was built in 1940 funded by Rebecca Nichols from Stannington in memory of her husband John who had died in 1914. However, you may have noticed that, 80 years on, the wood of the gate is in need of repair. After a structural survey some temporary emergency supports have been put in place. Please be assured that there is every intention to repair the gate as we get permissions and planning through. In the meantime if you have any more information about the gate or the church we would love to hear from you.

Revd Alison Cook





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Updates on activities in Stannington Park

Play Area Upgrade Underway

Friends of Stannington Park is delighted to report that the playground upgrade is now underway. Thanks to almost £40,000 secured through grants and community fundraising, Phase 1 has been completed, bringing a new zip line, inclusive swings, balance trail, musical totem, communication board, accessible entrance path and improved surfacing to the park.

Phase 2 begins this September with a new wetland play area designed in partnership with the Wildlife Trust, creating opportunities for nature-based play while helping improve drainage. Friends of Stannington Park are looking for volunteers to help them fundraise and organise community events. If you are interested please email stanningtoncarnival@gmail.com



Pavilion Update—Simon Shilleto

After several years of planning the replacement of Stannington Pavilion is nearing completion. The new building is made using Modern Methods of Construction and was delivered to the park as 11 separate modules. It was backed by the Youth Investment Fund and will provide a youth and community centre that has an office, meeting rooms, storage and a large hall that can be divided into two. Once it has been finished and furnished, the centre will be bookable by members of the public and community groups. Delays to completion are due to problems with the electrical supply to the new building. The shelter that had to be removed to accommodate the larger footprint of the new building will be replaced nearby.



Tree Planting—Gwyneth Shilleto

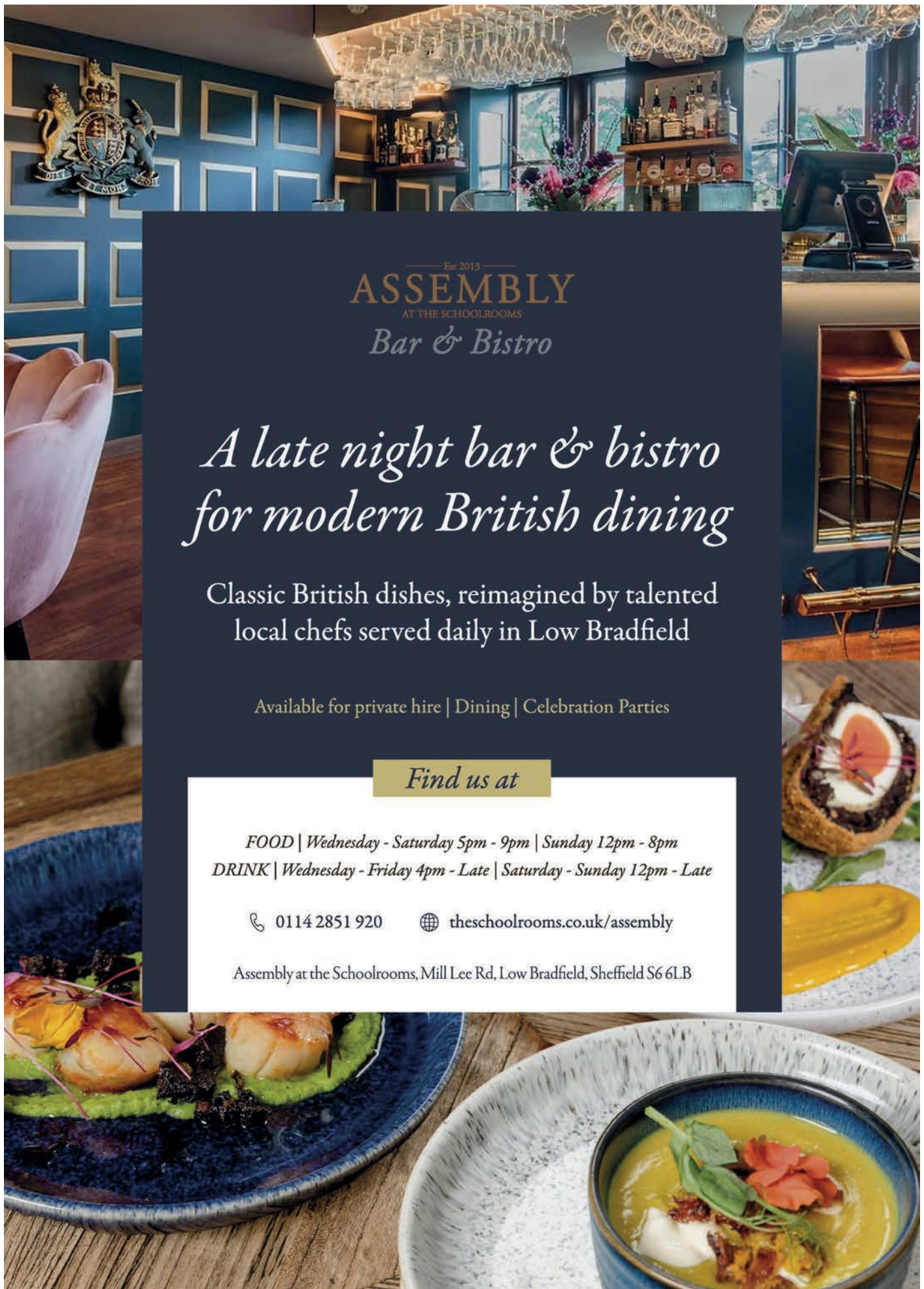
In February 2025, a group of volunteers, including Action For Stannington, planted a small copse of silver birch saplings in Stannington Park, near the car park entrance off Stannington Road. The group included people of all ages and was led by Jacob Davies who provided tools, equipment and training. After creating a 'spade slot' in the ground, each small sapling was planted and secured with a tree guard, held in place by a bamboo cane. Thankfully, 17 months later, most have survived, showing the hardy resilience of the chosen species. Whilst appearing to grow slowly now, they will grow more quickly in the next few years as their roots establish during the wetter autumn and winter months.



Later on, a second group of mixed, native tree species was planted on the far side of the park, alongside an existing copse of trees. This group is also becoming more established, although both groups have suffered from the two very hot summers we've had since.

Park Run News—Joe Harding

We're still working on starting the Stannington parkrun! We've had approval from Sheffield City Council and are awaiting the final go-ahead from Parkrun HQ. Our course involves four laps of the park perimeter and goes past the new pavilion, so we're also waiting for the fencing to be removed. In the meantime, our team of volunteers have been learning the ropes at other nearby parkruns. Hopefully we'll be up and running in the autumn. Please email joe11harding@hotmail.com if you're interested in volunteering, or come along at 9am on Saturdays to run or walk once it's started. ■



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Kate Mugridge was interviewed by **Simon Shilleto** about her life, faith and journey to being the parish Operations Co-ordinator.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up over the valley in Fulwood, with my Mum and Dad, two big brothers and younger sister.

Did you go to church as a child?

I was brought up in a Christian family, we were an active part of St Luke's Lodge Moor, where my parent's still go now. In my teen years, for a brief moment I tried to pull away, largely I think to see if my faith was my own or my parents' and the way I'd been brought up. But it was clear to me quite quickly that God was my cornerstone.

What does your faith mean to you?

Wow, this is a big question! My faith to me is my foundation, it permeates through how I live my life, the decisions I make, the relationships I have with people and it's that comfort and strength of knowing I'm never truly alone. It's knowing that I am loved and cherished no matter what and that I always have somewhere to turn.

What work did you do before joining Christ Church Stannington?

I trained in London at Music College as a Singer, specialising in Classical and Opera. Throughout my time at College I also taught singing, piano, violin and theory privately. I am so lucky with the wealth of opportunities music has brought me, I have sung all over the world and worked with some of the best. For health reasons I had to curb my own performing, and have spent the last 16 years at Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill, heading their singing teaching and conducting numerous choirs and vocal groups.

What was your favourite subject at school?

Unsurprisingly.... Music! Though I also loved English literature.



What do you enjoy doing for fun?

Spending time with family and friends is really important to me. I love to paint, particularly in acrylics and influenced by Elissa – I have just taken up crochet! You can also find me pottering in the garden – I love being in the fresh air.

Where do you find God?

Oo, another big question! In getting this job – I totally believe this was an answer to prayer. In my daughter, the miracle that we have her with genetics against us. In the people God has placed in my path and in creation, the beauty of our natural world is awe inspiring.

Who is your favourite Bible Character?

Through my life the character that has meant most to me is Job. He reminds me that through the toughest battles God is faithful and steadfast, when everything else fails and falls away – he remains. Likewise, Deborah and her powerful leadership – her willingness to follow God's call and lead in his strength reminds me we are never alone. ■



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2 to 3.15pm in termtime.

Stanwood Methodist Church

by Jane Wall

**For weddings, baptisms or funerals please contact
Revd. Judith Jessop tel. 0114 231 3518 or
email judithjessop@tiscali.co.uk**



I've just looked back at my article for the summer magazine and note that the weather was cold, wet and windy. Who could have predicted that just a few months later we would be in drought with a government warning in place about wild fires, following heatwave after heatwave and record breaking temperatures! I love summer, but I have to admit I've spent many days covering indoors with the curtains closed, or seeking out a shady spot for my garden chair.

Here at Stanwood, as September approaches, we are looking forward to a the new school term...and of course a New Methodist year. Over the summer break the toys have all been washed and checked for damage, the cupboards have been sorted out and everything is set to welcome our term time groups back into the building. Small Fry is our toddler group for under 5's and their parents and carers, while our Lego social Club is for primary aged children, though we usually find there is a lively group of parents and grandparents who enjoy a good chat too. No need to book and both activities are pay as you go.

A great time was had by all at the Saturday Summer Fun and the Wednesday Family fun events, both these were collaborations between Stanwood and Christ Church and there will be more joint events coming up in the autumn and winter, so do keep your eyes open for publicity.

And we mustn't forget those things which carry on all year round, the monthly Snack 'n' Chat which as the title suggests is a light lunch, where you can meet some new friends and have a good old natter, and the monthly Saturday coffee mornings, which always feature an interesting speaker or some entertainment and a bring and buy stall, with all proceeds going to charity

Thinking about autumn, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 4th October at 10.30 am. An opportunity to give thanks for those who work hard to produce our food. Everyone welcome.

Weekly

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| Mondays | 12 noon- 1pm Stannington Foodbank: all are welcome, no referral needed - but you will need to provide proof of your address and evidence of your household members, unless you live alone, and bags to take your food home in. With CAB worker every other week 11am-1pm |  |
| Tuesdays | 3.30pm - 4.30pm (term time only) Lego social club in association with Stannington TARA. Lego, plus games and arts and crafts. Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult. 50p per child including refreshments. | |
| Wednesdays | 1.15pm – 2.45pm (term time only) Small Fry toddler group for under fives and their parents or carers. £2 per family including refreshments. | |
| Sundays | 10.30am Morning worship | |

Monthly

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 st Tuesday | 12 noon -1.30pm (Food served until 1pm) Snack 'n' chat - a light lunch: soup and a roll followed by a delicious dessert. Only £2.80. No need to book, just come along. |
| 3 rd Saturday | 10am – 12 noon Charity coffee morning. Tea or coffee with cakes, a speaker or performer and bring and buy stall. All proceeds to the charity of the speaker's choice. |
| | 19th September: Wisewood Community Singers |
| | 17th October: Ann Ashworth with a talk about Dolls' Houses |
| | 21st November: Stannington Handbell Ringers |
-



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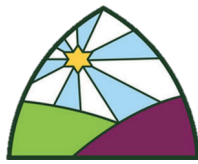
LOCAL EVENTS

Natter

Natter is a relaxed and friendly place for a chat in Stannington. Hot drinks and good company every Tuesday at 10.30 for an hour. Everyone welcome especially those age 60 or better. We meet in Hall Park Community Centre (82 bus terminus, S6 5QU, plenty of free parking, wheelchair accessible). Please text 07768 293 406 for more details.

Stannington TARA

www.facebook.com/stamppartnership



Stannington Local History Group

The Group usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8.00pm in the Knowle Room of Lomas Hall.

All are welcome.

24th Sept The Sheffield Pals in WWI
Andrew Rawson

22nd Oct The History of Henderson Relish
Mark Dawson

26th Nov The Zion Graveyard and its importance in Sheffield's Society past and present.
Penny Rae

18th Dec Party Time for Members!

Annual Membership: £5.00.

Monthly Meetings: Members £3.00,
Non-members £4.00

Contacts: Elaine Jenkins 232 6973
Paul Bellamy 233 8059
Norma Reaney 234 1096

www.stanningtonhistorygroup.org.uk

Stannington Handbell Ringers

Meet Monday evenings 19.30 - 21.00 in the Church Hall, School Lane.

New members most welcome, even if you do not read music.

Anyone interested please contact Carolyn on 234 7408 or 07306 217 572



At the Peacock Inn,
8pm Thursdays, monthly

24th Sept Fifty years of experience and a sub 2:45 marathon

22nd Oct How to run the Bob Graham Round: Lake District's toughest challenge

19th Nov Mountain Bike Guiding and racing across the world

Sheffield Adventure Stories welcomes outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking to do more adventurous pursuits. Just turn up on the evening.

www.sheffieldadventurestories.co.uk

Stannington Mixed Choir

The choir meets to rehearse at Underbank Chapel Schoolroom on Thursdays, 19.15 -21.30.

If you wish to join the choir please contact David: 0114 233 9411 or Sue: 0114 234 8500

www.stanningtonchoir.com

SHEFFIELD GUTTER SERVICES

SEAMLESS ALUMINIUM GUTTERING BUILT TO LAST



We provide professional gutter cleaning, repairs, and replacements across Sheffield, Chesterfield, and the surrounding areas. Our experienced team works with all types of guttering, from uPVC plastic and seamless aluminium to timber and cast iron, as well as fascias and soffits.

Known for our quality workmanship, fair pricing, and friendly service, we're the local gutter specialists you can trust.

Our Services

We provide a complete range of professional guttering services across Sheffield, helping to protect your property from leaks, blockages, and water damage. From cleaning and repairs to full installations, our skilled team works with all types of guttering, including uPVC, wooden, aluminium, and period systems, delivering quality results that last.

Aluminium Guttering - 25 Year Guarantee

High-quality aluminium guttering with a 25-year guarantee, offering a sleek finish and exceptional durability.

Soffits & Fascias

Replacement and repair of soffits and fascias to protect your roofline and enhance your home's appearance.

Gutter Cleaning

Thorough gutter cleaning to remove leaves, debris, and blockages, keeping your gutters flowing freely all year round.

Gutter Guard Installation

Protect your gutters from leaves and debris with durable guards, reducing maintenance and extending gutter life.

Gutter Repair & Installation

Reliable repairs and professional installation for all gutter types, ensuring your property stays protected from leaks and water damage.

Period Guttering Restoration

Specialist restoration and installation of period guttering to maintain your property's original character.



We are ★★★★★ rated with:



www.sheffieldgutterservices.co.uk

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