

The Village Herald


Your Church & Community Magazine

AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd August	7th Sunday of Trinity 9am Benefice Holy Communion Victory Hall, Slitting Mill
Sunday 10th August	8th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th August	5pm Prayer and Praise
Sunday 17th August	9th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 24th August	10th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am All Age Morning Worship 12.30pm Community Picnic
Sunday 31st August	11th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th September	12th Sunday of Trinity 9.45am Benefice Holy Communion St Michael's Church, Brereton
Wednesday 10th September	5pm Prayer and Praise
Saturday 13th September	10am - 6pm Ride & Stride
Sunday 14th September	13th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 21st September	14th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th September	15th Sunday of Trinity All Age Morning Worship



**Church building open
daily from 9am until 6pm.
Thank you for your
support.**

Official Sponsors: AK Feeds and N.J. & E.T. Coles Family Butcher & Bakery



Our Rector writes

A Reflection on Grief and the Churchyard

Grief is one of the hardest places to be during our lifetimes. It is a place of loss whether of a loved one, a member of our family, a friend, a colleague or a beloved pet. It can also be something we have to work through when we must let go of something we have always done, always cherished or a place where we have fond memories.

We all experience the different emotions of grief in different ways and in different orders, so it is not uncommon for families to fall out after the loss of a loved one as not everyone cries, not everyone is sad immediately, there may be anger, silence, frustration, relief even or some may crack jokes to fill the silence, to cope with it all.

Grief needs to be worked through, in whatever way or order of emotions is right for us all. What we can do is remember that Jesus also went through the same emotions that we do.

Jesus was told his dear friend Lazarus had died. The shortest Bible Verse from John Chapter 11, verse 35 "*Jesus wept*", is very telling. Jesus became vulnerable in front of all who knew him as their

leader, someone they looked to in their time of need. I wonder if they thought this was wrong for Jesus to show his emotions in this way in public?

We are all vulnerable when we deal with grief and it is through this we must arrange funerals, attend services in church, at the crem, at a cemetery or at the churchyard and apply for memorial stones. Our grief doesn't stop there though, as very often we seek out somewhere, we want to have a place to go to where we can try to find some kind of peace as we work through our grief.

Your church and churchyard, here at Armitage, are such places where many of you walk through, sit and take time for your minds to remember, to wander or just be still, both inside the church and outside in the churchyard too.

Much work has been done across the churchyard to create a space of tranquillity for you all. We are managing to keep the grass tidy in most areas and have been able to transform the newest field, removing all the unsightly vegetation and well as planting hardy plants around the edges. This has

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Editor & Churchwarden - Danny Briggs telephone: 01543 490114 email: dannybriggs905@gmail.com

Parish Church website: www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist

Village website: www.armitagewithhandsacre.co.uk

The Church Room

St John the Baptist church building is open daily but if you require access to the church room please let Chris Rogers know on 07552 215087.

been through a legacy received from one of our beloved church family members, Barbi.

A Community Memorial Garden is in the making!

However, we now need your help! Some of the memorials, particularly on the new field, are getting very cluttered with items on and around the memorial stones. See picture below. . .



For all those of you who have memorials in the churchyard, you may or may not have read the regulations of the churchyard on the application for memorial that a family member will have signed. These churchyard regulations are legally set as a national Church of England standard by the Chancellor, which each parish is then obliged to uphold.

Please get in touch if you would like a copy of these regulations sent to you!

As your church, we have managed to enable certain deviations to these regulations by requesting certain things and would like to share what is and isn't allowed at the moment.

What is now allowed:

- Real flowers, remove when dead
- Plastic flowers, replace when faded.
- Black Granite stone
- Open book headstones

What is not allowed:

- Plastic vases or windmills, any item on or in the grass.
- Curb stones and decorative stones around memorials
- Ornaments and any other items that are not flowers.

There are times when placing an item on the grave of a loved one is very important to those who are grieving, and we understand that. Please then remove these items after one month to avoid cluttering of the graves over time.

Anything placed on or round the memorials is also at your own risk, as high winds, maintenance of the churchyard or people tripping over items can cause breakages.

Broken items, faded or dead flowers will be removed wherever possible, but we need all your help to de-clutter our beautiful churchyard over the next couple of months.

Thanks so much for your help and every blessing to you all as we continue to provide a beautiful place for all, together as a community.

Cath.

Rev'd Cath Leighton

Team Rector.

Recent Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals at St John the Baptist

3rd July Funeral of Anthony Thomas Charles Partington of The Green

6th July Baptism of Jack James Blood of Tuppenhurst Lane

16th July Interment of Ashes of John Henry Poole of Stowe Street, Lichfield



Handsacre Methodist Church

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

We meet for worship each Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.30.

Upcoming services:

3rd August	Melody Jones
10th August	Graham Lowther
17th August	no service at Handsacre
24th August	Andrew Tropman
31st August	Claire Parkes

The Vine Cafe

The Vine café at Handsacre Methodist Church is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. We serve a wide range of coffees, teas, and hot chocolate, as well as homemade cakes, other sweet treats and toasties. There is no set charge, but donations can be made. Afternoon teas are bookable on request.

You are welcome to stay as long as you like - we have books, magazines, colouring, board games and jigsaws for you to enjoy.

We also have:

Chapel Lambs, a family play group, on Mondays from 9.30am till 12pm. Continues throughout the summer holidays, except Bank Holiday 25th August.

The Hangout, a group for children in years six and upwards with food, chat, games and craft, Mondays 3.30pm to 5pm. Term time only.

Games Night, monthly on Monday evenings, a great opportunity to try a wide range of board and card games and make new friends. The next one is on September 1st from 7.30 p.m.

Saturday breakfast - 13th September 9.30am to 12pm.

Please see our website: handsacremethodist.org.uk or our Facebook page for more details and updates. The Vine café has a Facebook page at The Vine Cafe & Community Space. Do like and follow for all the latest information.

Free Counselling

Are you aged 18+ and looking for an empathetic, non-judgemental ear? Our team of students and qualified counsellors are here to listen.

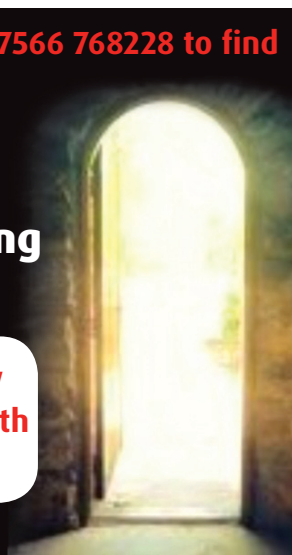
We can offer help with things such as anxiety, depression and bereavement.

Appointments are available on Tuesday and Friday mornings by advanced booking only.

Call or Text 07566 768228 to find out more.

**Changing
Rooms
Counselling
Service**

**Speak Now
Show Strength
Get Help**





MEETING POINT is a community group of activities open to all members of Armitage with Handsacre. We have a wide range of activities. All welcome.

01543 491704 or 07890205575

email: gifford_foote@hotmail.co.uk

TUESDAYS 10am - 11.45am - Drop in to Handsacre Methodist room - the Vine Café. Meet friends over a cuppa and join in with activities and an interesting half hour. (See the programme planned for August / September below)

THURSDAYS 1pm - 3pm - Join the Knit and Natter group at St John the Baptist parish church room. They raise funds for a hospice etc.

FRIDAYS at the Vine - 10am - 12pm starting September - ART GROUP

PROGRAMME FOR TUESDAY MORNINGS - EVERYBODY WELCOME - JUST DROP IN...

- 5th August:** **Outing to Llandudno** - the Vine will be open for those not going
- 12th August:** **Bring interesting readings to share**
- 19th August:** **Quiz**
- 26th August:** **Music** – Celia's choice
- 2nd September:** **Avoid Fraud and Scams** - Rachael Gordon from Barclays
- 9th September:** **Craft with Diane**
- 16th September:** **Harvest Baskets auctioned for charity**
 followed by Harvest Meal (open to anybody – book ahead)
 Ham salad with new potatoes, apple pie and cream (£6)
- 23rd September:** **Bring a photo that hold memories for you.**
- 30th September:** **Music**

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

If you have difficulty in getting to a medical appointment, try our volunteer scheme. Phone Diane 01543 547507. We might be able to help .



Victory over Japan 80th Anniversary

**Choir - Karaoke - Games
Free Food - Free Glass of Port**



**Friday August 15th
7:00 PM**



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION







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N.J. & E.T. COLES

Traditional Family Butchers & Bakery



39 New Road, Armitage, Rugeley
WS15 4AA
Telephone: 01543 490114

Community Picnic invitation:

St John the Baptist Church Armitage.

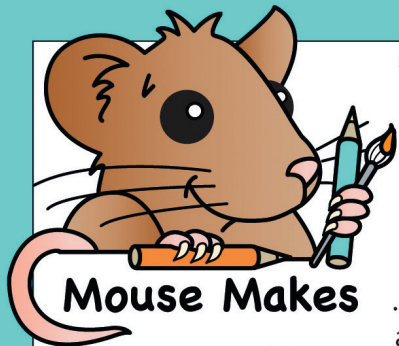
You're warmly invited to a
Community Picnic
in the churchyard

Date: Sunday 24th August

Time: 12.00pm

Location: Churchyard

*Bring your own food, a blanket or chair,
and come and enjoy an afternoon of
fellowship, fun, and fresh air.
All are welcome - families, friends,
and neighbours alike!*



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



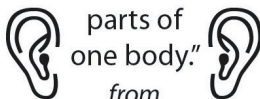
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K E T L R L M V Y D
B W S L E G S Q E B

Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."
from
Romans 12:1-7



ARMITAGE WITH HANDSACRE BOWLS CLUB



Welcome to our new member, Pete Smith.

Our first friendly with Lea Hall we successfully won but they gained their revenge by winning the return match at their green. Great match and all enjoyed it followed by cups of tea and lovely buffet.

Our Club matches will take place in the next few months.

18th August

Ladies singles.

15th September

Mens singles.

22nd September

all members play for the President's Cup.

All matches start at 10.00 am. We welcome all to come along and watch.



The Club had a Tombola stall at the Village Day. Next issue we will update you on funds raised. Thanks to all for their generous donations.



Further details Jean 07896760220
& Bill 07850721864

The Club will be holding Open Days at the Green on 2nd and 3rd August. Everyone welcome.

Village Day 2025

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the Village Day Committee, may we thank everyone who came along to enjoy the day on Saturday 21st June.

Whilst it was an extremely hot day, with the odd welcoming shower and the cancellation of the dog show, which was totally understandable, the day's event was, we believe was very successful as an annual Village Day for the first time.

On Sunday we held a Songs of Praise service at St John's thanks to Rev. Cath Leighton for presiding over the service. With better notification of this event for next year, we hope for a greater presence of parishioners from across our Village.

As an additional attraction we saw the Roving Canal Traders Association and their Floating Market on our section of the Trent & Mersey Canal over the weekend. We hope this was appealing to the village as an attraction and hope as many people took the opportunity to take a walk along the canal over the weekend and visit each of the narrow boats.

As chairman of Village Day Committee, may I also take this opportunity to thank the organising committee for their tireless time and efforts to ensure we all had an enjoyable day, which is greatly appreciated.

See you all at next year's Village Day, Saturday 20th June 2026!

Regards

Richard Cox

Chairman of Armitage with Handsacre Village Day Committee



At the village day Lance Hill, the Bell Captain at St John The Baptist Church was offering the public an opportunity to learn how to ring the church bells using a stimulated church bell ringing programme on his computer. This proved very popular with all age groups the photo shows Lance teaching Rosie how to play the bells.

St Paul's Church, Rugeley



Thank you to everyone at the Sing for Joy choir for coming in to see us at MHA Communities South Staffordshire Rugeley Good Companions lunch group. We had a blast!

Kay Grimley



The Village Herald is pleased to welcome AK Feeds Ltd based in Shenstone to its sponsor programme.

The directors of AK Feeds, Steven and Claire LeVoi are an Armitage family and commented "We are pleased to be able to join the Herald family and hope other local businesses will join them" Pictured right is Barry Liddle of St John The Baptist Church at Village Day welcoming the distribution manager of AK Feeds and his wife to the Herald Family



A familiar face, Liz Coles at Village day, who has kindly agreed to be part of the Village Herald sponsor programme.

Liz commented that she was very happy to be able to sponsor the magazine on behalf of Coles' Butchers and Bakery and hopes more local businesses will join her in supporting the new church and community magazine.

CHURCH MICE



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, Church Lane, Armitage

Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30am
Church Room open from 10am

A free activity for 0-4yr olds (with their carers) during school term time.

Refreshments, stories, songs, play & crafts with a Christian theme.

Donations of £1 per family welcomed

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Village Herald

Your new church & community magazine

Would you like to increase the awareness of your company/ organisation and at the same time enhance your your social good profile? Yes, well the Village Herald may well be the vehicle for you.

The magazine is delivered every month to all the households in our two villages Armitage and Handsacre direct to the letterbox of almost 3000 homes and a readership of some 10000. It is in full colour and whilst in its infancy and its content will continue to grow the Herald as had an extremely positive acceptance by the community. The content and size and distribution will continue to grow and develop over the coming months and with your involvement we will reach our goals that little bit quicker.

We appreciate that we all want a big bang for our hard earned pound and we truly believe that's what we can offer you.



St. John the Baptist Church, Armitage with Handsacre

What benefits will a sponsor receive?

Firstly, **8 1/4 page adverts** (normal cost £30 plus vat, total £36) **Total Value to sponsor £288.** The sponsor will also receive up to **two 1/2 pages** in any 12 month period to publicise their company.

You will also be **listed on our front page** as an official sponsor with your company name and logo for one year.

Now what is the cost we hear?

Well less than the value you will receive all the above for **only £250 plus vat.** Yes that is correct £250 plus vat. To make the decision even more of a non brainer you can make 10 direct debit payments of **£30 a month for 10 months.**

So do you want to be one of our founder members just say yes to a member of our volunteers and we will get the ball rolling.

For further information contact

Barry Liddle
liddledarlo@gmail.com

The Village Herald is run and operated by
St. John the Baptist Church, Armitage with Handsacre.