

# The Village Herald

Your Church & Community Magazine

## OCTOBER 2025

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Sunday 5th October     | Harvest Festival<br>10.30 Holy Communion   |
| Wednesday 8th October  | 5pm Prayer and Praise  |
| Sunday 12th October    | 17th Sunday of Trinity<br>10.30am Benefice Holy Communion<br>at St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley      |
| Wednesday 15th October | 7pm Wave of Light Service -<br>remembering our babies<br>who have fallen asleep.<br>All are welcome. |
| Sunday 19th October    | 18th Sunday of Trinity<br>10.30am Holy Communion   |
| Sunday 26th October    | 19th Sunday of Trinity<br>10.30am Morning Worship  |

**Church building open  
daily from 9am until 4pm.**

**Thank you for your  
support.**

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



# Our Rector writes

## Flags, flags and yet more flags!

In recent weeks there has been much talk around our villages and country both in local and in very public conversation about the need for us to take our country back from the thousands of illegal immigrants who have and continue to land on our shores.

In response red crosses have been painted on our roundabouts and St. George's flags and Union Flags have been tied to lampposts and displayed across the nation.

Whether we consider ourselves as being patriotic or a nationalist, or something else, I'd like to share some words from our local Bishops...

"For some, these flags are expressions of shared pride, heritage, and identity. They can symbolise courage in times of struggle, resilience in the face of hardship, and the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives in conflict for the sake of peace. British people of many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds can and do take pride in their national flags; indeed, there is some evidence that the percentage of those who say they are *"proud to be British"* is higher among those who make up our various immigrant communities than among those born in Britain. They have every reason to be proud as many of them contribute significantly to our communities.

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Parish Church website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist)

Village website: [www.armitagewithhandsacre.co.uk](http://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.



The flags can also be used, for many, as signs of joyful celebration - whether at national sporting events, royal occasions, or community gatherings - moments that bring people together in shared story and memory. There is a long and continuing tradition of flying flags on church towers or outside churches.

Flags are not signs of exclusion but of belonging; not of fear, but of shared history, gratitude, and identity.

The Bible reminds us that *“you shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”* (Deut. 10:19). Jesus himself was a refugee, carried by Mary and Joseph into Egypt to escape the violence of Herod.”

Wherever we are in this current debate, I invite you to consider where we would be if we reversed the roles, if we were fleeing for our lives. Yes, there may be those who are abusing the system and need to be dealt with through the appropriate channels. However, there are many more who are truly seeking a safe place to be, for themselves and for their families. Hospitality is at the heart of true community life. Can we find it in our hearts to extend this to the stranger in need?

Every Blessing,

*Cath.*

*Rev'd Cath Leighton*

*Team Rector.*

## **Recent Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals at St John the Baptist**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 7th August     | Funeral of Daniel George Rowley of Fair View  |
| 9th August     | Wedding Blessing of Francesca Louise and Alexander Douglas Bloor of Shropshire Brook Road |
| 17th August    | Baptism of Luke Thomas Christopher O'Sullivan of Al Raha Gardens, Khalifa City, Abu Dhabi |
| 24th September | Funeral of Peter Edwin William Conway of Hood Lane  |



# Handsacre Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2025

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

## Upcoming services:

- 5th October** Andrew Tropman  
**12th October** Rev'd Liz Dunning  
with Holy Communion  
**19th October** no service at Handsacre  
**26th October** 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.

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

**Hands on Church**, crafts, activities, songs, Bible story and refreshments, for children with a parent/carer. Monthly on Tuesdays 3.30pm to 5pm. Next one is on **14th October**.

**Games Night**, usually first Monday evening of the month, a great opportunity to try a wide range of board and card games and make new friends. **October 6th** from 7.30pm.

**Saturday breakfast - 18th October** 9.30am to 12pm.

Please see our website: [handsacremethodist.org.uk](http://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 October 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 ART GROUP Contact Celia: 01543 491704

## **TUESDAY MORNINGS AT THE VINE**

**7th October: Bring and Buy & Raffle for Mercy Ships**

**14th October: Meal out to Ash Tree** by service bus & minibus.  
If anybody would like to book a place with our party, please let Gifford know.

**21st October: Quiz with Jill**

**28th October: Music and craft**

## **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

If you have difficulty in getting to a medical appointment, try our volunteer scheme. Phone Diane on 01543 547507. We might be able to help. We are very grateful to our eight volunteer drivers who willingly give of their time to help. We do need other drivers to meet all the demand we have for our service.

If you think you might be able to help as a driver, please ring 01543 547507 or email: [info@communitytransport.armitagewithhandsacre.org](mailto:info@communitytransport.armitagewithhandsacre.org)

**'I cannot do all the good that the world needs.  
But the world needs all the good that I can do.'**

**Jana Stanfield**



## WOW WOW WOW Sing For Joy Community Choir was a year old on the 9th September 2025

What a year it's been. So many wonderful opportunities we have shared. So many new people we have met. We have performed in lovely churches and been invited into local care homes and assisted living homes.

We have been honoured to sing and be part of the VE Day Celebrations and VJ Day for the British Legion in Armitage. Valentines afternoon tea for the local scouts. We have raised funding for the charity Changing Rooms in Rugeley.

So, to celebrate we are sponsoring Forces Afloat Registered Charity. It is a charity which refurbishes narrow boats to loan to homeless British armed forces veterans. Please go on to their site [www.fva.org.uk](http://www.fva.org.uk) and see all the lovely work that is being done, you never know it might be something you would like to get involved in too.

If you would like to be part of our amazing Community Choir and help, make a difference to someone's life, you can either just pop along to:  
St John The Baptist Church Room, Armitage every Monday 1pm - 3pm.

Telephone Lynne Tandy 07743052065  
email: [lynnetea@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnetea@hotmail.com)



## 19th October brings Health and Care Sunday 2025

Health and Care Sunday is an initiative of Christian healthcare organisations in the UK and Ireland. It aims to give local churches an annual opportunity to affirm and support the work done by the members of their congregation and local community who work in health and social care.

Most churches include someone who is a doctor, nurse, care assistant, social care worker, occupational therapist, hospital administrator, porter, cleaner, ward secretary, laboratory staff or chaplain, as well as people serving in many other roles.

This is an opportunity for our church to pray for them and encourage them as they work in health and social care in our community.

Health + Care Sunday is sponsored by the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) and held on the Sunday closest to St Luke's Day (18th October).




More info at: <https://www.cmf.org.uk/health-and-care-sunday>



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## 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

**Praise** God in His Temple,  
**Praise** Him in His mighty heavens.  
**Praise** Him for His acts of power,  
**Praise** Him for his surpassing greatness.

**Praise Him**

with the sounding trumpet,

**Praise Him**

with the harp and lyre,

**Praise Him**

with tambourine and dancing,

**Praise Him**

with the clash of cymbals,

**Praise Him**

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

**PRAISE THE LORD!**

## Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,  
 a song of praise to God,  
 it tells us why and how  
 to worship God.

*How do you praise and  
 worship God?*

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| E | T | A | M | B | O | U | R | I | N | E |
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| D | A | N | C | I | N | G | M | P | T | T |
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PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS  
 TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS  
 TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD



# Our First Church Picnic



On the 24th August, we gathered in the churchyard after the morning service for our very first church picnic.

The sun shone, we had our picnic food, and the sound of laughter and conversation filled the air. It was a joy to see people of all ages enjoying one another's company. Many people commented on how lovely it was to spend time together in such a relaxed way, and there has been requests to make this an annual tradition! Thank you to everyone who came along, and helped to make the day such a success. Here's to many more picnics to come!





# CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

St John The Baptist Church Armitage with Handsacre are asking for the local community to get involved and knit or crochet poppies. This year we would love you to get involved and knit or crochet purple poppies in honour of all the animals that lost their lives during wartime.

If you are interested and want to be involved in this community project, please email for a pattern.  
[lynnnetea@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnnetea@hotmail.com)  
or telephone 07743052065.

## RIDWARE HISTORY SOCIETY

**The first meeting of the winter season will be held on Monday 6th October.**

**A short AGM will be followed by guest speaker, David Robbie on Great Haywood, Past and Present, People and Places.**

David is a retired teacher from Fair Oak School and local historian with more than a passing interest in J. R. R. Tolkien. His most recent publication represents over 50 years of research and over 30 years of writing about the history of Great Haywood.

He will endeavour to condense all this knowledge into a lively, informative talk with some humour and poetry thrown in.

**Monday 3rd November:**

**Berenice Wilson: Anglo Saxon Women**

Meet in Hill Ridware Village Hall WS15 3QT.  
7.30pm for 7.45pm start. Tea/coffee available.

Non-members are welcome £3 per visit

For information on how to join please contact  
Membership Secretary: Helen Sharp 01543 490873  
or Chair: Roy Fallows 01543 491826

More information can be found at  
[www.ridwarehistorysociety.com](http://www.ridwarehistorysociety.com)

# 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](mailto:liddledarlo@gmail.com)

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

# Armitage Cricket Club Match Reports



We have had a fantastic cricket season this year. The weather has been much kinder than last year meaning we have played a lot more cricket!

Our 1st XI team has finished the season in sixth place in the South Staffordshire Cricket Club Championship, Division 6.

Fantastic bowling from Skipper Ben Beck and incredible runs from Dan Gibbons and Luke Elsmore helped secure their place in the division.

The 2nd XI has been just as impressive this season with four new young members, and what star players they have been, Luke Harris, Ollie Gibbons, Ben Sharpe and Alex Malcolm have been great additions to the club, bringing a new generation of positivity.

Presentation night will be one to remember this year as we say a final farewell to an honorary lifetime member Emil Gibbons who passed away earlier in the season. We have raised funds and placed a bench in his favourite place at the club, with contributions from his employer Orona and a charity T20 night with Rugeley Cricket Club 3rd XI.

This match will be an annual event and next year will be hosted by Rugeley CC for another charity.

We have a couple of community events planned:

**Halloween Disco and a  
Carved Pumpkin competition at  
Armitage with Handsacre Village Hall  
Friday 31st October 5pm - 7pm**

**Quiz night with The Olde Peculiar  
Thursday 20th November 7pm**

If you would like to join our cricket teams, please get in touch, you can call our skipper Ben 07964442116, find us on Facebook, [Play-cricket.com](http://Play-cricket.com) or email us [armitagecricketclub@hotmail.com](mailto:armitagecricketclub@hotmail.com)

Our winter nets start in January.

Come along and join our family.