

Building Community in the Mid Trent Villages

Compass

November 2025



Sunday Worship in November

2

8.00^{am} Hixon
9.30^{am} Salt
10.00^{am} Fradswell
10.00^{am} Milwich
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist
11.15^{am} Sandon
11.15^{am} Stowe
11.15^{am} Weston

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.40^{am} Hixon (Memorial Hall)
10.40^{am} Sandon (Sandon Estate)
10.40^{am} Weston (Village Green)
11.30^{am} Weston Methodist
4.00^{pm} Milwich

16

10.00^{am} Weston Praise TogetHer
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist

23

9.30^{am} Burston
9.30^{am} Hixon Sunday Breakfast
9.30^{am} Weston
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist
11.15^{am} Milwich
11.15^{am} Salt
11.15^{am} Stowe

30

9.30^{am} Gayton
9.30^{am} Hopton
9.30^{am} Weston Sunday Breakfast
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist
11.15^{am} Milwich
11.15^{am} Sandon
11.15^{am} Stowe

Advent begins on
Sunday 30th November and
marks the beginning of the
Church Year!

Advent means *arrival* and this season
looks forward to the celebration of
the birth of Jesus
Purple is the colour seen in church
during Advent.

A letter from Viv

Remember, remember

the fifth of November!

Yes, we are in Bonfire season! Put the calming music on for your pets, wrap up warm and prepare to be thrilled with stunning firework displays!

I have just got over the dread of the effect of loud noise on the children and can relax and really enjoy them! I particularly like travelling in the car on Bonfire Night and seeing fireworks suddenly pop up unexpectedly in the sky. Maybe most people have forgotten that actually this celebration of bonfires and fireworks is to remember a certain *Catholic* rebellion against a *Protestant* King and Parliament. Perhaps in this day and age of growing religious intolerance forgetting those details can only be a good thing! So, what *is* worth remembering in this season?



...get the photo albums out and remember...

Well, the other significant date in November is the 11th, Remembrance Day, when we celebrate the date of the *Armistice*, which ended the First World War. Peace is always something which should be celebrated, and it is surely right to remember the sacrifice made by all those who died serving their country.

The third significant date in November is *All Souls Day* on **November 2^d**, when we remember our loved ones who have died. Too often, when we lose loved ones, people stop talking about them, in case it upsets others. But we *should* talk about them to keep our memories alive. It is important to remember the stories they told us, because their stories are our stories. This is what the bible teaches us:

*“Remember the days of old;
consider the generations long past.
Ask your father and he will tell you,
your elders, and they will explain to you.”*

Deuteronomy 32:7.

(continued)



Remember, remember - continued...

So on November 2nd
get the photo albums out
and...

Remember!

Maybe if you are “a certain age”,
consider writing down
your story
and memories,
so they will be captured for your
grandchildren!

Grandchildren,
consider recording conversations of
memories with your older relatives!

Remember in November!



STAFFORD FLOWER CLUB

Bringing Flowers & Friendships together

Are you interested in flowers, plants or gardening? Come and join us for all things floral. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Rising Brook Methodist Church, Burton Square. ST17 9DH (*between the High School and the Coop Shop*) Flower arranging demonstrators give their thoughts on a chosen theme, chatting to us with entertaining bits of information about how and why the flowers are used, gardening in general and almost any other subject under the sun! The arrangements created are our prizes for the raffle, which is drawn at the end of our social time.

Come along to our
Christmas Special

starting at 2.15^{pm}

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Beverly Artis
“Step into Christmas”

Visitors £8.00

staffordflowerclub@gmail.com

Call Ros on 07985 602287



Coming soon...



How to Book your child's place at the 2025 Christmas activity event

There will be sessions at 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 6th December at St. Andrew's Church, Weston

Themed Craft activities, lots of fun, Superheroes, interactive stories and snack food!

We can only accommodate

limited numbers of children at each session so please book as soon as possible.

Either: fill in details on this form and return it to Kate Tague, Nutters Platt, Boat Lane, Weston, ST18 0HT or preferably, email your response kate Hague1969@gmail.com

No. of places required

First Name(s)

Preferred Time of session

Any allergies we should know about:

.....

Name of person making this booking

Phone number

Email



O COME EMMANUEL A series of three meetings for Advent on **Wednesday December 3rd 2025, 7.30pm** School Close, Weston. ST18 0HF

Rev'd Vivienne 01889 271046

is available at amazon.co.uk/dp/1781405190

Fradswell



November

Sunday 2nd 10.00^{am}

Celtic All Souls service



14th December 2025

10.00^{am} until 4.00^{pm}

Fradswell Village Hall

£80 per person

Spend the day using acrylic paint to create a Highland Cow that's full of character and completely unique to you. The painting is yours to take away at the end of the day and treasure for ever!

All materials and equipment are provided. You'll start with a white canvas, but by the end of the day you'll have a gorgeous finished painting. I'll take you through the painting process step by step and I am on hand to help whenever needed. No painting experience required.

Contact: Sam Proctor-Crook
admin@samproctorcrook.com
www.samproctorcrook.com



In the turning of the year, Autumn speaks of ending and beginning.

Each falling leaf

is a flame of beauty,

each seed a promise
hidden in the dark earth.

We gather what the land has given,
the harvest of our labours,

We remember our ancestors and
loved ones and all who have walked
before us - and we honour those
taken in conflict.

As the wheel of the seasons
turns towards winter, we prepare
in stillness and trust, knowing that
what is sown in shadow
will rise again in light.



What's On in Fradswell Village Hall

Milwich and Fradswell Toddlers Tuesday mornings from 10.00^m-12^{noon}
Please ring Kate Kite on 07958473023

Dementia-friendly coffee morning Wednesday **5th November** 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}
All welcome. Ring Laura on 07834 388140 for details

Whist Tuesday **4th November** 2.00^{pm}- 4.00^{pm}
Please ring Christina Rushton on 07989 057467 for details.

Lunch Club **26th November** 12^{noon} -2.00^{pm} £6 for a 2-course home-cooked lunch with tea or coffee. Booking essential. Please ring Irene 07770 780078

Get Waisted - every Thursday morning 10.00^m-11.00^{am}. Gentle exercise for mind and body. Ring Jan Griffin on 07891 140166 for details.

Coffee Morning **Saturday 8^h November** 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}. Bacon baps, hot drinks and a range of craft stalls perfect for original Christmas gifts.

Fradswell Village Hall AGM Wednesday **12th November** 7.00^{pm} All welcome

Bar & Quiz Night Friday **14th November** £5 per team of 6.
Bar opens at 6.00^{pm} - quiz starts at 7.00^{pm} with quizmeister John and his lovely assistant Lesley. *Hot Stuff Catering* will be on site for yummy food.

Christmas Wreath Workshop **Saturday 29^h November** *with Bel & Bloom.*
10.30^{am}- 2.30^{pm} at Fradswell Village Hall. Refreshments available
Cost **£40** *includes tuition & all materials.* Please ring Irene on 07770 780078 to book. *Places are limited.*

Next month at St. James Church...

21st December at 10:00^{pm} Carol Service and Best Dressed Dog.

24th December at 4.00^{pm} Celtic Christmas Eve.

28th December at 10.00^{pm} Worship Together 'Keeping It Christmas!'



POPPY COLLECTION ROUND

A volunteer is urgently sought to take over the Poppy Round in Fradswell. Contact Malcolm on 01889 270279 or 07942 320401



Mid Trent Team

BURSTON ST RUFIN

PCC Rep. Robert Selby 01889 508454 janetselby3@gmail.com

FRADSWELL ST JAMES THE LESS

Wardens Sarah Emery 07773 220428

Rachel Donegan 07581 336422

PCC Sec. Leila Patton leila_patton@jdcloud.com

Compass Irene Philips irene280564@gmail.com



a church
NEAR YOU



GAYTON ST PETER

Warden/Compass Jane Rock 01785251180 & 07410441224 janerock@phonecoop.coop

HIXON ST PETER

Warden & Tim Moss 01889271007 & 07813531146 mosstimothy90@gmail.com

Compass

HOPTON ST PETER

Deputy Warden Pat Preece 07342 638669

preecepatricia4@gmail.com

MILWICH ALL SAINTS

Warden Gordon Broomfield 01889 505493

PCC Sec. Shirley Hayes

Compass Alison Rose 01889 505507

gordon@hoodlandbroomfield.co.uk

hazydays66@hotmail.co.uk

alisonmrose@btinternet.co.uk

SALT ST JAMES

Warden Janet Stubbs 01785 213868

Deputy Chris Crookes 01889 508364

PCC Sec & Compass Margaret Walls 01889 508412

saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com

willcrookes@btinternet.com

margaretewalls@gmail.com

SANDON ALL SAINTS

Wardens Stephen Butt 01785 618248 & 07972838140

Elizabeth Jarrett 01785 816851 & 07534915068

Deputy Ken Pemberton 01782 641248

PCC Sec. Jeannette Butt 01785618248 & 07963252869

& Compass

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elizabethjarrett@gmail.com

kenneth.pemberton43@gmail.com

jeannettebutt@live.co.uk

STOWE-by-CHARTLEY ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Warden Jenny Brown 01889 270596

PCC Sec & Compass Susanna Munro 01889 270114

mandjb79@gmail.com

munro.susanna@gmail.com

WESTON ST ANDREW

Wardens Gill Tittley 01889 270594 gilltittley10@gmail.com

Kate Tague 07896 087266 katetague1969@gmail.com

PCC Sec. Pat Hopkin 07419 128 317 alanhopkin47@gmail.com

Compass Alan Hopkin 07419 128 317 alanhopkin47@gmail.com

Associate Minister
Rev Vivienne Starkie
3 Old School Close
Weston, ST18 0HF
01889 271046
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COMPASS EDITOR Rev Duncan Leake 0794 1091 666

Gayton



November

Sunday 30th 9.30^{am} Holy Communion

September History weekend

Thank you to those who came along to the church and village history weekend and for the interest shown in our photos and documents. Gayton is a small village but with a church spanning 900 years and buildings several centuries of age there is much to find out.

As always, a thank you to Sue and Sophie for delicious cakes and refreshments. A special thankyou also to Pat Clare who had her lovely paintings for sale and gave the church half of the total she took that weekend.

The church is very grateful for the much-needed support it received with almost **£300** towards the upkeep of the church.

And more thanks...

During September, prior to our church Harvest Festival, we had a box at the village hall for donations of groceries for **House of Bread**. We were delighted with the response and are grateful to all those who gave and we were able to take several bags full to this wonderful charity supporting the homeless and vulnerable in Stafford .

Pop Up Bar Gayton Village Hall

Friday 21st November from 7.00^{pm}

Come and join us at our friendly Pop-Up Bar, as we find ourselves heading into the winter.

As well as our usual selection of beers, wines and spirits we will be offering **hot food** to give comfort and cheer.



Hixon



November

Sunday

2nd

8.00^{am}

Holy Communion



9th

10.40^{am}

Remembrance (at Memorial Hall)

23rd

9.30^{am}

Sunday Breakfast (in the CHURCH)

Two dates for your diary:

Christingle making morning at the Guide Hall

Sunday 21st December at 9.30^{am}

Christingle event at St. Peter's Church

Tuesday 23^d December at 5.00^{pm}

Hixon CHEF Christmas Party

Hixon residents please
see the tear - out form
and details on pages
21 & 22 in this magazine

It was good to welcome all the children from St. Peter's School to the Harvest Service at St. Peter's Church. It was so good to hear all of the contributions made by the children to this service. The *Open the Book* team together with some of the children, presented "The Marvellous Picnic" - a retelling of the story of Feeding the Five Thousand. In this service we were reminded of the importance of sharing, compassion and generosity. I am pleased to pass on thanks from the House of Bread for all the donations that were brought by the children of the school and the Pre-school. The Luncheon Club also very much appreciated the food boxes which were donated to them. *Thank You for your kindness.*



Please remember to come along to
this years **Remembrance Sunday**
commemoration for our village,
10.40^{am} at Hixon Memorial Hall
on November 9th.

Hixon Parish Council meet on
Tuesday November 18th 2025
7.15^{pm} in Hixon Memorial Hall.
All are welcome to attend.



In October, *John Turnock* gave a talk on **The history and techniques of Glass Making**. Glass has always been found in nature, but the first glass created by humans can be dated to about 4,000 years ago, when craftsmen working in Mesopotamia (Iraq, Syria) discovered the art of mixing quartz (silica) sand, soda, and limestone to make glass. The Egyptians made little beads, amulets and small jars, and the Syrians invented glass blowing. Glass-making centres began to emerge in more places in the Mediterranean world, and was brought to the UK by the Romans in the 2nd Century.

The ingredients are heated in a wood-fired furnace to over 1,600°C, then shaping the molten liquid and slowly cooling it (annealing). The molten glass is shaped by methods like rolling for flat sheets, glass-blowing for objects, or casting for solid forms. In the late 16th century, new furnace technologies and materials improved the quality of glass, but so much wood was needed that an Act of Parliament forbade its use- in order to build ships! When Coal became the popular fuel, the 19th century saw a massive expansion in glass production. Cone shaped Glass Houses proliferated(see picture above) and Stourbridge became a major global centre with *Stuart Crystal*.

In the decades following World War Two, the fortunes of the glass industry slowly declined due to a failure to modernise, foreign competition and changing tastes.

Evidence of past glass making have been found at Bishops Wood (Eccleshall) and Bagot's Park (Abbots Bromley), and 'Quickfix & Quartz' had factory in Stone, on the Morrison's site in the 1950s.

Hixon History Society meet again at 8.00^{pm} in Hixon Memorial Hall on Tuesday 4th November. The meeting will feature a talk by *Steve Booth* on **Cannock Chase and its hidden history.**

The fee is £2 per person. All welcome.

John Egginton

Hopton



November

Sunday 30th 9.30^{am} Holy Communion



All Welcome

for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on

Tuesday November 25th from 10.30^{am}-12^{noon}.

Only £2.50! Also a bookstall and lots of chatter!

For more information contact Jan Bennett: 01785 242446

Hopton Village Hall can be booked through the Hopton & Coton Parish Council website. The cost is just £10 per hour.

Wood Turners Want to improve or share your skills? Come along on the second Monday of the month in Hopton Village Hall: 7.30^m-10.00^{pm}

Hopton Knit and Natter We meet **every Monday** (*except Bank Holidays*) 2.00^{pm} - 4.00^{pm} at Hopton Village Hall. Each session is just £3 to include tea & cake. We invite you to join us whether you can knit, crochet or have any other talents you would like to pass on to others. Lessons can be given whether you are left-handed or right-handed. You may like to pop along just for a natter & tea. You'll be made very welcome.

Contact Jan 01785 255313

(*More Hopton info. on page 26*)

Friends of Salt & Hopton Churches

Lottery Result

Winning Tickets for AUGUST are –

- Ticket No 57 – £50
- Ticket No 52 – £40
- Ticket No 44 – £30

To join our Lottery, please email saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com

Registered with Stafford Borough Council



Salt & Hopton 2026 Calendar



The village calendars are being prepared now, so this is your opportunity to pre-order your copies. We only have 60 this year. They are £10.00 each.

All money raised will go to church funds to help with the building work. Please contact *Janet Stubbs* or *Margaret Walls* to reserve your copy or email **saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com**

We thank Karen & Mac Colbourne and Blaze printers for producing the calendar.

Hopton & District Garden Guild Jeff Bates gave us a brilliant talk in October about how to introduce colour into the Winter garden. Our speaker at the 4th November meeting will be *Kath Reynolds* with a talk entitled **Sweet memories**. Looking forward to December we have a talk entitled **A wild(life) Christmas** with *Kevin Reynolds*. Membership of the guild is £15 per year. We are pleased to encourage visitors (£2.50) to our monthly meetings, where you will be made welcome and be entertained by speakers covering a wide variety of interests. We have a light hearted competition each meeting for flowers or craft. Tea/coffee & biscuits are included, followed by a raffle to round off the evening. We meet on the **first Tuesday each month at 7:30^{pm}** in Hopton village hall. For information please contact *Jill Buss* on **01785 259808** or look out for our yellow monthly newsletter on local village notice boards.

Milwich



November



Sunday

2nd 10.00 am

Morning Praise

9th 4.00 pm

Remembrance & Thanksgiving

23rd 11.15 am

Holy Communion

30th 11.15 am

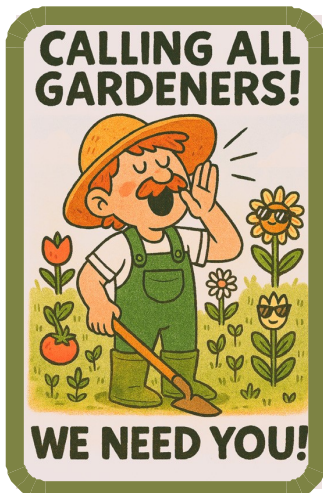
Holy Communion

**All Saints Church, Milwich invites you to our
Service of Remembrance at 4:00^{pm}
Sunday 9th November 2025**

We shall not only be thinking of those who gave their lives for their country but will combine it with a **Thanksgiving Service** for the lives of those we have loved and are no longer with us.

This year the service will be conducted by Rev Vivienne and we would love for you and your family to join us for this very moving service. During the service we will all have an opportunity to light candles in memory of our loved ones.

Offering and donations made at this event will be used towards the care of this beautiful church building and it's setting. With grateful thanks for your continued support. Church Warden: Gordon Broomfield 01889 505493



If you are a gardener, then Milwich needs you! We solely rely on the help of volunteers to maintain the Churchyard grounds. If you are able to trim, or mow, or plant, or tidy - then you have the skills that we need.

Whatever amount of time you can offer, little or more - it will be much appreciated. Your help, support, knowledge, ideas and creativity can really make a difference to the land around Milwich church building.

Please contact **Tessa Broomfield** on **01889 505493** for information. *Thanks!*



What's on in Milwich Village Hall

Breakfast Club

The new monthly breakfast club at Milwich Village Hall is serving cooked breakfast, pastries and drinks on Saturday 29th November 8.30 - 11.30am ***** Five-star reviews - 'Wonderful oatcakes and real coffee' Everyone is welcome.

Yin Yoga

Every Monday 7.00^{pm}-8.00^{pm} Contact Anita 07948 351789

Warm Welcome Group

Meets each month on the second Wednesday, from 10.00^{am} – 1.00^{pm}. The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th November. For more details please contact Elaine 07702 865011

Milwich Produce Guild

This month on November 27th at the Milwich and District Produce Guild we invite a local farmer *Joy Ashford* to tell us about her journey into starting to grow flowers on her farm in Swansmoor.

The Joy of Flowers is the title of the talk and she will also get us in the festive mood by giving a Christmas Wreath Demonstration. All are welcome. Meetings start at 8.00^{pm} sharp in the Milwich village hall.

Contact Ruth 07495 185579

Quiz Night at the Green Man

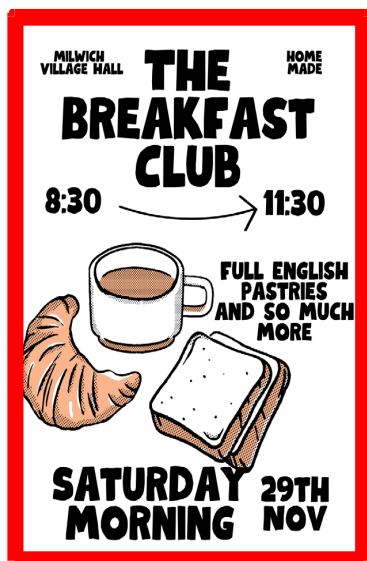
Tuesday 18th November

The Quiz starts at 8.00^{pm} prompt.

This is a fun night with refreshments, £3pp, 4 in a team.

All proceeds to Marie Curie.

New teams welcomed.



"Up on the roof" - in Salt!

We need slate roof tiles!

After several years to obtain a faculty and serious fund raising, we have started the work on making the chancel area watertight.

Through kind donations we have already raised £50,000, which would have been just enough to get the work completed.

But then...

...as the slate roof tiles were lifted off the north aspect of the roof- many of them crumbled in the workman's hands!

The tiles had taken such a battering from the weather over the years.

We now require about **fifty** tiles, ranging in size from small square ones to some which are one metre in length! We have sourced them and the cost ranges from £250 for a large one to £30 for a small one.

In total we need another £4000.

If you are a member of the church or village facebook sites you will have seen the photographs. Do have a look on *achurchnearyou.com* which has the full story. We have had a good response so far to the appeal and the PCC are most grateful. If you would like to contribute to our slate appeal, please do. It could be a very original early Christmas gift - this building is part of the heritage of our village church and community.



We intend to acknowledge the generosity of all our contributors with some sort of plaque listing their names.

The bank details are:

St James Salt with St Peters Hopton

Sort code: 30-90-89

Account no: 38020260.

Or contact the church warden or any member of the PCC.

To follow our repair journey online just type this address into your browser:

<https://bit.ly/4nXXyJc>

**November****Sunday****2nd****9.30 am****Holy Communion****23rd****11.15 am****Holy Communion**

The Salt & Hopton 2026 Calendar is now available.
To make sure of your copy turn to page 26 of this magazine.

Hot soup & roll available



- Craft Stalls
- Raffle
- Jigsaws
- 2026 Calendar
- Woodturning
- Jams & Preserves
- Cake stall
- And much more

• CHRISTMAS FAIR

- Saturday 22nd
November
- 12 O'clock - 3pm
- Salt Village Hall



Proceeds to Salt and Hopton Churches



Salt Harvest Lunch On Saturday 4th October, around 40 people gathered in Salt Village Hall to enjoy a **superb** Harvest Lunch. Everybody had a good 'catch-up' and chinwag whilst making short work of a sumptuous meal. The delicious desserts made by the ladies were particularly appreciated. Sally Cave spoke for everyone present when she gave thanks to those who had worked tirelessly to make the occasion such a success. Pleasingly, **£450** was made for the ever-hungry Church Maintenance Funds.

Salt & District Friendship Club will meet on Wednesdays **November 12th & 26th** from 2.30^{pm}- 4.00^{pm} in Salt Village Hall for bingo, a cup of tea & chat. New members always welcome.

Winter Quiz Night at Salt Village Hall on Friday 14th November at 7.30^{pm}
Teams of 4. £3.50 per head. Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Salt & Enson Parish Council will meet on Wednesday 5th November in Salt Village Hall at 7.00^{pm}. The general public is welcome to attend.
clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk www.saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk

House of Bread Non-perishable groceries/cleaning products are collected from Salt Church porch every Wednesday morning. All contributions are welcome and can be placed in the HOB box in the porch at any time.

Salt Christian Fellowship Interdenominational Group
All welcome. Tuesdays 7.30-9.30^{pm} for worship songs, bible study & prayers. Contact: Paul Stubbs 07899916092
pauljstubbs@aol.com Jane Mitchell 01889 508284

Community Cafe at Salt Village Hall on Wednesday 5th and 19th November from 2.30^{pm} - 3.30^{pm}. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for tea or coffee, cake and a chat, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

*Salt Village Hall is available for hire.
For bookings please contact Jane Mitchell (01889 508284)*

Date for your diary: Carols at Salt Sunday December 14th at 4.00^{pm}

Sandon & Burston



November

Sunday **2nd** **11.15^{am}** **Holy Communion**
 9th **10.40^{am}** **Remembrance**
 23rd **9.30^{am}** **Holy Communion at BURSTON**
 30th **11.15^{am}** **Matins**

From the Parish Register

Weddings 20-09-2025 Thomas Hodgetts & Alice Biddulph
 03-10-2025 Peter Shakesheave & Alexstazia Mumford
 25-10-2025 Daniel Statham & Hannah Tattersall

Information about the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service

The service will be held on the **Sandon Estate** away from traffic and near the church. The service will begin outside at approximately 10:55^h on **Sunday 9th November** and continue in the church. *James Tabernor*

Sandon Fete The cheque presentation evening to this year's charities will be on Friday 7th November at 7.30^{pm} in the Parish Room. All volunteers and helpers are welcome. We look forward to seeing you. *Lynne Lee*

DON'T BE LATE for a **FIRST-CLASS** talk! **CLIMB ABOARD** with *Carl Dudley* on **Thursday 13th November** 2025 and he will be our conductor for the evening on the topic of **Staffordshire Railways ON THE LEVEL**

According to the **TIMETABLE** this presentation will begin at 7.30^{pm}

The point of **DEPARTURE** will be in the Parish Room, Sandon.

TRACK DOWN Rose for tickets **07876 540491**. BOOK now and you can get an **ECONOMY SAVER FARE** for just **£8.00** - includes refreshments.





A musical start to the
season with
Chanteuse

Wednesday 3 December
at Sandon Hall

7.30pm

Tickets £15 from Rose

07876 540491

Bar available



We are delighted to announce that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has approved an increase in our grant to cover a shortfall in funding and enable additional essential works. On November 3 the Royal Coat of Arms will be removed for restoration, with other work to follow. The church will remain open for our usual services during this time. Visitors to the site will see a contractor's compound and some external areas will be cordoned off and anyone wishing to enter the building outside service times and publicised opening times is asked to make themselves known to the contractors on site.

We will be making a photographic record of the works and the restorers and conservators will be giving/recording talks about their work. We will update COMPASS readers regularly as well as keeping our website and social media up to date. Our funding is exclusively for the Heritage project so please do continue to support our fundraising events to ensure we can still cover the church's running costs!

Social Media - a shout out for followers We are now active on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. If you have an account on these platforms please give us a FOLLOW and LIKE our posts and ask your family and friends to do the same. It really helps to spread the word and it keeps you up to date with our forthcoming events and activities. Next year, we will be celebrating centuries of worship and heritage at Sandon so we will have lots of news to share. You can find us by clicking on the social media links at the bottom of our website **www.sandonallsaints.com** or go directly to

<https://Facebook.com/allsaintssandon>

<https://www.instagram.com/allsaintssandon/>

Sandon WI will meet again on November 19th and the topic for the talk is **Songs From Two World Wars**. Our speaker is *Nicholas Corder*. This year marks the anniversaries of VE and VJ days. Music was important to those on the front and at home. A memorable First World War song was *Pack Up Your Troubles* and the Second World War found people singing *We'll Meet Again*. Members will be joining in and remembering these songs and many more.



If you would like to meet new people in an inclusive, relaxed and friendly atmosphere, please do come and visit us at any of our meetings. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Sandon Parish Rooms, Lichfield Road at 7.30 pm. Contact Judy Goodson, President, 01785 613966 or email sandonsecretary@gmail.com

Sandon in the Past Cottages opposite Stone Bench Farm Sandon 1909 Stone Rural District Council (*December 1964*) recommended demolition orders in respect of eleven houses at Sandon owned by the Earl of Harrowby - due to them being uninhabitable. Most of the cottages were saved and modernised, however the two cottages opposite Stone Bench Farm and three cottages in Pump Square were demolished in 1969.





Personality from the Pews - Maureen Shone

I moved to Sandon in 1991 with my three young sons. I grew up in the West- Midlands so I am entitled to call myself a true **Yam Yam!**

I have taught all my working life in schools, day centres, colleges - and finally in Stafford HMP for many years which was very interesting and rewarding.

I joined All Saint's Church in 2018 with one of my sons and we were made so welcome that we kept returning. Thank you to everyone involved in making us feel a part of the church. I believe wholeheartedly in supporting my rural community and do so whenever possible.

My favourite hymns are *Lord of All Hopefulness* and *Morning Has Broken*. One of my favourite bible readings is from the book of Proverbs, chapter 3 verses 5-6 **Trust in the Lord with all your heart.**

BARBARA'S *It isn't hard to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add dirt!*
Words of Wisdom



Stowe-by-chartley



November

Sunday	2nd	11.15^{am}	Service for All Souls
23	rd	11.15^{am}	Morning Praise
30	th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion

All Souls Sunday On November 2nd we shall hold our traditional service to remember those we love but no longer see. To pray for a person by name please put their details on the list at the west end of church or phone 01889 270596.

At this special event you can bring a flower to offer in church and you can also light a candle to remember your loved one.

Tea/coffee will be served after the service.

Coffee mornings at Stowe Village Hall

November 27th between 10.00^{am} -12^{noon}. Anybody can drop by for a hot drink, a biscuit, chat and time to work on your craft if you wish.

Village Produce & Garden Guild

At our October meeting *Steve Booth* told us about **The Fauld Explosion**. On 27th November 1944 this event produced the biggest man made “bang” ever in Europe! For more than 70 years people have wondered how it happened, so many people were involved and the devastation was vast. It seems there was a repair shop for jettisoned bombs and an accident happened when a wooden hammer was not available. The talk was very detailed and the audience was totally silent throughout. *A much appreciated talk.*

The owner of the winning geranium last month was **Russell Heath** – well done! Our next meeting will be at 7.30^m on Wednesday November 19th *Joy Bradbury* will be telling us all about **The Joy of Flowers**

November rota Altar Flowers	2 nd Susanna Munro 9 th Jenny Brown 16 th & 23 rd <i>Barbara Hurdle</i>
Brass Cleaning	Kath Sargeant

50's CLUB

October:

52 Sue Gregory

Congratulations!

The ladies of Stowe WI had a Musical Evening at their monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th October, after the formal meeting where forthcoming trips to Stratford Christmas Market amongst others were discussed, President Kath introduced *David Woolley*, from **Joliba Drums, African Drum and Dance**



David has been playing African drums for 26 years, since he visited Africa in 1999. He does workshops and performances for all ages, and 95% of his workshops are in primary schools showing them all the drums and helping them to make music.
www.joliba-drums.co.uk

David got all of the WI involved in the playing of music and singing. By the end of the evening he even persuaded one of the members, Jane, to dance along to the music! It was a most enjoyable evening.

Judy gave the vote of thanks, the members then had refreshments whilst talking about their new musical skills. At our meeting on 11th November, there will be a presentation by **Co-op Estate Planning Tax, Care & Toy Boys!** Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30^m on the second Tuesday of the month.

Guests and new members are always welcome.



Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

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special celebration visit

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Weston



November

Sunday	2nd	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion
	9th	10.40^{am}	Remembrance (on Village Green)
16	th	10.00^{am}	Praise Together
23	rd	9.30^{am}	Holy Communion
30	th	9.30^{am}	Sunday Breakfast

Harvest Lunch & Raffle We were joined by forty people for lunch following the Harvest Festival on 5th October. Everyone had a lovely meal including great puddings and a little drop of wine! Thanks to all those who provided and served the food and to all those who turned up or helped in any way. The Harvest Raffle was drawn at this event and *Jayne Galloway* won the first prize of £100, *W. Bott* won the Afternoon Tea; an Autumn Hamper was won by *Sian Davies* and *Wendy Shaw* won a great Hairdo at Francescos. Lots more prizes were won of course. **Thank you to everyone who supported the Raffle-it raised over £1,000 for church funds.**

Gardening Day/Cleaning Day Thank you to all those who turned up and helped on both days. We cleared so much “Stuff” from the cellar and of course cleared the overgrown weeds etc. from the back of church. Two great days, Thank you again.

Sunday Breakfast Service Join us for a very informal and relaxed time on Sunday 30th November with *Kate Tague*. We serve breakfast from 9.30^{am} followed by a short service at 10.00^{am}. Everyone is welcome.

Place of Welcome St Andrew’s church is offering a place of welcome on the first Friday of every month and this month it will be on 2nd November 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}. Please come along for tea/coffee and a friendly chat.

Remembrance Sunday Please join the village on Sunday 9th November in an act of Remembrance at the Village Memorial on the Green. The service starts at 10.40^{am} with a minute’s silence at 11.00^{am}. Followed by Refreshments in the Woolpack. Wear your POPPY with pride.





Dates for your Diary...



Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Church with Local Vocals on Monday 15th December starting at 7.30^{pm}.

Tickets just £8 per person,
includes Mulled Wine & Mince Pies.

Please get your tickets from

Pat 07419 128317

Gill 01889 270594

Nine Lesson and Carols at St Andrew's Church
on Sunday 14th December at 10.00^{am} followed by
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Please join us.

The Real Hero

on **Saturday**

6th December at

St. Andrew's Church.

Once again it will be
a fantastic experience
for the children with
crafts and stories - and
Superheroes! It is
essential to book.



Please see how to book
a place for your child
on **page 7** of this
issue of **Compass**

Weston & Gayton Parish Council – Sincere Thanks

The Parish Council expresses its heartfelt thanks to Weston residents *Alan & Maureen Sneath* and *Bill & Pat Perrett* for their extraordinary dedication over the past 12 years. Through countless hours of work and the generous provision of planting (and watering!), they have lovingly nurtured and maintained Weston's War Memorial with exceptional care and pride. Now, after more than a decade of service, the time has come for them to hang up their trowels and wellies!



Their efforts have left a lasting mark, appreciated by all who live in or visit the village. **The Parish Council gratefully acknowledge the immense contribution they have made, and on behalf of the whole community, we offer our sincerest thanks for their devotion and generosity.**

The Parish Council is seeking a volunteer (or volunteers) to continue the dedicated work of Alan, Maureen, Bill, and Pat in caring for our village war memorial. With the Parish Council's support, we are looking for a resident(s) who has an interest in the memorial and can spare a little time now and then to help keep it and its surroundings looking its best. Is that you? If so, please contact Parish Clerk: *Beth Nicholls*, **07594 002590** clerk@westongayton-pc.gov.uk

Is your child due to start
school in September 2026?
Come to an open morning on
Tuesday 18th November
9:30^{am} – 11:30^{am}



Applications for school places
open on **1st November 2025**
St. Andrew's Primary School
Ferrers Road, Weston
Stafford, ST18 0JN
01889 228769





Christmas Festivities

at Weston Village Hall

Join us for a festive evening on

Friday 28th November from 5.00^{pm} to 7.00^{pm}.

This event aims to capture the spirit of the season and provide a delightful gathering for the whole community.

Healing Voices Choir will be performing traditional Christmas Carols (*you are welcome to join in!*) **Mince pies and mulled wine** will be available for adults, plus *biscuits and squash* for children. And you can take part in a variety of **Fun Games suitable for all ages** adding to the festive atmosphere. There will also be a number of stalls selling a selection of **unique handcrafted items** ideal for finding that special Christmas gift.

Children can visit Father Christmas in his grotto!

The Christmas Tree Light Switch-On will take place around 6.00^{pm}.

Gather together to illuminate the tree and mark the start of the season.



ADVENT CRAFT FAYRE

with Coffee and Mince Pies

Saturday 29th November 2025

10.00^{am} – 12^{noon}

at

Weston Methodist Church

All are welcome

Please send all stories for the
next double issue
DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026
to
compassmtc@gmail.com
no later (PLEASE!) than
MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 2025



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