

Building Community in the Mid Trent Villages

December 2025

January 2026

Compass

December

6
7

14

21

23

24

25

28

Welcome
to your
Guide for
Christmas
events
and the
New Year
in the Mid
Trent Team

2.00pm Weston A REAL HERO
4.00pm Pre-booking essential see page 41

8.00am Hixon
9.30am Salt
10.00am Milwich
10.30am Weston Methodist
11.15am Sandon
11.15am Weston

9.30am Burston
10.00am Weston Carol Service
10.30am Weston Methodist
4.00pm Gayton Carol Service
4.00pm Milwich Carol Service
4.00pm Salt Carol Service
6.00pm Stowe Carol Service

9.30am Hixon Breakfast & Christingle crafts
10.00am Fradswell Carols & Best Dressed Dog
10.00am Milwich Praise Together
10.00am Weston Methodist Carol Service
4.00pm Sandon Carol Service

5.00pm Hixon Christingle Event

4.00pm Fradswell A Celtic Christmas Eve
4.00pm Sandon Christingle Event
6.00pm Weston Christingle Event
11.30pm Milwich Christmas Eve Communion
11.30pm Sandon Christmas Eve Communion

9.30am Gayton Christmas Communion
9.30am Weston Methodist

10.00am Fradswell Praise Together

January 2026

44

8.00am	Hixon
9.30am	Salt
10.00am	Milwich
10.30am	Weston Methodist
11.15am	Sandon
11.15am	Stowe
11.15am	Weston

11

10.00am	Hixon	<i>Praise Together</i>
10.30am	Weston Methodist	

18

9.30am	Burston	
9.30am	Hixon	<i>Sunday Breakfast</i>
9.30am	Weston	
10.30am	Weston Methodist	
11.15am	Milwich	
11.15am	Salt	

25

9.30am	Gayton	
9.30am	Hopton	
9.30am	Weston	<i>Sunday Breakfast</i>
10.30am	Weston Methodist	
11.15am	Milwich	
11.15am	Sandon	
11.15am	Stowe	

happy
New Year



A letter from Viv



At the moment, I am busy with my Christmas shopping. I enjoy it, but I always agonise over what to buy for people. It is so easy to get it wrong. I once confided to a friend that sadly, a mutual acquaintance always gave me scented candles, which I couldn't use as they made me sneeze! She told me the same friend had complained to her that I often sent her flowers as a present, which she hated because her cats always destroyed them! Of course, we were both too polite to ever tell each other this!! Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without presents - but *why* ?

...on 25 December we celebrate Love...

Many think that we give presents at Christmas because the three wise men brought presents to Jesus. Others go back to the stories about the original Saint Nicholas (*Santa Claus*) who filled the stocking of three poor girls with coins as an act of charity.

I would argue that it comes from something deeper than that, with in fact more in common with Santa than the three wise men.

As I write, we are in the season of Advent - traditionally these four Sundays before Christmas remind us of the four virtues of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Each week we light a candle and Love is the final candle because it is the most important virtue.

That comes from the bible -

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the **greatest** of these is **love**.” 1 Corinthians 13 v 13

In the King James version of the bible, this is translated as

“And now abideth faith, hope, *charity*, these three;
but the greatest of these is *charity*”.

Most of us associate charity nowadays as giving money to a good cause. Anyone who watched last month's "Children in need" appeal on TV will know that this practice is still alive and thriving. But in the bible, the word "charity" is a translation of the Latin 'caritas' which means love.⇒



⇒ Not *romantic* love. 'Caritas' is in fact a translation of the Greek word 'Agape' which is a Greek word for a very distinctive kind of love – **sacrificial love**, the love a mother might have for a child. The early church used this word to describe **God's love** when he sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world, to sacrifice himself to save us from our sins, defeat death and give us all eternal life. THIS kind of LOVE is what lies at the heart of Christmas! The season is all about that wonderful kind of love - still with us - enfolding us today. This is what we should think about when we see that tiny vulnerable baby in the crib.

That love should be reflected in us, not only in our giving to our friends, but to giving in general, to our favourite charities and to our community. On 25th December we celebrate that Love with joy, and with hope. This *Christmas Love - God's Love*, gives us the best kind of peace in our lives - real Comfort and Joy.

love
love

Happy Christmas!



Fradswell



DECEMBER

Sunday 21st 10.00^{am}

Carols and Best Dressed Dog

Christmas Eve 4.00^{pm}

Celtic Christmas Eve

Sunday 28th 10.00^{am}

"Keeping it Christmas" (*Praise Together*)

A joyful, friendly morning full of laughter, music, and Christmas spirit.

Join us for Fradswell's famously joyful Carol Service & Best Dressed Christmas Dog Competition on 21st December at 10:00^{am}— where everyone (and every dog!) is welcome. Come dressed for Christmas, whether you fancy yourself an elf, a king, or simply dazzling in your sparkles! Sing your heart out, enjoy sumptuous festive refreshments, and cheer on the parade of Best Dressed Christmas Dogs – prizes for the most paw-some outfits!

A gentle service of stillness, candlelight and holy anticipation.

Celtic Christmas Eve at Fradswell Wednesday 24^h December at 4.00^{pm}
Through story, poem and quiet carols, we pause together in the hush before Christmas - to watch, to listen, and to wait for the coming of Christ. The church will glow with warmth and welcome, and refreshments of mulled wine and Christmas cake will follow.

'Keeping it Christmas' Praise Together Sunday 28^h December at 10:00am

This Sunday will be the fourth day of the Christmas season, and the song gives us *four calling birds*, said to stand for the four Gospels calling out good news to the world - they are still singing and still calling out the good news. Here in Fradswell, we'll be "Keeping it Christmas" - because the Child is born, the angels still sing, and heaven's joy is not yet finished.



As we come together, let us sing our carols, hear the story again, gather at the Lord's table, and go out with Christ's light - and joy - in our hearts.



What's On in Fradswell Village Hall

Bar & Karaoke Night Friday 12th December

6.00^{pm} - 11.00^{pm} *Come along and sing your heart out or just heckle your friends!*

Village Elders Christmas Party Tuesday 16th December 2.30^{pm}-4.00^{pm}

Please note that Booking is ESSENTIAL so please message or ring Irene on 07770780078 to secure your place.

Whist Tuesday 2nd December 2.00^{pm}- 4.00^{pm}

Please ring Christina Rushton on 07989 057467 for details.

Dementia-friendly coffee morning Wednesday 3rd December & January 7

10.00^{am}-12^{noon} All welcome. Ring Laura on 07834 388140 for details

Coffee Morning Saturday 13th December 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}.

Lots of festive treats alongside our bacon baps AND we hear that Father Christmas will be calling in for a big mug of special hot chocolate! Lots of local crafts too, plenty of gift ideas. The first coffee morning of 2026 will be on Saturday 10th January.

Get Waisted - every Thursday morning 10.00^{am}-11.00^{am}. Gentle exercise for mind and body. Lots of giggles too! Contact: Jan Griffin on 07891 140166

Painting Workshop 14th December 2025 10.00^{am} until 4.00^{pm} £80 p.p.

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

Lunch Club 28th January 2026 12^{noon} -2.00^{pm} £6 for a 2-course home-cooked lunch with tea or coffee. Booking essential.

Please ring Irene 07770 780078

January Worship at St. James Church *No arrangements made at time of going to press but details of any worship in January 2026 will be publicised on the Fradswell Community Hub and Mid Trent Facebook pages.*



Gayton



DECEMBER

Sunday 14th 4.00^{pm} Carol Service and Village gathering
Christmas Day 9.30^{am} Christmas Communion (*Praise Together*)

JANUARY

Sunday 25th 9.30^{am} Holy Communion

Christmas Party at Gayton Join us on **Saturday 6th December** for an afternoon of festive frivolities from 12^{noon} to 4.00^{pm}. (*Plenty of time to get home and settle down for Strictly, if you are a fan!*) Enjoy a nostalgic Christmas with seasonal savouries & puddings, Yuletide beers and tipples for the grownups, and activities for children including gingerbread character decorating and Christmas crafts. Adult tickets are £10 (*includes Mulled wine on arrival, Christmas dinner Yorkshire pudding wrap with all the trimmings, and choice of classic festive dessert.*) Children, £7.50 (*includes 'Half' Yorkshire pudding wrap, choice of classic festive dessert, craft table to make cards, and gingerbread character to decorate.*)

Non-alcoholic/vegan/veggie/GF options: please tell us when you book.

Booking is essential by 1st December. Please call Christine (01889 624867) or Sue (01889 270273) or email gaytonvillagehall@gmail.com

All proceeds in aid of Gayton Village Hall. (Registered Charity No. 1090896)

Christmas Carol Service at Gayton Church Sunday 14th December at 4.00^{pm} and **afterwards at the Village Hall** for delicious festive refreshments. What is your favourite Carol? Is it from church, school or listening to your children's concerts? Or does your child have a Christmas carol/song they are already singing? (*I know-Jingle bells*) This year we are having a traditional carol service but asking in advance for folk to let us know carols they would like to hear and we will try to include what we can. Alongside the Christmas story readings we will include others, maybe you have a favourite poem/short story that means Christmas to you (*perhaps you would like to read it?*) We would love to make it a joyous service open to all, with ideas from many. Everyone will be most Welcome Contact Jane, Church Warden on Janerock@phonecoop.coop Or call on 07410441224



Christmas Raffle Gayton's Parochial Church Council (PCC) are running a Christmas Raffle this year in aid of the continued upkeep and running of the church. Tickets will be on sale the end of November, and the Draw will take place after the Carol service in the Village Hall. Please support us and help keep the

church building part of the life of our village. *And in the new year....*

Pop Up Bar Friday 16th January from 7.00pm Join us at the village hall and chase away the January blues!

O COME EMMANUEL

A Mid Trent Team Group for ADVENT

A series of three meetings starts **Wednesday December 3rd 2025, 7.30pm** at 3 Old School Close, Weston. ST18 0HF

Contact: Revd Vivienne 01889 271046

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



Mid Trent Team



BURSTON ST RUFIN

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

FRADSWELL ST JAMES THE LESS

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HIXON ST PETER

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Compass

HOPTON ST PETER

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MILWICH ALL SAINTS

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SALT ST JAMES

Warden Janet Stubbs 01785 213868 saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com
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A	B	A	N	G	E	L	S	S	C
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CHRISTMAS
LOVE
PEACE
JOY
KINDNESS
HOPE

SAVIOUR
GOLD
MYRRH
KINGS
SHEPHERDS

ANGELS
JOSEPH
MARY
INCENSE
BETHLEHEM



Hixon



DECEMBER

Sunday	7 th	8.00 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	21 st	9.30 ^{am}	Breakfast & Christingle Craft (<i>Guide Hall</i>)
Tuesday	23 rd	5.00 ^{pm}	Christingle Service

JANUARY

Sunday	4 th	8.00 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	18 th	9.30 ^{am}	Sunday Breakfast (<i>in Church this month</i>)



Let's come together to **celebrate** **Christingle.**

St Peter's Church, Hixon

Tuesday 23rd December 2025 5.00^{pm}

Let's start the Christmas festivities joining together to do something wonderful for the Children's Society. This service marks the start to Christmas festivities and enables us all to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It also gives us the opportunity to help so many children find safety and hope.

Last year Hixon raised over £170!!!

**Hixon Village Christingle
23rd December 2025
5.00^{pm}**

There will be a *Christingle making morning* at the Guides Building on Sunday 21st December at 9.30^{am}



One of Hixon's oldest residents, my father, **David Penry Williams**, sadly passed away peacefully at the age of 102 at Meadowfields Care Home on 20th October 2025. My father had been a resident of Hixon since 1971 and was well known around the village, especially at the Luncheon Club and Community Café. It was truly heartwarming to see so many of his friends at his funeral at Stafford Crematorium on Friday 7th November, particularly those who attended from the above-mentioned village activities. It was therefore most fitting that the after-funeral refreshments were held at the Hixon Village Hall.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Jane Garner and her team, whose professionalism and kindness made the event possible. Everyone who attended commented on how delicious and beautifully presented the refreshments were. The total amount of donations collected were... £353.00 which will be divided between Katherine House & the Air Ambulance

David J Williams

HIXON History SOCIETY

The November meeting was a talk on **Cannock Chase and its Hidden History** given by *Steve Booth*. Cannock Chase is the oldest 'Area of Natural Beauty' in the country and also the most popular with 2.5million visitors each year.

It is also the smallest, covering just 17,000 acres, of which 63% is forest. Here are a few facts from the presentation:

Castle Ring is a Hill Fort and was occupied by Celtic tribes until it was attacked in 48ad by the Romans who had travelled from London along Watling Street (A5). The fort was so well defended, took 2½ years to capture.

Beaudesert Hall (*right*) was built in 1292 and later owned by the Bishop of Lichfield and used as a hunting lodge. Sir William Paget – the 1st Baron Paget of Beaudesert was born at Wednesbury in 1506 and became an ⇨





⇒ MP for Lichfield and held various Government roles. He was an Advisor to Henry VIII when the catholic monasteries were destroyed and purchased Beaudesert for £575 in 1546. The Paget family were involved in 'nail making' and the Chase contained ironstone and shallow coal seams which could be accessed from the surface by Bell Pits. A furnace was built in the Rising Brook valley, and later, Thomas Chetwyn took over the nail making and built a forge at Slitting Mill. The hall underwent rebuilding and remodelling until November 5th 1909 when it caught fire and was eventually demolished in 1935.

Hagley Hall was formerly a country house on the outskirts of Rugeley, built in 1636. It was later bought by the Curzon family, the estate became known as Hagley Park. There was also a folly under the house of several chambers leading to a basilica cut into the sandstone, probably used for worship.

The Bloody Steps at Brindley Bank, was where the body of *Christina Collins* was carried up by locals, who discovered her in the canal in June 1839. She had been travelling on a Pickford's narrowboat carrying freight (and also whisky) from Liverpool to London. Two of the crew were later convicted of her murder and were hanged in Stafford.

The Tackeroo Railway was constructed to link the two army camps, Rugeley and Brocton. A power station, water tower and a hospital were also built.

The last meeting this year will be on 2nd December at 8.00^{pm} and includes a '**Magic Lantern**' Show. The first meeting of the history society in 2026 will be February 3rd a talk by **Bob Marsh** on **The History of Beaudesert**.

John Eggington

The refuse vehicle will be on the car park
opposite The Bank House
from 10.00^{am} till 11.00^{am}
on Saturday December 13th



HIXON MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE PRESENTS

The ultimate singalong party night!

80's
**DRESS UP
(& DANCING)
ENCOURAGED!**

THE BRIGHTHEARTS
Presents
HAIRBRUSH HITS

It's time to
grab your
hairbrush &
SING!

November

**A fantastic night with Becca Gee (of
Beckeny) and the amazing vocalist Sarah
Riches singing hits from the 80s.**

**HIXON MEMORIAL HALL
28th February 2026**

Doors open 7.00, music starts at 7.45

Tickets just £10

from Chop Shop or Mark Farrington on 07814 453326

Bar -Raffle

WHAT 's On At HixOn MEMORIAL HALL



Slimming World

079186 77783

Core and Curves

Karen Corbett 07989 704478

Tai Chi

Dave Llewellyn

Cafe

Karen Appleton 01889 270 751

Yoga

Victoria Barton 07375 610889

History Society

Tim Moss 07813 531146

Village Hall Committee

Mark Farrington 01889 270151

Parish Council

Catherine Gill 01889 272679

Slow Flow Yoga

Victoria Barton 07375 610889

Full Body Fit

Emma Cowell

Pilates

Victoria Barton 07375 610889

Circuits

Mark Farrington 07814453326

Luncheon Club

Jane Garner 01889 270151

Sound Bath *(just monthly)*

Lisa Smith 07814453326

Monday 9.30^{am} - 11.30^{am}

alisonfreeman@taftwharffarm.co.uk

Monday 6.30^{pm} - 7.30^{pm}

kmbailey1973@gmail.com

Monday 8.00^{pm} - 9.00^{pm}

eccleshall.taichi@gmail.com

Tuesday 10.00^{am} - 12^{noon}

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

Tuesday 6.00^{pm} - 7.00^{pm}

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

1st Tuesday 8.00^{pm} - 10.00^{pm}

mosstimothy90@gmail.com

2nd Tuesday 8.00^{pm}

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

3rd Tuesday 7.00^{pm} - 9.30^{pm}

www.hixon.gov.uk

Wednesday 9.30^{am} - 10.30^{am}

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

Wednesday 6.30^{pm} - 7.15^{pm}

emmacowell98@hotmail.com

Thursday 6.00^{pm} - 7.00^{pm}

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

Thursday 7.30^{pm} - 8.30^{pm}

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

Alt. Fridays 12^{noon} - 3.00^{pm}

Sunday 6.00^{pm} - 8.00^{pm}

sacredsoulechoes@gmail.com

HIRE CHARGES £13.00 per hour. Friday Evening £55 (£60 deposit)
Saturday evenings £110 (£80 deposit) (5pm till Midnight)
For bookings please contact Karen Appleton at
hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com



The compassionate and determined pupils of Year 6 at St. Peter's CE Primary School, Hixon have once again proven that age is no barrier to making a meaningful difference. On Saturday, November 8th, these young changemakers rolled up their sleeves and hosted a heartwarming

Charity Car Wash, raising over £250 to support Katharine House Hospice, a local charity dedicated to helping those affected by cancer.

This inspiring initiative follows their successful Macmillan Coffee Morning held in September, where the children first began their mission to support individuals and families impacted by cancer. Motivated to do even more, the pupils took it upon themselves to learn more about local organisations making a difference. Their journey led them to invite nurses from Katharine House to speak about the incredible care and support they provide. Moved by their stories, the children were inspired to take action.

With buckets, sponges, and big smiles, the Year 6 team transformed their school car park into a hub of generosity and community spirit. Parents, staff, and local residents came together to support the event, leaving not only with sparkling cars but also with hearts full of admiration for the pupils' dedication.

"This is just the beginning," said one of the Year 6 pupils. "We want to keep going and raise even more money to help people in our community." The school is incredibly proud of its students, who have shown empathy, leadership, and a deep commitment to making the world a better place. Plans are already busy planning future fundraising events, and the children's enthusiasm shows no signs of slowing down.

St. Peter's CE Primary School, Hixon invites the community to continue supporting these young heroes as they work towards their ambitious goals.

Together, we can help them turn compassion into action and hope into healing.

From little acorns mighty oaks grow!

From our very first conversations in December 2023 to going live in September 2024, we are proud to say that we now have **SIX qualified**

Community First Responders. Our dedicated volunteers are based across the area we cover: 1 in Hopton, 2 in Hixon and 3 in the Haywoods.



The aim of a CFR is to respond to 999 calls passed to us by the West Midlands Ambulance Service, providing vital initial care and assessment until paramedics arrive. This is achieved by working in a 10-mile radius of the CFR car's current location, helping ensure faster care for our rural communities.

To coincide with West Midlands Ambulance Service launching its annual recruitment campaign for new CFRs in January, we will also be recruiting. Our goal is to grow to a minimum of 10 responders, which will allow greater flexibility for shifts and more hours of coverage for our rural community.

Look out for us during January when there will be a *"Come and meet your Community First Responders"* evening at a village hall near you!

The invitation is open to everyone, to find out a bit more about life as a First Responder. If you have ever wondered how to carry out CPR in an emergency or may be a bit concerned over having to use one of the many defibrillators dotted around the area, come along and watch a demonstration of both techniques. For more information email **hixonandareacfr@gmail.com**

or <https://www.wmas.nhs.uk/becoming-a-cfr/>

Can you offer some time to be part of our little band
of helpers? We need help with cutting back the
summer meadow area and clearing around the back
of the church.

Please give me a call on 0781 353 1146

Thanks
Tim Moss





On Remembrance Sunday we had a really good turnout at Hixon Memorial hall and we want to thank all those involved. A special thanks to the scouts, cubs, beavers and squirrels for their participation and for their readings of lovely poems. A total of £180 was given in donations which will be forwarded to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Thanks *Tim Moss*



Hopton



Note: No services at Hopton in December

JANUARY

Sunday 25th 9.30^{am} Holy Communion



All are welcome for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on **Tuesday December 23rd** and from 10.30am-12noon. Please join us for coffee/tea biscuits, along with mince pies and a little tippie for those wishing to partake! Also a bookstall and lots of chatter! All welcome.....along with your Christmas jumpers! Our first meeting in 2026 will be on **Tuesday January 27th**, same time, same place! 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^{pm}-10.00^{pm}

Hopton & District Garden Guild *Kath Reynolds* returned to us in November to give an excellent talk and slide show about all the sweets and chocolate bars that were about before the early 1970's. Kath's many photos of sweet and bar wrappers brought back happy memories for all of us and some interesting historical detail that we maybe didn't know or remember. Looking forward to **December 2nd** we have a talk by *Kevin Reynolds* entitled **A Wild Christmas** describing how and why we associate certain animals and birds with Christmas. We do not have a meeting in January but will be back in February.

Membership of the guild is £15 per year. We 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.



Hopton Knit and Natter are a fun-loving group of ladies who meet every Monday (*except Bank Holidays*) between 2.00^m & 4.00^m at Hopton Village Hall. The cost of a session is £3 to include tea & cake. Shirley & Jan 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 or right-handed. You may like to just join us for a natter & tea. Everyone will be made very welcome. For more information contact :

Diane Gadd: 01785 250454; Chris Cunningham: 01785 225738
or just pop along.



Milwich



DECEMBER

Sunday	7th	10.00^{am}	Morning Praise
	14th	4.00^{pm}	Milwich Carol Service
	21st	10.00^{pm}	Praise Together
Christmas Eve		11.30^{pm}	Christmas Eve Communion

JANUARY

Sunday	4th	10.00^{am}	Morning Praise
	18th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion
	25th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion



Whats on at Milwich Village Hall

Milwich Warm Welcome Group is ONE this month!

The next meeting is on Wednesday **December 10th** and the first meeting in **2026** will be Wednesday **January 14th**. At our December meeting, we will be celebrating that we have been going for one year! A huge thank you to all those who come along, and those who help and support. *For more details of the group, please contact Elaine 07702 865011*

Yin Yoga meets every Monday 7.00^{pm}-8.00^{pm} Contact Anita 07948 351789

Breakfast Club The monthly breakfast club at Milwich Village Hall is serving cooked breakfast, pastries and drinks on Saturdays December 13th and January 31st from 8.30^{am} - 11.30^{am}. Everyone is welcome.



Quiz Nights at the Green Man

Christmas Quiz - Tuesday December 16th

The Quiz starts at 8.00^{pm} prompt

A fun night with refreshments

£3pp, 4 in a team.

All proceeds to Marie Curie.

New teams welcomed.

The first Quiz in 2026 at the Green Man Milwich will be on **Tuesday January 20th** at 8.00^{pm}.

The background of the poster is a textured, painterly illustration of a winter night. On the left, a small church with a bell tower and a large circular window is partially covered in snow. A bright, multi-pointed star shines in the dark blue sky, with smaller stars scattered around. Snow-covered evergreen trees are visible in the background. In the bottom right corner, there is a holly leaf with three red berries. In the bottom left corner, there is a small white star.

Salt Carol Service

Traditional
Lessons
and Carols
to celebrate
Christmas

Sunday

14th December

4.00pm

*Come and see our amazing
Christmas Tree, and a beautiful
manger with all the animals and
characters who are part of the
Christmas story.*

**Hot Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
will be served.**



Salt



DECEMBER

Sunday	7th	9.30^{am}	Holy Communion
	14th	4.00^{pm}	Carols at Salt

JANUARY

Sunday	4th	9.30^{am}	Holy Communion
	18th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion

Salt & District Friendship Club will meet on Wednesdays

December 10th & January 7th and 21st from 2.30^{pm}- 4.00^{pm} in Salt Village Hall for bingo, cup of tea & chat. New members always welcome.

Winter Quiz Nights at Salt Village Hall

Friday December 12th & January 9th at 7.30^{pm} Teams of 4. £3.50 per head. Bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Salt & Enson Parish Council will meet on Wednesday January 7th 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 **December 3rd & 17th** and **January 14th and 28th** 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)



Heritage
Fund

Latest News

The contractors have set up their compound and work has started indoors and outdoors. Further updates will follow in future editions of *Compass*.

1000 years of History Celebrations

Throughout 2026 we will be holding a series of *FREE* events as part of our Heritage Project. All events will be publicised in *Compass*, on social media ([allsaintssandon](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintssandon)) and on the website at www.sandonallsaints.com. Our first event is a **Quiz at Sandon Parish Room on Friday 23 January** at 7.30^{pm}. Book as a team of 6 or make up a team on the night. Prizes for winning teams. We will serve teas and coffees but please bring other drinks, snacks and glasses.

To get your FREE tickets ring Pam on 07778 190082

1000 Poppies for Remembrance On **January 29th** we are starting our monthly Poppy Knit & Natter group at the Greyhound pub in Burston. We will meet 1.30^{pm} till 3.00^{pm} on the 4th Thursday of each month. We are grateful to *The Greyhound* for the free use of a room and to *The Wool Boutique* in Stone for donating wool. Find the Poppy knitting pattern on our website. For further details contact Annie on 07791 097502

Please save these 2026 dates

February 21 st	Down Memory Lane <i>and start of Time Capsule project.</i>
June onwards	Celebration of nature - <i>a butterfly and moth trail</i>
August 1 st	Sandon All Saints through time <i>re-enactment</i>
September 12 th	The Military Wives Choir
September 20 th	Heritage Open Day
November 29 th onwards	Christmas Tree Festival

Sandon & Burston



DECEMBER

Sunday 7th 11.15^{am} Holy Communion
21st 4.00^{pm} Carol Service
and from 12^{noon} Open Church
with mulled wine and hot drinks!

Christmas Eve 4.00^{pm} Christingle
11.30^{pm} Christmas Communion

JANUARY

Sunday 4th 11.15^{am} Holy Communion
18th 9.30^{am} At Burston
25th 11.15^{am} Matins

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

<i>Wedding</i>	01-11-2025	Martin Muus & Hannah Scott-Cook
<i>Interment</i>	17-11-2025	Patricia Winifred Chilton
<i>Funeral</i>	20-12-2025	Dr. Juliet Ann Skilton

A Wonderful Evening of Giving Sandon Fete Committee held a cheque presentation evening on 7th November and due to the fantastic amount we raised, we were able to donate **£8,200** to our chosen charities. Thank you again to everyone who supported the event. Planning will start soon ready for next year anyone who would like to help please speak to Simon Shelley.

The charities supported were:

Dougie Mac
 Midlands Air
 Ambulance
 RABI *Royal Agricultura*
Benevolent Institute
 British Wildlife
 Rescue Centre





Personality from the Pews

This month - Barbara. I was born in Manchester and was an only child. I had a happy childhood in spite of the war years. I trained as a teacher working in Oldham and Manchester. I met Dick when he came as a curate to Moss Side. We in fact met in a circus ring! My two sons were born when we lived in Cheadle Hulme. As with most people, life sometimes had problems but with these words from *Jeremiah Chapter 29* God has guided us safely through:

*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

Dick preached at All Saint's after his retirement. We remained at Sandon after being overwhelmed by the warmth of welcome we received there.

Barbara (98) was married to Rev Dick Sargeant, who exercised a ministry at Sandon until his death. As a couple they were a great encouragement to the folk at Sandon and Barbara still offers her Words of Wisdom to Compass each month. - Ed.

O Holy Child
of Bethlehem
descend
to us
we pray.
Cast out
our sin
and
enter in
be born
in us
today !

*From the carol
by Philip Brooks*



uke 'n' SING !

An evening
of musical
entertainment
Save the date
March 20th
2026





Sandon WI members will be enjoying their Christmas meal at the Greyhound in Burston on 10th December so there will be no meeting in the Parish Room in December.

In January and full of good intentions for the New Year members will be learning about and taking part in **Laughter Yoga**. It is said that laughter is the best medicine so maybe laughter yoga will be doubly beneficial!

Why not make it your new year's resolution to join the WI? If you are new to the area or would just 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, in Sandon Parish Rooms, Lichfield Road at 7.30^{pm}. Contact Judy Goodson, President on 01785 613966 or email sandonwisecretary@gmail.com to find out more.

Parish Council News There is lots going on in Sandon and Burston at the moment; planning applications; ongoing and proposed roadworks both in and outside of the parish; the Trent bridge in Burston - to name but a few issues. To know more of your Parish Council's involvement and how we are trying to improve matters, please visit: www.sandonandburstonpc.org.uk



On behalf of the council may I wish a Merry Christmas to one and all - and enjoy the Christmas lights that the Parish Council are providing!

Parish Meetings

6th January 2026 @ 19.00

3rd March 2026 @ 19.00

Parish and Annual Meeting

5th May 2026 @ 19.00

Hugo Wildblood



Sandon and Burston Parish Council have been advised that “**Sandon Gate**” is the new name for the Bloor Homes Beaconside housing development in Stafford.

Sandon Councillors have advised Bloor Homes that the development is with **Hopton** Parish, not Sandon.

The Parish Council have asked them to rethink the name of the development before they create all their marketing materials, because it will cause confusion, with people driving up and down the B5066 to find “Sandon Gate” development. (Can you picture the cars making a U-turn at the Dog and Doublet junction!) The Parish Council would urge anyone who objects to the naming of the development to please contact the Bloor Homes Communication Company and ask them to rethink the name. engagement@calcomms.co.uk



Stowe-by-Chartley



DECEMBER

Sunday 14th 6.00^{pm} Carol Service
all proceeds to the Oak Tree Farm project

JANUARY

Sunday 4th 11.15^{am} Morning Praise
25th 11.15^{am} Holy Communion

Traditional Carol Service We look forward to welcoming you to the Church at 6.00^{pm} on Sunday 14th December. This year the collection will go to *The Oak Tree Farm Rural Project*.

Singing Carols at The Cock at 6.30^{pm} on Friday 12th December. Come and join in the seasonal fun and win a Christmas hamper (Tickets available at the Bar). *Proceeds to The Alzheimer’s Society.*

Many thanks to those people who leave groceries in the *House of Bread* box in Church. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

Thursday Coffee Mornings— there will be no party in December. We are open again in 2026 on January 22nd from 10^{am}-12^{noon}.

Village Produce & Garden Guild

At our next meeting, 7.30^{pm} on Wednesday December 17, *Jeff Bates* will talk about **The Royal Gardens at Windsor**.

Next year, on Saturday January 17th 2026 we shall hold our **Annual Social**; good food and excellent fun for all. Members : please make sure you and your friends complete the attendees list.

Altar Flowers	December & January	<i>Susanna Munro</i>
Brass Cleaning	December	<i>Jenny Brown</i>
	January	<i>Hilary Jordan & Susanna Munro</i>

50’s CLUB	November:	8 Pat Dewick	<i>Congratulations!</i>
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Stowe-by-Chartley Women's Institute On Tuesday 11th November the ladies of Stowe WI enjoyed a few games of Beetle drive after the formal meeting and two talks from visitors. This included a presentation by a lady from the *Stafford History Centre* who was asking whether any of the ladies could assist the archives service by producing map bags, to house all the documents and maps from the centre. *Rachel Greaves* a WI member from Leigh WI visited and told us all about the calendar that the ladies from Leigh WI have had produced to commemorate 100 years of their WI. It has been made in a similar way to 'Calendar Girls' and some of money raised from the sale of the calendars will be given to Burton Breast Unit, where some of their members and families have been patients.

After several games of competitive Beetle drive, there were two winners who won a box of chocolates each!

Stowe WI meet on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30^m, and the next meeting on 9th December 2025, will have a Christmas theme, new members and guests are always welcome.

There will be no meeting in January 2026 as the ladies enjoy their annual Sunday lunch at a local restaurant.



Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

Ideal for Weddings, Parties,
Club Meetings, Children's Parties,
Keep fit etc.

Competitive Rates, Wi-Fi, PA,
Fully equipped commercial style kitchen
Main hall capacity 100 sitting
or 150 standing

To check availability and book for your
group, activity or
special celebration visit

www.stowebychartley.co.uk



Weston



DECEMBER

Saturday	6th	2^{pm}&4^{pm}	The Real Hero!
Sunday	7th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion
	14st	10.00^{am}	Carol Service
Christmas Eve		6.00^{pm}	Christingle

JANUARY

Sunday	4th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion
	18th	9.30^{am}	Holy Communion
	25th	9.30^{am}	Sunday Breakfast

The Real Hero on Saturday 6th December at St. Andrew's Church. A Christmas experience for the children with crafts and stories - and Superheroes!

It is essential to book your child's place in advance

Please use the booking form from page 7 of the November Compass magazine or send an email to katetague1969@gmail.com

Nine Lessons and Carols Please join us for our annual carol service at 10.00^{am} on Sunday 14th December. This event is followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome.

It's Christingle Time! Make your **Christmas Eve** extra special by coming along to our popular all-age Christingle event at 6.00^{pm}.

Sunday Breakfast There will be no Sunday Breakfast service in December, but join us for a very informal and relaxed time on Sunday January 25th 2026. We serve breakfast from 9.30^{pm} 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: **5th December** and **2nd January**. We are open 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}. Please come along for tea/coffee and a friendly chat.



Christmas Concert

with the

Local Vocals

St. Andrew's Church

Monday 15th December 7.30^{pm}

£8 per person

Inc. mulled wine & mince pies

Tickets from

Pat 07419 128317

Gill 01889 270594





Remembrance Days report

On Remembrance Sunday, approximately 250 villagers joined together in remembering those who gave their lives that we might live. The service was followed by refreshments in *The Woolpack*. *Thanks go to all those who made the service possible, laid wreaths and to Debbie & Martin at the Woolpack for their hospitality.*

On Tuesday, **Armistice Day**, approximately 100 villagers joined all the children from St Andrew's school who made their own dedication to those who died from the village, singing lovely songs and saying prayers and poems prepared by themselves. It was very moving to see the children so engaged with the event.



Christmas lights in Old Road

Colin will once again present a fantastic display from 1st December. This year he is raising funds for a rescue and rehoming charity for dogs in Stafford called, **BOYSICS BRIDGE**.

Thank You Colin for all your hard work - it is appreciated by so many in the village - and beyond. Ed.

The Heart of Weston Coffee Morning and Health Checks

Weston Village Hall Saturday 7th March 2026 10.00^{am} - 1.00^{pm}

Do you know what your blood pressure or blood sugar levels are? Knowing these really can be a life saver. Why not call in and have a mini health check, or you can just have a catch up with friends while taking the chance to have a cuppa, cake, and a chat!

- Blood sugar checks
- Blood pressure checks
- ECGs for over 35 year olds
- Refreshments and homemade cakes

Please contact Jane Phillips 07824 399524 or janePhillips26@gmail.com to book in for an ECG
— places are limited.





Weston with Gayton Parish Council – Update

The Parish Council has progressed several initiatives during the autumn and winter months.

Planning

We continue to monitor the major planning application for land off Green Road, Weston, and are liaising with Borough planning officers as Stafford Borough reviews its planning policies and undertakes local government reorganisation.

Weston Village Greens & Play Area

New play equipment has been approved. Installation and repairs to existing equipment are scheduled for 2026.

Tree Risk Assessment

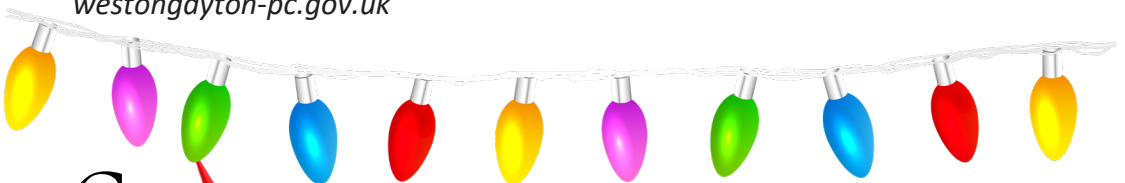
A comprehensive survey was completed in late 2025, helping to guide future maintenance.

Weston War Memorial

Following our appeal for volunteers, two residents have kindly agreed to care for the Weston Village War Memorial moving forward. The Parish Council appreciate their support and look forward to working with them.

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except for August). Residents are welcome to attend or contact Beth, the Parish Clerk with any Weston and Gayton village matters.

Beth Nicholls, **07594 002590** clerk@westongayton-pc.gov.uk
westongayton-pc.gov.uk



Compass *building community in Mid Trent*



The Mobile Library

will visit our villages
this month Monday

December 8th & 22nd

January 5th & 19th

Weston	11.35-12.05	The Woolpack
Salt	12.45-13.15	The Holly Bush
StoWe	14.20-14.40	Stowe Church
Hixon	14.45-15.15	Village Hall
Hopton	16.00-16.15	Battle Ridge



*Unlike a screen,
a book never
needs charging -
and it tells better
bedtime stories!*



Christmas is God's way of saying I Love You



Weston Methodist Church Recycling Project

The ongoing project of recycling - please keep the postage stamps, leave the stamps stuck to the envelope and cut a 1cm margin around them.

Empty tablet blister packs are being collected to be recycled, as are old spectacles and used batteries. Please keep them packed separately when donating. We are continuing to support Tools with a Mission by collecting



old sewing machines, hand tools, haberdashery items including knitting wool and fabric. The items are sorted and refurbished and sent to Africa to support people in work. If you have any items to donate, please contact Rachel on 07974567819.

For more information please visit

www.westonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Weston Methodist Church

DECEMBER

7th Mark Timothy **14th** Claire Parkes

21st Carol Service Rev Duncan Leake

25th Christmas Day at 9.30^{am} Mark Timothy

28th No service at Weston Joint worship with Berkswich. ST17 0LH

JANUARY

4th Mark Timothy **11th** Gill Ashmore

18th Covenant Service and Communion Rev David Bintliff

25th Alice Dair

NB All services are at 10.30^{am} except on Christmas Day



What Does Christmas Mean?

It is more than a festive season of lights, gifts, and family gatherings - it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. The Bible tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago, bringing hope, peace, and the promise of reconciliation between humanity and God.

At its heart, Christmas represents love and grace.

Christians believe that the birth of Jesus is God's way of entering the world to share in human life and to offer forgiveness and salvation. This message inspires acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion during the season and beyond. While many traditions - such as Christmas trees, carols, and exchanging gifts - have cultural roots, for Christians these customs also reflect deeper spiritual truths: joy, gratitude, and the light overcoming darkness. Ultimately, Christmas is a reminder of faith and hope, celebrating God's love made visible through the birth of Jesus.



Tuesday Meetings at 10.30^{am}

Bible Study 8 December & 12 January

Prayer 15 December & 26 January

Church Council Secretary
Hall Bookings Secretary


Rev David Bintliff
Dr Susan McCready-Shea
Mrs Margie Egginton

01785 229973
01889 271488
01889 207040

Please send all stories for the February
issue to compassmtc@gmail.com
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