

# The Village Herald

Your Church & Community Magazine

## MARCH 2026

Sunday 1st March	Second Sunday of Lent 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 8th March	Third Sunday of Lent 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th March	5pm Prayer and Praise
Sunday 15th March	Mothering Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd March	Fifth Sunday of Lent 10.30am Morning Worship
Wednesday 25th March	5pm Bible Study in the Church Room
Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion
Tuesday 31st March	6pm Stations of the Cross

**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

## Mothering Sunday – Holding Joy and Sorrow Together

Mothering Sunday can stir many different feelings. For some it is a day of celebration and gratitude: for mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, foster mothers, and all those who have shown care, patience and love. For others, it can be a quieter, more complicated day - especially for those whose mothers have died, those whose relationships with their mothers are strained, or those who have longed to be mothers themselves.

The Christian roots of Mothering Sunday remind us that “*mothering*” is wider than biology alone. It speaks of nurture, compassion, protection and faithful love - qualities we see in parents, carers, teachers, neighbours, friends, and in the life of the Church itself. Jesus used the image of a mother gathering her children to describe God’s love, tender and strong at the same time.

So on this day, we try to hold joy and sorrow together. We give thanks for the love we have received, while making space for grief and remembrance. To miss one’s mum is not a lack of faith; it is a sign of love that continues beyond death. Many will carry memories - some happy, some painful, most a mixture of both - and all deserve gentleness.

As a church community, we want to say this clearly: you are not forgotten. Whether Mothering Sunday brings smiles or tears, or both, you are welcome. May this be a day when we look after one another with kindness, and reflect something of God’s deep, compassionate care and love for us all.

With every blessing,

*Cath.*  
*Rev'd Cath Leighton*  
*Team Rector.*

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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.



Sing For Joy is a local community singing group. We are based in Armitage at St John the Baptist Church, church room, Church Lane, WS15 4BA. We meet every Monday 1pm - 3pm. Come along you would be made very welcome. No auditions just a cheery disposition. We are in our second year now and have been very blessed with so many wonderful opportunities.

So, to celebrate we are sponsoring **Forces Afloat** Registered Charity. It is a charity which refurbishes narrowboats to loan to homeless British armed forces veterans. <http://FVA.org.uk>

Please go on to their site 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.

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





# Handsacre Methodist Church

MARCH 2026

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

## 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.

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

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.



Armitage with Handsacre

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Do you need help to get to and from hospital or surgery appointments?

Our volunteer drivers can help.

Telephone: 01543 547507

or email

[info@communitytransport.armitagewithhandsacre.org](mailto:info@communitytransport.armitagewithhandsacre.org)  
for more information. Nominal charges apply.

# 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 residents of Armitage with Handsacre. Disabled people can be transported door to door. All welcome.

**01543 491704 or 07890205575**

**email: [gifford\\_foote@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 March 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. Currently NO VACANCIES

## **TUESDAY MORNINGS AT THE VINE**

**3rd March: Sue Hodinott – talk on Tree Cathedral.** Followed by **LENT LUNCH**

**10th March: Knit & Natter will demonstrate their crafts.**  
Sandra Strange and others will show something of what they do

**17th March: Bring & Buy - for charity. Raffle for Transport Fund**

**24th March: Easter baskets & memorial candles.** Followed by **LENT LUNCH**  
Rev'd Liz Dunning will lead short service to remember loved ones.

## **Lent Lunches :**

**TUESDAY 3rd March**

**11.30am - 12 noon**

**TUESDAY 24th March**

**1.30am - 12 noon**

Soup, bread, cheese and cuppa £5

**PLEASE COME TO SUPPORT THE  
APPEAL TO AID THE HUNGRY IN  
GAZA & THE MIDDLE EAST.**

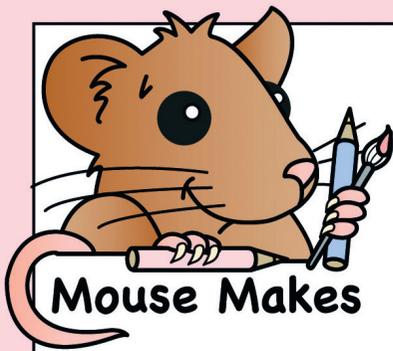
Tear Fund is working with other organisations to bring relief to the hungry and a fresh start to people who are in desperate need.

## **ARE YOU LICENCED TO DRIVE A MINIBUS?**

Perhaps you are retired and could volunteer to help others one day a week?

**VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT FOR THE  
DISABLED** - based in Lichfield and serving our area are in desperate need of drivers. Please contact Kevin: 07967355830 or Tracey: [voltransport4disabled@outlook.com](mailto:voltransport4disabled@outlook.com)



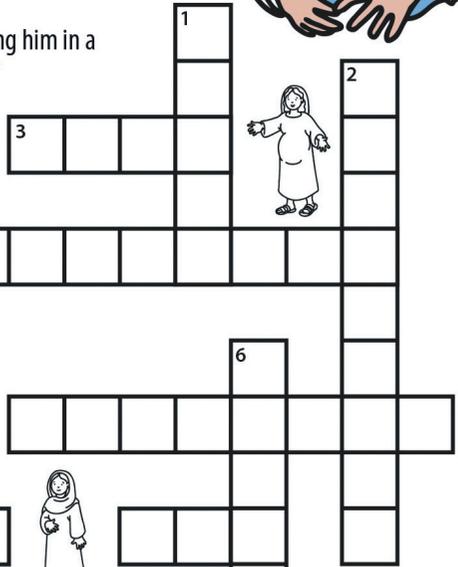


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

*Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20*



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?  
*Genesis 17:19*



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

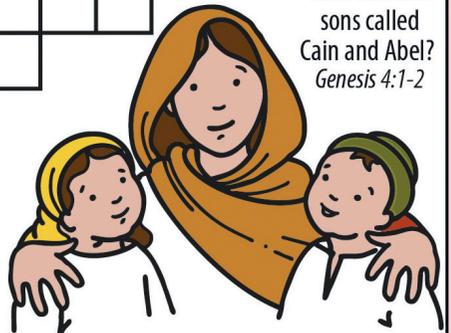
**Across**

- 3. **Obed's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 4. **John's** mother  
*Luke 1:57-60*
- 7. **Reuben's** mother  
*Genesis 29:32*
- 8. **Joseph's** mother  
*Genesis 30:22-24*
- 9. **Jesus'** mother  
*Acts 1:14*

**Down**

- 1. **Boaz's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 2. **Solomon's** mother  
*1 Kings 1:11*
- 4. **Timothy's** mother  
*2 Timothy 1:5*
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother  
*Genesis 16:15*
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother  
*Genesis 25:21-26*

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?  
*Genesis 4:1-2*



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Shenstone. Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0ED  
Telephone: 01543 481521

## Save the Date

**Yoxall Patient Participation Group (YaPP)** invites all men registered at Yoxall Surgery to their first **Men's Health Event**.

**Date:** Thursday 16th April

**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Location:** Yoxall Surgery

Come along for support and advice on:

- Diabetes
- Prostate health
- Mental wellbeing
- Opportunities to take part in research

Wives and partners are welcome.

No need to book - just drop in.

Refreshments will be available.

More information to follow.



## 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

# Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope

## What is it to be rich and what is it to be generous?

Ten million pound coins on a desert island would be as useless as a tissue paper canoe. Less useful, because burning the canoe would at least keep you warm. Physical money on its own has no value – you can't eat it, you can't build a shelter out of it, you can't easily use it to keep warm or dry, yet it has a peculiar hold over us.

Why? Probably because of what it represents.

Bankers say that money serves three basic functions: it is a medium of exchange, a unit of account and a store of value. It makes buying and selling things easy, we can use it as a way of keeping count of our wealth and it is a way of holding onto wealth.

For example, if I tie up my wealth in cabbages, it wouldn't last very long. Two or three weeks after cutting the cabbages, they'd have no value because they'd be mushy and revolting. But if I sell them when they are fresh and green, I can get £100 to put in the bank to use whenever and wherever I want.

These very useful things about money are also at the core of some of our worst temptations. If I use money to buy and sell, I am distancing myself from the thing that I am buying and it makes it easier to do things that I wouldn't do if I was close up.

Once, if I wanted to swap my cabbages for your wheat, I'd have to meet you to do that. Today if I want to buy some cheap clothes, I don't have to take my vegetables all the way to a sweat shop in the far east and see the conditions of the children there. I can use my £100 in the bank to pay for clothes in a shop without worrying where they came from. Or if I send my struggling widowed sister £100 every month to help with living costs but never visit her, I never see that she needs company as much as she needs food.

If we have stored up our wealth, we don't rely on God meeting our daily needs. In the desert, when the Israelites tried to store the manna they were given every day by God, it went off. In the wilderness, the Israelites learnt how to trust God for their daily bread – money helps us not to have to trust.

Counting my wealth leads me quickly into the sin of pride – I'm somehow better than you because I have more money in the bank. Pride leads to anxiety – worrying about what will happen if we lose our wealth and our status. In a number of places in the Gospels Jesus talks about the anxiety that accompanies money and things. He knows that pride and anxiety are the enemy of hope - they lead us into ungenerous lives, holding on to the things we have instead of opening our hands, letting go, and living simply so that others may simply live. "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money," he said.

As you think about your life, do you control your money or does your money control you? Do we hold onto more than we could ever spend in our lifetime when others in the world have so little? Can we be more generous with our money and our time? How can we use our money to bring hope to the hopeless and renew our own faith in the God who is always faithful?



*Sam Rushton is the Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary of Lichfield Diocese.*

*This is the second in a series of three articles encouraging the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.*

# **MATCHBALL FUNDRAISING**

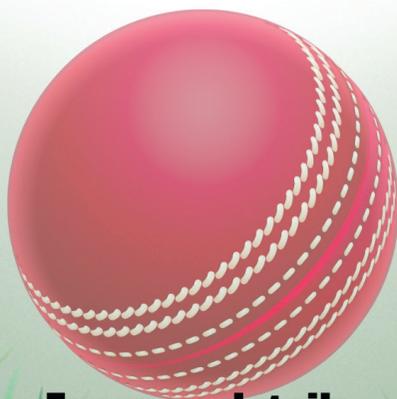
**A fantastic opportunity to  
sponsor one of our match balls this season for  
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We will promote your business and events on  
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**For more details  
Email [sonia.armitagecricketclub@outlook.com](mailto:sonia.armitagecricketclub@outlook.com)  
or find us on Facebook**



# Peaceful mind in Lent

There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. Both the BBC and Classic FM have even got radio stations devoted to 'mindful' and 'calm' music. But as Christians, we have an extra, divine resource to call on.

Lent is a time of prayer and inward reflection, when we take stock of where we are with God...with this in mind, the following may be helpful.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." *Matthew 11: 28-30.*

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." *James 1:12*

## RIDWARE HISTORY SOCIETY

**The last meeting of the winter season will be held on:-**

**Monday 2nd March:**

**Sally Roberts - Mary Adela Blagg, Cheadle's Pioneering Astronomer.**

Sally, a member of the Cheadle Discovery Group, became interested in one of the earliest female astronomers when she learned that she was living in Mary Blagg's house.

Mary, born in 1858, was one of the first women to be elected as a fellow of the royal astronomical society in 1916. She lived her whole life in Cheadle, an unassuming woman who did not court celebrity but was nevertheless respected by her (male) colleagues and, surprisingly for the time, given due credit.

The postponed February meeting, 'Doing Family History', by Vanessa Morgan, will now take place on 6th October 2026

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)

# JOIN THE ANGEL PROGRAMME

## Help Our Church and Community Magazine Soar!

We are delighted to announce the launch of **The Angel Programme** - a new and heartfelt initiative to support the ongoing work of our church and community magazine. This programme aims to ensure that our publication continues to reach every household, sharing stories of faith, hope, and community spirit.



Our magazine has always been a labour of love, offering inspiration, information, and connection across our parish and beyond. However, with rising costs in printing, distribution, and plans to expand our reach to even more homes, we need your help to keep this important ministry thriving.



St. John the Baptist Church, Armitage with Handsacre



## HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN ANGEL

By joining The Angel Programme, you'll help cover the essential costs of producing and sharing our magazine. In gratitude for your support, we'd like to offer a small token of appreciation:

**INDIVIDUALS:** A contribution of **£4 a month** makes you one of our cherished Angels. As a sign of our thanks, you will receive a beautiful **Golden Angel badge** — a reminder of your kindness and commitment to our shared mission.

**BUSINESSES:** A contribution of **£20 a month** welcomes you as a Business Angel. In recognition, you'll receive your **Golden Angel badge** and a **quarter-page advertisement** in the magazine — available **anytime and for as many adds you require as long as your payments are up to date**. It's a wonderful way to show your community spirit while supporting local outreach.

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your monthly gift will go directly toward:

1. Printing and distributing the magazine to our congregation and local community
2. Supporting the expansion of our reach and facilities
3. Sustaining a vital platform for sharing local news, events, faith reflections, and encouragement
4. All Angels will be recognised in the magazine every month.

**EVERY ANGEL MAKES A DIFFERENCE. TOGETHER, WE CAN ENSURE OUR MAGAZINE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND CONNECT PEOPLE FOR YEARS TO COME.**

**If you would like to become an Angel or would like more information, please contact [liddedarlo@gmail.com](mailto:liddedarlo@gmail.com) or telephone 07922529801**

**Thank you for helping our light shine brighter — with your support, our community truly has wings!**

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2*