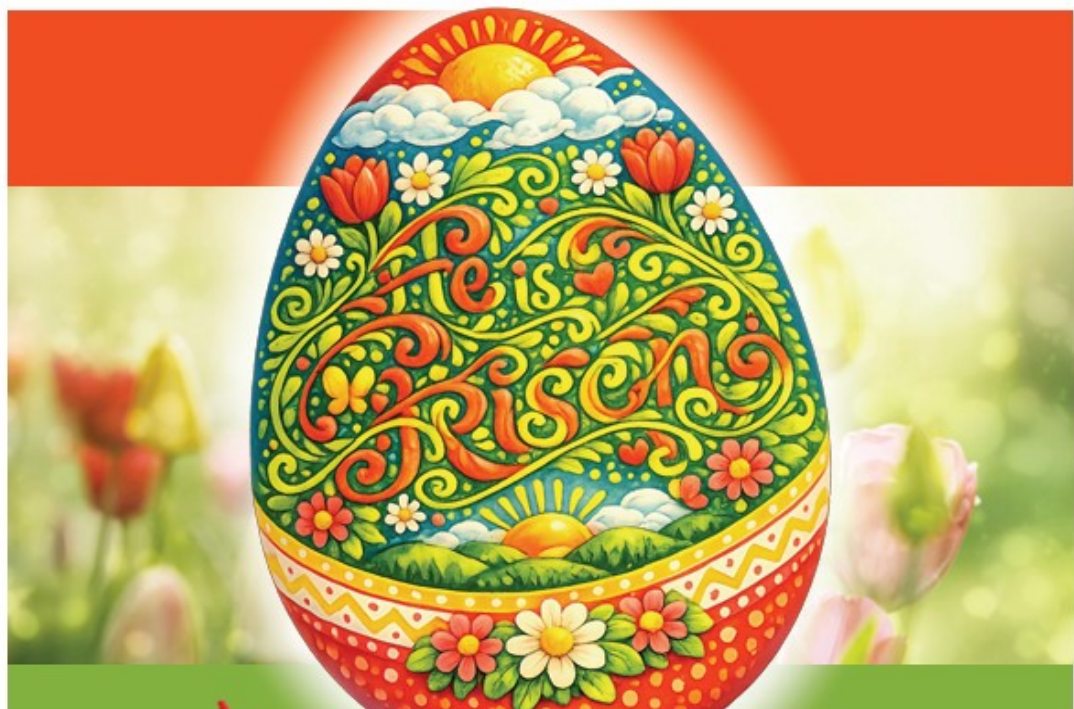




APRIL 2026



# Compass



## YOUR GUIDE TO WORSHIP IN APRIL

### Maundy Thursday Communion April 2

*An evening  
Communion service  
remembering  
The Last Supper  
St. James, Salt  
starts at 8.00pm*

### Good Friday Workshop April 3



*Activities for children  
at Weston School  
10.00am - 2.15pm  
Book via  
katetague1969@gmail.com*

### Good Friday Service

*Time for reflection  
at Weston  
Methodist Church  
3.00pm*

5

## Easter Day!

8.00<sup>am</sup> Hixon  
9.30<sup>am</sup> Salt  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Milwich  
10.30<sup>am</sup> Weston Methodist  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Sandon  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Stowe  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Weston

12

10.00<sup>am</sup> Weston *Praise Together*  
10.30<sup>am</sup> Weston Methodist

19

9.30<sup>am</sup> Burston  
9.30<sup>am</sup> Hixon *Sunday Breakfast*  
9.30<sup>am</sup> Weston  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Milwich  
11.15<sup>am</sup> Salt

26

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

*Easter Day  
reminds us that  
love is stronger  
than death  
and a new  
beginning is  
always possible.*



# A letter from Viv

*Give me joy in my heart keep me praising!*  
Picture the scene. I was standing at the front of a full church with the bride and groom standing in front of me, and her father and the Best Man to either side. The church was full of such a joyous sound as everyone belted this song out enthusiastically, the bride and her father at one point even breaking into harmony! You could feel the delight and celebration in the room! I loved that moment!

...a bubble of Easter joy...

Afterwards I thought to myself, "This is what it should feel like to be a Resurrection people." Let me explain why I think this.

I think most people, when asked to look beyond the eggs and the bunnies, to the meaning of Easter, will think of the image of a cross. On Good Friday we do think of Jesus' suffering. Maybe you know these words from the hymn **When I survey the wondrous cross...**

*"did e'er such love and sorrow  
meet, or thorns compose  
so rich a crown"*

It is important to remember his suffering, because we know that Jesus will be beside in our own dark times, understanding and holding us close.

But that is not the point of Easter! →





## A letter from Viv - continued

The point is that Jesus was totally innocent, but went through pain and death for us, taking all *our* sins upon himself, so that those sins are no longer a barrier between ourselves and God. By dying for us and defeating death and returning to life on Easter day, he allowed *us* to have eternal life with him in his Kingdom now - and for ever.

When he appeared to a grieving Mary on that first Easter Day, he turned the disciples' grief into **JOY**, a joy that stayed with them through all their subsequent trials. That same joy is available to us today.

I know that joy. When I stopped resisting and accepted God's plan (*not at all mine!!*) to be a priest, I felt a **bubble of joy** deep inside me. Years later, when the worst happened and I lost my beloved husband, I looked to see if that "bubble" was still there. And to my amazement it was! It never goes away.

So, Easter should be a time of smiles and noisy celebration. Sing loudly, eat chocolate and enjoy a wonderful Easter lunch. But most of all go to church and sing loud praises. However, Resurrection People (that is what followers of Jesus are) do not leave their joy in church or throw it away with the Easter Egg packaging.

May we bubble with joy all year and share that joy by showing kindness and compassion to everyone we meet!

Vivienne

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Sat 1-5<sup>pm</sup>





## MID TRENT CHURCHES GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

For children  
from 4-11 years

FRIDAY APRIL 3  
10.00 - 2.15

**Last Minute reminder!**

This event for children aged 4-11 in all the villages of the Mid Trent, will take place at St. Andrew's School, Ferrers Road, Weston ST18 0JN. Children will need to bring a packed lunch. Last minute registrations: please contact [kateague1969@gmail.com](mailto:kateague1969@gmail.com)

## PATCHES ON PALM SUNDAY



PATCHES

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Art Education Resource, The Arts Foundation for  
England 2018

On Palm Sunday we remember the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Well, we couldn't get a real donkey this year but Salt Art Group offered to make us a donkey to be part of our celebrations. Under Sue Chatterton's supervision each member of her class was given a postcard size piece of paper and image. The instruction was to copy the image onto the card. When all placed together they formed 'Patches'.

Visitors to St, James' can still see how Patches welcomed the Palm Sunday procession into Salt Church.

*Sue Chatterton can be contacted on:*  
07714100921

## Haywoods Repair Cafe

Saving the Planet - One Repair at a Time



2nd Sunday in month

2-5pm

Colwich & Little Haywood  
Village Hall

Refreshments  
While You Wait



Sponsored by Colwich Parish Council  
& local businesses



Launch  
Date  
12th April  
2026



Haywoods  
Repair Cafe



07717036213 or 07843960519  
[www.repaircafe.org/en](http://www.repaircafe.org/en)

## GRAND OPENING

Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>

2.00<sup>pm</sup> - 5.00<sup>pm</sup>

at Colwich & Little Haywood  
Village Hall, Chilwell Avenue  
ST18 0QZ.

### Fix It Don't Ditch It

18 skilled volunteers will be waiting to receive your broken household items.

Our repairers have skills in:

Electrics/electronics

Woodwork

Soft textiles,

IT equipment

Household lamps, fans, irons,  
turntables, projectors.

You can bring gardening tools in need of repair or sharpening. Don't throw away clothes needing new zips, buttons or tear repairs - give them a new life and bring them to the **Haywoods Repair Cafe**.

*We want to encourage people to consume **less** and to reuse, repurpose and recycle **more**.*



Visitors to the Repair Cafe will be able to have a cuppa and a slice of cake while they wait their turn and will be able to sit with the repairer to see their repair taking place. Any items requiring a longer repair time can be left with us and collected on an agreed date.

*Donations will be welcome for the refreshments and on items which have been repaired.*

You can contact *Ingrid* or *Stephen* on the phone numbers listed on the poster above or via **haywoodsrepaircafe@outlook.com**

*Keep up to date with the latest news and developments on FB and Instagram Haywoods Repair Café.*

# FRADSWELL



Please note, there are no services planned at St. James' Church this month but there will be the **ROGATION WALK** in May. *See below...*

**Fradswell Gentle Well-being Walks** Sometimes the best remedy for a grey day is something to look forward to in the open air. This spring, Sarah Emery will be leading a small series of gentle well-being walks through our woods and farmland. These will be slow, unhurried walks, with time to pause, notice the landscape around us, and enjoy being outdoors together. The first walks are intended for adults & older teenagers rather than young children, so everyone can fully relax to enjoy the experience. The dates are: **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**, 2.00<sup>pm</sup>–4.00<sup>pm</sup> (*under 2 miles*)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**, around 7:30<sup>pm</sup> (*under 2 miles*),  
a lovely walk into the evening to watch the sunset

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** 10.00<sup>am</sup> — **Rogation Sunday** “Beating the Bounds” (*approximately 5½ miles*) The Rogation Walk follows the old parish boundaries and has become a much-loved local tradition — this will be the ninth year of walking it. All walks begin and end at the Village Hall.

Irene has very kindly offered to provide refreshments afterwards — hot drinks and homemade cakes on 26<sup>th</sup> April, a simple supper of Mac 'n Cheese on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and *something rustic* for Rogation. We'll ask for small donations towards the cost, and any surplus will go to Katharine House Hospice, in memory of Helen. *More details on Fradswell Community Hub Facebook Group.*

*... something to look forward to as  
spring returns to the hedgerows  
and fields.*



# THE MID TRENT TEAM



## **BURSTON** ST RUFIN

PCC Rep. Carole Pilling 07484 807608  
*carole\_pilling@hotmail.com*

## **FRADSWELL** ST JAMES THE LESS

Wardens Sarah Emery 07773 220428  
Rachel Donegan 07581 336422  
PCC Sec. Leila Patton *leila\_patton@icloud.com*  
Compass Irene Philips *irene280564@gmail.com*

## **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 *gordon@hoodandbroomfield.co.uk*  
PCC Sec. Shirley Hayes *hazydays66@hotmail.co.uk*  
Compass Alison Rose 01889 505507 *alisonmrose@btinternet.com*

## **SALT** ST JAMES

Warden Janet Stubbs 01785 213868 *saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com*  
Deputy Chris Crookes 01889 508364 *willcrookes@btinternet.com*  
PCC Sec & Compass Margaret Walls 01889 508412 *margaretevwalls@gmail.com*

## **SANDON** ALL SAINTS

Wardens Stephen Butt 01785 618248 & 07972838140 *stephen.butt@ntlworld.com*  
Elizabeth Jarrett 07534915068 *elizabethjarrett@gmail.com*  
Deputy Ken Pemberton 01782 641248 *kenneth.pemberton43@gmail.com*  
PCC Sec. Jeannette Butt 01785618248 & 07963252869 *jeannettebutt@live.co.uk*  
& Compass

## **STOWE-by-CHARTLEY** ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Warden Jenny Brown 01889 270596 *mandjb79@gmail.com*  
PCC Sec & Compass Susanna Munro 01889 270114 *munro.susanna@gmail.com*

## **WESTON** ST ANDREW

Wardens Gill Titley 01889 270594 *gilltitley10@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  
*cvstarkie@aol.com*

**COMPASS EDITOR Rev Duncan Leake 0794 1091 666**



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

Give the little grey cells a workout!

Join us for a Spring quiz night at

Gayton Village Hall

*in aid of*

St Peters

Church

Doors open at 7.00<sup>pm</sup> Quiz starts at 8.00<sup>pm</sup> Teams of 4-6. £2 per person  
Prize for winning team. Bar open

God loves you so  
much that he accepts  
you just the way  
you are -  
But he loves  
you too much  
to leave you  
that way!



Barbara's  
WORDS OF WISDOM



Soon after William the Conqueror arrived, Norman builders began work on the church Gayton. You can still see the original Norman arch inside the church! Gayton church is one of less than 6% of listed buildings in the UK that are described as being "particularly important and of more than special interest."



## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 8.00<sup>am</sup> **EASTER DAY** Communion  
 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30<sup>am</sup> **Sunday Breakfast** (*in the Guide Hall*)

**St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting will be held in the church at 6.30<sup>pm</sup> on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**




The March meeting was a talk given by *Shaun Farrelly* about the post-war move to **Yarnfield** by the GPO. Pre-war training of technicians and research was carried out at premises in London but after the war, with London obliterated, regional areas were used at Otley (Yorkshire), Birmingham and Cambridge.

There was a strong need to (a) retrain original engineers, (b) recruit and train new technicians and (c) to modernise the 1912 network from an operator led to a dialling system. A new residential training school was required, but a lack of money meant a 10 year wait for new-builds. The Yarnfield halls of Duncan, Howard and Beatty were occupied by the United States Air Force but were deemed surplus to requirements in 1942 and so the GPO took them over in 1946 to run residential courses lasting 13 weeks (*with only 2 home visits allowed*). Beatty Hall was used for married quarters for the school staff; Duncan Hall for lectures, training and practical rooms, and Howard Hall as accommodation for students, and single school staff. The area was popular with many and students enjoyed visits to *Jollies*, *The Wayfarer* at Stone or the local transport cafe known as *The Greasy Spoon*.

In 1958 a new central Training school was planned and a suitable site was found in Harlow, Essex in 1961. However there was much dissent amongst the staff, pupils and Stone RDC over the problem of moving and the cost of houses, and the plan was cancelled in 1964. Then in 1970, a new plan to redevelop the whole site (*continued*)






(*Hixon History continued*) including 650 workshops and accommodation for Fleet management at the disused rail terminal at Cold Meece. This project was completed in 1978 when GPO changed to *British Telecom*. But from 1989, there was a gradual process of closure and demolition and the site was vacated in 2006 and later sold for development. It is now privately owned and known as *Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre*.

**Our next meeting will be a week later than normal on April 14<sup>th</sup> when Jill Crowther will talk about the American GIs at Blythe Colours Cresswell.**

At the May meeting of the Hixon History Society we will be hearing about *The Rugeley Poisoner*.

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www.thefencefixers.co.uk



**Friends of Salt & Hopton Churches**

## **Lottery Result**

Winning Tickets for March are –  
Ticket No 42 – £50  
Ticket No 50 – £40  
Ticket No 63 – £30

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

Registered with Stafford Borough Council

## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30<sup>am</sup> Morning Praise

All are welcome for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on **Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>** from 10.30<sup>am</sup>-12<sup>noon</sup>. Please join us for coffee/tea biscuits, 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** Interested in the craft of wood turning? Want to improve or share your skills? Come along on the second Monday of the month in Hopton Village Hall: 7.30<sup>pm</sup>-10.00<sup>pm</sup>

**Hopton & District Garden Guild** Our speaker for the March meeting was *Jane Allison* who gave a slide show and talk entitled '**Take a walk on the wild side**'. This took us into the countryside, by the sea, canal towpaths and country lanes with a detailed and interesting description of the wild flowers she found and photographed. At the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Vivien will be our speaker with a talk all about Stafford's Ancient High House. Looking further forward to May we have a talk by *Elaine and Julia*, *The Potty Plotters* - featured in Derbyshire Life magazine and on local radio. 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 **each month** on the **first Tuesday** at 7:30<sup>pm</sup> in Hopton village hall.

For information please contact *Jill Buss* on **01785 259808** or look out for our yellow monthly newsletter on local village noticeboards.





# Hopton Knit and Natter

We are a fun-loving group of ladies who meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 2 & 4pm at Hopton Village Hall. The cost of a session is £3 to include tea & cake. Shirley & Jan would like to 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 just join us for a natter & tea. Everyone will be made very welcome. For more information please contact Jan on 01785 255313 or just pop along and join us.



**The Mid Trent Team Council**, made up of representatives of each of the 8 parishes, meets every 2 months to deal with matters across the whole team. We meet at Weston Church room on a Wednesday evening at 7pm (day and time negotiable).

### **We need help to minute our meetings.**

The role involves setting out an agenda in conjunction with the Chair, distributing the agenda with supporting papers prepared by Team members, minuting the meeting and sending out those minutes. It is not a difficult task. It takes about 2-3 hours for each meeting. It does need a volunteer who is computer literate and uses e-mail. We are a friendly group of people committed to working together to ensure smooth administrative support to the Team.

If you could help us or want more information please get in touch with Elizabeth Jarrett on 07534 915068 or [elizabethjarrettatmtc@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethjarrettatmtc@gmail.com)

# Easter *wordsearch*

T C R K S D G R F E R T I  
W E E C B U E R T F F N A  
H T O M B S E A S D O R X  
W E S P J P P H D I R B A  
C R S P O Z S L T S G A S  
X N R H Y W A C O P I R R  
S A W E R E E L W V V A O  
P L R A A R M R I S E N B  
A I S P R S P G F V N G E  
J E S U S K T S S P E E O  
V R S R E B Y E R U S L X  
A E C H W P W C R O S S X  
R T P T F M N X Q Y H T W

EASTER  
TOMB  
EMPTY  
ALIVE  
JOY  
HOPE  
RISEN  
ANGELS

LOVE  
POWER  
ETERNAL  
JESUS  
FORGIVENESS  
CROSS  
RESURRECTION

# COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH FOR MILWICH

## Can you volunteer?

Have you got half an hour a week or a month to help Staffordshire Police tackle speeding through Milwich ?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) allows members of the public to become a Police Volunteer and record vehicles that break the speed limit.

This initiative has the full support of the Milwich and Fradswell Parish Council and we are interested in hearing from willing and determined members of the Milwich (and local) community who are tired, and frustrated, with the regular abuse of the speed limit through the village, and the associated danger to residents, pets and visitors.

If you are interested in helping us please email Simon Naylor on [simongwnaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:simongwnaylor@yahoo.com) with your name, address and full contact details. Once a sufficient number of volunteers are secured, equipment and training will be provided by Staffordshire Police.

**Together we can make Milwich a safer, quieter and cleaner place for everyone.**



40



30

for a reason!

Community Speed Watch  
Staffordshire Police  
PO Box 2117  
Stafford ST16 9ZR



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**safer roads**  
PARTNERSHIP  
Our roads - let's make them safer

## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday

5<sup>th</sup>11.15<sup>am</sup> **EASTER DAY CELEBRATION**

*Come & celebrate Easter with us - chocolate eggs for the children & Prosecco for the grown-ups!*

19<sup>th</sup>11.15<sup>am</sup> **Holy Communion**26<sup>th</sup>11.15<sup>am</sup> **Holy Communion****Exciting Development!**

Work has started on the installation of a **Milk Shed** in the Village Hall car park, selling **fresh milk from a local farm.**

The vending machine will be in a timber clad container and is planned to open early in May.

**Milwich and District Produce Guild**

For our meeting this month on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8.00<sup>pm</sup> in the Milwich Village Hall, we invite *Jeff Bates* to speak on **"Derbyshire's Historic Gardens"**. Looking forward to May, we will hold a plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10.00<sup>am</sup> - 12<sup>noon</sup> at the Milwich Village Hall. Plant donations welcome! On May 28<sup>th</sup> we invite *Ruth Plant* to speak on **Dieramas**. You don't have to be a member to join us at our monthly meetings, for a small fee of £2.50 you can enjoy these talks and demonstrations with a cuppa and cake to top off the evening! Contact Ruth on 07495185579 for more information.

**The Green Man** Please visit Facebook for details of the next Quiz Night.

**WHAT'S ON AT MILWICH VILLAGE HALL**

**Yin Yoga** Every Monday 7.00<sup>pm</sup> - 8.00<sup>pm</sup> Contact Anita 07948 351789

**Warm Welcome Group** The next meeting is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00<sup>am</sup> - 1.00<sup>pm</sup>. For details, please contact Elaine 07702 865011.

**Breakfast Club** The monthly Breakfast Club is taking a break in April and will return in May. Hope to see you then.

**New booking details** For details of how to book Milwich Village Hall for an event, please contact Chris Walters on 07799 837206



## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30<sup>am</sup> **EASTER DAY** Communion  
 19<sup>th</sup> 11.15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion



### *Patches* for Palm Sunday at Salt

Please see page 5 for information about the Mid Trent Team Palm Sunday celebration. *Patches* is still on view at St. James.

### World Day of Prayer Report

The World day of prayer is a worldwide event that is held across the Christian communities. This year the women of Nigeria prepared the service which shared with us the struggles that Christians and particularly women face in Nigeria. Here in the UK we take our faith for granted. Not in Nigeria, where Christians face persecution, yet it is their strong faith that enables women to survive. The mortality rate is far higher there than here. Lone females bringing up children face financial pressures, often exacerbated by their late husbands family deserting them. Education has to be paid for in Nigeria so when it's a choice between putting food on the table and providing uniform for the children, we know what gets sacrificed.

Around twenty members of the benefice gathered at St James the Great in Salt to learn more about the situation of Nigerian women and to celebrate their achievements. The service was uplifting and enlightening as we heard what can be achieved with a little faith and support.

*God Bless our Nigerian sisters!*





### **Easter Sunday Flowers in Salt Church**

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter lilies and flower displays, in memory of a loved one, please contact Margaret Walls, Janet Stubbs or Chris Crookes (contact details in Compass) by April 1st. The church will be open over the Easter weekend.

### **Salt & Hopton Churches: Easyfundraising**

In order to maintain our lovely buildings, we need extra income and every little helps! Please support us if you can and sign up at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/salthoptonchurches/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/salthoptonchurches/)

### **House of Bread**

Non-perishable groceries/cleaning products are collected from Salt Church porch every Wednesday morning. All contributions are very welcome and can be placed in the HOB box on any day of the week.

### **Salt & Enson Parish Council**

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday **May 6<sup>th</sup>** in Salt Village Hall. Members of the public welcome.  
[www.saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk)  
Parish Clerk: David Croxford [clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk)

### **Salt & District Friendship Club**

We meet on Wednesday **April 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** from 2.30<sup>pm</sup>- 4.00<sup>pm</sup> in Salt Village Hall for bingo, a cup of tea and a chat. New members are always welcome.

### **Community Cafe at Salt Village Hall**

Wednesday **April 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** from 2.30<sup>pm</sup> - 3.30<sup>pm</sup>. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for tea or coffee, cake and a chat, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

### **Salt Christian Fellowship Interdenominational group**

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm for worship songs, bible study & prayers  
All are welcome. Contact: Paul Stubbs on 07899916092 or email:  
[pauljstubbs@aol.com](mailto:pauljstubbs@aol.com) or Jane Mitchell on 01889 508284

*Salt Village Hall is available for hire. Contact Jane (01889 508284)*

# SANDON & BURSTON

## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 11.15<sup>am</sup> **EASTER DAY** Communion  
19<sup>th</sup> 9.30<sup>am</sup> at **BURSTON** Holy Communion  
26<sup>th</sup> 11.15<sup>am</sup> BCP Matins



### A night to remember - now booking!

Join us at **Sandon Hall** for an uplifting concert with **The Heath Chorus and Uttoxeter Town Band** on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.30<sup>pm</sup>

Tickets (£15) *including canapés* can now be purchased from **Rose 07876 540491** and **Steve 07972 838140**

A Bar will be available at this event.

*Proceeds towards All Saint's Church 'Time for Tea' Fund*



***These boots are made for walking*** so, dust them off and join us for a Parish Bluebell Walk on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 starting at 2.00<sup>pm</sup>. Please meet at the All Saint's Church Car Park. *Dogs allowed on a lead.* A £5 donation towards the 'Time for Tea Fund' will be welcome.

## Sandon and Burston Parish Council Update

- ✎ *Speed Indicator Display signs (SIDs)* project is not going ahead so the Council will consider other traffic calming measures for the A51.
- ✎ *The Trent River bridge Footpath Bridge* SCC inform us that a temporary bridge will be installed in Spring 2026.
- ✎ *Community Grants* - there are small grants available for Parish Groups with an application form on the PC's website.
- ✎ *Burston Pool* - two benches are to be restored in Spring 2026.
- ✎ *A leaflet and details of a new Parish Council e-newsletter* will be delivered to all Sandon & Burston residents in April.
- ✎ We are pleased to welcome a new Councillor - Cllr Owain Antcliff to the Parish Council.

*Hugo Wildblood*

### April update on the Heritage Project

Conservation works continue in the Chancel where the monuments, tombs and wall paintings are already looking much brighter and appealing. The work is on schedule to finish early May. The stained glass windows with their new external 'double glazing' will also be re-fitted in May. The Royal Coat of Arms is due back in June.

The West Wall has been re-plastered and painted. Masonry works to the tower are continuing and on target. Our **Activities Plan** is ramping up now the end of the works are in sight. **Our next Family Bio-Blitz Event will take place on Tuesday 26 May from 10 till 12noon.** Please book with Elizabeth (elizabethjjarrett@gmail.com or 07534 915068). Our churchyard *Butterfly and Moth trail* will be launched the same day and will remain throughout June. Prizes to be won. *School visits start again in June and we are taking bookings for group tours.* If you attend or work at a school or are a member of a group and would like to visit please contact *Elizabeth*.

Our plans now include a number of **Music at Sandon** events, including: *Midsummer Eve's Concert* on Saturday 20 June; a Choir recital at lunchtime at *Sandon Through Time* on Saturday 1 August; the *Military Wives Choir* on Saturday 12 September and a *Lunchtime Organ Recital* on Heritage Open Day on Sunday 20 September.

See our website for all details **[www.sandonallsaints.com](http://www.sandonallsaints.com)**

### Sandon WI



PHOTO BY  
ROGER HARRIS

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April our speaker will be the Right Honourable Sir Gavin Williamson, CBE.

His talk will not have a political theme but it will be an opportunity to learn more about our MP.

For instance, when I googled him I discovered he had a pet tarantula called Cronus when he was Chief Whip. Apparently, the spider was kept on his desk much to the consternation of his staff; oh, and he is also very fond of dogs.

So, 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 of the month in Sandon Parish Rooms, Lichfield Road at 7.30<sup>pm</sup>. Contact Judy Goodson, President on **01785 613966** or email **sandonwisecretary@gmail.com** to find out more.



### **Sandon school football team winners 1929-30**

The teams were made up of local children, and fixtures played against other local villages.

Mr Walker (*headmaster of Sandon school*) lived at Chapel House and coached the children and in turn they helped him in his garden. The football pitch was situated in the field behind the Dog and Doublet. Mr Walker is seen here with:

*(Back row L to R)*

Frank Simpson, Harry Rhodes, Charlie Holford, Wallace Arronicks, Michael Howard, Colin Bassett, Don Hitchenor.

*(Front row L to R)*

Bill Cheadle, Eric Lloyd, Jack Hodson, Ernest Bailey, William Dainty.



### Personality from the Pews - Stephen Butt

I began my Christian life as a chorister at Castle Church, Stafford, in 1961.

Music and singing have always been my passion, and I particularly loved singing the words of the psalms and canticles.

My college days were spent at St Katharine's C Of E college Liverpool where I became Senior Sacristan in the college chapel.

In 1975 I got my first teaching post at St. Paul's C of E primary school, Stafford, and then joined the choir at St Paul's church where Jeannette and I married a year later.

My first visit to Sandon church was with my family in 2005 when our daughter was choosing her wedding venue. To our delight Dick Sargent was conducting the Sunday service. We were greeted like long lost friends having been with Dick in our Castle Church days and since then All Saint's Church has been our main place of worship.

I ended my career as an Executive Head Teacher of two special schools. I was on the governing body of St Peter's School, Hixon for ten years as the church representative. I enjoy travel, singing with Stafford Choral Society and I also work as an Independent Monitor at Stafford Prison. Being a churchwarden at Sandon is quite time consuming too!

A Bible passage from Isaiah 53:6 is one of my favourites:

*All we like sheep have gone astray,  
each one has turned to his own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.*

**The Day Thou Gavest** is a favourite hymn, which I particularly enjoy at the end of a choral evensong.



# STOWE-BY-CHARTLEY

## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 11.15<sup>am</sup> **EASTER DAY** Communion  
26<sup>th</sup> 11.15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Funeral 13-02-2026 Margaret Irene Hopley

**Easter Flowers** Everyone is welcome to come along at 10.00<sup>am</sup> on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April to decorate the church for Easter Day. Please bring a small bunch of flowers and/or greenery with you. Coffee & cake will be on hand!

**The Annual Church Meeting** will be held in Church on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30<sup>pm</sup>.

**Coffee Morning, Stowe Village Hall** April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00<sup>am</sup>-12<sup>noon</sup> All Welcome.

**Village Produce Guild – Garden Guild** The Guild is in good heart with 34 members last year and a good financial state. At our AGM two long-serving committee members stood down, any member willing to join the committee please contact Shane Phillips. The meeting was privileged to hear a talk from Tim Moss entitled “Smithfield” outside the City wall in London, once called Smoothfield. Tim showed pictures of the cattle, sheep, pigs and rabbits and all the ancillary trades at Smithfield which later moved to Copenhagen Fields at Kings Cross. His talk encompassed the history of the City right up to the present day.

Our March meeting talk was a laugh from start to finish with *Elaine & Julia The Potty Plotters*. We were given pencil and crossword grid where the answers were by example 'tights' 'colander' 'sock', never throw anything away! *Tights are ideal for winter storage of pots, a hanging colander will contain a couple of lettuce - snails don't abseil and a sock is perfect to protect an emerging sweetcorn cob.* All this information was presented with hilarity.

Next meeting 7.30<sup>pm</sup> Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>  
“A Garden for all Seasons” with *Diane Clement*

**Altar Flowers** 12 & 19 *Lynda O'Connor* 26 & May 3 *Frances Walker*  
**Brass Cleaning** *Hilary Jordan and Susanna Munro*

50's CLUB MARCH: 3 *Ian Griffiths*

*Congratulations!*

### Stowe-by-Chartley Women's Institute

Over 40 ladies including 4 visitors attended the monthly meeting of Stowe WI at the village hall. As it was March it was also the annual meeting where the committee and president are elected. During the regular part of the meeting, forthcoming events were spoken about, the ladies are going to see *The Longest Yarn* in Lichfield; a visit to Dunham Massey later in the summer and Christmas events were also discussed.

The annual meeting then took place, there are now 51 members of Stowe WI, with more new members hoped for during the next 12 months, 3 of the committee have decided to retire from their roles and 3 new members have been duly elected in their place. Kath gave her yearly report and was subsequently elected for another year in the role of president.

*Hixon and Area Community First Responders* gave a presentation on how the scheme works in the villages. There are 5 qualified community first responders at present, however they are hoping to increase this to 10. They are all volunteers. The training is provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service and after their intensive initial training they have yearly mandatory training to complete. They respond to Category 1 and Category 2 emergencies which could be *heart attacks, unresponsive patients or excessive bleeding*. They stated that in their busiest month they attended 58 calls, and when they get to the patients location, the relief on peoples faces when they turn up makes their job worthwhile. They have charity status so are continually fund raising, Suzanne is part of the scheme and she is always selling her handmade crafts to raise money for them, she has raised £800 from the regular coffee mornings that the WI host at the village hall.

President Kath gave a cheque for £150 to the first responders to help with their fund raising, and they are the chosen charity for Stowe WI this year.

**The next meeting of Stowe WI will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**, and the coffee mornings are on the fourth Thursday of the month, 23<sup>rd</sup> April being the next one.

# Quiet Mondays

at Shallowford House

ST15 0NZ

01785 760233

[info@shallowfordhouse.org](mailto:info@shallowfordhouse.org)

Shallowford House is a Christian Retreat Centre.  
These days offer you space and time to reflect.  
There is opportunity to worship, places to wander and  
wonder. Time to talk and time to listen.  
Time to renew and to be restored.

## Quiet Mondays

April 13

May 18

June 8

July 13

£28 p.p. Lunch provided.  
Contact us to book your Quiet Monday  
or for more information  
about future dates in 2026

## APRIL WORSHIP

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 <sup>am</sup>	<b>EASTER DAY</b> Communion
	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 <sup>am</sup>	Praise Together with Baptism
	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Holy Communion
	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	<b>Sunday Breakfast</b> All welcome



**Easter Lilies...** every Easter time, St. Andrew's church is decorated with Easter Lilies dedicated to those we have loved and lost. If you would like to remember a loved one, by purchasing a lily then enter their details on the list at the back of church, or contact anyone from the congregation

## ...and Easter Bonnets

At the 11.15<sup>am</sup> service on Easter Day, we will be having the famous (or infamous) ~~EASTER BONNET PARADE~~. Please come along with your bonnets and join in the fun. There will be prizes for *everyone* who takes part!

**Breakfast will be served** at St. Andrew's church from 9.30<sup>am</sup> on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Everybody is welcome and it is followed by a short informal service at 10.00am.

**Garden Tidy Day** On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.00<sup>am</sup>. Please come along and help to *Spring-tidy* our amazing church yard. A lovely light lunch will be provided for all helpers.

Bring your friends and have a fun night on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** in the Village Hall.

We start promptly at 7.00<sup>pm</sup>. You can bring your own drinks; your ticket price will include a scrumptious *Pie & Pea Supper!*

Teams of up to six. £10.00 per person  
Get your tickets now for either  
Pat 07419 128 317 or  
Gill 01889 270594

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
Join us at Weston Village Hall

# Quiz Night

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL  
**7:00 PM**

PROMPT START SO DON'T BE LATE!  
GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, MAKE A TEAM, AND GET QUIZZING!  
£10 PER TICKET

**QUIZ . PIE & PEAS . FUN**

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK  
For tickets call Pat 01889 200002  
or Gill 01889 270594  
All proceeds to St. Andrew's Church

**St Andrew's Church AGM** will be held at 7.00<sup>pm</sup> on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**.

Everybody is welcome to attend, so please come along and see how your church works for your community of Weston. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Andrew's church or indeed the Church Council, please contact the Secretary, Pat Hopkin 07419 128 317, or either of the Church Wardens, Gill Titley 01889 270594 and Kate Tague 07896 087 266 or just turn up on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Cake Stall** On Saturday **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** starting at 11.00<sup>am</sup> on the Green near the war memorial. All the cakes are home-made and donated for the benefit of St. Andrew's Church. **Please come early, the cakes go really fast!!**  
(Card and cash accepted.)



**Open Gardens 2026** This year our village event in support of St. Andrew's Church will be over the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in helping us by opening your garden, then please contact Pat Hopkin or Gill Titley. (see above) It is a super fun weekend and you will enjoy with lots of different events happening throughout the village. Remember, to participate you don't have to have a *spectacular* garden! People who visit gardens are interested in *all kinds* of different spaces, gardens large and gardens small. There is something in *everybody's* garden to appreciate and enjoy. **There will be a meeting in May for those participating, so get gardening now and look out for the date in next month's Compass!**

**BOOK THIS DATE NOW!**  
**Go to the Races Night**  
on **Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>** at  
Weston Village Hall.  
**£15.00** per person  
includes tickets  
for 5 races.  
Bring your  
own drinks & nibbles.  
**Children Welcome.**

**RACE NIGHT**  
at Weston Village Hall  
*Gather your friends and family - place your bets and support a great cause!*

**8**  
exciting  
horse  
races

Join us on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
to cheer your horse to victory  
Doors open at 7:00 PM  
First race at 7:30PM - Last race at 10:00PM  
**£15 per ticket**  
(Includes 5 bets: 1 bet for race 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8)  
Additional race/bets can be purchased on the night  
For tickets call Pat 01889 200002 or  
Gill 01889 270594  
**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
*Don't miss this night of fun, laughter and thrilling races!*  
**Bring your own drinks and snacks**  
*(No refreshments will be served)*

*Sounds like fun.  
I must buy tickets from  
Pat 01889 200002  
or from Gill  
01889 270595.*

## A Letter from Beatrice Jones

*Chair of The Moira Fund*

Dear Weston,

This past year has been a difficult one for me with the very sudden, totally unexpected, death of my dear Hu last April. The pair of us were dedicated in our efforts to meet the challenges of running Moira's charity, each always helping the other to the best of our ability.

Grant and I were very moved by the turnout at Hu's funeral, by the avalanche of sympathy cards and letters and by the very generous donations made to The Moira Fund in Hu's memory. That support meant much to us.

However, I wasn't sure that I could cope without Hu, if I could continue with our charity without him [and a fractured rib didn't help] but I knew he would approve and be pleased if I could keep things moving.

My doubts were unfounded and I want to thank the many dear neighbours and dear friends in Weston who have helped me in so many different ways to move forward, to keep my finger on the button. They know who they are and I am so grateful to each one.

Since the start of 2026 we have been inundated with applications for support made on behalf of 49 distressed families who have been bereaved by violence. This is more than double what we'd expect in any three months. However, thanks to Colin, our Deputy Chair in Glasgow, and the support for me in Weston, we have been able to respond positively to each call for help. Hu would approve, I know.

Thank you Weston and very kind regards from us all  
at The Moira Fund.

*Bea*





**HAIR  
TODAY  
GONE IN  
JUNE!**

Weston villager, David Mould and his wife Tracy (AKA *The Mouldy's*) like most of us have been affected by losing loved ones to cancer related illnesses. Both their fathers, other family members, dear friends and family and friends who have lost their children. They also have many in their lives who have fought and continue to fight cancer.

Friends have often commented on how they envy Dave's *silver fox* hair. Wanting to do something to help cancer sufferers, Dave decided to grow his hair to donate for a wig. A real hair wig is prohibitively expensive but it makes such a difference to the self-esteem, mental and emotional well-being of a cancer patient who has lost their hair.

However while growing his hair it took a long time to find what the next step could be. At last, Tracy discovered *Charles Roche* of **The Roche Hair Experience/Wig Specialist** in Stafford. After much discussion Charles generously agreed to help by covering the cost of having the wig made and their plan is to donate it to a local person who will benefit.

**Dave will say a long and public goodbye to his flowing locks** at the **Weston Village Fete on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**. *Charles* will be there with his wigs and Tracy is in the process of setting up **Just Giving** pages for 3 charities, *Cancer Research UK*, *MacMillan* and *The Max and Flo Fund* (part of the Childhood Cancer Parents Alliance).



Look in May's issue of the *Compass* for details of the **Just Giving** pages and put **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>** in your diary to come and give your support to Dave on the day!



### Can you help to organise your Village Fete?

We will be holding a meeting for anyone wanting to help with the Fete on **Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2026** 7:30<sup>pm</sup> in the Bar Area of the Village Hall.

**If you would like to support your Village Hall** but cannot make a regular commitment, perhaps becoming a *Friend* to the Village Hall would interest you. Do you have skills that we could call upon? Practical? Professional? Or just lots of enthusiasm??

We are a group of **VOLUNTEERS** and would love to grow the team of people working for the good of Weston villagers. We look forward to meeting up with you. Drop a message to [secretarywestonvh@gmail.com](mailto:secretarywestonvh@gmail.com)

**Our Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>** starting at 7:00<sup>pm</sup> In the Bar Area. Everyone is welcome— just pop along.

# **VOLUNTEERING** CAN BE LIFE-CHANGING, AND FUN!



# WESTON METHODIST CHURCH

## APRIL WORSHIP - SUNDAYS

- 5<sup>th</sup> **EASTER DAY Communion** (Rev. Patrick Taylor)  
12<sup>th</sup> **After Easter Service** (Peter Hardy)  
19<sup>th</sup> **Joint Service at Barlaston Methodist Church**  
(ST12 8DP) starts 10.30<sup>am</sup> (Rev. David Bintliff)  
*There will be no service at Weston*  
26<sup>th</sup> **Sunday Service** ( Tracey Nhachi)



*You can stay  
for tea  
coffee & chat  
after  
every service*

**ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 10.30<sup>AM</sup>**

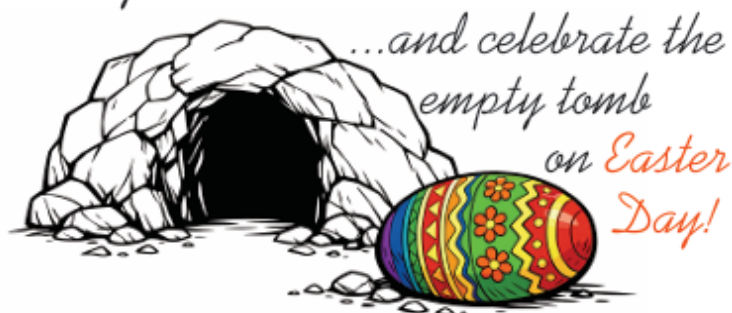
## MONDAY MEETINGS at 10.30<sup>am</sup>

- Bible Study 13<sup>th</sup> April  
Prayer Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April

*Good Friday*



*Remember the Cross at Weston  
Methodist Church at 3.00<sup>pm</sup> on  
Good Friday...*



*...and celebrate the  
empty tomb  
on Easter  
Day!*

Church Council Secretary	Rev David Bintliff	01785 229973
Hall Bookings Secretary	Dr Susan McCready-Shea	01889 271488
	Mrs Margie Egginton	01889 207040



### Weston Methodist Church are still 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.



## Tea Cake & Natter

*Restarts on*

**Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**2.00<sup>pm</sup> - 4.00<sup>pm</sup>**

at

**Weston Methodist  
Church**

*Just come along!*

**APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>** starts 1.45<sup>pm</sup>

## The nature of the Beast!

Understanding Fabulous Animals in Medieval Art. *Medieval bestiaries are wondrously colourful worlds blending fact with fiction & mythology.*

Lecturer: **Jonathon Foyle**



The Arts  
Society  
Stafford

Gatehouse Theatre  
Guest Attendance Fee £10  
Annual Membership Fee £60  
gives access to 10 lectures

A very Happy Easter to all our readers.  
In this new season of the year may you find  
many things to be thankful for:  
family, home,  
friends, neighbours  
– and of  
course,  
our lovely  
villages.



**GET  
EGG-CITED**  
the Library is coming  
this month on Monday  
**April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**FIND AN EGGCITING  
STORY HERE**

<b>WESTON</b>	<b>11.35-12.05</b>	<b>The Woolpack</b>
<b>SALT</b>	<b>12.45-13.15</b>	<b>The Holly Bush</b>
<b>STOWE</b>	<b>14.20-14.40</b>	<b>Stowe Church</b>
<b>HIXON</b>	<b>14.45-15.15</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>HOPTON</b>	<b>16.00-16.15</b>	<b>Battle Ridge</b>