



Compass

MAY 2026



YOUR GUIDE TO WORSHIP IN MAY

3

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

10

- 10.00^{am} Gayton *Praise Together*
- 10.30^{am} Weston Methodist

17

- 9.30^{am} Hixon *Sunday Breakfast*
- 9.30^{am} Sandon
- 9.30^{am} Weston
- 10.30^{am} Weston Methodist
- 11.15^{am} Milwich
- 11.15^{am} Salt

24

Pentecost

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

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- 10.00^{am} Sandon *Praise Together*

CAP will be at this service in Sandon. Come to learn about and support the work of bringing relief to those burdened by debt.

- 10.30^{am} Weston Methodist

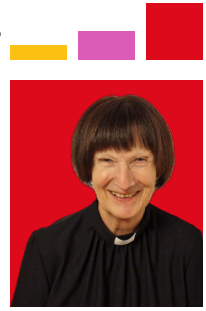


christians
against
poverty

CAP
debt help

A letter from Viv

Have you ever wondered how our perceptions of fire and wind differ from those of our great-grandparents?



In the past, people have relied on fire to heat water, cook their food, light their house and keep them warm. Now most of us rely on gas or electricity for all that and we tend to be afraid of fire, thinking of forest fires, burning houses and destruction. Wind was once used to grind our corn and power machines, and now we again think of wind in terms of hurricanes, tornadoes and destruction. What all ages have in common, however, is that they are powerful elemental forces.

...The Holy Spirit - God's "power-ups" ...

At the end of this month, on May 24th, we have **Whitsun**, or Whit Sunday, or to use its other name, **Pentecost**. This is the Sunday we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus had died and ascended into heaven, he promised that he would send an advocate, a helper to "Power Up" the disciples. And that helper was the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit came as a powerful elementary force. The disciples had no words to describe it (a bit like those seeing the dark side of the moon from Artemis!) but the nearest they could get was to describe it as 'like a powerful wind' or 'like tongues of fire'.

Something burning within them, something blowing them all over the place! Something that changed them for good.

Those fishermen, tradesmen and tax collectors were changed into people who could communicate to everyone there in their own language, bubbling with such enthusiasm and energy that people even thought they were drunk!

And it didn't stop there! They attracted many other people to create the first church and spread the Word all over the world as they knew it. (continued...)





A letter from Viv - continued

The Spirit did not die with their generation, but went on from generation to generation, finally down to us people here in Mid Trent. The Spirit is still wanting us to be transformed and be so full of Jesus' love, that we want to help our community and spread the hope and love that Jesus has for us. It is down to us now.

The elemental power of the Holy Spirit is not destructive but constructive, and transformative, enabling us to build a better future. I will leave you with the prayer inspired by the teachings of St Teresa of Avila:

*Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
You are His body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

Happy Pentecost and may the Holy Spirit be with you!

Vivienne

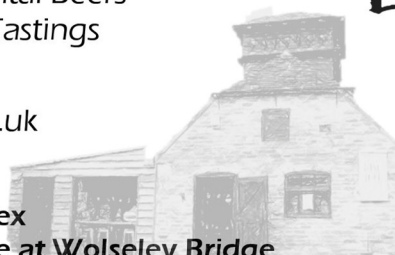
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Well Done to all the team - and the amazing children - who made our 2026 Good Friday Workshop such a fun-filled event.

Thanks also to the parents and carers who came to join in our time together at the end of the session.



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 7.00pm (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. We 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



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Are you an organiser, book keeper or repairer? Interested in joining our Team and serving your community? You are needed. Contact us on 07717036213 for more details.
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May 10th & June 14th



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FRADSWELL



MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 10th 10.00^{am}

ROGATION WALK

See below...



Rogationtide is a time for asking for blessings on the growing crops and giving thanks for the bounty we have around us here in Fradswell. It is an opportunity for everyone to join in - to ask for blessings and give thanks to whoever or whatever they choose, or simply to enjoy the walk. This year, our ninth, we begin at **Brink Farm**, Fradswell on Sunday 10th May. Please arrive in good time to be ready to walk at 10.00^{am}.

We'll set off on a 5-mile walk to 'Beat the Bounds' - a very old custom from a time when it was important to know the boundaries of the parish. We'll take in parts of the parish boundary not normally accessible, visiting places of note including a parish marker stone, two points where three parishes meet, the church, and some beautiful lakes. And there just might be cider along the way!

At each stopping point, a small cross handmade from hazel cut from a local farm will be set in place. Each cross is engraved with the year and placed alongside those from previous walks. Over time, they weather and return to the ground, carrying with them the blessings given. A 17th-century poet described Rogation as bringing *"a blessing for the fruits of the field, justice in the preservation of bounds, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling differences at the time, if there be any."*

Dogs on short leads are very welcome. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for walking across farmland. The walk usually takes around three hours. There will be rustic refreshments on our return to Brink Farm, including Fradswell cider, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Donations towards the cost of refreshments are welcome, with any surplus going to Katherine House Hospice in memory of **Helen Holland** — a much loved and greatly missed member of our community.

*This is a community-led event, open to all,
with no affiliation to any organisation*





OTHER EVENTS AT FRADSWELL VILLAGE HALL THIS MONTH



Gentle Wellbeing Walk Friday 1st May 7.30^{pm}.

A leisurely two mile walk to watch the sunset.
Bar open from 6.00^{pm} and after the walk.



Flower Workshop

On **Sunday 3rd May** from 11.00^{am}-2.00^{pm}

Floral Art by Charlotte will provide all flowers, equipment and tuition. We will be creating an arrangement in a teacup- you can bring your own cup and saucer if you have something you'd like to use but there will be plenty to choose from. Charlotte will bring fresh, seasonal varieties for us to arrange. *Children's arrangements in a card cup and saucer will be £6.* There will be delicious home made refreshments available. ***The cost is £35 per person - message 07770780078 to book***

Milwich & Fradswell Toddlers Tuesday mornings 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}

Contact *Jane Brookes* **07944 060138** for details.

Whist Tuesday 5th May 2.00^{pm}- 4.00^{pm}

Please ring Christina Rushton on 07989 057467 for details.

Dementia-friendly coffee morning Wednesday 6th May 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}

All welcome. Please ring Laura on 07834 388140 for more information.

Coffee Morning Saturday 9th May 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}.

Hot drinks, bacon baps and local craft stalls to browse. Come along for a chat and a shop. Ring Irene 07770 780078 for further information.

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

Lunch Club 27th May 12^{noon} -2.00^{pm} £6 for a 2-course home-cooked lunch with tea or coffee. Booking essential. Please ring Irene 07770 780078

Date for your diary- Quiz night Friday 5th June.

£5 for teams up to 6. Bar open from 6.00^{pm}, quiz starts at 7.00^{pm}.

THE MID TRENT TEAM



BURSTON ST RUFIN

PCC Rep. Carole Pilling 07484 807608
carole_pilling@hotmail.com

FRADSWELL ST JAMES THE LESS

Wardens *Vacancy*
PCC Sec. *Vacancy*
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 Tittley 01889 270594 *gilltittley10@gmail.com*
Kate Tague 07896 087266 *katetague1969@gmail.com*
PCC Sec. Pat Hopkin 07419 128 317 *alanhopkin47@gmail.com*

COMPASS EDITOR Rev Duncan Leake 0794 1091 666

Associate Minister
Rev Vivienne Starkie
3 Old School Close
Weston, ST18 0HF
01889 271046
cvstarkie@aol.com



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GAYTON ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS 2026

Every Parish is legally required to hold an **Annual Parish Meeting** meeting to elect Churchwardens together with an **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** to conduct other parish business. These are required under statute through the *Church Representation Rules*. For the *Annual Parish Meeting* any member of the civil electoral roll of the civil parish or someone on the electoral roll of the parish church can attend and vote, and for the *Annual Parochial Church Meeting* anyone can attend but only those on the electoral roll of the parish church can vote or stand for office. The Meetings for this year will take place on **Wednesday 6th May at 7.00^{pm}** Notices to this effect will be posted at the church 3 weeks prior .



MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 10th 10.00^{am} Praise Together Communion

The Spring Quiz night at Gayton on 18th April was an enjoyable evening in aid of church funds. Five teams puzzled over 6 rounds of questions and a picture round of UK Cities to give us the winner- Weston Wanderers! Thanks to Ron for the quiz and Sue, Sophie and Christine for their much-appreciated help. and to all who attended. We raised £100 including raffle and had offers of help with maintenance work at the church - so a successful evening all round. Thank you! *Jane*



Saturday 16th May at 7.00^{pm}. Why not drop along to our PUB at Gayton Village Hall where we'll be serving our delicious Ploughman's platters, or just come for a natter and a drink. Look forward to seeing you there !

Come along to the **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**

Sunday 14th June, at 1pm or 4pm, as we fall down the rabbit hole and venture into Wonderland! **You are cordially invited to a nonsensical tea party inspired by Alice's Adventures with mock turtle sandwiches, savoury roses, unbirthdays cakes fit for a queen, and more.**

'Drink Me' cocktails, Mad Hatter and Cheshire Cat beers will be available from our fully licensed bar for the grownups. So why not join us for a spot of croquet with the Queen of Hearts, don't forget your flamingo!

Tickets £14 per adult, £9.50 per child. (*Ticket includes tea/coffee/Fruit Shoot & 'Par-tea Bag' of savoury & sweet treats.*)

Advance booking is required.

Limited spaces available.

Please pay in advance. (*Contact for BACs details*)

Please choose either '1^{pm} to 3.30^{pm}'

or '4^{pm} to 6.30^{pm}' sitting when booking with

The Mad Hatter (Sue - 01889 270273) or

The White Rabbit (Christine - 01889 624867)

or email gaytonvillagehall@gmail.com

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MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd 8.00^{am} Holy Communion
 17th 9.30^{am} Sunday Breakfast (in the Guide Hall)



The Hixon Millennium Green Trustees are excited to announce a new event on the Green this summer.

A first ever open air theatre Murder Mystery Night!!!

The year is 1900 and Downtown Crabbey, a luxury boarding house somewhere in Staffordshire, is being

prepared to welcome its first guests; a group of young and wealthy American travellers.

It's the night before the grand opening and Murphy Crawley, Downtown Crabbey proprietor, is in a bit of a panic as he awaits the arrival of the local hotel inspector. But before Murphy can complete his final preparations, events take an unfortunate turn... Who did what and why?

Join in the fun at Hixon Millennium Green, High Street Hixon, Stafford ST18 0QF on **Saturday 13th June @ 7.00^{pm}**.

The Murder Mystery night is an interactive play with audience participation. **Tickets £ 4.00 for adults, children under fifteen free.**

Bring your own seats, drinks and snacks.

Email: hixonmillenniumgreen@gmail.com.

Website: www.hixonmillenniumgreentrust.com

Phone 07966 135536 or 07838 904287



The May meeting was addressed by *Jill Crowther* who explained why an American camp was set up in the grounds of Blythe Colours during the 2nd World War. Blythe Colours was a colour manufacturer (mainly for the pottery industry) established around 1870 in Cresswell.

The American Laundry Machine Company had been contracted to build interior Impregnating Plants. These plants needed a building with a large floor space, laundry facility, with cooling water requirements and close to a rail line.

(continued on next page)



Hixon History Society *(continued)*

The British Ministry of Works (MoW) had been tasked with finding these facilities including camps, storage facilities and workshops, and Ludlow in Shropshire and the Blythe Colour Works site at Cresswell were identified as suitable sites.

The Cresswell site was chosen and In October 1942, an *Impregnating Plant* was moved from Bristol, where it had been shipped to from the USA, and delivered to Cresswell by rail, and a small dam was constructed in the River Blithe behind the plant in order to provide sufficient cooling water. On 29th November 1943, the US Army's 104th Chemical Co. arrived at the custom-built "Bolero Camp" consisting of a series of Nissen huts, and holding around 300 men, whose task was to develop uniforms which could act as protective gear in case of a chemical attack by the enemy. The process lasted two years and by 1946, the US army had left.

Local families who had been displaced by the war quickly moved into the empty Nissen huts before the authorities could stop them. The local council had to accept the situation and so just charged the 'squatters' a nominal rent. Around 1947-9, the local authority built 42 houses on the site – naming the area "Rookery Crescent", and re-housing many of the squatters in the new homes. *Blythe Colours became part of the Johnson Matthey group in 1963 and the site eventually closed in 2015.*

On May 5th Steve Booth will ask if Dr William Palmer was a 'Saint Billy' or a Mass Murderer, and on June 2nd there will be a talk about the RAF Cosford Museum. *John Egginton*



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}

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

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

sacredsoulechoes@gmail.com

HIRE CHARGES

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Saturday evenings £110 (£80 deposit) (5pm till Midnight)

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hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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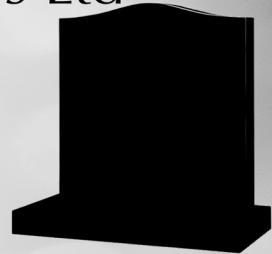
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MAY WORSHIP

Pentecost Sunday 24th 9.30^{am} Holy Communion

All are welcome for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on **Tuesday May 26th** from 10.30^{am}-12^{noon}. 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^{pm}-10.00^{pm}

Hopton & District Garden Guild

Stafford's Ancient High House was the subject of our talk in April when our speaker was *Vivien Williamson*. The history of the house and it's various owners was described in detail, punctuated with interesting facts and amusing tales, dating back to the 16th century. Vivien had brought along a selection of pictures and articles relating to the house for us to peruse. At the next meeting on 5th May we welcome *Elaine & Julia, 'The Potty Plotters'* as featured in Derbyshire Life magazine and on local radio. We meet **each month** on the **first Tuesday** at 7:30^{pm} in Hopton village hall. For information please contact *Jill Buss* on **01785 259808** or look out for our yellow newsletter on local village noticeboards.

Coffee and Cake Sale - Saturday 9th May
in Hopton Village Hall 11.00^{am}-12.30^{pm}
Proceeds to Hopton & Salt Churches





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.



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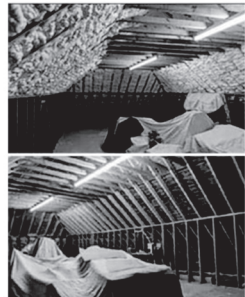
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Mondays 9:30^{am}



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Pentecost *wordsearch*

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C W E P L J E I Q E T E E
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Milwich and District Produce Guild

PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th May
 10.00^{am} - 1.00^{pm}
 Milwich Village Hall
Plant donations welcome

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MILWICH VILLAGE HALL



MAY WORSHIP

Sunday	3 rd	11.15 ^{am} Holy Communion
	17 th	11.15 ^{am} Holy Communion
	24 th	11.15 ^{am} Pentecost Communion

Village Litter Pick All roads into the village were cleared in the end of March litter pick and a dozen green Street Scene bags were filled, so this was again a very successful activity with volunteers turning up in cold and windy weather to make our roads beautiful again.

Thank you to all who took part.

What's on at Milwich Village Hall For bookings see our Facebook page – MILWICH VILLAGE HALL – or contact Chris Walters on 07799 837206

Breakfast Club The monthly breakfast club at Milwich Village Hall is serving cooked breakfast, pastries and drinks on Saturday 30th May from 8.30^{am} - 11.30^{am} Everyone is welcome.

The Milwich and District Produce Guild are having a PLANT SALE and coffee morning (*see p.22*) Plant donations welcome.

This month at our main meeting on **May 28th** at 8.00^{pm} we invite *Ruth Plant* to speak on “**Dieramas**”, a beautiful grass like plant with nodding bell shaped flowers, better known as the *Angel's fishing rod*. Ruth is a member of the Hardy Plant Society and has her own National Collection of Dieramas. We meet in the Milwich village hall ST18 OEG on the fourth Thursday of each month and all are welcome. Contact Ruth on 07495 185579

Warm Welcome Group meets each month on the second Wednesday, from 10.00^{am} – 1.00^{pm}. The next meeting is on **Wednesday May 13th** For more details, please contact Elaine 07702 865011.

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

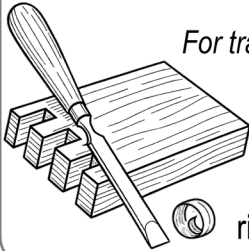
Quiz Night at the Green Man starts at 8.00^{pm} on **Tuesday May 19th** - it's a fun night with refreshments, £3pp, 4 in a team. *All proceeds to Marie Curie.* New teams welcomed.

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**MAY WORSHIP**

Sunday **3rd** **9.30^{am}** **Holy Communion**
17th **11.15^{am}** **Holy Communion**

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/

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 6th** in Salt Village Hall. Members of the public welcome.

www.saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Clerk: David Croxford clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk

Future Dates for the Community Refuse Vehicle

July 4th *Salt Village Hall* **October 24th** *The Holly Bush car park*

Salt & District Friendship Club

Wednesday **May 13th** & **27th** from 2.30^{pm}- 4.00^{pm} in Salt Village Hall for bingo, a cup of tea and a chat. New members are always welcome.

Community Cafe at Salt Village Hall

Please note there will be no further 'cafe afternoons' until the autumn.

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 or Jane Mitchell on 01889 508284

Salt Village Hall is available for hire.

Contact Jane (01889 508284)



A Letter of Appreciation from Janet Stubbs

Thank You for the amazing celebration in Salt Church of the life of my husband, David, on Friday 17th April.

I was overwhelmed at the turn out, with people having to stand at the back, to share the service with our many friends and family. There were representatives from the many organisations he had belonged to and loved.

The church looked beautiful with fresh flowers, wonderful organ music and hymns sung to their capacity. The eulogy was read by Steve Parkhouse, who related the colourful life David and the family had led. Rev Vivienne led us through the service in a beautiful and sensitive manner. A poem and a bible reading were read by Amelia and Deborah, both members of the family.

Thanks must also go to the caterers, Robert Hindle, who ensured that no one went hungry: the spread was amazing and highly recommended.

I am very grateful for all the work of the church team who made it all happen and flow smoothly.

We thank you for your generous donations to the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot. The money will be assigned to a specific project.

Thank you to all who attended and sent their love. I have personally been so touched by the many cards I have been sent.

Thank you and God Bless.

Janet xx



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MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3 rd	11.15 ^{am}	Holy Communion
17 th	9.30 ^{am}	Holy Communion
24 th	11.15 ^{am}	BCP Matins (Pentecost)
31 st	11.15 ^{am}	Praise Together



Christians Against Poverty offers free help for anyone struggling with debt. They work through local churches to give practical support that aims to bring hope, freedom and a fresh start. We welcome representatives from CAP to our Praise Together Team Service on **May 31st**.

Parish Bluebell Walk on Sunday May 3rd starting at 2.00^{pm}

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.



A night to remember - now booking!

Join us at **Sandon Hall** for an uplifting concert with **The Heath Chorus and Uttoxeter Town Band** on **30th June**

at 7.30^{pm} Tickets (£15) *including canapés* can be purchased from

Rose 07876 540491 & Steve 07972 838140

A Bar will be available at this event.

Proceeds towards All Saint's Church

'Time for Tea' Fund



Prepare the Bunting!

A Date for your Diary

Sandon Fete this year will be on

Saturday August 15th

1.00^{pm} - 4.30^{pm}

If anyone is interested in helping

please contact

secretary@sandonfete.co.uk



All Saints
Sandon

May update on the Heritage Project

Work at church is progressing well but every improved area makes other areas look shabby so we have added some extra work. The National Lottery Heritage Fund officers support this as they want to see the fabric of the church protected and in a fit state to complement the investment they have made in conserving our heritage features. We are most grateful to them for their support. Several actions are being pursued:

- We now have extensive scaffolding in place to paint the whole of the North Wall in the Nave.
- We are exploring having the chancel ceiling re-decorated and timbers cleaned; a lighting scheme for the chancel to better show off the conserved wall paintings, tombs and monuments: improved roof drainage to the tower and repainting a side wall behind the organ.
- We are also hoping to preserve the beautiful artwork produced by the pupils of Christ Church Academy and hang it in the area of the old font near the main entrance.

There are lots of activities planned over the summer once the conservators have finished their work. Our **Family-friendly Bio Blitz** event with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on **Tuesday May 26th** from 10 till 12. We launch our **Butterfly and Moth trail** the same day.

On **Saturday June 20th** we host our **Midsummer's Eve Choir** event and the following weekend **June 27-28** there will be an **Art Exhibition** in Church. For all upcoming events please check at **www.sandonallsaints.com**

Sandon WI

Members of Staffordshire Search and Rescue will be speaking to members of Sandon WI at the May meeting. Why not come along to find out more about them and the work they do. Did you know for instance that they are all volunteers? 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^{pm}.

Contact Judy Goodson, President on **01785 613966** or email **sandonwisecretary@gmail.com**

Expert Enlightenment at All Saints Church

Recently there was an opportunity to meet the Conservators who are working on The National Lottery Heritage Fund project at the Grade I listed All Saints Church in Sandon.

About 30 guests assembled in three groups in the church to listen to the experts talk about their skills as they work on the William Wailes stained glass windows, exterior and interior stone masonry and on the conservation of the Erdeswicke family monument and tombs, wall paintings and the Charles the Second Royal Coat of Arms.

It was a real privilege to see the progress that has been made since they began their work last November. They had an amazing knowledge of the materials they are using and enthralled everyone with their expertise.



The Burston Tea Party is Back! Sunday July 12th Starts 2.00^{pm}

Come along to our beautiful village
to enjoy an afternoon of tea, cake,
stalls, fun & games.

If you can help with planning or would like to
run a stall, please contact Alice: 07813 667005



Sandon and Burston Parish Council

Update on Footpath 36 The Parish Council continues to liaise with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) regarding the opening of Footpath 36 bridge, which is part of the *Two Saints Way*. The ground may be dry enough soon for the temporary bridge to be installed. SCC advised that the ground must dry out sufficiently so that heavy machinery can safely access the site without causing damage. Cllr Andrew Mynors, SCC Ward Councillor confirmed that the temporary bridge is also the support structure that will allow the permanent bridge to be installed later in the year. Spring is the new deadline for the temporary bridge to be installed.

Speed Indicator Signs The Parish Council provided sites for Speed Indicator Signs to SCC and after much consideration by the Council it was decided to not proceed with this project. The Council are liaising with *Safer Staffordshire*, who are reviewing the static speed cameras. The Parish Council hope that existing static cameras will be part of the digitalisation project, with the benefit of being able to send speeding drivers fines.

B5066 – Road Closures and Canal Bridge The Parish Council has set up a Working Group with residents and made several requests to SCC:

- Consideration given to introducing a 7.5-tonne weight restriction within the village to help reduce the volume of increasingly heavy vehicles using the canal bridge.
- Extending the 40mph limit to the top of Sandon Bank on the B5066.
- Extending the 40mph buffer along the A51 dual carriageway to provide a safer transition from 60 mph to 30 mph.
- The provision of a continuous footpath linking the canal bridge and railway footbridge to the A51 as at the canal bridge on the B5066.

Drivers often fail to recognise the give-way priority arrangement and improved road markings and/or illuminated signage would help clarify priority and reduce conflict and could include signage to show pedestrians on the road and create an on-road footpath.

The Road Closures on the B5066 continue due to the housing development at the Stafford end of the B5066 and the Parish Council are informed of road closures by the **One Network** system, which are added to our website, but we encourage all residents to create an account, so that road closures are emailed directly to them.

Sandon Hall conservatory *Brides & Home magazine October 1971*



Lancaster Carpets approached Sandon Estate during the early part of 1971 and agreed the Estate terms of £100 for the use of the conservatory to promote their "Inspiration" range of carpets.

One of the conditions was that under no circumstances should the origin of the venue appear in the advertisement, nor the name of the county.

A vast number of people came for the photo shoot with the final chosen photo having the negative reversed to try & disguise the venue further. The sixth Earl was not impressed with the final advertisement feature as he said that it was an *"exceedingly ugly brown carpet"* and it would never have been used to cover the Minton tiles anyhow. The vast carpet was a constant annoyance as it was within the hall for nearly a year before it was finally collected. *S J Shelley*

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STOWE-BY-CHARTLEY



MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd 11.15^{am} Holy Communion
24th 11.15^{am} Holy Communion (Pentecost)



Coffee Mornings

at Stowe Village Hall

Just wander along and join us for a chat. Our next mornings will be on May 28th & June 25th
10.00^{am}-12^{noon}
All Welcome.

Village Produce Guild – Garden Guild

At our April meeting *Diane Clement* provided an instructive talk on how to achieve a "Garden for All Seasons". The members learned about the importance of understanding one's own garden to maximise its potential year-round and make good use of the more difficult parts, for example areas of shade or damp conditions.

Suggestions were made around the use of layered planting to ensure interest throughout the seasons, and using a mix of plants at home in Mediterranean climates and those from Alpine meadows to best suit the individual garden's conditions. Witch Hazel and bright coloured Hellebores were recommended for shady spots to provide excitement through the winter months, whereas *Dactylorhiza* (or Marsh Orchids) were prescribed for the summer and *Sanguinaria* for the spring.

Next meeting 7.30^{pm} Wednesday May 20th

"Gardens of Sandon Hall" with *Grant & Becki Doner*

To check availability and book rooms at our village hall visit

www.stowebychartley.co.uk

Altar Flowers MAY 10 & 17 *Jenny Upton* 24 & 31 *Jenny Poole*
Brass Cleaning *Jenny Upton*

50's CLUB APRIL: 7 *Angela & Paul Walkden* *Congratulations!*

Stowe-by-Chartley Women's Institute

Two new members were welcomed to our April meeting when over 40 members enjoyed a very informative talk on **The Nuns of Oulton Abbey**. *Chris Westwood* was a wealth of information, covering 400 years of history in just one hour! Chris became interested in the convent when she worked at the care home and has extensively researched it's story. The origins of the Benedictine convent started in Brussels by Lady Mary Percy when Elizabeth I was on the throne and being a Catholic in England was dangerous. The convent subsequently moved to Ghent until once again persecution drove the nuns out and with the help of the Duke of York and a benefactor, Mr Dickinson, the convent crossed the channel and settled in Preston, then Caverswall Castle and finally Oulton.

Chris brought the lives of the nuns to life with often amusing anecdotes from sources such as the *Annals of the English Benedictines of Ghent* and even their accounts ledger. With surprising links to Charles II, Pugin and Tolkien this was local history with an international twist.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday May 12th** at 7.30^{pm} with the first of our new programme of talks, a presentation on **Eco-Cleaning**. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



A Date for your Diary

Monday June 15th an opportunity to enjoy Midsummer rural Staffordshire at Park Farm, Gayton by invitation of *Barbara Sargeant*. Coffee and cake from 10.30^{am} and/or light lunch a little later. Plus a variety of stalls - Clothing, Cakes, Produce, Gifts etc. More information will follow.

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MAY WORSHIP

Sunday	3 rd	11.15 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	17 th	9.30 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	24 th	9.30 ^{am}	Sunday Breakfast PENTECOST

Easter Day

The service on Easter Day was everything we could hope for. Rev. Duncan was as usual amazing, with his “spot on” sermon and his humour to boot. The transformation of the Lenten Cross into the Cross of Triumph was spectacular. The cross and the church included lilies and other flowers dedicated by the congregation in memory of loved ones lost. A huge Thank you to everybody who sponsored a lily.

Following the service, we had the Easter Bonnet parade ably judged by the congregation. Felix won, with a big Easter egg as his prize, there were prizes for all who entered, Great!

Sunday Breakfast will be served at St. Andrew’s from 9.30^{am} on Sunday May 24th. Followed by a very short and informal service. Everybody is welcome. Come along for bacon butties, cereal or fruit salad etc. and a different start to your Sunday morning.

The Heart of Weston 100+ Club winners in the April draw:

- 1st Prize £60 – James Kendrick-Evan (180)
- 2nd Prize £40 – Saracens Head Angling Group (263)
- 3rd Prize £28 – Peter Cutter (35)

Please turn to page 40 for more information from the Heart of Weston.



Homemade Cake Sale on The Green, by the War Memorial, from **11.00^{am}** on **Saturday May 2nd**.

All money raised is in aid of St. Andrew’s Church Weston. Please come early, the cakes are delicious and they go so 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 4th-5th. If you are interested in helping us by opening your garden, then please contact

Pat Hopkin 01889 200002 or Gill Titley 01889 270594

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 on Friday May 8th at 7.00^{pm} at Mudgeeraba, Green Road, Weston, for all those who would like to join us in opening their garden.



The Heart of Weston You will shortly receive your Heart of Weston *Join or Renew 100+ Club* leaflet. If you are not already a member please consider joining as it is a really easy way to help support the charity. It is only £12 annually and you could win in the monthly draw, which currently stands at 1st £60 2nd £40 3rd £28.

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all our supporters.

You are very much appreciated and your support has helped to protect lives in our community.

The aim of the charity is to help protect lives by:

- Providing Heart screening for 14-35 year olds. Since the charity was established in 2015, 1015 young people have been screened and nearly 80 have needed further investigation
- Providing general and emergency first aid training for adults and children when requested
- Providing ECGs and mini health checks for adults
- Maintaining the defibrillator at Weston Village Hall.

Please note that the next CRY Cardiac Screening for undiagnosed heart conditions will be on **Saturday 7th November 9.00^{am} – 4.00^{pm}** at Weston Village Hall. This screening will be funded by The Heart of Weston.

For more information visit **t h e h e a r t o f w e s t o n . o r g**

RACE NIGHT

at Weston Village Hall

Gather your friends and family - place your bets and support a great cause!

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horse
races



Join us on **Friday 15th 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 races/bets can be purchased on the night

For tickets call Pat 01889 200002 or

Gill 01889 270594

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Bring your own drinks and snacks

(No refreshments will be served)



As reported in last months Compass, Weston villager, David Mould will say a long and public goodbye to his flowing locks at the **Village Fete on Saturday, June 13th**. Three charities are being supported and you can sponsor Dave's shearing by using a QR code to visit one of these **Just Giving** pages specially set up for this event.

1



QR code 1 to donate to Cancer Research UK

2



QR code 2 to donate to Macmillan Cancer Support

3



QR code 3 to donate to The Max&Flo Kindness Fund

*Thank You for your support,
hope you can see Dave at the Village Fete!*

QUICK QUIZ

How well do you know your village?

Here are 6 quick questions about Weston.

Answers in next month's Compass.

1. Weston village began as a forest clearing on which local estate?
2. Where can I find "Ann", "Maria" and "Katerina" ?
3. Which famous Victorian architects designed the additions to St. Andrew's Church?
4. January 6th 1947 marked the end of an era. What has never happened in the village since that date?
5. The *Manor House* in Weston has served as a farm building, a private residence, and a school. What other purpose has been fulfilled by this building?
6. How many benches are located on The Green?

WHAT'S ON AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday Coffee Mornings & Book & Puzzle exchange

May 18th *(we are taking a break on the Bank Holiday!)*
10.00 - 12.00^{noon} *Just turn up !*

Healing Voices Choir
The Secretary 07936683904

Monday 19.30 - 21.30^{am}
thehealingvoiceschoir@gmail.com

FSD Dance
Olivia Falsone 07931503901

Tuesday 5.45 – 7.15^{pm}
Friday 4.30 – 6.00^{pm}
falsoneschoolofdance@hotmail.com

Ladies Badminton
Angela Martin 07968638170

Monday 2.00 – 4.00^{pm}
ianangmartin@gmail.com

Indoor Bowls
Gail Wray 07443 601258

Thursday (Sept. to May) 2.00 - 4.00^{pm}
gail.stubbswray@tiscali.co.uk

Mixed Badminton
June Munden

Thursday 7.30 – 9.00^{pm}
jamunden@yahoo.co.uk
Players with experience welcome -
first session free

Pilates
Lucy Lainton

Wednesday 6.15 – 7.15^{pm}
lucy@strengtheninmovement.co.uk

Table Tennis practice sessions
Stephen Gadsby 01785 248039

Tuesday 7.30 – 9.15^{pm}

U3A Table Tennis
Carol Burnett

Monday 10.00 – 11.00^{am}
carolbur99@gmail.com (waiting list)

Yoga
Elena Leoncelli 07428504503

Monday & Thursday 6 – 7.15^{pm}
elenacelli@hotmail.com

FOR HALL BOOKINGS PLEASE CONTACT DEREK



westonvh@outlook.com

or use our website
www.westonvillagehall.com



Sakura to blossom in Weston

Weston is helping to celebrate the friendship between the UK and Japan by planting two Japanese cherry trees in the village. The trees, now in place at two locations around The Green, are part of a national gift of 8,000 Japanese cherry trees which are being planted in parks, gardens and public spaces up and down the UK to celebrate the strong relationship between Japan and the UK.

Cherry trees were selected as an international symbol of friendship because cherry blossoms – *sakura* in Japanese – hold deep cultural significance. Their arrival each spring represents renewal, hope and new beginnings.

The Duke of Gloucester, patron of The Japan Society, said: *“What better way to commemorate the long-standing friendship between the people of the United Kingdom and Japan, than the planting of Japanese cherry trees that will live on for future generations to enjoy. I would like to congratulate all of those involved to make possible such a worthwhile project.”* His Excellency Hiroshi Suzuki, Japanese Ambassador to the UK, added: *“I hope many British people will enjoy themselves seeing cherry blossoms every spring as a token of warm friendship from the Japanese people.”*

Weston with Gayton Village Plan Survey

Weston with Gayton Parish Council is preparing a Parish Plan to guide future priorities, building on residents’ views and previous work. We are inviting residents of Weston and Gayton to share their views on local services, facilities, and what matters most for the future of our community. The survey is online and takes around 5 minutes to complete.

How to take part



Scan the QR code shown here, or visit www.westonstaffs.org.uk and follow the link to the Village Plan Survey

*All responses are anonymous.
No names or contact details are collected.*

WESTON METHODIST CHURCH



MAY WORSHIP - SUNDAYS

- 3rd Joint Service with Communion (Rev. David Bintliff)
- 10th Sunday Service (Edna Winnington)
- 17th Sunday Service (Rachel Artis)
- 24th Pentecost Sunday Service (Mark Timothy)
- 31st Trinity Sunday Service (Nicky Pennington)

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 10.30^{AM}



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



Quiz Night *in the Hall*

Friday May 15th

Starting prompt at 7.00^{pm}
with a Baked Potato Supper
followed by the Quiz.

£8.00 per person, inc. supper

In Aid of Chapel Funds

For Further Details Contact
Sue McCready-Shea 01889 271488

MONDAY MEETINGS at 10.30^{am}

Bible Study 11th May
Prayer Meeting 25th May



RECYCLING

Please keep old postage stamps, leave the stamps stuck to the envelope and cut a 1^{cm} margin around them. Empty tablet blister packs, old spectacles and used batteries are all being recycled.

Please keep different items packed separately when donating.

We continue to support *Tools with a Mission* by collecting old sewing machines, hand tools and haberdashery items including knitting wool & fabric. All items are sorted and refurbished and sent to Africa to support people in work. If you have items to donate, please contact Rachel on 07974567819.

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

Please note that due to the Bank Holiday there will only be ONE visit from the library this month.

Monday May 11th



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



Tea Cake & Natter

Tuesday May 5th

2.00^{pm} - 4.00^{pm}

at

Weston Methodist Church

Just come along!

MAY 19th starts 1.45^{pm}
Icons and the Art of Byzantium



The Arts Society
Stafford

The religious art of the Eastern Church - beloved as objects of veneration by people of faith, and admired as fine works of art.

Lecturer: **Christopher Newlands**

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

WESTON VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY JUNE 13

1.00PM - 4.00PM



THERE WILL BE...

WESTON VILLAGE HALL

REFRESHMENTS

AMAZING RAFFLE

£100 FIRST PRIZE!

LIVE MUSIC

...AND LOTS MORE!

BRASS BAND!

HOT FOOD

LOADS OF STALLS & GAMES

Drop-off evenings for items for the Fete will be Tuesday 9th & Thursday 11th June in the Bar area of the Village Hall from 6.00pm- 8.00pm

Compass

building community in Mid Trent

Please send all stories for the **June** issue to
compassmtc@gmail.com
no later than **Monday May 18 2026**



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