



ARMITAGE with HANDSACRE



VILLAGE DAY
Saturday 20th June 2026



A Fun day out for everyone- Free to attend!



Entertainment, competitions, shopping and more! 11am – 4pm

Fun Dog Show & Agility 🐾 Sports, Games & Activities, 🦆 Duck Race

🏆 Competitions for Best Scarecrow – Best Cakes – Best Stall

🎸 Live Music ✈️ Picnic & Play areas 🏪 Market Stalls

🍦 Food Stalls & Bar 🍴 Canalside Floating Market 🚤

Raffle 1st prize £100 & many more great prizes...

Venue: The Village Hall & Field, Shropshire Brook Road, Armitage.

Proudly sponsored and supported by



Armitage with Handsacre
Parish Council



For more details on Sponsorship, Stallholders, Programme or Volunteering contact;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/17727793098412/> 07716 190051

<https://awhvillagehall.org.uk/village-day/> awhvillagehall@outlook.com



Our Rector writes

Long Days, Full Hearts

Hi everyone,

Is there any month quite like June? Between the gardens bursting with life and those wonderfully long, light evenings, there's a real sense of "energy" in the air. It's the time of year when perhaps everything feels a bit more possible.

It's also the month of Village Day on Saturday 20th June - one of my favourite highlights of the year in the village. There is something so special about seeing the whole community out on the green together. It's a day of second chances (usually at the coconut shy or equivalent!) and simple kindness.

Can we wonder together how that same community spirit ties into three ideas: Grace, Mercy, and Forgiveness.

They sound like "churchy" words, but we can actually see them in action at Village Day all the time across our community

Mercy is that neighbourly patience when someone's dog gets a bit too excited or the bunting gets tangled. It's giving people the benefit of the doubt.

Grace is the "extra" bit of life - the neighbour who stays late to help pack away the gazebos or the person who buys a raffle ticket just to support the cause. It's kindness that isn't "earned"; it's just given.

Forgiveness is like clearing the weeds to let the summer flowers grow. It's deciding to let go of an old local grumble so we can actually enjoy the sunshine together.

Village Day reminds us that we're all in this together, "mess" and all. You don't have to be perfect to belong here, and you certainly don't have to have it all figured out to be part of our church family.

Whether we're sharing a burger at the stalls on the 20th or a quiet moment in the pews, I hope this June brings you a little more room to breathe and a lot more reasons to smile.

See you on the green!

Every Blessing,

Rev'd Cath Leighton
Team Rector.

Team Vicar - Rev'd Cath Leighton telephone 07903 164242 email: cmaleighton@icloud.com

Churchwarden - Vince Smith telephone: 07957 613890 email: vincsmith03@mail.com

Editor & Churchwarden - Danny Briggs telephone: 01543 490114 email: dannybriggs905@gmail.com

The Village Herald advertising - Barry Liddle telephone: 07922 529801 email: liddledarlo@gmail.com

Parish Church website: www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist

Village website: www.armitagewithhandsacre.co.uk

The Church Room

St John the Baptist church building is open daily but if you require access to the church room please let Vince Smith know on 07957 613890.

The Village Herald

Your Church & Community Magazine

June 2026

Sunday 7th June	First Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th June	5pm Prayer and Praise
Sunday 14th June	Second Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 21st June	Third Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th June	Fourth Sunday after Trinity 10.30am Morning Worship

**Church building open daily
from 9am until 6pm.**

Thank you for your support.

Village Day, June 20th

Come and visit the Village Herald's stand and try your luck on our Buzz Off Game (free sweets for all winners).

Don't forget to bring your Angel (see page six, there will be a special table on the village hall car park). We have some super prizes.

Get the latest news on all the new initiatives and the benefits of joining our Angel programme. See our latest low cost advertising plans.

The Village Herald - bringing the community closer to your church and bringing the church closer to our community.

Recent Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals at St John the Baptist

1st May	Interment of Ashes of Maureen Cycles of Moat Way
22nd May	Funeral of Alan 'Nobby' Clarke of Chapel Road

The “Holy Smokes, That’s Good” Veggie Tart

Ingredients:

One ready made pastry case (because even saints need shortcuts)
Three eggs (free range, living their best lives)
200ml cream (or whatever is hiding in the fridge before it turns)
A generous handful of cheese (grated with enthusiasm, not restraint)
One red pepper, chopped (for a splash of Pentecost flame)
A small onion (tears optional)
A handful of cherry tomatoes
Salt and pepper A pinch of herbs (whatever didn’t fall behind the spice rack in 2019)

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180c (or as warm as the church hall on a June afternoon)
2. Scatter your veggies into the pastry case in a way that looks artistic or rustic (both are acceptable)
3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, and cheese. Try not to sample too much... this is a test of discipline.
4. Pour the mixture over the veggies and whisper a small prayer that it sets properly.
5. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until golden and firm to the touch (like a well delivered sermon)
6. Allow to cool slightly before serving - burnt tongues help no one.

A Cheeky Blessing:

May your pastry never be soggy,
Your filling always rise,
And May no one notice if you forget an ingredient... or two.
Amen (and pass the seconds)

Tessa Riley

ATTENTION: We want to hear from you

Are you having a special Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation or any event or milestone you would like to share with us? Yes, well read on.

Remember this is as much your magazine as ours so help us turn it into a truly magnificent community magazine so let’s have your news, gossip, photos in fact

anything that you want to share with your friends and community.

Everyone likes a gossip, - *Gosh he or she’s doesn’t look a day over 80 or I didn’t realise that they achieved a Masters in maths.*

So send your news/photos to dannybriggs905@gmail.com

Armitage Cricket Club

We have had a great start to the season, new signings to the teams bringing great rewards

The 1st XI have won their first four games

The 2nd XI lost two and won one

Saturday 18th April Armitage 1st XI vs Beacon

Armitage won by 90 runs after a rain affected game, where Beacon had a revised total of 181.

There were two players making their debuts Muhammad Saleem and Ali Siddiqi and it was Siddiqi who got Armitage off to a good start with 14 runs from 47 balls on a tricky pitch. But it was his opening partner Dave Slann who top scored with a solid 57 from 107 balls.

Ben Beck scored an impressive 55 from 62 balls to help Armitage on their way to 193 from 45 overs.

The bowling highlights were Ade Littlewood 3/22 from seven overs.

Ben Beck 2/8 from five overs.

Dan Young 2/10 from 1.3 to bowl out Beacon for 90 runs.

Saturday 25th April Armitage 1st XI vs Hammerwich

Armitage won by 87 runs after Hammerwich only secured 197/9.

Luke Elsmore achieved the first hundred of the season after a fine batting performance and ended with a total of 106 runs. This was backed up with the support of opener Ali Siddiqi who scored 70 runs alongside Luke which amounted to 157 partnerships. Ben Beck who scored 64 runs without losing his wicket. Great form from our returning

bowlers who managed to get two wickets between them. Great work from Muhammad Saleem 2/24 from nine overs, Ben Beck 2/32 from nine overs and Adrian Littlewood 2/36 from nine overs.

It was a lovely sunny day and was great to receive support from the community as they came down to watch.

Saturday 2nd May Armitage 1st XI vs West Bromwich Dartmouth

Armitage won by 177 runs

Armitage wins on the bounce with a good all-round performance from everyone involved.

Ben Beck scored his third half century in three consecutive weeks (69 not out).

Muhammad Saleem also secured a maiden 50 for the club.

Dan Young opened the batting and scored a respectable 45 runs.

Nas Iqbal 4/19 from his six overs.

Keiran McKenzie 2/15 off seven overs

Muhammad Saleem 2/3 from 2.3 overs to get Armitage the win.

Following this game Armitage secured their 100% winning record and are currently top of the league.

We want to thank everyone who has signed up to sponsor a match ball, raising money for Andy man's club.

There is still time to sponsor one of our match ball this season for £40.



Handsacre Methodist Church

JUNE 2026

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

The Vine Café and Community Space

The Vine Café and Community Space at Handsacre Methodist Church is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. We serve a wide range of coffees, teas, and hot chocolate, as well as homemade cakes, other sweet treats, toasted tea cakes, omelettes, beans on toast, jam on toast and toasties. There is no set charge, but donations can be made. Afternoon teas are bookable on request.

You are welcome to stay as long as you like - we have books, magazines, colouring, board games and jigsaws for you to enjoy.

We also have:

Chapel Lambs, a family play group, Mondays from 9.30am till 12pm.

The Hangout, a group for children in school years six to eight with food, chat, games and craft, Mondays 3.30pm to 5pm.

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

Craft & Chat, Thursdays. Drop in between 1.30pm and 4pm.

Please see our website: handsacremethodist.org.uk or our Facebook page at The Vine Cafe and Community Space. Do like and follow for all the latest information.

Create Your Own Angel Competition

'Angel' a good spirit that is sent to deliver a message or perform a good deed. Angels are often shown dressed in white, with wings, but each one is totally unique. What will yours look like?

Who can enter?

- 1) Individual Entry under 12 years old
- 2) Individual Entry over 12 years old.
- 3) Schools & Community Groups

How to Enter

Create your very own Angel, then bring your completed Angel to Village Day on Saturday 20th June 2026. Entries to be delivered by 11am for display and judging.

Judging Criteria

Creativity
Craftsmanship
Presentation
Use of Materials

Angel Theme

What Judges look for

Original and imaginative design
Care, effort and skill
Overall appearance
Effective, safe and creative materials
Clearly represents a 'good' Angel

Competition Rules

- Angels to be handmade;
Only 'safe' materials to be used;
- Models maximum height 90cm;
Models to be stable for display; Models to be portable.
- Label it! Don't forget to 'name' your Angel and add your name & age or group name to the label.
- The judges' decision is final.

The winning three Angels, one from each category group, will get a £50.00 cash prize

Deliver your Angel to;

The Village Herald Magazine Stand (on the field, on Village Day)

Competition Organiser. The Village Herald Magazine. c/o St John the Baptist Church, Armitage in conjunction with Village Day 20th June 2026. For more information on our business Angel Programme contact Barry on liddedarlo@gmail.com.



MEETING POINT is a community group of activities open to all residents of Armitage with Handsacre. Disabled people can be transported door to door. All welcome.

01543 491704 or gifford_foote@hotmail.co.uk

TUESDAYS 10am - 11.45am - Drop in to Handsacre Methodist room - the Vine Café. Meet friends over a cuppa and join in with activities and an interesting half hour.

June 2nd: Information and consultation by Citizens Advice about benefits you might be entitled to. Anybody is invited

June 9th: Andrew Tropman is giving a demonstration of pyrography.

June 16th: Craft. Pebble Painting with Pippa from Grace Cares

June 23rd: Garden Party at 46 Uttoxeter Road

June 30th: Quiz

Community Transport: phone 01543 547507

The scheme was started from an idea by Gifford Foote on 19th October 2023. It stemmed from his involvement with the Meeting Point group which meet every Tuesday morning at The Vine, Handsacre and the transport issues involved with getting the less mobile members to the meetings.

We started with five volunteer drivers, one secretary/administrator and a treasurer. We currently have 13 drivers with 12 available cars (one couple share a car for transporting clients). From its start date to April 10th 2026 we have completed 305 jobs, serving 72 villagers taking them to surgeries, dentists, optician appointments and hospitals including Stafford, Derby and Stoke. It is available to any parish resident who can't use public transport and has no family or friends to take them. The cost ranges from £1 to £20. We are averaging 2.4 jobs per week to serve our community.

Clients are so grateful for such an efficient, affordable service and are so relieved when they are told they have a driver to take them to their appointment, often saying they don't know how they would have been able to get to their appointment without it.

Client's pay a nominal charge towards the cost of their journey and the rest of 45p per mile is subsidised by Meeting Point's transport fund.

We have been grateful to receive the support of local councillors and the village memorial service (Armitage Scouts) together with Staffordshire Community Foundation.

The service is open to all villagers who have problems in getting to their medical appointments

Diane Watkins, administrator of The Armitage With Handsacre Community Transport scheme



COACH OUTING TO LIVERPOOL TUESDAY 4th AUGUST

Starting from Handsacre at 8.30am,
return from Liverpool at 5.30pm

Adults £20, Children £10.

To book contact Celia at Meeting Point (The Vine)
or 01543 491704

Join Us for Our Big Church Lunch!



Sunday, 14th June

12.30 PM

St John the Baptist, Armitage
Bring a picnic and come and join us!



Ford Project

Many in the village will remember the much loved ford in Old Road which was destroyed when the road was extended to join New Road. The site became an overgrown eyesore, to the point where it became invisible. A small group of residents resolved to improve the area to something which could be enjoyed again.

After a long time and effort from contractors, volunteers and the support of the Parish Council, who provided the funds, the area is now, once again a place to be appreciated. Sponsors provided a couple of benches to complete the project. So, please go and have a look at what's been done and sit and enjoy.

Roy Fallows

A Church Poem

We come in union,
To have Holy Communion.
We sit/kneel and pray,
Through his Holy word is the way.
In Fellowship and kindness,
Jesus shines his light in the darkness.
Sacred Texts, Sacred Scribes,
Jesus is there by our side.
Jesus love we can preserve,
When we are called to serve.
Our hands we can raise,
Through worship and praise.
In church where I speak to my Lord,
We sing hymns and know our prayers are heard.
Jesus's teachings told us to find,
A way to be kind.
Jesus taught us not to be tempted by greed,
We also say the Apostle and Nicene Creed.
With five loaves and two fishes Jesus did feed,
Our power of faith grew from God's planted seed.

Written by Christine.



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**We thank the following
businesses and individuals
for their support in joining
our Angel initiative.**

Business Angels

N.J & E.T Coles Butchers & Bakery,
AK Feeds Shenstone,
Armitage with Handsacre Village Hall,
Meeting Point

Community Angels

Ann Hyden, Ann Samways, Claire LeVoi,
Barry Liddle. Danny Briggs, Tessa Riley,
Ron Riley, Gifford Foote, Sing For Joy (Lynne
Tandy), Gill Hanson-Giddins, Vivienne
Leyland



CHURCH MICE

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,
Church Lane, Armitage**

Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30am
Church Room open from 10am

A free activity for 0-4yr olds (with their
carers) during school term time.

Refreshments, stories, songs, play &
crafts with a Christian theme.

Donations of £1 per family welcomed

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** Individual store hours may vary — please check with each store*

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** Individual store hours may vary — please check with each store*

THE CANTERBURYS

COMING SOON

FUNDRAISING EVENT

📍 St John The Baptist Church, Armitage

📅 Friday June 5th

7:30pm – 9:30pm (approx.)

ABOUT THE DUO

The Canterburys are Jayne Gould and Colin Whitehouse, an acoustic duo from Rugeley.

They've been performing together for over six years and are about to launch their music on YouTube and major streaming platforms Spotify.

MUSIC STYLE

Folk • Jazz • Blues • Contemporary Songs
• Original Compositions

PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES

- National Trust's Children's Country House, Sudbury
- Bishton Hall, Rugeley
- Framework Folk Club, Nottingham

They also perform at local churches, associations, and private events.

TICKETS & INFO

£6 on the door

✉ liddledarlo@gmail.com

— Refreshments available during the interval —

