

Compass

JULY 2026

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YOUR GUIDE TO WORSHIP JULY



Be joyful.
Grow to maturity.
Encourage
each other.
Live in harmony
and peace.
Then the God of
love and peace
will be with you.

*Pauls second letter to
the church in Corinth
Chapter 13 verse 11*

5

12

19

26

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

10.00^{am} Stowe *Praise Together*
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist

9.30^{am} Burston
9.30^{am} Hixon *Sunday Breakfast*
9.30^{am} Weston
10.30^{am} Methodist Church at **Barlaston** today
11.15^{am} Milwich
11.15^{am} Salt

9.30^{am} Gayton
9.30^{am} Salt
9.30^{am} Weston *Sunday Breakfast*
10.30^{am} Weston Methodist
11.15^{am} Milwich
11.15^{am} Sandon
11.15^{am} Stowe



A letter from Viv

Summer is here and for most people that means holidays! For many, any decent holiday involves heading for the beach. Whether it is a day trip to the seaside, a staycation to our own lovely coast, or going abroad to bluer seas and white beaches, the sea just smells like summer!

There is something magical about the sounds of the sea lapping on a beach, and the gentle sound of waves, lapping too and fro. However, the sea is ever changeable. For several years of my life, I lived close to the sea and saw it in all its changing moods. Indeed, I once broke a so-called indestructible Rover Cross pram by daily dragging it over large stones that a high tide had washed all over the promenade in the middle of winter! Life is very much like the sea, always in a state of flux, always flowing ever changing from high tide to low tide with the sea's tides.

...Life is very much like the sea...

Just this week I have been reading a book of reflection and prayers written by David Adam called "*Tides and Seasons*". David was Vicar of Holy Island in Lindisfarne for 13 years and a rich source of Celtic Spirituality which is very much based on nature and creation. In this book he argues that life is not in fact a journey, going steadily forward towards the final goal, but like the sea – tidal. It starts with youth, the incoming tide. This is a time of excitement and opportunity, looking forward to the sea rolling in, but can also be an uncertain time when we don't really know what is coming. Next comes the full tide, the middle years when we live life to the full. These usually are our best years, but they also lead to floods, when

we can be overwhelmed. But then, we realise that our strength is beginning to ebb away. We realise the tide is turning and the ebb tide has come - the Autumn of our lives. Finally, we get the low tide, the winter, where we experience loss and finally death.

But looking at your life, you realise that life isn't that straight forward. Indeed, I can hear readers in each of these seasons of life shouting at me that at the moment they are experiencing a very different tide, maybe better, maybe worse! And that is because the sea is in a constant state





Letter from Viv - continued flux, forever changing, bringing different tides (continued)

You may be youthful and experiencing low tide, a time full of loss and emptiness, when the sea seems very far away. God may seem far off, but he is still here, offering you Resurrection Hope of new life to come. And remember low tide is the time beach-combers love, because the sea

... the sea comes back - a new beginning ...

as it retreats reveals its treasures left behind. The loss maybe of a job, a relationship, or maybe the death of a loved one. Search that empty shoreline and find the lost treasures, the memories and experiences left behind. And yes, eventually the tide will turn. The end of one thing always heralds the new.

The sea comes back in an incoming tide, a new beginning, new opportunities, a new chapter. New hope. This may however be a frightening time, full of insecurity. You don't know which way the tide is coming and you may be afraid it will cut you off. Again, lean into God, he will guide you on a safe path through. Then we are back to full tide, the sweet spot. This is a busy time, and can be overwhelming. We often tend to forget God and indeed forget our own needs and maybe start to sink. This is the time to think about treading water!

Take that holiday! Or just allow some quiet time to reflect, regroup and find a moment of His Peace! Then, perhaps gradually or perhaps unexpectedly the tide changes and you feel the ebbing away from you. You have no control; the tide is dragging you back to sea. But this is only a season. Soon the tides change and the sea flows again. We must experience the ebb tide if we want to experience the full.

Of course, we all must eventually experience the final low tide, and for Christians this is not a scary place because, as we stand on that final shore on which the waters disappear, we look to that other shore beyond the sea, the eternal shore where we will dwell with God forever.

May God grant you a happy and enriching holiday time!

Vivienne



Sea Tide

Let the love tide swelling
Surround me and my dwelling
Let the power of the mighty sea
Flow in Lord and strengthen me.
Tide of Christ covering my shore
That may I live for evermore

Whatever the tide
The Lord at my side,
In storm or in-calm
To keep me from harm
In good or in ill
He's with me still

"Tides and Seasons" by David Adam

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FRADSWELL



FROM SEED TO HARVEST



At our Plough Sunday service over the years, we gathered to bless not only a plough but also the tools of our various trades and pastimes. Gardeners brought secateurs and trowels, crafters brought knitting needles and crochet hooks, bakers brought their utensils, and farmers

brought the tools of agriculture. Together, we asked God's blessing on the work of our hands in the year ahead. A few months later, at our Lammas service celebrating the first fruits of the harvest, a member of our Fradswell community brought along some beautiful rose hips.

After the service, I took the rose hips home and saved the seeds. They were dried, rehydrated and then kept in the fridge for several months to mimic the natural winter conditions they would experience outdoors. The process required patience. Through the autumn and winter there was very little to see and no guarantee of success. The seeds simply sat in vermiculite in the fridge while life carried on around them. Then, slowly, they began to germinate. Tiny shoots appeared, followed by the first leaves, and today there are well over one hundred healthy young rose plants growing on. As the seedlings developed, it seemed fitting that they should be shared. Young roses are now finding homes in gardens throughout the village, as well as at the Village Hall and the Old Rectory Residential Care Home.

The project brought to mind another service held during 2025. At our Samhain service, marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, acorns, apple pips and grains of wheat were distributed. Each tiny seed held at its heart the hope of future harvests, even though nothing could yet be seen. The rose seeds proved no different. *(continued)*

(continued) For months they appeared lifeless, yet they were quietly preparing for the spring. What began as a handful of rose hips brought to church has become more than one hundred young plants now growing across the community. No two seedlings will be exactly the same. Some may become strong shrubs, others may produce flowers quite different from the parent plant. Their future remains unknown. Like all seeds, they carry the promise of something greater than themselves.

Sarah

EVENTS AT FRADSWELL VILLAGE HALL THIS MONTH

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

The end of term will be Tuesday 14th July but toddlers will meet during the holidays on the following dates : **July 28th**, **August 4th**, **August 18th**.

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

Dementia-friendly coffee morning Wednesday **1st July** 10.00^{am}-12^{noon}

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

There will not be a coffee morning in August.

Whist Tuesday **7th July** 2.00^{pm}- 4.00^{pm} (*there will also be whist in August*)

Please ring Christina Rushton on 07989 057467 for details.

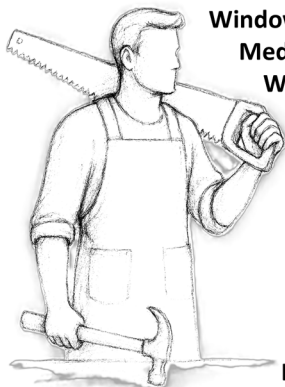
Lunch Club is on **July 15th**. Two course freshly cooked lunch with tea or coffee £6. (*Please note that there is no lunch club in August.*) Booking is essential. Please contact *Irene* on **07770780078** to secure your place.

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



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carole_pilling@hotmail.com

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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
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Wardens Stephen Butt 01785 618248 & 07972838140 stephen.butt@ntlworld.com
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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

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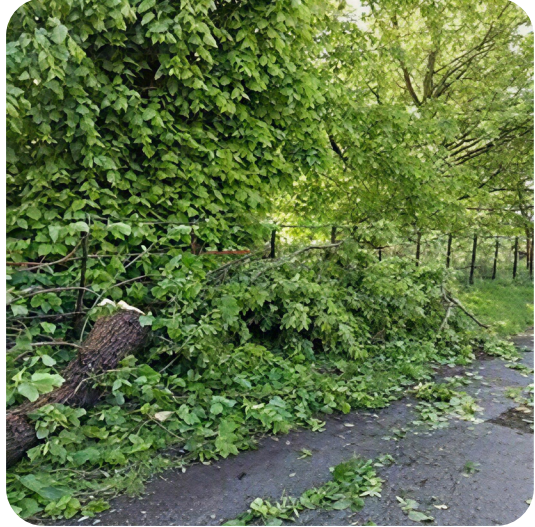
JULY WORSHIP

Sunday 26th

9.30^{am} Holy Communion

A Tree-ky Problem!

In the middle of May the large Lime tree that had reduction work done back in spring 2024, dropped a large branch in a short storm which landed on the road causing a temporary blockage. Since then, the Tree surgeons have had a look and are proposing to lower and remove the branches and leave a Monolith trunk, to prevent any further issues that may arise.



We are discussing this as a PCC and liaising with the tree surgeons as to how and when this will be done and whether the lane will need to be closed for a short time and/or electric supply affected as last time- hopefully not the case.

This will Cost the Church over £1,000 and will deplete our financial situation further. We have made the Diocese financial team and the Archdeacon aware of the difficulties which make it hard to see how we will manage going forward.

We were planning to have a work party to work on the fence in July but given the tree situation - that is on hold. When the tree work is being done we will put any relevant information out on village What's App.

Jane Rock Church Warden



Centenary Celebrations

Sunday **August 9th 2026** marks a very special occasion-the centenary of Hixon Memorial Hall. This will be a celebration of 100 years of memories, community and history! We have already begun the lead-up to this milestone with the very special visit of BBC Radio 4 "Any Questions?" broadcast live from the Hall on June 19th. But there is lots more to come:

July 31st A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel - concert in the Hall, tickets from hmhevents1926@gmail.com and The Chop Shop, Hixon.

August 6th The now legendary talk on RAF Hixon by Malcom Garner. (*Free*)

August 8th/9th History exhibition, focusing on the 100 years of the Hall's life and times. 10.00^{am} till 5.00^{pm} both days. (*Free*)

On August 9th The BIG day kicks off at **1.00^{pm}**. As well as the history exhibition, there will be stands and displays promoting the variety of clubs and organisations who use the Hall and local businesses who have a connection with the Hall. We are delighted to have secured the services of the versatile **Penkhull Brass Band** who will be entertaining us throughout the afternoon. *The main event of the celebrations will be the unveiling of a commemorative stone.* This will be performed by Jasset Ormsby Gore, now Lord Harlech. He is the *great grandson* of Capt. the Hon W. G. A. Ormsby Core MP, who laid the foundation stone on August 7th 1926! We are fortunate to have some photographs and documents dating back to the Hall's construction in 1926. If you have any photos from events held at the Hall over the years, we would be extremely grateful if we could borrow them, or you would allow us to make copies.

On the Sunday, alongside the other activities, we would like to feature 3 or 4 **classic English family cars** from the **1920s–1930s** to help bring the era to life. If you own a vehicle from this period and would like to take part, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact for photos and cars: Mark Farrington 07814453326
or hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday

5th

19th

8.00^{am} Holy Communion

9.30^{am} **Sunday Breakfast** (*in the Guide Hall*)

**SORT
YOUR
LIFE
OUT**
in ONE day!



St Peter's Church Sort Your Life out cleaning day!

On Saturday 6th June, we held our own version of the BBC show – Sort Your Life Out!! And we certainly did not need a *Stacey Solomon* to guide us when we had the formidable team of Marg Prince, Lorraine Anson, Eileen Anson, Mary Wilebur & Tim Moss!! Items that had not seen the light of day for many years were taken out, dusted off, sorted out, recycled or thrown out. Whilst no one actually, saw *The Church Mouse*.... there was definite evidence of their existence.

The team did good!!! The church looks fabulous. We need to say additional special thanks to Joy, from *Joy of Flowers* for the beautiful artificial floral displays that now adorn every window alcove along with those behind the altar. Thank you so much Joy.

The church was looking and smelling wonderful for our first Sunday Opening Day which continues **every Sunday starting at 8.30^{am}**. We have provided battery candles, a new visitors book and some prayer cards. This is an opportunity for you to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones, provide a moment of solitude for contemplation and prayer. Please feel free to visit when you can.

We would also like to send our thanks to *Caroline Highland & Joy* for providing the fresh flowers for the Team Church Service which took place on Sunday 14th June. It was so lovely to see the Church so full. God Bless.

St Peter's PCC

Last month *James Robson* talked about his work at **RAF Cosford**. James went to school at Hednesford where he had a particular interest in history. He then went to Birmingham University and got a degree in History. On finishing his education in 2023, he found full time employment at the museum. James has also spent time at MOD Stafford helping to dismantle and transport equipment to Cosford

RAF Cosford opened in 1938 as an aircraft maintenance, storage and technical training station. During the Second World War it trained 70,000 airmen in engine, airframe and armament trades and also contained a Hospital. The Museum opened in 1979 and includes several developmental aircraft such as those that led to the English Electric Lightning. It also houses the only two surviving Vickers Wellingtons left in the world. And it is this plane that James is enthralled with.

The Wellington bomber was designed using the *geodetic* construction principles developed by *Barnes Wallis* which was a metallic criss-cross frame. It was very strong but also light-weight and 11,000 Wellingtons were produced. James said that it had a reputation of getting you home, even if it was on fire! Another of his favourites is the Mosquito which is made of wood and is actually faster than the Spitfire!

The Cold War Exhibition was opened on 7 February 2007 by former PM Baroness Thatcher and HRH Princess Anne. Exhibits include the only collection of three V bombers (Valiant, Victor and Vulcan) in the same place in the world.

Admission to RAF COSFORD is free every day from 10.00^{am} but you need to pay for parking! At busy times Pre-booking is necessary.



On **Tuesday July 7th** our meeting at Hixon Memorial Hall, starting at 8.00^{pm}, will feature a talk by *Charlotte Ball*
The Saint and the Viking.
(Admission £2.)

John Eggington

Hixon Memorial Hall

History Exhibition

**Enjoy the delightful sound
of the Penkhull Brass Band**

Displays and stands from clubs
and organisations from the village

**Saturday 9th
August 1.00pm**

**Centenary Celebrations
1926-2026**

Unveiling of a commemorative stone by
The Rt Hon. The Lord Harlech at 2.00pm

Join us in celebrating a century of memories

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SUMMER IN HIXON

THE STORY OF
RAF HIXON
 Thursday 6th Aug 2.30pm



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Tai Chi

Dave Llewellyn

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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

Tango Tea Dance (monthly on Second Sunday)

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

alisonfreeman@taftwharffarm.co.uk

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

kmbailey1973@gmail.com

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

eccleshall.taichi@gmail.com

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

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

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

mosstimothy90@gmail.com

2nd Tuesday 8.00^{pm}

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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

www.hixon.gov.uk

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

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

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

emmacowell98@hotmail.com

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

lifeinmotion@outlook.com

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

hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com

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

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

sacredsoulechoes@gmail.com

Sunday 3.00^{pm} - 7.00^{pm}

danceargentinotango058@gmail.com

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JULY WORSHIP

Sunday 19th

9.30^{am} Holy Communion

Coffee Morning All welcome for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on **Tuesday July 28th** 10.30^{am}-12^{noon}. Only £2.50! Also a bookstall and lots of chatter! For 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 Our speaker for the June meeting was *Catherine Baxter* telling us all about the history and development of **Harper Adams College**, which is now a **University**.

July will be our AGM with light refreshments provided. Further forward we have our Summer buffet on **Saturday 22nd August** at Hopton village hall. All are welcome, please contact us for tickets.

Membership of the guild renews in September and is only £15 per year, but we are always pleased to encourage visitors (£2.50 each per night) to our monthly meetings, where you will be made very welcome and be entertained by speakers covering a wide variety of interests. We normally meet at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month in Hopton village hall. For information please contact *Jill Buss* on **01785 259808** or look out for our yellow monthly newsletter on local village notice boards.

Hopton Knit & Natter meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 2.00^{pm} & 4.00^{pm} at Hopton Village Hall. The cost of a session is £3 to include tea & cake. 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.

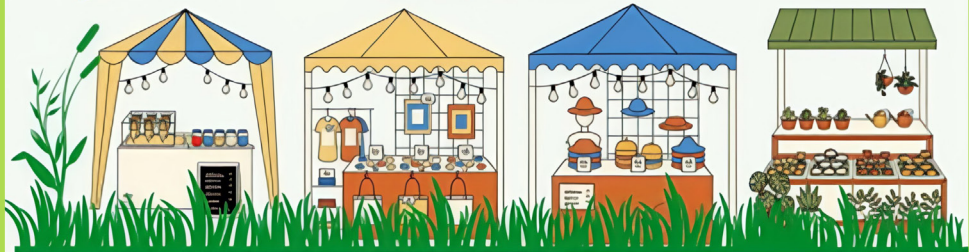


Hopton & Coton Parish Council Summer Fayre

Saturday
1st August 2026
12^{noon} - 4.00^{pm}

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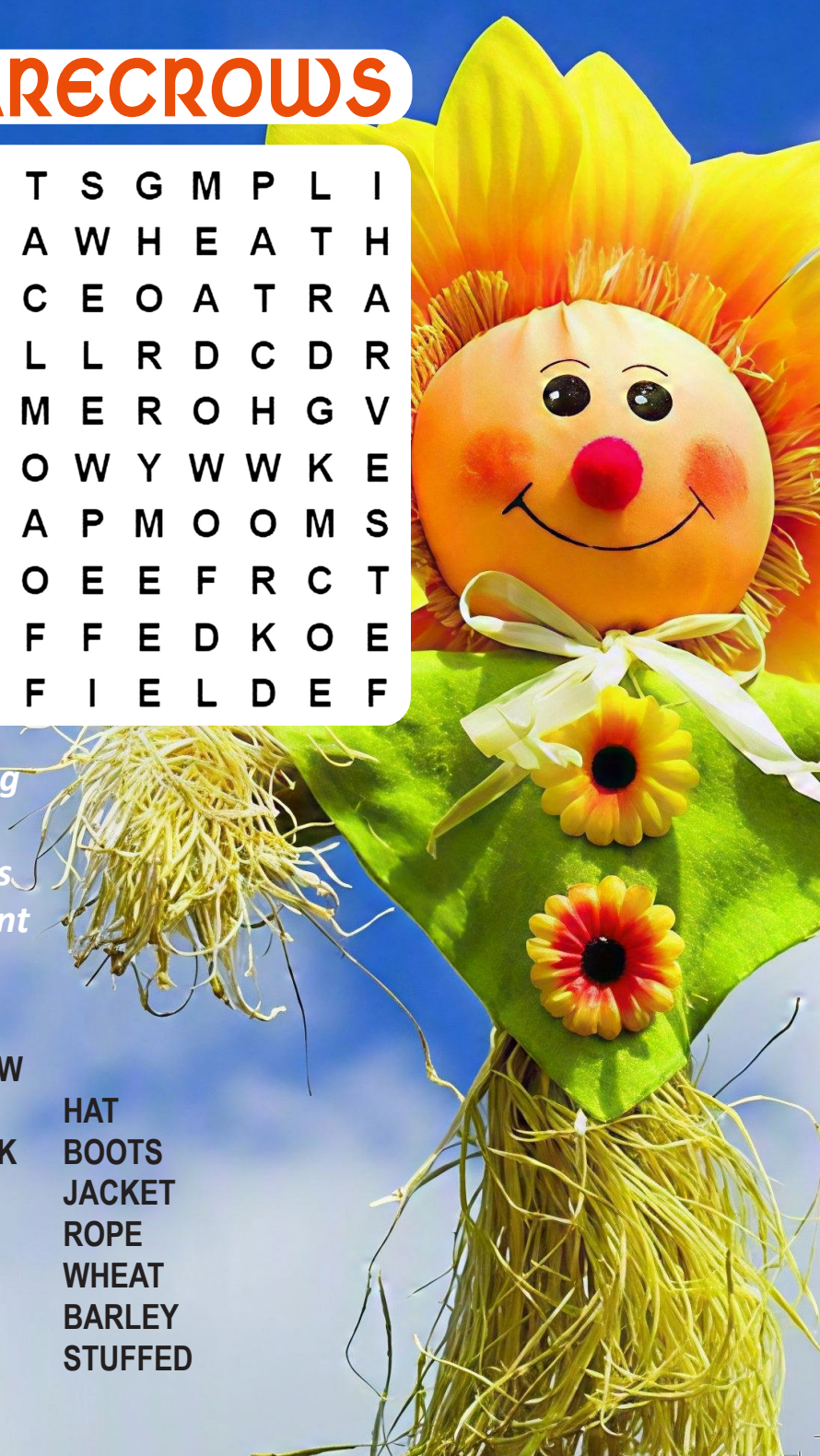
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Milwich with
Fradswell
Parish Council

2025/2026

Restoration of Mileposts

Mileposts in Fradswell and Milwich have been cleaned and repainted by Parish Councillors.

Litter Picking

Another successful litter picking weekend was organised and co-ordinated with over 20 bags of rubbish collected.

Tommy Unknown Soldier & Women in War Statues

Two sets of statues, made by Royal British Veterans Enterprise, have been purchased and will be displayed in November.



Refurbished Benches

Two wooden benches in The Allways were in a sorry state. They have been refurbished, with materials and labour donated by The Company of Horsemen.

The Moorcroft Charity Book

A new glass display cabinet has been sourced and installed by Parish Council to preserve the handwritten ledger. It shows all donations made by this local fund since 1908, now on display in Milwich Church.

Secret Playground Safety Checks

The Secret Playground in Milwich is inspected weekly by Parish Councillors to ensure safety compliance and good maintenance. The equipment has been repainted this year too.

Brick Kiln Pits

Managing of this local fishing lake, licenses and ensuring ongoing maintenance.

Fete Funding

Successful application to Stafford Borough Council for a donation to support village Fete and Milwich Village Hall.

Defibrillator at Milwich Village Hall

The Moorcroft Charity primarily funded, with support from Parish Council, the installation of an upgraded protective box and also three free-to-attend CPR training courses.

Parish
Council
Website



**If you see POTHoles, FLY TIPPING or HIGHWAYS ISSUES
please report them directly to
formshighways.staffordshire.gov.uk**

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday	5 th	11.15 ^{am} Morning Praise
	19 st	11.15 ^{am} Holy Communion
	26 th	11.15 ^{am} Holy Communion



All Saints Church would sincerely like to thank the *Friends of the Church* as the money they donate has allowed us to purchase a smaller noticeboard for the churchyard. Our larger board on the drive will host a welcome poster and the smaller one will contain up to date and current information. If you are interested in becoming a *Friend of Milwich Church* please contact aspcsecretary@outlook.com In return for a regular donation of your choice you will receive discounted tickets to any of our events.

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

Warm Welcome Group Meets each month on the second Wednesday, from 10.00^{am} – 1.00^{pm}. The next meeting is on **Wednesday July 8th**. For more details, please contact Elaine 07702 865011.

Breakfast Club The monthly breakfast club at Milwich Village Hall is serving cooked breakfast, pastries and drinks on **Saturday July 25th** from 8.30^{am} - 11.30^{am} Everyone is welcome.

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 July 21st** It's a fun night with refreshments, £3pp, 4 in a team. *All proceeds to Marie Curie.* New teams welcomed.

The Milwich & District Produce Guild The next meeting in the Village Hall will be in **Thursday 27th August** – *see details in next issue of Compass.*

Milwich with Fradswell Parish Council

Next Meeting: Wednesday **July 15th** in Milwich Village Hall.

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 Parishioners in the Garshall Green and Milwich Heath areas may notice their magazines being delivered by **PONY** when the weather allows!

Lucy and **Mollie**, ably assisted by riders *Jayne* and *Ange* were found halfway through their round recently as you may see. In this rural area, dog walks, bikes and a car are also used to get **Compass** to every person who wants their copy delivered.

If you know of someone who would like this service, just contact the Compass Rep listed on the Mid Trent Team page.

Date for your Diary ALL SAINTS CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER
 Tuesday 29 September, 2026 at 7.00pm £20 per person
 Please call Elaine **01889 505414** to reserve your place

FREE ENTRY

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST FROM 1PM

JOIN US FOR THE MILWICH PICNIC AND SPORTS DAY

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 HOOPLA - BEAT THE KEEPER
 RAFFLE - FACE PAINTING - CAKES
 BBQ - LIVE MUSIC - PORTRAIT PAINTING - PIMMS STALL

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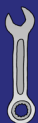
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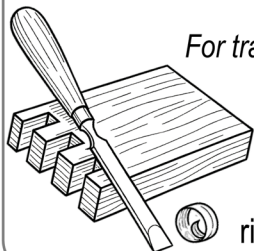
There is a special offer this month: if you have items that need alteration you can drop them off at the cafe and pay when you pick them up in August.



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JULY WORSHIP

Sunday	5th	9.30^{am}	Holy Communion
	19th	11.15^{am}	Holy Communion
	26th	9.30^{am}	Morning Praise

Salt & Hopton Churches: Easyfundraising In order to maintain our lovely buildings, we need extra income and every little helps! You can support us and sign up at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/salthoptonchurches/

House of Bread

There will be no HOB collections from Salt during July & August. Collections will recommence on Wednesday **September 2nd**.

Salt & Enson Parish Council The next Council meeting (open to the public) will be on Wednesday **July 1st** in Salt Village Hall. Parish Clerk: David Croxton clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk
www.saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk

Salt & District Friendship Club
Wednesday **July 8th & 22nd** 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.

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)



Skip Day

Salt Village Hall

Saturday 4th July 10am – 12.30pm

Bacon Butties
Craft Stalls
Home-made cakes and Preserves

Looking forward to seeing you there
Everyone welcome

Please note the skip will only be there between 10.30 – 12.30am



Ride & Stride 2026 September 12th This event offers an opportunity for people to ride their cycle or walk to a wide variety of Staffordshire churches. The participant obtains sponsorship from friends, family and neighbours and work colleagues. Half of the money raised goes to the church they are riding or striding for, and the other half goes to Staffordshire Historic Churches who disburse the money to local churches in the form of grants for restoration work. **Salt ,Hopton, and other churches in Mid Trent Team, will be participating. More details in the August/September double issue of Compass.** If you would like to *Ride & Stride* to raise money for Salt & Hopton churches please contact *Janet Stubbs* via saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com

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SANDON & BURSTON

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday	5 th 11.15 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	19 th 9.30 ^{am}	Holy Communion @ BURSTON
	26 th 11.15 ^{am}	BCP Matins

DONATIONS WELCOME! for the Burston Tea Party *Cakes, bottle, plants, raffle/ tombola prizes. Please drop off at BURSTON HOUSE on Saturday 11th July.*

Contact Alice: 07813 667005

BURSTON TEA PARTY

Sunday July 12th
Starts 2.00^{pm}

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10:00^{am} - 16:00^{pm} (no need to book)

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- Refreshments available
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Most of the works are now complete and will bring great pleasure to our congregation and visitors. We already have new notice boards both inside and out and we are working on display boards and leaflets to further improve the information available to visitors.

There are lots of activities coming up. Our Knit & Natter group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday at The Greyhound Inn. Some members are also turning their skills to a heritage cross stitch. Others will be knitting squares to make blankets for North Staffs Hospital neonatal unit.



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust brought lots of activities for our Bio Blitz Day in May. Enthusiastic young entomologists had a super time in the long grass using large nets to catch an interesting selection of beetles, weevils and flies. The SWT staff were very knowledgeable and helped everyone identify some unusual looking insects as well as plants and trees. There were some nature crafts on offer as well, with some beautiful flower crowns and clay creatures made using natural materials found around the grounds. Visitors also had the opportunity to take part in our new Butterfly and Moth Trail, searching for wooden butterflies and moths beautifully decorated by members of Oak Tree Farm Rural Project. The trail will be in the churchyard until September – goody bags and prizes available.

Save the Dates - *our planned activities.*

Heritage Open Day Sunday 20 September.

Details will be in the next Compass - **August/September double issue**

Harvest Supper Friday **October 2nd**

Village History Walk Sunday **October 4th**

Stafford Grammar School Big Band Friday **December 11th**

Sandon and Burston Parish Council Report

We are looking to work with Hopton and Coton Parish Council in an attempt to get *Bloor Homes* to stop or minimise Sandon Road closures. Could it be managed with a single track & traffic lights instead? Possibly this option would mean more cost for the developer but it would save travel time, fuel for local residents - and lessen the environmental impact of increased mileage.

Burston Tea Party is back on July 12th at 2.00^{pm} in Burston. This is an event that the Parish Council has actively supported with a grant given to support a local initiative. *All are welcome.*

At the time of writing SCC have confirmed that the River Trent bridge replacement work is due to start in June, but no date has yet been announced.

Hugo Wildblood, Chair of Sandon & Burston Parish Council.

SANDON
in the past



The ancient Old Oak of Sandon was situated on the Salt Drive of Sandon Hall, it was a much-loved tree over the centuries with a seat erected around it due to the fact that it was the last tree locally that was originally part of the kingdom of Mercia. Very few pictures are in existence of the tree although a painting was given to Lady Francis Ryder in 1906 due to it being a favourite spot for her to sit. It's unsure if the history of the tree was known but in June 2022 it was finally removed during clearing of vegetation. *Simon Shelley*

Personality from the Pew

My name is *Janet Dawson* and I am the Treasurer at All Saints' Church. I have been in this role since around 2012 when the opportunity to take the role was "offered" to me by the then churchwardens after the service one Sunday! Fortunately, I do enjoy the role which has become much more complicated recently with the finances around the heritage project at the church. I joined the church about 20 years ago after I had attended the *Alpha Course* run across the Benefice and decided that Sandon and the Book of Common Prayer based worship, worked for me. I also appreciated the warm welcome I was given.



I spent much of my early school years in Stafford before moving with my family to Cheshire and Northamptonshire before moving back to Stafford when I married. My executive career was spent in pensions and benefits management and HR and I am now a non-executive director on two boards, one for the NHS in North Staffordshire and the other for a private company in Northamptonshire. My leisure time is spent on the heritage project at the church, gardening and caravanning.

My favourite bible passage is 1 Corinthians 13: verses 4 – 6. These words are a great reminder of how to deal with one another!

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It does not dishonour
others, it is not self-seeking, it is not
easily angered, it keeps no record of
wrongs. Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.

My favourite hymn is *Love Divine* –
totally uplifting words and music.





Sandon WI Well, it's July already, where did the year go? The topic for this month is the **National Year of Reading**. We know that HRH Queen Camilla is an avid reader and is keen to encourage youngsters to read for pleasure. I don't know about you but there is nothing better than curling up on the sofa with a good book, possibly with a glass of wine close by. 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 each month in Sandon Parish Rooms, Lichfield Road at 7.30 pm. Contact: Judy Goodson, *President* 01785 613966 or sandonwisecretary@gmail.com

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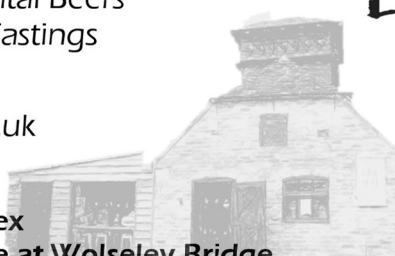
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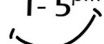


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STOWE-BY-CHARTLEY

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday	5 th	11.15 ^{am}	Morning Praise
	12 th	10.00 ^{am}	Praise Together
	26 th	11.15 ^{am}	Holy Communion

Coffee Morning at Stowe Village Hall Just wander along and join us for a chat. Our next mornings will be on **July 23rd** 10.00^{am}-12^{noon} *All Welcome.*

Scarecrow Festival Trail

The village of Stowe by Chartley are very excited to launch their special festival Trail of Scarecrows for the third year running. We are also pleased to confirm that we have had requests from Hixon residence to join in the fun this year. Anyone can participate in the competition, individuals or businesses, providing they are within the parishes of Stowe by Chartley or Hixon. Our theme is **Nursery Rhymes** and everyone should display their scarecrows from **8 August until 1 September 2026**. There are two significant celebrations this year with Stowe Village Hall celebrating a fantastic hundred years of service to the community and the Best kept Village Competition also celebrating 70 years of *(continued)* running *(continued)* this very prestigious Staffordshire community competition. If these two milestone events, could in some way be celebrated in the entries for the scarecrow competition this would be amazing.



Rules and Application Forms for the competition can be found on www.stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk (under *Recent Posts*) or www.stowebychartley.co.uk (under *Forthcoming Events*)

Prize money sponsored by Amerton Farm Ltd:

1st Prize £50, 2nd Prize £25, 3rd Prize £10

Also rosette's and other special prizes. Awards will be presented at the Stowe by Chartley Village Fete at 4.00^{pm}.

Altar Flowers JULY 5 & 12 *Kath Sargeant* 19 & 26 *Cathie Robinson*
Brass Cleaning *Kath Sargeant*

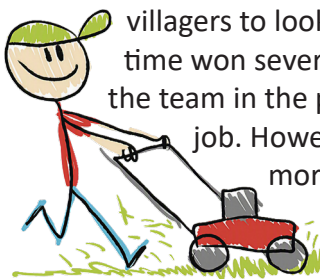
**MONTHLY
DRAW**

JUNE: 50 *CHane & Jeanette Phillips*

Congratulations!



Keeping the Churchyard Beautiful. We have had a dedicated team of villagers to look after the churchyard for many years, and in that time won several awards. There have been a few changes in the team in the past, but we have always managed to cover the job. However, we are now struggling and need a couple more volunteers. The job is to mow a section of the churchyard for about 1½ hours every 2-3 weeks in the summer, depending on the weather. We have powered mowers, and the job can be done whenever convenient. If you think you might be able to help us, even on odd occasions, please contact me for a chat. My phone number is **01889 270366**. Thank you, *John Reed*.



Village Produce and Garden Guild May's talk, *Breathing New Life Into the Gardens at Sandon Hall*, gave a fascinating insight into the history and ongoing restoration of the estate gardens. We learned that the hall sits on sandstone, creating very sandy soil that quickly drains after heavy rain, meaning the gardens can swing from waterlogged conditions to needing irrigation within days. A major focus of the talk was the estate's move towards more sustainable and wildlife-friendly gardening. The team no longer uses herbicides or pesticides, instead relying on methods such as vinegar spray for weeding, dead-heading, increased water features, and more native planting to encourage biodiversity. The estate is also a release site for hedgehogs. One particularly moving feature is the restored *Friends Garden*, inspired by delegates from nations involved in the First World War who originally planted commemorative trees there. Recreated in 2017 with a wildflower meadow, the project continues into 2026–27. We also heard about the amphitheatre's 1,108 roses and the beautifully replanted wedding "aisle" lined with apple and pear trees surrounded by seasonal white flowers.

Although the estate employed around 30 staff in the early 1900s, today the gardens are maintained by a much smaller team of two full-time staff, two part-time staff, and three volunteers across 50 acres of woodland walks, formal gardens, and an amphitheatre.

For June's garden visit, members were invited to a beautiful privately-owned garden where we were welcomed with tea and homemade cakes



to enjoy with our exploration of the garden. The property, which was once part of a farmstead, has been thoughtfully renovated into a charming home with a stunning garden. Highlights included a greenhouse filled with fruit trees and tomatoes; a magnificent rose garden showcasing a variety of colourful blooms; and a productive vegetable plot featuring some sizeable onions, beetroot, garlic, fennel, strawberries and a range of other edible delights. We also enjoyed visiting the resident chickens and looking at pictures of how the house and garden have developed over the years. It was a most enjoyable evening, made better by the glorious sunshine, and we are grateful to our host for allowing us to peruse at our leisure.

Next meeting: Wednesday **July 15th** Bring all your entries for the Rose & Sweet Pea Show detail of classes on your membership card. The meeting will include a talk by *Paul Woolley* on “**Rewilding**”



Stowe-by-Chartley WI In June we were treated to a highly entertaining talk from the author *Priscilla Masters*, best known for her crime fiction series featuring female detective Joanna Piercy. She started with some hilarious tales from her rather unconventional childhood. Born

in Halifax to an unmarried mother who clearly loved and cared for her for the first 6 weeks of her life, she was adopted by an orthopaedic surgeon and his wife; the third adopted child in what went on to become a family of 7, all from different backgrounds and mixed nationalities. The family owned an old Bedford van adapted to carry the family of nine plus grandparents and a canoe on holidays and her memories of these trips were delightful.

At the age of 8 or 9 Priscilla read a book called *Priscilla's Caravan* and became desperate to own a Romany caravan. Her father eventually located and purchased one from a scrapyard for £50; from that time she lived outside of the house in her caravan. Her next obsession was to play the harp which she and her sister went on to learn. At age 16 she left the family home in Wales to move to Birmingham and a year later she became a student nurse at Queen Elizabeth Hospital where she met her husband, a medical student who was himself very unconventional - living at that time in his car. Eventually he became a GP working in the (*continued*)

(continued) Potteries and they had 2 boys. Her life was busy running the family home and helping with her husband's antique business while he worked as a GP. She had not thought about writing until a visiting aunt asked what she intended to do with her life and she declared that she would write a book just to shut her up! So she wrote her first book and it was "like opening another universe". Her 2 boys gained places at Newcastle-Under-Lyme School and she went back to nursing; the writing had to fit in around her busy life. This was when she started to write the Joanna Piercy series based in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Priscilla finally gave us plenty of time to ask questions to complete a **superb** presentation. **Next meeting: July 14th** with a talk on the *Making of Woven Bags from the Phillipines*. Visitors are most welcome.



**Stowe By Chartley
Village Fete**

Sunday 30th August 2026
Commencing 1:00pm on the Parish Playing Field

BIG RAFFLE WITH 15 PRIZES

1st Prize £125
Raffle Tickets £2 each

Support your local fete

Bowling, punch & judy, coconut shy, brass band,
Tombola, hook a duck, hot food & cold drinks, licensed bar,
Name the teddy, vintage tractors + much more . . .
Tea Garden with cakes & scones hosted by Stowe W.I

Free entrance and one free ice cream
for all children under 13

Adult entry only £1

Contact: Shane Phillips (07913-967279) or
Jeremy Bramall (07956-410061)

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday	5 th	11.15 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	19 th	9.30 ^{am}	Holy Communion
	26 th	9.30 ^{am}	Sunday Breakfast



July 4th & 5th **OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND**

Lots of lovely gardens
for you to

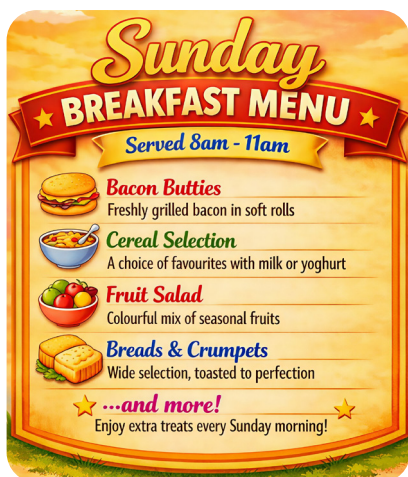
EXPLORE from 11 till 4

Entry to gardens (including Abbeylands
Classic & Vintage cars) **£5.00 per person**
(Children free)

Ice Cream & Refreshments available
each day plus Cakes, Books & Plants
for sale. *Guide/entry pass - available
from any participating garden - just
look for the signs and balloons.*

... **and all over the Village...**
there are Scarecrows to spot!

Scarecrow Prize Winners will be
announced at 4.30^{pm} on Sunday 5th July.



Sunday Breakfast

...will be served in St. Andrew's church
from **9.30^{am}** on **Sunday July 26th**, followed
by a short informal service.

All ages welcome.

Three Days of Flower Festival

at St Andrew's during **August Bank
Holiday Weekend 29th-31st August.**

If you would like to help by decorating the
church or sponsoring an arrangement,
then please contact *Doreen* 01889 207383
Pat 07419 128 317 or *Gill* 01889 270594



Weston & Gayton Parish Council News Update

Local improvements New memorial benches have been installed and additional dog fouling signage has been approved.

Village events The Summer Fete was held on 13 June, and St Andrew's School Colour Run will take place on 16 July on the Village Green.

Planning matters The Parish Council continues to engage with current planning applications and represents residents' views on local developments.

Village Hall update Building repairs are now complete. The Committee continues its programme of community events.

Parish Councillor vacancies There are currently **TWO vacancies** (Weston and Gayton). If you are interested, please contact the Clerk at clerk@westongayton-pc.gov.uk

Stafford Plan consultation The consultation is now open. Residents can view details and comment via Stafford Borough Council:
www.staffordbc.gov.uk/new-local-plan-2025-to-2045

Hazel and Kevin invite you to a Canalside Afternoon Tea

on **Sunday 2nd August** 2.00^{pm} - 5.00^{pm}

8 Meadowbank Avenue, Weston ST18 0HE

*Full afternoon tea, sandwiches, home made scones
and cakes, as much as you can eat!!*

This year we are delighted that the **Local Vocals**
will serenade us as we enjoy
the tea and the garden by the canal.



Tickets £20 available from Hazel

07792 844012 & 01889 271929

hazelevanscakes@gmail.com

Please book soon, places are limited
All proceeds to St. Andrew's Church



50

St Andrew's school is celebrating FIFTY years on our site in the

2025/26 academic year. A part of our remembering happened on Friday June 19th when we had a special celebration afternoon.

This began with the arrival of The Bishop of Stafford at 1.30^{pm} and after tea and cake Bishop Matthew was taken on a tour of the school by our Worship group. They were then joined by children from the School Council who helped to plant our five new fruit trees which make up our Anniversary Orchard. Bishop Matthew also cut the ribbon on our newly refurbished reflective seating area. Bishop Matthew blessed both the orchard and the reflective area.



At 2.30^{pm} parents and friends of the school joined us on the playground for a celebration service. Four Year 6 children ran the service with the help of Mrs Beardmore, Rev Viv and the Bishop of Stafford. The children sang or recited poems that they had written for this event.

Each class had created/written/drawn something to go into our new time capsule which will be reburied before the end of term.

Both Mrs Boothby and Rev Viv talked about their experiences and connections with the school. The worship group led us in prayer and Bishop Matthew finished the service by giving us a blessing.



WHAT'S ON AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday Coffee Mornings & Book & Puzzle exchange Healing Voices Choir

The Secretary 07936683904

FSD Dance

Olivia Falsone 07931503901

Ladies Badminton

Angela Martin 07968638170

Indoor Bowls

Gail Wray 07443 601258

Mixed Badminton

June Munden

Pilates

Lucy Lainton

Table Tennis

 practice sessions

Stephen Gadsby 01785 248039

U3A Table Tennis

Carol Burnett

Yoga

Elena Leoncelli 07428504503

July 6th & 20th

10.00 - 12.00^{noon} *Just turn up !*

Monday 19.30 - 21.30^{am}

thehealingvoiceschoir@gmail.com

Tuesday 5.45 – 7.15^{pm}

Friday 4.30 – 6.00^{pm}

falsoneschoolofdance@hotmail.com

Monday 2.00 – 4.00^{pm}

ianangmartin@gmail.com

Thursday (Sept. to May) 2.00 - 4.00^{pm}

gail.stubbswray@tiscali.co.uk

Thursday 7.30 – 9.00^{pm}

jamunden@yahoo.co.uk

Players with experience welcome -

first session free

Wednesday 6.15 – 7.15^{pm}

lucy@strengtheninmovement.co.uk

Tuesday 7.30 – 9.15^{pm}

Monday 10.00 – 11.00^{am}

carolbur99@gmail.com (waiting list)

Monday & Thursday 6 – 7.15^{pm}

elenacelli@hotmail.com



FOR HALL BOOKINGS

PLEASE CONTACT DEREK

westonvh@outlook.com

or use our website

westonvillagehall.com



The Heart of Weston 100+ Club

results for June:

1st Prize £61 Claire Clarke (218)

2nd Prize £40 Carol Thomas (155)

3rd Prize £28 Alan Sneath (230)

WESTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE 2026



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Summer Fete such a success. Together, we raised more than £4,300 in valuable funds for our village hall. Whether you helped to set up, packed away at the end of the day, ran a stall, danced, or came along to enjoy the event, your support is greatly appreciated. We could not do it without you all - thank you!



WVH Maintenance Update... Outside...

We are delighted with the new fascia boarding and guttering at the hall. Many thanks to PJM Roofing for their work on this project.

...and inside
the hall is
looking smart
and welcoming
for all functions.



Would YOU like to help run our Village Hall?

If you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact:
secretarywestonvh@gmail.com
Your Volunteer Committee
Chair:

Jon Mayne

Treasurer & Secretary:

Alison Elsmore

Bookings Secretary:

Derek Gair

Parish Council:

Julie Gair

Committee Members:

Angela Martin & Gail Wray

Only a few places left!



**Tickets
£12 each
Contact
Julie Gair
07906
939251**

WESTON METHODIST CHURCH

JULY WORSHIP - SUNDAYS

- 5th **Sunday Service** (David Hemmingway)
12th **Sunday Service** (Edna Winnington)
19th **Joint Service at Barlaston Church (ST12 9DP)**
(Rev David Bintliff) **including Holy Communion.**
26th **Sunday Service** (Sue McCready-Shea)
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 10.30^{AM}



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



Tea Cake & Natter

Tuesday July 7th

2.00^{pm} - 4.00^{pm}

at

Weston Methodist Church

Just come along!

MONDAY MEETINGS at 10.30^{am}

Bible Study 13th July

Prayer Meeting 27th July



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
Hall Bookings Secretary

Rev David Bintliff
Dr Susan McCready-Shea
Mrs Margie Egginton

01785 229973
01889 271488
01889 207040

STAFFORD FLOWER CLUB OPEN EVENING

A Floral Demonstration by David Mason
WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT?
Wednesday 22nd July starting at 7.30^{pm}

All Are Welcome

Visitors £12.00 Members £5.00 *Including light refreshments*

Tickets or further details: Ros 07985 602287
staffordflowerclub@gmail.com

Rising Brook Methodist Church
Burton Square, Rising Brook
Stafford. ST17 9DH

Raffle Monies to be donated to
Headway, a charity for head injuries

RIP & RECYCLE: BIG KNIT WORKSHOP Wednesday August 19th
 from 10.15^{am} to 11.15^{am} at Upper Moreton Farm, Wolseley Bridge
 ST18 0XD. This workshop, with Tutor Igrid Wagner, costs £15 per person
 and ten places are available. Attendees will learn to rip and recycle
 unwanted cotton sheets/quilt covers/curtains/towels to make a fab
 bathmat or seat cushion. Basic Knit stitch will be used. Learn how to
 handle Big Knit Needles using multiple strands of cotton yarn and create
 tassels. *It is advisable for attendees to know how to cast on/off plus basic knit stitch.*
 Contact Ingrid 07717 036213 *ingridwagner976@gmail*

There will be TWO visits
from the library
this month.

Monday July 6th
Monday July 20th

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





building community in Mid Trent

Please send all stories for the

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

DOUBLE ISSUE

to

compassmtc@gmail.com

no later than

FRIDAY 18 July 2026

Weston Quick Quiz Answers *(May Compass)*

1. Chartley Estate
2. They are bells in St. Andrew's Church
3. George Gilbert Scott & William Butterfield
4. No train has stopped in Weston since that date
5. A Methodist Meeting place
6. Fifteen

...and if you have not kept your copy of the May edition of Compass, perhaps you can have fun working out what the QUESTIONS were!



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and trade enquiries contact
compassadverts@gmail.com