
Compass
OCTOBER 2026
Aston Lodge Weston
Rugeley
151
181
BATTERY UNDER FLAP
Chaserider
YK57 FHJ
YOUR ROUTE 151 TIMETABLE IS ON PAGE 55

YOUR GUIDE TO WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

The faithful love of the Lord never ends, his mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness...

Lamentations 3:22-23

4	8.00am	Hixon
	9.30am	Salt
	10.30am	Weston Methodist HARVEST
	11.15am	Milwich
	11.15am	Sandon
	11.15am	Stowe HARVEST
	11.15am	Weston HARVEST
11	10.00am	Stowe PRAISE TOGETHER
	10.30am	Weston Methodist
18	9.30am	Burston
	9.30am	Weston
	10.00am	Salt HARVEST
	11.15am	Hixon
	11.15am	Milwich
		
25	9.30am	Gayton
	9.30am	Hopton
	9.30am	Weston SUNDAY BREAKFAST
	10.30am	Weston Methodist
	11.15am	Milwich
	11.15am	Sandon
	11.15am	Stowe

A letter from Viv



Recently I read a book which was narrated by a tree!* This tree had grown from a cutting taken from a tree destroyed in an area of civil war . It had been carried by a refugee and planted in a country where it was not native - and it struggled with the climate. The theme of this book was that later generations still bear the scars of trauma experienced by an older generation. Trees (like people) bear the "memory" of its parent tree. It made me start thinking about trees.

This summer I watched as a tree in my garden struggled with the extreme heat, and its leaves started turning brown. This was happening throughout the UK and referred to as an “early Autumn”. We are in autumn proper now, a season I love because of the way the colours change in the trees and all those beautiful shades of orange, brown, red and yellow. We are so lucky in Mid Trent to have so many and be surrounded by such lovely, wooded areas. But trees still need our love and care.

...Trees (like people) bear the "memory" of its parent...

I love the fact that trees live for so much longer than us. There are trees in the village that were tiny when I first moved here. Now these trees are huge, and they give me so much pleasure, especially a horse chestnut with its candles in spring, and conkers in autumn! The trees of Weston, God willing, will still be there when my great- great - grandchildren are around, long after I am gone!

I was very sad to hear of the death of *The Major Oak* in Sherwood Forest, although I have a sneaking suspicion, I may be one of those who hastened its demise! I remember, as a child, standing in the hollow in its centre, playing Robin Hood. Apparently, the constant footfall around its roots did not do its roots any good! The Major Oak is estimated to be 800 -1100 years old, so it witnessed events maybe back in 926 AD and really could have witnessed Robin Hood, certainly his real medieval colleagues - I imagine that having such a memory would be mind-blowing! Thinking about such trees, helps me to get my head round how long God and Jesus have been around!

(continued)

A letter from Viv *(continued)*

St Paul in his letter to the Colossians said of Jesus

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see..."

(Colossians 1:15-16)

Jesus was there when the first tree sprung up, he is here with me now and he will be still there when this earth finally passes away.
Paul goes on to say,

" God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,
and through him God reconciled everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

(Colossians 1:19-20)

..trees remind me of God and Jesus ....

In the bible, the cross is often referred to as "the tree". God created us, loved us so much he sent Jesus to save us from our sins, and he will be with us for all eternity. I think that is something we should join with the trees to give thanks for: -

Let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

(1 Chronicles 16:32b-34)

Vivienne



*The Island of Missing Trees: by Elif Shafak

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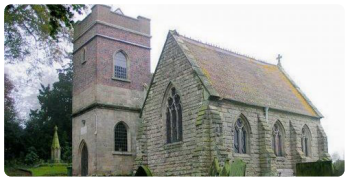
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Hot drinks, yummy treats and lots of chat in a warm and supportive environment. All welcome. Please ring Laura on 07834 388140.

Whist **Tuesday 6th October** 2.00pm- 4.00pm Please ring Christina Rushton on 07989 057467 for details.

Lunch Club We meet on Wednesday **October 28th** from 12noon-2.00pm.
A two-course freshly cooked lunch and hot drink for £6.
Booking is essential. Please contact *Irene* on **07770780078**.

Get Waisted - This class continues throughout the summer, every Thursday 10.00am-11.00am Gentle exercise for mind and body. Lots of giggles too! Contact: Jan Griffin on 07891 140166

Pop up bar and Quiz night
Friday October 2nd. Quizmeister John and his lovely assistant Lesley return with one of their famous quizzes. **Bar open from 6.00pm**

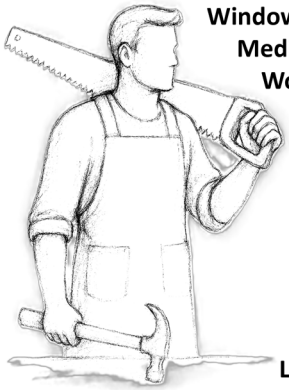


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Compass Irene Philips *irene280564@gmail.com*

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HIXON ST PETER
Warden & Compass Tim Moss 01889271007 & 07813531146 *mosstimothy90@gmail.com*

HOPTON ST PETER
Deputy Warden Pat Preece 07342 638669 *preecepatricia4@gmail.com*

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PCC Sec. Shirley Hayes *aspccsecretary@outlook.com*
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Warden Janet Stubbs 01785 213868 *saltandhoptonchurches@gmail.com*
Deputy Chris Crookes 01889 508364 *willcrookes@btinternet.com*
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Wardens Stephen Butt 01785 618248 & 07972838140 *stephen.butt@ntlworld.com*
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October Worship

25th 9.30am Holy Communion



Oktoberfest! Friday 23rd October Details are being finalised for this event. You will be able to enjoy guest German beers, Autumnal vibes and maybe a hint of Halloween - and all with yummy food too!
More information will be available soon, just get in touch with Gayton Village Hall committee to register interest.

Ride & Stride 2026 On September 12th the church was open to welcome those taking part in the Ride and Stride sponsored walk. There were 8 visitors signing in on their travels around the Staffordshire Churches. Another 9 visitors from the village came along to have a look at the history documents that we had out for perusal.
Thank you, to Pat Clare, for loaning us her amazing and very orderly files of Gayton Village.

Quiz Night Friday 13th November
We are planning another Quiz Night at Gayton Village Hall, so please come and join us for questions spanning a wide range of subjects.
More details in Novembers Compass

Dried Flower Angel Workshop
Wednesday 4th November 2026
between 7.00pm and 9.00pm
at Gayton Village Hall, Gayton, ST18 0HL
All materials are provided,
bring a pair of flower snips or secateurs to use.
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October Worship		
4th	8.00am	Morning Praise
18th	11.15am	Holy Communion & Baptism

A letter from Hixon

As we enter a third year of *interregnum* – being without a paid priest- the advertisement for a successor to Mike has gone unanswered now for the third time of asking. It got me to thinking why? I think we are a lovely, friendly bunch and we certainly need a priest and that led me to ask, what would the community like to see in a priest?

In the olden days a priest would be an integral part of the community, not simply providing spiritual direction and guidance but helping individuals understand their faith and life questions. The priest is the sole provider of the sacraments: weddings, baptisms, funerals and the education of the community about faith. They would pull the community together, the Church would be a focal point for meetings, for planning charity works, for getting together to help neighbours. Along with visiting the housebound, the bereaved, and the new arrivals to the village they would be a strong link to the St. Peter's School.

When I look around me at Hixon, the fabulous village we live in, I can't help but feel very proud of all the truly lovely things we have taken over from the traditional priest's role and now do for ourselves.

We have a Parish Council that does so much for the Village.

The Memorial Hall Committee recently organised a whole weekend of celebrations for the Centenary of the Memorial Hall and the wonderful and thought-provoking activities provided.

We have village fetes, Chef Fest, and a pensioner Christmas Party; we have organised litter picking, the Friday Lunch club, weekly café meetings, and the Compass Magazine – all of these just from the top of my head and my profound apologies if, as I am sure I have, I missed others. We have a fabulous church warden that keeps the building in the best possible condition, on what can only be described as a shoestring budget. Tim Moss is tireless in seeking financial support and grants. He finds professional expertise when needed and is very persuasive

(continued)

A letter from Hixon *(continued)* in gaining help for very little if any recompense. Tim always knows someone who will be able to lend a hand. So, not only have we got to think about not having a priest but, heaven forbid, what if we didn't have a Tim!!!

Part of our problem is the small number of people in the congregation, but **everyone is welcome to contribute in whatever capacity they feel able and to benefit from a revived and rejuvenated church able to give community and pastoral care to the village.**
It is not a club and you do not need to be a member to come to or help the church. Many people do not want to attend services for a number of reasons but services can be altered and made more user friendly if the villagers' wishes are known.

So, what can we do for our Church, St Peter's whilst we have no priest? We can volunteer; we can ask, 'do you need any help'.
Financial advice, a retired priest that would like to conduct some services or tradespeople willing to give up some time or have their names put on a list for us to approach would be immensely helpful.

In my mind I would like to see a church that welcomes all visitors well and creates a culture of community, a church that is flexible about when services are held and a church that invests in the next generation.

I believe that our Church is trying to reach out to help others; it is open every Sunday from 8.00^{am} to teatime to provide a safe quiet space for reflection, meditation and peace. It would be nice if the Diocese could provide a priest to be there to answer questions, to listen and to provide comfort but these functions are not exclusive to priests and it is reported that many are experiencing high levels of stress because of the expectations laid on them.

Please think about what you can do for your Church and what you would like your Church to do for you. The Church PCC would very much like your input. Food for thought, especially at this Harvest time -

God Bless. *Sonia Burgess.* Soniamary58@outlook.com

What's on at Hixon Memorial Hall

Slimming World	**Monday 9.30am- 11.30am**	
079186 77783		alisonfreeman@taftwharffarm.co.uk
Core and Curves	**Monday 6.30pm - 7.30pm**	
Karen Corbett 07989 704478		kmbailey1973@gmail.com
Tai Chi	**Monday 8.00pm - 9.00pm**	
Dave Llewellyn		eccleshall.taichi@gmail.com
Cafe	**Tuesday 10.00am - 12noon**	
Karen Appleton 01889 270 751		hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com
Yoga	**Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm**	
Victoria Barton 07375 610889		lifeinmotion@outlook.com
History Society	**1st Tuesday 8.00pm - 10.00pm**	
Tim Moss 07813 531146		mosstimothy90@gmail.com
Village Hall Committee	**2nd Tuesday 8.00pm**	
Mark Farrington 01889 270151		hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com
Parish Council	**3rd Tuesday 7.00pm - 9.30pm**	
Catherine Gill 01889 272679		www.hixon.gov.uk
Slow Flow Yoga	**Wednesday 9.30am- 10.30am**	
Victoria Barton 07375 610889		lifeinmotion@outlook.com
Full Body Fit	**Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.15pm**	
Emma Cowell		emmacowell98@hotmail.com
Pilates	**Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm**	
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Circuits	**Thursday 7.30pm - 8.30pm**	
Mark Farrington 07814453326		hixonmemorialhall@gmail.com
Luncheon Club	**Alt. Fridays 12noon - 3.00pm**	
Jane Garner 01889 270151		
Sound Bath (just monthly)	**Sunday 6.00pm - 8.00pm**	
Lisa Smith 07814453326		sacredsoulechoes@gmail.com
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HIXON History SOCIETY



WOLSELEY HALL
After a severe fire in the 1950s, the hall was abandoned and demolished in 1966.

At our September meeting, *Michael Priest* spoke about **The Wolseley Family**. In 1966, to mark the ninth centenary of the *Battle of Hastings*, many English newspapers searched for families who could say without doubt that they were in England from before the Norman Conquest. They found two families that could make this claim, and *both families lived in Staffordshire*: the *Cliffords* and the *Wolseleys*. The Wolseley family were given their estate by King Edgar in 975 AD as a reward for killing all the wolves which were ruining the King's hunting by preying on the deer. *Folk legend claims the name relates to wolves and local water meadows (leys).*

A manor House was built in the 11th century by Edric Wolseley and Michael told us about the interesting history of successive baronets up to the present day.

Sir Charles Wolseley was only 10 when he became the 11th Baronet in 1954. He married Anita Fried from Epsom in 1968, and then in 1987 he decided to return to Wolseley with plans to open a 45-acre landscaped garden park costing £1.7 million. But it never took off and the bank withdrew funding before the garden park was completed. Charles was made bankrupt in 1996 with debts of £2.5 million. He lost the 1,500 acre Staffordshire estate and the Wolseleys' moved into a new barn conversion near Penkridge offered by friends, living in genteel poverty on a standard pension. Sir Charles Wolseley died in 2018 and his funeral took place at Saint Joseph and Saint Etheldreda Catholic Church in Rugeley.

The historic estate grounds were restored in 1990 and now serve as the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust HQ and nature reserve, known as *The Wolseley Centre***.**

On October 6th we will learn about **Reginald Mitchell his life and legacy** from his great nephew *Julian Mitchell*. November 3rd there will be a talk by *Carl Dudley* on **Staffordshire railways on the level…..and on the beer!**

All the meetings are at Hixon Memorial Hall and start at 8-00pm.

HERE'S TO THE NEXT HUNDRED!

WHAT A GLORIOUS WEEKEND at the Centenary of Hixon Memorial Hall, when the village came together to celebrate 100 years of events and memories. The weekend began on Saturday 8th August with the opening of the History Exhibition which focused on the life and eventful times of the Hall. Running from 10.00am until 5.00pm, this was extremely well attended with a constant stream of people throughout the day. It was lovely that people didn't just walk in, have a quick look around and then carry on with their busy day, instead they stayed and studied the photographs, paperwork and displays and shared their own memories Sunday 8th was the big day. Once again, the History Exhibition was open and running through the day, welcoming more people from the village. At I.00pm the official ceremony began, with a loud and informative address given by our very own Town Crier. The inside of the Hall was busy with the exhibition, with free tea, coffee and cake served by the willing helpers from Stowe Women's Institute.

Outside of the Hall there was the timeless sound of the 24 piece Penkhull Brass Band, with stands and displays of a range of clubs and organisations associated with the Hall. These included *Hixon & Area Community First Responders, Lowland Rescue, Hex Ltd, Hixon Community Association, The Scouts, Wellington Fields Allotments, Hixon Green and Clean, The Luncheon Club and the two lovely ponies from the Mobile Wellbeing Sanctuary!*

Fortunately, we had applied for a road closure at the front of the hall which enabled us to display some classic English family cars from the 1920s and 30s which reflected the time when the hall was built in 1926.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



HIXON MEMORIAL HALL CENTENARY *(continued)* The Brass band played until 1.45pm, at which point our honoured guests took their seats, facing the front of the Hall, ready for the unveiling of the new Commemorative Stone by Lord Harlech, Jasset Ormsby-Gore, who is the great grandson of Capt. The Hon. W.G.A.Ormsby-Gore, MP for Stafford at the time, who laid the foundation stone.

The other honoured guests also included Sir Gavin Williamson MP, John Martin, the great grandson of Wilmot Martin, who with his touring concert parties raised money towards the building of the Hall and John Chell, whose family have been involved with the Hall since the early days. We also welcomed The Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Mr & Mrs Winnington - and very possibly the most important of all: **Mrs Betty Astle** who at a very sprightly 103 years old, was just 3 years old when the hall was built!

It was then time for the speeches. First was Lord Harlech, who had very kindly given up a day of his family holiday to be with us and who then unveiled the commemorative stone. He was followed by Sir Gavin, who opened with a witty remark, referring to the difference in sartorial elegance between the House of Lords and the House of Commons - Lord Harlech was immaculately dressed in his blazer of the Coldstream Guards, (which he refused to remove on one of the hottest days of the year), and the more relaxed style of Sir Gavin's no jacket and open-necked shirt!

Then it was time for the band to strike up again, until we heard word that fast approaching was a fly- past by the *Battle of Britain Memorial Flight*, in the shape of a 1942 Dakota. People rushed outside from the exhibition and joined those already outside and stood in awe at the honour of having this aircraft fly over us. It was an appropriate finishing touch to such a magnificent occasion for the Hall and the supportive community it serves. A day to remember!



On Behalf of Hixon Memorial Hall, thank you to all the organisers, the people who took part on the day and our great community.

Mark Farrington

Autumn Wordsearch

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I V E H O O R C G E C A G G C
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I U F N T V U R T S Z I M A N

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LEAVES
YELLOW
BROWN
RED
FALL
MISTS
FRUITS
HARVEST
THANKSGIVING
CHANGE
PHOTOPERIODISM
HIBERNATE
REST
PREPARATION

Photoperiodism is the term used to describe nature's way of using sunlight as a clock!
As days get shorter, many animals get ready for winter, and plants die back to put nutrients into their roots. In Spring, as days become longer, plants begin to grow again and animals who have been sleeping or much less active, emerge from hibernation.

Crown Wharf Theatre presents **Jack Absolute Flies Again**, from Friday 6th to Saturday 14th November 2026. This much loved comedy is bursting with quick wit, tangled romances and gloriously eccentric characters, all set against the backdrop of an RAF airbase during the Second World War. It's a bright, uplifting production that promises an evening of laughter, escapism and classic British humour - the perfect tonic as the winter nights draw in. *The story centres on Jack Absolute, a charming airman determined to win the heart of Lydia Languish. Unfortunately for Jack, nothing is ever straightforward. Rival suitors, mistaken identities and a whirlwind of misunderstandings create a riotous chain of events that keeps audiences entertained from start to finish. With its blend of romance, mischief and high flying chaos, Jack Absolute Flies Again is a feel good comedy that appeals to seasoned theatre goers and newcomers alike.*

Tickets £18 for adults and £16 for concessions.

All proceeds from the show go directly back into Crown Wharf Theatre, helping to support its running costs, maintain the building and continue the development of a vibrant arts programme for Stone and the surrounding villages.

For full listings and booking, visit www.crownwharftheatre.org.uk



October Worship

25th 9.30am Morning Praise

Coffee Morning



All welcome for tea/coffee & biscuits at Hopton Village Hall on **Tuesday OCTOBER 27th** from 10.30am-12noon. 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: 7.30pm-10.00pm

Hopton & District Garden Guild

The first meeting of our new membership year in September welcomed a good attendance enjoying a talk and slide show by *Gill Sykes* entitled **Two powerful ladies of Staffs and Derby**. The two ladies were *Bess of Hardwick* and *Emily Meynell of Hoar Cross Hall*.

Our speaker at the meeting on October 6th will be *Jeff Bates* with another of his great gardening talks: **Historic gardens of Derbyshire**.

Looking further forward to November we have *Bob Marsh* with a talk about **Beaudesert Gardens**.

Membership of the guild renews in September and is only £15 per year. We are always we are pleased to encourage visitors (£2.50 each per night) to our monthly meetings, where you will be made very welcome.

We 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 2.00pm & 4.00pm 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.

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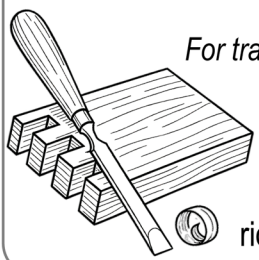
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MILWICH

October Worship		
4th	11.15am	Holy Communion
18th	11.15am	Holy Communion
25th	11.15am	Holy Communion

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

Warm Welcome Group The next meeting is on Wednesday **October 14th** from 10.00am – 1.00pm. For details, please contact Elaine 07702 865011.

Yin Yoga every Monday from 7.00pm- 8.00pm Contact Anita 07948 351789

Quiz Night at the Green Man starts at 8.00pm on **Tuesdays October 13th**. It's a fun night with refreshments, £3pp, 4 in a team.
All proceeds to Marie Curie. New teams welcomed.

Milwich with Fradswell Parish Council meet on **Wednesday October 21st** in *Fradswell Village Hall*.

Coffee Morning in support of Royal British Legion. Saturday 3rd October 10.00am-12noon. Poppies on sale, craft stalls, cake stall, Healing Voices Choir, raffle and refreshments. **Cash only please**.



Milwich Memorial Poppy Field
Dedicate a poppy to a loved one.
All poppies are being handmade by the village community and will be on display outside the Village Hall **from 26th October** (weather permitting) Watch out for workshops! Poppies will be on sale around the village and at the coffee morning.

Outdoor Service of Remembrance. Sunday 8th November 10.30am at the Village Hall. All welcome. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments after the service.

Coffee Morning

in support of

The Royal British Legion

Sponsor a poppy
in memory of a lost loved one
(you can write a personal message)



Craft stalls



Cake stall

RBL stall



Healing Voices Choir



Raffle

Refreshments



All are welcome

Together We Remember

CASH ONLY

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER
10AM – 12PM
MILWICH VILLAGE HALL



Milwich Outdoor Remembrance Service

Sunday 8th November
10:30am
Milwich Village Hall

Come and see the Milwich Memorial Poppy Field

A display of poppies handmade by the village community from recycled materials.

Remembering members of our village who lost their lives in war and also loved ones lost but not forgotten.

Everyone welcome.

Village Hall will be open for tea, coffee and cake after the service.

Compass

BUILDING COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 20TH
starts **1.45pm**

BEAUTY IN TRUTH

The history of botanical illustration from the early herbals 1500 years ago to the present day

Lecturer: ***Timothy Walker***



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Oak Tree Farm Rural Project

"New Tales From Our Coppice Woodland"

a talk by Mike Taylor



7:00pm Thursday 22nd October
in our Oak Leaf Tea Room

Mike talks about his latest work in his ancient coppice woodland

A bright look at life working the woodland to secure its future for future generations

Cost £12 which includes tea/coffee and cake

Booking required before Monday 19th October, contact Oak Tree Farm to book your place

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October Worship		
4th	9.30am	Holy Communion
18th	10.00am	HARVEST FESTIVAL



Salt and Hopton churches would like to say a big thank you to ***Richard*** who cycled for us this year. It has been several years since we have actually had a participant from Salt/Hopton supporting Stafford Historic Churches Trust. We had several visitors to both Hopton and Salt during the morning, whilst the sun shone. Visitors dropped off in the afternoon, as the heavens opened.
Thank you to *everyone* who sponsored Richard, the money raised will go towards SHCT. We can now apply for a share of the money to aid our church renovation programme. SHCT gave us a grant of £2000 towards the church roof work last year.

Winter Quiz Nights *The new season will now start in November.*

Community Refuse Vehicle: October 24th 10:30am at the Holly Bush car park.

Community Cafe at Salt Village Hall Wednesday **October 7th** and **21st** from 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for tea or coffee, cake and a chat, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Date for your diary: ***Christmas Fair & Soup Lunch*** Salt Village Hall
Saturday November 14th Proceeds to Salt & Hopton Churches

Salt Christian Fellowship Interdenominational group
Tuesdays 7.30pm-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 & 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/

Salt & Hopton Churches Lottery... *winning tickets for September 2026*
TICKET 01 **£50** TICKET 20 **£40** TICKET 64 **£30**

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 in the porch on any day.

Salt & Enson Parish Council The next meeting (open to the public) will be Wednesday **November 4th**, Salt Village Hall. saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk
Parish Clerk: ***Nikola Evans*** *clerk@saltandensonparishcouncil.co.uk*

Salt Village Hall is available for hire. For bookings please contact **Julie Lawson**, *Booking Sec.*, **07480995883** or **Sam Reeves**, **07896613046**.

Salt & District Friendship Club meet on Wednesdays **October 14th** & **28th** from 2.30pm-4.00pm in Salt Village Hall for bingo, a cup of tea and a chat.

Salt Christian Fellowship Interdenominational group
Tuesdays 7.30pm-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

TURN TO PAGE 54 to see news about Salt's very own WINTER WARMER!





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Thursday 19th November

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Applications for school places opens on 1st November 2026

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SANDON & BURSTON

October Worship

4th	11.15am	Holy Communion
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion at Burston
25th	11.15am	BCP Matins

Wednesday October 28th
7.00pm Service of Thanksgiving at St. Rufin's
This final service at the Church will be led by Matthew, the Bishop of Stafford. Please see the announcement below.

A statement from the Sandon Parochial Church Council

At its meeting in July the PCC of Sandon with Burston considered the lack of demand for worship at St Rufin's, both now and in the future, the costs of keeping the building open, any possible alternative use, and the nearby alternative of All Saints Church Sandon for worship. The PCC reluctantly resolved to close St Rufin's Church following the October service and ask the Diocese to sell the building, in accordance with the PCC's charitable responsibilities. Following the meeting the PCC wrote to every household in Burston to advise of the decision and the reasons behind it. The future use of the building will be determined by any individual or organisation which acquires the building. The Bishop of Stafford will hold a Service of Thanksgiving at St Rufin's at 7.00pm on Wednesday 28th October 2026.



Remembrance Day Service Sunday 8th November.
Please assemble outside All Saints Church adjacent to the car park for the service and wreath laying to begin at 10.50. After the two-minute silence the service will continue in the church. *James Tabenor*

From the All Saints Parish Register

Wedding 30-07-2026 Ben Follett & Tia Baker
Wedding 31-07-2026 Dhiren Dhanda & Katie Wall
Wedding 14-08-2026 Richard James Wilkinson & Lydia Frances Walklate
Memorial 05-09-2026 Winifred Susan Dixon (*Neé Middleton*)
Wedding 06-09-2026 Paul Alexander Beardmore & Lydia Anne Nadine

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Knit & Natter

All Saints Sandon 1000 Years | Voices

Knit & Natter display of 2000 Poppies

At All Saints' Sandon Church

Each Sunday
25th October to 22nd November
1.30 to 4pm

Drop in on Remembrance Day
11th November
10am to 12 noon

We will observe the 2 minutes silence and ring half-muffled bells.

www.sandonallsaints.com



@allsaintssandon

Thank you to The Greyhound Inn for the free use of a room to make the 2000 poppies

St.Rufin's

As you may already be aware, sadly, St. Rufin's is soon to hold its last service and be put up for sale.

St Rufin's is an important part of Burston's heritage and has been a place of worship for generations. It is also a peaceful stopping point for pilgrims walking the *Two Saints Way* and, importantly, the only community building in the village.

Friends of St Rufin's (FOSTR) have come together to explore what the building could mean for the village in the future. We believe it is worth taking the time to explore how St Rufin's could continue to serve the whole community as a shared village space for years to come. If you would like to know more please contact us at **admin@fostr.org.uk** or visit f o s t r . o r g . u k

Thank you for your support





Sandon Fete 2026

Thank you for your help and support
It was an absolutely fantastic day at Sandon & District Village Fete this year. There was lots of diverse entertainment including stalls, classic cars, a dog show, gorgeous refreshments and much more.
We had a record number of visitors and were blessed with beautiful weather which resulted in a fantastic amount being raised for our chosen charities with details of donations in the next Compass.
Thank you so much to everyone who supported the fete or helped in any way. Without you it would not be possible. *Lynne Lee, Sandon Fete Committee*

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The conservation of rare heritage features is finally complete. We are delighted to see the return of the *Royal Coat of Arms* which is looking magnificent displayed against the newly painted north wall.

It has been a fantastic summer of memorable activities at All Saints', the highlight of which was the "Time Travellers" event on 1st August. The church was taken over by historical characters from the History Re-enactment Workshop, who re-enacted a day in the church's life in 1549. Sandon's own History Group members appeared as costumed characters from a variety of periods between medieval times and WW2.

The Military Vehicle Trust brought a selection of fabulous WWII vehicles. Families took part in crafts. *The Little Moreton Singers* concert of medieval choral music added to the hugely enjoyable day.

The freshly painted Sandon Lock just prior to winning the best kept lock in the Northwest Division in 1958. Under the care of Mr William Askey, the lock proceeded in representing this Division in the Ritchie Trophy Competition of the same year and was placed second. S J Shelley









On Saturday 12th September over 100 audience members were entertained by the *Stafford Military Wives Choir* who performed a wide range of wonderful songs.

Our popular village history walk returns on Sunday 4th October leaving church at **2.00**pm with refreshments served after the walk.

There be a free **Family Crafts** event in church at **half term** on **27th October** 10am-12pm.

The **Butterfly and Moth trail** will remain until the end of that week.

The church will be open each from 25 October to 22 November 1.30pm to 4.00pm to admire the Knit & Natter group's display of **2000 poppies**.

We will also be open on 11 November Remembrance Day from 10.00 till 12 noon when we will observe the 2 minutes silence and ring half-muffled bells.

Please see our website for details of events.

Anyone wishing to arrange a visit should book through our website or call Elizabeth **07534 915068**

All Saints Sandon 1000 Years | Voices

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Sandon WI The nights are drawing in!! October's meeting finds Sandon WI members thinking about pantomime. The title of the talk is
"**The Magic of Pantomime**" presented by *Dean Nixon and Norma Shaw*.
There are bound to be cries of
He's behind you and *Oh no he isn't !*



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*

STAFFORD
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



A BIG CHEER FOR...
The Grammar School Big Band at Sandon Hall on Friday 11th December starting at 7.00pm Tickets from Rose 07876 540491 *or* Steve 07972 838140 £15 including mince pie. Bar available
Proceeds to the All Saints Church Time for Tea fund.

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Saturday 10th October 2026
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All welcome

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and home make cakes also on sale.

Proceeds in aid of St John's Church

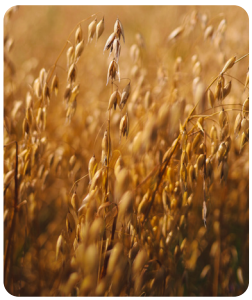
STOWE BY CHARTLEY

October Worship

4th	**11.15am**	**HARVEST FESTIVAL**
11th	**10.00am**	**Praise Together**
25th	**11.15am**	**Holy Communion**

FROM THE ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH REGISTER

Wedding 11-07-2026 Oliver Charles Latter & Bonnie Louise Coton



Harvest Festival Sunday 4th October.
We will be decorating the church on Saturday 3rd starting at 10.00am. As many flower arrangers as possible please come to help and bring produce, flowers (hedges can be helpful), and fruits with you if you can. *(Everything edible will be taken to be used by the House of Bread on Monday).*

Coffee Morning at Stowe Village Hall Just wander along and join us for a chat on Thursdays **October 22nd** 10.00am-12noon

Stowe-by-Chartley WI

Over 60 members and guests from surrounding WI's enjoyed a wonderful night of magic on Tuesday August 11. As it was an open meeting Members also brought along friends to enjoy the evening. **JD Magic** (Jack) entertained the ladies for over 45 minutes with different sorts of magic tricks, close up, parlour magic , comedy magic when Rocky the Raccoon made his appearance and finally stage magic. He explained that 22 male members set up *The Magic Circle* but in 2016 the magic circle had their first female president. If only we knew how those tricks were done! After the magic, the ladies enjoyed tea and a wonderful selection of home made cakes. Lots of ladies took home some very nice raffle prizes as well. *(continued)*

Altar Flowers **4**& **11** *Sarah Allen* **18** & **25** *Barbara Hurdle*

Brass Cleaning *Maggie Rawson*

MONTHLY DRAW
August: **8** *Pat Dewick*
September: **14** *Lucy & Sam Hunter*

Congratulations!

Over 40 members and guests attended the monthly meeting of Stowe WI on Tuesday 8*th* September, where after the formal part of the meeting, the ladies enjoyed listening to *Jon Webb*, The Bug Man. Jon works for Natural England. He gave us a fascinating interactive talk about **Invertebrates** and how many species there are that are classed as invertebrates. Who knew that there were over 4000 different species of beetles in the UK, but only 660 different species of spiders! After his presentation, Jon took questions about bugs, ranging from the increases of bugs on front of cars to climate change. Jon explained how we live in a *special* area , where there are rare insects on *Chartley Moss* and the trees of *Shugborough and Brocton Coppice* which many invertebrates call home. Jane N gave the vote of thanks. Jane H from Stowe Village Hall presented the committee with their prize for winning First Prize in the Group Award at the Stowe By Chartley Scarecrow competition, with their interpretation of Nursery Rhymes ; Three Blind Mice, Diddly Squat. Thanks again to Jane J and Elaine for all their hard work.
Next meeting: **Tuesday October 13**th *Staffordshire Women's Aid*
New members and guests are always welcome.

Village Produce & Garden Guild
In September's meeting, members were delighted to welcome back Justin Harrison for a wonderfully seasonal talk entitled "**Autumn Splendour**". Justin brought with him an impressive selection of plants, which were available to purchase, to demonstrate how, with the right choices, our gardens can continue to provide colour, interest and food for wildlife well into autumn and winter. Following what has been an exceptionally hot and dry summer, Justin focused particularly on hardy plants that can cope with drought and changing conditions. He showed us plants that had not only survived but thrived through the summer, explaining which varieties prefer full sun or shade, and which will tolerate different soils, from heavy clay to dry, sandy ground. Many of his choices were also excellent plants for pollinators, providing a valuable source of nectar for butterflies and other insects late into the season.

There was something to suit every garden. The climbing rose *Kew Gardens* was a particular favourite, producing beautiful double cream to white flowers and proving adaptable to both sun and shade. *(continued)*

Poet's Wife, a fragrant yellow-cream shrub rose, was another popular choice. Justin also introduced us to different varieties of *Honeysuckle*, *Sedum* and *Leucothoe 'Curly Red*', a lovely shade-loving shrub with red foliage that lasts through to April before producing white flowers.

Salvias featured strongly, with Justin demonstrating several varieties in different colours, heights and forms. '*Clotted Cream*', '*Ping Pong*', with its impressive height, '*African Skies*', with beautiful blue flowers, and the compact coral-coloured '*Magical Amore*'; all showed just how much variety there is within this group. We were also given the useful tip never to cut salvias back before April, allowing them to provide protection for the plant over winter.
Other plants included *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, useful both for suppressing weeds and as a trailing plant in hanging baskets; the delicate-looking but remarkably tough hardy perennial *Gaura*; and *Echinacea*, which has performed particularly well in this summer's dry conditions. Justin also introduced *Helenium 'Red Shades*', with its striking red daisy flowers edged in gold, which is excellent for biodiversity as well as making a lovely cut flower.

For autumn colour, Justin recommended the new *Cyclamen 'Purple Wine'*, which has a considerably longer flowering period than many traditional cyclamen varieties. *Ornamental grasses* were also highlighted as an excellent way of filling spaces and adding structure and movement to the garden. *Festuca 'Intense Blue'*, with its blue foliage and silvery flowers, was particularly striking.

Finally, Justin showed us the beautiful Acer *'Going Green*', which provides a changing display throughout the year: lime green in spring, green through summer, moving to warm yellow and orange in autumn, before returning to a luminous green through winter.
It was a fitting example of the evening's message — that careful plant selection can give us colour and interest throughout every season.

Keen gardeners may wish to keep this article for reference !

Next meeting October 21st
"Hares" talk by Derek Crawley

This Footpath Is Made for Walking!

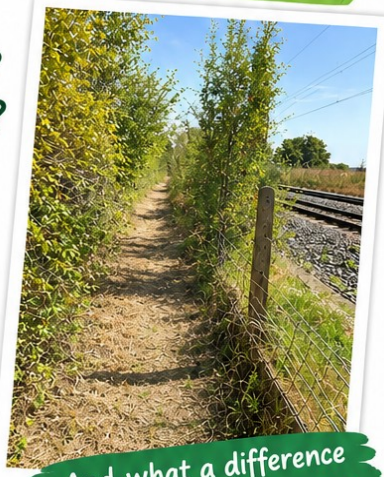
Are you a local walker or dog walker? ... ...

Have you heard the great news?

One of our local public footpaths, **Weston 6,** has had a much-needed makeover!

The footpath starts at the back of **Weston Methodist Church** and, immediately after crossing the bridge, bears right before continuing alongside the railway line towards **Hixon Airfield.**

After many months of being seriously overgrown with vegetation, branches and debris making it increasingly difficult to use, the path has now been **cleared and opened up.**



And what a difference it makes! It's a pleasure to walk again.

So, if you enjoy walking locally, why not give **Weston 6** a try? Whether you're out for a stroll, walking the dog or simply enjoying some fresh air and our lovely local countryside, it's a great time to rediscover this route.

Use it – and help keep it open!

The more the path is used and enjoyed, the more visible it remains as part of our local network of public rights of way. So please get out there and enjoy it – and let's help keep Weston 6 looking its best.

Useful link:
Staffordshire County Council – Footpaths & Bridleways
https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/footpaths-and-bridleways

For comment / feedback contact:
Beth Nicholls
Clerk to Weston with Gayton Parish Council
Tel: 07594 002590
Email: clerk@westongayton-pc.gov.uk



WESTON

October Worship		
4th	11.15am	HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion
25th	9.30am	Sunday Breakfast





Harvest Festival & Lunch
Sunday 4th October at 11.15am
Please come along to this lovely service led by Kate Tague. If you would like to join us for lunch, then just let someone know for catering purposes. There is no charge but ***Donations*** to the Church will be gratefully appreciated. *Contact Gill or Pat.*

Thank You A huge thank you to all those who came and decorated church for our Flower Festival. It was amazing! Thanks also to those who visited the church and contributed by donating towards the flowers. The refreshments were great too! So thanks for all the cakes & scones**.**

Another Thank You to everybody who came to church last week to do all the much-needed gardening in the churchyard. It now looks GREAT! The churchyard belongs to the whole of the village and is there for whoever needs it. Funding for its maintenance is carried out by a very small fundraising team, if you would like to join that team, or contribute in any way, please contact us, it would be very much appreciated.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Together we can make a difference

It's time for a Macmillan COFFEE MORNING

and you're invited!

Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer care better for everyone, whoever and wherever they are.



Place:
Weston Village Hall

Date:
Friday 23rd October 2026

Time:
10.30am – 1.00pm

Come along for a lovely cup of tea, coffee or soft drink & a choice of delicious cakes.

And, of course a Hamper Raffle will be running!

Come along, enjoy a cuppa and a cake, have a chat and help us raise money for a wonderful cause.

Everyone welcome!

CRY Heart Screening for anyone aged 14 -35
Saturday November 7th 9.00am – 4.00pm Weston Village Hall, Green Road, Weston, ST18 0JQ
This screening will look for undiagnosed heart conditions that leads to at least 12 apparently fit and healthy young people dying of a cardiac arrest every week in the UK alone. Every young person should have the chance to have their heart checked. This screening is offered free of charge and is funded by The Heart of Weston, which is supported by our local community and beyond.
Places are limited so if you or someone you know would like to book a place, visit
https://theheartofweston.org/cry-screening-holder/
there you will find full instructions on how to book an appointment. Alternatively you can scan the QR code.



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

1st Prize of £60	Jackie Williams	(032)
2nd Prize of £40	Graham Church	(147)
3rd Prize of £24	Sheila Burke	(264)

To join the 100+ Club visit: www.theheartofweston.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday 2026
Please join the village on Sunday **8th November** in an act of Remembrance at the Village Memorial on the Green.



We will gather at 10.45 and endeavour to keep the minute's silence at 11.00am. All our village residents, whether at the Memorial or not, are invited to be still during this national moment of remebereing.
The service this year will be led by Rev Duncan Leake and followed by refreshments in the Woolpack.

Dates for your diary... *two seasonal village events coming next month!*



Festive Evening at Weston Village Hall

Join us for a festive evening on **Friday 20th November** from **5.00pm to 7.00pm**. This event aims to capture the spirit of the coming Christmas season and provide a delightful gathering for the whole community. **Healing Voices Choir** will be performing traditional Christmas Carols *(you are welcome to join in!)* **Mince pies and mulled wine** will be available for adults, plus *biscuits and squash for children.* And you can take part in a variety of **Fun Games suitable for all ages**, adding to the festive atmosphere. There will also be a number of stalls selling a selection of **unique handcrafted items**, ideal for finding that special Christmas gift.

At the Festive Evening Children can make an early visit to Father Christmas in his grotto and we will turn on the lights for the Village Christmas Tree!



ADVENT CRAFT FAYRE

Seasonal Refreshments on offer as well as stalls giving lots of gift ideas you can purchase or order.

Saturday
28th November
10.00am - 12noon
Weston Methodist Church

WHAT'S ON AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday Coffee Mornings & Book & Puzzle exchange	**OCTOBER 5th & 19th** 10.00 - 12.00noon *Just turn up !*
Healing Voices Choir The Secretary 07936683904	Monday 19.30 - 21.30am thehealingvoiceschoir@gmail.com
FSD Dance Olivia Falsone 07931503901	Tuesday 5.45 – 7.15pm Friday 4.30 – 6.00pm falsoneschoolofdance@hotmail.com
Ladies Badminton Angela Martin 07968638170	Monday 2.00 – 4.00pm ianangmartin@gmail.com
Indoor Bowls Gail Wray 07443 601258	Thursday (Sept. to May) 2.00 - 4.00pm gail.stubbswray@tiscali.co.uk
Mixed Badminton June Munden	Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm jamunden@yahoo.co.uk Players with experience welcome -1st session free
Pilates Lucy Lainton	Wednesday 6.15 – 7.15pm lucy@strengthinmovement.co.uk
Table Tennis practice sessions Stephen Gadsby 01785 248039	Tuesday 7.30 – 9.15pm
U3A Table Tennis Carol Burnett	Monday 10.00 – 11.00am carolbur99@gmail.com (waiting list)
Yoga Elena Leoncelli 07428504503	Monday & Thursday 6 – 7.15pm elenacelli@hotmail.com
Seniors Chair Aerobics Lloyd Fox	Wednesdays 11.00am 07891 696652

WESTON VILLAGE HALL

FOR HALL BOOKINGS
PLEASE CONTACT DEREK
westonvh@outlook.com
or use our website
westonvillagehall.com

STOP PRESS: At the time of writing there is a HANDFUL of tickets left for the PIANOMAN on 10th October. Contact Julie Gair 07906939251

Tea, Cake & Natter

at Weston Methodist Church

TUESDAY
October 6th

2.00pm till 4.00pm

Our series of
Tea Cake and Natter
finishes this month...
come along for this
Afternoon Tea Special...
we won't be back
until next Spring!



MONDAY MEETINGS 10.30am
at Weston Methodist Church
Bible Study 12th October
Prayer Meeting 26th



WESTON METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

4th Harvest Festival &
Bring n' Share Lunch (Peter Hardy)
11th Morning Service (Rev Duncan Leake)
18th (WESTON CHAPEL CLOSED)
Communion Service at
Barlaston Methodist Church ST12 9DP
25th Communion Service (Rev Christopher Parkes)



You can stay for tea, coffee & chat after every Sunday service

RECYCLING

We are still collecting:

- Postage stamps *(cut a 1cm margin around them)*
- Empty tablet blister packs
- Old spectacles *(not glasses cases)*
- Used batteries. (*keep them packed separately when donating*)

We are continuing to support **Tools with a Mission** by collecting:

- Old sewing machines,
- Hand tools,
- Haberdashery items *(including knitting wool and fabric)*

The items are sorted, refurbished and sent to Africa to support people in work. If you have any items to donate, please contact Rachel on 07974567819.

Minister: Rev David Bintliff, Stafford Circuit Office		**01785 229973**
Church Council Secretary	**Dr Susan McCready-Shea**	**01889 271488**
Hall Bookings Secretary	**Mrs Margie Egginton**	**01889 207040**

ONE OF THE MID TRENT VILLAGES IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A WARM WINTER!

TICKETS - CALL 07896 613046 07480 995883

You can read about more exciting events in Salt Village on pages 29 - 30



THE MOBILE LIBRARY WILL VISIT ON MONDAYS OCTOBER 12th & 26th

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	15.40-16.00 Battle Ridge



Staffordshire MOBILE LIBRARY

Stone - Weston - Hixon - Rugeley

Days of operation	Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays)								
Service number	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Stone, Christchurch Way	0854	0946	1046	1146	1346	1446	1546	1634	1734
Aston Lodge, Ashford Grove	–	0953	1053	1153	1353	1453	1553	–	–
Burston, Greyhound Inn	0902	1002	1102	1202	1402	1502	1602	1642	1742
Weston, Old School Close	0910	1010	1110	1210	1410	1510	1610	1650	1750
Hixon, Bank House Inn	0917	1017	1117	1217	1417	1517	1617	1657	1757
Great Haywood, Surgery	0925	1025	1125	1225	1425	1525	1625	1705	1805
Colwich, Church	0929	1029	1129	1229	1429	1529	1629	1709	1809
Rugeley, Bus Station	0938	1038	1138	1238	1438	1538	1638	1718	1818

Days of operation	Saturday and Good Friday								
Service number	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Stone, Christchurch Way	0854	0946	1046	1146	1346	1446	1546	1634	1734
Aston Lodge, Ashford Grove	–	0953	1053	1153	1353	1453	1553	–	–
Burston, Greyhound Inn	0902	1002	1102	1202	1402	1502	1602	1642	1742
Weston, Old School Close	0910	1010	1110	1210	1410	1510	1610	1650	1750
Hixon, Bank House Inn	0917	1017	1117	1217	1417	1517	1617	1657	1757
Great Haywood, Surgery	0925	1025	1125	1225	1425	1525	1625	1705	1805
Colwich, Church	0929	1029	1129	1229	1429	1529	1629	1709	1809
Rugeley, Bus Station	0938	1038	1138	1238	1438	1538	1638	1718	1818

Rugeley - Hixon - Weston - Stone

Days of operation	Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holiday Mondays)								
Service number	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Rugeley, Bus Station	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1443	1543	1643	1723
Colwich, Church	0852	0952	1052	1152	1252	1452	1552	1652	1732
Great Haywood, Clifford Arms	0856	0956	1056	1156	1256	1456	1556	1656	1736
Hixon, Bank House Inn	0904	1004	1104	1204	1304	1504	1604	1704	1744
Weston, Old Road	0911	1011	1111	1211	1311	1511	1611	1711	1751
Burston, Greyhound Inn	0919	1019	1119	1219	1319	1519	1619	1719	1759
Aston Lodge, Ashford Grove	0927	1027	1127	1227	1327	1527	–	–	–
Stone, Christchurch Way	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1537	1629	1729	1809

Days of operation	Saturday and Good Friday								
Service number	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Rugeley, Bus Station	0843	0943	1043	1143	1243	1443	1543	1643	1723
Colwich, Church	0852	0952	1052	1152	1252	1452	1552	1652	1732
Great Haywood, Clifford Arms	0856	0956	1056	1156	1256	1456	1556	1656	1736
Hixon, Bank House Inn	0904	1004	1104	1204	1304	1504	1604	1704	1744
Weston, Old Road	0911	1011	1111	1211	1311	1511	1611	1711	1751
Burston, Greyhound Inn	0919	1019	1119	1219	1319	1519	1619	1719	1759
Aston Lodge, Ashford Grove	0927	1027	1127	1227	1327	1527	–	–	–
Stone, Christchurch Way	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1537	1629	1729	1809

Compass

building community in Mid Trent

Please send all stories for the

NOVEMBER ISSUE

to

compassmtc@gmail.com

no later than

SATURDAY

17 October 2026



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