The Village Herald



Bringing our church closer to the community and the community closer to the church



Our Rector writes

Remembering with Thankfulness

November is a month when the Church invites us to remember. We remember with gratitude those who have given their lives in war, and we give thanks for the freedom and peace that we enjoy today. The poppy, worn so widely at this time, is a simple but powerful symbol of remembrance - of sacrifice, loss and the hope that peace might prevail.

As a Church, we have an important role in holding this remembrance. Through our services, prayers and acts of commemoration, we create space to remember those who have gone before us and to bring our hopes and concerns for the world before God.

November also leads us into All Saints' and All Souls', when we remember the saints and loved ones whose lives have touched and shaped our own. In remembering, we give thanks; in giving thanks, we are reminded of the precious gift of life, love and freedom.

May this November be a time of quiet reflection, gratitude and renewed commitment to peace.

God bless

Cath.

Rev'd Cath Leighton
Team Rector

Team Vicar - Rev'd Cath Leighton telephone 07903 164242 email: cmaleighton@icloud.com
Churchwarden - Vince Smith telephone: 07957 613890 email: vincesmith03@mail.com
Editor & Churchwarden - Danny Briggs telephone: 01543 490114 email: dannybriggs905@gmail.com
The Village Herald advertising - Barry Liddle telephone: 07922 529801 email: liddledarlo@gmail.com
Parish Church website: www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist
Village website: www.armitagewithhandsacre.co.uk

St John the Baptist church building is open daily from 9am until 6pm.

If you require access to the church room please let Vince Smith know on 07957 613890.

Church Diary

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November	All Saints Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship
Monday 2nd November	1pm Sing for Joy
Wednesday 4th November	10.30am Church Mice
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Sunday 9.30am Remembrance Service
Monday 9th November	1pm Sing for Joy
Wednesday 11th November	10.30am Church Mice 10.45am Act of Remembrance at Armitage Cenotaph 5pm Prayer and Praise
Sunday 15th November	Second Sunday before Advent 10.30am Holy Communion
Monday 16th November	1pm Sing for Joy
Wednesday 18th November	10.30am Church Mice
Sunday 22nd November	Christ the King Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship
Monday 23rd November	1pm Sing for Joy
Wednesday 25th November	10.30am Church Mice
Thursday 26th November	6.30pm Christmas Memorial Service
Sunday 29th November	First Sunday of Advent 10.30am Holy Communion
Monday 30th November	1pm Sing for Joy

ATTENTION: We want to hear from you

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

Yes, well read on.

Remember this is as much your magazine as ours so help us turn it into a truly magnificent community magazine so let's have your news, gossip, photos in fact anything that you want to share with your friends and community.

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

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

Recent Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals at St John the Baptist

4th October	Interment of Cremated Remains of Sylvia Lee of The Firs, Rugeley
27th October	Funeral of John Rush of Church Street, Rugeley
30th October	Funeral of Pamela Rowley of Yew Tree Road, Rugeley

Elizabeth I

by Lesley Smith



St Nicholas Church,
Mavesyn Ridware
Saturday 14 November 2026
Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm
Ticket price £10 per person. Suitable for age 10+

St Nicholas Church is hosting a special event when we hear about the life and reign of Elizabeth 1.

Here is a chance to meet Her Majesty at her political zenith and already an icon in the English psyche of the time.

This presentation will transport you back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance.

The show is 45 minutes followed by a question and answer session.

For tickets phone or text:
Paul Marriott 07758 539974
or Lesley Marriott 07847 763290
email: office@mavesynchurch.co.uk
Tea, coffee and cake included in the ticket price
Fundraising for church electrical repairs



A member of the congregation at St John's, Brian Syk placing the first donation in the collection box for The Village Herald.

You can find donation box's at The Post Office, Johns News and Coles Butcher & Bakers..



Many in Armitage with Handsacre will remember the ford at the bottom of Old Road. In the 1990s, it disappeared when Shropshire Brook was culverted to allow the road to reach New Road. Sadly, the site became an overgrown eyesore and of little use to the village.

Now, after several years of effort and expense by volunteers and our local councils, the site has been transformed into an asset for all to enjoy. Some beautiful benches have been installed, and an information board gives a brief history of the area. Try and make time to go and visit the area and enjoy what has been done.

A small group of local volunteers will try to keep the site looking nice,and if you'd like to join in, please contact Roy Fallows on 07980375239.



Naughty but nice sticky toffee pudding

November is upon us. The clocks will be going back, the evenings are dark, the weather is a bit miserable and someone has already said: *'It's nearly Christmas!'*

NO! Before we get anywhere near Christmas, we need pudding. So here it is...

INGREDIENTS

For the pudding:

1. 200g chopped dates
2. 250ml boiling water
3. One teaspoon bicarbonate of soda - because every pudding needs something to make it rise to the occasion.
4. 75g best butter - don't even think about using the low-fat stuff.
5. 150g brown sugar - because life is too short for being sensible.
6. Two eggs - preferably free range, well I don't like being *'cooped up'*, do you?
7. 175g self-raising flour - sifted, just to make it feel important.
8. One teaspoon vanilla extract - because a little extravagance never hurt anyone.
9. A pinch of salt.

For the sauce:

1. 100g butter
2. 175g brown sugar
3. 200ml double cream
4. One tablespoon golden syrup

METHOD

1. Put the dates into a bowl and pour over the boiling water. Add the bicarbonate of soda and leave them to soften.
2. Meanwhile, beat together the butter and sugar. If your arm gets tired, remember that you are building character.
3. Beat in the eggs one at a time.
4. Stir in the flour and vanilla, followed by the date mixture.
5. Pour into a greased baking dish and bake at 180ºc (160ºc fan) for approximately 30-35 minutes.
6. While it's cooking, make the sauce. Put the butter, sugar, cream and golden syrup into a saucepan and heat gently until smooth.
7. Pour the sauce over the pudding.
8. I like to serve this with custard but you can put cream or ice cream or all if you like, no time to be skinny about this.
   That's it enjoy.

THE NOVEMBER PUDDING BLESSING

May your November be filled with warmth when the wind is cold, good friends when the evenings are long, laughter when life gets serious.

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, thank you for warm kitchens, good friends and laughter around the table.

Bless our church family at St John the Baptist, and the people of Armitage and Handsacre.

Help us to remember with gratitude those who have gone before us, and to treasure those who are still with us.

Amen.

Tessa Riley

Handsacre Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2026

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

This season we invite anyone who is looking to find out more about God, faith and the Bible to join us for a series called *On The Way*.

On The Way helps people explore Christian faith as something lived and practised, not just believed.

Each of the 12 sessions invites people to:

- reflect on experience and everyday life
- engage with the Bible, art, music and prayer
- explore core ideas of Christian faith in an open way
- share insights, questions and stories with others.

The next two sessions take place on 15th and 29th November.

Upcoming services:

November 1st	10.30am - circuit service at Chadsmoor Methodist Church
November 8th	United Remembrance Service with St. John the Baptist church
November 15th	9.30am - Rev'd. Liz Dunning - Holy Communion and *On The Way*
November 22nd	4pm - Relaxed and informal family-friendly worship for all ages to include crafts, storytelling, refreshments.
November 29th	9.30am - Deacon Annabel Terry - *On The Way*

The Vine Café

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

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

We also have:

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

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

Craft & Chat, Thursdays from 1pm. Enjoy an afternoon in the Vine with good company, refreshments and crafts. Learn to knit or crochet, or improve your existing skills

Games Night, monthly on Monday evenings, a great opportunity to try a wide range of board and card games and make new friends. The next one is on 2nd November from 7.30pm.

Saturday breakfast - 14th November 9.30am to 12pm.

Please see our website: handsacremethodist.org.uk for more details and updates. The Vine café has a Facebook page at The Vine Cafe & Community Space. Do like and follow for all the latest information.

MEETING POINT is a community group of activities open to all residents of Armitage with Handsacre.

01543 491704 or gifford_foote@hotmail.co.uk

TUESDAYS 10am - 11.45am - Drop in to Handsacre Methodist room - the Vine Café. Meet friends over a cuppa and join in with activities if you like to.

3rd November: **Lunch Outing to Wolseley Garden Centre**
Please book with Celia

10th November: **Sue Jackson and Linda - Alzheimer's Research speakers** – with raffle.

17th November: **Craft with Diane**

1st December: **GRAB A BAG for £2**
- During November please bring in bags and small gifts for surprise stocking fillers in aid of Alzheimer's Research



HARVEST MEAL AND AUCTION OF HARVEST GIFT BAGS AND BASKETS raised £100 for Disaster Relief charities. Thanks to all who contributed to a lovely meal and gave so willingly.

ARE YOU DISABLED OR FIND DIFFICULTY WITH WALKING?

Why not try coming to Meeting Point on a Tuesday morning?

Our bus can collect you from your home and if you have difficulty with steps, the bus has a back lift.

Meet friendly people over a cuppa and get to know what is going on in the village

Let me know your name and address if you want to give us a try.

Gifford - 01543 491704

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS.

We have a team of excellent drivers, but because of a high demand for our service to the village ,we need more.

If you have a clean licence and are prepared to have a DBS and safeguard training, please get in touch with Diane on 01543 547507.

You receive fuel expenses and clients pay car parking charges. You choose what times you are free. You will be helping people in need who are all very grateful.





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AK Feeds









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Tel. 01543 481521

Little Lambs

TODDLER GROUP

To register your interest email our admin office:
rugeleycofechurches@gmail.com



Coming Soon

A safe, happy place where your little ones can grow and play.

Church of the Good Shepherd, Hislop Road
Tuesdays from 8th September 2026 - 9.15-11.30am
TERM TIME ONLY

ARMITAGE with HANDSACRE VILLAGE HALL

Your community events and meetings venue

Christmas Craft & Gift Fair

22 November 11am - 3pm

Seniors Annual Festive Tea Party

10 December 1.30 – 3.30pm
- Reserve your place!

All free to attend, all on one level, free parking.

07716 190051
awhvillagehall@outlook.com
www.awhvillagehall.org.uk
www.facebook.com/armitagevillagehall

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Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 8.30am - 5pm
and Wednesday: 8.30am - 2pm.
Individual businesses opening hours may vary.

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and Wednesday: 8.30am - 2pm.
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St John The Baptist Church

MAGAZINE

Our Villages
Our Community
Our Church

The Village Herald

Help keep The Herald Growing!

The Village Herald is delivered to **3,000** homes in our two villages.

If each household could donate **£1,** it would go part way to the cost of producing the magazine and allow for future growth.

From December we are increasing the number of pages from 12 to 16!

A 30% increase.



Donation boxes are located at:

- St John's Church
- Coles Butchers & Bakers
- The Post Office
- John's News

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