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'Parish News'

The Parish magazine for Broughton Astley and Croft with Stoney Stanton

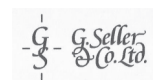


October
2024



40p

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The Genuine Independent Funeral Directors & Memorial Masons

| Parish Contacts | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Rector | Position vacant | |
| Assisting Clergy | Revd Vic Goodman | 01455 285410 |
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| PCC Secretary | Paula Atkinson | |
| PCC Treasurer | Barbara Bedford | 01455 202812 |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| To arrange Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals contact | | |
| Parish Administrator | Denise Carrington Can be contacted Mondays and Fridays 9:00am – 12noon Wednesday s 12:30 – 3:30pm. | 07534 820197 bacsschurches@gmail.com |

| | | |
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|---------------------------|------------|--|

| | | |
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| Croft | Hubert Lane | 07787 910466 |
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For further information, see inside back cover or visit our website:
<http://www.stmaryandstmichaelschurches.co.uk>
Or follow us on Facebook: @bacsschurches

| Around the Churches | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| St Mary's, Broughton Astley | | |
| Churchwardens | John Bass Colin Atkinson | 01455 640381 |
| DCC Secretary | Moiria Cooper | 07951 134920 |
| DCC Treasurer | Steve Windram | 01455 272922 |
| Tower Contact | | |
| Tower Captain | Andy Kedie | 01455 284777 |
| Teddy Bear Bunch (Weds 10:30 Term time) | Heather Beadle | 01455 284689 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| St Michael and All Angels, Croft | | |
| Churchwardens | Claire Jordan Mike Wootton | 01455 282495 01455 283699 |
| DCC Secretary | Claire Wootton | 07423 041399 |
| DCC Treasurer | Lester Halling | 01455 282189 |
| Tower Captain | Lester Halling | 01455 282189 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| St Michael's, Stoney Stanton | | |
| Churchwardens | Paul Lawrence Rachel Smith | 01455 274315 07376 031522 01455 642335 |
| DCC Secretary | Christine Hartley | 01455 274702 |
| DCC Treasurer | Margie Brimacombe | 01455 282429 |
| Ringling Master | Margie Brimacombe | 01455 282429 |
| Tower Contact | Carol Griffiths | 01455 697626 |

Facilities
Each of our three churches has a disabled access toilet and baby changing facility.
Each Church also has a hearing loop system.

2am Sunday
27 October,
clocks go back
one hour.



Services.....October

| | <i>St Mary's Broughton Astley</i> | <i>St Michael's Stoney Stanton</i> | <i>St Michael & All Angel's Croft</i> |
|---|--|--|---|
| Sunday 6 October Trinity 19 | 10:00 am United Service at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton Harvest Festival | | |
| Sunday 13 October Trinity 20 | 9:45 am Holy Communion with Baptism | 9:30 am Messy Church | 11:15 am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 20 October Trinity 21 | 9:45 am Messy Church | 9:30 am Holy Communion | 11:15 am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 27 October Last Sunday of Trinity | 9:45 am Morning Prayer | 9:30 am Holy Communion | 11:15 am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 3 November All Saints | 10:00 am United Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft | | |

Weekday Services:

Broughton Astley: Wednesday 9:30 am Either a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Stoney Stanton: Thursday 9:30 am A service of Morning Prayer.

Details of services correct at time of going to print. However, please check weekly news sheet and Church noticeboards or visit the BACSS Facebook page regularly to check for any changes and updates.

(You don't need a Facebook login to see these pages).

<https://m.facebook.com/bacsschurches/posts/>

Dear Friends

One of the things we really enjoy is Messy Church. We meet once a month and are joined by families from across our community to do crafts, play games, hear a story, sing a song, enjoy crumpets and hot dogs, cake and chocolate - we have a lot of fun. Our mission as we meet is to provide a place where people of all ages can come to make friends and to learn about faith in a less formal way and so as we meet we are helping to build the church and extend the Kingdom.

At our Messy Church in September our theme at St Michael's was about growing. We thought about how we grow and change, we planted seeds which we hope will grow in time for harvest next month, and the team all brought photos of themselves as babies and as adults to see if anyone could see who was who - the answer was that most people couldn't!!

At the end of our session we thought about how we grow together. The Bible tells us that the church is the body of Christ, as such it is living and grows as people join, learn, grow in their faith and become part of God's family working and serving together. The body is strengthened as we pray and worship and as we get to know one another. Jesus is the head of that body but we are its hands and feet, its eyes and ears, feet, hands and so on.

The thing about a body is that all the parts are needed. Although our toes seem very small, we would find it very difficult to walk without them. Similarly, although our ears are really useful, if all we had was ears we would really struggle to be able to see, to speak and to feel. Some parts of a body are hidden and not terribly beautiful like livers, lungs and kidneys and yet without them we would die. For us to function well all limbs, organs, muscles, bones, ligaments (and other bits I've probably forgotten) are necessary, however small and insignificant they may seem.

So it is with church, everyone has a part to play, everyone is welcome. It's really easy in our world today to feel insignificant and unnoticed but in church it doesn't matter how old you are, what size you are, what you look like or what you're good at - everyone is loved by God and welcome to become part of the Body of Christ.

At Messy church we illustrated this by building a tower out of multicoloured cups. Everyone contributed a different coloured cup and

together we created a tower that was beautiful and able to stand. Rather like a jenga tower if any of those cups had been missing the tower would not have been finished.

And this isn't just true at a local level. We have three congregations in our parish, St Mary's in Broughton Astley, St Michael and All Angels in Croft and St Michael's in Stoney Stanton, yet we are still only a small part of the Body of Christ which globally has hundreds of thousands of members all worshipping in their own culture and tongue.

We would love for you to come and join us, you would be made very welcome - all the details are here in the magazine. So this is an open invitation for you to come and be part of the Body of Christ and to help us as we grow together.

Alison Macklin



1st Stoney Stanton Scout Group

For information on membership - please contact the Leaders listed below

BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts

(Age 6 to 8 years)

Meet Wednesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Contact Kerry West

01455 272376

Cub Scouts

(Age 8 to 10½ years)

Meet Mondays 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Contact Luke Cousin

07843 378904

cubs

SCOUTS

Scouts

(Age 10½ to 14 years)

Meet Fridays 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Contact David 'Sport' Howes

01455 271239

Explorer Scouts

(Age 14 to 18 years)

Meet Fridays 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Contact Martin Oliver

01455 274050

EXPLORERS

For general enquiries contact:

Carl West (Group Scout Leader) on 07711 077606

Group Headquarters The Old Chapel, Broughton Road, Stoney Stanton

Stoney Stanton Village Hall



Newly refurbished throughout, this beautiful quarry stone building has loads of character, high ceilings & large rooms for events of all types

- The building holds up to 150 people
- main room is 12m x 6.6m with
- bi-fold doors for an additional 5m of length to the room
- chairs and tables available for events
- smaller lounge room with tables, chairs, sofa and reading area
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- WC's including disabled
- disabled access
- space for an indoor bouncy castle
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- free wifi
- asbestos free, fully water tested, a high quality fire alarm system for your safety
- from £12.50 per hour
- block bookings contact
clerk@stoneystanton.org.uk



NEW ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

<https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Stoney-Stanton-Parish-Council>



scan me

Time to Remember..... Those we love but see no longer



Saturday 2 November 2024

You are invited to a Time of Loving Remembrance for those we have loved and lost.

An opportunity to visit our churches during the day, write your loved ones name, light a candle, and remember.

Prayers will be said every half an hour and names will be read.

Pick up a spring bulb for your garden in remembrance.

You can stay as long or as short as you like.

St Michael's Stoney Stanton 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

St Mary's Broughton Astley 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

St Michael and All Angels Croft 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Baptism

Broughton Astley

Ella May Wilcox

Funeral

Croft

Ivy Bishop



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When children meet liturgy...

"Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses."

"Hail, Mary, full of grapes."

"He suffered under a bunch of violets." (Pontius Pilate)

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Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain

Have you ever felt you would like someone to pray for you? Or maybe there is someone you know who needs prayers.

Help is at hand. The Prayer Chain is a group of people who regularly pray for people who are on the prayer chain list.

All requests are treated in confidence. It is up to you how much you want to tell the prayer chain about the request. It can simply be the first name of the person.

Each request is prayed for, from the date of the request, for 1 month. If you want prayers to continue after that month you need to make another request.

**Please contact Jackie March with your request on
bacsprayerchain@gmail.com .**

***You don't have to be a member of the Church to use
the Prayer chain.***

Jackie March



**Saturday 5 October 6pm,
St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley**

Harvest Festival Quiz Night

- Come and enjoy a Ploughmans and Apple Pie, and a quiz!
- Everyone welcome!
- Please add your name to a list at the back of each church so we have numbers for catering.



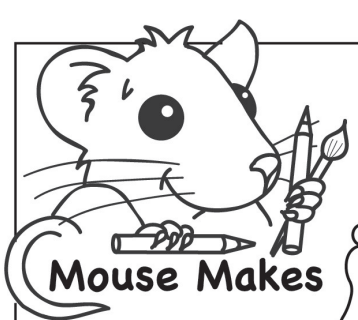
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH - CROFT
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

*Let Your
Lights
Shine*

We're hosting an evening of lights, sparkles and refreshments and we need your help...


We would like to borrow from you something that lights up, whether that's twinkling lights, glow in the dark items, LEDs, you name it. Ideally battery powered but we have mains power

Please give your named items to churchwardens or contact Claire Jordan (01455 282495) or Claire Wootton (07423 041399) and we'll arrange collection. We'll need the items no later than Thursday 14th November so that we can set up. Items will be ready to return to you the following week



WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11



"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the
_____"
Galatians 5:16

Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12

O I R
S P I R I T
K F A I T H R O
J N L O V E L U T
L O R D E A I T
R W A V S C G H
V L P A T H H
J E S U S U T
I D O F W T
G G O A B
E F L L L
W R L K E
A U O V S I
Y I W E S J
S T E P E E
Y O G O D S
F E E T
V T E

"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

"

is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1

GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

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Friday 13 to Sunday 15 December 2024
at St Mary's, Broughton Astley

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Open 11am to 5pm each day

Admission - adults £2, children under 12 free

Refreshments available: tea, coffee and cakes; soup and roll; bacon, sausage and turkey and cranberry baps.

Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Sunday 15 December at 4pm.

- **Entry forms to enter a tree**, available by emailing moira763@gmail.com,
- also available in church from September.



Thanks Paxton and Friends

Maureen and Malcolm would like to thank co-hosts Carol and Warren and everyone who helped in any way to making our “Tea and Trains” afternoon so enjoyable. There must have been 40+ people of all ages there, mesmerised by the trains while enjoying the company and refreshments. We also said a prayer of thanks to God for the dry warm weather He provided in spite of the dire predictions the previous day as given by the various forecasts. Not forgetting you all who turned up, thanks also go to your generosity enabling us to raise £170 for church funds.



Definitions

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original ‘Jaws’ story.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of His gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only His own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.



St Mary's Church, Wymeswold

Which comes first, the jam or the cream?

Which do you prefer, when it comes to eating scones? Of course, Cornwall and Devon have long been in rivalry over it, with Cornwall preferring the jam first, while Devon opts for the cream.

Now a recent YouGov survey has found the Cornish method is currently winning the debate. 62 per cent of us, and every British county (except Devon and Somerset) favour the jam-first Cornish approach.

Even the Queen also favoured the Cornish method. But the King is more pragmatic, once admitting that “I go with whichever is closest to me to start off.”

But now YouGov has discovered that when it comes to people under 30, the preference is beginning to swing the other way. While 80 per cent of people who are over-70s choose jam before cream on their scone, the figure falls to 48 per cent among the under-30s.

YouGov calls it a “glimmer of hope” for the Devon method and reckons that “on current trends we could start to see some crossover in coming generations”.

HYMN: The story behind - Come Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come, We ourselves are God's own
Raise the song of harvest home! field,
All is safely gathered in, Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Ere the winter storms begin; Wheat and tares together sown,
God, our maker, doth provide Unto joy or sorrow grown;
For our wants to be supplied; First the blade and then the ear,
Come to God's own temple, Then the full corn shall appear:
come; Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Raise the song of harvest home! Wholesome grain and pure may
be....*

By H Alford (1810 – 71)

Very probably, you will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Revd Henry Alford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four-volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest

What's in a name?

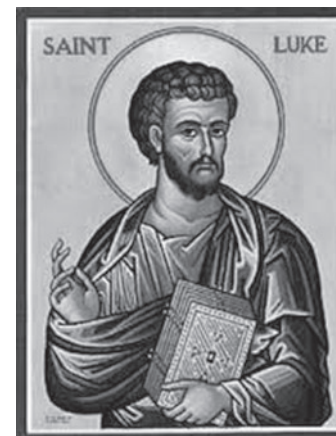
Luke

This month we celebrate the feast-day of St. Luke the Evangelist on 18 October.

So – who was Luke? The name means 'lightbearing' from the Latin *lux*, but it can also refer to an ancient part of Italy called Lucania. In Latin it is 'Lucas' or in Greek 'Loukas'. Its feminine equivalent is Lucia or Lucy.

Luke the Evangelist is believed to have been Greek, and Paul refers to him as 'the beloved physician', his friend and travelling companion. Whether or not he wrote the Gospel attributed to him, or its 'sequel' the Acts of the Apostles is up for debate. It suffices to say that the Gospel was written by a man of deep humanity, who cared deeply about the poor, the underprivileged, and women. He was also a wonderful storyteller, the narrative is compelling. His unique story of the birth of Jesus and the events leading up to it has been the basis for many a nativity play, but central to it is the Song of Mary, the Magnificat, which lays out the 'agenda of the Gospel', exalting the humble and meek, filling the hungry with good things, scattering the proud. And one of his most telling accounts, comes later, after the Resurrection as he invites us to travel the Road to Emmaus, in the companionship of the as yet unrecognised person of Jesus.

Luke has been a popular name throughout the Christian era and will continue to be so - a light in the world – like its namesake in ancient times.



GLORIA

Croft Church was packed to the rafters on Saturday 14 September for “Gloria”, Sebastian Carrington’s farewell concert. Sebastian conducted the BACSS choir, and was joined by musicians from Rugby School



and the Birmingham Conservatoire. It was a truly memorable night.

The music ranged from James Bond to Vivaldi via Phantom of the Opera, a capella choral singing to an orchestral ensemble and even a brace of accordions thrown in for good measure!

The audience enjoyed joining in with Thomas and Wendy on the accordions in rousing renditions of “Daisy, Daisy” and “She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain”. We were spellbound by beautiful singing from the choir and soloists. Wendy’s readings combined great humour and poignancy.



Then in the second half we were gently led into a sublime mood with Vivaldi’s “Gloria”.

The musicians and singers had worked incredibly hard to produce a performance of such outstanding quality, and they all appeared

- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a — !’ (John 2:16) (6)

Down

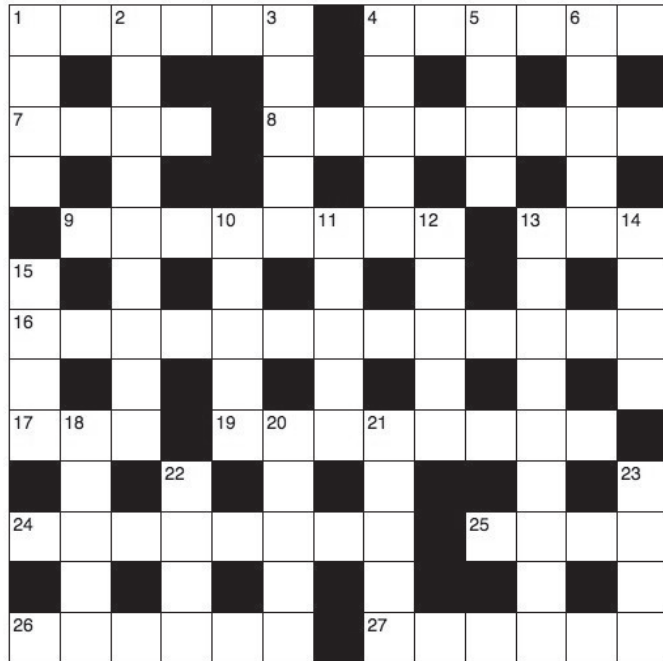
- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 ‘No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ’ (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 ‘He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord’ (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul ‘a great deal of harm’ (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 ‘This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me’ (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah’s great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 ‘You strain out a — but swallow a camel’ (Matthew 23:24) (4)

September Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

Crossword - October



Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

to be enjoying themselves as much as their audience. A great tribute to Sebastian's ability to inspire and get the best out of performers. A "happy and glorious" evening indeed - thank you to everyone involved.



St Mary's Great Spud in a Bucket Challenge

This summer the children of St Mary's Messy Church and the grownups who attend the Community Market were supplied with a bucket and a seed potato and challenged to grow as many potatoes as possible in the bucket. The potatoes were nurtured with varying degrees of success and the buckets brought back to church for the Grand Weigh In. The adult winner with an astonishing 2.5 kg of delicious spuds from one seed potato was K. Featherstone. A family won the Messy Church challenge with a very creditable 800g. Thanks to everyone who took part, and we hope you enjoyed your potatoes.



The winning Messy Church entry. The family revealed that the secret of their success was keeping the potato plant happy by reading and singing to it, and making sure it was moved around the garden to enjoy plenty of sunshine!

Unexpected Encounters - Angels in Art

During the later part of the year we hear quite a lot about angels, particularly as Christmas draws near. They decorate our cards, they always play a prominent part in nativity plays! This is the reflection of one reader on some angels, encountered quite unexpectedly, in art.

At the top of a flight of stairs, as you enter the Monastery of St. Mark in Florence is one of the most beautiful and best-loved paintings of an angel. It is by Fra Angelico and depicts the Annunciation, Gabriel bringing the earth-shattering news to Mary that she is to bear Jesus. Often reproduced, it is an image, which doubtless will take its place on Christmas cards, yet again this year.

I doubt if many of us have ever seen an angel, but we think we know what they should look like, from all those paintings around us in our lives. Scripture has the golden thread of angelic presence woven within it - they are here to protect us, to bring messages from God, to support human existence with a heavenly presence. Belief in angels is quite reassuring.

And even nowadays, when belief for many has given way to cynicism artists are still drawn to create angels, bringing their own message for today's world. Here is the story of just one:

A former industrial town was trying hard to recover in the face of decline, wisely, and bravely its council decided to turn its areas of dereliction to a celebration of art. In the late 1980's it bid for Government support for a Garden Festival, which it won, and some of the toxic land which had once housed chemical works was filled with gardens and works of art. This was unexpectedly successful, so the council decided to set up a scheme called 'Art in Public Spaces' and, as well as smaller works, they felt a big, landmark piece on the site of an old derelict pithead in full sight of the surrounding roads might be worth investing in.

It was another brave and inspired move, but probably there was no one quite as brave as the young Arts Officer who was given the task of contacting the eminent sculptor whose services the town was hoping to attract. So, she sat down to make what proved to be a nerve-wracking call.

The reply was brusque indeed. 'I don't do roundabout art'.

St Mary's Subscription Draw

September

First Prize - £40.00 - No 20 - Mr B McMichael
Second Prize - £20.00 - No 27 - Mrs C Pyle
Third Prize - £10.00 - No 217 - Mr R Thomas

Some numbers still available – an excellent way to support the church and have some fun in these difficult times.
Contact Tom Cockerill on 01455 698949.

St Michael's Stoney Stanton 100 Club Draw

September

First Prize - £25.00 - No 17 - Kath Bullock
Second Prize - £15.00 - No 14 - Hilary Wall
Third Prize - £10.00 - No 94 - Owen Burbage

There are numbers available for this draw.
Please contact Julie on 07738 764245

An Eco Christmas Tree

As part of St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, December 13, 14 & 15 December, I would like to decorate an 'EcoTree'. For this I would like a used tree decoration from as many of you as possible. Please let me have your contribution during November- just one decoration please!!!! I know how your generosity can run away with you!

Thank you


Sheila Yates

Clubs, activities & events in October

W.I. Meetings etc.....

| Where at..... | Date and Time | Speaker | Competition |
|---|--|--|-------------|
| Broughton Astley Village Hall | Tuesday 8 October 7:30 pm | "A History of Witches" Sandy Leong | |
| Stoney Stanton St Michael's Church | Wednesday 9 October 7:30 pm | Annual Meeting | |
| Ladies Fellowship Group St Mary's Church Broughton Astley | Wednesday 9 October 2pm Contact Denise 285410 or Wendy 272050 for more information | "Not the hounds of the Baskervilles" Lester Halling | |

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Thankfully, she persisted, calling on all her powers of persuasion, and eventually, despite his misgivings, the artist arranged to visit the site, a windy mound in an industrial wilderness. He asked searching questions about the site and its history, and announced 'I will build you an industrial angel'.

And so came the inspiration for Antony Gormley's 'Angel of the North' – and despite the artist's initial reservations, it was built. It was so massive it had to be cast in a foundry, and came, unlike many angels on a low-loader. But this angel was greeted at every turn, by local people who wanted to touch it, or just see it on its way. It was not just a symbol of hope for the area, a figure visible for miles around. It took on an almost mystical presence even on its journey. Since then it has attracted countless visitors every day, they come to celebrate, to mourn loved ones; it has even been festooned in the scarves of football supporters, it has become part of life. The Angel of the North has a power of its own. The artist says the angel was to remind us that the site that it stands on was the pithead under which coal miners toiled for two centuries; he hoped it would serve as a focus for our evolving hopes and fears.

But it has brought more than just hope in a former industrial wilderness. It has brought an intangible, quite indescribable message. This story also reminds us of the unexpectedness of angelic arrivals – even in the form of a work of art. You don't actually expect to find one of the world's great modern sculptures on a disused pithead; you don't expect to find stunningly great works of art at the top of a staircase on an Italian monastery.

In Scripture, angels guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden, as Adam and Eve are cast out; angels visit Abraham and Sarah, to predict the birth of Isaac; an angel visits a young girl and tells her she is to bear a child, even though she is unwed, and later reassures her husband-to-be that this is God's work; angelic choirs bring an unexpected summons to some poverty-stricken shepherds to visit the Son of God; much much later, Peter is himself rescued from imprisonment by an angel. Every one of these stories and there are many more in the Bible, carries an element of risk, when you think about it. And in the book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation, visionary books both, we hear of Michael, fighting with all the power of God against the evil of the world. And God's goodness prevails.

Some years ago, another sculptural angel visited some of our Cathedrals. I was fortunate enough to see it, not long after it had been created, in Rochester.

Created in an iron foundry in Oswestry, it is an awesome sculpture, one born of great tragedy. Standing at over 8 metres tall it was created to highlight knife crime, and was made following a knife amnesty in 2016. Its robes and wings tell a tragic story to all who see it. One third of the knives confiscated by the police, arrived at the artist's studio still covered in blood, and had to be kept in biohazard bags until they could be cleaned. Families of those lost to knife violence were invited to engrave a message onto just one of the sculpture's many thousands of blades. The places where this sculpture were being taken to, were to encourage groups of young people to visit it to make them aware of the horrors it represents. Its hands were spread in supplication to everyone. When we saw it, there were little groups of youngsters, just looking at it, or quietly talking together.

Angels, including those created by artists, can very often bring a disturbing message for us all. Angels come in many forms, often when we least expect them. Sometimes God works simply through the kindness of others, sometimes through people who are not aware they are even being used. And sometimes he works through unexpected art, which makes us all catch our breath, pause, and think.

'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it' Hebrews 13:2

'The Annunciation'

By Fra Angelico



EFFFI (Elmesthorpe Friends Food and Flower Initiative)

Raising money for St Mary's Church and other local charities

Coffee Morning

Elmesthorpe Village Hall

10:00—11:30

Saturday 26 October

Pumpkin Party—wear something orange!!

All Welcome

Stoney Stanton Methodist Chapel

Coffee Mornings

Thursday 31 October

10:00 am—11:30 am



Come and Join Us

Coffee Mornings and Lunches

St Mary's Broughton Astley

Saturday 5 October

10 am— 12 noon

Community Market and Coffee Morning

Don't forget your Spuds!

St Michael and All Angels Croft

Lunch

Saturday 5 October

12 noon - 1:30 pm

For more information

Contact Libby on 01455 282629

St Michael's Stoney Stanton

Saturday 12 October

10 am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning

Passwords

An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords." The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

Retirement

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CROFT.

TABLE TOP SALE AND COFFEE

MORNING

SATURDAY 12TH OCT.

10AM - 2PM



Browse the stalls

Drink tea/ coffee

Eat cakes and savouries

Enjoy

Revd Pauline's Licensing

On Sunday 4 August, the parish said farewell to Revd Pauline. A few weeks later on 10 September some of us made our way to All Saints Church, Waltham, Near Grimsby, for Pauline's licensing as Rector of the benefice of The Waltham Group. The service was led by the Bishop of Lincoln, The Rt Revd Stephen Conway.



The Bishop and the Acting Archdeacon both said how pleased they were to be welcoming Pauline to join them in the Local Mission Partnership.

At the front of the service booklet, there was a welcome to all, which contained this paragraph:

"This service is not solely about the ministry of one person or one

church, but is rather a celebration of the mission and ministry we all share, and a commitment to work together in new ways for the flourishing of God's Church and People".

There were two readings and the second one, the Gospel, was read by Pauline's son Adam.

Pauline will be Rector over 6 Churches, so there were a large number of Churchwardens, clergy and lay ministers.

After Pauline had been Instituted, Inducted and Installed as Rector, she was welcomed by local community representatives and ecumenical partners. Representatives of the church



The post and the gastropods



You may worry that your letter will be lost in the post, but you probably don't worry that your letter may be eaten by snails.

But perhaps it is time to start. Especially if your letter is being posted in rural Northumberland. It seems some hungry snails there have developed a taste for eating the post. They crawl through the flap of the post box and munch away.

Duncan Hutt, of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, explains that "Snails eat paper because most contains cellulose from the wood pulp, which they can digest and use for energy, and they also get calcium from paper and that's what they need to build their shells. Slugs and snails have a very varied diet." And it might include your letter!

Our hedgehogs are in crisis



It is feared that there may be just one million hedgehogs left in Britain. This compares to about 36 million during the 1960s. About 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on our roads every year.

With this in mind, England's first 'hedgehog crossing' road signs have recently been launched in several Borough Councils around the country. The aim is to try and save the species from eventual extinction.

The new sign features a hedgehog with white quills inside a red triangle above a message that reads 'hedgehogs crossing'.

The design has been approved by the Department for Transport and it is hoped that the signs will make a big difference in preserving the hedgehog population. The aim is to raise awareness among motorists, to get them to slow down, and also among people using a strimmer in their garden.

Where do postcodes come from?

Some 65 years ago, on 11 October 1959, Britain began introducing postcodes. They started in Norwich, and by 1974 had been rolled out across the whole country.

The idea was to speed up sorting, following the mechanisation of the postal system. But for the process to work, people had to use it, and it was therefore important to make sure that people could remember their postcode easily. So, psychologists from Cambridge University were asked to assist in their design.

This worked so well that a survey in 2016 revealed that people are now more likely to remember their postcode than their debit card PIN (92%, compared with 77%). And the information sticks: apparently 17% of people questioned could still remember the postcode of the house they lived in up to 30 years earlier.

When the first postcodes were trialled in Norwich, the first three characters were NOR (now NR followed by a number) representing the name of the city, and the last three signified a particular street or large business. Why Norwich? Because of its new sorting machines.

The main point of a postcode is to ensure that a letter or parcel gets to the correct Royal Mail sorting office, where it can then be sorted into the correct round. So the “outcode” will specify a postcode area and district, and will have up to four characters. The “incode” designates a particular postcode sector and delivery point, and always has one number and two letters.

What is a delivery point? It could be a street, part of a street or a single property. Or in rural areas, something a bit bigger. The postcode area is of course much larger: the smallest in Britain is WC in London, covering one square mile. The largest is IV, Inverness, at 6,243 square miles.

Tim Lenton



community then gathered around their new minister with symbols of ministry, a flagon of water for baptism; a Bible; a chalice and paten for the Eucharist.

As part of the Induction, Pauline was presented with the keys of the church, and later she made

her way to the back of the church to toll the church bell.

During the service we sang the hymns “How Great thou art”, “Be thou my vision”, and “Sing Hosanna”.

Following the service, we were invited to partake of refreshments in the adjoining hall, before we made the return journey (over 2 hours), back to Leicestershire.

Whilst we are missing Pauline, we know that she will soon become part of the community of the Waltham Group of churches, and be happy in her Ministry there.



Later, Pauline sent the following message:

“My thanks to those who came on Tuesday and to those who also watched on Youtube and continue to pray for my ministry here. With much gratitude. In faith Pauline.”

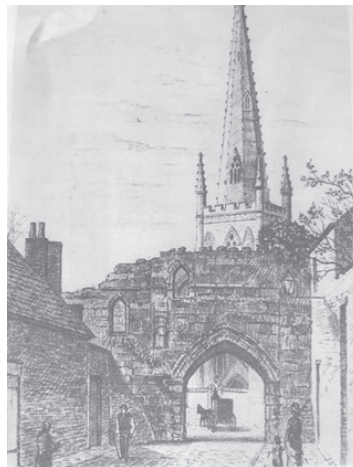
History??????

A recent report lamented that 'Pride in Britain's history is on the decline'. If that is so, it is a great shame, but if it means we have become less jingoistic then that is all to the good! But perhaps a recent book may shed some light on this view of the importance of history?

It may look like a weighty volume, but believe you me, Nick Miller's 'Church History of Leicestershire' is an enthralling 'read'! It is the story of an often neglected county, which has been at the centre of things warfare, pestilence, starvation and general tumult has swept across its people. We begin in pre-history, imagining the sort of religions and cults which were at the heart of life as our ancestors strove to make sense of the natural world, it follows the Roman invasion and the coming of Christianity, much of pagan belief grafted onto first, Roman gods and then onto Christian practice. We see the impact and brutality of Norman conquest, followed by centuries of warmongering and bickering among nobles, as squabbles for power, be it civil or religious overwhelmed the country, all from the perspective of its central county, later calming down as industry developed and society grew into that which we recognise today. And the book does not balk at the demographic and religious change of the last century.

'Church History of Leicestershire' by Nick Miller is available from all good booksellers, in paperback format, at a very reasonable cost. It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone who is interested in what made us the people we are today!

Castle Gate and St. Mary de Castro Church. Leicester from an old engraving



Sadly, the spire of St Mary de Castro was removed for safety reasons. I remember seeing it being taken down as my office window overlooked the Church. Ed.

Winter is just around the corner

Winter Warmer
Homemade Soup Lunches start
@ St Michael's Church Church
on Thursday October 3rd

Please come and join us
between 12 and 1:30