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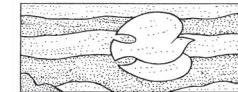
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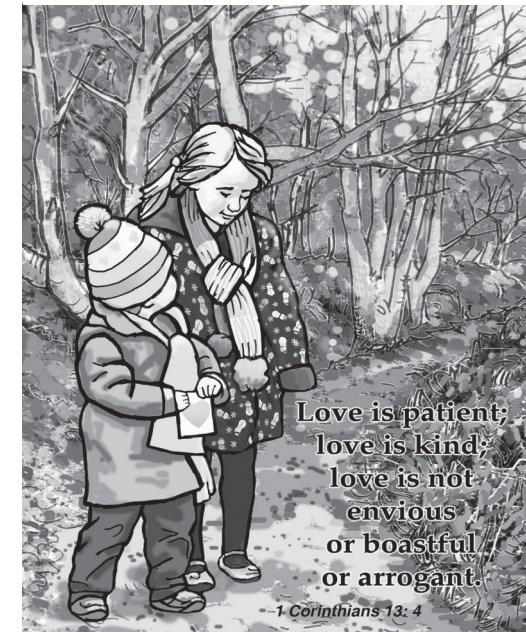


'Parish News'

**The Parish magazine for
Broughton Astley and Croft with
Stoney Stanton**



February
2026



40p

Supplied and printed by



The Genuine Independent Funeral Directors & Memorial Masons

Parish Contacts

Rector	Position vacant	
Assisting Clergy	Revd Vic Goodman	01455 285410
Readers	Lester Halling Peter Yates	01455 282189 07760 152577
Locally Authorised Ministers	Paula Atkinson Heather Beadle Malcolm Burland Sheila Yates	07581 574340 01455 284689 07946 575105 07491 811019
Pastoral Assistant	John Bass	07458 315152
PCC Secretary	Paula Atkinson	07581 574340
PCC Treasurer	Barbara Bedford	01455 202812
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Peter Yates	07760 152577

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals contact		
Parish Administrator	Linda Humphreys	07534 820197 bacsschurches@gmail.com

Parish News Editor	Wendy Howe	07779 194730 wjhowe.t21@btinternet.com
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To subscribe to the Parish News please contact:		
Broughton Astley	Tom Cockerill	01455 698949
Croft	Hubert Lane	07787 910466
Stoney Stanton	Wendy Howe	07779 194730

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	07458 315152 07792 801900
DCC Secretary	Moira 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	07376 031522 01455 642335
DCC Secretary	Helen Gray	07929 643829
DCC Treasurer	Margie Brimacombe	01455 282429
Ringing Master	Margie Brimacombe	01455 282429
Tower Contact	Fiona	sstantontower@hotmail.com

Facilities

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

Services.....February

	<i>St Mary's Broughton Astley</i>	<i>St Michael's Stoney Stanton</i>	<i>St Michael & All Angel's Croft</i>
Sunday 1 February Candlemas	10:00 am United Service at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley 3:00 pm A service of Confirmation at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton With Bishop Saju		
Sunday 8 February 2nd Before Lent	9:45 am Holy Communion	9:30 am Messy Church	11:15 am Holy Communion/ Morning Prayer
Sunday 15 February Sunday before Lent	9:45 am Messy Church	9:30 am Holy Communion	11:15 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY	9:30 am Service of Holy Communion with Ashing		
Sunday 22 February 1st of Lent	9:45 am Holy Communion	9:30 am Cafe Church	11:15 am Holy Communion
Sunday 1 March 2nd of Lent	10:00 am United Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft		

Weekday Services:

Broughton Astley: Wednesday 9:30 am a service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion on the first Wednesday

Stoney Stanton: Thursday 9:30 am service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion on the third Thursday

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



As we step into this new year together, I want to encourage you to remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ—the good news that never fails and never fades. In February, when I come to be with you, I will bring an olive plant. My hope is that it will find a home somewhere in the church, quietly telling a story that speaks to our hearts.

The olive tree is a remarkable image of resilience and faithfulness. It grows through all kinds of weather—the fierce winds and the gentle breezes. It doesn't choose its seasons; it simply stands firm and grows. In the same way, God calls us to trust Him through the thick and thin of life. Whatever storms or sunshine we face, He knows what it is all about, and He is faithful.

Olive trees also remind us that fruitfulness takes time. Their fruit must lose its bitterness before it becomes useful—it takes washing, waiting, soaking, and salting. So too, God patiently works in us, shaping us through every season, even the hard ones, to bring forth hope and life.

And then there is the pressing—the times of pressure we never ask for, but which bring forth oil: light for the darkness, balm for the wounded, and joy that rises from places we didn't know still held life. This is the story of the gospel at work in us.

May this little olive plant remind us all that God is faithful, that He is with us in every moment, and that we can trust Him completely. Let us keep standing firm in Christ, rooted in His love, and bearing fruit for His kingdom.

With prayers and every blessing,
+ Saju Muthalaly
Bishop Loughborough

Confirmations

Thank you to Bishop Saju for his words of encouragement. He will be joining us on Sunday 1 February at 3 pm for a service of Confirmation, at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton

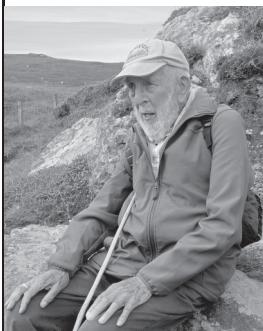
Everyone is warmly invited to this service when we will be welcoming three people who will be confirming their faith in Jesus Christ.

We also look forward to receiving the Olive Tree and nurturing it over the coming years.

Light refreshments will be served after the service.



Allan Chapman



There is to be a short 'Celebration of Allan's life' service on Saturday 28 February 11am at St. Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton. Tea and cake will be served at the church after the service for anyone wishing to stay.

If you have any memories of Allan that you would like to share during the service or you would like to say any words please let Lindsay or Graham know asap by email glchapman87@outlook.com or mobile/ text 07930907837.

There will be a collecting box for any donations in memory of Allan at the church which will be forwarded to The Brain Tumour Charity in remembrance of Louie Fray, Allan's grandson

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01455 841364**

**Stoney Stanton
01455 241749**

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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.

I would ask you to check that the person you are requesting is OK about being on the prayer chain.

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.



Baptism

Broughton Astley	Ethan Jack Judge
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Funerals

Broughton Astley	Sylvia Singleton
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Stoney Stanton	Michael Frederick Pallatt
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HOLIDAY



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It hurts

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"



1st Stoney Stanton Scout Group



Beaver Scouts

(Age 6 to 8 years)

Meet Wednesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm



Cub Scouts

(Age 8 to 10½ years)

Meet Mondays 6.30pm to 8.00pm



Scouts

(Age 10½ to 14 years)

Meet Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Interested in playing a part in delivering lifetime skills for young people ?
We have a whole host of options for adults, from actual team leadership
to flexible or occasional volunteering.

For more information on this or youth membership
please contact:-

Carl West (Group Lead Volunteer) on 07711 077606
gslstoneystanton@hotmail.com

For general enquiries contact

Stuart Wilson (Group Trustee Board Secretary) on 07929 479970
Group Headquarters The Old Chapel, Broughton Road, Stoney Stanton

Regular Midweek Services and Events

9:30 am - Every Wednesday – A service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion on the first Wednesday at Broughton Astley

9:30 am – Every Thursday – A service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion on the third Thursday at Stoney Stanton.

Third Monday each month, Bible Study House Group, in Broughton Astley, 2.30 – 4.00 ish pm. Please contact Paula Atkinson, 07581 574340.

Second Tuesday each month, Prayer Group meets at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton 7.30 pm for a time of quiet prayer. Please contact Carol Ford 07779 841555.

Every Wednesday during Term Time,
10:30 am – 12 noon Teddy Bear Bunch for pre-school children at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley.

Home Communion

If anyone within the Parish wishes to receive Holy Communion at their home, please contact John Bass 07458 315152 who will be able to help you, and arrange to visit you.

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival



Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Christmas Tree Festival weekend. Once again a great success.

The winning tree was No 27, 1st Broughton Astley Scouts, with "The Beaver Scout Jubilee Tree". Congratulations to them and well done to all the other entrants

as well as local walks, Norwich and the coast. We are also enjoying a beautiful garden, which your most generous gift has enabled us to enhance.



Beetle Drive and Pancakes

Saturday 21 February

6:00 pm

St Michael's Church Stoney Stanton

Beetle Drive, Jacket Potatoes and PANCAKES

£8.00 Adults, £4 accompanied children

Bring your own drinks

Sign up sheets in each Church



A warm thank you to you all for our happy memories of you all at Broughton Astley, Croft and Stoney Stanton.

With our love

Mike and Lynne Vernon

Post-Valentine

A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?" asked the friend, amazed.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

Norfolk – At Last!

Well, we finally made it! So, greetings from snowy Norfolk. It took us two years and two days, buying our third house, after recalcitrant chain problems and my second brush with cancer. You could say we were nothing if not determined through quite a testing time.

We were keen not to buy on the rebound and end up with a disappointing new home as a result of desperate compromise. However, God was faithful, and we find ourselves living in a beautiful house in a charming village, Beetley, close to the market town of Dereham, bang in the centre of the county. Beetley is small, with some 3,000 souls, deeply rural with no street lamps and oil fired central heating. You take your torch when you go out at night.

We have been made instantly, and warmly welcome, by both neighbours and church. On our first foray to Beetley church, we doubled the congregation! So, we headed for the next village, and St Mary's, Gressenhall, with a congregation of forty or so, a lovely vicar, Julia, who needless to say, covers a number of churches, and who has been responsible for building up such a lively and active congregation. St Mary's has a large, enthusiastic and gorgeous choir, The Gressenhall Singers, led by Jane, who formerly sang professionally in the West End shows. We are being pressed to join, while protesting our amateurishness. But Jane says all she asks for is enthusiasm and commitment.

St Mary's and the pub, the White Swan, are the backbone of Gressenhall's warm community spirit. I have joined the Tuesday Knit and Natter group, a bunch of ladies who truly care for one another and made me instantly at home. Mike has joined Dereham photo Club, and I am looking for a painting class, or volunteering at the National Trust's Felbrigg Hall

We so love being in our beautiful home and in glorious, peaceful Norfolk. It has been so worth the wait and the nail-biting stress of the move. We now look forward to exploring community and friendships,

Posada

Once again our Posada figures travelled around our three villages on their journey to Bethlehem. They visited our Churches, schools, homes, offices, went on day trips out and looked at the Christmas lights. They even met up with a group of midwives, who were all happy with Mary's progress and agreed that she was due to give birth on 25 December!



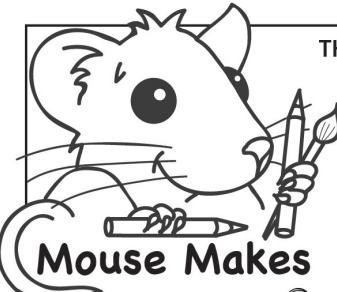
St Mary's Winter Quiz 2025

Thank you to all those who entered the Winter Quiz. I had 27 sheets returned to me for marking. Of those, 13 people scored 100%. After a draw, the winner was declared as Claire Travis of Stoney Stanton. Many congratulations and the £20 prize goes to her. If you are still struggling over the answers, below is the full list. Lucy

Thanks again to Lucy for once again testing our "Little Grey Cells".

1. Pebbles	21. Spade	41. Promenade
2. Sea Shells	22. Trunks	42. Sand dunes
3. Bucket	23. Sands	43. Surf Board
4. Dogs	24. Sea	44. Driftwood
5. Lifeguard	25. Shore	45. Breakwater
6. Cricket	26. Cave	46. Buoys
7. Kite	27. Harbour	47. Pedalo
8. Lighthouse	28. Crab	48. Sunglasses
9. Donkey	29. Coast	49. Lifeboat House
10. Picnic	30. Jetsam	50. Beach Bag
11. Walkers	31. Sun-hat	51. Seaweed
12. Waves	32. Beach Huts	52. Swimming Costumes
13. The Seagull	33. Sandcastle	53. Rug
14. Starfish	34. Fishing Boat	54. Ice-Cream
15. Cliff	35. Parasol	55. Fish
16. Ball	36. Rock Pool	56. Deck—Chair
17. Boat	37. Choc Ices	57. Lilo
18. Rock	38. Sun Cream	58. Wind Surfer
19. Piers	39. Lobster Pots	59. Jet Ski
20. Children	40. Towels	60. Jellyfish





THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? v9

What did Jesus say? v9

SECOND TEMPTATION THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God first
Worship only Him.

1

FORTY DAY SS ON K L O R D N H

T D O W N O N W O R S H I P

T E S T W O R L D L T U N B

L V T E M P T A T I O N G R

E I A M J E S U S F N G D E

N L K P D E S E R T E R O A

T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D

I M J E R U S A L E M F S J

W I L D E R N E S S J U M P

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

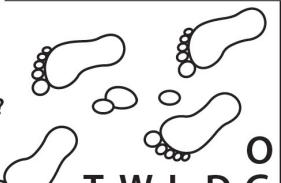
FIRST TEMPTATION THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.







THIRD TEMPTATION THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

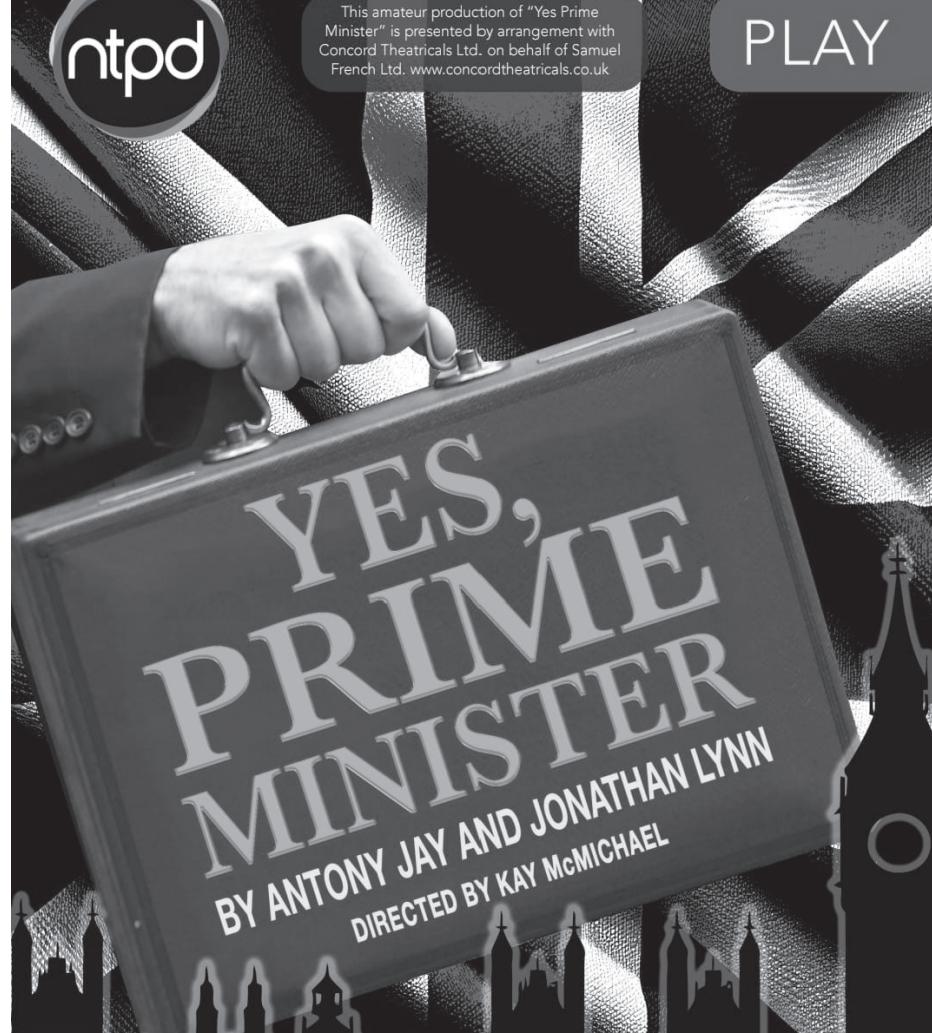
WE LEARN:
God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.



ntpd

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PLAY



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BY ANTONY JAY AND JONATHAN LYNN
DIRECTED BY KAY McMICHAEL

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'Dancing to the heartbeat of God'

Do I detect a gentle, spring-like wind of change. A 'still small voice' beginning to blow through the Church of England? Two recent books make me wonder.

They are both by women, women in a position of authority in the church, something which would hardly have been dreamt of only a very few years ago. Both Bishops, one of them on the brink of becoming the most senior of bishops, as Archbishop-elect.

For Advent last year, Bishop Guli Frances-Dequani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, wrote a delightful, thoughtful book '*Listening to the music of the soul*', but what was unusual about this was that, though primarily a reflection on the Magnificat, it was illustrated throughout by music, each chapter finishing with a QR code, which, when scanned with a smart-phone gave a link to some quite wonderful music to illustrate what had gone before. One, exquisitely beautiful piece, had been written by her brother, prior to his cruel murder in Iran. It was a very modern, yet, in its way, timeless approach.

But now Lent is almost upon us and we are gifted with another book, again, very different to what we have been used to. This new book's title echoes the one chosen for Bishop Guli's Advent book, but at the same time is quite individually different.

'Dancing to the heartbeat of God' is unique in the long series of Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent books. Bishop Sarah Mullally will not be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury until Lady Day, March 25th, but she has worked with her publisher at SPCK to produce a challenging and unusual book, as a Lenten companion.

It has been the custom for the incumbent Archbishop of Canterbury to commission a favourite writer to produce a Lent book, something which has happened year on year. This year is a little different. There are no fewer than 30 contributors to this book, voices from the Anglican Communion throughout the world, each a singular voice, telling their own stories and giving fresh insights daily, some of which may challenge, all of which will be food for thought.

It is refreshing to experience the power of the new coming from women who are bringing their own experience to bear upon the Christian Church of today, the one who arrived here as a young refugee, fleeing a murderous regime,

Down

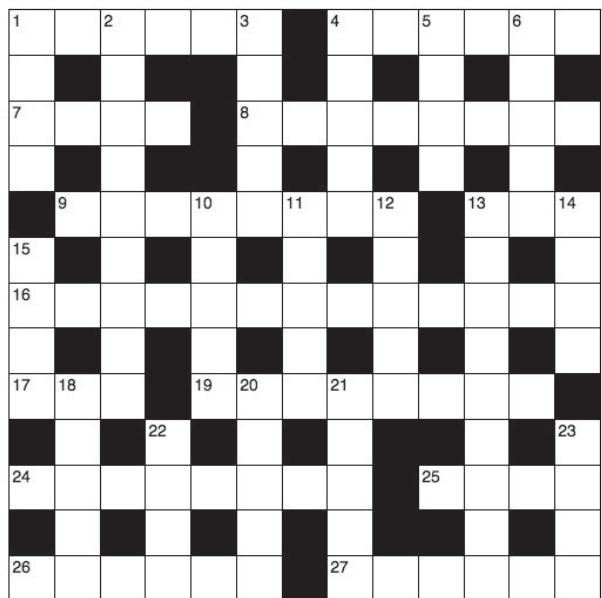
- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant —' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

December Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Crossword - February



Across

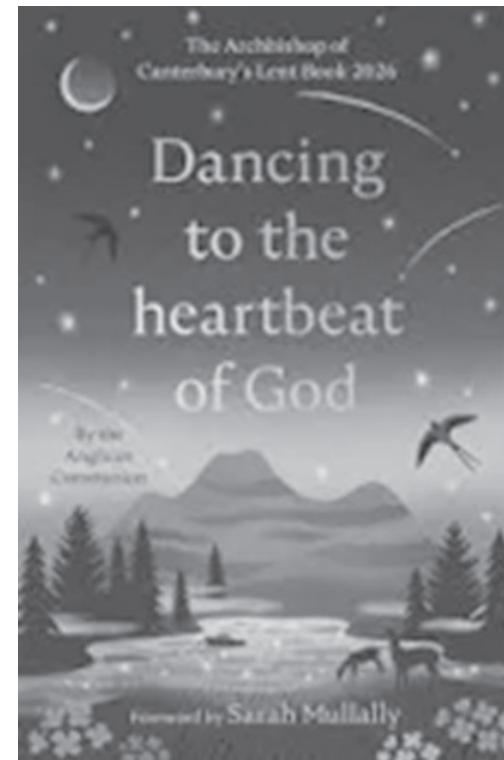
- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

the other who was a distinguished Chief Nursing Officer earlier in her life.

These are quiet, very personal actions, the gift of books for us to digest in solitude, maybe discuss with friends, without the razzmatazz that seems to be 'associated' with the needs of people today.

They will challenge, but also lead us forward hopefully and thoughtfully as we journey on in faith.

Both books are available from all good booksellers.



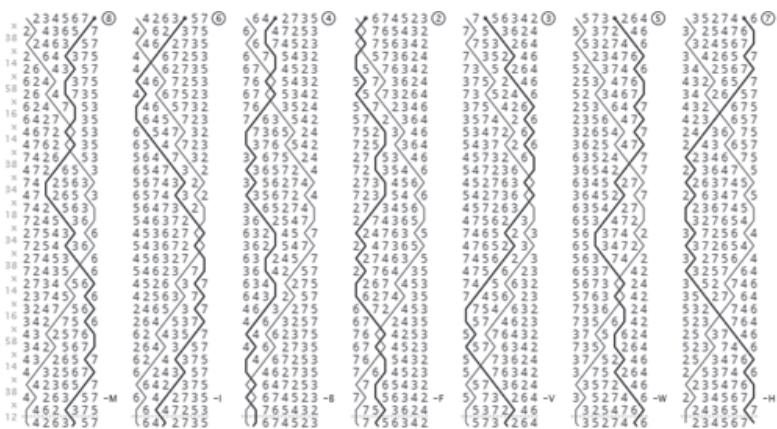
There is 'Method' in their madness

(or something like that)

On Saturday 6 December a group of 8 Ringers from The Leicestershire Diocesan Guild, set out to ring 8 'Quarter Peals' in 8 different 'Methods' in 8 different towers across our corner of Leicestershire.

For the uninitiated a 'Quarter Peal' means approximately 45 minutes of continuous ringing and 1260 different lines of pattern, and therefore 1260 strokes of each bell Different methods use different patterns and all the patterns need to be remembered – That equates to each bell (and bell-ringer) making 10,080 bell strokes in the right place, at the right time – like learning 10,080 lines of computer code

Here is just a little sample of the method called 'Rutland'



The madcap day was organized by 14 year old Tessa Preston who was completing the challenge as a step on her route to a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and she was ably assisted by a band of ringers from Sapcote, Narborough, Earl Shilton, Ratby, Stoney Stanton, and Loughborough.

St Mary's Subscription Draw

December

First Prize	-	£40.00	-	No 83	-	Mrs M Battell
Second Prize	-	£20.00	-	No 64	-	Mr J Bass
Third Prize	-	£10.00	-	No 229	-	Mr R Thomas

January

First Prize	-	£40.00	-	No 79	-	Mrs C Riley
Second Prize	-	£20.00	-	No 4	-	Mrs M Pawley
Third Prize	-	£10.00	-	No 95	-	Mr C Giles

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

December

First Prize	-	£25.00	-	No 96	-	Margie Brimacombe
Second Prize	-	£15.00	-	No 32	-	Sarah Martin
Third Prize	-	£10.00	-	No 23	-	Martin Macklin

January

First Prize	-	£25.00	-	No 70	-	Kate Worrall
Second Prize	-	£15.00	-	No 17	-	Kath Bullock
Third Prize	-	£10.00	-	No 14	-	Hilary Wall

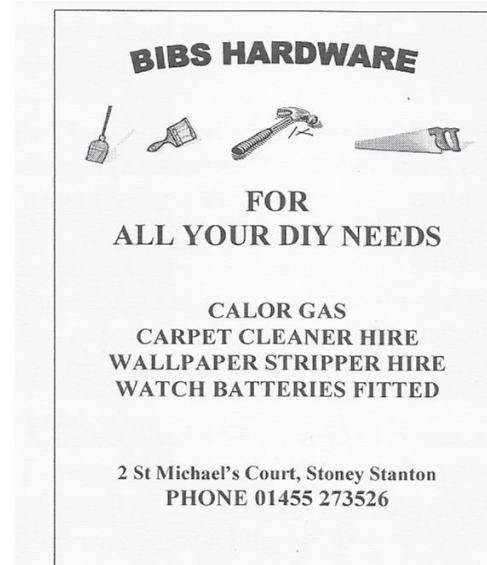
There are numbers available for this draw.

Please contact Julie on 07738 764245

Clubs, activities & events February

W.I. Meetings etc.....

Where at.....	Date and Time	Speaker	Competition
Broughton Astley Village Hall	Tuesday 10 February 7:30 pm	“Chocolate Presentation” Tom Phillips	Cupid’s Arrow
Stoney Stanton St Michael’s Church	Wednesday 11 February 7:30 pm	“Gather, create crow,” Cosby Yarn Bombers Natalie and Mel	
Ladies Fellowship Group St Mary’s Church Broughton Astley	Wednesday 11 February 2pm Contact Denise 285410 or Wendy 07779 194730 for more information	Rev Paul from Nigeria	



Arrive	Tower	Method
9.35am	Enderby	Rutland
10.55 am	Whetstone	London
12.15 pm	Countesthorpe	Pudsey
2.05pm	Claybrooke	Superlative
3.25 pm	Sapcote	Bristol
4.45 pm	Barwell	Lincolnshire
6.05 pm	Earl Shilton	Yorkshire
7.25pm	Stoney Stanton	Cambridge

Here is their itinerary

The day went like clockwork, with Ringers zipping from tower to tower, and even granted them a break for lunch.

The day finished at 8.00pm at Stoney Stanton where the weary but triumphant band posed for the ‘photo below.



Congratulations to all who took part, and ‘Well done’ to Tessa for setting everything up and keeping them all in line

Coffee Mornings

St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Saturday 7 February

10 am— 12 noon

Community Market and Coffee Morning

St Michael and All Angels Croft

Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday 9:30—11:30

St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton

Saturday 14 February

10 am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning

Croft Lunches

The Saturday Lunches team at Croft have made the difficult decision that the December Christmas Lunch was their final one. They would like to thank all those who came over the years, for their support. It has been a pleasure to provide a hot meal and a place for people to meet friends.

They have now started a new venture of a weekly coffee morning on Tuesdays, 9:30—11:30 where folk will still have a place to meet regularly with friends and family

All are welcome.

And a big thank you to the team at Croft for all the lovely lunches they have provided over the years.



In earlier editions of this magazine we have highlighted the ringing by young people in the district.

If anyone (of any age) is interested in Bell Ringing, please contact our ringing master, Margie, 01455 282429, for further information.

Well done to all involved in these peals! It is always a joy to hear the bells ringing, a quintessential part of villages fortunate enough to have a Church with a peal of bells.

Bellringing at St Michael's, Stoney Stanton

We are fortunate enough to have a very keen band of ringers at St Michael's and in the local area.

We also often have visiting ringers to our tower. You will have read earlier about Tessa's challenge, and below is another special peal that was rung at the end of December.

Claire's Peal

On a Saturday in late December a band of ringers assembled at Stoney Stanton, to ring a quarter peal to celebrate Claire's significant birthday earlier that month.

Claire also rang with her husband, and her oldest son, Joseph. Joseph has learnt to ring over the last three years as part of his Scouts personal challenge badge and also his Duke of Edinburgh scheme skill section.

The quarter in December was Joseph's first quarter peal and he rang an inside bell to the method (plain bob major) which is a significant milestone and achievement.

Congratulations to them both on their milestone and achievement.

Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
St Michael's Church

Saturday, 27 December 2025 in 46m (14–0–0 in F#)

1264 Plain Bob Major

1 E Margie Brimacombe

2 Claire M Travis

3 Joseph J Travis

4 Tessa I A Preston

5 Andrew J Preston

6 Anthony J Rowan

7 Dominic J Travis

8 Michael Angrave (C)

First quarter peal, 3.

Celebrating Claire's 50th birthday earlier in December.

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 28 February

Winter Olympics—Italy

Wear a winter hat or scarf!

All Welcome

Stoney Stanton Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

Thursday 26 February

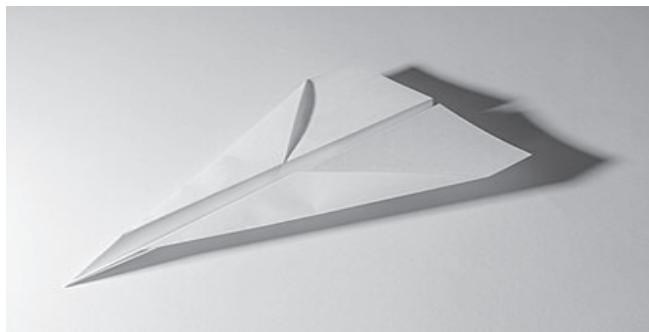
10:00 am—11:30 am

Come and Join Us



Thinking about Prayer.....

'Arrow prayers'



The picture of a paper dart, just like the ones we used to make as children, flushed across the screen and a message flashed up, telling me that my latest credit card bill was paid. Another job done!!!!!!

But this electronic picture always, for me, brings to mind the importance of something we may do day, by day as life presents its problems and we have to face them full on! All too often we cannot face such problems unsupported, and we, sometimes quite casually invoke God's help.

Casting my eye along the books on my shelves, I note that several of them bear the titles of these kinds of exclamations..... 'Oh God , whatever next?' (the autobiography of Hugh Montefiore) and at least two by Gerard Hughes, 'Oh God, why?" and 'God, where are you?' And I think to myself, 'well, if these godly people are given to such pleas, maybe there is some hope for me?'.

Alongside the excellent teaching we received as young people, on the discipline of daily prayer, we were also made aware of the value of these little outbursts of prayer, 'arrow' prayers, a bringing to consciousness of God's presence in our daily lives, arrows indeed, straight and simple, arising from our daily need for help as we go about living our lives. And, thinking about it, the paper dart, on which we may write our deepest needs, is particularly appropriate!

So, do they have any effect? Well, the cynic might say, they serve to let off steam! However, another image springs to mind.

At Epiphany I watched a Eucharist online from one of our local churches. As the priest and server wafted incense around the Altar, the sun, streaming through the windows, caught the smoke, and the whole seemed enveloped in a dense, perfumed golden cloud, which totally obscured the ministers and the server. That dense cloud was made of tiny particles, seeming to me like as the many, many little pleas directed towards God at any one time enveloping our Creator in the desperate exclamations of humanity. *'Let my prayer rise before you as incense'*. (*Psalm 141*)

Arrow prayers reassure us of God's presence, and it is strange how things often work out 'for the good of them that love God' - perhaps not instantly, but certainly in the long term.

Then we need to be mindful of their counterpart. Just two words, not this time a desperate petition, but a grateful response - 'Thank you'.

