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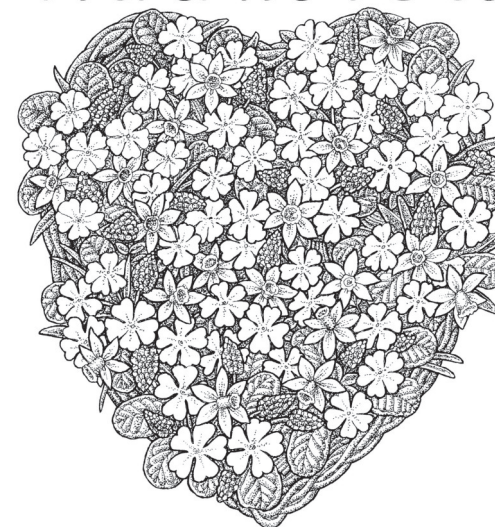
'Parish News'

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



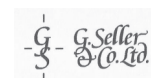
March
2026

THANK YOU



40p

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Parish Contacts

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Rector | Position vacant | |
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| 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

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
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| 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 Kedic | 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 |
| Ringling 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.....March

Sunday 29 March



| | <i>St Mary's Broughton Astley</i> | <i>St Michael's Stoney Stanton</i> | <i>St Michael & All Angel's Croft</i> |
|--|---|--|--|
| Sunday 1 March Lent 2 | 10:00 am United Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft | | |
| Sunday 8 March Lent 3 | 9:45 am Holy Communion | 9:30 am Messy Church | 11:15 am Holy Communion/ Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 15 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday | 9:45 am Messy Church | 9:30 am Holy Communion | 11:15 am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 22 March Lent 5 Passion Sunday | 9:45 am Holy Communion | 9:30 am Cafe Church | 11:15 am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY | 10:00 am United Service at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton | | |
| | Details of Services and events during Holy Week are on Page 15 | | |
| Sunday 5 April EASTER DAY | 10:00 am United Service at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley | | |

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/>

March - a month full of Saints

March is a busy time in the Church's calendar of saints. The daffodils coming into bloom now remind us that the month begins with St David's Day on 1 March.

The patron saint of Wales, Saint David, or Dewi Sant in Welsh, lived from around 500 – 589 AD. He was a renowned preacher and bishop who founded several monastic communities. David lived an austere and disciplined life, eating no meat and drinking only water. His last words to his followers were recorded as:

"Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do."

Another patron saint, St Patrick of Ireland, is celebrated on 17 March. Saint Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461) was not, in fact, Irish. He was born into a wealthy Romano-British family in western Wales. At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he spent six years as a shepherd. During this time, he deepened his Christian faith through prayer. After escaping back to Britain, he had a vision calling him back to Ireland to spread the Gospel. He was ordained as a bishop and returned to Ireland as a missionary, baptising thousands and establishing numerous churches.

25 March brings us to the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. We remember the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary to give her the news that she had been chosen to bear God's son. Over the years this has been the subject of countless beautiful works of art, but very few of them capture the image of what Mary must have been. She was a very young girl, maybe only 14 or 15 years old. This was the age at which girls in her time would have married, and Mary was engaged to Joseph. I think this makes her positive response to God's call all the more remarkable: "Here I am, the Lord's servant. Let it happen to me as you've said."

There are many other saints who are remembered during March, but there is one in particular who I feel is often overlooked: St Joseph, whose day falls on 19 March.

We know very little about St Joseph. Matthew tells us that he was “a man who did what was right.” Faced with Mary’s pregnancy, he did not want to expose her to public humiliation but decided to end their engagement quietly. When the truth is revealed to him in a dream, he too accepts God’s call. Mary overflows with joy and expresses her feelings in her song, the Magnificat. Joseph express his feelings in his actions: his tender love and care for Mary and the baby. Joseph the carpenter is a practical man. He does what is right, and what needs to be done. I have heard Joseph’s acceptance of God’s will and his practical action in caring for Mary described as “Joseph’s silent Magnificat.”

So what do these saints have to say to us today? Are we open to listening to God? Are we prepared to let him change our lives drastically? Can we follow David’s example and “do the little things”? Patrick showed great courage in going back to the land where he had been enslaved - are we brave enough to talk to others about our faith? Do we react like Mary, with acceptance and joy? Do we react like Joseph, and do what is right with quiet faithfulness?

25 March, known as Lady Day, was officially New Year’s Day until 1752. It marks the beginning of Spring, so may I wish you all a happy and blessed new year!

Paula Atkinson



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Perfect for that special occasion

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.

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Record number of young adults join ministry experience year

A record number of young adults have joined a year-long placement scheme to experience ministry in the Church of England.

The Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) intake this year is 121, the largest the scheme has had since it was founded more than a decade ago. This year's total means that more than 1,000 young adults, including this year's intake, have been part of the Scheme since it was set up in 2013.



1st Stoney Stanton Scout Group

BEAVERS

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

cubs

SCOUTS

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
gs1stoneystanton@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.

Confirmations

Unfortunately Bishop Saju was called away by a family emergency and the Confirmations planned for Sunday 1 February have been postponed to Sunday 12 April at 3 pm, 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.

Light refreshments will be served after the service.



8 March - Woodbine Willie, bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27th June 1883 – 8th March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby.

By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed-out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war

Granny retired? You've got to be kidding....

The idea that grandmothers retire into an unburdened world of gardening and tea-drinking, golf and knitting is no more than a pleasant fantasy these days.

Instead, nearly 63% of grandparents provide some sort of childcare to their under-16-year-old grandchildren. That amounts to around seven million older people, aged mostly between 55 - 74.

As many as one in three is doing the school run. Nearly one in five is spending more than 10 hours a week giving other childcare.

America has a nickname name for them: the 'granny nannies.'

Granny nannies do it for good reason: to enable their own children to be able to work longer hours. But granny nannies not only care for their grandchildren, they may also be providing comfort for elderly relatives of their own – and hold down a part-time job at the same time.

Perhaps Super-Granny-Nannies is the correct name for them!

Share the Easter story – with an Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

There are six types of eggs to choose from. Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box, the stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions. So, buy a 2026 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

The 2026 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets, but the full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or by calling 01925 877004.

Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there at the birth; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the King of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Lester Amann

experiences: Rough Rhymes of a Padre (1918) and More Rough Rhymes (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and sadly died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

Grave certainties

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and finally arrived an hour late. The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently, I'm still lost....

Bishop Sarah Mullally to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March

In a special service at St Paul's Cathedral, at her Confirmation of Election, Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January.

The Confirmation of Election is a legal ceremony, set within a church service, at which Bishop Sarah, the Archbishop-Elect, legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Sarah's first act as Archbishop was to take up the Primatial Cross and give the blessing at the end of the service.

The Confirmation will be followed by an Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March, where Archbishop Sarah will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Between her Confirmation of Election and Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the UK. She also co-presided at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February, where she delivered the Presidential Address.

By tradition, Archbishop Sarah will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her Installation.

Bishop Sarah said: "It is an extraordinary and humbling privilege to have been called to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities. With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion.

"These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world. I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality.

"I want us to be a Church that always listens to the voices of those who have been ignored or overlooked, among them victims and survivors of church abuse who have often been let down.

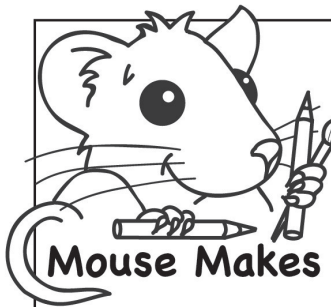


**Soup Lunches @ St Michael's
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March 5th**

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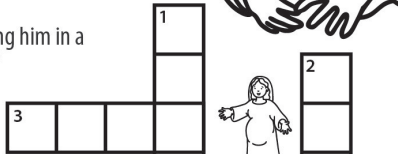


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.

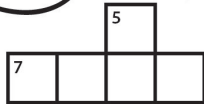


Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Down

1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5

2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11

4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5

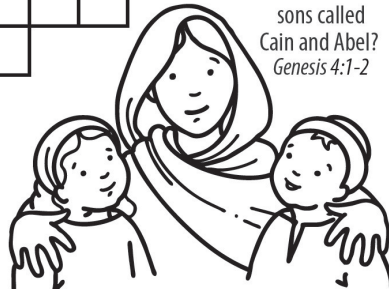
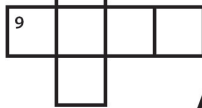
5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15

6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20



Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



Across

3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5

4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60

7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32

8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24

9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

Mar26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

"I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God's call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation".

Sunday 15 March—Mothering Sunday

The Daughters of Mothers

There are certain small things that you notice,
Little things you have started to do,
That prompt you to question, and wonder
If the face in the mirror, is you.

The realisation is dawning,
As one year hurtles after another,
That in word, thought and deed,
In gesture and glance,
You have somehow turned into your mother!

By Daphne Kitching

How many words does it take?

Pythagorean Theorem - 24 words

Lord's Prayer - 66 words

Archimedes' Principle - 67 words

Ten Commandments - 179 words

Shakespeare's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy – 260 words

Churchill's speech 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches' - 308 words

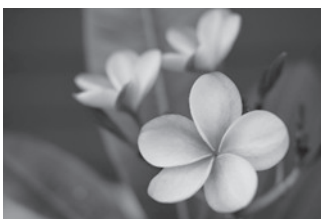
US Constitution with all 27 Amendments - 7,818 words

EU regulations on the sale of cabbages - 26,911 words

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

Thinking about Prayer.....

A meditation for Lent (a distraction)



Distractions..... ah yes... the bane of prayer times, and any other time, come to that, when you really want to focus on something special.

But I begin to wonder, if, just once in a while, distractions can be another way that God speaks to us? In the hurly burly of daily life, it can be all too easy to lay down for ourselves strict rules, just to get control? And then something comes into our minds, just pops in, unexpectedly and distracts us!

I have to confess that this was a recent experience of mine, when writing this month's article. I had been listening to the music of James MacMillan, the Scottish composer, and most particularly to a musical meditation, which I heard on YouTube, performed by Harry Christophers and the Genesis Foundation.

It used (adapted) words of John Henry Newman, which I found particularly uplifting, words which just would not go away. They had been adapted for the music, but they seemed particularly suitable as we pursue our way through Lent, with its commitment to self-examination and self-discipline.

So my distraction from the prayers of Paul, which I was to be writing

Down

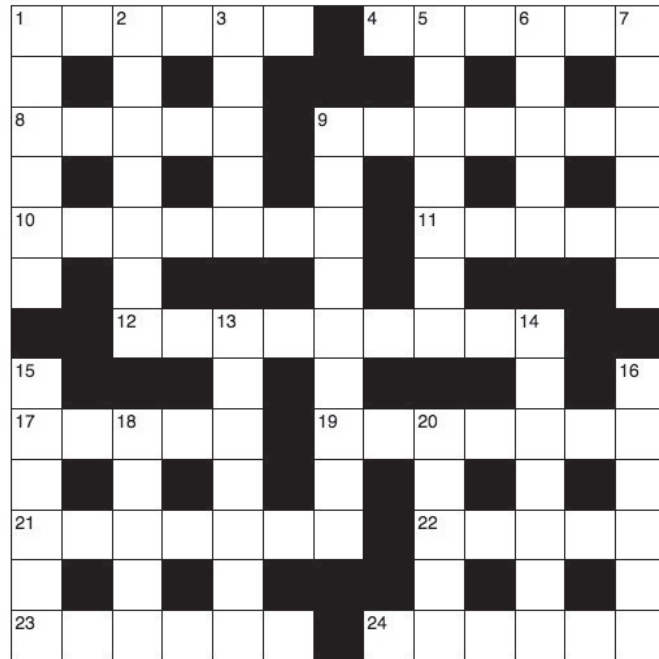
- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

February Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

Crossword - March



Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
 8 "They — — , " you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
 10 Jewish (7)
 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

about this month, are the words of Newman, as I experienced them in the musical setting. I hope you find them as relevant as I did. They and the music, captured my heart.

*God has created me to do some definite service,
 Some work which has not been committed to another.
 I am a link in a chain, in bond of connection between persons.
 I shall do good, be an angel of peace,
 preacher of truth in my own place,
 If I do but keep God's commandments.*

*Whatever I am, I can never be thrown away,
 My sickness, my sorrow, my perplexity may serve God,
 Who does nothing in vain.
 When I am with strangers and friendless,
 When my spirits sink and my future is hidden,
 Still may I serve,
 For God does nothing in vain*



A note: Sir James Macmillan is one of the great Scottish composers of our time. His music can be intimate, I recently joined in an ordinary church service at which his Mass for St. Anne was the setting used, or it can be sometimes quite overwhelming! His introit 'Tu es Petrus' as Pope Benedict entered Westminster Cathedral was such, with an accompaniment of percussion and brass at full volume. He later commented ' I threw everything including the kitchen sink at that' But a beautiful introduction to his music is the anthem 'O Radiant Dawn' which is easily found on YouTube.

ntpd

This amateur production of "Yes Prime Minister" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

PLAY

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 DIRECTED BY KAY McMICHAEL

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PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

A revision of the Church Electoral Roll will be carried out between 16 March and 17 April.

Anyone who is not already on the Roll is invited to complete an application form (available in all churches) and return it by 17 April. If you are already on the Roll you do not need to do anything.

TF Cockerill, Electoral Roll Officer, 9 Osprey Close, Broughton Astley LE9 6RS. email: tomcockerill9@talktalk.net

St Mary's Subscription Draw

February

- First Prize - £40.00 - No 3 - Mr R Thomas
- Second Prize - £20.00 - No 139 - Mrs G Bailey
- Third Prize - £10.00 - No 72 - Mr R Sweeting

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

February

- First Prize - £25.00 - No 51 - Carol Griffiths
- Second Prize - £15.00 - No 78 - Joy Hoult
- Third Prize - £10.00 - No 49 - Julie Lawrence

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

Clubs, activities & events March

W.I. Meetings etc.....

| Where at..... | Date and Time | Speaker | Competition |
|---|--|--|-------------|
| Broughton Astley Village Hall | Tuesday 10 March 7:30 pm | "The Secret Garden" Adrian Allsopp | |
| Stoney Stanton St Michael's Church | Wednesday 11 March 7:30 pm | "Making hand woven bags from the Philippines" Analiza Jones | |
| Ladies Fellowship Group St Mary's Church Broughton Astley | Wednesday 11 March 2pm Contact Denise 285410 or Wendy 07779 194730 for more information | "Guide Dogs" Steve Winter | |

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Holy Week and Easter in the Parish



Holy Week

Wednesday 1 April

10-11.30 Messy Church Easter Workshop in St Michaels Church, Stoney Stanton (See page 21)

2:30 pm—Stations of the Cross at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

9:30 am – Holy Communion at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton

11 am—2 pm Easter Crafts and Cake at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft (See page 21)

Good Friday – 3 April

10-12 Children's Easter Activities at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley (See page 21)

3:00 pm - Good Friday Reflective Service of hymns and readings led by the choir at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft

EASTER DAY Sunday 5 April

10:00 am—United Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Coffee Mornings

St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Saturday 7 March

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 March

10 am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning

Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Easter Craft Activities in the Parish

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Wednesday 1 April—St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton



St Michael's Church
Stoney Stanton

10:00—11:30

Crafts, activities, songs, story and LOTS of fun!

No charge (donations welcome)

Thursday 2 April—St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft

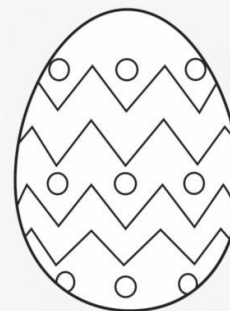
11:00 am—2:00 pm

Easter Crafts and Cake

(We politely request a £3 donation per child to cover the costs of the crafts)



Friday 3 April—St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley




10:00 am—12 Noon

Come and join in a dramatized telling of the Easter story and afterwards make cards, decorate biscuits, hunt eggs and more.

Refreshments available


No charge (Donations welcome)



St Michael & All Angels Church

Croft

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesdays | | Coffee Morning 9:30 - 11:30 |
| APR | THUR 02 | Easter Crafts and Cake |
| APR | FRI 17 | Quiz Night |
| MAY | SAT 09 | School Assembly Bangers! (At Croft School) |
| JUN | SAT 13 | Croft Cake Competition followed by tea and cake (At Croft School) |
| JUL | THUR 30 | Crafts and Cake |
| AUG | THUR 20 | Crafts and Cake |
| SEP | SAT 19 | Quiz Night |
| OCT | SAT 10 | Table Top Sale |
| NOV | FRI & SAT 13/14 | Let Your Lights Shine |



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 March

Early Easter Experience

Think Chocolate!

All Welcome

Stoney Stanton Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

Thursday 26 March

10:00 am—11:30 am

Come and Join Us



SPUD-U-GROW

St Mary's Church Potato Growing Challenge 2026

Once again the Potato Growing Challenge is launching! Rather earlier this year as there is no Community Market in April. Collect your bag and seed potato ready to chit at the Community Market on Saturday 8 March, or at any service at St Mary's during March, price £3.

Rules

- You must use the bag and potato supplied.
- You can use any type of compost to grow your potato.
- If you want, you may use any type of fertiliser.

Hints

1. Put about 10cm of compost or soil in the bottom of the bag.
2. Put your potato on top and cover with another 10cm of compost or soil, then water it well.
3. Put the bag in a sunny, frost free spot and water regularly.
4. When the shoots have grown to 8cm, cover with another 10cm of compost.
5. Keep doing this until you have reached the top of the bag.

Bring the bag back to the **Community Market** on **Saturday 5 September**.

Do not dig up your potatoes! That will be done by the judges. The bag will be emptied and the crop of potatoes will be weighed. There will be a prize for the heaviest crop, and everyone can take their spuds home to enjoy!



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Sutton Elms Baptist Church

6:30 pm

All Welcome

Refreshments served after the service

Nigeria 2026



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