

G Seller
Our Family Caring For Your Family



Independent Funeral Directors

Expert Memorial Masons

Bereavement Support Specialists

Hinckley • Newbold Verdon • Broughton Astley
01455 637457 • office@gseller.co.uk • www.gseller.co.uk



'Parish News'

The Parish magazine for Broughton Astley and Croft with Stoney Stanton



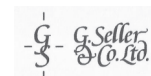
May
2026



When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

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
---------------------------	------------	--

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
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.....May

	<i>St Mary's Broughton Astley</i>	<i>St Michael's Stoney Stanton</i>	<i>St Michael & All Angel's Croft</i>
Sunday 3 May Easter 5	10:00 am United Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft		
Sunday 10 May Easter 6	9:45 am Holy Communion With Baptism	9:30 am Messy Church	11:15 am Morning Prayer for Christian Aid Week
Thursday 14 May Ascension Day	9:30 am Holy Communion at St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton 7:00 pm Holy Communion with hymns at St Nicholas Church, Folesworth (see page 10)		
Sunday 17 May Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension Day	9:45 am Messy Church	9:30 am Holy Communion With Baptism	11:15 am Holy Communion
Sunday 24 May Day of Pentecost	9:45 am Holy Communion	9:30 am Café Church	11:15 am Holy Communion
Sunday 31 May Trinity Sunday	10:00 am United Service of Songs of Praise St Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton (Further details to follow)		
Sunday 7 June Trinity 1	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/>

Dear Friends

Last month, we celebrated the greatest of our festivals, Easter Day. This month, we continue those celebrations through the equally joyful and important festivals of Ascension Day & Pentecost.

We begin May remembering how Our Lord, once he had been raised from the dead, stayed with his followers for a time to prepare them to continue the work he began, of bringing people to understand and know for themselves just how deep and wide is God's love for them.

We then see how he returned to the Father, to rule all of creation as Lord & King. And then, we celebrate how God returned in the Holy Spirit, to fill each and every human being who accepts the offer to dwell in us. Pentecost - the Feast of the Holy Spirit - is also the birthday of the Church as a group of men & women dedicated to serving Christ in one another, and spreading the good news of his love to all.

Our faith, in a God who loves us and wants to share his love with us, is a very practical faith. God demonstrated that love in the practical and down-to-earth person of Jesus. And we are called to demonstrate it in practical ways, too. This month sees Christian Aid Week, when we have a chance to collect some funds to help those millions of God's people in the world who are far worse off than us. Please do support it. As a minimum, please put as much money as you can into the collecting envelope and bring them to church.

I hope that we will be able to show our concern for the whole family of humanity in this way, as we celebrate the great festivals of our faith this month.

Yours in Christ

Vic Goodman



Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

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.

TIME FOR AN EYE EXAM?

NHS



Wood Street
Optical

**AFFORDABLE EYE CARE.
INDEPENDENT AND LOCAL.**

**FREE NHS
SIGHT TEST**

**FREE NHS
HOME EYE TEST**

**KEEP YOUR VISION CLEAR,
SCHEDULE YOUR EYE EXAM.**

Earl Shilton
01455 841364

Stoney Stanton
01455 241749

Stoney Stanton Village Hall

Newly refurbished throughout, large rooms for events of all types.

- holds up to 150 people
- main room 12m x 6.6m room + extra 5m with bifolds open
- smaller lounge room
- fully refurbished kitchen space
- modern projector system, free wifi
- perfect party/reception venue
- folding tables and chairs included
- great for kids parties as we allow indoor bouncy castles and slides
- from £15 per hour from 1/9/25
- block bookings taken



Perfect for that special occasion



Please contact:

clerk@stoneystantonpc.gov.uk

ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

<https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Stoney-Stanton-Village-Hall>

David A Clarke (ELECTRICAL) Ltd

National Inspection Council for
Electrical Installation Contracting

NICEIC

APPROVED CONTRACTOR

*Electrical Installations
and
Maintenance*

*Security Systems * HSE Approved Testing*

HIGHFIELD FARM, HUNCOTE ROAD, STONEY STANTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE LE9 4DJ

Tel: 01455 272214

Fax: 01455 273302

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.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026

Our APCM is on Wednesday 13 May 7pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft.

All Welcome

Morning prayer

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."



Baptisms

Broughton Astley	Eden Jacqueline Margaret Taylor
Stoney Stanton	Faye Calver Zena Marie Wilson Charley Albert Wilson Alfie George Wilson

Confirmations

Broughton Astley	Luciana Strømmen
Stoney Stanton	Blaize Williams Paul Williams

Weddings

Broughton Astley	Ethan Lamford and Olivia Maclean
Croft	Andrew Greasley and Sara Duffin

Funerals

Stoney Stanton	James Clements
-----------------------	----------------



HOLIDAY

cottages

in quiet, rural S.W Scotland

For a peaceful and quiet rural holiday in lovely unspoilt countryside, come to Kirkwood farm's **self catering cottages**.

Scottish Tourist Board graded: 2 Stars & 3 Stars

Many facilities locally but

fishing is our speciality.

(salmon, sea trout, trout, grayling & chub on R Annan)

For a brochure/more details
phone Anthony Steel on: 01576 510200

www.Kirkwood-Lockerbie.co.uk



St Michael's Stoney Stanton 100 Club Draw

April

- First Prize - £25.00 - No 45 - Jill Stevenson
- Second Prize - £15.00 - No 30 - Max Eaves
- Third Prize - £10.00 - No 102 - Anthony Worrall

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



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

Confirmations - Sunday 12 April 2026

At 3pm on Sunday 12 April, we welcomed Bishop Saju Muthalaly as he confirmed three members of our congregation. Paul, Blaize and Luciana. A very moving and joyous occasion. After the service



refreshments were served and Bishop Saju met and chatted with members of the congregation.

The candidates were prepared for their confirmation by Paula Atkinson. If anyone else is interested in exploring their faith further, please contact Paula on 07581 574340.

National Smile Month - 11 May – 11 June

National Smile Month is 50 years old this year. It is the UK's largest and longest-running campaign to promote good oral health, aiming to encourage people to brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, to cut down on sugar, and to visit the dentist regularly. Organised by the British Dental Health Foundation, the website offers the following snippets:

Some fun facts about your teeth:

- It takes 43 muscles to frown, but only 17 to smile.
- Some people pick their teeth with keys, earrings, bank notes and even screwdrivers!
- The going rate given by the tooth fairy these days is £2 to £5
- 61% of us have been attracted to someone by their smile alone
- 24% of us would share our toothbrush with our partner, but only 6% of us would share our toothbrush with a celebrity (!?)
- Two thirds of us have less respect for a boss with bad breath.

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May 2026



Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.

In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening.

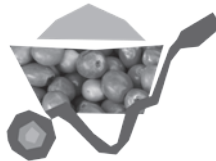
With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. **'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,'** says Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother determined to support her family on what little she earns.

'Now I'm responsible for everything.' With school costs, rent and water to cover, providing food for every meal is a problem that never goes away.

But Fridah's faith in God, and in her own ability to provide, is unwavering. With tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah's now making the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables that she can cook for her family or sell on her market stall.

Reflecting on her new role in life, Fridah says: **'I never thought that a woman could also be a provider.'**



With her inner strength, unstoppable resolve, and a little help from Beacon of Hope, Fridah's overcoming poverty to feed the youngest members of her family and protect them from the threat of malnutrition.

Fridah rightly takes pride in all she's achieving: **'When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life.'**

Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

EP LANDSCAPES

PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

- ✓ Grass Cutting
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Jetwashing
- ✓ Patios

CALL TODAY!
07496 815435

Local & Friendly Professionals
Reliable and affordable gardening services. Expert care to keep your garden looking its best all year round.

Leave us a Google Review!

SCAN ME

www.eplandscapes.co.uk



Croft Church - Charity Night

Friday 22nd May 2026 from 7:00pm

Glass of Prosecco or Soft Drink on arrival

Italian Spaghetti Carbonara

with bacon pancetta, white sauce and parmesan.

Or

Pesto Tagliatelle (VG)

in a rich green pesto sauce and parmesan crisps.

Or

Spanish Beef Stew (Estofado de Ternera)

with red & green peppers, onions, Spanish herbs, chorizo, tomatoes and chickpeas.

Or

Patatas Bravas with Romesco sauce (VG)

with red & green peppers, onions, Spanish herbs, tomatoes and chickpeas.

Classic Tiramisu

served with cream

Or

Summer Berry Cheesecake (VGN / GF / DF)

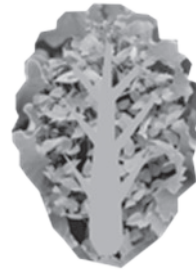
Served with cream or ice-cream

Price: £25 per person

To Book, email: sharon@tithebarn.com

Please note number of people booking, names and quote **CCCN** in your correspondence. You will then be asked to make full payment via BACS to secure your booking. We will require your pre-orders at least 2 weeks before the event.

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?



- £5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- £10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- £15 could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- £30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

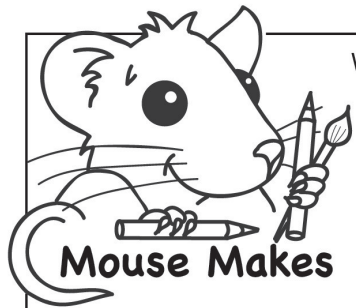
Scarecrows in Stoney Stanton



Saturday and Sunday 25 and 26 April saw 25 Scarecrows in front gardens around the village. Visitors purchased a map and walked round to choose their favourite one. There was also a scarecrow wedding in St Michael's Church. An interesting looking congregation!!



Thanks to all who provided cakes and helped with serving refreshments in Church.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____

Romans 8:15

H _____

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___O___

___Y___

___C___

___T___

___I___

___N___

___S___

___N___

What
happened when
the Holy Spirit
came at Pentecost?

read
Acts 2:1-41

How many believers
were baptised
that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Happy 70th Birthday, Eurovision Song Contest

This year's Eurovision Song Contest, to be held 12 to 16 May in Vienna, will look a bit different as it marks its 70th birthday.

That is because Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain have opted out, as a protest to the inclusion of Israel in the contest, following the war in Gaza. That is the largest number of boycotting countries in the contest's history since 1970. On the other hand, at least Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania are set to return this year.

Eurovision is a long-established annual international celebration of music. This year's programme will consist of two semi-finals, on 12 and 14 May, and then a final on the 16th. It will be held at Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, and presented by Victoria Swarovski and Michael Ostrowski. Broadcasters from 35 countries will also participate.

Britain has won the Eurovision five times in 70 years:

- 1967 Puppet on a String
- 1969 Boom Bang-a-Bang
- 1976 Save Your Kisses for Me
- 1981 Making Your Mind Up
- 1997 Love Shine a Light

When technology goes wrong

The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.

Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

Quiz at Croft



Friday 17 April saw about 50 people in Croft Church ready to do battle over several rounds in a quiz. Some of the questions were very challenging and we had to make good use of our "little grey cells"!!



A most enjoyable evening, and grateful thanks to Mike and Claire for organising the event. £340 was raised for Church funds, and the winning team, The

Apostles, donated their prize of a hamper back to the Church to be raffled at our United service on 3 May. Watch out for tickets!



Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and—awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

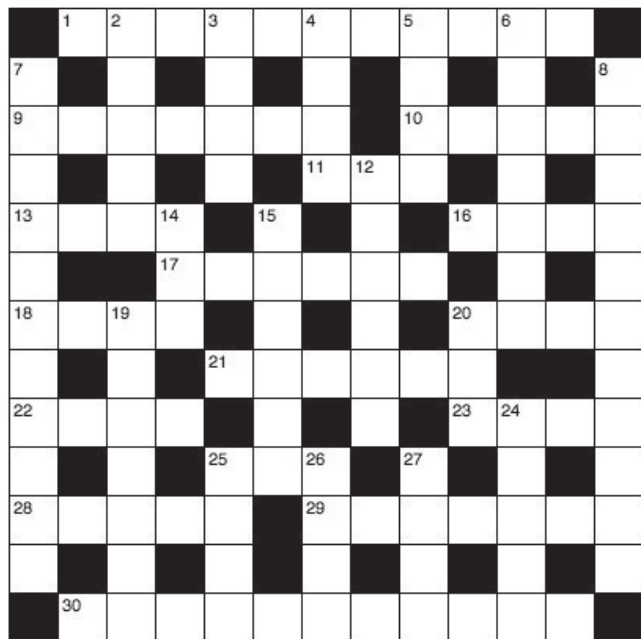
- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
5 Slip (anag.) (4)
6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)
26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

April Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

Crossword - May



Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)

The next event at Croft is detailed below. Come along and sing some of your favourite assembly songs from your schooldays!

RAFFLE
REFRESHMENTS

Free entry but
donations welcome
Funds raised will
be split between
the church & the
school

St Michael & All Angels Church and Croft Primary School Present

School Assembly Bangers!

Saturday 9th May
2pm - 4pm

Do you remember sitting cross-legged on the floor in the assembly hall belting out "Give me oil in my Lamp" and "One more step along the world I Go"? Bring the family along to Croft Primary School and sing your hearts out to the songs of your childhood. Sit on the floor with us and soak up the nostalgia! (Some chairs will be available, don't worry)

Mothering Sunday



On Mothering Sunday, Rev'd Terry Colling took the services at Stoney Stanton and Croft, and brought two friends with him. Here he is introducing Daisy-Bell the cow and Micky the monkey to Jessica. It was lovely to meet them!

Coffee Mornings

St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Saturday 2 May

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 9 May

10 am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning

National Gardening Week - 28 April to 4 May

Led by the Royal Horticultural Society, this annual premier UK celebration encourages everyone to experience the joy of gardening.

Aimed especially at beginners, events and activities are run up and down the country, offering tips, events, and resources to promote the health, wellbeing, and environmental benefits of cultivating plants. The RHS provides expert tips, how-to guides, and fun, easy gardening challenges to build confidence in new gardeners

More at: <https://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk>

Alan worked hard all his life — at work, at home, for his family and for his wife. He was a gentle, caring and devoted husband, dad and granddad. He had a wry but warm sense of humour and a laugh like Muttley the cartoon dog. He had an openness and friendliness, and a deep inner strength with a clear sense of right and wrong. A principled and fair man who loved a bit of silliness. Sadly the phrase 'ooh yerr razz-box' may die with him, he would love for those here today to give it a revival.

Today, we remember Alan — Roger to some, Al to others — Ally to Tina and Dad to Emma and Matthew. We thank him for the love he gave, the things he made, the lessons he taught and the welcome he extended. His love went into the cars he restored, the pupils he encouraged, the people and church he helped, the home he crafted and the family he cherished. His handiwork, both practical and emotional, is everywhere. We carry his kindness, his creativity and his quiet strength forward with us — with pride, with gratitude and with love.

His family feel privileged to toast him with you with such immense pride and with his favourite tippie of a whiskey or a Guinness at the Blue Bell pub after the services today.

It seems fitting to end this tribute to him with the words he always uttered at bedtime

Night night, God bless, sweet dreamslove you xx”



A lovely tribute which was worth including in full. We could all learn to be more like Mr Pickering! Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Tina and her family.

Alan and Tina were quite a force in church life and for the better always. Alan used so many skills to improve the interior standards of the church building. He constructed the bar(Oh that it could have been a bar, but just coffee tea and biscuits I'm afraid)....He stripped out Pews to create greater space for church events including Fetes Tina played such a part in organizing. In particular though, was a concern that they shared which was that the stranger whoever it might be, would find a welcome and kind word in St Michael's, people to be proud of'.

In the early 2000's Alan was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which he faced with bravery and determination. It saddened him when his cancer treatment meant that he had a radioactive lap and couldn't squeeze his grandchildren in 'The big grip', (pronounced the jip jip by grandson Aidan). It was a difficult period in his health; although things improved, he was left with long standing issues which he faced into bravely and without complaint. He became an advocate for the charity Prostaaid, providing support and helping to raise funds for others suffering the same affliction.

Anyone who would like to make a donation in his memory today will have the opportunity to do so after this service.

Alan's health declined during lock down, which took a lot out of him, and the cancer returned in 2023. He faced it bravely again, showing resilience and strength, and outlived all predictions by a huge amount, showing all the Pickering grit of his beloved Mum Nancy and the dry humour and resilience of his father Wilf.

Last year as Alan became more frail, he and Tina moved together to a care home in Nottingham, near Emma. It was heartbreaking to leave behind the home they had created the neighbours they loved and the village community they were so fond of. Most importantly they were still together and had a shared bedroom and their own lounge, filled with things from Lanes Hill Grove. Despite the loss of independence, and after time to adjust, they had some very happy times there, liberated from the chores and responsibilities that had eventually become too much for them.

In November 2025, Alan suffered from a fall, and following a month long stay in hospital his mental and physical health deteriorated, and he and Tina found themselves apart for the first time since they married, in separate care homes due their now very different needs. The only blessing was that due to their limited awareness, the situation was almost entirely lost to them both. Alan died peacefully with Emma and Matthew by his bedside. In his last wakeful hours speaking only of love for everyone, giving big hugs, cheeky smiles and managing to pull a couple of silly faces for good measure - still looking for laughter.

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 30 May

Chelsea and Roses

Garden Flower Display and Plant Sale

All Welcome

Stoney Stanton Methodist Chapel

Coffee Morning

Thursday 28 May

10:00 am—11:30 am

Come and Join Us



Thinking about Prayer.....

Eucharistia - "thanksgiving".

I have been deeply moved, recently, by a book by Richard Carter entitled '100 Reasons for Living – the diary of a grateful heart' in which he explores thanksgiving through his own life-experience. It will be a book to treasure and re-read, and is described as an 'invitation to discover joy, even in the hardest of times.

Richard is a priest in London, and yes, he has known some pretty hard times, but gently he invites and enables us all to be thankful for everything that comes our way, thinking about his home, 'the paths we walk', friendship, a cup of tea, his brothers, his grandmother, Shakespeare, the Beatitudes, and the list goes on.

And it made me think, I wonder what would be on your 'Thanksgiving list', and what would perhaps have provoked a sense of thanksgiving in your life, even in times of adversity?

I suspect many would offer thanks for their gardens, especially at this time of the year, when plants which have lain in subterranean darkness, suddenly emerge to delight us again.

I had a sense of overwhelming thankfulness which has never truly left me after a bereavement, when I became conscious of the loving care of so many friends and relatives, gathered around, and who still care for me, several years on. That did not come into all that I had learned and understood about the 'stages of bereavement'! Thankfulness can also bring a humility before such care.

A sense of thankfulness is what can get us through the most traumatic times.

One of the most moving quotes in the book is where, despite the misery surrounding her the writer describes a strange feeling which 'soars straight from my heart, the feeling that life is glorious and magnificent and that one day we shall be building a whole new world'

Alan had a lifelong passion for cars which began with a modest Austin 8, followed by an Austin Mini which received the full boy racer treatment - he loved to recall how once drove this down a set of stairs in the grounds of Nottingham University in his 20's. A succession of family cars came and went, but each was cared for by him, and cherished. In his forties, when funds allowed, he developed a fondness for old Triumphs, with a host of Heralds, Spitfires and Vitesse's in various states from wreck to concours winners.

Inspired by his brothers in law Richard and Peter, Alan went on to build a beautiful blue Porsche sports car from scratch — from a pile of parts, turning heads wherever it went.

He passed this passion to Matthew, his son, who now in turn shares his passion for cars with his son Wilf. Alan also restored a beautiful bright red 1960 Triumph Herald from chicken coup to wedding car standard for Emma, which he proudly drove her to the church in for her wedding to Paul. Even in the last days in life Alan would love to talk to Matthew about his plans for the next big car project.

Alan continued his love for goldsmithing and silver smithing throughout his life – with Tina's jewellery box bulging with precious pieces made with love and care. He also made his son in law Paul a conspicuously big wedding band. This was halved and gifted to his grandson Aidan for his 21st birthday, and will be halved again to provide a wedding band for Aidan's fiancée Leslie, sharing his legacy through the generations.

His love of rugby never dimmed: Alan was a lifelong Leicester Tigers supporter and a season ticket holder for many years. He spent many happy times at Tigers matches with his great friend Roy, roaring with the crowd and shouting insightful advice at the referee.

Alan was a man of many and varied talents — a ceramicist, a goldsmith and silversmith, a carpenter, a metal worker, a teacher, and for a few years designing and building theatre sets for Hinckley Concordia theatre with Tina, including The Pirates of Penzance, Pickwick Papers and the Mikado. In his family's opinion Alan was also possibly the world's best DIY'er, with many hours spent improving His and Tina's beloved 'Willowbrook' in Lanes Hill Grove, inside, and outside in the garden.

Making wasn't just a hobby for Alan; it was how he expressed care, beauty and usefulness in the world.

Alan was an active part of the church community alongside Tina. Former St Michael's priest, Reverend Tony Coslett shared his memory of Alan;

After Alan took early retirement from Lancaster Boys' aged 52, he continued to work in supply teaching at South Wigston High School and Heathfield high school in Earl Shilton. In Earl Shilton He fondly spoke of getting to teach a class that included his nephew Daniel, who put his hand up and asked 'Uncle Alan' a question, instead of Mr Pickering.... much to Alan's delight! Despite being toward the end of his career, Alan was still making an impression on his Students – as shown by this warm tribute from Richard, who Alan taught Pottery at South Wigston School.

"Mr Pickering was a teacher, an artist, and a gentle soul who shaped far more than clay.

I am immensely proud to say that I was one of his pupils. Not only did he teach pottery, but what he truly taught was patience, creativity, and the quiet confidence that comes from making something with your own two hands. For so many of us at South Wigston High School, his classroom was a refuge, a place where the busy, hectic world of high school slowed down, and the only thing that mattered to me were those 1, (maybe 2 hours a week if we were lucky) in his classroom.

Mr Pickering had a remarkable way of guiding pupils (some very unruly at times I may add), not by taking over and shouting, but by saying in a calmly manner, "Don't worry, let's try again", this was mostly after a project I had been working on for weeks exploded in the kiln... well, that's what Mr Pickering told me, to this day I still think he dropped it.

There was something different about the way he taught. Mr Pickering taught us that it wasn't about perfection. It was about learning, about process, about discovering what you are able to create when the noise fades from the playground and corridors.

Mr Pickering's lessons weren't just about shaping pots and bowls, they were about shaping young people, teaching us resilience when the clay collapsed, gratitude when a glaze came out just right, or in my case humour when a project exploded in the kiln. (it was a bust of Robocop!)

Mr Pickering remembered every pupil. And to myself, who really struggled with most subjects, he taught something different, encouragement, inspiration, or sometimes simply the space to be ourselves. I'd like to think he shaped countless young lives with this kindness.

I will always carry the spirit of his classroom in my school memories, the clay on our hands, the warmth of the kiln, the quiet wisdom that creativity takes time and patience. His influence still remains with me after decades.

Like a favourite mug or a well-worn bowl, my memory of Mr Pickering as my favourite teacher is something I will hold close, use often, and forever cherish.

Mr Pickering. You taught me and fellow pupils how to craft with our hands, but more importantly, how to live with a creative heart.

Rest peacefully, Richard.

Those words were written in Westerbork concentration camp, just before the writer, Etty Hillesum, met her death at the hands of the Nazis.

Thanksgiving is a gift from God, and this article is entitled 'Eucharistia' – the Greek word for Thanksgiving from which our word Eucharist derives. It is a thanksgiving for all that God has done for us through the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, and presents an opportunity for us all to present our small, but important prayers of thanksgiving, week by week before our loving God.

And it is an invitation too to play our small part in 'building a whole new world'.



Money

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

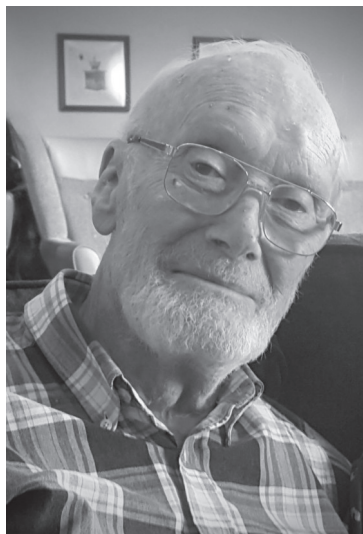
Nine

I was meeting a friend in a restaurant and as I went in, I noticed two pretty girls looking at me. "Nine," I heard one whisper as I passed. Feeling pleased with myself, I swaggered over to my buddy and told him a girl had just rated me a nine out of ten. "I don't want to ruin it for you," he said, "but when I walked in, they were speaking German."

Alan Roger Pickering
8 March 1942—1 February 2026

A faithful member of St Michael's Church, Alan passed away on 1 February 2026. His funeral service was held on 13 March 2026, led by Rev'd Jo Hover. The following was written by Alan's family and read at the service.

"We're here today to honour the life of Alan Roger Pickering— a devoted son, husband, uncle, dad, grandad, teacher, friend and neighbour whose creativity, kindness sense of humour and quiet strength shaped the lives of everyone who knew him..



Alan was born on 8 March 1942 to Wilfred and Nancy Pickering, joining his elder sister Jill, at No. 10 Huncote Road, Stoney Stanton. Known as Roger to his family and the people of the village, and Alan or Al to everyone else, he grew up in a home filled with love, in a close community and amidst the steady rhythm of village life. He attended the Church School across the road from where we now sit.

Alan won a scholarship to Loughborough Grammar School, boarding from the age of eleven to sixteen. There he discovered his lifelong love of rugby and began to develop his natural creative talent. After this he attended Loughborough College of Art. It was here he found the two great loves of his life: creativity and the joy of making things (especially jewellery), and his lifelong soulmate and wife to be, Tina. Meeting at a college party, they discovered that they had grown up in neighboring villages of Stoney Stanton and Sapcote. He got her attention by popping a few crisps down the front of her dress, and the rest was history. Alan married Christina Mason in 1968 at All Saints Church in Sapcote, Tina being under strict instructions from her Dad Dennis that she had to be 20 years old to get married. She was 20 year and 4 days old when they tied the knot. Of course, Alan made all the rings, Tina made her dress and they celebrated at the Red Lion Pub in Sapcote, Tina's then family home where Dennis was landlord. The constant and centre of Alan's life was Tina and their love for each other was unwavering.

Tina's poor health means that she isn't able to be with us today, but the

family would thank everyone who has sent her cards and messages of condolence. So that she can be present with us, and to show the depth of feeling between them, we've taken some words she composed in an anniversary card to Alan:

Thank you for the laughter and all the happy years
Thank you for sharing the love with me, beside the tears
Thank you for always being there, and always being my friend
Thank you for being part of a love that will never end
All my love is yours forever, Teen

Alan and Tina built a home and then a loving family together, moving from Cosby to Lanes Hill Grove in Stoney Stanton. Emma was born in 1970 and Matthew in 1972. Alan put his skills to work making a dolls cot, dolls house and a Matchbox car garage and go cart in their early lives, later helping maintain Matthew's cars and crafting a silver belt buckle for Emma's nursing graduation. His dedication as a father was steadfast.

Alan went on to also become a proud 'Poppar' (a phrase coined by his granddaughter Ellie as a toddler), to Ellie and Aidan, and then to Lily and Wilf who could pronounce the name 'grandpa'! He took huge delight in the cuddles and tickles and making them all laugh. There was fun with hose pipes and paddling pools, shared Christmas's and family time and proudly seeing them grow up into the adults they are today, Ellie took after her grandparents and pursued a Degree in fine art. Her Poppar supported her often with a wide variety of ventures in her degree course in the studio that was added to Lanes Hill Grove culminating in helping Ellie with framing and stretching the 6-foot canvas for her final degree piece. She is not here today instead spending the day with Tina her Nanny, Alan worked as a Secondary School Teacher for his whole working life. He Started his teaching career at New Parks School and then Lancaster boys school in Leicester. Like most things in life, teaching was very different in those early days – as demonstrated by this tribute from a former pupil of Lancaster boys School (left on the schools Facebook Page):

"I remember Mr P allowing a couple of us more trusted lads to make replica swords outside of class hours. It was a 'Lord of the Rings' thing or similar. There was a bit of health and safety debate, to put it mildly! I suspect he got into a bit of hot water with Mr Orton, but I also suspect he wouldn't have minded too much!"

Another ex-Lancaster Boy posted:

"He was a ray of sunshine for me in what was a tumultuous time at school, he really cared, and I felt he had my back when I needed it. RIP Mr Pickering, you are a loss to this world".