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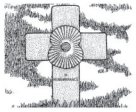
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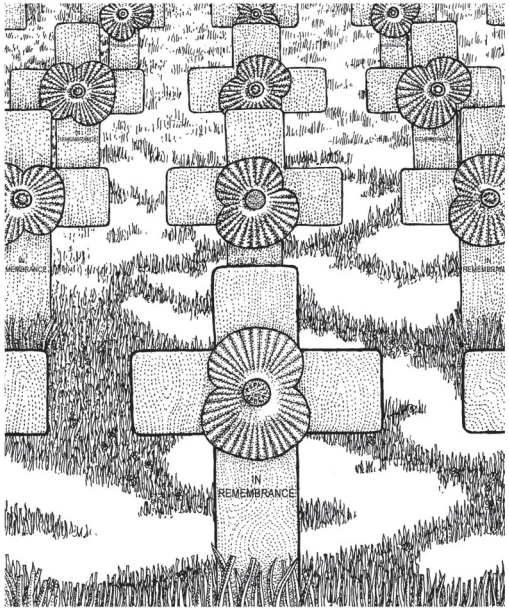


'Parish News'

The Parish magazine for Broughton Astley and Croft with Stoney Stanton



November
2026



40p

Supplied and printed by

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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	Claire Jordan	01455 282495
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 Claire Wootton	01455 282495 07423 041399
DCC Secretary	Claire Wootton	07423 041399
DCC Treasurer	Lester Halling	01455 282189
Tower Captain	Lester Halling	01455 282189

St Michael's, Stoney Stanton		
Churchwarden	Wendy Howe	07779 194730
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……November

	St Mary's Broughton Astley	*St Michael's Stoney Stanton*	*St Michael & All Angel's Croft*
Sunday 1 November All Saints/Souls	**10:00 am United Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft**		
Sunday 8 November REMEMBRANCE	**10:45 am** War Memorial	**10:45 am** War Memorial	**10:45 am** War Memorial
Sunday 15 November 2nd Sunday Before Advent	**9:45 am** Messy Church	**9:30 am** Holy Communion	**11:15 am** Holy Communion
Sunday 22 November CHRIST THE KING	**9:45 am** Holy Communion	**9:30 am** Café Church	**11`:15 am** Praise Service
Sunday 29 November Advent Sunday	**10:00 am United Service of Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels Church, Croft** **6:00 pm Parish Advent Carol 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/

Remembrance



Dear Friends,

In November we enter the annual season of Remembrance for our churches and our nation, culminating in Remembrance Sunday on 8 November. As I write this piece in mid October, I write this with sadness that so many wars and conflicts are still going on today. The conflict in the Middle East which has become a dreadful reality for many millions of people in Israel and Gaza continues. We see the resulting chaos and destruction from the conflict in the gulf, Iran and the surrounding states.

We are all, I'm sure, grappling with the horrors that unfold every day which are being relayed through the media and the stark images and stories of suffering, the personal stories of loss and grief and the utter hopelessness that many feel as homes, livelihoods and loved ones are taken on both sides.

And in the ongoing war in Ukraine, we see the dreadful human cost of war, particularly the cost to ordinary people, men, women and children caught up in a struggle not of their making.

It seems that we have learnt so little through the years, through the conflicts which we will recall again on Remembrance Sunday in two World Wars, and sadly so many more.

In times of trouble many of us turn to God, and ask the questions that have no answers, and pray for peace. I believe that God weeps with those who weep and stays close to those who ask for his presence with them. I believe God longs for the day when humanity turns away from the foolishness and futility of war and seeks real and lasting peace across a world that so needs God's peace. Those days have been long awaited, even from Old Testament times when the word of God came to the prophet Isaiah:

“God will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he has chosen…. He will settle disputes among great nations. They will hammer their swords into ploughs and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for battle again.” Isaiah 2:3-4.

Today, and every day I will continue to pray for peace in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and beyond, across our world. I do not know what will happen but I hope that you will share with me in that prayer and that, even now, nations at war will turn back to seek God’s way of peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9.

With every blessing,

Peter



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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
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clerk@stoneystantonpc.gov.uk

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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.

Mondays 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Choir practice, alternates between Stoney Stanton and Broughton Astley. Please contact Wendy Howe 07779 194730.

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.

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "Isn't he the one who moves diagonally?"

Baptisms

Broughton Astley	Kaine Simpson
Croft	Layla Aylott
Stoney Stanton	Harris Family





HOLIDAY



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Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

1st Stoney Stanton Scout Group

Squirrels

Squirrels
(Boys & Girls 4 to 6 years)
Meet Tuesdays 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Beaver Scouts
(Age 6 to 8 years)
Meet Wednesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm

BEAVERS

cubs

Cub Scouts
(Age 8 to 10½ years)
Meet Mondays 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Scouts
(Age 10½ to 14 years)
Meet Tuesdays 6.30pm to 8.30pm

SCOUTS

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 LE9 4JA

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.

All in the month of NOVEMBER

400 years ago, on 18 November 1626 that St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City was completed. It is the largest church in the world (measured by its interior).

175 years ago, on 13 November 1851 that the first telegraph service between London and Paris began operating.

150 years ago, on 1 November 1876 that the North Sea Canal in the Netherlands was officially opened. It links Amsterdam to the North Sea.

125 years ago, on 12 November 1901 that German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, for discovering X-rays.

100 years ago, on 15 November 1926 that the Balfour Declaration was approved by the delegates to the Imperial Conference of 1926. It declared that the UK and its Dominions in the British Empire were equal in status.

90 years ago, on 30 November 1936 that the Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by a fire.

75 years ago, on 2 November 1951 that the Suez Crisis began. 6,000 British troops arrived in Fayid, Egypt, to quell unrest in the Canal Zone. It was the biggest airlift of troops since WW2.

70 years ago, on 11 November 1956 that the Hungarian Revolution ended after its uprising was brutally supressed by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 22 November 1966 that the first chess match between two computers took place, between the USA and Russia. The Soviet Union's computer won.



St Mary's Subscription Draw

October

First Prize	-	£40.00	- No	31	-	Revd & Mrs Goodman
Second Prize	-	£20.00	- No	2	-	Mr R Sweeting
Third Prize	-	£10.00	- No	45	-	Mrs L Sasse

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

October

First Prize	-	£25.00	- No	89	-	Joy and Nick Grant
Second Prize	-	£15.00	- No	23	-	Martin Macklin
Third Prize	-	£10.00	- No	19	-	Anna Wolfe

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

Still waiting

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him!"

40 years ago, on 22 November 1986 that the American boxer Mike Tyson became the youngest-ever WBC world heavy-weight champion, at the age of 20.

30 years ago, on 18 November 1996 that the Channel Tunnel fire took place when a truck caught fire while on board a Heavy Goods Vehicle shuttle travelling through the tunnel. It caused considerable damage and the tunnel was closed for six months for repairs. There was another serious fire in September 2008.

Also 30 years ago, that on 30 November England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and later English and British monarchs. It is now on permanent display in Perth Museum.

25 years ago, from 22 November to 9 December 2001 that the Fall of Kandahar took place when coalition forces ousted the Taliban from the last major city under their control. This marked the end of the Taliban regime's control of Afghanistan. Then in August 2021, NATO withdrew and the Taliban moved back in.

20 years ago, on 23 November 2006 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian-born British intelligence agent, journalist and writer, died. He had been poisoned by radioactive polonium. His death is believed to have been ordered by President Putin.

15 years ago, on 12 November 2011 that the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, resigned over Italy's debt crisis.

10 years ago, on 4 November 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect.

Also 10 years ago, on 7 November 2016 that Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet died.

Also 10 years ago, on 8 November 2016 that Donald Trump was elected as 45th President of the USA.

National Tree Week – 21 to 29 November

It really is time to appreciate our trees. Did you know:

That the UK has 123,000 ancient and veteran trees, and more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe combined?

Or that trees help us feel better? Studies have found that exposure to forests generally reduces our mental and physical stress, anxiety, and depression.

Or that 95% of land carbon in the UK is stored in soil, and trees help put it there? When wood and leaves fall, their carbon gets stored in the soil.

Or that hedgerows alongside our roads can reduce air pollution exposure by up to 63%?

No wonder that each year the Tree Council and its partners bring together the conservation sector, volunteers and tree-lovers to mark the start of the annual tree planting season. Together, they plant thousands of trees and hedgerows, to celebrate these “magnificent mainstays” of our landscape.

And we need more trees. Sadly, only 13% of the UK’s total land area is covered in trees. That’s compared to an average of 46% in Europe. In England, the figure is just 10%.

On the plus side, there are more than 80 community tree nurseries in the UK, growing an estimated 250,000 trees a year, often from locally collected seed, and which are given away or sold at minimal cost.



W.I. Meetings etc……

Where at……	Date and Time	Speaker	Competition
Broughton Astley Village Hall	Tuesday 10 November 7:30 pm	AGM “Make a Christmas Decoupage Box” Claire Farquhar	
Stoney Stanton St Michael’s Church	Wednesday 11 November 7:30 pm	“Christmas True Victorian Style” Jo Golby	
Ladies Fellowship Group St Mary’s Church Broughton Astley	Wednesday 11 November 2pm Contact Denise 285410 or Wendy 07779 194730 for more information	Accord Singers	



Bishop of Newcastle responds as MPs reject Assisted Dying Bill

Following the vote in the House of Commons against giving Second Reading to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, the Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, said: "I am relieved that the Assisted Dying Bill has been defeated.

"I recognise the deeply personal nature of this debate and acknowledge all those who will be affected by its outcome.

"I am pleased that MPs have taken seriously the detailed scrutiny applied to the Bill in the House of Lords, work in which I was privileged to participate as a member of the Select Committee.

"I hope that the decision now affords us space for reflection, but also for action: a clear and sustained commitment to improving palliative and end-of-life care, alongside the social care on which so many people and families depend.

"These are urgent matters, and they must now receive the attention and investment they deserve."

Wake

Shortly after my father passed away, one of my daughter's Jewish friends approached her with a question. 'Kate,' he said, 'I've never attended a Catholic wake before. What is the significance of the daughter not wearing shoes?'

Kate replied softly, 'My mum's feet hurt.'

Story

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."



Thinking about Prayer……..

Examen

Can you believe that there was a time when it was illegal not to attend church on a Sunday? Can you credit the fact that those who failed to attend, 'recusants', were heavily fined?

This was the situation in the sixteenth century under Elizabeth 1. Such was the fever of Reformation. And yet, even those recusants who were fined most heavily, for failing to present themselves on Sundays, could secretly and bravely attend private masses, while still enjoying the favour of the Queen. One such was William Byrd, who covertly wrote exquisite, simple music for masses in the house of friends, while enjoying a position as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal. Queen Elizabeth was outwardly a Protestant while still enjoying Latin anthems and more traditional forms of worship. The whole situation was quite complicated!

And what of the priests who were smuggled from place to place, giving solace and pastoral care to Catholic families? Priests who went in fear of their lives, the reason why some of our ancient houses hold 'priest holes' to this day. Many of these brave men were Jesuits, members of the Society of Jesus, founded in 1540 by the Spaniard, Ignatius Loyola, to become, as he put it 'soldiers of God'. This order of priests devoted themselves to education, charity , and apostolic works. Their successors, to this day, live out lives where they are greatly respected, producing poets like Gerard Manley Hopkins, modern writers like Gerard Hughes, and leaders of the church, such as Pope Frances.

But Ignatius left a great spiritual legacy, in which we are all invited to share. He devised means of prayer, ways of connecting with God in very special ways. And this month, as we approach the year's end, it

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

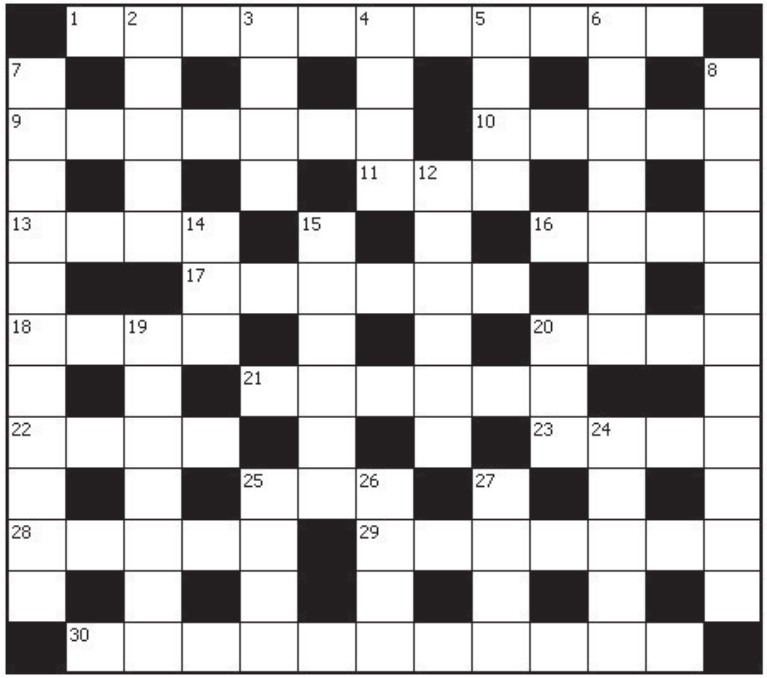
Down
2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

October Crossword Solutions

ACROSS
1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist;
14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air;
24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN
1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI;
8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt;
21 YMCA

Crossword - November



Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

may be helpful to look at one of them. It is called, simply, the Examen.

The Examen is a practice for the end of the day, it invites us to set time aside and to place ourselves quietly in God's presence, first set aside the cares of the present and just focus, turning to God and asking for his grace.

Next, we reflect upon the past day, where did we feel close to God, where did we meet him on the way, where did we 'pass by' situations? And we recall our feelings at those times.
And we consider - where did we show ingratitude, how can we best find God, in our daily life, in family, friends, in those we meet, even in the media of the day? And where did we fail?
Then we pray for God's guidance for the coming day, and finish by saying the Lord's Prayer.
This is such a simple, yet thorough practice, we can even go through it as we lie in bed at night.
And, as we draw near to the close of another year, we might even like to take some time to use it to review what had recently happened, offer thanks to God for what is good, and express our regret and resolve to do better in the future in the less favourable areas of our lives.

As Ignatius said, in the most famous prayer attributed to him……
'Teach us good Lord'…… life is one long learning curve.

It is for us to choose to live it under God's guidance.



Coffee Mornings

St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley

Saturday 7 November

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 7 November

Change of Date - Remembrance Display in Church

10 am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning

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 November

Punch and Munch
Bottle Stall

All Welcome

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Fri 11th to Sun 13th December 2026
at St Mary's, Broughton Astley

Open: Fri - Sat 10am to 5pm; Sun 11am to 5pm

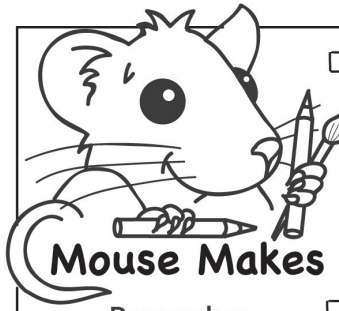
Admission - adults £2, children under 12 free

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

Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Sunday 13th December at 4pm.

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





Mouse Makes

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

O P R O T E C T
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R R E R K N F O V L A S T N
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REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
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RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, STONEY STANTON

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

3 PM—7 PM

PICKLES AND PRESERVES, CRAFT STALLS, TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS, MODEL RAILWAY

ALL WELCOME

VILLAGE LIGHT SWITCH ON AT 6 PM

Why you should not squeeze your teabag



More than eight million of us drink at least two cups of tea a day. Many of us drink five cups or more. As a nation, we love tea.

George Orwell loved tea. Back in 1946 he even wrote an essay, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' to set out his 11 rules for making the perfect brew. But nowadays, we turn to chemistry professors on the Tea Advisory Panel for their tea-making tips.

Why chemistry professors? Because there are almost 2,000 chemicals in tea, which is a "wildly rich molecular mix". And everything you do to your tea changes its chemical makeup.

So – some tips:

First of all, use boiling water on the tea leaves.

Secondly, warm your mug or teapot. That ensures the water is HOT when it hits your tea leaves.

Thirdly, swirl the bag or pot – swirling releases more of those subtle flavours.

Fourthly, let it mash, steep or brew for three to five minutes, to get the best flavour.

Fifthly, never squeeze your teabag! That releases bitter tannic acids.

Sixth – add the milk last, or the water won't be hot enough to brew your tea. Apparently, adding milk first is a historical relic from when boiling tea could break fragile china cups.

Seventh – take a moment to enjoy your tea. Chemists stress that medium to strong tea is really good for you. It increases your hydration, your cognitive function, and your bone health. It even helps cut the risk of type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

Finally, beware tea in America. They do odd things with it there. They use lukewarm water over indifferent tea bags. Even worse, they sometimes put a teabag in a mug of cold water and then boil it in a microwave. This is sacrilege!

The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



The Cubs were made to feel instantly welcomed by local residents and volunteers and had many jobs to complete on the day, these included helping with refreshments, carrying plates of delicious cake and washing up! Collectively on reflection we felt that the most impactful aspect of the day was the Cubs being able to sit and speak to residents in person. We had created small prompt ‘sticks’ which we left on each table to help with conversations however quickly realised that these weren't needed at all, and some fantastic conversations and connections naturally happened.

Our Cubs definitely made some long-term memories and it was a wonderful morning for us all to see everyone's time brightened by the enthusiasm in the room.

We would like to thank everyone at the Church for their efforts to include us in the morning and a special mention to Wendy who has been brilliant and encouraging throughout and also ensured the Cubs had some cake!

We look forward to the next one!

John Baraclough & Amy Lodge

On behalf of 1st Stoney Stanton Cubs

It has been lovely to welcome these two groups into our local churches and we look forward to you visiting us again.

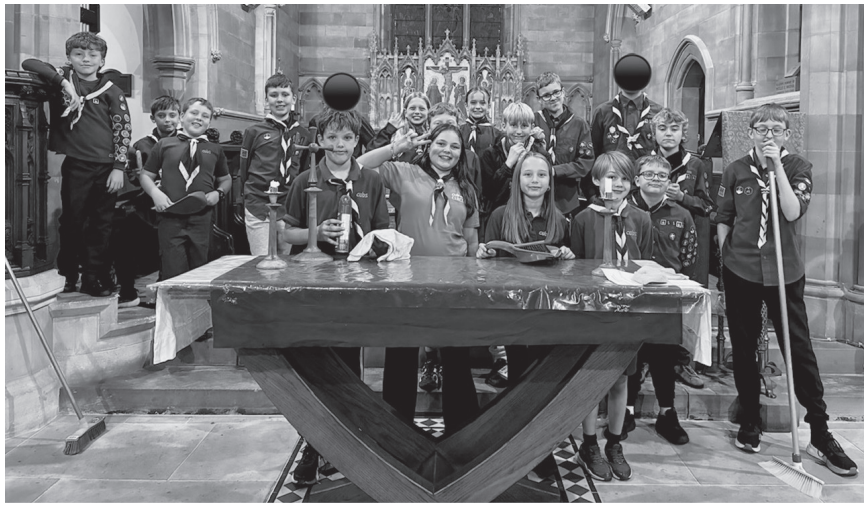
And a big **THANK YOU** not only to the young people and their leaders, but to the wonderful responses given by our congregations and visitors.



Cubs and Scouts

Two of our churches have been fortunate enough to have visits from local cub and scout groups, who have helped us out in different ways:

Croft and Huncote Scouts



“I would like to say a huge thank you to Croft and Huncote Scouts who came and helped to clean St Michael and All Angels Church. They came armed with dusters, brooms, dust pans and brushes. They worked in teams cleaning their designated area. After much hard work we stopped for juice and biscuits followed by a treasure hunt in church.

They all worked so well and visitors to church have commented on how clean it looks.

Many many thanks to Croft and Huncote Scouts, perhaps we can ask them to come again……..

Claire Jordan”

1st Stoney Stanton Cubs visit St Michael’s Church Coffee Morning

On 10 October, the 1st Stoney Stanton Cubs joined the St Michael’s Church Coffee Morning to support this valued community gathering and bring together different generations within our village.

As part of their recent sessions, the Cubs have been learning about the history of Stoney Stanton and the importance of being active members of their local community. The visit also provided an opportunity to work towards their Local Knowledge, Community Impact and teamwork-related badge requirements.

With the wonderful support of the church, we decided that the coffee morning would be an ideal opportunity for the Cubs to make a meaningful contribution. They put their creativity to work by designing a series of posters to promote the group, which can now be seen around the village, including at the church and on local noticeboards. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the part they have played in supporting this community initiative.



