

PARISH NEWS



The Beane Valley Benefice

www.achurchnearyou.com

St Mary the Virgin Aston, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary the Virgin Stapleford,
St Michael and All Angels Waterford, St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

November 2023

If *you* ruled the world, what laws would you make? *'No wars allowed'* would be top of my list. Opposing sides would have no choice. They'd have to sit round a table until an agreement was reached that's fair to both sides, over land, resources, human rights etc. No one would be permitted to walk away or bully an enemy with acts of terrorism or aggression.



Joint top on my list would be *'Do to others as you'd have them do to you'* because everyone, not just governments, has a part to play in creating peaceful communities. *'Love your neighbour as yourself'* is one of Jesus' two commandments, shared by Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, humanists, people of all religions and none - The 'Golden Rule'. Just to be sure, I'd make it law that everyone does a good deed every day, because simple acts of kindness, helping others, makes a kinder world for everyone. Love breeds love - a *virtuous* circle.

Because hate breeds hate, in a *vicious* circle, I'd make mediation and counselling compulsory, to help victims let go of anger and hate over past wrongs. To give peace a real chance I'd use the vast sums of money not spent on war to improve schools, hospitals, roads etc, and tackle the homelessness, poverty and injustice. No, I'm not naive - I do realise peace is NOT easy. But the alternative is there for all to see, in the horrors of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and many other parts of the world. The daily loss of life, of soldiers and civilians, the terrible injuries and destruction suffered, the unimaginable hardship of lack of food, water, shelter, medicine etc brings home the suffering and sacrifice we remember in our annual Services of Remembrance and support of the Royal British Legion.

May we never forget each and every soldier has a story to tell, a family and friends who mourn their injury or loss. Every life disfigured or cut short is unique, irreplaceable and precious. May we always remember the departed who are with God, as our churches do, each November, in services on Remembrance Sunday, 'All Saints' and 'All Souls' Days. The poppies on our war memorials and ribbons on our Churchyard 'Missing Yew' Trees rightly honour those to whom we owe so much.



We live in an uncertain world, where knife, gun and hate crimes, anti Semitism, anti anyone who appears different seems on the rise...the soil where seeds of violence grow. The threat of nuclear war is real as we see in Ukraine. But God won't force us to care for our neighbours and work to make our world safe. The choice is ours. My prayer is that we, and people everywhere, take seriously the Remembrance Day pledge to work to end war, with God's help, and do all we can to turn strangers and enemies into friends, to live with compassion, generosity, understanding and kindness to neighbours, near and far.

Rev Jenny

Lord God, though peace seems humanly impossible,
We continue to pray for an end to violence and bloodshed.
We pray your comfort for the fearful and broken – hearted.
Change the hearts of those set on revenge and destruction.
Give wisdom to world leaders as they respond to aggression.
Bless all who work for understanding, reconciliation and justice
that alone bring lasting peace. Amen



Revd Canon Jenny Gray



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS

Beane Valley Benefice Services November 2023

ALL are welcome

Sunday 5th November

9.30am **WATTON** – CONTEMPORARY INFORMAL WORSHIP All welcome



11am **BRAMFIELD** All Souls Prayer and Praise

11.15am **STAPLEFORD** All Souls Prayer and Praise

11.15am **WATERFORD** All Souls Holy Communion
With lighting of candles to remember those we love who are with God and signing ribbons for the MISSING YOU Tree

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12th November



10.45am **WATTON**

Annual Service of Remembrance with uniformed groups in church ending with procession to the War Memorial

10.45am **STAPLEFORD** Joint

Remembrance Service for Bramfield, Waterford and Stapleford

10.45am **ASTON** Annual Service of Remembrance



Wednesday 15th November 2.30pm
Stapleford Village Tea Afternoon in St Mary's Church - Coffee, Cake and Chat - all are welcome

Contact Rev Angela clergy.angela@gmail.com for more information or to help

Sunday 19th November

9.30am **WATTON** – CONTEMPORARY INFORMAL WORSHIP

11am **ASTON** Holy Communion

11.15am **STAPLEFORD** Prayer and Praise

11.15am **WATERFORD** Morning Prayer

Sunday 26th November Christ the King

9.30am **WATTON** Holy Communion

11.15am **BRAMFIELD** Holy Communion

11.15am **STAPLEFORD** Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd December ADVENT SUNDAY



9.30am **WATTON** – CONTEMPORARY INFORMAL WORSHIP

11am **ASTON** Prayer and Praise

11.15am **STAPLEFORD** Prayer and Praise

11.15am **WATERFORD** Holy Communion

4pm **WATTON CHRISTINGLE** with blessing of the oranges and collection for the CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



You are welcome to attend a service in ANY church on any Sunday

Activity bags or activities are available for children

Attending a service can be intimidating if you've not been before and don't know what happens.

Just pop in, take a seat, and you'll be guided through. It's a great way to meet people and feel part of the community. Hope to see you there.

To receive our weekly church newsletter and daily Thought for the Day by email contact

jennygrayrectory@gmail.com

NIGHT PRAYER Alternate WEDNESDAYS 7 30pm
on ZOOM contact Rev Angela
clergy.angela@gmail.com

Midweek Services

Tuesday 17th November 10am Holy Communion

with hymns, 128 High St Watton (Linda Tyler's) followed by coffee and chat. All are welcome – contact Rev Jenny or Linda for more details

Bramfield Church Wednesdays 10am - 11 30am

10am Morning Prayer short said service. Coffee and Chat 10 45am. Time to catch up with the ministry team. All are welcome.

SCHOOLS

THANK YOU to our schools and villages for your VERY generous **HARVEST** contributions to the Hertford and Stevenage Food Banks – your gifts are much appreciated
THANK YOU from Revd Jenny and the team for the wonderful harvest decorations in our churches.



SCHOOL REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Wednesday 8th November 9.15am

Stapleford School Remembrance 'Poppy' Service in Church

Friday 10th November 10.45am Aston School Remembrance 'Poppy' at Church. Parents, carers, governors and villagers are welcome



BAPTISM – We welcome

Brandon Leach baptised at St Mary's Aston on 24th September

TUESDAYS Waterford Church and Churchyard Working Parties – Contact Churchwarden Malcolm Wandrag to make a real difference.

Bramfield Churchyard - to help Mike contact Churchwarden Peggy

To help in Stapleford or Watton please contact the churchwardens.

ASTON Church open Sundays 12.00 - 16.00 and Wednesdays 10.00 - 17.00

Church and Churchyard working parties **first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon.**

Contact churchwarden Sara. **Thank you to all our volunteers.**



**Need someone to talk to?
YOUR MINISTRY TEAM IS HERE
FOR YOU...**

Rev Jenny Gray: 01920 830035

email jennygrayrectory@gmail.com

Revd Angela Lynas 01992 877188 email clergy.angela@gmail.com

Play Space



Watton at Stone

Tuesday mornings

Memorial Hall, High Street, Watton at Stone.

Parking available.

Time: 9.00am – 12pm



Age Range: Baby to 3 years

Cost: £3.00 per child, and £1.00 per sibling

A lunch snack will be provided for the children.

Singing time at 11.30am

Home-made cakes and refreshments available to purchase from TAC Tea Room.

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the Parish church. Contact details:

Sharon @ 07931 325288



Come along and play, draw, paint, read, create, build, listen, sing, ride, eat and have fun!!!

KIDS SPACE

WATTON AT STONE

Friday afternoons

Memorial Hall, High Street

Parking available

Time: 3.30 - 5.30pm

Age Range: Up to Year 6

Activities: Crafts, play, games, sewing, Bible story and singing.

Cost: £3 per child, and £1 per sibling.

Hot chocolate and fruit on arrival and finish with Pizza and Pasta.

Homemade cakes and scones available to purchase from the Tea Room.

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the Parish church. Contact details: Sharon @ 07931 325288





TAC Tea Room

Memorial Hall,
Watton at Stone

Open:

Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm

Fridays 2pm - 5pm

A selection of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, shortbread and scones to enjoy in our Tea Room or to take away.

We supply gift packs of shortbread and cream teas.

Cakes may also be ordered and delivered to your door.

If you are unable to pop into the Tea Room, please phone or text Sharon @ 07880 994321 to order any of our products for delivery.

Card or cash are accepted.

TAC Tea Room is enabling us to support the community. Please support us too!!



For all enquiries about baptism, funerals, blessings, visits, confirmation or offers to help, please contact Revd Jenny by phone or email. Please note *Mondays* are my usual day off.



NOTE for wedding bookings and administrative enquiries:

Pauline Manley

Pauline.manley1966@gmail.com

For bereavement support contact the ministry team

You can access online help with grief at

griefshare.org thebereavementjourney.org
cruse.org.uk teardropgrief.co.uk ataloss.org

‘Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before; they are wherever we are.’ (St John Chrysostom)

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God, though peace seems humanly impossible, we continue to pray for an end to violence and bloodshed. Change the hearts of those set on revenge and destruction. Bless all who strive for understanding, reconciliation and justice that bring lasting peace. Amen.

A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-living God,
We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer and visits:

WATERFORD St Michael and all Angels open DAILY 10am – 4pm for more information Contact Church Warden Malcolm 01992 552531

WATTON at STONE St Andrew & St Mary open DAILY 10am – 3pm for more information Contact Church Wardens Ian and Helen

ASTON St Mary open Wednesday and Sundays. For visits contact Church Wardens Tim 01438 880519 Sara 01438 880750

BRAMFIELD St Andrew’s Church Open weekends. For visits contact Church Wardens Dorothy 01992 582132 or Peggy 01992 550467

STAPLEFORD St Mary Open weekends For other visits contact Peter 07870 681542, John 07773 392991 or Lesley Atterwill 07773 392992

Sanitiser is available in all churches.

A huge ‘thank you’ to the churchwardens of all our churches for all the work they do

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.



KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS



We are on Facebook

- St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone
- St Mary's Aston
- St Mary the Virgin Stapleford
- St Michael and all Angels Waterford

And you can also access an electronic version of the Parish News from any of the following websites:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7907/>

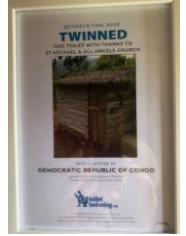
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7898/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7885/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7903/>

www.watton-pc.org.uk/news/

Waterford's repair of the churchyard wall has benefited people in the Democratic Republic of Congo providing them with a much needed facility.



Stuck with prayer?... Download a FREE daily prayer App

Pray As You Go offers daily prayer for whenever you find time, eg travelling to work. It's not a 'Thought for the Day', sermon or bible-study but an outline for prayer using Ignatian imaginative spirituality. **ALSO**



Lectio 365 offers daily prayer using the Bible, inspired by the monastic Lectio Divina, with short Bible readings, thoughts and prayers. It

follows the simple **P.R.A.Y** rhythm:

P:pause to be still.

R:rejoice with a Psalm and **R:**reflect on Scripture.

A:ask for God's help

Y:yield – trust God's goodness and love.



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Page for raising a staggering £1,000 to help maintain St Mary's Church

STAPLEFORD! He completed the annual Historic Churches sponsored bike ride, clocking up a total of 47 churches.

WATERFORD HARVEST SUPPER

Murder Mystery... unforgettable entertainment! delicious food, beautiful decorations – a wonderful village community event. Thank you Detective Sarah and all her helpers...

BRAMFIELD HARVEST SUPPER and QUIZ Thank You Peggy for organising another wonderful village community event (sadly no photos): fabulous home-made food, exercise for the 'little grey cells' and a record £350 raised. Well Done!



WELL DONE WATERFORD Church! The organ recital by renowned organist Ken Martlew raised £350

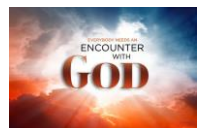
towards the upkeep of the historic Walker organ. Thank You Sarah and everyone involved in serving delicious refreshments in the village hall.

InTouch Age UK Hertfordshire

offer confidential, non-judgemental emotional and practical support on bereavement, physical & mental health issues, cancer, end of life, a partner with dementia or any other problem. Call 01992 634964/630623 or email

intouch@ageukherts.org.uk Web page [Age UK Hertfordshire | Our Services](#)

GOING DEEPER INTO GOD ZOOM BIBLE STUDY AUTUMN 2023 Being REAL with God – OLD TESTAMENT Encounters



7 Nov	SOLOMON	Pleasing God	1 Kings 3:3 to end
14 Nov	JOB	God in suffering	Job 1-2:9
21 Nov	DAVID	Praising God	Psalms 8,19
28 Nov	JONAH	Resisting God	Jonah 1,3-4:11
5 Dec	HANNAH	Honest with God	1 Samuel 1
12 Dec	MARY	Thanking God	Luke 11: 1 to 13

Concern for our World: NOVEMBER



This month we pray for:

peacemakers working constantly behind the scenes
those bringing medical care to dangerous areas
children enduring horrific situations

The **Methodist Church**
in Britain

Watton at Stone

Pastoral Matters, Baptisms, Weddings and
Funerals contact:

Rev Blair Kirkby 01279 443400

Pastor John Ellis 01920 830623

There is a warm welcome to all our services

NOVEMBER

5 th	10.45am Morning Service Ms Efua Koi-Larbi
12 th	10.45am United Remembrance Sunday Service at the Parish Church
19 th	3pm Church's Final Service before closing EVERYONE WELCOME

Rev Jen 10 on Grief. Death is universal and deeply personal. With All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Day falling in November, this is a special month to remember loved ones, by lighting candles in church and tying 'Missing You' ribbons to our churchyard trees.



1. With every death, there is a loss. With every loss, there is grief and pain. 'Grief is the price we pay for love'. (Colin Murray Parkes, Psychiatrist)
2. Grief doesn't come and go in an orderly time frame - memories, pain, and fear come in waves.
3. 'The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it...You will be whole again but you will never be the same.'
(Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Psychiatrist)
4. 'I learned that, with grief, you have to take it one day at a time and learn how to find the happiness amid the heartbreak.'
(A.C. Moore)
5. Grieving makes those around us uncomfortable – our culture wants us to move on. Yet grief is a

part of healing. We need space, time and honesty with our emotions.

6. We do not grieve alone: 'The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.'
(Psalm 34:18)
7. We should not lose hope. Jesus says 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)
8. 'You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only option.' (Bob Marley). 'Every time you were convinced you couldn't go on, you did'.
9. 'Loss can remind us that life itself is a gift.' (Hay and Kessler)
10. Faith assures us death is not final. 'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'
(Revelation 21:4)

Do not hurry as you walk in grief, it does not help the journey.

Walk slowly pausing often: do not hurry as you walk in grief.

Be not disturbed by memories that come unbidden.

Swiftly forgive, and let Christ speak to you unspoken words.

Unfinished conversation, will be resolved in Him. Be not disturbed

Be gentle with the one who walks with grief. If it is you, be gentle with yourself.

Swiftly forgive, walk slowly, pausing often.
Take time, be gentle as you walk with grief.

(George MacDonald)

Beane Valley Mothers' Union

The Beane Valley Mothers' Union is meeting in the Vestry of Stapleford Church on 8th November at 2.30pm. We will be having a Social afternoon.

We are sure that you will enjoy the afternoon and also the refreshments and conversations. We are looking forward to your company.

Elizabeth and Jean

WATTON BOOK WORMS Usually third Friday of the month at 7pm to share supper and thoughts on our book of month. All are welcome contact peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk



BRAMFIELD

WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

Bramfield Carpet Bowls

Meets Village Hall
Monday eve 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Enquiries Mike Jones
01992 550182

Exercise Dance Class

Monday 1.15pm to 2.15pm
£5.50 per person
Contact Sofie Porter
07761 768059

Parish Council Meets Every other 3rd Tuesday of the Month

Clerk Chris Underhill
07714 711253

Village Hall Committee Meets

1ST Tuesday of the Month 8pm
Contact Cheryl Jackson
01992 583958

Bramfield Book Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of
The month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
Contact Louise
01992 583173
Gibbslouise83@gmail.com

[LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK And BRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE](#)

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Quiz Night Sat 18th November 2023

7.30 pm Bramfield Village Hall.

Tables of Eight

**£8.00 Per person to include Ploughmans
supper**

Bring your own drinks.

Raffle

Enquiries to Cheryl Jackson 01992 583958

SAVE THE DATE

BRAMFIELD CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

2pm till 4pm

All enquires and offers of help

Contact Cheryl Jackson

01992 583958

BRAMFIELD

Carpet Bowls Club

MONDAY's @ 7.30.
In the Village Hall
COME AND TRY IT
Everyone welcome
It is a fun evening



WATERFORD

Waterford 200 Club Winning Prizes

	October
1 st prize	£80.00
2 nd prize	£40.00
3 rd prize	£30.00
4 th prize	£20.00
5 th prize	£16.50
6 th prize	£16.50

St Michael and All Angels, Waterford

On 23rd September we held our Harvest Supper and added a little light entertainment by including a Murder Mystery. Thanks go to the volunteers who acted out their roles, to those that set up and decorated the hall and transported us to an island paradise, to those that worked their socks off in the kitchen to provide a wonderful meal, to the apple pie makers who provided wonderful desserts and to all those who attended.

There were many laughs and I think it's fair to say that the evening will be remembered for a very long time!

Whilst this event is seen mainly as a community event rather than a fund raiser, we did make a profit of £188 which we were thrilled about.

The following weekend we then ventured into a new stream of fundraising by hosting an Organ Recital by Ken Martlew in the church. The church organ was built by J.W. Walker and Son, a well-known and well-respected organ builder and it was wonderful to hear it being played to its full potential by such a renowned musician.



Over 50 people attended and many then visited the village hall afterwards where tea and cakes were served. In all a profit of £350 was made which will go towards the maintenance of this important and beautiful instrument.

News From Waterford

There seems to have been universal agreement that this year's village Fete was the best ever! Certainly, it proved to be great fundraising for our new hall, so financially it was a great success! But even more importantly, everyone who attended seemed to have a wonderful time. The sun shone, the Junkyard Dawg Jug Band entertained us with their fabulous tunes; children loved the Helter Skelter, the Face Painting and the games; adults relished the refreshing drinks from the Bar and the Tea Room; everyone loved the Barbecue and the Dog Show. Altogether it was a great success – Waterford at its best!

An important date for your diary – Father Christmas has once again managed to fit us into his tight schedule to join us at our Christmas Bazaar on December 2nd. In addition to a visit from The Great Man, we will have all manner of wonderful things for you to enjoy... children's crafts, games for all ages – tombola, raffle, lucky dip, Tea Room refreshments, our very own handmade crafts. Watch this space for more information to come.

If you have been walking in the field next to the Village Hall, you'll have seen that some of the trees we planted last year did not survive and succumbed to the terrible frosts of last winter. But don't worry – we have a plan. The Woodland Trust is providing us with more trees with which to replace those that died, so that our contribution to The Queen's Canopy will prosper into the future. There is an ancient Greek proverb which says 'A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit'. Although our trees were planted by all ages, I'm happy to think that our little society in Waterford is showing signs of being a great one!

WATTON AT STONE

WATTON CAROL SERVICE

The Watton Carol and Gift Service will be held on **Sunday, 17th December at 4pm.**



We would like to invite everyone to bring a **self decorated bauble** to bring to the church to hang on the Christmas tree during the service.

WATTON VILLAGE FETE 2024

**Make space for those lovely Christmas presents
Santa will be bringing you!**

Donations are being accepted now for next year's Watton Village Fete.

Please bring along any good quality, saleable items eg toys, books or bric a brac and roadworthy bikes to the **Scout Hut in Mill Lane on Sunday 3rd December between 10 and 12 noon.**

Watton Parish Council

During their October Parish Council meeting, Darren Appleby was co-opted to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr. Christine Dinnin. Welcome Darren.



Watton at Stone Neighbourhood Plan

I think I'm speaking on behalf of a lot of people in the village by saying a big 'thank you' to everyone who has been involved in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. The result is testament to the amount of work that they have put in over the last seven years. The consultations with the village were obviously well executed as a very large majority backed the final plan.

Carole Moore

Message from Margaret West

I would like to thank all members of the church for their prayers and thanksgiving. I would also like to thank all my family and friends everywhere for the prayers they have given me. Thank you to Nadine and Ann for looking after me.

I hope to be back with you all soon.

WATTON-AT-STONE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open every Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00
in the Nigel Poulton Community Hall
Loads of books to choose from including
Children's books, plus various jigsaw puzzles
No charges or fees involved or borrowing time
constraints

Come along and have a browse



Waterford Nature Notes

If there be ice in November that will bear a duck, nothing will follow but sleet and muck.

I listened to a radio programme, "Year of the Owl", beautifully written by Paul Thomas, narrated by Andrew Sachs. The programme told the story of a pair of Tawny Owls in a wood in Derbyshire, beginning with the pair calling to establish their territory, through the raising of three owlets to the owlets leaving to find their own mates and establish their own territories. The programme was full of information about the natural history of the owls. The author rescued and nursed back to health one of the owlets after finding it injured in the road. Sadly, one of the parents was shot by a gamekeeper. A few days after listening to the programme, I read of another case of a Tawny Owl being shot by a gamekeeper in Derbyshire. The two incidents are unlikely to be linked as the programme was made in 1983.



The two stories could give a misleading impression of gamekeepers in general. Many years ago, when Buzzards were first reappearing around here, I was chatting to a local gamekeeper and asked what he thought of the increasing numbers, his reply was that it was worth losing a few chicks in return for being able to see these birds. We have just spent a week in North Yorkshire, a local newspaper reported on The Spaunton Estate's success in supporting birds of prey, including Merlin (nationally rare), Red Kite, Buzzards, Hen Harriers. The estate is on the North Yorks Moors and is used for Grouse-shooting but the owner and his keepers find time to support and encourage birds of prey rather than culling them.



As you will know, Ash trees are being affected by Ash Dieback, an imported disease. Many trees appear to have many dead or dying branches, becoming more apparent as the leaf canopy opens up. The Ash has had a difficult time over recent years, being one of the last to come into full leaf and often the first to drop its leaves in autumn, especially if there is an early frost, which leads to a short growing season for a tree that likes plenty of rain for its shallow root system and cooler temperatures in summer. Spring droughts and high temperatures are not at all to its liking. There appears to be a bumper crop of Ash-keys (seeds), this heavy crop of seed may be a survival technique or just a result of last year's

heatwave. The ash tree provides strong straight timber that is fairly flexible, so it makes good tool handles and was used a lot in the old horse days for carts and other machinery. The old cartwheels were made of Elm for the hub because the interlocking grain of wood would not crack or split. The spokes were ash as they had to flex on uneven ground and the felloes, sections of the outer rim, were made of Oak, which was hard and solid, holding the wheel together.

I have mentioned many times the churchyard and its flora, one of the problems that we have to try to manage is cross-breeding in plants, for example, Primulas cross-breed quite easily, we have naturally-occurring Primroses and Cowslips in the churchyard, it would be a shame if these were to be wiped out by crosses with introduced cultivars. We will be publishing a list of plants that won't have an effect and will then make a plan to ensure that the native species are not affected.

Asked to identify a rather pretty moth, it was a Box Tree Moth. There were four Box Trees in the churchyard, three of which have been killed off by the moth so far. I know the damage the moths cause but I can't quite bring myself to wantonly kill them when I see them.



This is the time of year when House spiders (*Tegenaria gigantea*) seem to be more common as they are out looking for mates. House spiders are harmless but I do understand the fear or dislike that many people have. The easiest way to catch one is to trap it in an up-ended glass then slide a piece of card under the glass, the glass can then be lifted with the card held tight and the spider released, unharmed in the garden but do take it as far away from the house as you can otherwise it will just find its way back in. Incidentally, the accepted measurement of spiders is 'nose to tail' not tip of one leg to tip of the opposing leg - House spiders are, therefore, only about 3cms, not "the size of my palm" as is often stated.

Collective noun for Deer - Herd or, for a group of three, Leash, which can also be applied to hares.

Malcolm



NEWS FROM STAPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL – 151 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Here at Stapleford Primary School we are incredibly proud of our academic performance.

Our Key Stage 2 SATS results were amazing last year and well above the national average.

Our recently completed Pupil and Parent Voice Questionnaires have also produced incredibly positive results. A summary of these results can be seen below:

Parent & Carer Voice Questionnaire Summary – October 2023

Some key points include:

- 93% of the parents/carers said their child/ren were happy at school.
- 98% of the parents/carers said their child/ren felt safe at school.
- 86% of the parents/carers said Stapleford Primary School makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
- 86% of the parents/carers said their child/ren had not been bullied or that any incidents had been dealt with quickly and effectively.
- 100% of the parents/carers of children with a special educational need said that the school provides their child/ren with the support they need to succeed.
- 93% of the parents/carers said that their children do well at Stapleford Primary School.
- 95% of the parents/carers said their child/ren can take part in clubs and activities at school.
- 87.5% of the parents/carers said that they would recommend Stapleford Primary School to another parent/carer.

Pupil Voice Questionnaire Results Summary – October 2023

Some key points include:

- 88% of the children said they were happy at school
- 93% of the children said they felt safe at school
- 100% of the children said that they were making good progress at school.
- 98% of the children said that adults in school listen to what they have to say.
- 95% of the children said that the adults help them to improve their learning.
- 93% of the children said they knew who to speak to if they were upset or unhappy at school.
- 86% of the children said they enjoyed their learning.
- 83% of the children felt that behaviour at school is good.

Ofsted (January 2023) said that Stapleford Primary is a “GOOD” school and that:

- ‘Pupils are happy to attend this small and welcoming school.’
- ‘Reading is at the heart of the curriculum.’
- ‘Staff have high expectations’
- ‘Children in the early years settle quickly into the life of the school’
- ‘Pupils are safe at school. They show kindness towards each other. They are respectful of the differences other people have.’

Believe Nurture Enlighten

Rooted in the countryside.....Embedded in village life

Preparing well-rounded individuals for the world

Places are available at Stapleford Primary School in certain year groups.

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Or

Thursday 7th December at 6:00pm

Please contact the school office on 01920 830233 to book your place. In the meantime
please look at our virtual school tour at:

<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/home/virtual-tour-of-the-school>

Watton At Stone Reception Admissions 2024-2025



Was your child born between

1st September 2019 & 31st August 2020?

Please come to one of our RECEPTION OPEN SESSIONS
on;

Monday 16th October at 4:00pm or
Thursday 19th October at 11:00am or
Monday 6th November at 2:30pm or
Tuesday 7th November at 11:00am

This will be an opportunity for you and your child to see the
Reception classroom and the rest of the school. You will
have the chance to meet the Headteacher, Early Years
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your place.

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Denise Hodgson

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Revd Angela Lynas clergy.angela@gmail.com

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Watton-at-Stone

Sports Clubs Newsletter

Issue
223
November 2023

Contact Points:
PILATES Laura Jeffs 07710 408974
CYCLING Alan Headland 01920 830351
WATTON VETS FOOTBALL Steve Betts 07970 698139
YOUTH FOOTBALL Derek Hill 01438 813684
LADIES FOOTBALL Steve Betts 07970 698139
SATURDAY FOOTBALL Paul Reynolds 07794 791978
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CRICKET Brad Williams 07801 790915
SHOTOKAN KARATE Peter Khera 07866 374674
TENNIS Ian Knight 01920 830448
RAMBLING Maurice Gordon 01920 426344

WATTON RAMBLERS

London Walk – Saturday 14 October: Leader Linda Thurlow

On a chilly October morning, 6 walkers boarded the train to London St Pancras via Finsbury Park. to explore the redevelopment of the Kings Cross area.

We explored the area between the station and the Regents canal, where massive redevelopment has transformed the area into a thriving residential, educational, and recreational area. Many buildings have been tastefully preserved and restored and are now functioning as St. Martins College of Art and Design (the Granary building), retail and restaurant outlets (the Coal Drops Yard, with its beautiful kissing roof splendidly restored) the German Gymnasium (restaurant), and the Gasholder park, where the old gasholders have been relocated from the St Pancras area, three now amazingly containing apartments, and the fourth turned into a recreational park bordering the canal. It is a really vibrant area and the design of many of the new buildings give a nod to the industrial past of the area.

For our picnic lunch we found a sheltered courtyard garden with chairs and tables behind the Aga Khan Centre. Then a shower of rain prompted us to investigate the Visitor Centre in Stable Street, where we were amazed by a scale model of the whole development, which gave us a good perspective on the whole area.

As a contrast to the massive high-rise development behind Kings Cross, we crossed the Somers Town Bridge over the canal, passing the restored Victorian Water Tower, and followed the St Pancras Trail to discover the vanished neighbourhoods of Old St. Pancras including Old St Pancras church, a little gem of a small country church surrounded by gardens.

Continuing on the trail we reached Elm village, the site of Agar Town, once claimed as London's worst slum. We continued on through Vale Royal, a very unsavoury industrial place around the 1840s, passing the long-closed York Road tube station, standing forlornly behind fencing, before accessing Granary Square by means of Handyside Street and through the former railway sheds, now Canopy Market.

We had thoroughly enjoyed discovering what this area has to offer. There is an audio tour available at www.kingscross.co.uk-russell-tovey-arts-tour, which will provide detailed descriptions of all that we saw, and might encourage you to make your own trip of discovery. It is well worth it.

Our return journey to Watton went smoothly. The trains were running normally, and we arrived back in Watton just after 5pm.

Walk Programme – November/December

Tuesdays in October/November

Short 1-hour slow morning walks for all starting at the Watton Community Hall at 10.00am. (Further details from Maurice Gordon 01920 426344)

Sunday 19 November Morning walk of 4 miles in Welwyn area.

Meet Watton Community Hall at 9.30am to arrange lifts. If going direct or need details ring the leader Derek Henley 01920 830571.

Saturday 2 December Morning walk

Meet Watton Community Hall at 9.30am to arrange lifts. Details to follow. Leader Maurice Gordon.

WATTON TENNIS CLUB

The Christmas Party and Presentations will be on Saturday 2nd December 2023. The fancy dress theme this year is 'The 80s'. If you would like to come along, please contact wattontennisclub@outlook.com or 07984690727.

The AGM will be on Monday the 4th December 2023 in the Community Hall at 8pm.

The Datchworth Autumn League on Saturday afternoons is now drawing to a close and our two teams have had mixed results so far but should retain their league positions for next year. The Ladies Hot Rackets Team finished 2nd in their division and so have been promoted, well done ladies. The Winter Mixed Doubles and Mens Vets League are now underway, and we have one team in each competition.

Adult Club Sessions will continue to run on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings plus Saturday afternoons. Saturdays will be dependent on court availability due to the competitive matches. Junior Coaching is on Thursday afternoons.

The Club Sessions on Monday and Thursday evenings, and on Saturday afternoons, are organised via WhatsApp groups. If you are a club member who would like to join one of these groups please contact the club on the email below.

Adult Coaching is running again on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.00pm with Mark Roskilly coaching and will still be £10 a session. Sessions will run every week, regardless of numbers, unless the weather is too bad. A reminder will be sent out on the Wednesday WhatsApp but there is no need to sign up, just come along.

Junior Lessons are on Thursdays from 3.30 – 7.30pm. New juniors are always welcome. Please contact the Club Coach, Ian Vosper, with any coaching enquiries. Junior lessons do not take place during the school holidays. vosperlorri@aol.com or 07960 519373.

If you would like a copy of the Club's Annual Newsletter or information about joining the club, please contact the Membership Secretary at:

wattontennisclub@outlook.com or 07984690727.

New Players, adults, and juniors are always welcome at the club.

Dates for your Diary:

The Christmas Party and presentations will be on Saturday 2nd December 2023. The fancy dress theme this year is '**The 80s**'.

The AGM will be on Monday 4th December 2023

PILATES

BACK PAIN

Do you suffer with back pain? You're not alone as 84% percent of the population suffer with back pain at some point in their life. It becomes more common with age after the age of 45 although rarely due to anything serious.

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Contact Laura on 07710 408974

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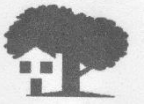
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