

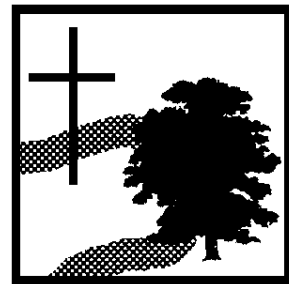
PARISH NEWS

The Beane Valley Benefice

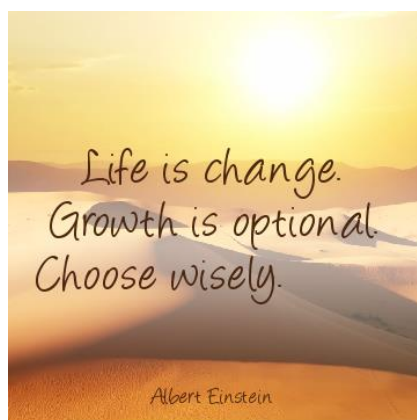
www.achurchnearyou.com

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

June 2025



Life is always changing. Ready or not, things move on: we can't stay as we are or go back to before. 'Don't hold on to me' says Jesus to weeping Mary Magdalene on Easter Day. 'Don't hold on... but go'... there are new tasks and challenges ahead, new possibilities, fulfilment and joy to replace loss and fear, for Mary Magdalene and for us.



Resistance to change is natural but futile - it only adds to the pain. Acceptance is a gradual process beginning with admitting all that we feel. Adjusting to a new reality takes time and investment. Looked at positively, 'retirement is not a fullstop but a ...to be continued.' Like a pit-stop on Formula 1, retirement provides space to be 're-tyred', not deskilled but reskilled, not decommissioned but recommissioned because God hasn't finished with us yet.

As I prepare to leave a role that's been so important and fitted me so well, I'm aware both of the privilege it's been to serve as your Rector since 2013 and the enormity of the task of following Jesus' teaching and example, of 'being Christ to others', which no Christian is ever equal to.

Over 20 years of ministry I've often struggled with my unlike-ness to Jesus, my inadequacy as a priest, but I find encouragement in the words of a wise Spiritual Director: '*has it occurred to you, Jenny, God could not save you any other way?*'

The Bible shows God knows us through and through. He calls us with our limitations to do/be the best we can. God believes in us. He only asks us to be faithful - our best is 'good enough' for Him. We may measure ourselves against others but God does not!

Jesus' question to Simon Peter is for us too: '*Do you love me? then feed my sheep*' i.e. carry on God's work of caring for others, sharing God's story in our schools and communities, responding to needs as individuals and as Church - our diocese Vision of 'Living God's Love, with Generosity and Joy, Imagination and Courage' for our own sake and for the world, no matter how people respond. God has no other plan!

'*Keep on doing the things that you have learned*' writes St Paul. Whatever lies ahead, our priority is to keep close to God in prayer, worship and service, with thanksgiving. We may not always feel thankful but giving thanks reminds us of the blessings we have and opens to God's new possibilities and purposes.

Keep Up
The
Good
Work



Rev Jenny

'Never, ever, ever think that your life is over, but know always that each day, each hour, each moment is another beginning, another opportunity, another chance to re-create yourself anew.'



Beane Valley Benefice Services

June 2025

ALL are welcome

Until the vacancy of Rector to The Beane Valley Benefice is filled following Rev Jenny's retirement, the Churchwardens of each church will be responsible for organizing services. Therefore, services may vary each month.

1st June Sunday after Ascension Day

Rev Jenny's Farewell Service

11am Watton Benefice Service with Archdeacon Janet followed by 'Bring and Share' Lunch in Watton Memorial Hall

No services today at Aston, Bramfield, Stapleford or Waterford

8th June

11am Aston Family Service

11am Watton Contemporary Service

Contact Sharon 07931 325288

11.15am Bramfield Holy Communion

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise

15th June

11am Aston Holy Communion

11am Watton Contemporary Service

Contact Sharon 07931 325288

11.15am Waterford Morning Prayer

11.15am Stapleford Holy Communion

22nd June

9.30am Watton Prayer and Praise

11am Watton Contemporary Service

Contact Sharon 07931 325288

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise

29th June

11am Watton Contemporary Service

Contact Sharon 07931 325288

11.15am Waterford Benefice Service

For all enquiries about weddings, baptism, funerals, blessings, confirmation or offers to help, please contact the relevant Churchwardens (details on back page)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

Midweek Services



Bramfield Open Church WEDNESDAYS

10am Morning Prayer - short said service followed by coffee and chat. All are welcome.

Wednesday 18th JUNE 2.30pm
STAPLEFORD VILLAGE TEA AFTERNOON
in CHURCH All are welcome for tea, coffee, cake and chat.



Fortnightly MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study

Fellowship 3 Long Ridge Aston with tea and biscuits All are welcome Contact Pauline at pauline.manley1966@gmail.com



Baptisms - we welcome

Edward Stacey who was baptised in St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 18th May 2025

Holly Scanes who was baptised in St Andrew's Bramfield on 25th May 2025



Weddings – we celebrate the marriage of Harry Sanders and Harriet Vincett-Wilson at St Michael and All Angels Waterford on Saturday 31st May



RIP – We Remember With Love

Mrs Eileen Burns whose ashes were buried in St Mary's Stapleford on 17th May

Mrs Pat Kovacs and Mr Zoltan Kovacs whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and Mary's Watton on 22nd May

Mr Robert Logan whose ashes were buried in St Andrew's Bramfield on 23rd May

Mrs Christine Ricketts whose funeral and burial was held at St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 23rd May

Mrs Yvonne Deards whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and Mary's Watton on 24th May

Mrs Gillian Howell whose funeral was held at Harwood Park and Memorial Service in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 27th May

Mr Richard Howell whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and Mary's Watton on 28th May with Mrs Gillian Howell

Dr Neville Spurling whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 29th May

Mrs Sally Tanner whose ashes were buried in St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 31st May

CARING for our CHURCHYARDS

TUESDAYS 10am Waterford Church and Churchyard Working Parties contact Churchwarden Malcolm m.t.wandrag@gmail.com

To help in **Stapleford, Watton or Bramfield Churchyards** contact the Churchwardens.

ASTON Church and Churchyard Working Parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara wardenstmarys@gmail.com

All our churchyards are cared for by Volunteers...could YOU offer occasional help?

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
m.t.wandrag@gmail.com

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

ASTON St Mary's open Sundays 12 noon - 4pm and Wednesdays 10am - 5pm. Contact Churchwarden Sara 01438 880750

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

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

Opening churches is important. If you would be willing to join a rota to help open and shut any of the churches please contact the Churchwarden.

On-line bereavement support

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)



WATTON BOOK WORMS

We usually meet on the third Friday of the month at 7pm to share supper and thoughts on our book of the month. All are welcome. Contact
peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk

Rev Jen 10 for the Vacancy: as a new chapter begins, 'there is no need to be discouraged. Don't see this as an end but rather a beginning...an exciting opportunity rather than a struggle. And don't just mark time until the next incumbent is appointed but rather get on with the core work of a church that is living for Jesus.' (Church Times Feb 2025)



1. Remember the Churchwarden(s) are in charge of the parish
2. But don't expect them to be the Rector!
3. Spread the load to maintain what you can
4. Encourage regular attendance - some people fall away in a vacancy
5. Look out for each other so no-one drifts away unnoticed
6. Welcome and integrate newcomers
7. Stay united as a benefice – keep in touch with and support the 5 village churches
8. Communicate with the congregations, patrons, deanery and diocese
9. Acknowledge emotions
10. Pray for the Churchwardens, PCCs and appointment process

In St Paul's words: 'Rejoice in the Lord always...Stand firm in the Lord... the Lord is near. Do not worry about anything... And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus'. Amen.



TAC Tea Room

Memorial Hall,
Watton at Stone

Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm

Fridays (TERM TIME only) 2pm - 5pm

A selection of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, shortbread and scones to enjoy in our Tea Room or to TAKE AWAY!

We also take orders for birthday cakes.
Pop in or text Sharon @ 07931 325288 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!!





Play Space

Toddlers and Babies!
A village place for Mums,
Dads and carers to meet

Watton at Stone

Tuesday mornings (Term time only)

Memorial Hall, High Street

Parking available.

Time: 9.30am – 12noon

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

A lunch snack will be provided for the children.

Singing time at 11.30am

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!!!

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

BRAMFIELD

WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

Bramfield Carpet Bowls

Meets Village Hall

Monday eve 7pm to 9pm

Enquiries Mike Jones 01992 550182

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

A message from the Rotary Club of Hertford

Please join us for our Jazz/Pop Music Fest here at the Bramfield Village Hall on Sunday 22nd June from 6pm! It promises to be a fun evening for the whole family! Relax to the music and chill out with a drink and good food from the BBQ. Entrance is free but donations to Isabel Hospice. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bramfield Parish Council

We meet on the third Tuesday of every other month at 7.30pm in the village hall. So, this means January, March, May, July, September and November.

Did you know we have a parish website? We have a bit of history, contact details and all documentation such as minutes, posted there. Feel free to have a look at
bramfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Bramfield has a well-kept Tennis Court that is open for use for families from the Village and beyond, we offer a very reasonable Family Membership Fee at £25 per year. To take advantage of this amazing deal. Call Cheryl Jackson on 01992 583958



KIDS SPACE

Friday afternoons (term time only)

3.30pm—5.30pm

Memorial Hall, High Street

Parking available

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

WATERFORD

Waterford's social calendar has been busy through the last month as villagers have come together for a number of events organised by the willing volunteers of Waterford Recreation Committee.

The **Pop-up Pub** was a great celebration of Spring as the sun was out and members from across the village came together for a lovely social occasion.

Early evening, people gathered around the outside tables before moving inside as it cooled down. As always, old friends chatted in a relaxed environment and welcomed new members of the village on an informal and friendly evening.

The **Easter bazaar**, as always, was also a lovely occasion, busy with book sales and the arts and craft stall and fun as ever with the chocolate Easter egg hunt. The raffle was popular and multiple lovely hamper prizes were well received! Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments from the Tea Room and all those who attended agreed it was a delightful start to the long weekend!

Our final event of the month was when Waterford hosted a wonderful **British Bank Holiday picnic**, huddled under blankets from the icy wind, flask of tea firmly gripped for warmth. But what an enjoyable afternoon was had; the wonderful Lloyd (the Ukulele Man) provided a delightful selection of favourite songs to sing along to; children bounced with glee on the bouncy castle, and grandparents too! (Yes Rod and Jo, we saw you!). A memorable afternoon was had by all. Please do come next year as we didn't quite have enough able-bodied volunteers for the traditional tug of war!

We also have two events coming up to add to your diary – the **Annual General Meeting** of the Waterford Recreation Committee on **Thursday June 12th at 8pm**. Everyone is welcome and we would love for you to stay on afterwards and meet your neighbours over a glass of wine and some nibbles. Do come to meet the Committee, ask questions, join us, volunteer as a helper or just listen and smile. We look forward to seeing you there!

The other date for your diary is our flagship event – **Waterford Village Fete** on **Sunday 14th September**. It is currently in the planning stage but watch this space for more information! It's going to be bigger and better than ever!



WATTON AT STONE

THE FRIENDS OF WATTON ARE RECRUITING (FOW)

CHAIRPERSON We're looking for a fantastic new Chairperson for our School Committee! This isn't just a title for your CV—it's a chance to really make a difference for the children, teachers, and the whole school community. We would love to hear from you if you're passionate about helping, sharing ideas, and working with others to improve our school environment!

SECRETARY We are looking for a dedicated individual to fill the role of Secretary for our School Committee. In this position, you will access easy-to-use templates and a well-organised Google Drive with step-by-step instructions to make your tasks smooth and straightforward. Our current secretary is happy to provide mentorship with this position.

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR We are looking for help managing our social media accounts. This includes uploading our newsletter on WhatsApp and Facebook, promoting our events on classlist, Facebook and Whatsapp groups, and sharing general information. These platforms are essential for promoting information, maintaining a connection with parents and caregivers, and promoting our events.

Our charity operates under a "Friends of" organisation model, which permits any individuals from the community to fill these roles. Parents, grandparents, retired individuals, family members, alumni, teachers, friends, and neighbours to consider applying. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in taking on these roles, please contact us friends-of-watton@googlegroups.com

SPORTS NEWS

Watton Ramblers Walk Programme:

Every Tuesday there is a short slow walk (max 1 hour) starting from the Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 10 o'clock.

We are lucky in Watton to have an abundance of routes taking us just into the wonderful countryside that surrounds the village. The choice of route is dependent on the weather and ground conditions and any preference from those attending.

We don't walk in the rain !!

Newcomers are welcome, particularly those recovering or who need a little gentle exercise in good friendly company.

(No payment required and no need to book. Further details from Maurice 01920 426344)

Waterford Nature Notes

Last month, I reported that the eggs of the Peregrine Falcons nesting on St Alban's Cathedral had been accidentally destroyed by workmen. Later reports stated that the incident was now believed to be not accidental and a man has been questioned by police. During April, the pair were seen mating and, in the first week of May, there were three eggs being incubated.

The first Swifts of the year in Hertfordshire were recorded on 21st April, I have yet to see any in and around Hertford. The first Cuckoos were recorded on 6th April, again, I have yet to see/hear one, although my neighbours have. My own, most exciting, spot was a Spotted Flycatcher, hunting from a telegraph wire in Timber Orchard, my attention was drawn to it by its typical behaviour, making repeated short flights from its perch, returning to the same perch having caught its prey, fortunately it remained long enough for me to grab my binoculars and get a good look at it.



We have just returned from a trip to visit our daughter and family in Tasmania so I thought it would be interesting to write about wildlife there.

Our daughter and her partner very soon put us right on shopping. Tasmania has the most sustainable farming in Australia, so we very quickly got in the habit of buying local produce. One example is that beef-farming in Tasmania does not use up the resources that it does on mainland Australia, indeed there are even theories that say mainland beef-farming is unsustainable and that kangaroo meat should be produced because kangaroos are adapted to their natural environment and do not require the intensive methods used to produce beef, especially piped water.

Speaking of resources, Tasmania is entirely self-sufficient on sustainable electricity, most being hydro-electric and is reckoned to have the purest drinking water of any country, all this with a moderate climate. Many homes, especially in rural areas, collect run-off from their roof in huge tanks as their water supply, even drinking water. In times of low rainfall, the tanks are topped-up by a delivery from a water tanker.



Among our many sightings was an Echidna that wandered across the road in front of us one evening. Echidnas are one of only two egg-laying mammals, the other being the platypus. The egg is laid into the mother's pouch, hatches after 12 days and the baby is then carried in the pouch. Baby Echidnas are known as puggles.

The road along which the property we were staying is subject to a 55 km/h speed limit from dusk to dawn because of the abundance of wildlife such as wallabies, pademelons (related to wallabies and kangaroos), Echidnas, quolls and others yet every morning, there were fresh roadkills. One evening, returning home after dark, we were driving at 40-45 km/h and encountered first a Wallaby, then a pademelon and then a smaller animal that might have been a quoll, we managed to stop in plenty of time but I doubt whether we would have been able to at 55 km/h as both wallabies and pademelons are quite fast.

On one occasion we were lucky enough to see what our daughter identified from our description as a Spotted Quoll, a rarity that is only found in Tasmania. The only Tasmanian devils that we saw were in a zoo, they are delightful creatures. Tasmanian devils are scavengers, feeding on carrion, comparative to their size they have the strongest jaws of any animal and can devour a whole animal, bones and all.



It was two years ago that we last visited Australia and I reported then upon Lake Eyre, a salt lake. Lake Eyre covers about 9,500 sq km and is usually dry but occasionally fills completely or partially. On our last visit, the lake was filling as we flew over it so we witnessed a rare, once-in-ten-years event yet this year it is filling again, predictions are that the lake will fill completely, a once-in-fifty-years event but the last such occurrence was only 15 years ago. Lake `Eyre is in the South of Australia about 700 km North of Adelaide, the waters that fill the lake travel all the way from Queensland in the North, where there was severe flooding in March.

Malcolm

AGM

WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL AGM

JUNE 12TH 2025 8pm START

Everyone welcome. Stay on afterwards and meet your neighbours over a glass of wine and nibbles. Meet the Committee, ask questions, join us, volunteer as a helper, or just listen and smile.



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COTTERED VILLAGE DAY

Sunday 22nd June 2025

CAR BOOT 10.30 - 12.30
MAIN SHOW 12.00 - 16.00

Fun Dog Show | Classic/Vintage Cars
Trade Stands | Tractors | Artisan Food Stalls
Car Boot Sale | Childrens Entertainment
Fun Games | Bungee Run | Dog Agility Taster
Owl Display | Bell-Ringing | Local Band

If you have a vintage car, tractor, stationary engine or similar, we would love to see you exhibit on the main field - arrive by 11.30am



Follows us on
Facebook to
find out more



The poster features several decorative illustrations. In the top left, a butterfly with orange and yellow wings is perched on a green leafy branch. In the top right, there is a cluster of green leaves. In the bottom left, a pink rose is in full bloom, surrounded by green leaves and several red rose buds. In the bottom right, there is a cluster of light purple roses. The background is a light cream color with faint, larger-scale floral patterns.

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29TH JUNE 1PM-5PM

TICKET COST £6

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ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
5th & 6th JULY 2025
11am - 4pm

ON A119 JUST NORTH OF HERTFORD

A large, detailed floral wreath composed of various flowers and leaves, rendered in a light grey tone. It serves as a background for the central text.

WATERFORD
SUMMER
FLOWER
FESTIVAL

A WEEKEND OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION

STUNNING FLOWERS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL, HISTORIC CHURCH

In the Village Hall there will be a sale of small paintings by renowned artist Trevor Chamberlain, extraordinary art by JuniPerloony, and, in the church, an exhibition of photography by Steve Baldwin. Teas, coffees and homemade cakes available throughout the weekend in the Village Hall.



Knebworth COMMUNITY CHORUS

Come to our Summer Concert! Saturday 28 June

June really is bustin' out all over, with our summer concert to be held in **Knebworth Village Hall at 7pm on Saturday 28 June**. We'd be delighted if you could join us for a joyful mix of music from Moon River to Honeysuckle, Gilbert and Sullivan to the Golden Cornfields of Dvorak. We will be celebrating everything about "Summer Landscapes". It's a grand night for singing!

The Chorus will be joined by John Griffiths, actor and teacher, currently appearing in the Mikado in London, to add more colour to the season through the spoken word. It will be an evening to be enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, the Chorus held a very successful open singing day in March in St Martin's Church, Knebworth. The centrepiece was the wonderful Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart**. We have had many appreciative comments from the singers who joined us and from our enthusiastic audience. More news on future events will be published soon.

Please visit our website – www.knebworthchorus.org.uk – for more details, videos from past concerts and for more information about singing with or listening to the Chorus. You can also call us on 01438 817992 or email knebworthchorus@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome!

PRINT DEADLINE
Please send any items for the next edition
BY 12TH OF THE MONTH
To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

Bramfield

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3 Bury Lane, Bramfield
(01992 538712)
jenny@jmsprojects.co.uk

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(01992 536405)
caroleccleston@btinternet.com

Waterford

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(01992 584040)
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Watton at Stone

Denise Hodgson
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parish.news.beane@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ian Knight (07778 401799)
iancknight31@gmail.com

EDITOR

Denise Hodgson



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:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7907/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7898/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7885/

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7903/

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

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Watton at Stone



Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Waterford



Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Stapleford



Scan the QR code below to find out more about the church in Bramfield



BENEFACTORS

Please contact your local Churchwardens

Churchwardens

Aston: Sara Hudson (01438 880750)
Tim Alexander (01438 880519)
Bramfield: Peggy Wareham (01992 550467)
Dorothy Abel Smith (01992 582132)
Stapleford: Nicola Page (Church rep) (01992 302501)
Waterford: Malcolm Wandrag (01992 552531)
Watton: Ian Knight (07778 401799)
Helen McCash (07817 384117)

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