

Christ Church Parish
Magazine



March 2019

USEFUL NUMBERS

CHURCH

Vicar Rev. Marion Reynolds Tel: 01782 397073

Audrey Stringer 01889505638 or Sue Stubbs 01889505203

PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm

Parish Clerk is Amanda Kingston . Contact number is

01785 661550 or email clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk

HILDERSTONE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President Mrs Pat Saul 01785 812580

Meeting 2nd Tuesday 7 30 pm in Village Hall

HILDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL ST15 8SF

Bookings Secretary: Debbie Britton 07810332559

email :- hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ash Connor area Neighbourhood Watch Stone 01785 234129

Sue Stubbs Hilderstone co-ordinator 01889 505203

DOCTOR

Cumberland House, High St. Stone

01785 813538

Mansion House Surgery, Abbey St. Stone ST15 8YE 01785

815555

STAFFORD HOSPITAL

Casualty

01785 257731

POLICE

Urgent/Emergency

999

Non-Emergency number

03001234455

Stafford County council

0300111 8000

Clarence Road (road repair and lighting)

03001118000

Street scene (fly tipping rubbish)

01785 619401

Stafford Borough Council

01785 619000

Staffordshire Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

Staffs. County Councillor: Ian Parry **Telephone:** 07831 510381

Email: ian.parry@staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Councillor Cllr Andrew Harp Tel 01889 505400

EDITORIAL



This month's magazine has an article detailing the progress of the AfA (Access for all) project at Christ Church. It's amazing how much has been achieved in readiness for adapting the church for disabled access and providing toilet facilities within the church. Our thanks go to those who doggedly pursue this venture coping with mountains of paperwork and at times, bewildering bureaucracy.

Dates for Diary 2019

6th April Jumble Sale

11th Annual Village Dinner Party

14th September Jumble sale

15th September Harvest Festival Service

17th September Harvest Supper

3rd December W.I. Christmas Party

10th December Village Christmas Party

**Editor Sue Stubbs tel. 01889505203 or Email:-
susanstubbs01@outlook.com**

ALL COPY IN BY THE 8TH OF THE MONTH PLEASE

Making Your Church Accessible to you ...

Like so many of our beautiful rural churches, Christ Church in Hilderstone is ill-equipped to deal with the challenges facing many of our infirm, disabled and young children: whilst we have provided temporary ramps for wheelchair and pram access, our 'characterful' porta loo leaves much to be desired and only the most intrepid visitor would enter its inner sanctum – although the spiders seemingly love it.

Almost a year ago the PCC launched its 'Access for All' project (Afa), which aimed to address



these very real issues and ensure that all those wishing to attend events at the church could do so in the knowledge that the facilities they need will be available. So, what have we achieved over these past few months?

To make the project more manageable, and ensure we had the necessary funds available, we broke the Afa project down into 5 stages, the first of which was the re-siting of the internal War Memorial. Once housed in a rather dark recess in the Baptistry, it now has pride of place in the main body of the church and took

centre stage in the commemoration service to mark 100 years since the end of the Great War.

Phase 2, sees the re-siting of the Font, again from the Baptistry, to the front of the church and should be completed by mid-February. This will bring the Font into the area by the Reading Desk, where all those attending a Baptism can clearly see, and be involved in, the celebration. It was also necessary to move the Font to allow an access door from the Bell Tower, where the new wheelchair access point will be located.

And this brings us to Phase 3: Disabled Access. With the Font now moved, an archway will be made between the Baptistry and the Bell Tower, with the side door opening to a new graduated ramp from the car park. This stage is still awaiting approval, but we anticipate commencing work in late March.

Our next stage will be the new toilet facilities inside the church building, providing toilet facilities for those with wheelchairs, as well as baby-changing facilities. This will be the most expensive part of the overall Access for All Project and we hope to start our fundraising campaign for this very shortly, so keep your eyes open. It will, of course, mean the old porta loo will be redundant, but we are confident the wildlife which inhabits it at present will find suitable alternative accommodation – maybe in our ‘bug hotel’ in the churchyard? This will be followed, subject to funds being available, by the final part of the project, namely the installation of a kitchen area.



Pictured above: the Font

All this work continues alongside the general upkeep of our beautiful Georgian church. In addition to the cost of these much-needed improvements, we have the challenges of maintaining this historic building, from repairs to the roof, to the clearing out of gutters, maintaining the churchyard and general repairs. We already have a superb Churchyard Clean-up Team (details in the magazine), but if anyone has any skills, time or just general enthusiasm, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Audrey Stringer to find out how you can help make a difference (Tel: 01889 505638 or email: a.stringer247@btinternet.com).

We would like to thank all those who have supported us over this past year: to those in the village who have hosted events and the visitors who attended them; to Cllr Ian Parry on behalf of the Staffordshire County Council Community Fund for its donation towards the internal War Memorial and the Font; our parish council; and last, but certainly not least, our wonderful team of volunteers. We are most grateful to you all.

When the days are longer (and warmer), we will be running our Open Church days again and warmly welcome you all to come and see the changes in your local church. You would always be guaranteed a very warm welcome to our services too – details to be found in this magazine.



Churchyard Tidy up

In conjunction with the Best Kept Village Competition we will again be organising the monthly tidy up sessions which start on **Saturday 16th March 2019 from 10 am to 12 noon.**

In previous years volunteers have made such a difference to our Church yard and visitors really do appreciate seeing such a tidy church yard.

We are a friendly group and everyone is made very welcome. We have a coffee break at 11am..

No specific gardening experience is needed but it is easier if you are able to bring your own tools i.e. lawn shears, secateurs, rakes etc. although there are some spare tools to share.

Do come along at 10am on **Saturday 16th March** and see what a difference we can make again this year. The Church yard has been highly commented on by the Best Kept Village Judges and our points go towards the overall points awarded to Hilderstone Village..

For further details contact
Christine Clark – Tel: 01889 505676
Email: clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk

**Dates
for 2019**

16th March, 20th April, 18th May, 15th June, 20th July,
17th Aug, 21st Sept & 12th Oct

Hilderstone WI News

Any feelings regarding dull winter days in Staffordshire were emphasized when '*apologies from absent members*' were read out with accompanying comments from members present: 'She's in Turkey' ... "Malta" ... 'Cruising South America'... 'Sunning in the Canaries' '!! However thoughts of dull days were swiftly dispelled when our speaker, David Fuller, wearing a very colourful shirt decorated with images of palm trees and exotic flora, took to the floor, pressed the button on his recorder and the strains of 'By the Sleepy Lagoon' began Hilderstone WI's very own '**Desert Island Discs**'.

This was a most appropriate choice of programme in a week when the BBC announced that 'Desert Island Discs' had been voted the '*best of the top thirty BBC Programmes of all time*'.

Hilderstone members' selections ranged from personal thoughts of 'first dates' to sensitive family memories and classical choices from the Hallelujah Chorus to Boy George and Songs from the Shows and long forgotten 'Top of the Pops'.

Among the 'fun moments' were Combine Harvester, Top of the Pops in 1976 and the hilarious image conjured up of a local retired farmer who used to milk his cows as he sang 'If I Were a Rich Man'. He will be puzzled by the looks cast in his direction when he next encounters WI members!

David Fuller had arranged the selections so sensitively, the programme had begun with 'Roses of Picardy' and closed (most appropriately) with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band playing 'Jerusalem'.

President Pat Saul thanked David for providing such a special evening and for the CDs he had made for us. It will be an evening to remember and will be counted among the highlights of our year's programme.

We lingered over refreshments feeling privileged to be sharing such personal stories with each other. Dull days were forgotten and we felt sorry for our members holidaying 'overseas' who had missed an evening on Hilderstone WI's very own Desert Island.

The next meeting for Hilderstone WI will be on March 12th 7.30pm at Hilderstone Village Hall. The speaker Barbara Andrew, the subject 'Tea Towel Tales'.

Visitors and new members are assured of a friendly welcome.

CHURCH MATTERS:

The 2019 Electoral Roll for Christ Church

The Electoral Roll for Christ Church is replaced in April 2019. To regular churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike, the Electoral Roll is something of a mystery. I would dare to suggest that even the most dedicated amongst us would not necessary have a clear idea about what the Electoral Roll is all about. So, as we approach our new Electoral Roll for Christ Church, I thought it would be a good opportunity to explain what, exactly, the Electoral Roll means.

The Church of England Electoral Roll: A Definition

This is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. Those entitled to have their names on this roll have to be 16 years of age or more and they must reside in the relevant church parish (in our case Christ Church) or be regular worshippers in the church whose roll they wish to join. The 2019 roll will replace the existing one, which is destroyed. All those wishing to be on the new roll must apply, even if they are on the current roll, otherwise their names are deleted. This ensures the roll remains current and reflective of the parish.

A copy of the current Electoral Roll is displayed in Christ Church and the new Electoral Roll will be published in church on Sunday 17th March 2019.

You are free to apply or have your details removed from the Electoral Roll at any time within the roll's six year period. However, please note that if you are on the current roll, you are not automatically placed on the roll for 2019; everyone on the current roll must re-apply.

As part of our GDPR programme in 2018, we did undertake a new Electoral Roll, but 2019 marks the start of a new 6 year Electoral Roll. After this, the next roll will not be until 2025.

Attending the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

If you are on the Electoral Roll, you are entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to be held in the Hilderstone Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April 2019. At this meeting, the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Benefice reports are received, and the audited accounts presented. Churchwardens are appointed and the following appointments are made:

- Election of Deanery Synod representatives
- Election of Parochial Church Council members
- Appointment of Sidespeople
- Independent Examiner or Auditor to the PCC

Anyone can attend the APCM but only those on the church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. This meeting offers a good opportunity to see how Christ Church is doing and to meet the team.

As always, we would be delighted to welcome new members to our PCC – whether as an official member of the PCC or as an associate for, say, churchyard clean-up, flower rota or fundraising, to name but a few. Please feel free to contact any member of the PCC (details held on the church noticeboard).

Copies of the Electoral Roll Registration Form can be found in church up until Sunday 17th March 2019. When complete, either drop them off in church, or post/drop off at:

Mrs Lisa Norwood, 19 Barnes Croft, Hilderstone, Staffs ST15 8XU.
Tel: 01889 589244 Email: lisa@norwood.me

Hilderstone Parish Council

Best Kept Village Competition 2019.

Hilderstone will be entering the Best Kept Village Competition again in 2019.

As judging can take place at anytime in May, June and July, it is important that work starts in early March so that the village is ready for judging by the end of April. All residents can help by giving their front gardens a good spring tidy, trimming hedges on a regular basis throughout the season, weeding, removing moss and sweeping the pavement in front of your property. A village full of flowering baskets, pots and planters also helps to impress the judges, as well as enhancing the beauty of the village.

Village Events Diary 2019

The village diary on the website needs some dates for the rest of the year. Anybody

thinking of organising a new event and wishing to publicise it should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance with details of the event. Contact: Mrs Amanda Kingston, 01785 661550 or email clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk.

Hilderstone Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. The Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to come along and find out more about village events, planned activities and the work of the Parish Council. If you have any ideas, issues or concerns you would like to raise, do please come along and share them.

Local Elections

People across Stafford Borough are being encouraged to think about becoming a councillor. Elections are being held this May

for all 40 seats on Stafford Borough Council as well as for many Parish Councils including Hilderstone.

If you have an interest in local decision making and would like to make a positive difference to your community you may wish to consider becoming a local councillor.

The borough and parish council elections will be held on Thursday 2 May.

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If you have an interest in local decision making and would like to make a positive difference to your community you may wish to consider becoming a local councillor.

The borough and parish council elections will be held on Thursday 2 May. Contact elections@staffordbc.gov.uk or on 01785 619424 for more details. Further information about being a councillor can be found at www.beacouncillor.co.uk with guidance for prospective candidates at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Winter Highways Maintenance

As the colder weather sets in, it is important drivers are aware of the winter gritting routes. Details of routes and general winter safe driving information is available on the County Council website at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffs-highways/Roads-and-highways.aspx>

The village salt bins should already have been replenished, but please note that this salt is for use on the public highways only. It is not for use on private drives.



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for your donation.

If you need your donation to be collected please call
Phil Davies on 01889 505725



Magazine Donations

Last year, the advertisers and readers of our magazine generously donated enough money to keep our magazine running. We still need your help to continue. If you would like to make a donation please contact either Phil Davies on 01889 505725 or Sue Stubbs on 01889 505203 and we can arrange to collect your donation.

Christ Church Hilderstone
Parish Magazine March 2019



Vicar

Revd Marion Reynolds, The Vicarage, 20 Tudor Hollow
Fulford Tel: 01782 397073

Churchwardens

Mrs Audrey Stringer

Mistletoe House, Hilderstone
01889 505638

Mrs Sue Stubbs

Bearstakes, Sandon Road, Hilderstone
01889 505203

From the Vicar

Do you remember that poem by Sara Coleridge called "The Months"? "March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil.". I'm not too sure as to the accuracy of that verse but it does highlight the sense that nothing in nature is static. So, what about March? Well, the days are lengthening and the nights shortening, but it can still feel like winter, The early flowers maybe out, but they close up in the afternoon preparing for the dark and the frost. At the beginning of the month we start our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday (6th March) we begin our journey towards the cross.

March is action-packed. Reminders of the past and pointers to the future. A world of uncertainty, but with the assurance of God's abundant provision and his trustworthy promises. The excitement of Christmas is over, the pain of the passion looms over the horizon and beyond it the stunning and transforming joy of Easter. March may be busy but it is also a month of waiting, of preparation, remembering that Christ's death and resurrection are at the heart of our life and faith, but keeping the great passion and Easter story on hold for a little longer. Waiting is good for us. Many national and international crises (very real and maybe not so real!) might have been nothing like as bad if we could have restrained ourselves and retained the habit of consideration, meaningful dialogue, respect for everyone's deeply felt feelings and co-operation rather than confrontation; and, yes, the media do need to take some responsibility for their spoken and written words.

Spiritual waiting, waiting on God, moving forwards day by day with him, feeling and sensing each day the troubles of life together with the thrill of his presence, knowing that with Christ the best is yet to come: that is March. I urge everyone to take time this Lent to wait on the Lord, maybe join a Lent course group, maybe do some "spiritual" reading. Sara Coleridge's poem says "March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil". Like those daffodils, may your heart be stirred this Lent by our waiting, thrilling God.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marion', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Services at Christ Church

March 2019

3 rd Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
6 th March	10:30am	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at St Nicholas
10 th Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
17 th Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
24 th Mar	11:15am	BCP Holy Communion
31 st Mar	9:30am	Benefice Communion for Mothering Sunday at St Nicholas

Readings – March 2019

3 rd March	James 3: 1 - 10
(St Chad)	Mark 10: 13 - 16
6 th March	2Cor 5: 20b – 6: 10
(Ash Wednesday)	Matt 6: 1 - 6, 16 – 21
10 th March	Rom 10: 8b - 13
(1st Lent)	Luke 4: 1 - 13
17 th March	Phil 3: 17 – 4:1
(2 nd Lent)	Luke 13: 31 - end
24 th March	1Cor 10: 1 - 13
(3 rd Lent)	Luke 13: 1 - 9
31 st March	2Cor 1: 3 - 7
(Mothering Sunday)	Luke 2: 33 - 35
7 th April	Phil 3: 4b - 14
(5 th Lent)	John 12: 1 - 8

Contacts for other Churches

The Methodist Church (Blythe Bridge):

Rev'd Ian Coates 01782 395370

The Roman Catholic Church (Meir & Cresswell)

Fr Kazimierz Stefek: 01782 313734

Rev'd Trevor Borthwick

Don't forget

Special services this month (both at St Nicholas)

6th March 10:30am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (with optional ashing)

31st March 9:30am Mothering Sunday Family Communion

All are welcome at all our services

Lent 2019

As part of our journey through Lent there will be Frugal Lunches in Hilderstone Village Hall (with short study talk) on Wednesday 13th & 27th March and 10th April from 12 noon – 1:30pm. All welcome

Donations for the work of Church Missionary Society

Advance notice 1

Church APCM 10th April 7:30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome to attend but only those on church electoral roll can stand for office or vote.

The electoral roll is being revised this year so, if you want to be on it and are eligible, please contact Lisa.

Advance notice 2

Wednesday 15th May 3 – 5pm Hilderstone Village Hall

Antiques valuation afternoon with Adrian Rathbone (Director of Hanson Auctioneers) in aid of Access for All

H&S

Please be aware that some work will be carried out in and around the church in the very near future. Please take extra care.

Prayers

We pray for the Church, for all who are ill, bereaved, troubled or confused. If you cannot get to church and would like a visit and/or Holy Communion, contact the Vicar (397073) or Shirley Rawlings (01538 724392).

Cooks Tips

Easter Simnel cake

Ingredients

For the cake

175g/6oz butter or margarine

175g/6oz soft brown sugar

3 eggs, beaten

175g/6oz plain flour

Pinch salt

½ tsp ground mixed spice (optional)

350g/12oz mixed raisins, currants and sultanas

55g/2oz chopped mixed peel ½ lemon, grated zest only

1-2 tbsp apricot jam 1 egg, beaten for glazing

For the almond paste

250g/9oz caster sugar

250g/9oz ground almonds

2 eggs, beaten

1 tsp almond essence

Method

For the almond paste, place the sugar and ground almonds in a bowl. Add enough beaten egg and mix to a fairly soft consistency. Add the almond essence and knead for one minute until the paste is smooth and pliable

Roll out a third of the almond paste to make a circle 18cm/7in in diameter and reserve the remainder for the cake topping

Preheat oven to 140C/275F/Gas 1. Grease and line a 18cm/7in cake tin.

For the cake, cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy.

Gradually beat in the eggs until well incorporated and then sift in the flour, salt and mixed spice (if using) a little at a time. Finally, add the mixed dried fruit, peel and grated lemon zest and stir into the mixture.

Put half the mixture into a greased and lined 18cm/7in cake tin. Smooth the top and cover with the circle of almond paste. Add the rest of the cake mixture and smooth the top leaving a slight dip in the centre to allow for the cake to rise. Bake in the preheated oven for 1¾ hours. Test by inserting a skewer in the middle - if it comes out clean, it is ready. Once baked, remove from the oven and set aside to cool on a wire rack

Brush the top of the cooled cake with the apricot jam. Divide the remainder of the almond paste in half; roll out a circle to cover the top of the cake with one half and form 11 small balls with the other half. Place the circle of paste on the jam glaze and set the balls round the edge. Brush the cake topping with a little beaten egg

Preheat the grill to high. Place the cake onto a baking tray and grill for 1-2 minutes, or until the top of the marzipan begins to brown. Alternatively, lightly heat the cake topping using a cook's blow torch, until the marzipan is golden-brown

COUNTRYSIDE WATCHER - SPRING IS ALIVE!

Spring is alive! I am delighted! March is here! There is a stirring in the air. Winter is over. I look around me and everywhere I look makes me smile.

There are spring flowers everywhere. Standing among their smooth, shiny, heart-shaped leaves, are the 'Golden Stars', or Lesser Celandines. I see the first tiny clusters of Wild Violets. Almost hidden, are blue and white Sweet Violets on a bank under a hedge. Dog's Mercury is in flower. Their minute, greenish flowers on long slender flower spikes are among their dull green leaves. A large patch of Coltsfoot is in the verge. Their bright-faced, sulphur-yellow florets are growing quite close to the ground.

There are lovely trees around, all showing signs of Spring. The Blackthorn trees are coming into flower. The first pure white flowers are beginning to open on their black stems. The Almond trees have on a ball-gown of glorious, frothy, pink and white blossoms. There are open flowers in the buds at the tips the Horse Chestnut branches. The black buds at the tips of the Ash branches are also open revealing flowers.

This is also a month of bird song. The birds are full of the songs of Spring. On most days, the exuberant Chaffinch sings its cheerful, rollicking song. A Great Tit sings its bell-like, chiming song. I hear Collared Doves cooing invitingly across the fields. A Greenfinch, with its bright yellow wing patches and tail edges, twitters its Canary-like song. A Wren, perched high up on a branch of a bare Oak tree, sings loudly. I hear, flying over my head, the plaintive 'pee-weet' cry of a Lapwing. I also hear, coming from a copse, the rambling, chattering song of the Redwing. The Chaffinches have arrived. One calls its name incessantly from high in the bare Ash tree where it sits and sings every year. At dusk, I hear the screeching of a Barn Owl from across the valley. The Tawny Owl hoots from the churchyard.

Of course, there is the usual sign that Spring is here. I know for certain that it is when I see sheep in the fields. I hear the lambs calling for their mothers. The mothers reply, raising their heads to check that their young are safe. They then return to grazing.

I smile, knowing for sure that Winter is over and that Spring is here and alive.

Sheila Harvey

Hilderstone Christmas Concert 2018

As you may know the Christmas concert last year was a sell-out, an excellent evening was had by audience and concert members alike, with a variety of festive songs and sketches, our version of the 12 days of Christmas will be remembered for some time as will Ding Dong Merrily on High.

The concert was followed by a festive musical evening and sing-a-long at the Roebuck led by Andy with a splendid buffet provided. Thank you to Emma and all her staff for their hard work.

We raised £928.80

With £170 going to the village hall

and

£758.80 for Cure Leukemia

A big thank you must go to Andy and Kate for organising us and all the concert members for providing such an entertaining evening, looking forward to 2109 concert already.

Christmas Grand Draw Winners

The list of winners from the last Grand Draw are as follows:

1 st	Large Hamper	0905 F Ryder
2 nd	Sensory Bin	0146 R Clark
3 rd	Picnic Hamper	0178 R Wilson
4 th	Portmerion Bowl	0274 C Hughes
5 th	Medium Hamper	0996 B Darlington
6 th	Whisky Bottle	0695 L Higginson
7 th	Wade Jug	0098 A Maiden
8 th	Toy Combine	0255 T Hammond
9 th	Toy Tractor	1719 R Holt
10 th	Portmerion Vase	0986 P Watson
11 th	Bird & Butterfly Mug	1660 K Stubbs
12 th	Decanter	2163 D Shelley
13 th	Portmerion Jug	1939 M Donovan
14 th	Spode Vase	1454 J Carr
15 th	Aynsley Animal	1903 M Reynolds
16 th	Beauticology Set	0089 B Podmore
17 th	Beauticology Set	1011 A Davies
18 th	Fragrance Lamp	1081 N Shaw
19 th	Jam/Marmalade Pots	0411 Richard
20 th	Bottle of Wine	0225 A Cowell

Thank you to everyone for taking part and thank you to the Roebuck for letting the draw take place

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Village Hall Key Holders & Contact Details

Mrs M.Wareham (Key Holder & Caretaker) 01889 505488

Pat Cowan 01889 505069

**To advertise on the Village Hall Notice Board email
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Hilderstone's 100 club Draw February 12th

1st Prize £100 no 43 Jane Bryan

2nd Prize £50 no 27 Jenny Green

3rd Prize £25 no 32 Rose Mardling

4th Prize £10 no 37 Iain Britton

5th Prize £10 no 14 Hilderstone W.I.



January Crafty Church group showing the congregation their colourful flowers made during the service from sugar paste. How many flowers made it back home with the children I wonder!!

March Crafty Church will be about celebrating the coming of Mothering Sunday. The children will be creating a special treat to hand out to the ladies in the congregation.



Any age is welcome to attend Crafty Church. (Further details from Lisa Norwood)

Next meeting will be March 17th at 11.15am

