

CHRIST CHURCH HILDERSTONE PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2019



**"Candle candle burning bright
Winter's halfway done tonight
With a-glowing we are knowing
Spring will come again."**

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



Happy New Year for 2019! I hope you all had a good Christmas and I wish you a prosperous 2019.

Many thanks to Marion and all her family who helped with the Christmas Eve services.

Thanks are also extended to Margaret and Robin of Mount Nurseries for the wonderful Christmas Tree donated to the Church. It made a lovely focal point during the Christmas services.

Well done to Lilley Moore and her team who managed to raise the whopping amount of **£543** at the coffee morning and Christmas Stalls event held on Saturday the 8th December. This money has been donated to Christ Church's *Afa* (access for all) project.

The display of nativity sets held in the church the next day raised **£72** which has been donated to the Staffordshire Women's Aid charity. Grateful thanks to all who supported these two events.

Dates for Diary 2019

6th April Jumble Sale

14th September Jumble sale

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



Churchyards are unique spaces in the hearts of

our communities which appeal to many different people. They encapsulate a community's history whilst offering sanctuary and refuge for our native wildlife. In some neighbourhoods, the churchyard may be the only locally accessible green space. As diocesan partner charity, Caring for God's Acre, works to support groups and individuals to care for and enjoy these unique sites.

We have a vision for all burial grounds to be beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities. During the coming year, we look forward to continue supporting groups across the diocese caring for churchyards.

Winter time is a good time for reviewing how managing your churchyard has gone – were there enough people able to help with the tasks? Do we need more volunteers? Are there any local botanists that are happy to do a species list that we can display in the porch? Are the gravestones safe? How did our volunteer tree survey go? Reviewing then leads onto planning actions for the next season. We have a resource 'The Five Steps to Churchyard and Burial Ground Care' which can help you plan 2019 – simply e-mail us or find it on the website www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk.

Remember that we are only a phone call away so do contact if you have any questions, big or small!

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

harriet@cfga.org.uk

(individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19)

Hilderstone WI - January meeting

A lively group of members gathered for their first Meeting of 2019. The Business part of the evening was filled with ideas for the Year's Programme. Chill winter was soon forgotten with the thoughts of summer outings. Diaries were soon filled with plans for 'days out', trip to the seaside and 'tea shop pleasures'!

The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Martin Peat, the founder of *Mr Simms Old Fashioned Sweet Shops* (92 in this country and 4 in France and 4 in Hong Kong) He handed out a bag of sweets for each lady present. If only our grand-children could have witnessed delighted ladies rummaging for favourite sweets ... pear drops, liquorice all-sorts and long forgotten flying saucers from the 1960s. Many members could recall the end of sweet rationing in 1954, one member reminded us of farthing sweets - four for one penny. Any members who *had 'given up chocolate and sweets'* as a New Year's Resolution had clearly forgotten as they chewed and licked and happily sucked sherbet. What splendid entertainment was provided by a true Showman!

Martin's audience was so enthusiastic and (*high on sweet flavours*) fascinated by the History related ... from sweets in the 14th century to Liquorice All-Sorts in 1899. We were introduced to sweets made in Everton colours and Army & Navy tablets packed in their 'tuck boxes' for soldiers in the First World War. The bags slowly emptied and we wished we could have Martin's company for longer. President Pat Saul thanked our excellent speaker for a delicious, informative and humour filled presentation.

Another successful happy evening at our Village Hall and the added bonus of tea, coffee, cakes and cream scones provided by this month's hostesses - Jean Jones and Hazel Woodward.

New members always receive a friendly welcome and next month's '*Members' Musical Choices*' presented by David Fuller will certainly provide us with plenty of delights and surprises.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th February at Hilderstone Village Hall.
Come and join us for friendship and laughter.

HILDERSTONE WI CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018

The ladies of Hilderstone WI welcomed friends from Sandon WI, Stowe-by-Chartley WI & Weston WI on this happy introduction to the Christmas season. As always, the Hall had been beautifully decorated, which we greatly appreciated.

Members, & President Pat Saul, were delighted when it emerged that we had won top prize in the Hilderstone Village 100 Club draw!

Crackers were pulled, & whilst Carols were played, we enjoyed a splendid cold buffet provided by members. A toast was made to `absent friends` & then the Christmas Quiz began. Ladies were amused by Quiz Master Pat Saul`s delivery, to say the least! The winners were on a table which included guests from Weston; well done to you! Santa`s sack then appeared & presents were distributed. Pat wished everyone a Merry Christmas & a healthy & happy 2019. Christmas had begun in Hilderstone.

The next WI Meeting is on Tuesday, 8th January 7.30pm in the Village Hall. `Mr. Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe`.
Competition -6 homemade examples of confectionery (all members own work)

A Very Merry Christmas at Christ Church

With its focus very much on the children of Hilderstone, there was plenty of merriment over the festive period at Christ Church, with impromptu



activities for the children at the Carols Around the Crib service involving old favourites (woollen characters from the Nativity story), Christmas baubles and cans of beer (*left*), whilst at the Carol Service,

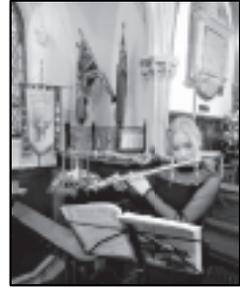
believe it or not, baby Jesus (complete with the Heavenly Host and donkey) made quite an entrance on a zip wire from the dizzy heights of the choir stalls!



CAROLS AROUND THE CRIBS. Christ Church played host to the first Hilderstone Carols Around the Crib and Christmas Crib Exhibition. Comprising of private nativity scenes of all shapes, sizes and designs, this diverse collection was displayed in the beautiful Georgian church of Hilderstone, as a lovely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. From traditional cribs from around the world, to an enchanting nativity scene made of old toilet rolls (well done

Eddie), they were a truly joyful display, which heralded the start of the Christmas season for all those who visited the church and enjoyed the displays.

CHRISTINGLE & CRIB SERVICE. This service marked the 50th anniversary of the first Christingle Service in England for The Children's Society, so it was most apt that it was a celebratory service geared to the younger members of the congregation – although all ages seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion. Combining both the Christingle and the traditional Crib Service on 24th December, the



service began with a charming rendition of well-known Christmas music for the flute, played by Erin Stanley (*above right*). The reason for the zip wire, running from the choir pews above the Baptistry to the front pew, soon became apparent, when one by one, our woolly sheep, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and donkey whizzed down the wire, to be greeted at the bottom by Zach Ireland, who then placed them in the crib. After a fair bit of running around by Zach (*see left*), and several trips down the wire, all the characters found themselves safely housed in the nativity scene as the Rev'd Marion Reynolds told of the story of the birth of Jesus.

As is customary at the Christingle service, the evening finished with the younger members of the congregation being invited to hand out a Christingle orange to all the families present, complete with the candle (representing the light of Christ), sweets and red ribbon (*right*). Our thanks to all those who helped make all these events a great success and we look



Hilderstone Parish Council

Increase in Parish Council Charge

We reported last year that a substantial increase in the Parish Council charge would be required over the next few years to cover increasing village maintenance and highways costs.

Hilderstone Parish Council relies solely on the Parish Precept for funding. This is collected as a small part of the local council tax payment. The Parish Council historically operated on a very small budget but now needs to increase funding along with many other Parish Councils, to enable us to cover some of the shortfall in service provision previously provided by Staffordshire County Council. The total annual Parish Council budget for 2018/19 was £9177. The total amount requested for 2019/20 will be £10,285. This equates to an annual increase of £3.33 per year for a band D property.

The Parish Council feels that village maintenance is important to residents' general sense of well-being. If some of the jobs previously undertaken by the County Council are not carried out, the village will soon look and feel run-down. The Parish Council hope you will agree that an extra

£3.33 per year is a relatively small price to pay to maintain our village and surrounds to a good standard.

The Parish Council end of year accounts and meetings minutes are published on the Hilderstone Village website. Budget discussions take place annually at the October and November meetings and are recorded in the minutes.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Parish Council meetings which include a public participation section where questions can be raised and comments made. Alternatively, any questions, comments or concerns can be submitted to the Parish Clerk at clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk.

Hilderstone Village Website

A reminder that the village website found at www.hilderstone.org.uk is a community information resource that all villagers can use to advertise events and activities. It would also be wonderful if organisers could use the website to share the success of an event with the rest of the village with photographs etc.

The village events diary will soon need filling up for 2019! If you are planning on running an event

in the village in the coming year, please remember to get the date and details on the website as soon as possible to ensure that your event is well attended. If you have any questions please contact Amanda Kingston, Parish Clerk on 01785 661550 or email clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk

Winter Highways Maintenance

Winter gritting routes and general winter safe driving information is available on the County Council website at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/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.

Please remember that members of the public can help with road maintenance and safety by reporting potholes, broken streetlights, blocked road gulleys, fallen trees/branches, overgrown hedges etc to Highways at

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

Highways problems can also be reported via a free smartphone and tablet app called Mystaffs and further information on this can be found at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mystaffs-app/mystaffs-app.aspx.

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And finally! The Parish Council would like to wish all its residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Recycle your empty Inkjet Cartridges

Help us raise money for our village church and reduce landfill

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The Church is open on Sundays from 10.40 am until 12.30pm (a service takes place from 11.15 until 12.15pm) for your donation

If you need your donation to be collected please call

Phil Davies on 01889 505725

Magazine Donations

Last year, we received some generous donations towards the printing costs of the magazine. 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.

Easy pancakes

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- Melted butter or oil to fry pancakes
- lemon
- wedges, to serve (optional)
- caster sugar, to serve (optional)

Method

1. Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter.
 2. Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.
 3. Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.
 4. When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.
 5. Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling. *Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to 2 months.*
-

Christ Church Hilderstone
Parish Magazine February 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
1

Bearstakes, Sandon Road, Hilderstone
01889 505203

From the Vicar

Firstly, although it is a few weeks since Christmas Day, can Paul and I thank you for all your cards and messages over the Christmas period; they are much appreciated.

Have you ever wondered why our Benefice doesn't have a name – we are Fulford in Stone with Hilderstone? My previous parishes didn't have a name although all the others in the deanery did. So, we decided we too needed a name and asked for ideas.

Eventually, instead of having to say we are Pattishall with Cold Higham and Gayton with Tiffield (a real mouthful!) we became Amelcote Benefice! [Ask me if you want to know what it means].

A name is important. In the beginning God told Adam to name all the parts of creation; John the Baptist's father was told to call his son John and Mary and Joseph were told to call their son Jesus.

Our names give us our identity, our uniqueness and some would say reflect our personality! Our names can be given in recognition of something or someone very special to us (our daughter's middle name is Ruth because she was born in the Middle East, a long way from home reflecting Ruth in the Old Testament who went a long way from her home to live with her mother-in-law and found happiness there). And, even more importantly, Jesus tells us: "I have called you by name; you are mine!" Now that is an amazing thought!

At the beginning of February we celebrate Candlemas when we remember Jesus being taken to the Temple 40 days after birth to be dedicated, as the first born son, to God. There, two elderly, unimportant, yet named people – Simeon and Anna – recognized Jesus as God's promised messiah (and couldn't stop telling others about this remarkable baby!).

We sing the hymn "at the name of Jesus ... every tongue confess him king of glory". Do we really know Jesus by name as he knows us by name? Can we honestly say we know Him well enough to confess him to others? In March we will be in Lent which could be an opportunity to make a start!

Mission

Services at Christ Church

February 2019

3 rd Feb	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
10 th Feb	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
17 th Feb	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
24 th Feb	11:15am	BCP Holy Communion

Readings – February 2019

3 rd Feb (Candlemas)	Heb 2: 14 - end Luke 2: 22 - 40
10 th Feb (4 th before Lent)	1Cor 15: 1 - 11 Luke 5: 1 - 11
17 th Feb (3 rd before Lent)	1Cor 15: 12 - 20 Luke 6: 17 - 26
24 th Feb (2 nd before Lent)	Rev 4 Luke 8: 22 - 25
3 rd March (St Chad)	James 3: 1 – 10 Mark 10: 13 - 16

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

Thank you

Thank you to all who donated to one or more of our special collections for those far less fortunate than we are:

£49 to House of Bread from Carols on the Green in Fulford

£100ish to Women's Aid from the Crib Service at Hilderstone

£59 to The Children's Society from Advent Frugal Lunches

£83 to The Children's Society from the Christingle service

Advance notice

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 Eleanor.

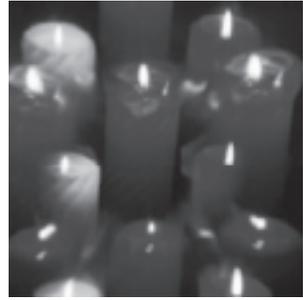
H&S

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).

Candlemas



Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem.

The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the

Temple or Synagogue to be purified.
After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed.

On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism.

In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox.

Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights.

People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.

Traditional

For some people, different superstitions surround this festival. For instance, if a candle drips on one side when carried in church on Candlemas, this denotes a death of a family member during the year.

If someone brings snowdrops into the house on Candlemas day it symbolises a parting or death.

Any Christmas decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night (January 5th) should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.

COUNTRYSIDE WATCHER - FEBRUARY WINTER IS ENDING

The first sign that Winter is nearly over as I walk down the lane, is on tree branches overhanging the hedge of a cottage garden. The branches are adorned with red buds bursting into pale pink, Cherry blossom flowers.

However, the most important sign that Winter is nearly over are the Snowdrops in the lanes. The Snowdrops in all their glory dominate the February lanes, as they are the Heralds of Spring. They can be seen at the bottom of tree-trunks, on banks, in the leaf mould at the edge of the wood and on the brook side. They are all over the Churchyard, by the paths and between the graves. They are white carpets under hedges and under the trees. They all sparkle white in the sunshine. There are snowdrops everywhere I look. I am treated to their delicate beauty as I walk. Yes, I stop to look around at these modest, beautiful, white flowers filling the country lanes.

I smile as I watch the Snowdrops quivering in the breeze. It is believed that Snowdrops could be found in the grounds of most religious places before the dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII. So Churchyards are traditional places to find them now. As these flowers appear early in the year, they used to decorate the church altars for the Feast of Candlemas, 2nd February. This celebrates the Presentation of the Baby Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem.

However, though they look fragile, these little flowers are very hardy. It is just as well that these flowers are so strong and that their underground bulbs store the food they need for the flowers to grow. If not, it would be very difficult for them to get enough food from the frozen ground around them at this time of year.

Another name for Snowdrops is 'Snow-piercers' as their flowers can be seen standing above the snow when it falls. They seem to promise that Winter is over and Spring is very near. Snowdrops are regarded as the symbols of pleasure, hope and consolation.

Yes, February may have several mornings of hard frost and freezing water in our lanes. It may be cold, even though the sun may shine brightly. However, nothing can spoil our pleasure as we see the Snowdrops and are given a real boost to the spirit as we realise that Spring is really just around the corner.

Sheila Harvey

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Humane methods suitable for your location

contact Phil Gooding to discuss

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All types of roof/ building Work

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Quality Workmanship

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HILDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES

Information for Hiring Hilderstone Village Hall

Hilderstone Residents: £15.00 per hour

Non Residents: £19.00 per hour

We can also offer special rates for Parties, and regular users of the village hall. Please feel free to discuss with the booking secretary what your requirements are.

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
vhvnoticeboard@gmail.com**

Hilderstone's 100 club Draw

Dec 4th 2018

1st Prize £100 no 14 Hilderstone W.I.
2nd prize £75 no 1 Lynne Cooper
3rd prize £50 no 48 Pat Gates
4th prize £40 no 62 Sue Tye
5th prize £30 no 85 MJ Onneley- Smith
6th prize £25 no 58 Barbara Podmore
7th prize £20 no 26 Hazel Woodward
8th prize £20 no 44 Pat Cowan
9th prize £10 no 20 Robin Harper
10th prize £10 no 11 Amy Stubbs

Jan 8th 2019

1st Prize £100 No 66 Doreen Smith
2nd Prize £50 No 1 Lynn Cooper
3rd Prize £25 No 23 Sue Jones
4th Prize £10 No 32 Rose Mardling
5th Prize £10 No 24 Neil Timmis



Any age is welcome to attend the craft group led by Caroline Stanley and Lisa Norwood .

Next meeting Sunday February 17th.