

**Christ Church Hilderstone**  
**Parish Magazine**



**MARCH 2020**

## **USEFUL NUMBERS**

### **CHURCH**

**Vicar Rev. Marion Reynolds Tel: 01782 397073**

Church Wardens Audrey Stringer 01889505638 or Sue Stubbs  
01889505203

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm

Parish Clerk is Amanda Kingston . Contact number is

01785 661550 or email [clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk)

### **HILDERSTONE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

President Mrs Pat Saul 01785 812580

Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7 30 pm in Village Hall

### **HILDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL ST15 8SF**

Bookings Secretary: Debbie Britton 07810332559

email :- [hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com](mailto: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 101

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](mailto:ian.parry@staffordshire.gov.uk)**

**Stafford Borough Councillor Cllr Andrew Harp Tel 01889 505400**

**ALL COPY IN BY THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH PLEASE**

# **EDITORIAL**

As I look out of the window on the second weekend during February the weather is terrible with gales and very heavy rain, I am very thankful that Hilderstone is not in a flood area. I hope Spring is not far away.



## **Dates for Diary 2020**

18<sup>th</sup> April Saturday Jumble Sale 2pm.in Village Hall.  
6<sup>th</sup> May Valuation day 3 pm to 5pm at Hilderstone Hall, Hall Lane.  
13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June Scarecrow week end.  
25<sup>th</sup> July Summer Fair 2pm.  
12<sup>th</sup> September Saturday Jumble Sale 2pm in Village Hall.  
8<sup>th</sup> December, Village Christmas Party

### ***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. We would like to have your donations in March if possible please although donations at any time of year are gratefully received. 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.

Hilderstone Village Hall

The Management Committee have heard that people are finding it difficult to make bookings for the hall. An arrangement has been made for messages to be transferred from the mobile phone so they can be accessed 24/7. If this is not working please email Debbie on [hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com). If you are still having problems please either email the chairman of the village hall at [crumpjennyann@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crumpjennyann@hotmail.co.uk) or alternatively text using the mobile phone number 017899 245777. Thank you.

Are you a member of the Hilderstone 100 Club? If not why not think about joining? It costs £60 a year or £5 a month payable by direct debit. Please contact either Sue Stubbs or Iain Britton. Sue's telephone number is 01889 505203.

**COPY IN BY THE 8TH OF THE MONTH PLEASE**

## **Hilderstone W.I.**

It was a freezing chill evening when members gathered for their February Meeting. Those members who had returned from 'sunnier climes' were grateful for the warmth of the Village Hall. President Pat Saul welcomed and thanked members for 'turning out on such a cold evening'. The meeting began with the draw for the Hilderstone 100 Club. 1st Tim Handley, 2nd Sue Tyne, 3rd Shirley Robson, 4<sup>th</sup> Ron Taylor and 5<sup>th</sup> David Cooper.

After the usual enthusiastic rendering of '*Jerusalem*' the Business Meeting commenced, with diaries much in evidence, as dates for the AGM, Group Meetings, and Summer Outing ...were noted. Following the full, efficiently presented business side of proceedings, the Evening Talk was introduced by President Pat Saul.

Eleanor Ravenscroft focused our attention on her subject of '*Dementia Friendly*'. Here was an enthusiastic speaker who clearly directs her pleasure in her work with a friendly attitude towards her patients. Eleanor began her talk with the statement ....'Dementia will affect all of us in one way or another.' The message was ... 'Be prepared to help those you know with Dementia.'

We were presented with a 'Test Sheet'; some members did better than others in achieving the correct answers. This 'mental' exercise was followed by Physical Activity, which was linked to advice concerning the declining mental activity noted in Dementia sufferers. It was indeed a troubling statistic to know that 1 in 14 over 65s has some form of Dementia. We were advised to contact the Alzheimer's Society when involved with caring for a loved one.

Questions from the group preceded Pat Saul's Vote of Thanks to Eleanor Ravenscroft for sharing her love of her job and her advice regarding 'caring for a dementia sufferer' with Hilderstone W.I.

Refreshments were provided and served by Janet Shelley and Pat Gates and were enjoyed by all partakers. Eleanor judged the Competition '*An Old School Photo*'. 1st place Louise Moore, 2nd Marian Baldwin, 3rd Gina Valentine and 4th Pat Saul.

The next Meeting is on March 10th, in the Village Hall at 7.30. The Speaker is Keith Alldritt and his subject '*Copper to Caregiver*'. The competition 'An item of copper'.

**New Members are always given a warm welcome.**



## **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 21st March 2020 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 21st 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](mailto:clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk)

**Dates  
for 2020**

21<sup>st</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>h</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July,  
15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 19<sup>st</sup> Sept & 17<sup>th</sup> Oct

# Scarecrow Fun Weekend



## Save the Date

*It's Scarecrow time again.....!!*

**Saturday & Sunday**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

**1.30 – 5pm**

Scarecrows have been used for thousands of years by the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Japanese. The Egyptians used the first scarecrows in recorded history to use to protect wheat fields along the Nile River from flocks of quail. Egyptian farmers installed wooden frames in the fields and covered them with nets. They also made scarecrows – called **kakashis** – shaped like people. Along the Nile Valley wall paintings are still visible showing farmers trying to protect their wheat fields.



In the Middle Ages scarecrows were used to try to keep evil spirits away and some thought they had special powers. When the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America in the 1600's they used men to stand guard to protect the crops and later settlers actually brought their own materials with them to make the scarecrows!

Today Scarecrow Fairs are very popular in America and also many counties in the UK have *Scarecrow Festivals*. Although we call our's a **Scarecrow Weekend** we are **proud** of the way it has grown from a small beginning in **2008** and we have visitors from far away who make the special effort to come and see our creations. Please do continue to make your Scarecrows in all shapes and sizes and if this is your first time do have a go! Lots of information can be found on the Internet!

Christine Clark

Tel 01889 505676 Email: [clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk)

# A Big Thank-You from Us

In April 2016, Christ Church Hilderstone embarked on what many thought was a very ambitious project – ensuring this beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> Century church was fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with disabled access and indoor toilet. Not much you would think, but it has been a challenging two years, and the job is far from over. Yet much has been achieved, thanks to the community of Hilderstone and the local area and we wanted to say ‘thank you’ to you all for your support, hard work and ‘commitment to the cause’.



What have we achieved over these two years? Apart from a seemingly endless stream of forms, architectural drawings, emails and planning meetings, we eventually started work in 2018 with the re-siting of the internal War Memorial in time for the commemoration of 100 years since the ending of The Great War. This was swiftly followed by the re-siting of the Font to the front of the church.

Then, in September 2019, we started on the first stage of the major works – the laying of the ramp between the car park and the Bell Tower, to allow easy access for those less-able-bodied or those with prams. The good old British weather has, not surprisingly, thrown up a few challenges of its own, with the final resin coating on the ramp postponed until the weather is warmer, along with the plastering of the Bell Tower. Come the Spring, however, this stage in our Access for All will be complete – despite the weather!

So, what is next? Well now begins the most challenging part of the whole project. Those who have visited the church over recent weeks may have noticed that the somewhat tired Portaloo has gone – it was little used

(except by the resident creepy crawlies anyway). Plans have been approved now for toilet facilities suitable for disabled visitors, complete with baby-changing amenities, which will be located at the right-hand side as you walk into the church through the main entrance. On the other side will be a tea bar, enabling us to offer refreshments at events in the church, from church services, concerts and exhibitions, to Open Church weekends.

As you can see, we have not been idle. Thanks to your generous help, we have achieved a great deal in these two years. Yes we have left the most challenging part to last: with an estimated cost of £50K, it is going to require a good deal of hard work to raise the necessary funds, but only by providing such facilities can we reach out to the wider community and open the church to events which will appeal to all.



*(Above): Members of Christ Church  
outside the new entrance with ramp.*

As usual, we are planning to hold our Open Church events throughout the Spring and Summer months and, whilst we would very much welcome you all to our regular church services, you may prefer to visit this lovely church during an open day: Enjoy the beautiful, and rare, example of enamelled stain glass windows, original Georgian box pews and so many more special features of this excellent example of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Waterloo Church. Alternatively, if gardening is your thing, join our churchyard clean-up team and help maintain our beautiful grounds for visitors and the rich variety of wildlife we work hard to encourage? Meeting once a month on a Saturday morning, we start the 2020 sessions on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10am.

Whichever you decide, we would love to welcome you to Christ Church.



## **Christ Church Hilderstone Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services**

26th Feb (Ash Wednesday) 10am

St Nicholas Holy Communion with ashing

5th Apr (Palm Sunday)

9:30am Holy Communion St Nicholas Christ 11:15am Holy Communion Christ Church

6th Apr (Monday in Holy Week)

7pm St Nicholas Holy Communion (said)

7th Apr (Tuesday in Holy Week)

7pm Christ Church Holy Communion (said)

8th Apr (Wednesday in Holy Week)

7pm St Nicholas Holy Communion (said)

9th Apr (Maundy Thursday)

7pm Christ Church Holy Communion with foot washing

10th Apr (Good Friday)

2pm St Nicholas Stations of the Cross

11th Apr (Easter Eve)

8pm Christ Church Light Service

12th Apr (Easter Day)

9:30am St Nicholas Family Communion

11:15am Christ Church Family Communion

22nd Apr 12noon

St Nicholas Lunch + Stations of the Resurrection service

## **Hilderstone Parish Council**

### **MONTHLY MEETING DATES 2020**

Hilderstone Parish Council meetings usually take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The scheduled dates for meetings in 2020 are:

Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd April 2020 at 7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed at 7:30pm by the Parish Council Meeting.

Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd July 2020 at 7.30pm

No meeting in August

Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 28th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.30pm

No meeting in December.

Members of the public are welcome at these meetings. There is always a public participation section where people are encouraged to come along and ask questions or raise any issues or concerns. If you require the Parish Council to make a decision on an issue of concern, you should notify the Parish Clerk at least 14 days in advance of a meeting so that it can be included in the agenda for that meeting.

Clerk to Hilderstone Parish Council - Mrs Amanda Kingston.  
Contact Address: 13 Spreadoaks Drive, Wildwood, Stafford, ST74RP  
Telephone Number: 01785 661550  
Email: [clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*



Recycle your empty Inkjet Cartridges  
Help us raise money for our village church and reduce landfill

There is a box inside church for your donations

Unfortunately we no longer accept mobile phones

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. We would like to have your donations in March if possible please although donations at anytime of year are gratefully received. 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.

## **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

## **Hilderstone Heritage, Part Twenty-Nine**

Whilst browsing eBay for old maps of Hilderstone, I came across a quite remarkable item: a Sale Catalogue for Manor Farm, Hilderstone.

The sale took place at 11.30am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1956 and the auction was conducted by W.S. Bagshaws & Sons of Uttoxeter, "On the instructions of the Trustee of the late Mr J.P. Bourne (who is giving up farming)".

Mr Bourne's son, Arthur, is listed on the 'Roll of Honour' in Christ Church for those men of Hilderstone who served in the Second World War. It is thought there was no connection between this Bourne family and the Bournes of Hilderstone Hall.

The Catalogue was for "... the whole of the live and dead Farming Stock comprising:

52 Grand Cattle,  
Tractor and Tractor Implements,  
Small Farm Tools  
Saloon Motor Car  
30 Poultry and Poultry Houses  
Dairy Vessels  
Produce  
Surplus Furniture"

---

In Part Twenty-Eight we were looking at the article from the 'Advertiser' of Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> 1961. It continues:

“The smell of newly-baked bread was irresistible and sent me into one of the few remaining village bakeries in the country, where Mr George Spencer was keeping an eye on a great batch of six dozen rolls – or a great many more. “I’m the second generation of hand bakers” said Mr Spencer, withdrawing his head from the yawning aperture where the rolls were assuming their proper tinge “and I’ve been here 38 years”. Strangely enough his father had spent about the same number of years at the craft. “We don’t make all our own bread owing to labour shortage – we buy a lot – but we’ve still some of the original customers that my grandfather used to supply at Weston about 55 years ago. In fact, there are five shops that my grandfather served – one in Abbots Bromley, in Hixon, Weston, Stone and, of course, Hilderstone.

My brother and I served the church altar a number of years before the war, before we had to pack up. My brother was killed over Germany. I have a sister living in Worcester who married a pottery manager there – they make the beautiful Royal Worcester china, you know.”

The ‘George Spencers’ have three children – Rose (13), Pat (9) and John (6). They all take an interest in village life. The girls are in the church choir, the elder attends Hixon Secondary Modern School; the younger children go to the village school. Mrs Spencer, who came from Hexham, Northumberland, is a member of the WI. They were married “in one of the oldest Abbeys in England – Hexham cathedral”.

Coals to Newcastle. And I had to wait until I visited Hilderstone to meet the Rev N Gledhill, now the vicar, but formerly of St Thomas Church, Stafford, for sixteen years, which he only left in January of this year. The inevitable question – how did he like Hilderstone? “Very much indeed.

They are extremely nice people. Everybody is so friendly. Quite a family spirit.”

Remarking upon the spick and span appearance of the church, I was told “the Mothers’ Union members and their husbands came with huge brooms and shovels and scooped up all the dust, brushed the stonework, polished every bit of panelling and all the other woodwork in the church”.

.....at the lodge (to Hilderstone Hall) I met Mrs F Roberts, wife of the gardener, (Incidentally she is treasurer of Christ Church Mothers’ Union) and she took me to him through a pleasant woodland route to one of the huge lawns at the rear of the house, which he was busily mowing. Mr Roberts has been gardener at Hilderstone Hall for a total of 37 years – 27 with Mrs Bourne and just over ten years with Mr John Sadler, so as you can imagine not a blade of grass is unknown to him.

It is but a decade since Mrs Bourne died at the age of 95 – “her husband died the day I came”. How the old lady loved her gardens – “she spared no expense for them...and her writing at 95 was as good as in her young days – and she preserved her memory right up to the last”.

“Now I am 67 and thinking of retiring – 53 years gardening is quite sufficient I think”.

The village smithy is but a memory now, although only the other day Mr H T Greator, once the village blacksmith, shod a pony – the first after a lapse of four or five years. “Yes”, he said, “I’m a trained blacksmith....been it ever since I was 14 – and that was 1914. His father (C E Greator) was blacksmith before him, and until five years ago H T worked on his own. His son, John Charles, travels for a London firm and there is a grand-daughter – Ellen.

Nowadays Mr Greatorex runs a luxurious motor coach – “Sooner have it than the hard work of the smithy” he grinned. No more horses these times – it’s mostly mechanised farming round here”. Mr Greatorex runs a bus service for the local school and Grammar school “within a 15-mile radius you might say”. Then there is the Stone Cricket Club too, to be serviced. His wife is vice-president of the WI, knits, does a little dressmaking and whenever possible, enjoys a quiet read.”

---

In Article Twenty-Eight I mentioned that Mr and Mrs Harris’ cottage was one of the few properties to have been demolished in Hilderstone since the war. Others are (with approximate dates where known):

- 1) ‘South View’ farm, latterly owed by Mr and Mrs Turner, was replaced by Moonfleet in the late 1960s;
- 2) ‘Miss Potts’ Cottage’ (a colloquial term) which was replaced by ‘Hill Crest’ (late 70s/early 80s);
- 3) The farm house at Green Farm which was demolished and rebuilt in the 1970s;
- 4) the cottage/shop which was replaced by ‘The Bungalow’ in the 1950s;
- 5) the southern cowshed at the Horseshoe Farm which was demolished (mid 1980s) and rebuilt further back from the road in the early 1990s;
- 6) The Bird in Hand public house which, in recent times, has evolved into two private properties;
- 7) the splendid coach house and brick-built barn at the Lower Farm;
- 8) the cottage under Hall Wood demolished in the 1960s;
- 9) part of the Vicarage, demolished in the late 1950s/early 1960s.



**Christ Church Hilderstone**  
Parish Magazine March 2020



**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

Rain, rain go away; come again another day! Please, no more we may be saying as I write this in the middle of yet another howling gale and torrential rain storm. We've had enough rain; we're fed up and just want some sun!!

We've all seen, heard and read so much in the last few weeks haven't we about fires and flooding, particularly in Australia, of the immense hardship suffered by so many people and the tremendous efforts of both emergency services and local communities to pull together to alleviate what they can of the dire situation. And, yet again folk ask: "where is God?", "why has God allowed this to happen?" So, without sounding at all flippant or trying to belittle the awful situation, I ask, why is all this God's fault? Is it God who has messed around with the natural order so much that we hear day after day that we have a climate change emergency? Is it God who has built more and more houses on flood plains, cut down forests, increased our carbon emissions? We are so very quick to pass the blame aren't we? My answer to those who ask such questions is that God is with all those who are suffering, he is with those who are risking their lives to try to help so don't blame God for what man has and is doing which is creating such situations from natural events.

The end of February saw the start of Lent, one of the two major seasons in the church year when we particularly think about the wrong that we think, say and do and ask for forgiveness. To give it its formal name, Lent is a time of penitence. Traditionally folk have given something up during Lent as a sign of their penitence (going without) and others have "gone the extra mile" to do something special as a sign of showing their repentance. Both very commendable but it is what comes from our hearts that is important. As we remember what Lent is really about – our Lord being tempted in the desert for 40 days – and as we remember what the climax of Lent is in our church calendar – Good Friday then Easter, our response should not just be a short-term one; it should be a life changing one.

Natural disasters will happen – Jesus warned us of them BUT God has also promised that he will never leave us nor will we

experience more that we can truly bare – remember the promise of the rainbow!



### **Services at Christ Church**

#### **March 2020**

1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11:15am	CW Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	11:15am	BCP Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9:30am	Benefice Holy Communion at St Nicholas

#### **Readings – March 2020**

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Rom 5: 12 - 19
(Lent 1)	Matt 4: 1 - 11
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Rom 4: 1 – 5, 13 - 17
(Lent 2)	John 3: 1 -17
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Rom 5: 1 - 11
(Lent 3)	John 4: 5 - 42
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	2Cor 1: 3 - 7
(Mothering Sunday)	Luke 2: 33 - 35
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Rom 8: 6 - 11
(Lent 5)	John 11: 1 – 45
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Phil 2: 5 – 11
(Palm Sunday)	Matt 26: 14 – 27: end

### **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  
Fr Jan M Berny

## **Lent 2020**

In view of the Rt Revd Stephen Cotterill's elevation to be the next Archbishop of York later this year, I thought it would be a good idea if, instead of any formal Lent course, I suggested some of his books as personal reading for this sacred season. +Stephen is a prolific writer, eminently readable and extremely thought provoking. So, can I suggest (all published by SPCK):

The things he said

The things he carried

The nail

## **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).

## **Advance notice**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm at Hilderstone Hall

Hanson's Auctioneers director Adrian Rathbone will be with us again for another antiques valuation afternoon in aid of Access for All.

## **Very advance notice**

In December we are holding a Christmas Tree exhibition in Christ Church and we would like individuals, families and organizations of the village to provide a small tree (real or artificial), decorated as they would like. More details to follow but, for now, get your thinking caps on!



## Food for a Queen

At the start of spring queen bumblebees emerge from hibernation to feed on pollen and nectar from early flowering plants. Larger and hairier than other bees, bumblebees are better adapted to cold weather so the first spring bee you see is probably a queen bumblebee. She searches for a dry cavity to build a nest; a vole hole, the base of a grass tussock, gaps within a chest tomb or beneath graves kerbs. A thimble-sized waxen pot is filled with pollen, nectar and eggs and the summer cycle begins.

Bumblebees are social insects living in nests of up to 400 individuals. Unlike honeybees they do not swarm, only the queen can sting, and a nest only lasts one season. There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK but only eight are common so if you want to try your hand at biological recording this is a good place to start and please send us your records.

Churchyards are great for bumblebees in the spring as so many have an array of spring bulbs and other flowers. Amongst your planted bulbs look out for the shiny yellow flowers of the native Lesser Celandine. If you have flowerbeds, then try to include plants which will flower at the start of the season and also in autumn. This gives a welcome food source the queen bees when they stock up for hibernation and first emerge hungry! Have a look at our Action Pack sheet B5, Bumblebees & Other Bees, Wasps and Ants for more information.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cfqa.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfqa.org.uk)*

[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19

## Magazine Advertising Space

We are very grateful for those who advertise their business in the Hilderstone Parish Magazine and trust that in return this brings additional custom to you. The revenue this brings pays most of the printing costs for the ten months the magazine is produced. The magazine is a useful means of communicating to the residents of our village and is open to all who wish to contribute articles or information by contacting the editor.

After some discussion at a Parochial Church Committee meeting it has been decided that we need to make a small increase of 5% in the cost of the advertising space to take effect from this **July** this year. This would be the first increase in over a decade!

It would mean an eighth of a page space will cost £21

a quarter of a page space will cost £36.75

a half page space will cost £78.75

a full page space will cost £99.75

We hope this will not deter you from renewing your advert in June when the revised invoice will be sent out.

## **Hilderstone Village Hall**

The Management Committee have heard that people are finding it difficult to make bookings for the hall. An arrangement has been made for messages to be transferred from the mobile phone so they can be accessed 24/7. If this is not working please email Debbie on [hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com). If you are still having problems please either email the chairman of the village hall at [crumpjennyann@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crumpjennyann@hotmail.co.uk) or alternatively text using the mobile phone number 017899 245777. Thank you.

Are you a member of the Hilderstone 100 Club? If not why not think about joining? It costs £60 a year or £5 a month payable by direct debit. Please contact either Sue Stubbs or Iain Britton. Sue's telephone number is 01889 505203.

## **COUNTY SIDE WATCHER- LOVELY TAWNY OWL**

As the month began, one early evening, I heard a sound in the air that I probably will not hear again for some time. It was the lovely call of the Tawny Owl. Tawny Owls are seldom seen or heard in daylight. It is a sound that I love to hear.

The Tawny Owl is a nocturnal bird. Sometimes, drivers see them at night when their lights catch an Owl on a tree branch, or on a post, or on a roadside sign. It is usually by their call that they are identified in cities, towns, open countryside, parks and gardens.

It is the call of the Tawny Owl that is mostly heard, rather than actually seeing the bird. It is the familiar 'Too-wit, too-woo' with the long drawn-out 'oo-ooo-hoooo' and also 'kee-wick' that we hear.

The Tawny Owl is a medium sized, plump bird. It has a large head with four white upright stripes and black eyes. Its crown is brown with two white lines. The bill is silver. It has a reddish-brown area around their eyes and cheeks with two white 'c' shapes near the bill. The long body can have reddish-brown to grey-brown stripes over white feathers all over their bodies including their feet.

It is rare that young Tawny Owls are seen. Sometimes they can be seen perched on a tree branch. They are small copies of their parents. Their faces however, are not like the faces of their parents. Only their large black eyes peer out of their mass of down and feathers.

At this time of the year when days are growing longer, the Tawny Owls call loudly at dusk. They add to their calls soft churring, or clicks and high pitched shrieks. They still carry on through the night. Sometimes two may be seen at night on a branch of a tree preening each other.

Tawny Owls breed early. They make a noise when they do, to renew bonds or keep other Owls away. Some may already be laying on eggs from the middle of February. Tawny Owls do not have many clutches. If the first clutch fails, they do not have another as it would be too late for them. So they do not breed again till the next season.

When a Tawny Owl flies his wings look round and its tail end looks square. The face looks pale, the eyes and the back of the head look black. The white spots on the wings and tail are clearly seen.

When I hear the call of the beautiful Tawny Owl I stand and smile.

*Sheila Harvey*



Brown hares are relative newcomers to the British Isles and are thought to have been imported from mainland Europe in the Iron Age to provide sport for hunters and food for everyone. It is their upland cousin, the mountain hare, that's a true British native, but most of our folklore relates to the brown hare. This reflects how successfully they settled into their new home, proliferating across the open lowlands and soon becoming familiar to all.



In the Middle Ages, hares were linked, like certain other enigmatic creatures, to witchcraft. A tale of the time tells of a hunter who wounded a hare and followed its blood trail back to a cottage in the woods. Here, he found an old woman at her stove – she claimed the fresh cut on her arm was the result of an accident with a kitchen knife. However, it was common knowledge that, with the right incantation, a witch could assume a hare's shape, complete with its speed, power and ability to vanish at will. The circumstantial evidence was enough to condemn the woman to death.

Every notable trait that the hare possesses has inspired its own legends, but all are there for a sound survival reason. That split lip, for example, is often said to be an injury sustained when a trickster hare took a practical joke too far and earned himself a smack in the face. In reality, it simply allows him to get his teeth to the base of a plant stem more easily.

As for that dazzling speed, power and ability to turn on a sixpence that so impress and frustrate us, these are the hare's only real means of self-defence once its cover is blown. With no kind of burrow or other safe haven to hide in, it has to be able to outrun each and every native predator – and it can. When it comes to picking a mate, the ability to run hard, fast and strong is desired above all. The female – as usual, it is females that choose – tests out her suitors on Nature's running track and this leads to the most notorious hare behaviour of all.

Madness, devilry, feminine wiles and the shifting mood of the moon: all of these come together in the reality and mythology of the hare as winter comes to an end. You might see hares chase and box at other times, but head for open fields on a brightly moonlit March night for your best chance to see the spectacle. At first glance, it's chaos, but watch longer and you'll see the pattern.



The males anxiously follow the larger, more self-assured females and give chase when their romantic target sprints playfully away. At the same time, they attempt to see off rival males. If a male tries to get too close too soon, the female stands up on her hind feet and turns on him, striking with her forepaws, forcing him to defend himself and they box and leap and rush together and apart in a wild dance.

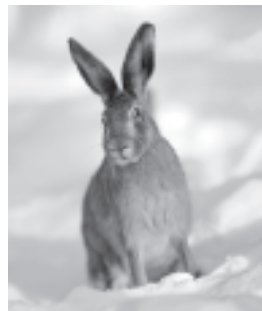
Only those males that demonstrate enough stamina and commitment will be permitted to mate, but it will not be many weeks before the females seek male attention again. Amazingly, they're able to conceive while already carrying a well-developed litter inside them – the new embryos simply descend into the uterus as soon as the previous litter vacates it. The times when a female hare is not receptive to an eager male are, therefore, few and far between.

The time they devote to courtship and coupling, and the speed at which they breed, means that hares are seen as icons of fertility. No wonder the hare was long honoured in pagan rituals celebrating springtime – and eventually evolved through changing traditions into the Easter Bunny.

The full moon's shadowy pattern has been interpreted as the shape of a hare by cultures around the world. The hare in the moon is no lost soul, however. In China, for example, it is companion to the benevolent goddess Chang's and is brewing a potion of immortality for her people down below.

In the artistic motif of the moon-gazing hare, an earthly hare sits with head tilted upwards towards its representative in heaven. A moon-gazing hare figurine carved from jade brings good luck and long life. For flesh-and-blood hares, the daytime is for sleeping and the moon is the light under which they forage, fornicate and flee for their lives.

These creatures confound our expectations. They unsettle, they captivate, they leave us for dust. The extensive lore and legend we've dreamed up for them is entrancing in its own right, but there's no substitute for setting down the books, stepping outside and seeking out the animal itself. The hare's true magic is in its reality and is all its own.



# MOUNT NURSERIES

Growers of Quality  
Plants

**Hilderstone Road,  
Spot Acre,  
Near Stone,  
Staffordshire.**

**Phone:  
01889 505627**

# Lazy Days Cattery

*Luxury Breaks For  
Precious Pets*

*Neville Farm,  
Whitesytch Lane,  
Hilderstone.*

*Telephone: 01889 505562  
between 10 - 12 or 6 - 8 pm*



*'TALKING OF CLEAN SWEEPS, WE'D BETTER CALL IAN...'*

**Woodburners • Multi-fuel stoves  
Open Fires • AGA/Rayburn**

**01630 647457**  
PROFESSIONAL, LOCAL CHIMNEY SWEEP



## JOHN'S WINDOW CLEANING

John Pilling

78 St Vincent Road

Walton

Stone

ST15 0DU

**Tel: 07794699907**



## Andy & Son Family Butchers



Major Credit Cards Accepted

7 Hilderstone Road  
Meir Heath  
Stoke-On-Trent  
ST3 7PB  
Opposite Windmill  
01782 392521



Our business has been here for over 19 years supplying top quality meat and many other delicious products. We are a family business and we pride ourselves on great customer service and locally sourced produce.

Price wise we can beat the supermarkets on many occasions but for the friendly service and expertise we win every time!

All cooked meats are cooked on our premises  
our burgers + sausages are shop made.  
We have a large selection of marinades available.

Taking Christmas Orders from the beginning of November

## Highfields Farm B&B

Sandon Road  
Hilderstone  
ST15 8SF

Tel: 01889 505000

[www.highfields-bb.co.uk](http://www.highfields-bb.co.uk)

A warm welcome to all visitors.  
All our rooms have modern en-suites,  
wonderful views and comfy beds.

Full English breakfast with  
home grown eggs.

Reviews on Book.com

We are open all year round.

## Fairway Service Station

*All makes of car serviced and repaired  
MOT tests and retests*

*ESSO DEALER*

*Full Esso Shop and Newsagent  
Quality Assured to BS EN ISO 9002*

*Lichfield Road, Stone, Staffs.*

*Tel: 01785 812548*

*Fax: 811598*



Hall Lane, Hilderstone, Staffs, ST15 8SQ

Telephone: 01889 505656 Mobile: 07774151890

Email: [info@hilderstonegarage.co.uk](mailto:info@hilderstonegarage.co.uk)

[www.hilderstonegarage.co.uk](http://www.hilderstonegarage.co.uk)



**Here at Hilderstone Garage we offer quality vehicle servicing, all types of repairs, in depth diagnostics and all class of MOT testing.**

**We also offer a car collection & delivery service for ultimate convenience, courtesy cars available on booking.**

**Our new state of the art ATL MOT testing facility is now open and are proud to announce that we are now testing all Class of vehicles from Motorcycle to Light Commercial and including mini bus.**

**MOT testing starting from £25 please call for prices and to arrange an appointment.**

## **TRENT ROOFING AND BUILDING**

Cherry Picker for hire with or without operator,

On rubber track, fits through narrow gaps,

Two man cage, Height of 12 metres (39 foot)

Ideal for painting, guttering, chimneys, over conservatories,

Tree trimming, Easy to operate.

**CONTACT:- 01538 722960**

**Mobile:- 07709251239**



## **R D CRESSWELL & CO LTD**

Longton based Family Firm established since 1898

Delivery to the local area

**Contact us for:**

Calor Gas for your BBQ Portable heaters for home and leisure

General ironmongery items. Garden tools and pest control products

Or If you are running your own business: SMC Pneumatic products

Copper, Iron and PVC pipeline and fittings Pneumatic Control systems and automation

Industrial LPG heaters for sale or hire

**For all enquiries call us on 01782 313488,**

**email us at [rdc.cresswell@btconnect.com](mailto:rdc.cresswell@btconnect.com) or visit our website at**

**[www.rdcresswell.co.uk](http://www.rdcresswell.co.uk)**

# Price and Stubbs

(A Boulton & Sons Ltd)  
Est 1946

**COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICE**

**MILL STREET, STONE**

**Tel: 01785 812556**

- DAY OR NIGHT
- PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST
- FLORAL TRIBUTES
- MEMORIALS
- CATERING
- PRE-PAYMENT SCHEMES



**SPOTGATE INN**

Quality dining in 1920's elegance

HILDERSTONE ROAD  
SPOT ACRE  
HILDERSTONE  
ST15 8RP

Lunchtime Menu Available  
With Main Courses from  
£8.75

[WWW.SPOTGATEINN.CO.UK](http://WWW.SPOTGATEINN.CO.UK)

**01889 505277**



**The Office Furniture Place**

[www.officefurnitureplace.co.uk](http://www.officefurnitureplace.co.uk)

**Stoke-on-Trent**

**01782 799 700**

**Chester**

**01244 533 527**

- Educational Furniture
- Second Hand Furniture
- Desks & Workstations
- Executive Furniture
- Chairs
- Reception Furniture
- Screens
- Storage Solutions
- Space Saving Solutions
- Conference Tables/Chairs
- Breakout & Recreation
- CAD Office Design
- Safes

**SPECIAL OFFER only £249+VAT**

Crescent desk with  
panel end or double  
cantilever leg with 600mm  
desk high pedestal



**Petroleum  
Midlands**

Your local, family owned independent

heating oil supplier,

(based in Market Drayton).

Competitive Heating oil prices

Rix Oil Alert(Automatic tank Monitoring).

Order locally online, or over the phone

Milwich & District syndicate, Contact:

**Mike Baggaley 01889 270161 [m\\_baggaley@btinternet.com](mailto:m_baggaley@btinternet.com)**

Hilderstone Hall Care Home  
Where we offer personal care  
tailored to Each resident  
by our caring attentive staff



Come and join us at the Hall and  
meet the Manager  
Every Thursday at 2.30pm  
for Cream Tea

Everyone is welcome.



Hands & Co Chartered Accountants

Need a helping hand?

For all your bookkeeping, personal taxation and business  
needs.

Telephone: 01889 505002

Web Site: [www.handsandco.co.uk](http://www.handsandco.co.uk)

### 'CURTAINS UP'



Custom made blinds and curtains.  
Full measurement and making service.  
Curtain alterations also undertaken.  
Friendly and local at competitive prices  
including collection and delivery.

Claire Hardwick

01538 702201

Mob: 07979 942050

Email: [claire@curtainsup.co.uk](mailto:claire@curtainsup.co.uk)

FOR  
ALL YOUR  
ROOFING  
NEEDS...

**KT**  
**ROOFING**  
FLAT ROOF SPECIALISTS

- Flat roofs
- Fascia & Guttering
- Slating & Tiling
- Maintenance & Repairs



01785 245380



07506 724027



[ktroofing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ktroofing@hotmail.co.uk)





# JOHN REEVES

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

***"THE NUMBER 1 NAME IN THE NUMBER 2 BUSINESS"***

### **SEPTIC TANKS & SOAKAWAYS**

Emptying & Maintenance of Septic Tanks, Cesspools,  
Sewage Treatment Plants & Pumps  
All types of drainage systems catered for.

### **DRAINS UNBLOCKED**

Drain Jetting & CCTV Surveys, Drain Tracing

Fully Licensed Waste Carriers Est. 1968

**FREEPHONE: 0800 358 7455**

## **Roger Simkin**

### **Painter & Decorator**

Member of the Dulux Select

Decorators

All decorating backed with written  
guarantee by Dulux

**Mobil 07971 950921**

**Home 01785 213277**



## **Green Theme Landscapes Ltd.**

Professional Garden Design and Construction

Patios – Drives – Water Features –

Shed & Greenhouse Bases – Turfing – Planting

Fencing & Timberwork – Weed Spraying

Mini Digger Excavation Work – Walling – Lighting

Why Us?

FREE QUOTATIONS

ESTABLISHED 1992

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP ASSURED

**Contract: STEVE MATTHEWS**

01889 505738 or 0781 308 5634



Online home furnishings retailer,  
selling all kinds of quirky interior  
products.

[www.jp-interiorretail.com](http://www.jp-interiorretail.com)

## **Flying from East Midlands Airport?**

Safe and secure indoor  
parking with courtesy transfer  
to and from the airport.

For more details and rates  
(mentioning this advertisement)

**Telephone:**  
**07748 625729**

## **ADW**

**Roofing & Building**

**All types of roof/ building Work**

**Large / Small property repairs**

**(No more felt)**

**Quality Workmanship**

**Friendly Service**

**Tel: 01889599046 07876336371**

## **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  
hvhnoticeboard@gmail.com**

All bookings should be made through the Bookings Secretary:  
Debbie Britton, Tel: 07810332559 Monday to Friday or email :-  
hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com Post Code ST15 8SF

### **Hilderstone 100's club draw February 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £100 No 28 Tim Handley

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £50 No 62 Sue Tyne

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £25 No 34 Shirley Robson

4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 No 63 Ron Taylor

5<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 No 19 Dave Cooper

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



## **A HAVEN FOR NATURE**

*'Butterflies dancing between  
colourful wildflowers,  
birds singing and flitting from tree  
to tree,  
hedgehogs waiting in the shelter of  
their nests for night to fall  
– a perfect picture of the British  
countryside.  
But unique ecosystems like this  
have found an unusual  
place to thrive:*

***the graveyard'.***

*(The Funeral Guide 2017)*



Like churches throughout the country, we are working hard to transform our churchyard into a tranquil setting, teeming with a rich collection of flora and fauna. Set in the heart of our rural village, the churchyard offers a wonderful opportunity to create a valuable sanctuary for wildlife and the habitat that supports it.

Whatever your age, experience or skills, you can make a real difference by joining our Churchyard Clean-up Team (*See inside for details*).

15d Raleigh Hall Ind Est T: 01785 850193 / 851183  
Eccleshall F: 01785 850445  
Stafford. ST21 6JL E: sales@creative-copy.co.uk  
**www.creativebee-ltd.co.uk**

