

# **Christ Church Hilderstone Parish Magazine**



**September 2019**

## **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**

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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 Editor Sue Stubbs tel.

01889505203 or Email:- [susanstubbs01@outlook.com](mailto:susanstubbs01@outlook.com)

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

## **EDITORIAL**

**I Hope you all had a good summer dodging the rain and enduring the heat?**

**Looking forward to events in September we first have the jumble sale then harvest festival service, followed by the harvest supper which this year is on the Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>.**



## **Dates for Diary 2019**

14th September Jumble sale

15th September Harvest Festival Service

17th September Harvest Supper

27<sup>th</sup> September at  
10am to 12pm Hilderstone Hall, Macmillian Coffee Morning.

3rd December W.I. Christmas Party

17th December Village Christmas Party

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

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

## **Hilderstone Parish Council**

### **Best Kept Village Competition 2019**

The judging for the Best Kept Village competition 2019 has now ended. Many thanks to the Best Kept Village team of volunteers, the regular litter pickers and to Bill Holmes for all his grounds maintenance work. Eastholme residents have again worked really hard this year to keep their area of the village looking exceptionally tidy and attractive. Thank you to all residents who contributed to the competition in whatever way you were able.

Please continue to support the campaign to keep Hilderstone tidy and attractive throughout the year.

### **Stone Lions Club – Prostate Screening**

Stone Lions Club will be holding Prostate Screening – PSA Tests on Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 6pm at the Stonehouse Hotel. Further information can be obtained from Glyn Ravenscroft [gravenscroft@outlook.com](mailto:gravenscroft@outlook.com) or Mike Ward [mikeward8@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeward8@btinternet.com)

### **Tree Planting Memorial for WW1**

The Parish Council will be going ahead with the project to plant seven trees as a memorial to the local fallen soldiers from WW1. The trees will be planted near the children's play area and will include a plaque dedicating them as a memorial to the fallen soldiers. The approximate cost would be £500, although it is hoped with possible donations and volunteers to help with planting, this could be significantly

reduced. The tree planting is provisionally scheduled for the last Sunday in October, following directly after the Sunday morning church service. If you would like to get involved in the project please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk)

## **Overgrown Hedges**

It has been noted that a number of hedgerows bordering properties in the area are quite overgrown. Some of these are becoming an obstruction to the safe use of footpaths and pavements, or are blocking the safe view of traffic at junctions. It is important to the safety of local residents including children and families, that these hedges are cut back and the footpaths and pavements remain clear. Home owners are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of hedgerows bordering their property and the Parish Council would urge homeowners to help keep local residents safe but ensuring these hedges are cut back and well maintained.

## **Village Green Bench**

The Parish Council regret to report that the park bench on the Village Green donated by the WI has been stolen. This bench had 'WI 1992' etched into the back panel and had recently been returned following its annual clean. A replacement bench is likely to cost in the region of £300/£400. The Parish Council will be considering quotes for replacement at their September meeting.

## Hilderstone WI Ladies Go Wild !

Ladies from Hilderstone WI thoroughly enjoyed their summer outing to Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre, Eccleshall, followed by a very tasty Afternoon Tea at Fletchers` Farmhouse Kitchen.

The Wildlife Centre has risen like a phoenix from the flames , after suffering a fire in March. One of our Committee has a son who volunteers there, & we have followed the progress which has been made since with great interest.



The Registered Charity and Licensed Zoo, is a sanctuary for exotic animals and birds of prey, containing over 30 different species . It is also a point of contact for Raptor Helpline and has a Hospital Unit for injured wild raptors.

We enjoyed a very informative talk from a member of the family which runs the Centre, saw volunteers at work and viewed some of the birds flying before our very eyes. In the background we could hear the happy sound of Quaver the S. American Wild Dog who sang to us throughout our visit. Our President was even able to stroke a skunk for the first time in her seventy years !

Ladies then retired to Fletchers` Farmhouse Kitchen, where a super Afternoon Tea was served by the charming staff who catered for everyone, including folks with special dietary requirements. All our plates were cleared by the time we left , & we then enjoyed shopping in the Garden Centre.

We all agreed that our summer outing had been excellent, and we thanked Gill Slater for her organisation of this lovely outing.



The next meeting is on September 10<sup>th</sup> . The speaker is Steve Booth. Speaking on Lost Treasure of Stone. Competition is A personal treasure. Refreshments Suzanne Brown, & Gill Slater. Pat Saul ( President Hilderstone WI)

## **PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP**

Would you like to join our friendly sewing group? We meet term time only at Fulford Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It is suitable for complete beginners or experienced patch workers. Tuition is available if you would like to learn this new skill or simply bring along your own project and enjoy a social evening. If you would like to call in and see what we get up to please feel free to contact Jane for more information. Tel: 01889 505738.

## **A Big Thank You**

We would like to thank all those who advertise in the magazine for their continued support this year. Revenue collected helps towards magazine printing costs, thus ensuring the parishioners of Hilderstone are kept in touch with local events.

## **Robert Henry (Bob) Philips 21<sup>st</sup> August 1926 – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

Bob was born at St Mary's Cottage (along the top road) in 1926, first child of Joseph and Ethel Philips. The family subsequently moved to Dingle Lane Farm where Bob's brother and sister, John and Mary, were born; and finally, in 1936 to The Horseshoe (Farm).

Bob followed in the family tradition of attending the village school. He left school in 1940 and started work for Mr Spencer at the village shop. He then became an apprentice at F W Loxley where in due course he learnt the trades of plumber, painter and decorator, and carpenter and joiner.

Bob joined the Home Guard at 16 and at 18 joined the Army, initially the Queen's Regiment, later being transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment.

After the war, Bob met Joy Snape. Their first date was in February 1949 at a dance at Fulford. They were married in March 1951 and initially lived in a little cottage at Stone Heath (with no electricity or running water), across the field from Joy's parents. Bob found that too quiet so within a couple of years they moved to Hillrise, where Bob remained for 60 years. Along came their children, Julia and Martin, and sometime later grandchildren and great grandchildren

Bob moved jobs – Horace Poole's, then Stone Urban District Council; and in July 1965 he moved to Meaford Power Station where he was a Unit Operator. He retired from there in 1991.

Bob was very involved with village life. At various times he was Chairman of the Village Hall Committee; a Manager of the School; a member of the Church Dramatic Society and of the Hilderstone

Players; a trustee of the Village Hall; Chairman of the Parish Council; a Church Warden; and a member of the Parochial Church Council.

He also won best kept garden in Hilderstone in 1964, beating his Father into second place.

Bob was also very involved with the Sandon Branch of the Royal British Legion. He was Chairman from 1953 to 1965, and then again for much of the 1970s. He was latterly Secretary and for many years a Poppy Seller and a member of the Fete Committee. Bob was one of only three Branch recipients of the Royal British Legion Gold Badge.

After Joy died in 2000 Bob remained at Hillrise until 2013 when he moved to Autumn House in Stone, where he lived happily for 6 years. Bob passed away peacefully at the North Staffs on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

At Bob's funeral, the eulogy ended with this story: *"In 1945 Bob lost several of his company to enemy shelling, and soon after went to Belsen, the first Concentration Camp liberated in the West. Prior to that, the young man he was apprenticed to at Loxey's, plus his neighbour, Frank, were both killed in the war. Irrespective of this, Bob later told his family that he felt so sorry for the German people as they had nothing at all. The compassion Bob showed was just one facet of a personality that means that so many people will forever have fond memories of him".*

***Jumble Sale Saturday 7 th***

***From 2pm at Hilderstone Village Hall***

***Admission 20***

***Donations from 10am on the day***

***or by calling Sue Stubbs on 01889 505203***

***Proceeds to village Christmas party and church  
funds***

### **COUNTRYSIDE WATCHER –**

FLUTTERING SEPTEMBER BUTTERFLIES I know that Autumn does not officially arrive until 21 September. However, I feel the beginning of September is the initiation of Autumn. Summer is now over. The Council has trimmed the lane verge edges obeying the rule to leave plants growing at the back. They look so tidy. One verge looks far too tidy for a country lane. Instead of only the edge being cut, in order to prevent viewing problems, the whole verge has been trimmed, including the ditch side. It does look bare. Never mind, the grass will not be beaten it will soon grow again. There are so many Butterflies fluttering over the grass and among the trees. I love Butterflies. They are the most beautiful of all insects. A fast flying, exquisite Peacock Butterfly flutters round my head. It drops to the grass near me and I see

glorious orange-red wings with four blue and yellow eye-spots, one on each wing. There are no other British Butterflies that have these four eyespots. Their wing 'eyes' give them their name as they look like the 'eyes' on a Peacock's tail feathers. A Butterfly's wing colour comes from the many thousands of tiny 'scales' that make the wings. When the Peacock Butterfly rests with closed wings it looks like a black, dead leaf, a good, helpful disguise. This one in the verge must be a second generation Peacock. The original ones fly from March to June. This generation, like the one I am looking at, flies from July to the following Spring, hibernating in barns or sheds during the winter months. The female Peacock Butterfly looks like the male but is a little larger. Most male Butterflies have special scales that create a scent that attracts the female Butterfly. Butterflies use the feelers on their heads for smelling. They may not be able to see very clearly with their eyes, but they use them to sense movement. Butterflies feed on flower nectar while pollinating the flowers. They have a long tube, a proboscis, instead of a mouth. It coils up when not being used. Butterflies taste though, with special pads on their feet. The Peacock black caterpillars have white spots and spines all over their bodies. They feed on Nettles where the eggs have been laid. The caterpillar changes into an unusual shaped, green pupa. It hangs by one end on a stem near the place where the caterpillar developed. The Butterfly emerges after about a week. Peacock Butterflies have adapted well to changes in our landscape. They multiply in many different places. I am left smiling as the Peacock Butterfly flutters away. Sheila Harvey

# **The Village Hall - Use it or Lose it**

Hilderstone Village Hall opened in 1955 and is run by a registered charity. Since that time has provided an important role in village life, holding public and private events for villagers and others.

Unfortunately at the recent Annual Meeting of the management committee it was revealed that the village hall has operated at a loss for the       th year in succession. The cause of this has been the increasing cost of services and maintenance, the fact that village hall requires more bookings, and events organised by the village hall committee (such as film nights and events for children) are not as well supported as was hoped. Sadly, unless matters are rectified, the future of the village hall could be in jeopardy.

The village hall management committee hopes that Hilderstone's villagers will help ensure that things improve by booking the village hall for family and other events, attending activities at the village hall and joining the 100 Club which supports the hall. If we all pull together the future of Hilderstone Village Hall can be secured.

Over the years the cost of maintenance, electricity, gas and insurance has increased considerably. Accordingly the village hall management committee has considered whether or not to increase the charges for its use. However, the committee is very keen to ensure that the facilities of the village hall are available to all and so, despite the considerable financial

pressures, it has decided to keep the hire charges (including the reduced rates for villagers) at their present levels. In the past a number of bookings have taken place for which no charge was made. These “free” bookings have sometimes resulted in lights being left on all night, the hot water taps left running in the toilets and the heating being turned up too high. Sadly, in these circumstances and in view of financial difficulties, the “free” bookings will cease from now on. Such bookings will be charged at the reduced rate for villagers.

Another problem which has occurred is that the stage has been dragged across the floor and damage has been caused. The floor would be very expensive to replace and whether it could be done to same high standard is debatable. When using the village hall please do so with respect.

Those who do visit the village hall will be aware that it is very well maintained thanks to the work of John and Marge Wareham.

The village hall management committee hopes that all villagers will consider using the village hall for meetings, parties and other events and attending events organised to take place in the village hall, to ensure its future. We call upon the villagers of Hilderstone to help support this valuable community asset. Please do so.

***Hilderstone Village Hall Management Committee***



# **Harvest Supper**

The harvest supper is on  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
7pm for 7.30pm  
at Hilderstone Village Hall  
with the auction of produce afterwards

Cost of tickets Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Tickets available from

Phil Davies on 01889 505725

Or

Sue Stubbs on 01889 505203



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

Well, summer is almost over for another year. By the time you read this the children will be coming to the end of their long holiday and getting ready for the start of a new academic year. The older children will have got their external exam results and are now either celebrating or worrying as to what to do next (as will their parents!).

It's been a fairly quiet time in the benefice this summer for rites of passage services – an interment, a wedding and a baptism (with more to come!) in addition to all the usual services. Rites of passage services are a joy (yes, even the most solemn funeral) as we celebrate some of the stages of the Christian life from its beginning to its end. They are times when family and friends get together – some of whom we haven't seen for a long time so have a lot of "catching up" to talk about. They are times when we offer support (and comfort) to one another; times of sharing and, as the writer of Ecclesiastes says: "a time to laugh and a time to cry". They are also times of affirmation.

If we read the gospels, we find that Jesus participated in rites of passage. Think about the wedding at Cana – the first "sign" as John calls the changing of the water into wine at that event, the raising of the widow's son as Jesus saw the funeral procession passing by, Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them when the disciples wanted them to be sent away, and there are others. Jesus shared all the emotions associated with rites of passage – the joy and the sadness, the laughter and the grief; that is why we can so confidently assert that Jesus knows how we are feeling at such times.

The chorus of the popular, modern hymn (which we had at the last wedding in Hilderstone) "One more step" goes: "and it's from the old I travel to the new. Keep me travelling along with you! Is it any wonder that this hymn is sung at rites of passage services as we travel our journey of life? It's also a good chorus as we consider the future post-exams and wonder what our next academic or first work placement will be like. Yes, it's good to acknowledge that Jesus is indeed with us in every situation we find ourselves, on every step we travel.

## **Services at Christ Church**

### **September 2019**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	11:15am	Common Worship Family Communion
	1:00pm	Holy Baptism
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11:15am	Common Worship Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11:15am	Harvest Festival
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	11:15am	BCP Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9:30am	Benefice Communion at St Nicholas, Fulford
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3:00pm	Common Worship Holy Communion

### **Readings – September 2019**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Heb 13: 1 – 8, 15 - 16
(Proper 17)	Luke 14: 1, 7 - 14
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Philemon 1- 21
(Proper 18)	Luke 14: 25 -33
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	1Tim 1: 12 - 17
(Proper 19)	Luke 15: 1 - 10
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	1Tim 2: 1 - 7
(Proper 20)	Luke 16: 1 - 13
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Rev 12: 7 - 12
(Michael & All Angels)	John 1: 47 - end
6 <sup>th</sup> October	2Tim 1: 1 – 14
(Proper 22)	Luke 17: 5 - 10

## **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

### **What's On**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11:15am in church is Christ Church Harvest festival followed on Tuesday evening by the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall at 7:00pm. Call Philip Davies (01889 505725) for details.

**A big Thank You** to Rose and Sue for opening up their lovely gardens and providing such scrumptious cakes on a wet afternoon. A grand total of nearly £450 was raised for the AfA fund

### **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).

### **From the registers:**

Wedding: 24<sup>th</sup> August Paul Leonard & Stephanie Taylor  
*Congratulations and best wishes to Paul and Steph*

RiP: 26<sup>th</sup> June Tim Kitchen  
12<sup>th</sup> July Bob Philips (interment 17<sup>th</sup> August)  
*We extend our sympathies to Tim and Bob's family and friends*

# Cooks Tips

## Strawberry Shortbread

### Ingredients:

1pkt butter  
3oz caster sugar  
11oz plain flour  
½ pint double cream  
punnet of strawberries

### Method:

Mix the sugar into the well softened butter, then mix in the flour. When the mixture forms a dough you may need to wrap it in cling film and chill for a few minutes as it might be a little soft to roll out. When the dough is firm but not too solid, roll it out on a floured surface not too thickly, and cut out round biscuit shapes with a large biscuit cutter 8 or 9cm across and the same amount of biscuits 6 or 7cm across. Put the biscuits onto baking trays and chill the short bread for at least 15 minutes before baking for about 40- 45 mins on gas 3.

When they are cooked remove carefully to a cooling wire and with a sharp knife cut all of the smaller biscuits in half before they cool and harden.

These are best made just before you eat them because the cream and strawberries can make the biscuit go a little soft.

Whip the cream and quarter the strawberries, pipe a swirl of cream onto the middle of a large biscuit, take two halves of a smaller biscuit and push them lightly into the cream in a v shape a bit like a butterflys wings and arrange three pieces of strawberry, one under each half biscuit and one in the centre.

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## **HILDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES**

### **Information for Hiring Hilderstone Village Hall**

Hilderstone Residents: £15.00 per hour

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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**

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

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

The crafty Club meets on the third Sunday of the month.  
Next one is about Harvest. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
11.15am in Church. All are well come.



15d Raleigh Hall Ind Est  
Eccleshall  
Stafford. ST21 6JL

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