

Christ Church Hilderstone

# PARISH MAGAZINE



*A celebration of village life*

**Special Jubilee Edition 2022**



## WHAT'S ON:

### MAY:

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market With a Volvo Car Product Show	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Wood-fired oven	5pm – 8pm	Village Hall
	Pop Up Pub	5pm – 10.30pm	Village Hall

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**JUNE:** *During the Platinum Jubilee Celebration weekend, the village is a hive of activity. Do come and join us:*

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hilderstone Big Village Bake Off</b>	2pm – 4pm	Village Hall
	<b>Beyond The Barricades Concert</b> <i>(ticketed event)</i>	7pm – 9.30pm	Village Hall
	<b>Bar open</b>	2pm – 10.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Jubilee Service</b> <b>&amp; Blessing of Jubilee Tree</b>	11.15am-12.15pm	Christ Church
	<b>Hilderstone Big Village Picnic</b>	12.30pm onwards	Village Hall
	<b>Bar open</b>	from 12 noon	Village Hall
	<b>BBQ available for people to use to cook their own food</b>		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	W.I.: History of Basketry by Lynn Hammersley	7.30pm	Village Hall

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Churchyard Tidy Up	10am – 12 noon	Christ Church
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market	10am – 1pm	Village Hall

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## JULY:

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roaring 20s Night	7pm -11pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	W.I.: Fulford First Responders, on First Aid	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Churchyard Tidy-up	10am – 12 noon	Christ Church
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gordon Giltrap concert <i>(Ticketed event)</i>	7pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Hilderstone Big Village Party	10am onwards	Village Hall
	Travelling Taverna	5pm – 8pm	Village Hall
	Pop Up Pub	5pm – 10.30pm	Village Hall

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## AUGUST:



Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> noon	Churchyard Tidy-up	10am – 12 Christ Church
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>  10.30pm	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market Pop-up Pub	10am – 1pm 5pm – Village Hall

*Her Majesty was drawn by Bella Hughes, aged 8.*



## Editor's Letter



*ABOVE: The Queen, drawn by Jasper Norville, aged 10 years old.*

Ever the optimist, I am confident that when this issue of the Parish Magazine lands on your doorstep, the glorious British Summer will be upon us and we will be enjoying sunny drawn-out summer days, with the occasional shower and a full calendar of events with family and friends. But, as I sit here in mid-May, there is scant evidence of sunshine, but at least the gardens have enjoyed a good watering – much to the delight of the weeds, which will take this opportunity to burst forth with gusto, leaving us keen gardeners clutching our hoes with murderous intent – weeds beware!

This Summer Edition is, of course, a special one: Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, celebrates 70 years on the throne. Some of you can cast your mind back to jubilee celebrations of the past, whilst the younger members of our village will be enjoying their first such experience. Bunting at the ready, the village is busy planning various activities to mark this momentous occasion, from the planting of Jubilee Trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, to a village-wide picnic at the Village Hall. There are concerts, pub events (both at the Roebuck and the Village Hall) and a special Village Celebration Service at Christ Church. All in all, plenty for everyone to get involved with – whatever your age.

We have also included eight full colour pages in this special edition, to best show off the fabulous pictures our children have prepared. There are, of course, pictures of Her Majesty, but also of her wonderful Corgis and a few horses too. Thank you for all of your pictures!

# From Your Parish Council

## Village maintenance

Hilderstone Parish Council would like to remind residents to keep their property frontages clean and tidy, and prevent access to paths being restricted by overgrown hedges.

## Speed Statistics

A second speed indication device has been installed opposite the junction of Cresswell Road and Hall Lane. Speed data has started to be collected and can be viewed on our website (<https://hilderstone.org.uk/news-article/new-speed-data-available/>) from May. New data will be available for both speed indication devices at the end of each month.

## Meetings

The Annual Public Meeting - 25th May 2022, Hilderstone Village Hall from 7pm. It is your opportunity to come and chat with the Parish Council and propose any projects you would like to be considered for 2022/23.

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## Local Footpaths

If you would like to know where to find our footpaths, go to: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rightsofway/footpaths-bridleways.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rightsofway/footpaths-bridleways.aspx)

As the Parish Council footpaths officer, I recommend you all to use our local footpaths and enjoy our village scenery. If you find any problems (damaged stile, blocked footpath etc), please take photos if possible & email them to me and I will inform the Rights Of Way department at the County Council.

Also if you come across litter please pick it up or report it to either myself or Street Scene at Stafford Borough Council. For fly tipping, please report it to Street Scene at Stafford Borough Council on 01785 619000.

My email is [philip.davies73@btinternet.com](mailto:philip.davies73@btinternet.com)

# FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL



## **Chairman's Remarks HVH AGM 3 May 2022**

This time last year, we were still operating under COVID-19 Restrictions. After moving the AGM back to April, we started a programme of events with our first Pop-Up pub on Saturday 23 April 2021 - St George's Day. Pop-Up Pubs

have become a monthly feature - not even the November power cut stopped us - and we've improved them by inviting local catering suppliers like the Travelling Taverna, CoD of Duty, K-Valley Catering.

At the big Village Party, events were held at the Church, the pub, and the Village Hall. What made it special was that it was a village-wide event; led by the community, for the community and we are committed to ensuring this becomes an annual event now, along with our Burn's Night, following Sam and Martin's hugely successful first Burn's Night in January, with Alison's culinary help.

June 2021 saw the reopening of the hall with a short ceremony in which Mrs Peggy Shelley re-opened us after the restrictions were lifted and we have been busy with events ever since. We're on the way out of our dark years of losses. And we're ready to capitalise on future opportunities. Outside the hall, we have a comfortable and safe seating area - better lit now we have pollarded the trees and laid the hedges - with an historic smoking shelter next to what we could call the village pond - a conservation area if ever there was one. Inside, we've redecorated, restored the floor, revamped the kitchen, got the cafe room back, and are in the throes of installing an audiovisual system to enable other events like film and race nights.



The hall is being used for what it was intended: physical and mental training and recreation, social moral, and intellectual development through reading and recreation, library, lectures, classes, recreations and entertainments for the

benefits of the inhabitants of the Parish of Hilderstone and its immediate vicinity, without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions subject, to the provisions of the deed. All this takes effort and that effort comes from people. So I want to thank everyone who has helped the hall in the past year in whatever capacity for however much they were able to manage. I'd especially like to thank Marge and John Wareham for all their work. I'd like to thank the committee for their work, ideas, enthusiasm, and commitment to this vital village asset.

It has been a good year; however, we do not sit on our laurels.

***Tim Handley, Chairman of Hilderstone Village Hall***

*A full copy of the Minutes can be found on the Village Hall website: <https://hilderstonevillagehall.com/management-committee>.*

**A Compassionate Village:** When Lilley Moore first asked that the Village Hall be opened to receive donations for the people of Ukraine, the Committee was only too happy to give whatever assistance it could. Members of the Committee opened the hall from 10am-8pm and were on hand to help out. We were overwhelmed by the kindness of people and would like to extend our thanks to all those who turned up to drop off their donations, and ended up staying for hours sorting through clothing; our thanks also to the 'taxi drivers' who, again, just jumped into their

camper vans, cars and vans and ferried box after box to their final destination before being shipped to the Ukraine, and we would most especially like to thank our friends at The Greenhouse People who, on seeing our SOS for cardboard boxes, came not just once, but twice, with bundles of boxes and tape. Heroes indeed.

### VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS:

#### February:

Ball: 4 £100  
85 £ 50  
68 £ 25  
62 £ 10  
59 £ 10

#### March:

Ball: 13 £100  
59 £ 75  
83 £ 50  
85 £ 40  
82 £ 30

#### April:

Ball: 25 £100  
18 £ 50  
22 £ 25  
3 £ 10  
52 £ 10

Lottery winners are published each month on the Village Hall Website and on the noticeboard in the hall also. Interested in joining the Village Hall Lottery? Email: [hilderstonevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:hilderstonevillagehall@gmail.com) or visit the website for an application form ([www.hilderstonevillagehall.com](http://www.hilderstonevillagehall.com)).

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## A Musical Tribute to the Jubilee - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm, at Hilderstone Village Hall

Hilderstone Village Hall is thrilled to present **Beyond the Barricade - The UK's Leading Musical Theatre Concert Tour**. Coming to Hilderstone to play this very special celebration concert for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee!

**Beyond the Barricade** features past principal performers from Les Miserables and delivers over two hours of songs from the best musicals of the West End and Broadway, ending of course with a stunning finale from Les Miserables. The show will include many of the best numbers that have



made **Beyond the Barricade** the most popular musical theatre concert in the UK and includes songs from The Phantom of the Opera, Miss Saigon, Hamilton, The Lion King, West Side Story, Jesus Christ Superstar, Chicago, and many more.

Beyond the Barricade has very close ties with this wonderful village, and the Village Hall, so it is with great pleasure that this small intimate concert is taking place. The concert will feature some of The Queen's most favourite musicals with a celebration 'Last Night Of The Proms' finale - and of course plenty of Les Misérables along the way!

**Limited Tickets available on the Village Hall Facebook Page or [TicketTailor.com](https://www.tickettailor.com) Beyond the Barricade.**

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## A Coup for Hilderstone:

**Gordon Giltrap Live In Concert, Hilderstone Village Hall  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 – tickets £15.**



Gordon Giltrap, acknowledged by Brian May, Pete Townshend and Jimmy Page as one of the greatest guitarists to grace the music scene.

One of the great musical milestones in Gordon's life and career was to be invited in 2019 by one of the great icons of rock music Pete Townshend to play on a track for the new and eagerly awaited album by the legendary Who. The track SHE ROCKED MY WORLD featured acoustic guitars from Pete with Gordon adding his own signature riffs to Pete's unique playing. Pete described Gordon's contribution as "classic GG." It has been well documented that Pete was one of Gordon's early guitar influences. To be invited to work with the great man was for him an honour and a privilege.

*Don't miss this opportunity to see this world class guitarist live. Tickets on sale now via Gordon's website - [www.giltrap.co.uk](http://www.giltrap.co.uk) or Hilderstone Village Hall Facebook Page.*

## Hilderstone Village Hall Youth Club

The children have been very busy at Youth Club recently as I am sure you can tell from the beautiful pictures in the magazine. We hope you enjoy them in all their colour.

We can't wait to start our gardening project over the next few months. There is plenty to do and we'll let you know how we got on in the next issue of the magazine.

**Holiday club** - 1st June and we have lots of plans to celebrate the Jubilee with crafts games and activities.

For more information, please contact Debbie on 07989130014.



### Let's get Decorating for the Jubilee!

Toilet rolls at the ready, here are a couple of fun Jubilee decorations you can make at home – Her Majesty and her Guards.

Why not bake a cake and enter it in the Big Village Bake-Off Competition on 4<sup>th</sup> June? Even if you don't win, you can share your cake with everyone at the Big Village Picnic the following day?

Or go to:

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/make-it-happen/make-your-own-big-jubilee-lunch-bunting> and download the templates to make some lovely colourful bunting to decorate the village with?



# THE BIG VILLAGE CELEBRATION

## Of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Let it never be said that the village of Hilderstone does not know how to celebrate in style. Remember our Big Village Party last year? Well, with the Jubilee weekend fast approaching, here are how you can get involved. See our What's On page for more details too:

- Get your **bunting** out and show your support of the Jubilee. Whether it's the Union Flag, Red/white & Blue bunting, or something you have made at home, let's make the village look fabulous!
- Bake a Cake! Join in the Hilderstone **Big Village Bake Off** Competition.
- Join us for the fabulous **Beyond the Barricade** Concert on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**, followed by the Pop-up Pub, Village Hall.
- Get your favourite picnic food together and join us for the **Big Village Picnic**. It is free – all you have to do is turn up with your food. Tables will be available at the Village Hall from 12.30pm, along with a bar – so join family and friends and celebrate together.
- Christ Church will lead the village in a special **family Jubilee Service** at 11.15am, followed by the blessing of the Jubilee Tree.

*Come along and join in our community celebration!*

# Celebration Tree Planting

Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen in February 1952. In June 1953 our Queen was waving, from a golden coach, to thousands of cheering people who were lining the entire route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey for her Coronation.

Our Vicar had invited most of our Village to the Rectory to watch the events of the day on a Television Screen. I was a 16-year-old schoolgirl viewing a Television for the first time! I seem to recall that the screen was 30 x20 centimetres in size.

We watched all day and most of the evening and a great Bonfire was lit in the Rectory Garden to end the Day of Celebration.

Anyone who experienced the 25th Jubilee Festivities of 1977 will remember Garden Parties, Street Parties and oh the Tree Plantings: Royalty and the Famous were planting trees all over the country and my three very young children decided to plant one in our garden. Thirty years later, when they were visiting me with their children, I recalled their tree-planting and wrote this poem.

***Marian Baldwin***



## The Lilac Tree

It was a bright Spring day,  
"We'll plant it here" they cried;  
Their small hands grasped trowels,  
Sturdy little legs pushed  
A junior wheel- barrow,  
And in its centre lay  
A crumpled stick of tree  
Dangling it's twisted roots.  
One girl clasped a box of 'Grow More'.  
Lifted from the potting shed.

It was so reverent  
The placing in the hole,  
Spading back the soil,  
Stamping with little boots.  
It was a bright Spring day  
And thirty years ago.

The scene came back to me  
In the afternoon's shade  
Under the lilac blossoms,  
Laughing with those three girls  
Watching their little ones  
At play on those same lawns;  
And I found the album,  
Photos reminding us  
Of three little gardeners  
Planting a lilac tree:  
The crumpled stick I never dreamt would grow.



# Strawberry Shortbread

*Nothing says British Summer quite like Strawberries. Why not make this shortbread and bring it to the Village Jubilee Picnic? You'll be very popular if you do!*

## 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 number of smaller 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 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 butterfly wings, and arrange three pieces of strawberry, one under each half biscuit and one in the centre.



# ROYAL WORD SEARCH:



S	A	R	E	C	N	I	R	P	Q	N	N	O	U	S
O	E	P	Q	O	R	T	A	E	U	L	I	V	O	L
L	C	V	U	R	X	P	C	R	E	I	G	N	C	E
P	A	G	E	A	N	T	M	J	E	R	H	X	O	W
A	C	H	I	N	V	D	L	E	N	W	O	F	M	E
L	R	Q	K	A	T	J	G	C	E	I	Y	Q	M	J
A	O	S	E	T	I	Y	N	O	L	N	K	O	O	J
C	W	R	G	I	S	A	Y	B	I	D	N	P	N	U
E	N	G	L	O	N	H	P	E	Z	S	I	E	W	B
W	A	L	K	N	C	O	A	C	A	O	V	A	E	I
U	I	Z	P	R	C	A	R	A	B	R	O	Y	A	L
A	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	L	E	Z	S	R	L	E
D	U	N	E	S	A	O	U	A	T	B	L	G	T	E
T	O	L	L	Z	C	H	K	P	H	U	W	C	H	F
M	O	N	A	R	H	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	D	E	N	O	R	H	T

Clue may run forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.

*Pageant*

*Palace*

*Queen Elizabeth*

*Seventy years*

*Diamond*

*Commonwealth*

*Corgis*

*Prince*

*Celebrate*

*Platinum*

*Windsor*

*Palace*

*Monarchy*

*Jewels*

*Coronation*

*Throne*

*Coach*

*Reign*

*Crown*

*Duke*

*Royal*

*Jubilee*

# Celebrating our Farming Roots

## SCARECROW WEEKEND

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

- Café, Craft Stalls, Tombola and Scarecrow Dressing Up Competition – Village Hall 1pm – 4.30pm
- Art Exhibition – Christ Church 1pm – 4.30pm
- Guide for Scarecrow Walk
- Barn Dance with pop-up pub, Village Hall 5pm – 10pm



### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

- Family Scarecrow Service at Christ Church 11.15am
- Café and craft stalls Village Hall 1.30am – 4.30pm
- Art Exhibition Christ Church 1.30am – 4pm
- Guide for Scarecrow Walk
- Scarecrow Competition winners – 4pm

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## Harvest Supper



**Monday 19th September 2022**

7pm for 7.30pm at Hilderstone Village Hall  
with the auction of produce afterwards.

Cost of tickets Adults £10.00 Children £5.00  
Tickets available from Phil Davies on 01785 747836





## JUBILEE PICTURE GALLERY:

*We received so many wonderfully colourful pictures of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and her beloved Corgis, we thought we MUST show them in full colour. Below, is the first of our pictures, by Lyra Edwards, aged 11.*



# It is all hands to the Hoe in Summer

*Jobs for Gardeners in the Summer months ...not just to keep our gardens looking glorious, but to help our Wildlife too. Here are a few things to keep you busy!*

JUNE:



## Garden Jobs

- Give wisteria its summer prune, cutting all the long side shoots back to 20cm as this promote flowering next spring.
- Support tall-growing perennials, including hollyhocks and delphiniums.
- Continue planting summer bedding in pots and borders, and water regularly to help plants establish quickly.
- Cut back spring-flowering perennials to encourage re-growth.
- Tie in new stems of climbing and rambling roses horizontally to encourage more flowers.
- Pinch out the tips of bedding plants to encourage bushier growth.
- Give containers and hanging baskets a liquid feed every few weeks.
- Prune late-spring or early-summer shrubs after flowering, such as weigela and philadelphus, thinning out the older stems.

## Wildlife in June:

- Keep your bird bath topped up with clean water as this means birds can drink and bathe in dry weather. By keeping their feathers clean, birds can regulate their body temperatures and fly from predators.
- Rose Hips and berries are great food for birds so leave some for them.
- Help insects by planting plenty of bee-friendly plants.
- Try to keep a small area free from mowing to allow Daisies, Dandelions and other 'weeds' to provide nectar for insects.

- Mud, mud, glorious mud – House Martins need mud to build and repair their nests, so help them by providing a source of mud (just soil and water) in your garden.

JULY: 

### Garden Jobs:

- Hoe and hand-weed borders to stop weeds from setting seed.
- Water and feed sweet peas regularly, pick the flowers every few days, and remove seed pods to prolong flowering.
- Plant autumn bulbs in pots and borders.
- Feed, water and deadhead summer bedding regularly.
- Cut back early summer perennials, such as hardy geraniums and delphiniums, after flowering for a second flush.
- Take softwood cuttings from shrubs such as pyracantha & hydrangeas.
- Feed and deadhead roses to extend their flowering period.
- Keep an eye out for unwelcome pests such as lily beetles, snails, aphids, and vine weevils, and remove before they do too much damage.
- Sow biennials, such as foxgloves and wallflowers, ready for next year.

### Wildlife in July:

- Encourage low-growing plants or long grass at the edges of your pond to shelter young frogs. Be careful when mowing or strimming to avoid harming any amphibians sheltering there.
- Check your hedges before trimming as birds such as Blackbirds, Thrushes, and House Sparrows may well be nesting in your hedges.
- July is when Hoglets (baby Hedgehogs) start to appear and will benefit from food and water left out for them.

AUGUST: 

### Garden jobs:

- Collect seeds as they ripen, from plants such as aquilegias and sweet peas on a dry day. When dry, store in a cool, dark and dry place.

- Deadhead dahlias and other perennials.
- Trim lavender once flowering is over to maintain its bushy shape, but don't cut into old wood.
- Prune rambling roses, taking up to 1/3 of stems that have flowered, and tie the rest to supports.
- Keep pots and hanging baskets well-watered and deadhead regularly. Use tomato feed fortnightly.
- Take cuttings of woody herbs, such as Lavender.
- Sow hardy annuals in sunny spots for early summer colour next year.
- Strim or mow areas of wildflower meadow, now that the plants have scattered their seeds.
- Take softwood cuttings from plants such as penstemons.
- Plant autumn bulbs in pots and borders.



#### **Wildlife in August:**

- Don't be too tidy in the garden in August: leave some flowers to form seedheads, providing a nutritious food source for birds eg Berberis, Cotoneaster, Hawthorn and Holly.
- We may have said goodbye to the Swallows and Swifts, but our House Martins will stay to rear a second, or even a third brood. During dry weather, place a dish of mud in the garden that they can use to repair their nests.
- Check your hedges for nests before cutting and wait until this season's broods have definitely flown before you trim as some birds continue to breed into August.
- And last, but by no means least, help our little Hedgehogs: leave out dishes of water and meat-based dog or cat food (ideally chicken flavour) as the young hoglets need help fattening up before they go into hibernation in late autumn and ensure they have somewhere to hibernate over the Winter months.

*So, plenty for us to be getting on with in the Summer – let's hope we have plenty of sunshine!*

## Church Matters: A Jubilee Celebration

On April 1947, Princess Elizabeth spoke these moving words:

*"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."*

Now, 70 years on, Her Majesty celebrates a landmark anniversary – her Platinum Jubilee. Her dedication and service have assured her of a Nation's thanks, as we come together, both as a small rural community, and a nation, to give thanks for her unstinting service and commitment to us all.

In celebration, the Church of England has produced the following prayer for this occasion:

**Gracious God, we give you thanks  
for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,  
and for the example of loving and faithful service  
which she has shown among us.**

**Help us to follow her example of dedication  
and to commit our lives to you and to one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Enquiries for Christ Church, contact: Audrey Stringer, Churchwarden,  
Tel: 01889 505638*



## Church Matters: Letter from the Vicar

### **"The Servant Queen and the King She Serves"...**

...was the title of a Bible Society publication to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2016. At the beginning of June, we will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee – 70 years as our Queen. That booklet used the Queen's own words to draw out the central role in her life of her Christian faith and of the Bible. She herself has given expression to those influences in the many Christmas broadcasts of her long reign. There is no doubt that she has fulfilled her promise made on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service..." The way she has carried that out has been an example to all of us, not least those in public life.

Perhaps like many of you I have never met Her Majesty, but I have been to church with her. Some years ago, we spent a week on holiday in North Norfolk. We had decided that on the Sunday we would go to church at Sandringham parish church, famous as the venue for the Royal Family's Christmas morning service. We were warmly welcomed by a police officer at the door and shown to seats in this small country parish church by the vergier. Just before the service started a door beyond the choir stalls was gently pushed open and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh took their places in the back row of those stalls. The choir processed to the back of the church. We sang verse 1 of the National Anthem and then Prayer Book Morning Prayer proceeded on its normal way. The Queen and the Duke left just ahead of us, and that was that. They were not in residence in Sandringham House – we know that because we went round the rooms open to the public later that day. Staying elsewhere in the area they came to church quietly and without fuss. Again, an example to us all.

*Prebendary Rev'd Gerald Gardiner.* Our thanks to Gerald, who is a very popular visiting cleric at Christ Church during Interregnum!

## Church Matters: Services at Christ Church

With the celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and the blessing of a tree in Christ Church churchyard as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, we have much to celebrate in the coming weeks. We welcome all those in our community who wish to join us.

**29<sup>th</sup> May**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd David Howard**  
*United Service at Hilderstone where we welcome our friends from Fulford to join us at this service.*

**5<sup>th</sup> June**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Graham Fowell**  
*This is a special family service for the whole community, to acknowledge and give thanks for Her Majesty's 70 years of service to our Nation. We welcome all in our community, whatever your faith, to join us together as a grateful nation.*



*The service will be followed by a blessing of the Jubilee Commemorative Tree in the churchyard, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.*

**12<sup>th</sup> June**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd John Sterling**

**19<sup>th</sup> June**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Graham Fowell**

**FATHER'S DAY – Family Service**

*We extend a special invitation to all the families in our community to join us in this special celebration of Dads.*

**26<sup>th</sup> June**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Graham Fowell**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd David Howard**

**10<sup>th</sup> July**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Brian Whittaker**

**17<sup>th</sup> July**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Brian Whittaker**

**24<sup>th</sup> July**      **11.15am Christ Church**      **Rev'd Alan Betts**

**31<sup>st</sup> July**      **11.15am St Nicholas**      **Prebendary Rev'd Gerald Gardiner**

*United service at St Nicholas Fulford.*

## Church Matters: News from Christ Church

When Covid restrictions started to ease, there was a huge sigh of relief from all at Christ Church. Whilst hand sanitiser continued to be on offer, all attending services were once again able to mingle freely with friends, listen to real organ music and even sing! What a difference it made.

But even though the doors were shut for many weeks during 2021, the PCC remained as busy as ever, especially as we found ourselves in vacancy when Marion Reynolds retired in May. So, what have we been up to?

**Access for All:** our plans for the toilet facilities at the church have now been approved and we are hard at work trying to source funding from trusts, such as the Hilderstone School Trust, with a view to applying for match-funding once we have raised 50% of the overall cost. This, at a time when we are feeling the strain of two years of lockdown, without an opportunity to do any fundraising – but we do love a challenge!

We have had many highlights during these challenging times too: the wonderful children from the Hilderstone Youth Club, under the watchful eye of Debbie Britton, kindly produced some beautiful posies for all the



Mums (and Grandmothers) on **Mothering Sunday** (LEFT). We were all really touched by their kindness – especially as they made the posies themselves.

**A new Incumbent:** we have now produced our Parish Profile, which contains details about our church, who we are and our plans for the future. A copy of this is on display at the church, or just contact us if you would like a copy. This, along with an advertisement, have now been approved by the Diocese of Lichfield and we hope to have the post advertised in the next few weeks.



Following our APCM on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, our church accounts, and Church Report for 2021 are available to view at Christ Church.

We hope to welcome you all at Christ Church sometime soon – hopefully at our special family-friendly Jubilee Celebration Service on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

---

## Baptisms

22<sup>nd</sup> May

Florence Grace Povey

*We welcome Florence into God's loving care*

## Weddings

12<sup>th</sup> April

Andrew Joseph Pepper and Samantha Ann Owen

7<sup>th</sup> May

Reece Grimshaw and Emma Hammond

27<sup>th</sup> May

Ross James Connor and Samantha Jane Mullock

*We congratulate our newly married couples with every good wish for the future.*

## Funerals

9<sup>th</sup> March

Maureen Kathleen Hammond

28<sup>th</sup> March

Edgar Thompson (Mitch)

*We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Maureen and Mitch.*

---



## Church Yard Tidy Up

Our monthly Saturday work parties take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon - with tea/coffee at 11am. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please

bring your own gloves, and tools, although there are some spares available. For more information, please contact Christine Clark 01889 505676. **Diary**

**Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> September and finally 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please come along and join us.**

## Returning to Down-End

Wrack slithers over flotsam on sea sucked sand;  
Waves slide into crevices  
Spinning and swirling in sudden splashings.

This is the cove as I remember it,  
Where childhood fantasies were played,  
And Man Friday's prints were lost in foaming tides.

Here, my children's children  
Climb the precipice to Neptune's throne,  
Ride the same limpeted Leviathans,  
Dive with Mermaids into fathomless pools.

I have lost count of holidays spent here,  
But relive now ,with laughing Pirates,  
Those blissful days  
Of eighty years ago.



*When I was young I lived by the sea near a small Village called Croyde, full of thatched cottages. I played on a little beach there called 'Down End.' My children's holidays were also spent there...playing the same games in the rock pools, climbing rocks and playing hide-and-seek in the sand dunes. Now my grandchildren play very similar games on those same rocks.  
Marian Baldwin.*

## JUBILEE PICTURE GALLERY: The Queen & Her Horses



Pictures of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were certainly the most popular, followed, not surprisingly perhaps, by her beloved Corgis! Her horses came a close 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

On this page, we have (TOP): a very happy Queen Elizabeth,

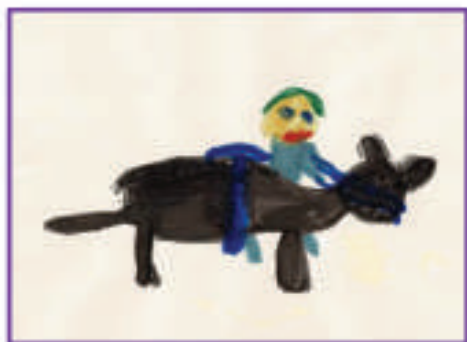
drawn by Lottie Heath, aged just 3. (BELOW): Isla Heath, aged 5, has drawn this detailed picture of Her Majesty.

Over the page, we have: (TOP ROW – L-R) a beautifully detailed sketch of The Queen by Aoife O’Leary, aged 8, and the Queen drawn by Freddie Spencer, also aged 8.



(MIDDLE ROW L-R): The Queen’s horses by Fae Ward, aged 8 and William Edwards, also aged 8.

And finally, (BOTTOM ROW L-R): The Queen by Emily O’Leary, aged just 5 and a very happy Queen by Isobel Evans, also aged 5. WELL DONE!



## FRANK SPENCER: HILDERSTONE'S BOMBER COMMAND HERO



Still remembered here in Hilderstone from World War Two is Flight Sergeant Frank Spencer, a bomb aimer on No 514 Sqn, Royal Air Force. His wife was Kathleen, and he was the son of Frank

and Elizabeth Spencer. He was killed on 16 June 1944, at the age of just 19, during the efforts to secure the D-day landings.

The Lancasters of 514 Sqn from RAF Waterbeach, near Cambridge, were tasked to bomb the railway yards at Valenciennes and it is recorded that Frank Spencer's Lancaster was shot down in the early hours by a Messerschmitt 110, flown by Oberleutnant Peter Ehrhardt, of a German night fighter squadron.

Frank Spencer is buried with his crewmates in a joint grave in Rieux Communal Cemetery, France and his name is on the War Memorial in Christ Church (on which he's been promoted from Flight Sergeant to Flight Lieutenant – and why not!).

Below the photograph of the crew, were written the words: Sergeant Frank Richard Spencer RAFVR was the son of Frank and Elizabeth Rose Spencer of Hilderstone, Staffordshire. He had an older brother George and younger sister Freda and was husband of Kathleen of Blackley,

Manchester. He did some of his earlier training in Oudtshoorn, South Africa. Five of the crew including Flight Sergeant Spencer rest in Rieux Communal Cemetery. Flight Sergeant Hutt rests in Iwuy Communal Cemetery, while Sergeant Bloom is remembered on Panel 235 of the Runnymede Memorial.

Photos courtesy of Barbara Thacker, research by Linda Ibrom'. You can read more about No 514 Sqn in the book, "Striking Through Clouds", by Simon Hepworth and Andrew Porrelli. *Jim Davies*

---

***Rose Mardling, the niece of Frank Spencer, who lives locally, comments:***

Our dad, George Spencer, was Uncle Frank's elder brother, who met our mum Nellie when he was stationed in Hexham, during the war. They married just before he was sent abroad with the 8th army. I was born in 1948, four years after Uncle Frank was killed.

Dad and Uncle Frank had a younger sister Freda {Wright} who was married to our Uncle Trevor. They had two children, our cousins Barbara Thacker [from whom the picture of Uncle Frank's squadron came from], and Stephen Wright. They too were born after Uncle Frank was killed.

We visited our Uncle Frank's grave, in Rieux Cemetery, near to Cambrai, in France many years ago. The Cemetery is an ordinary cemetery, not a War Cemetery, so our uncle is buried with local people, in the area in which he was killed, which I feel again is poignant and fitting. The inscription on his grave is from his wife, Kathleen. Local people tend the graves.

Times were very different post war to what they are now, our dad found it very difficult to talk about his brother's loss, which I think would not be unusual for those times and he did not wish to visit the grave, but remember his brother as the young man he was before his untimely death.



## Hilderstone Heritage: Part 37



Cotwalton Camp was built in Hilderstone Parish c1940, as the base for a searchlight unit. Ostensibly this was for protection against air raids on the Royal Ordnance Factory, Swynnerton.

The extract from the 1982 OS Map (*next page*) shows the camp next to Crossgate Barn. The Hilderstone Tithe Map of 1843 shows Cross Gate - the name having changed to Crossgate Barn by 1878. The camp was built on that part of Saw Pit Field abutting Rye Grass Field, and on [the] Leasow (pasture meadow). At the time of the tithe map all this land, including the



barn, was owned by John Bourne Esq, and occupied by John Brandon of Hilderstone Green Homestead (now Green Farm). The existence of a 'stand-alone' barn is not really surprising with the main farm being so far away.

*(Top): The huts at the camp shown at the end of the War.  
Above: a modern-day aerial view of the site.*



The following Keystone Press photographs were taken at Cotwalton Camp on 29th August 1946. The captions are "International Camp for Girls Organised by the National Association of Training Corps for Girls. Girls from Sweden, Holland and Belgium are in camp at Cotwalton, North Staffs,

with British girls as their hostesses."

The site continued to be used for camps up until the mid- 1970s. Granville and Alleyne's schools held summer camps there for a number of years. Several children from the village on such camps found themselves rather close to home, and as one said: "I could wave my parents goodnight".

Across the fields from the camp lay Hilderstone Brook and several rope swings were set up near Peakshill Wood for the youngsters, and these were still there in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

I believe the huts were removed in the mid-1980s, and the concrete searchlight bases levelled together with the rest of site, at a later date. A new house has been built on the site, whilst Crossgate Barn has now been converted to a dwelling.



*(ABOVE): "L to R - Bep Riemeyer from Oosterbeek, Holland; Dina Macrae, of the Isle of Skye; and Anita Rundberg of Sweden, make a happy study while in camp at Cotwalton."*

*(ABOVE RIGHT): "Happy study of a party of girls from Holland as they look out of their tent."*



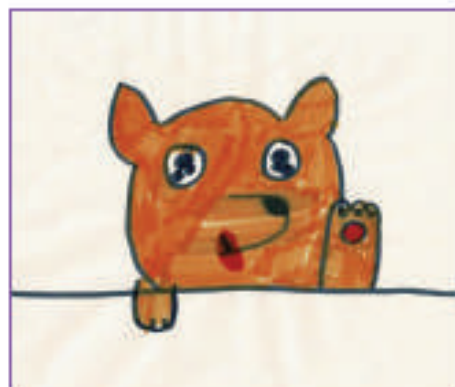
## JUBILEE PICTURE GALLERY: The final pictures



Last, but certainly not least in our Jubilee Picture Gallery are (ABOVE) a picture by Christopher Gordon-Creed, aged 6, with Her Majesty wearing a rather splendid crown and (BELOW) Bella Hughes, aged 6, has drawn this picture of one of the Queen's horses.



# Together we can make a Difference!



*Lilly Kite, aged 9, drew this happy Corgi. Her Majesty would love it!*

As you can see, Hilderstone is very much a thriving community, with a wide range of activities planned for this memorable Platinum Jubilee year. A good deal of effort goes into planning these events and your support is very much appreciated. Whether you get involved by sending articles or pictures to the Parish Magazine, decorate your house for the Jubilee weekend with colourful bunting, or just turn up and support

us, we do need your help to keep these activities going. So please read through our programme of activities and come and join in the fun - and celebrate community life.

You can help us make a difference in our community - whatever your skills, spare time or age. Here are just a few things to consider:

- *Litter picking.*
- *Churchyard Tidy-up Group.*
- *Send us your pictures, articles etc for our Parish Magazine.*
- *Make a donation towards the upkeep of the Parish Magazine.*
- *Recycle your old ink cartridges (see overleaf).*
- *Support our annual Best Kept Village initiative and keep our paths, driveways etc clean, tidy and attractive.*

Finally, thank-you to all those who have helped make this Jubilee Edition happen: the contributors of articles and pictures; the proof-readers and, of course, the advertisers. **We are grateful to you all.**

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Vicar There is currently no Incumbent at Christ Church.  
Churchwarden Audrey Stringer Tel: 01889 505638

**Parish Council:** 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month in the Village Hall

Parish Clerk Nikola Evans  
Email: [clerk@hilderstone.staffsfc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hilderstone.staffsfc.gov.uk)  
[www.hilderstone.org.uk](http://www.hilderstone.org.uk)

**Hilderstone W. I.:** 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, Hilderstone Village Hall.

President Miss Pat Saul Tel: 01785 812580

### **Hilderstone Village Hall:**

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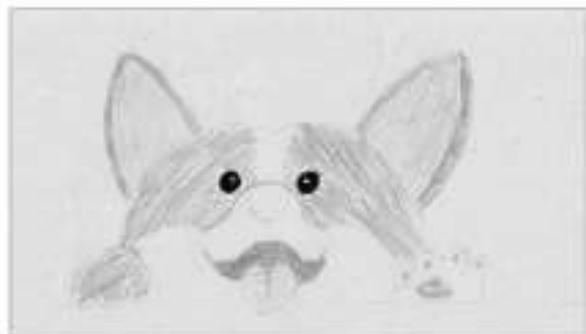
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### **Stafford Borough Councillor:**

Andrew Harp Tel: 01889 505400



*We just had to put this cute picture of the Corgi by Sam Handley into the magazine. Sam is the OLDEST member of the Youth Club, at 25, but he is a teacher, so that explains it!*

## Have a wonderful Summer Holiday from all the team on the Parish Magazine.



Let's hope we have a gloriously warm and sunny Summer this year, that we kick off our shoes and relax – be it in our glorious gardens, or on a beach, with ice cream or a cup of tea.

We would like to thank Marian Baldwin for her wonderful illustrations & Sue James, for her lovely seasonal graphics.

But a special 'thank you' to our young artists for their colourful Jubilee pictures.

### Parish Magazine Donations.

If you could help towards the cost of printing this magazine, we would be so grateful. Contact Phil Davies (Email: [phil.davies73@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.davies73@btinternet.com)).

### Advertising in the Parish Magazine.

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