

A photograph of a pheasant standing in a grassy field. The pheasant has a red head, a dark blue/black neck, and a white collar. Its body is covered in brown and black mottled feathers. The background shows a line of trees and a bright sky.

Christ Church Hilderstone
PARISH MAGAZINE

A celebration of village life
Autumn Edition 2023

WHAT'S ON:

SEPTEMBER:

Tuesday 12 th	W.I. – New meeting time	12.30pm – 3pm	Village Hall
Sunday 17 th	Harvest Celebration Family service	11.15am – 12.15pm	Christ Church
Monday 18 th	Harvest Supper & Auction	7pm – 10.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market With craft activities & Cafe	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Pop Up Pub With Pizza Co	5pm – *10pm	Village Hall

OCTOBER:

Monday 9 th	Licensing of Associate Minister With refreshments afterwards	7pm – 8.15pm 9.30pm	Christ Church Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th	W.I.	12.30pm – 3pm	Village Hall
Saturday 21 st	Village Dinner	7pm – 11pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market With craft activities & Café	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Pop-Up Pub With Track & Taste	5pm – *10pm	Village Hall

NOVEMBER:

Friday 10 th	Race Night	7pm – 10.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 11 th	Open Church: Remembrance	10am – 4pm	Christ Church
Sunday 12 th	Remembrance Service Open Church	10.45am – 11.45am 12pm – 4pm	Christ Church
Tuesday 14 th	W.I.	12.30pm – 3pm	Village Hall
Friday 24 th	Wreath-making Workshop with Ann Evans	6.30pm – 9.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market With craft activities & Café	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Wreath-making Workshop	2pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall

With Ann Evans

Pop-up Pub
With Untamed Grill

5pm – *10pm

Village Hall

DECEMBER:

Saturday 9 th	Christmas Arts & Crafts Market With craft activities & Café	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Christmas Tree Festival	10am – 2pm	Christ Church
Sunday 10 th	Christmas Tree Festival	2.30pm – 4pm	Christ Church
Tuesday 12 th	W.I. Christmas Lunch	12.30pm – 3pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 19 th	Table Centre Decorations Workshop with Ann Evans	7pm – 9pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23 rd	Village Christmas Panto With bar	7pm – 10pm	Village Hall
Sunday 24 th	Family Crib Service	4pm – 5pm	Christ Church
	Midnight Mass	9.45pm**	Christ Church

** To be confirmed.

Dates & Times may change. Please check in advance of an event.

**Last orders at the bar in the Village Hall are 10pm, with the bar closing at 10.30pm prompt.*

Recycle  Charity

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.

If you need your donation to be collected,
please call **Phil Davies on Tel: 01785 747836.**

Helping you Keep in Touch with Events:

Christ Church, Hilderstone:

Vicar To be confirmed shortly,
Churchwarden Audrey Stringer Tel: 01889 505638

Parish Council: 7.30pm on 4th Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall
Parish Clerk Nikola Evans, Email: clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk
www.hilderstone.org.uk. Visit their 'Events' page.

Hilderstone W. I.: 12.30pm – 3pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month.
President Mrs Gill Slater Tel: 01785 815953
Email: pinkingshears92@mail.com

Hilderstone Village Hall:

Bookings: Hallmaster booking service (on web site)
Tel: 07810 332559
Email: hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com

Facebook @HVH60, Twitter @hvh50, Instagram hilderstone_village_hall – Web Site www.hilderstonevillagehall.com. There is also an email service, notifying those on the mailing list of forthcoming events.

Neighbourhood watch:

Stone Ash Connor Tel: 01785 234129
Hilderstone Sue Stubbs Tel: 01889 505203

Staffs. County Councillor:

Ian Parry Tel: 07831 510381 Email: ian.parry@staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Councillor:

Karine Aspin Tel: 07498 325374 Email: Kaspin@staffordbc.gov.uk

V.I.N. (Village Information Network):

This email service notifies those on the mailing list of events, news, etc in the village or affecting those living here. Contact: richard.piicher1@btinternet.com.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our 'Letter from the Editor' is always the last page to be written by me: it comes as I breathe a sigh of relief that all the pages are full, and we are ready to go to print! It is also probably the most uplifting article to write, as it reflects on all the various pieces contained in the magazine and the many, many individuals who work so hard to make our community the active, fun and rewarding place it is to live in. In many villages or towns such people may be 'unsung heroes' but I hope this magazine goes a little way to bringing them out of the shadows and showing just what they do, and how hard they work for the greater good of our village and surrounding areas. They deserve our thanks.

As always, we have much to look forward to, including, we hope, an Indian Summer – I have had too few opportunities to sit outside in my garden with a glass of wine, opting instead for a warm cup of tea indoors as the rain pours down outside. We did, of course, make the most of our summer holiday season with the Big Village Party - the sun shone, and it was lovely and warm - but rain did get the better of our efforts with the Churchyard Tidy-up on several occasions. Undaunted, however, the intrepid gardeners managed to descend upon the churchyard, armed with hoes, rakes and spades, to wage war on the weeds (which have had a field day with all the rain) to make sure Christ Church was looking its best for the two weddings held in August.

As Autumn approaches, we look forward to Harvest at Christ Church (17th September) and the ever-popular Harvest Supper (18th September), with Hazel Woodward poised to put on a spectacular performance as Auctioneer for the third year running. And, of course, we have the Licensing of our new Associate Minister, Rev'd Lucinda Wray-Wear, and her Mentor, Rev'd Stuart Jones, on Monday 9th October. This is an opportunity for all in our community to come along and welcome Lucinda and join us for refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall. We do hope you can come along.

Finally, I do need to thank the wonderful contributors to the magazine and the team who help produce this publication. My special thanks to Ann and Harry Titley, who have steered us through the mammoth task of turning their plot into the magnificent garden it is today. My thanks also to Martin Philips, whose regular articles about the history of Hilderstone are so interesting. Thanks also to Charlie Hughes who, without fail, produces a selection of beautiful photographs for each edition. Yet again, Charlie has provided two great photographs which grace the front and back covers.

And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Debbie Britton and her Youth Club team; they have organised and supported so many of the activities in the village, as you can see from their regular appearances in photographs.

I am not sure if, as we approach the end of August, it is too early to mention Christmas (sorry if it is!), but it does bring with it much merriment and celebration in our village. For Christ Church, Christmas starts with the joyful Christmas Tree Festival (9 & 10 December) followed by the lovely Crib Service which is so popular with families (24th December). Christ Church looks magnificent with all the beautiful festive decorations, and I would urge you all to come alone and visit this historic church.

Of course, Christmas would not be the same without the would-be Thespians amongst us taking to the boards to produce the Hilderstone Christmas Show (23rd December). Like Christmas in Christ Church, this is a wonderful way to celebrate this special time of the year.

So, as you see, we have much to look forward to, and many happy memories of the Summer just gone by. On behalf of the Parish Magazine team, I wish you all well in the coming weeks, whether it is going back to school, university or work, or simply enjoying your well-earned retirement. We look forward to meeting you all at the many events over the next few weeks.

Eleanor Bane

Eleanor.bane@safersystems.co.uk

FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF HILDERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May I stated that, "Most of the householders in the village set an excellent example in the standard of the appearance and maintenance of their properties. It is unfortunate that Bill Holmes is no longer able to continue to make his splendid contribution in keeping up the appearance of the village, and we shall now have to rely increasingly on the work of our contractors."

Unfortunately, our current contractors have failed to carry out much of the work we've asked them to undertake. They are not paid for work they don't do but the jobs still need to be done, with the result that some areas of the village are looking neglected. Moreover, there are a few properties where overgrown hedges are impeding pedestrians. In conjunction with our Parish Clerk, your Parish Council is seeking a more reliable contractor, and formally reminding errant householders of their responsibility. Meanwhile, if any villager is interested in taking on the miscellaneous maintenance and gardening jobs in Hilderstone, please contact the Clerk (*see overleaf for contact details*).

There are, of course, other issues that affect us and for which we experience huge frustration in trying to achieve a resolution. That is because aspects, such street cleanliness and road maintenance, are the responsibility of other Councils – specifically Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County. Your Parish Council does its best to keep the pressure on them, and I'm pleased to see that some long-overdue repairs have been made to the traffic-calming build-outs. However, the list of such issues that we review at each Parish Council meeting never gets any shorter.

Nevertheless, while your Parish Council often gets frustrated by its limited authority, we remain firm in our efforts to get those to whom we pay our Council Tax to deliver the services we pay for. I may add that our

experience in Hilderstone is not unique. I am the current Chairman of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group, which includes all the parishes that comprise the informal community that is centred on Stone. Our neighbours share our frustrations and we continue to work together for mutual support and advice.

Finally, we have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you would like to consider joining us in our determination to get the best for our village, please contact the Clerk or speak to any of our current six councillors.

Jim Davies, Councillor & Chairman, Hilderstone Parish Council

Meetings

The Parish Council has changed its meeting to the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7.30pm, except for May when the meeting will start at 7pm. There are no meetings in August and December. They meet at Hilderstone Village Hall, Sandon Road, Hilderstone, ST15 8XS and agendas will be available to view on the Parish Council website <https://hilderstone.org.uk> generally 3 days before the meeting.

Participation in the Public Forum by members of the public

This Parish Council meets and makes its decisions in public and is committed to community engagement and, therefore, warmly invites members of the public, the press, the police, County and Borough Councillors to attend meetings and contribute within the public forum. A council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting held in public and there is no requirement in law to provide a public forum, but this council welcomes the opportunity to offer this facility.

Public participation will be for a period of 20 minutes.

The agenda will indicate when the public participation takes place. This will be early in the agenda so that Councillors may consider any views expressed when reaching their decisions. A maximum of five minutes is permitted for

a member of the public to speak, and only one person may speak on any agenda item. Two people may speak if opposing views are being expressed i.e. one for and one against a particular matter.

Supplementary comment or questions are solely at the discretion of the Chairman. No question may be repeated within a six-month period. Guidance notes: - Make the most of your five minutes by preparing notes carefully. If several people want to speak on the same item, try to get together in advance to pool your thoughts and choose the best person to speak for all.

26th September 2023		From 7.30pm
24th October 2023		From 7.30pm
28th November 2023		From 7.30pm
December 2023		No Meeting
23rd January 2024		From 7.30pm
27th February 2024		From 7.30pm
26th March 2024		From 7.30pm
23rd April 2024		From 7.30pm
28th May 2024	Annual Public Meeting	From 7pm
28th May 2024	Annual Parish Council Meeting	From 7.30pm
25th June 2024		From 7.30pm
23rd July 2024		From 7.30pm
August 2024		No meeting
24th September 2024		From 7.30pm
22nd October 2024		From 7.30pm
26th November 2024		From 7.30pm
December 2024		No meeting

Highways and Rights of way issues

These can be reported direct to Staffordshire County Council.

https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/?utm_medium=govdelivery&utm_source=email#divSelectionHeader. Alternatively, you can report them to the Clerk, and the following information will be required.

- Exact location
- Fault details
- Pictures

Parish Council Contact Details

Email: clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk

Tel: 07971226170

Address:

45 Thorn Close, Brereton, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1TA

You can contact the Clerk between 9.30am and 2pm, Monday to Friday. Please note the Clerk only works 5 hours per week, resulting in possible delays in response times.

Hilderstone W.I.

As you would expect of the Hilderstone W.I., they have been busy over the last few months and have plenty planned for the next few weeks also, as you can see below.

June saw us move to our new meeting time of 12.30 – 3pm in Hilderstone Village Hall and this seems to have been well-received. We hope this new time will appeal to potential new members who may have young families and cannot attend evening meetings.



Our dedicated W.I. were busy baking for their first attendance as stall holders at the monthly Craft Market & Café in the Village Hall. The stall, offering a wonderful array of cakes, was a sell-out, raising £105. We also assisted at the Café during the afternoon Big Village Party. We are planning to have a stall at the next two Hilderstone Craft Markets, selling handmade

crafts so do please come along and support us.

We had a fantastic speaker in July, Ian Goodship, talking about his work as a frontline paramedic and suffering with PTSD. It was a very emotional talk. We knitted some special trauma bears for children whose parents are involved in accidents, which we hope will help them in difficult times. As you can see, we have Ambulance Bears and Paramedic Bears amongst our woolly team of bears (see *OVERLEAF – a lovely array of happy bears*).



August saw us at Oak Tree Farm for our annual summer outing, which was lovely (see LEFT), whilst at our September meeting (12th September) we welcome the Manager of the Gatehouse Theatre,

Stafford, talking about actors and ghosts who have walked the theatre boards.

October is our 89th birthday meal (pre-ordering in September), in November we welcome a financial advisor who will give us advice on how to look after our nest eggs, whilst in December we celebrate with our Christmas party, complete with entertainment and buffet.

We are busy knitting and crocheting Remembrance Poppies for the service on 12th November at Christ Church and making plans for our 90th birthday celebration next year.

As always, new members will be welcomed with a hot drink and a smile! For more details of our meetings, please see the What's On page in this magazine.

Gill Slater, President, Hilderstone W.I.

HILDERSTONE VILLAGE HALL



Whilst for many of us, July may be the time to relax into holiday mode, there was no sign of the Village Hall committee members taking a step back from their activities.

Thanks to the generous donation of fencing by Quant, through their manufacturer Liniar, the committee got to work installing the smart new fence around the wildlife garden and pond area. And, as you can see (*LEFT and BELOW*) it was hard work, with Mike Shelley on his knees digging holes! Thank you to all those who turned up to help install the new

fence. We are planning to plant some wildflowers etc to help the wildlife in our area and already have a family of hedgehogs in residence, complete with hedgehog house.

Let's hope we have a glorious Indian Summer to enjoy drinks out in the garden during our monthly Pop-up pub nights.

Booking your venue has never been easier, thanks to the introduction of the Hallmaster system on the Village Hall website. Now the event calendar will show if the hall is free when you wish to hold your event, giving you the option to make a booking. Simply go to www.hilderstonevillagehall.com click on 'Contacts and Bookings' and you will land on the Hallmaster booking page, with the diary showing availability.



By simply clicking on the + sign at the top of the day in question, you are taken to a booking page, where you provide all the relevant information



about your event and then 'submit'. You will then receive an email confirming your booking (if the hall is free).

This online booking system has been trialled by the village hall since February this year to ensure it provided the easiest and most reliable reservations process we could offer. We have been delighted at how simple this service is to use and are now rolling it out.

Naturally, we are aware that there are those in the village who do not wish to use an online booking system. We are therefore continuing with the telephone service, with the Booking Secretary and email (*see contact details below*). As the post of Booking Secretary is a voluntary one, we would ask that you allow time for the booking to be reviewed and a response given.

We are here to help anyone who is unsure about using this new system, but please be assured it offers a quick and simple booking service, as you can see immediately if the hall is free and make a booking with a few simple steps.

Hallmaster booking service

Tel:

Email:

www.hilderstonevillagehall.com

07810 332559

hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com

THE BIG VILLAGE PARTY



Now in its third year, the Hilderstone Big Village Party on 29th July, was a great success. The day of celebrations kicked off with the monthly Arts & Craft Market in the Village Hall and ended with a show-stopping evening, with a family-focused afternoon of children's activities in-between. There was simply something for everyone, and the

village came out in force to support the event.

The market saw a great turn-out; indeed, such was the demand for breakfasts in the café, that additional tables had to be placed in the main hall. We were also delighted to welcome the W.I. for the first time. They had clearly been busy baking for the event, as a wonderful array of cakes were on display and all were sold before the end of the market.

There were also our usual stalls too, offering Body Shop products, lovely hand crafted items and beautiful wooden toys, plus, of course, Barbara's ever-popular fresh oatcakes and full-English breakfasts. We also had the second of our three Book Exchanges.

*ABOVE: Busy market at the Village Hall.
RIGHT: Ann Davies puts on a good show
with the Nerf gun.*





No sooner had the market closed and the fun began for the children. The weather-watchers amongst us had been checking their apps in the run-up to the afternoon's activities, but luckily the sun shone, the ice cream van appeared. Much fun was had with buckets of water, stocks, sweets, Nerf Guns (OVERLEAF), racing cars and a bouncy castle in the garden area at the back of the village hall.



Of course, no village celebration would be complete without a little music and dancing. Andy Reiss and Katie Leeming from 'Beyond the Barricade' performed live at our evening Pop-up Pub.

They had a little help from members of the audience, including a lovely impromptu performance by Isobel Evans, assisted by Andy (OVERLEAF). Andy was also joined by Julie Britton, who put on a superb performance, singing a duet with Andy and by the fabulous John Hill.

Aside from the singing, there was much dancing to be had too, with John Hill and Dee Harvey strutting their stuff by the bar, and Dee and myself being invited to do a little





ABOVE: Dee Harvey and John Hill putting their best foot forward at the bar.

RIGHT: Andy encouraging Isobel Evans to take a turn with the mic.



turn when Andy was singing (although I doubt we will get a repeat booking based on our dance moves!)

The evening also featured a bar to complement the wonderful mouth-watering Mediterranean food from The Travelling Taverna. It was the perfect end to a wonderful day of fun and celebrations.

By the end of the evening, the village had been busy celebrating for over 12 hours and some of us were very happy to eventually put our feet up after a spectacular event.

Many thanks to Andy Reiss for all his hard work co-ordinating the event and to the villagers for supporting us, once again.

Hilderstone Village Dinner

Saturday 21st October, 7pm - 11pm

Theme for this year is **Around the World**

Pick your own country for food, style & costumes and book your table at £25 per table. Max. 8 people per table with hall capacity limited to 64, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Visit the Hilderstone Village Hall Facebook page for details.



Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper is on

Monday 18th September 2023

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

Hilderstone Youth Club

We have been very busy lately at Youth Club and are very thankful to a small number of children who ran our Science Table at the Big Village Party in July on behalf of Youth Club. Special thanks to Leanne for heading this up on our behalf, with William and Isobel and the other children who joined in to help on the day. I think the Coke and Mentos were a hit with the families who attended our children's activities. Our Youth Club has had a break over the summer holidays, but we are looking forward to meeting again in September when the schools start back.

Our plans for September include trying some science experiments in our Youth Club sessions, as some of our children are keen to try these experiments following all the fun of the science stall at the Big Village Party.

For more information, please contact Debbie on Tel: 07989130014. We can't wait to see you all soon.

Debbie, Hannah and Holly

The Village Hall Lottery Draw

We have just 21 free balls left so if you fancy buying a ball and entering our monthly lottery, please email: hilderstonevillagehall@gmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS:

May:			June:			July:		
Ball:	55	£100	Ball:	87	£100	Ball:	53	£100
	7	£ 50		15	£ 75		36	£ 50
	63	£ 25		37	£ 50		83	£ 25
	56	£ 10		34	£ 40		31	£ 10
	80	£ 10		23	£ 30		16	£ 10

Cooks Tips: Chocolate Gingerbread

Ingredients

175g butter
2 tbsp caster sugar
200g black treacle
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
250ml milk
40g cocoa powder

125g dark muscovado sugar
200g golden syrup
¼ tsp ground cloves
2 tsp ground ginger
2 eggs
275g plain flour
175g chocolate chips

For the icing

30g Butter
250g icing sugar

1 tbsp cocoa powder

Method

In a decent size saucepan melt the butter, along with the sugar, golden syrup, treacle and spices. In a cup, dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in 2 tablespoons of warm water. Take the saucepan off the heat and beat in the eggs, milk and bicarb solution. Stir in the flour and cocoa and beat with a spoon to mix. Fold in the chocolate chips and pour the mixture into a lined roasting tin (approx. 30cm x 20cm x 5cm deep) and bake in a preheated oven (gas 3) for 45 minutes, until risen and firm. It should be slightly damp underneath the set top.

Place the tin on a wire rack to cool.

For the icing, heat the butter & cocoa in a heavy-based saucepan. Once the butter has melted, sift in the icing sugar, whisking it thoroughly.

Lift the cooled gingerbread out of the tin and remove the paper. Pour over the icing to just cover the top and cut into slices when set.



Autumn From Our Bedroom Window

by Harry Titley

The field below is wreathed in mist;
It ebbs and flows. Like sunlight kissed
The night spun webs; their jewels are twinkling.
The heavy dew has started sprinkling
The sodden grass beneath the Oak.
The fallen leaves create a cloak
Just like a carpet on the ground,
Once green, then golden, now are browned.
A single gust disturbs more leaves,
The burnished ground gladly receives.
Like wingless moths they flutter down
Revealing boughs of darkened brown
To settle on the wet ground, then fast
Diminishing the greenness of the grass.
It seems from nowhere comes a breeze,
Disturbing stock and shaking trees.
A ribbon of mist makes cattle seem headless
And bleating sheep appear to be legless.
It's beyond the limits of human perception,
But it's only Nature's unique deception.
Like candle smoke the mist's soon gone.
The stock to greener fields moves on.
The sun is rising; a new dawn is breaking.
Yesterday's bird feed is there for the taking.
The morning magic has drifted away.
It's time to make ready for another day.

Welcome to our new Associate Minister



We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Associate Minister at Christ Church Hilderstone. Rev'd Lucinda Wray-Wear takes up her post following her Licensing on 9th October 2023 and will live at the Vicarage in Fulford.

This is a new role, Christ Church having previously had a House-for-Duty Vicar. Lucinda is a self-

supporting minister, in full-time employment, working for the Venerable Dr Megan Smith, Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent and, as such, her work at our Benefice will be different to that of previous clergy. In essence, this means that Lucinda will prepare and conduct the weekly services on Sundays at both parishes (Hilderstone and Fulford) and provide pastoral care for several hours per week. Lucinda will, however, continue her current post as PA to the Archdeacon, Monday – Friday.

This is Lucinda's first appointment following her successful training as a Curate in the Benefice of Prees, Edstaston and Whixall in North Shropshire. As an Associate Minister, Lucinda and the Churchwardens will benefit from the appointment of a Mentor, the Rev Stewart Jones, Vicar at the parish church of St John the Baptist, Barlaston, who will offer support and guidance to both Lucinda and the Churchwardens.

In Lucinda, we are blessed with enthusiasm and commitment to help us as a small rural community in our spiritual path. The fact that Lucinda is a very experienced fund-raiser, keen gardener and dog-lover is an added bonus!

We are looking forward to working closely with Lucinda in this new role. As she will have limited hours to commit to the two parishes, the PCCs will endeavour to help create a programme of support, to ensure both the community and Lucinda thrive with this new appointment.

We are sure you will join us in welcoming Lucinda to our Benefice. Lucinda will be Licensed at **7pm on Monday 9th October in Christ Church Hilderstone**, alongside her Mentor, the Rev'd Stuart Jones. This Licensing Service will be followed by refreshments in Hilderstone Village Hall. We extend a warm welcome to all those in our community to come and join in this special event.

Lucinda has written our 'Letter from the Vicar' for this issue by way of an introduction to her new post.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Hello! My name is Lucinda Wray-Wear and I am delighted to have been appointed as your Associate Minister in the benefice of Fulford-in-Stone and Hilderstone.

But, first, a little about myself. I grew up in rural North Yorkshire, going to boarding school at the age of 11 years where chapel was a regular part of the curriculum. Somewhat later in life (in 2005 to be exact) and whilst working at Worcester Cathedral as Fundraising Manager, I began to sense an insistent 'niggling' that God was calling me in some particular way. I subsequently left the Cathedral, moving to Shrewsbury to take up a post in the Development Office of Shrewsbury School. The 'niggling' feeling,

however, persisted and, ultimately, with the blessing of my sending church of St Chad's, Shrewsbury, I began my ministerial training at Queen's Theological Foundation, Birmingham.

I was ordained deacon in 2018 at Lichfield Cathedral and moved to Uttoxeter to begin my curacy in the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes. The following year I was ordained priest and towards the end of 2019 I moved back to Shropshire to serve a further two years curacy at Christ Church, Little Drayton.

During this period, I felt more and more drawn to rural ministry and so, in my final year of curacy, I joined the PEW Group (shorthand for Prees, Edstaston and Whixall), in the beautiful and somewhat remote, north Shropshire/Welsh border.

Being a Self-Supporting Minister, I do not receive a stipend and therefore financially I support my own ministry which I do by working for the Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent, the Ven Dr Megan Smith.

For relaxation, I enjoy taking part in a number of country pursuits including fly-fishing (I am an enthusiastic amateur!), gardening and finding new walks with Lundy, my blue-merle collie cross lurcher.

Suffice to say, I am very much looking forward to ministering alongside you and to meeting many of you at my licensing on the 9th October 2023.

With peace and blessings to you all,

Lucinda

From the Registers:

Baptism: 1st July 2023 Betsy and Killian Goater

We warmly welcome Betsy and Killian into God's family.



ABOVE: A Pitch forks 'salute' for David and Rebecca as they leave the church.

Weddings:

29th July 2023

David William Benbow and
Rebecca Jane Phillips

19th August 2023

Richard Anthony Hammond and
Emily Beth Frearson

*Congratulations and best wishes
for the future to both couples.*

Funerals:

25th July 2023

Annie Elizabeth Brassington

*We extend our sympathies to
Annie's family and friends.*

Church Matters: Readings & Prayers

Date	Service	Reading 1	Reading 2	Visiting Cleric
6 th August	Trinity 9	Romans 9 1-5	Matthew 14 13-21	Alan Betts
13 th August	Trinity 10	Romans 10 5-15	Matthew 14 22-33	Linda Lucking
20 th August	Trinity 11	Romans 11 1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15 [10-20]21-28	Gerald Gardiner
27 th August	Trinity 12	Romans 12 1-8	Matthew 16 13-20	Graham Fowell
3 rd Sept	Trinity 13	Romans 12 9-21	Matthew 16 21-28	Alan Betts
10 th Sept	Trinity 14	Romans 13 8-14	Matthew 18 15-20	John Sterling

17 th Sept	Harvest & Trinity 15	Romans 14 1-12	Matthew 18 21-35	John Sterling
24 th Sept	Trinity 16	Philippians 1 21-30	Matthew 20 1-16	Roy Ball
1 st October	Trinity 18	Philippians 2 1-13	Matthew 21 23-32	Gerald Gardiner
8 th October	Trinity 19	Philippians 3 4b-14	Matthew 21 33-46	Linda Lucking
9 th October	LICENSING OF ASSOCIATE MINISTER & MENTOR			Hildertone 7pm
15 th October	Trinity 20	Philippians 4 1-9	Matthew 22 1-14	
22 nd October	Trinity 21	1 Thess. 1 1-10	Matthew 22 15-22	
29 th October	Bible Sunday	Colossians 3 12-17	Matthew 24 30-35	
5 th Nov	4th before Advent	John 1 3. 1-3	Matthew 23 1-12	
12 th Nov	REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE			10.45 am
19 Nov		1 Thess. 5 1-11	Matthew 25 14-30	
26 th Nov	Christ The King	Ephesians 1 15-23	Matthew 25 31-46	
3 rd Dec	1 st Sunday of Advent	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13 24-37	
10 th Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent	2 Peter 3 8-15a	Mark 1 1-8	
17 th Dec	3 rd Sunday of Advent	1 Thess. 5 16-24	John 1 6-8,19-28	

CHURCH NEWS:

As always, we are most grateful to those in our village who support Christ Church. We would like to extend a special 'thank you' to Charlie Hughes who, along with his family, have been working on the maintenance of the churchyard and car park. Charlie undertook this work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and is a regular attendee at our Churchyard Tidy-up Sessions. We wish Charlie every success in his Award and are so grateful for all he, and his family, do to help us keep our church grounds looking so

good. Thanks also to Margaret of Mount Nurseries who kindly planted up the flower boxes outside Christ Church with lovely Begonias.

We would also like to make a special mention to the Hilderstone Women's Institute, which has kindly offered to help us decorate the church for Remembrance Day and the Remembrance Service, by knitting and crocheting poppies for us. We look forward to working alongside the W.I. in preparing the church for this important event.

We will open the church at 10.00am on Saturday 11th November until 4pm, for those who will not be attending the Remembrance Service but wish to pay their respects. We will also hold an Open Church following the Remembrance Service, until 4pm on the Sunday. All are welcome to come along and see the Remembrance displays and remember all those who have served and are serving in our armed forces.

Churchyard Tidy-Up



Coffee break! From LEFT to RIGHT: Clive Hughes, Louise Hughes, Charlie Hughes, Eleanor Bane, Susan Evans, Sue Pilcher, Simon Shaw and Sue James-Heath.

Well, at last we were able to have our monthly Church Yard Tidy-Up, having had to postpone for three months due to rain. The weather has really been 'against' us this year, but Saturday 19th August seemed more promising, and, after a short shower, we were able to start.

As every gardener knows, this year the weeds have really grown in abundance but, with a

strong turnout of 11 volunteers, in two and a half hours the entrance to the church, the steps and gravel paths had been transformed. The four members who take on the tidying of the car park have also made a real difference and the herbaceous border is looking very nice and colourful too.

The actual churchyard is looking particularly colourful with the lovely orange wildflowers commonly known as 'Fox-and-Cubs' (*Pilosella Aurantiaca*) giving a vibrant splash of colour. It was particularly important to get the church grounds looking smart for the afternoon village wedding. We were able to get everything done and away by 12 noon, just in time.

We have two more monthly meetings this season and we would welcome anyone else who would like to join us for the 2-hour session. Please let me know if you would like further information.

Christine Clark (01889 505676)

Church Yard Tidy Updates: September 16th 10-12 noon
October 21st 10-12 noon



Christmas Tree Festival

9th – 10th December 2023

The beautiful and historic church of Christ Church Hilderstone makes the perfect setting for this special festive event.

Everyone will be welcome to visit the church to enjoy this family-friendly Festival and maybe indulge in a glass of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

If you are a business, organisation, or group (such as family or friends), why not design and decorate a Christmas Tree? Each tree comes complete with lights.

**All proceeds from the festival will go to the
Christ Church Access for All Project.**



*For more information on sponsoring a tree, please contact Simon on:
SA.shaw@rocketmail.com.*

LEST WE FORGET ... The Fallen of Hilderstone

As we approach Remembrance Day on 11th November, we wanted to produce a small write-up of all those men from our community who died during the two World Wars. Sadly, we do not have photographs of all of the boys, but those that we have are shown below.

Pte John Arnold (shown RIGHT). The son of a cabinet maker in Longdon, John lived in Sandon Road in 1911, until emigrating to Australia in 1915, where he enlisted in the 55th Australian Infantry. He was reported missing in action at Fromelles, France, on 20th July 1916, aged 32.



Lieutenant Ralph Bourne. Born in 1894 in Argentina, Ralph lived at Hilderstone Hall with his family in 1901. Ralph joined the Brigade 158 Royal Field Artillery, and was sadly killed in action on 19th September 1917 at Coxyde, Belgium, aged just 23.



Pte James Hazelhurst (pictured LEFT). James' father, George, lived at South View, Hilderstone but James lived in Hanley and worked on the railways. Sadly, James died of his wounds at Ypres, France, on 14th July 1915, aged just 26, having only served in France for 16 weeks.

Pte John James (pictured overleaf). Killed at just 19 years of age in Arras, France, John James was the youngest young man from Hilderstone to sign up.

His father was a Wheelwright in Hilderstone but, as the second son, John did not learn the trade, so was a farm labourer. John signed up in 1916 and joined the East Yorkshire Regiment (the Hull Commercials).



Pte Charles E. Salmon. Born in Clayton, Stoke-on-Trent, Charles lived in Rough Close in Hilderstone as a farm labourer. At the age of 18, Charles emigrated to Australia in 1913, enlisting in the Australian Army at Freemantle in 1916. He died at Amiens, France on 28th March 1918 aged 24, having served in the 44th Battalion Australian Infantry.

Sgt William Turner. William died at Ypres, France, aged 28, on 9th October 1917, having served in 'C' Battery, 95th Battalion of the Royal Field Artillery. William lived for some time with his parents at The Roebuck Inn, with his father also working as a Butcher and Farmer at Home Farm. The 1911 Census shows William as a 'Farmer's Son'.

Gunner George Waldron. George lived at the Old Post Office in Hilderstone with his wife, Mary Ann (nee Meddings), who was the village Post Mistress. Serving in the 359 Siege Artillery, George died of his wounds at Ebbinghem, Dunkirk, on 17th April 1918, aged 41.

Pte William Wilkinson. William is our 'unknown soldier' as, despite extensive research, little is known of him. We remember his courage and sacrifice nonetheless, along with all those from our community each year.

We also remember with gratitude **Sgt Frank Spencer** of 514 Squadron, who was killed near Cambrai on 15/16th June 1944. Frank was serving as Bomb Aimer on board Lancaster Mk II LL690 coded JI-J during an operation to bomb the railway yards at Valenciennes. Frank was the son of Frank and Elizabeth Rose Spencer of Hilderstone.

To mark the centenary of the ending of the Great War, the PCC at Christ Church re-sited the Roll of Honour, which had originally been housed at Hilderstone School but, on its closure, was erected inside the church. This

now proudly stands in the South Aisle. The names of all those who served in both World Wars are listed on this memorial and read out at each Remembrance Day service.

Each year the church is decorated with poppies in readiness for this special act of remembrance and this year the W.I. has kindly agreed to knit and crochet poppies for us.

We have also been honoured to have former serving personnel attending the services, for which we are most grateful. Their presence is particularly poignant as it reminds us that war continues to affect our serving personnel and it is as much about remembering their bravery and commitment as those boys who lost their lives in the two World Wars. We extend a special invitation to all those in our community who have served in the forces to join us in our act of remembrance at this service.



*ABOVE (Left to Right):
Steven Bone, Christine
Clark, Rev'd Roy Ball, Dee
Harvey and Iain Britton.*

As Remembrance Day falls on a Saturday this year, we will be holding an Open Church all day (from 10am – 4pm on both Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th November, with our Remembrance Day service taking place at 10.45am on the Sunday. If you would like to visit the church without attending the service, you are most welcome to come along any time during Open Church.

If you have any photographs of our boys from both World Wars, please contact us so we can update our memorial display. Please contact Audrey Stringer, Churchwarden (contacts on Page 1).

Christ Church will be open:

Saturday 11 th November (Remembrance Day):	10.00am – 4pm
Sunday 12 th November:	Service - 10.45am
	Open Church - 11.45am – 4pm

Hilderstone Heritage, Part 42

I have been fortunate in obtaining a fascinating piece of history pertaining to the village: a letter sent on 3rd August 1842 to a Mrs Calkin, Hilderstone. Remarkably, the original postage stamp and part of the wax seal are still in place (*BELOW*).



What is unusual is that the letter is written by two people, overwriting each other but one is written horizontally and one vertically. Presumably this was to save money as postage and writing paper would have been quite costly at that time.

There were three priorities for me: to decipher the contents of the letter; to determine who sent it; and to find out more about Mrs Calkin.

The 1841 census lists an Ellis Calkin (mentioned in the letter), aged 35; his wife, Barbara aged 25; and a son, George, aged 15 months. By using the 1841 tithe map, it seems likely the Calkins lived at High Elms, Cresswell Road.

However, the family do not actually appear on the tithe register, which probably means that they moved to Hilderstone before 1841, but after the survey of the village had been taken.

Further research (much of it done by Laura) revealed that Barbara Calkin (nee Varnam) was born in Appleby, Leicestershire in 1816. She married Ellis James Calkin at St. Michael's Church, Stone, on 20th April 1839.

Records show some discrepancy in Ellis' birth date - 12th April 1803 or 1806. We do know that Ellis was a dancing master and later a (school) principal, and that he died on 16th November 1849 in Burslem.

The Calkins must have moved to Rushton Spencer between 1844 and 1849. Barbara is listed in the 1851 census as living there with her three children. Her profession was school mistress.

Ellis and Barbara's children were all born in Hilderstone - George Alfred (1840 - 1882), Ellis Varnam (1841 - 1907) and Bernard (1844 - 1876).



In the 1861 census Barbara, now listed as a draper, was living in Kings Norton, Birmingham, where she died the following year, 1862. Interestingly the 1841 census lists two other people living with the Calkins: Jane Smith, aged 15, and Sarah Varnam, aged 30. It is likely that Jane was a live-in servant and that Sarah was Barbara's elder sister.

To be continued.....

Martin Philips

BEHIND THE HEDGE – The White Garden



I didn't get off to a very good start at the beginning of our life at St. Mary's Cottage. After moving from our daughter's home, where we had lived for three months, I was straining at the leash to get stuck into our new cottage and garden. I was afraid my precious tools might be gathering rust in Horsley's security-minded, climate-controlled unit, but I needn't have worried, everything was in mint condition when it arrived.

At the first opportunity I donned my gardening gear, gathered together my precious hand forged tools, sped into what we now call our White Garden and started to dig like a terrier with Rabies looking for a lost bone. Now I'll hold off a bit with my story, not just because I am still embarrassed with myself for what I did, but also because my first name is William. I don't mean I am embarrassed by my name, but just to tell you that Ann has about one hundred other names for me, most not half as polite as 'Barger Bill'. Every time I step outside, she warns me to be careful, as I'm sure she did on this occasion, but was much too polite to hook my braces to the door knocker.

Well! Here goes. After digging two rows of relatively soft ground at a lunatic rate, I hit some hard stuff. Out came Granddad's pick and, it seemed before long, I had a stack of handmade house bricks high enough to rebuild the old cottage. After stopping for a breather, I realised that something was wrong. I discovered I was digging up the soakaway for the septic tank. I went inside for a coffee and a sit down and found I couldn't get up again. I had put my back out. After Ann's severe lecture, which lasted all of two weeks' recovery

time, I was allowed out again having promised to stay in a very low gear and have my braces securely wrapped around the door knocker.

During my frustrating period of inactivity, I reflected on my physical fitness. Not too bad, but "come on!" I said to myself, "I am in my fifties and in spite of having been told my blood pressure is as good as a twenty-one-year-old, DON'T ACT LIKE ONE."

I looked back on my schooldays when I first handled a spade. I was the idiot who always volunteered for the dirty, heavy jobs. Here, on the photo, at eleven, I was finishing off laying the base for the school greenhouse. I've just noticed I must have forgotten my wellies. I seem to remember we weren't allowed to do gardening without wellies, so why am I claying up my only, highly polished (by my dad) shoes. Probably because I was the only willing horse they had in class and the teacher let it go. At least I see I turned my trouser bottoms up to save getting it in the neck from my dad twice when I arrived home. How I didn't serve my national service in the Sappers, I don't know. Perhaps I kept my mouth zipped up for a change!



After doing a 'technical horticultural' survey with my pick, I came to the conclusion that the White Garden was undiggable and lost interest. However, although it was the last garden to be completed, I occasionally had the odd dabble, more to reduce the ugliness of the plot rather than create a garden out of it. I think it likely that in the 1960's when the cottage was re-vamped, the septic tank, filter bed and soakaway were sited there because it was the smallest and least visible

of all the gardens. The problem I had was how to camouflage it. After clearing all the rubbish, I used the patch to pile up all the garden waste for burning. Those of you who drove past during the 80's and 90's may remember the clouds of smoke passing over the road. Understandably, I had a few toots and rude retorts. You won't believe it, but I always waited for a westerly wind before putting a match to the fire. The regularity of my bonfires was, it seems, infinite. I think there were times that they never went out! Not long after John died, one of the brothers next door, Ray, the other brother, asked if he could throw John's clothes on the bonfire. Of course, I agreed, and we stood there soaking up the warmth and chewing the fat - that is, until Ann came out. "Oh! look at that!" she said, "those flames look like the shape of a man." Ray, always a bit fearful of being haunted, took off at a rate of knots, left his profile in the hedge, not to be seen again for at least another three weeks!



The filter bed was difficult to hide. It stuck out like a neglected council public loo! Because the White Garden is higher than the cottage foundations, the water had to be pumped up. The filter bed had to be above ground, thereby making it difficult to hide. I recruited my two grandchildren to help with the painting, while I laid the base for the greenhouse; sounds like a case of *deja vu*.

We have three gates accessing the White Garden. The one on the left, I made out of old scaffolding boards. The nameplate, Ann and Harry's Garden, was given to us by a very special friend. The rustic one on the right was made by Tom, our grandson. He wanted to celebrate Ann's recovery from a long bout of Covid. He had the small plaque made. It reads Ann's 'Arc de Triomphe'.

In the early 1990's, I was flipping through the pages of a gardening magazine when I came across an article that made me sit up. The title was "Cover up

that Untidy Place". Well! just what I needed; I had an acre of them. The example was shown against an old wall. "How about the front of the filter bed? I thought. Briefly, it was a simple DIY semicircular pond built with old stones and lumps of rock that might be lying around. I had tons of them. So, I set to and made one for next to nothing other than paying for a strip of butyl lining and a few slabs that made



another occasional seat. My daughter gave me the Green Man for my birthday. The positive result was, it hid a real ey sore and rarely froze over because of the transfer of heat from the filter bed. The main reason I tell this story is to show that sometimes projects can be achieved for very little outlay, and I like that. Why the White Garden? We like white plants.

The Sunshine Garden

Within a few days of arriving at St Mary's Cottage, we had a visit from a local lady. At that time there were three gates to access the cottage from the road and you could park your car on the road. Yes! YOU COULD PARK YOUR CAR ON THE ROAD. Amazing, isn't it? I only mention this because this lady was able to park her car outside the gate by our front door, which is situated alongside what we now call our Sunshine Garden. She was a matronly looking soul and after introducing herself, welcomed us to the village. She was amazed at the size of the garden and pointed to the one and only flower we had. "That's a Lupin" she said and toddled off as though so pleased with herself for having been the font of all knowledge and having passed on to us such a pearl of horticultural wisdom!!

A few months later I walled up the two small gates, built the apron and re-sited the gate further into the drive. I understand up until the mid-eighties a by-pass had been considered for Hilderstone, but the decision was made to build The Meadows instead.



The reason we gave the Sunshine Garden its name was because it is on the north facing side of the cottage and, other than midsummer, doesn't get any sunshine at all. So, when planning its borders, we had to plant those shrubs that appeared to give off sunshine and were shade-loving. Initially, we planted

Choisya 'Sundance', Heleniums and Ligularias mainly, and anything that strongly projected yellow. Later, we introduced other plants like Persicarias, Heucheras, Hebes and Penstemons, as seen in the photograph. The eye-shaped centre was determined by the natural shape of the garden. We initially turfed it until a few years ago when we were plagued with moles. We gave Steve Matthews of Green Theme Landscapes a call and he laid a coloured Indian Sandstone patio in the same shape and did us a first-rate job, (his advert is at the back of the magazine).

Because this garden is overlooked from the kitchen window, we felt it important to have these kinds of plants in the borders. It was also the first garden to have a bird feeding station. The main problem was, it was the site of the old cottage and I had to dig up its foundation before I could plant anything. Thank goodness for my Granddad's pick! We planted the internal hedges, Viburnum tinus and Laurel, periodically. During their growth, we shaped an arch that gives easy access to and from the drive and is useful for deliveries.

This poem is written by Laurie Lee; a favourite writer of ours. It was written when Laurie was struggling to satisfy his Editors



to meet their submission date. It wasn't until midnight before the day he had to deliver, that the poem came to him.

Laurie writes about the dream-like passage through life to its inevitable closure using the seasons and, really, that nothing is permanent.

Field of Autumn

Slow moves the acid breath of noon
Over the copper-coated hill,
Slow from the wild crab's coated breast
The palsied apples fall.

Like coloured smoke the day hangs fire,
Taking the village without sound,
The vulture-headed sun lies low
Chained to the violet ground.

The horse upon the rocky height
Rolls all the valley in his eye,
But dares not raise his foot or move
His shoulder from the fly.
The sheep, snail-backed against the wall,
Lifts her blind face, but does not know
The cry her blackened face gives forth
Is the first bleat of snow.

Each bird and stone, each roof and well
Feels the gold foot of Autumn pass;
Each spider binds with glittering stare
The splintering bones of grass.

Slow moves the hour that sucks our life,
Slow drops the late wasp from the pear,
The rose tree's thread of scent draws thin –
And snaps upon the air.

Harry Titley

annandharrytitley@hotmail.co.uk; Tel: 07484 177016

GET CLICKING FOR 2023!

When you are out and about this Summer, don't forget to take your camera, or mobile phone with you and take some lovely photographs.

Last year had the theme of "Hilderstone and the surrounds". For the 2024 calendar we would like to invite photographic entries using the themes "**Buildings, people and events in and around Hilderstone**".

We will also have a Junior section competition where the top 3 photographs submitted from Under 16s will be included in the calendar.

Finally, we are looking for people or local businesses to sponsor a month of the calendar for just £25. Please message us if you are interested in sponsoring a month.

Our 2023 Village Calendar raised over £570 for its two chosen charities – Christ Church Hilderstone and Hilderstone Village Hall. This was an outstanding achievement for our first Village Calendar and we hope to raise even more for charity in our 2024 calendar.

Get clicking and photos to be submitted by October 31 2023.



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- Sponsor a village planter. Contact Hilderstone Parish Council for details.
- Become a local Parish Councillor (see magazine for details).
- Litter picking. Help reduce unsightly litter in our lanes.
- Churchyard Tidy-up Group. Keep our churchyard tidy for visitors and the wildlife that lives there. Contact Christine Clark on Tel: 01889 505676.
- Send us your pictures, articles etc for our Parish Magazine.
Email: eleanor.bane@safersystems.co.uk.
- Make a donation towards the upkeep of the Parish Magazine. Contact: philip.davies73@btinternet.com.
- Recycle your old ink cartridges at Christ Church. Contact Phil Davies (as above).





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