

# PARISH NEWS



**FEBRUARY 2022**

*St Peter's Church, Marchington*

*St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands*

# **WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for FEBRUARY 2022**

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This month straddles the period between Epiphany and the beginning of Lent on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. However, February isn't an empty month with gloomy weather and nothing to celebrate. Although it can't claim Pancake Day for itself - that is on 1<sup>st</sup> March - it gives us Candlemas, a festival of light, which Charles Dale explains on page 3. We can also look forward to Valentines Day, which is on 14<sup>th</sup>. Tom Castle's article about this is on page 11. Other things to celebrate include the success of the Bull's Head Football Team - you can read Ian Morgan's article about this on page 13.

Since the previous issue of Parish News, we have sadly had to say goodbye to two long-time residents of the village - Alfred Talbot and John Landells - who passed away recently. There is an article about Alf on page 6, and we plan to include an appreciation of John's life in the March issue of this magazine. Our thoughts are with both families at this time.

*Please be in touch with any news, articles or updates on your club or organisation by email to Rhoda. No more than 425 words in length, please. Advertisements, both for businesses and for village events, should also be sent to Rhoda. These will attract a small charge. A special deal for repeat adverts by businesses is available: details available on request.*

**The next Parish News is the March issue.**

**Deadline for copy is 12<sup>th</sup> February.**

*Parish News is distributed by volunteers in the parishes of St John's, Marchington Woodlands and St Peter's, Marchington. If you wish to receive a regular copy please contact our Primary Distributor, Claire Marjoram (01283 820349). Newcomers to the village are welcome to have a complimentary copy, so if someone has moved in near to you please let Claire know.*

**There is an annual subscription rate of £9.00 for a paper copy of the magazine delivered to your door. This covers the period from July up to and including the following June.**

*The online edition of the magazine is freely available on our website <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net>. Previous issues of the magazine are available online at <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net/archive>*

## Candlemas - the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

*Coming between Christmas and the beginning of Lent, this feast represents a pivot between looking back at Christmas and forward towards the cross. Rev. Charles Dale draws our attention to the wonderful words of Anna and Simeon when Jesus was presented at the Temple by Mary and Joseph- and to his favourite stained glass window at St Mary's Uttoxeter!*

Christmas seems a long way off now, when we hopefully had some time to celebrate and to rest in the company of family and friends. Everything relating to Christmas: decorations, cards, gifts, tree are all safely put back or disposed of and presents enjoyed in their usage. It seems that Christmas, then is 'done and dusted' for another year. And yet right at the beginning of February we have a reminder that Christmas is not done with us yet! The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, sometimes known as Candlemas and the Purification of Mary, occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, forty days after Christmas, and is one of my favourite feast days, as I know it is for others too.

Tradition has it that the greenery decorating homes should be taken down and the Crib scene put away.

The festival has a bitter-sweet nature. It's about revelation, with Jesus being taken to the Temple by Mary and Joseph, in accordance with Jewish law and tradition there presented to the Father and shown

to the people. There they are greeted by Simeon and Anna, who rejoice at seeing him. Simeon speaks those prophetic words about the falling and rising of many and the sword that will pierce, leading on to the Passion and to Easter. There are several pointers to the suffering of Jesus in the Christmas season scriptures and liturgy, but I think none so poignant and potent as these words spoken by Simeon. And Anna, telling all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free about the child, Jesus, and what she had witnessed. And of course, there are those other wonderful words of Simeon's, 'Lord, you have kept your promise and let your servant go in peace,' Words beloved of so many Christians, bringing heartfelt hope and peace.

At St. Mary's Uttoxeter there is a wonderful depiction of the Presentation. It's my favourite window and I marvel at the scene. Particularly with the thought that Simeon holds the creator of the world in his arms. We can learn much from that scene in the Temple: Simeon, patiently waiting for

the Messiah, but praising and giving glory to God; Mary looking on adoringly, but with trepidation in her heart at what was to come; Anna, dedicating herself to a life of worship and joyful proclamation and Joseph looking on in the background with his offering of thanksgiving and obedience, doing what was required. Which one to you associate yourself with?

It is also a festival of light too! Coming at a dark time of year in the winter season reminding us that this babe in arms becomes a man, who is Christ the Light of the World.

This event and words coming as they do at the very end of the Christmas celebration with Lent nearly always close, makes The Presentation a kind

of pivot in the Christian year. It is as if we say 'One last look back to Christmas and now turn towards the cross.' It seems to signify to me that life goes on, but enables us to look back and to look forward too!

I wonder what your "looking back" is like, are there regrets, or are there thoughts of happiness and thankfulness? And I wonder what you are looking forward to? I hope that whatever your circumstance, as you journey on, like Simeon and Anna you can quietly, thankfully and joyfully know that Jesus is with you as he lights your way.

Blessings and peace,

**Charles**

## **St Peter's Contacts**

**Priest in charge:** Rev. Margaret Sherwin, Rector, Tel: 01889 560234

**Team Vicar for Marchington & Marchington Woodlands:** Rev. Jules Walker

**Licensed Reader:** Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close, Marchington Tel: 01283 820207

**St Peter's Ministry Team:**

Thelma Brassington, Maggie Hatchard, Fiona Neads, Liz Morgan.

**St Peter's Church Wardens:**

Lynda Nicholson, Rose Cottage, Church Lane. Tel: 01283 821374;

Sandy Halcrow, Coverdale, Allens Lane. Tel: 01283 820346

**PCC Secretary:** Kate Hart

**Church Website:** [www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk](http://www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk)

## **Are you good with figures?**

St. Peter's Church Marchington PCC are looking for a volunteer Treasurer with a background in money management. This would be to work initially alongside our Acting Treasurer with a view to training for the position of PCC Treasurer later.

For more details, ring Thelma Brassington

**Mobile 07477 667970 - preferably 9.00am to 4.00pm**

## **St Peter's 50/50 Club**

We are considering holding a **50/50 club** in aid of Church funds starting after Easter 2022. The cost of this will be £5.00 per month and prizes will be drawn 4 times a year.

Anyone interested in joining in please reply by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at the latest, please reply to [thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk) or [maggiehatchard@gmail.com](mailto:maggiehatchard@gmail.com) for further details and to register.

## **Bible Book Club**

This meets once a month on Zoom to look at a different book of the Bible. Sessions last an hour, between 7.30 and 8.30pm. It is led by Lesley White, who is a member of the Uttoxeter Area Worship Team. If you are interested in joining, please email Lesley on [uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com](mailto:uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com) and she will send you the date of the next meeting and the Zoom link.

## **St Peter's Edward Bear Club**

For children aged 0 to 3 years and their parents or carers. The club is not currently meeting, but we look forward to resuming sessions as soon as we judge that it is safe to do so. Anyone interested please contact Thelma by email.



[Thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk)  
667970

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## **John Landells**

The funeral of John Landells took place at St Peter's Church on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

John had lived in the village for many years and attended St Peter's Church, where he was a sidesman. We plan to include an appreciation of John's life in the March magazine.

In the meantime our thoughts are with John's family, and particularly with his wife Judy.

## **Alf Talbot**

Most of you will know that Alf died just after Christmas, having been very unwell for the second half of 2021. He was a true servant to people living in the village, and the Woodlands, having not only delivered papers for 364 days a year for many years (at least 15 as far as I know), come rain or shine, hail, snow and ice, but also being prepared to do a whole host of other jobs for people, just like Jack, his father, before him.

His commitment to his customers was unquestioned and often he would go and get papers from Uttoxeter if they hadn't been delivered to the shop by our wholesaler, or go back later in the day if they were late. After so many years, he knew the route like the back of his hand, and knew exactly where his customers wanted their papers delivered, from unusual doors at the back of houses, to tops of cupboards in outhouses!

I think the shed at the side of the shop shall be forever known as 'Alf's Shed'. We will miss him hugely.

Our sincere condolences go to Alf's wife Carole, and his daughter Catherine.

Liz Morgan, Chair, Marchington Community Shop

*Alf's funeral was held at St Peter's Church on 17<sup>th</sup> January.*

## **Crossing the Bar**

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;  
  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

At our November AGM, there were a number of interesting questions from our audience. One of these was the observation that the sales and range of greeting cards seems to have markedly improved over the past couple of years. This is indeed the case. We have certainly improved the display and increased the space, and this has allowed for more extensive ranges, including more 'special occasion' cards and a greater variety of different styles of cards. We are most grateful to Gill Davies who is always on the look out for new designs and prepared to make changes to keep our offer fresh and up to date. Sales have increased by between 10% and 20% year on year over the past couple of years, and even though our prices are very good value compared to specialist card shops, we are able to make a good margin on what we sell, so it helps to keep our other prices down.

We do know of customers from quite far away from Marchington and the Woodlands who travel to choose from our selection and this is quite a testament to the quality of our range.

We also explained continued success from our wine shelves, through the efforts of our Wine Committee as they try different wines, and different approaches, to offering great value for money and choice from our shop. We are fortunate to have long-term relationships with three different wine suppliers, and have been able to offer several new wines (and champagnes and ports) this past year that have proved to be successful with customers. All these wines are exclusive to us, locally, and are not available in the Uttoxeter supermarkets, so we build their reputation through our own communication efforts and, when we can, at free wine tastings. Our Wine Loyalty scheme also goes from strength to strength, and I was personally delighted and pleased to win the £75 wine voucher myself at the final quarterly draw of the year in December!

On a sadder note, I have written elsewhere a short tribute to Alf, who died just after Christmas. It's certainly true to say that 'you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone' and Alf's loyalty, reliability and perseverance, 364 days a year, is a hard act to follow. We are hoping to be able to come up with a good, reliable long-term solution to getting papers delivered to more than 100 customers who benefit from that service and I hope to be able to report on that in future months. In the meantime, I would like to thank sincerely a number of volunteers who have sorted and delivered papers from time to time around Marchington and the Woodlands, often at short notice and in unpleasant winter weather too, recently. I would also like to thank Anne Matthews who has stepped in to do the bulk of the delivery work in the past 3-4 months. I know that our customers have really appreciated this service continuing.

Liz Morgan

Chair, Marchington Community Shop



## Heart Shaped Biscuits - Ideal for Valentine's Day!

You will need 2-3 baking trays lined with greaseproof paper, 1 large heart-shaped cutter and 1 small heart-shaped cutter.

### Ingredients

200g of unsalted butter, softened

100g of caster sugar

1 large egg

250g of plain flour, plus a little extra for dusting

50g of ground almonds

10 tbsp of jam, strawberry, raspberry or damson, - smooth rather than chunky.



### Method

Beat the egg and set aside. Cream the butter and sugar together using an electric mixer until light and fluffy.

Keep beating and add a tablespoon of the egg at a time into the mixture until it is all incorporated

Sift the flour into the mixture and then also add the ground almonds. Mix well until it all comes together into a soft dough

Divide the dough into two pieces and gently roll and flatten each piece into a flat disc shape. Wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for at least an hour

When you are ready to bake, preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4

Flour your work surface and the rolling pin. Roll the dough out to approximately 3mm thick.

Cut out 24 heart shapes with the large cutter, then cut out a heart within half of these biscuits using the smaller heart cutter. You will not use the small hearts but you can bake them separately and eat them anyway!

Transfer the biscuits to the baking tray and bake for 12-15 minutes until just golden. Don't overcook them, as they will crisp up as they cool.

Take them out of the oven and leave them to cool completely. When they are cooled, dollop a level teaspoon of jam over the large biscuit base and then place a biscuit with a cut out heart over the jam to make a nice sandwich.

# Saint Valentine

We all know Saint Valentine's Day is February 14<sup>th</sup> and most of us send a card to someone we love on this most romantic day. No doubt some of us send or receive more than one card.

But who really was Saint Valentine and why do we celebrate his day with presents and cards for our loved ones? There are a number of saints called Valentine but the story below is an account of the first Saint Valentine

Valentine was a Christian priest who lived in the third century AD in what is now Italy during the reign of the Roman emperor Claudius the second who didn't much like Christians. Claudius decided that married men made very poor soldiers and in order to improve the fighting quality of his army he decreed that all marriages of younger citizens would be outlawed. Valentine disagreed with this decree and maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world so he continued to conduct illegal marriages in secret between young people.

Valentine's services were much in demand by young people in love and he conducted many marriages in defiance of the Emperor's decree. Claudius got to know about Valentine's activities and he was arrested and imprisoned. However Claudius took a liking to his prisoner but Valentine then made a strategic error: he tried to convert the Emperor to Christianity. As a result he was sentenced to death.

During his time in prison Valentine made friends with his jailer's daughter who was blind. Valentine restored her sight and on the eve of his death he penned a farewell note to her signing it 'from your Valentine'. This was the first Valentine's card.

Valentine was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate in Rome on February 14<sup>th</sup> 270AD and was later canonised by Pope Gelasius in 496. His story has blossomed into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day. An estimated one billion cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card sending event of the year, after Christmas.

Tom

# MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Report

Happy New Year everyone – a bit late I know but let's hope that 2022 is better than the previous two years. Sad news to report the passing of Alf Talbot. Alf had done all sorts of jobs in the parish and will be sadly missed by many. A true character.

With reference to the parish, there is evidence that some of the potholes have been mended, or are about to be. The flood at Birch Cross has continued to cause traffic problems and there have been accidents and 'near misses' there. Please take extra care especially if temperatures tumble. Staffordshire Highways have set it out for rectification but this usually takes far too long, in my view.

We continue to work with BT Openreach to improve the broadband offer in the parish and, dependent on Covid restrictions, I'm hopeful that we will have some news for you in the March magazine.

The same is true for our work with the Environment Agency on flooding. We have meetings planned and work is on-going to improve our situation both upstream and in the village. The Cricket Club drains continue to be a cause for concern and it has been difficult to get contractors interested enough to carry out the work required. We are having a big push again on this and are hopeful of having the issue fixed before the start of the cricket season in April.

Whilst the normal business of playground inspections, planning applications, budget setting etc continues, in this year we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and I am hopeful that there will be street parties throughout our parish over the four day Bank Holiday weekend in early June.

Thank you to all the volunteers who get involved and make our parish work easier. I often refer to the friends of Marchington for their great work planting, cutting etc, but on this occasion I'm going to cite two local heroes, Kelly and Shirley, for their litter picking activity around Christmas. A brilliant job!

On a final note I can inform you that we have a councillor vacancy, as our representative living in Forestside has stepped down. I've been particularly keen to find someone who is knowledgeable about that part of the parish. At the moment we have two applicants and will appoint someone in the next couple of months.

We have a lot to look forward to this year and I am confident it will be a great year in the parish.

Ian Morgan - Chair, Marchington Parish Council

## **Interested in Table Tennis?**

We are researching to find out what interest there is in forming a group for informal, casual and social Table Tennis.

Please text or ring: 07980041670

Chris & Judi Lewis

## **Bulls Head Marchington Football Club**



Just to let you know our local Sunday football team won the league in season 2020/21 and are currently top in the current season. We played old rivals, Churnet Valley of Oakamoor, just before the New Year and won 5-4 in an action packed league game. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, we hosted 'Men United' from the Stoke League in the Sentinel Cup. Men United pick up a lot of ex-professional players from Port Vale, Stoke etc and indeed their players are paid. We do not have this luxury and, expecting it to be a difficult game, we then thrashed them 7-1! My thanks to Uttoxeter Cricket Club for allowing us to use their showers, as this is a prerequisite to play in the Sentinel Cup. Fingers crossed, we can keep the momentum going and play good football on our constantly improving pitch at Silver Lane.

Ian Morgan

## The Marchington Singers: A Christmas Carol

Right up until the morning, it seemed that all of the fates were conspiring against us in our bid to stage our Christmas concert. The list is endless. I cannot mention them all but here are a few: Rehearsing in masks, social distancing, lateral flow tests, limits on gatherings, should we do mulled wine, can we serve mince pies? What if we make up hampers for raffle prizes and then it's cancelled? Will the audience come?

I am delighted to report that the audience did come! The Marchington Singers presented a concert at St Mary's church, Uttoxeter, in mid-December to a full audience. Amazingly - with the assistance of St Mary's and the determination of each one of the Singers to perform - we did it! The cantata 'A Christmas Carol', based on Dickens' well-loved novella, provided an uplifting Christmas message full of laughter and tears, spooky bits and jolly parties. A full choir, including six new recruits, performed to a packed (but not too close!) audience, and mulled wine and mince pies *were* served during the interval to complete the seasonal jollity. The choir, dressed in Dickensian costume, pulled all the stops out - at least six of the singers taking part were new recruits - and feedback from our audience included The Mayor of East Staffs' comments: "Your concert on Saturday was a wonderful piece, and one that I am sure you enjoyed singing as much as we did hearing it. The mixture of carols and new music worked well. Congratulations."

If you are interested in joining The Marchington Singers do take a look at our website. We are currently welcoming singers in all parts but especially - as always - tenors! We offer a 'Young Singers' bursary scheme whereby a potential singer under the age of 25 is rewarded for rehearsing and performing with us. If you, or anyone you know, would qualify for this scheme please get in touch with us via our website.

We hope to get back to regular singing rehearsals very soon and can only keep our fingers crossed and echo Tiny Tim's timeless words: "God bless us, every one!"

Shirley Horton - Chairman  
[www.marchingtonsingers.org](http://www.marchingtonsingers.org)

## Marchington Nature Notes



Over 1000 bulbs were planted by The Friends of Marchington in late Autumn 2021 and by now their green noses should be nudging up through the cold earth. Daffodils, Narcissus, Crocus, English Bluebells, Camassia and Alliums, planted in Green Lane and Silver Lane, will be greeting us with their cheery spring tones, as we venture out and about, during the months to come.



A mini wildflower area has also been prepared and naturally enclosed in front of the buddy bench in the Community Orchard. Hopefully, it will provide a feast for insects as well as our eyes.

A row of Sorbus (White Wax) trees have also been planted by TFofM, alongside the footpath running from the church gates along to Green Lane. These trees have been kindly donated by ESBC, to provide rich nectar for insects in spring & masses of berries for birds during winter, as well as improving a stroll for us all. Thank you yet again, for the hard work given, and thank you to Simon Irons for allowing us to use & share this part of his land.



Our community orchard has new additions too. Two apple trees planted in memory of Peter & Jenny Speed. They were planted by their family during December and underplanted with more bulbs. The varieties are Scrumptious, a sweet juicy, rosy red apple and Red Devil, named after the flying aces, with red flesh and hints of strawberry sweetness. These are a fitting tribute to two lovely members of our community, as both were avid flower, fruit and vegetable growers.

Twelve keen fruit tree growers were treated to another pruning session led by Jeff Bates in December. This is Jeff's third visit to our Community Orchard and, as usual, we all went home feeling more knowledgeable as a result of his expert tuition. We had mulled wine, mince pies and a brazier to ward off a very cold day.

Our fruit trees are beginning to take shape and subsequently, due to this care, should become more productive in years to come.

The new construction in the orchard (looks a bit like a lido, but without the water!) is the base for our living willow arbour, which will be arriving in March. More news of this will be relayed in February's notes. Two raptor perches have also been installed recently. These allow owls to sit & survey their surroundings for voles & mice, as hovering and searching for their prey during cold spells uses up vital energy.



The British Wildlife Centre, in Staffordshire, received 5 baby hedgehogs rescued from our garden recently. Due to the mild Autumn last year, hedgehogs had rather late litters. These babies didn't manage to reach their optimum weight of 600 grams to survive hibernation, and were found out and about, trying to stock up during the snowy weather. The heaviest reached only 160 grams during a weigh in. So they have gone off to spend a wakeful winter, with 39 other pricklies, presently residing at the centre. We plan to pick up 5 of these hogs, to release in the orchard, as part of a rehoming scheme next Spring, as we will have a fourth hedgehog

box installed by then. These endearing creatures have dwindled massively since the 50's, so need as much help as we can give them.

A big thank you to our Parish Council for sponsoring our village planters with Spring bulbs.

Janey Hilton

## Marchington Village Hall News

### February 2022



We are now firmly back in the swing of things in Marchington Village Hall, albeit in masks at the time of writing. We are apparently THE place for children's parties in 2022, having picked up most of the pupils of St Peter's School since we reopened in July. We are also doing a fair trade in other social events as people decide they've had enough of this pandemic and want to meet their friends and get back to normal.

We are making exciting plans to open the hall for the weekend of the Festival in June and you will hear more about this soon.

The Garden is now fully planted up and looking lovely, even in February! Janey and her Friends of Marchington have done a lovely job and we are extremely grateful to them for their continuing hard work to keep it looking nice. We have been able to lop the conifers at the back and are now getting quotes to remake the rockery wall in the rear car park to keep it safe for many years to come. The boundary wall has been repointed and the car park pillar rebuilt after a bump.

Don't forget, if you want to book Marchington Village Hall, please email Ginny Odey on [marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com) or call her on 07810 830268. You can check what's happening and availability on the hall calendar at <https://www.marchingtonvillagehall.org/calendar.html>.

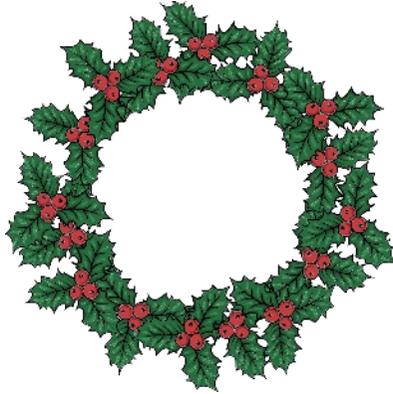
*Geraldine Flavell*

## Marchington WI

Happy New Year!

Just to keep you updated on our meetings:

Due to illness our November speaker cancelled a few days before the meeting. After many calls for a replacement, Margaret Johnson offered to demonstrate making a Christmas Wreath.



Margaret gathered holly and ivy, found a wreath ring, various ribbons and other bits from her loft and entertained us with her skills.

Our Christmas at the Boars Head was well attended, the meal was delicious and enjoyed by all. We had asked for donations in lieu of Secret Santa presents. Our chosen charity is Blood Bikes, we will be arranging for the money collected to be given to a local biker.

Our January meeting will take place within the parameters of latest covid policy regulations. We hope that subsequent meetings go ahead and that restrictions will ease.

We should still follow the rules and check on any elderly neighbours especially in these difficult times.

Looking around the garden spring bulbs are now showing through and snowdrops are out, so lets forward to better weather and mowing the lawns!!!

*Margaret Johnson*



Looking to have a clear out? Why not bring your unwanted clothes and shoes (men's women's and children's) to our Charity Shops at 31 Wardwick, Derby (you may park outside for a short period to unload). We are also always short of bric-a-brac, handbags, books, toys, games, unwanted gifts and jewellery - in fact anything you think we could sell. We also need items for our tombolas, unwanted gifts etc.



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### SUNDAY JANUARY 30 BIG STONE GAP

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### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20 WARREN JAMES

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### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27 PAUL & CARLA

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### SUNDAY MARCH 6 THE SHELTER

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### SUNDAY MARCH 13 MOD'N JAM

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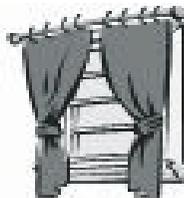
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# 2022 Resolutions at Woodlands WI

A New Year and time to discuss and choose a new Resolution for the WI. Since the WI was founded a major part of the WI identity has been to identify an area of concern and campaign for it to try and make a difference. The annual Resolution has varied from equal Pay for women, indoor toilets for rural houses, Keep Britain Tidy, free and better contraception, improving rural bus services, reducing plastic waste and many more.

This year there was a short list of 5 to choose from and so on Thursday Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, Woodlands WI held a Zoom meeting to discuss the shortlist and then every member can vote for the one they want.

The list was:

- **Fit for Purpose - Fit for Girls** , about clothing and shoes being suitable and appropriate for girls; secondly,

- **Appropriate sentencing of Non Violent Women Offenders**, instead of custodial sentences to explore community management and support for these women;
- **Equality in Law for the Menopause** to try and have the Menopause identified as an Protected Characteristic in the Equality Act;
- **Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD** - the focus had traditionally been on boys, but the WI wants girls and women to have equal identification of these conditions; and finally
- **Tackling Digital Exclusion**, a topic that is very pertinent in this rural area and has been highlighted in the Covid Lockdowns.

I wondered if everyone would have a view on each proposed Resolution or if some would be ignored. But No! Each one was carefully discussed

with expert, thoughtful views being expressed. Everyone had something to contribute and enhance the debate and I came away feeling I had learnt something new that evening.

So all that remains now is for each WI member to make their own mind up which one they want to go forward to this years National Annual Meeting and send in their vote! However we

will all have to wait for July to find out which one had the most votes and became the 2022 Resolution of the WI.

Until then we meet again on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Woodlands Village Hall when the speaker will be the Mountain Rescue Service.

Do come along if you fancy it.

*Grace Hodges*

## Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update



Happy New Year.

The New Year brings hopes for a return to ‘normal’ life, sets off plans for the next twelve months and sparks ideas for the longer term, too.

The Committee is certainly keen to get on with organising social events at the Village Hall for 2022 and continuing with gradual improvements to the facility. It has also decided to give some time to thinking about the part that the Village Hall might play in community activities in five years’ time.

So far, we have three events for your 2022 diaries. They are:- Woodlands’ Platinum Jubilee community lunch on Sunday June 5, Summer Dance on Saturday August 13 and Bonfire Night. More details about these and other social occasions will be made available as arrangements come together.

One piece of equipment that the Committee feels will improve the Village Hall for functions and activities, is a PA system, so that, finally, people will not have

to shout to make announcements. We shall do our best to have the kit installed and ready for events from June onwards. Similar timing applies to the work the Committee wants to do to the field, through levelling the ground and regular mowing, to make it a great space to use throughout the summer months.

Talking of improvements, please do look out for the very important public meeting that will take place in the next few weeks, where Openreach (along with Superfast Staffordshire) will present details of its proposed schemes to roll out gigabit fibre broadband to our local areas. It is vital that the communities of the Woodlands and Marchington unite to bring this about.

Switching from day-to-day matters at the Village Hall, to a vision for the community facility five years forward, is no easy task but the Committee is going to try. It will be an interesting exercise to ask ourselves what Woodlands' residents might want from their main community facility by 2027 and then work out how to achieve it.

Before leaving 2021 behind, there are a few people to thank. Rhoda has been very patient every month, waiting for the Hall's Parish News items. The Parish Council gifted our Christmas tree and has provided ongoing financial and general support and The Milk Hut has kindly supported Village Hall coffee mornings since opening in October. Last but not least, many local residents either attended community events or hired the Village Hall for meetings or functions in what was another difficult year for everybody.

Here's hoping that 2022 will be kind to us all.

*Karen Perrins*

## **Marchington Woodlands Village Hall - General Information**

### **Social Events**

**15 February, 15 March and 19 April** – Tuesday coffee mornings, come and have a chat, 10.30am start. Everyone welcome.

### **Village Hall Booking Information**

The Village Hall's website ([www.mwvh.co.uk](http://www.mwvh.co.uk)) provides information about the Hall, its facilities and how to go about hiring. Booking Secretary for the Village Hall, Isabel Wilson (tel. 01889 569411), will help with any additional details you may need.

### **Contact Email Address**

The email address for the Village Hall is [mwvh@btinternet.com](mailto:mwvh@btinternet.com) if you have any comments, questions or issues for the Committee.

## St. John's Church Marchington Woodlands



### Church Services and Events at St John's during February 2022

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	4.00pm	Special service to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	PCC Meeting in St John's Church
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	4.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Woodlands Village Hall.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30am	Holy Communion

Do come along to church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb at 4pm to help us give thanks for our wonderful Monarch. 70 years ago she made a very moving speech including a promise to dedicate herself to her role .

A role that she is still performing with magnificent dignity in spite of the loss of Prince Phillip and all the family troubles.

In June we plan to mark the occasion of her coronation during the extended bank holiday in June. If you have ideas or suggestions for the street party event planned for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June please contact either St John's PCC or Woodlands Village

Hall committee. There is a competition to create a new pudding, in the same way that coronation chicken was created. So, all you creative cooks out there put on your recipe hats.

Way back in November just after the magazine deadline for December/January issue we had a wedding at Woodlands church. On 19<sup>th</sup> November Toni Leigh Emery married Theo Jamal Finlay Howell. We pray that they have a long and happy marriage

### **Worship around the area: -**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7pm at All Saints Denstone alternating Taize style and Songs of Praise services. Wednesday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> will be Songs of Praise.

Bible Book Club monthly one hour zoom meeting studying books of the bible  
Contact Lesley the area co-ordinator for details:-  
[utttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com](mailto:utttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com)

Alpha is a course to explore or find your faith. Dove Church in Stone Road Uttoxeter ST14 7QW has a course running on Fridays from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> April. Contact [stedaily@dovechurch.org.uk](mailto:stedaily@dovechurch.org.uk) or txt 07312102431 for more information.

Check out the “Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer” at <https://www.eternalwall.org.uk> this will be a structure in the West Midlands where every single one of the million bricks will represent a story of Jesus answering someone’s prayer contributed by individuals from all around the world. And finally don’t forget to check out Marchington Woodlands Community Group on Facebook to get up to date info on what’s happening in our community.

## **St John’s Marchington Woodlands 100 Club**

Winners of the November draw were: -

Harriet Mann Stuart Cadamy Helen Cleaver Alexa Challens Harvey

Winners of the December draw were :-

Victor Read Jean Salmon John Salmon Linda Patterson

## Alfred Talbot

Residents of the Woodlands were sorry to hear that Alf had passed away. He has delivered newspapers to Marchington Woodlands for many years in all sorts of weather, always giving the area great reliability. Many thoughts for all his family at this time.

Alf's funeral was on 17<sup>th</sup> January at St Peter's Church, Marchington.

*There is an article about Alfred, and in particular his contribution to Marchington Village Shop, on page 6.*

## St. John's Contacts

**Priest in charge:** Rev. Margaret Sherwin Rector Tel: 01889 560234

**Licensed Reader:** Maggie Hatchard Tel: 01283 820207

### Church Wardens:

Graham Salt, Cherry Tree Cottage, Greaves Lane, Draycott in the Clay  
Tel: 01283 821587; mobile 07759 238388; [gsalt799@btinternet.com](mailto:gsalt799@btinternet.com)

Linda Beech, Cliff Bungalow, Marchington Cliff, Uttoxeter ST14 8ND  
tel:01283 820209 / 07875516635 [beechnuts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beechnuts@hotmail.co.uk)

**Verger:** John Bostock, The School House, Marchington Woodlands tel: 01889 562404

**Treasurer:** Mike Cleaver, email: [macleaver@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:macleaver@hotmail.co.uk)

**PCC members:** John and Pat Bostock, Graham and Pat Salt, Victor Read, Anna Cadamy, Mike Cleaver, Robert Parkes, Linda Beech, Isabel Wilson: Tel: 01889 569411; email: [chrisalwilson@aol.co.uk](mailto:chrisalwilson@aol.co.uk)

<http://www.marchingtonwoodlandschurch.co.uk/> St. Johns website

## ST PETER'S CHURCH MARCHINGTON - SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY 2022

<i>Date / Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Sidesperson</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Intercessions</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Morning Worship	Kath Wood	Thelma Brassington Ian Jones	Liz Morgan	Gill Williamson	Kath Wood
13 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Holy Communion	Sheila Jones	Joyce Halcrow Rhoda Castle	Gill Williamson	Lynda Nicholson	Pat Wilson
20 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Holy Communion	Tim Scott	Wendy Scott Claire Marjoram	Maggie Hatchard	Joyce Halcrow	Wendy Scott
27 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Ministry Team Service Leader: Liz Morgan	Valerie Whitehead	Tim Scott Pat Wilson	Wendy Scott	Thelma Brassington	Claire Marjoram

**If you are unable to carry out your duty, please find a replacement and inform the church wardens.**