

About **B**roughton & **C**roxton

February to May 2022

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton



*By His wounds, you
have been healed!*



The Loggerheads Benefice

Ashley | Muckleston | Broughton | Croxton

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton

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Croxton Chapel – Mrs Kath Bridgwood (01630 620601)

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Your Magazine – Your Community

A full colour issue of the magazine is available on the Broughton Church website at www.broughtonchurch.com and the benefice website at www.thelloggerheadsbenefice.org.

The deadline for the next issue of ABC is 10th May 2022

Disclaimer: The publishers of this magazine, accept no responsibility for the quality of the service provided by the advertisers and nor for the opinions expressed by contributors.

We are resisting making a charge for ABC as we feel it should remain free for all residents in the Broughton and Croxton parishes, however with increased printing costs, we have reached the point where our income from advertisers barely covers the cost of printing. If you enjoy your ABC magazine, could we ask you to support us by giving us a DONATION, which can be passed on via any committee member – names and telephone numbers above or to the person who delivers your copy. Thanking you in advance.



ABC Committee

Dear Friends

Despite the unrelenting devastation coronavirus is still wreaking around the world, at the time of writing things do appear to be getting a little easier in this country and we're taking those first tentative steps of beginning to dare to make plans for the future, for events that will actually take place, in person, and not have to be cancelled or moved onto Zoom.

The World Day of Prayer on 4th March will be held at St John the Baptist in Ashley [page 20] and we're holding a weekly benefice Lent course at the Chapter House [page 10] exploring the basics of what we believe as Christians. On Good Friday [15th April] at 7pm St Peter's Broughton will be holding a special dramatized rendition of Jesus' journey to the cross. As well as the wonderful Easter Day services scheduled across the benefice, James and Louise Butter will be hosting the Sunrise Service at The Rudge, starting at 5.50am. Concerts are beginning to return to our schedules [pages 6 and 27], and we're all looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. The WI have already started making preparations for a Community Tea Party on 4th June [page 26]. There will no doubt be many other events to come, which we'll highlight in the next issue of ABC.

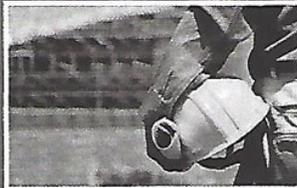
In all the excitement of seeing life returning to a more normal pace, perhaps it's time to reflect back on what we've just come through and to think about the friends and family members we've lost over the past two years. Not just through Covid, because people continued to die of other illnesses and accidents. Their deaths may not have been counted in the daily statistics, but their loss is felt just as keenly. Because of Covid restrictions we may not have been able to commemorate their passing as we would normally do with a large gathering in church to celebrate their lives. However, one assurance we can give as Christians is that God loves us, each and every one of us, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We didn't just evolve into what we are. We were created and designed with a purpose. Our blueprints may be similar to other human beings but they're not exactly the same. We are unique! And God loves us!

Wishing you all a very happy Easter. Please try and join us for one of our Easter celebrations.

Every blessing
Revd Sara Humphries
Associate Minister
Loggerheads Benefice



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PASTORAL CARE

Due to Covid restrictions, unfortunately we are not permitted to carry out home visits, however, if you would like to speak to a member of the team over the phone, please contact the Rector in the first instance on 01630

672939, david.isiorho@outlook.com, or contact one of the Church Wardens direct: James and Louise Butter 01630 620479 or Beryl Roe 01630 620248 or John Day 01630 620671.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain consists of a group of people who are committed to pray for others who are ill, troubled, anxious or maybe to say thank you to God. Some people do not wish to have their problems out in the open, we therefore treat all prayer requests in total confidence. We also ask for the permission of the person to be prayed for to be given. If anyone wishes for prayers, please contact either Revd Sara Humphries 01630 673740 or Anna Mortimer 01630 672804.

SERVICES AT ASHLEY AND MUCKLESTONE CHURCHES

| Date | Ashley | Muckleston |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 6th February | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP HC |
| 13th February | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 20th February | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am CW HC |
| 27th February | No service | 11.15am Benefice Holy Communion |
| 2nd March: Ash Wednesday | 7.00pm Benefice Service at St John the Baptist, Ashley | |
| 6th March | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP HC |
| 13th March | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 20th March | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am CW HC |
| 27th March [Mothering Sunday] | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am Family Eucharist |
| 3rd April: Passion Sunday | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP HC |
| 10th April: Palm Sunday | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 14th April: Maundy Thursday | 7.00pm Benefice Service at St Mary's Muckleston | |
| 15th April: Good Friday | 7.00pm Ecumenical Service, starting at the Catholic Church and then walking to St John the Baptist | |
| 17th April: Easter Day | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am CW HC |
| 24th April | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 1st May | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP HC |
| 8th May | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 15th May | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am CW HC |
| 22nd May | 9.30am CW HC | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| 26th May: Ascension Day | Thursday—Ascension Day Service—venue TBC | |
| 29th May | 9.30 Benefice Service at St John the Baptist, Ashley | |

Services at Broughton, Croxton and the Chapel on back page.

Croxton Parish - St Paul's Church

Secretary: Mrs Denise Keen, 07761 446 753
deniseakeen@btinternet.com

SONGS OF PRAISE

A warm welcome awaits everyone. It is an informal, sincere service with readings, poetry, or thoughts on the theme, contributed by members of the congregation.

February—Anniversaries

March—Spring

April—Renewal

May—Merriment

5th June—a special Songs of Praise service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with the theme



COFFEE MORNINGS

Come for coffee [or tea], cake and a chat
at St Paul's Church
on the last Friday of the month.
10.30-12.00—All welcome



**CONCERT BY
THE COMMUNITY CHOIR
AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH AT 7.00 PM
IN AID OF ST PAUL'S**

CONFIRMATION

We are hoping to hold a Confirmation Service in April this year. If you are interested in being confirmed into the Church of England, please contact the Rector, Fr David Isiorho on 01630 672939, or Associate Minister, Revd Sara Humphries on 01630 673740, who will be happy to discuss the preliminaries and arrangements with you.

CELEBRATION & JUBILATION

at

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CROXTON

on

THURSDAY 2ND AND FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

Will be open to all 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

When we are hoping to display memories of our own good times during Her Majesty's Reign. If you have small items or photographs that you would like to be included [and we hope so!] please contact us:

Beryl Roe 01630 620 248

Sheila Pye 01630 620 679

Viv Watkins 01630 620 694

The display will stay in situ through to Sunday's Super Special Service! Please come and enjoy a re-run of memories. Thank you!

St Paul's Church Croxton

is a friendly Christian community where we welcome others to join us in our worship and service to God. Currently we hold services of worship on the 1st and 4th Sundays.

We are delighted to welcome the community in to the church on the last Friday of every month for a coffee morning.

We will be holding an Annual General Meeting on Thursday 7th April in the church at 10:30am. An important part of this meeting will be the election of Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary and members of a Parochial Church Council to support them in the day-to-day running of the church.

Sadly, without volunteers to fill these roles the church will not be able to continue to function and to serve the community of Croxton.

Might you be able to help by taking on one of these roles?

If you would like to discuss what might be involved, please contact Fr David who would be delighted to explain what the responsibilities would be:

david.isiorho@outlook.com / 01630 672939

Broughton Parish: St Peter's Church

www.broughtonchurch.com

Wardens: Mr James Butter, Rudge Manor, Ashley. 01630 620479
Mrs Louise Butter [Assistant Warden]—as above

PCC Secretary: Mrs Judith Thompstone, Pear Tree Cottage, 195
Lower Road Ashley. Tel: 01630 673104

For times of Services [see back page]

1st Sunday of the month—joint songs of praise at St Paul's.
2nd Sunday of the month—11 am BCP Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the month—11 am BCP Matins
4th Sunday of the month—11 am BCP Holy Communion

Special Services, all welcome:

- + Good Friday, 15th April, 7.00 pm, St Peter's Broughton, a special dramatized rendition of Jesus' journey to the cross.
- + Easter Day Sunrise Service, 5.50 am, at The Rudge.
- + Easter Day, 17th April, 11.00 am, Holy Communion at St Peter's Broughton.

Carol Singing and New Years Day Walk

Thanks go to all those who hosted and provided refreshments to the carollers during this trying covid season. Together with the New Years Day walk we raised nearly £200 for the church.

Staffordshire Women's Aid

Once again, thanks to all who donated chocolates for the children at Staffordshire Women's Aid. They were very much appreciated by all the children who received them.

Christmas Fair and Table Top Sale

Held on the 13th November at Broughton Parish Room, the Christmas fair and table top sale was a great success. The hall was full with stall holders selling a variety of goodies, including cakes, crafts, candles and cards to name a few. Not forgetting the delicious homemade soups and cakes! Thank you to everyone who came and supported/donated to this event. We made £800, much needed for the upkeep of our beautiful Broughton Church.

Christmas Tree

Many thanks to Will Friend and Mucklestone Nurseries for donating the magnificent Christmas tree to Broughton Church again this year and to the Stokes family for decorating it with such flair.

Breast Cancer Research Donations

Mrs Ruth Timmis and friends, known locally as the Batty Women [Ruth's words, not mine!] have been very busy over the past 18 months knitting fun covers for chocolate oranges and raising money for Professor Jasep Sulé, an oncology specialist and Head of Research at The Royal Stoke Hospital and Keele University.

During the pandemic Ruth and her team have raised £1,500 for this very worthy cause. All the money raised is put towards researching a cure for this terrible disease.

The fun covers, together with chocolate oranges, have also found their way into the Christmas package sent to Stafford Women's Aid on behalf of Broughton Church's congregation.

These little covers, which bring a smile to even the most jaded face, are so popular, that Ruth is often commissioned to knit specific characters; new models for 2022 will include a friendly fox, together with the Owl and the Pussy Cat. Well done the Batty Women and long may your knitting needles keep clicking.



Croxton Independent Methodist Church

Secretary: Revd John Day
The Old Police House, Croxton, Stafford, ST21 6PE
Tel: 01630 620671, Mob: 07773579355, Email:
johnmday@btinternet.com

Times of services 11 am.

During the pandemic, we have decided to pool resources with St Paul's and St Peter's. Until further notice we will hold two services a month at the Chapel on the second Sunday [Divine Worship] and fourth Sunday [Holy Communion] each month.

United Prayer Meetings

We hope to be able to resume our united prayer meetings very soon. Please look out for details in our weekly newsletter, Grapevine, which is available on the benefice website: www.thelogerheadsbenefice.org.

BENEFICE LENT COURSE

One of the most enjoyable ways we can demonstrate our Christian love for one another is by coming together as a family to spend time listening, praying, and sharing knowledge. For the past two years, due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to run our normal in-person Bible Study or Lent courses. This year we have decided to reinstate a Lent course and will be going back to basics exploring several basic truths of what we believe as Christians. Each Wednesday evening during Lent at 7.00pm we will meet in the Chapter House at Ashley for our Benefice Lent Group. We will start with a 10-minute input from the benefice clergy and then divide up into discussion groups. All are welcome to join the group, for either the whole course or to dip in when time permits.

The programme is as follows.

- ✂ Wednesday 9th March – Temptations (Fr David)
- ✂ Wednesday 16th March – Fasting (The Revd Sara)
- ✂ Wednesday 23rd March – Lent Traditions (Fr David)
- ✂ Wednesday 30th March - Prayer: Intercession & Petition (The Revd Sara)
- ✂ Wednesday 6th April - Prayer: Meditation (Fr David)
- ✂ Wednesday 13th April – Seder Meal at the Rectory

John Slater

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INSTALLATION OF THE REVD DR DAVID ISIORHO AS RECTOR AND LICENSING OF THE REVD SARA HUMPHRIES AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER



It's been a long time coming and despite the atrocious weather, break down of the boiler at Ashley and a global pandemic, Father David and Revd Sara have now officially been sworn in as Rector and Associate Minister in the Loggerheads Benefice. The service took place at St Mary's Mucklestone on Advent Sunday, 28th November, and was followed by drinks and refreshments at St Mary's School.

The Right Reverend Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford and The Venerable Dr Megan Smith, Archdeacon of Stoke Upon Trent [pictured above] officiated at the service.

Many thanks to the Wardens at St Mary's, Denise Keen, and everyone else who very quickly jumped to on the Saturday evening/Sunday morning to ensure the church was ready for the service. Also thanks to the Head Teacher Mrs Hill and her staff for the use of St Mary's school.



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Do you know anyone who may have suffered domestic abuse?

Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Jan Warren, gives us a very timely reminder about domestic violence.

Domestic violence is the systematic pattern of behaviour on the part of the abuser designed to control their partner. Domestic violence is a crime.

Domestic abuse can occur to anyone regardless of age, race, disability, sexuality, class, or income. Most domestic abuse is perpetrated by men against women, but the perpetrator of domestic abuse can be of any gender, and the victim can be of any gender. Victims can be male, although the majority are female, and abuse can occur in same sex relationships, between siblings or by adult children against a parent. Many victims will only disclose that a partner was violent and abusive after leaving a relationship.

The abuse take include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse as well as neglect, spiritual and digital abuse. The abuse is often hidden behind closed doors and with the restrictions we have had during the pandemic this could make the situation more difficult for victims.

It is a sad fact 2 women are killed every week in England and Wales by current or former partners (Office of National Statistics, 2015) – 1 woman killed every 3 days.

1 in 4 women in England and Wales will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes and 8% will suffer domestic violence in any given year (Crime Survey of England and Wales, 2013/14). On average, a woman is assaulted 35 times before her first call to the police. Overall, 27.1% of women and 13.2% of men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 4.5 million female victims and 2.2 million male victims (Crime Survey for England and Wales March 2015).

Domestic violence has a higher rate of repeat victimisation than any other crime. (Home office July 2002)

There are many myths and misconceptions about domestic abuse which we need to be aware of and challenge. These can include ‘it doesn’t happen round here’, ‘a victim can cause a perpetrator to become abusive’, ‘it’s about anger’ or ‘a victim can choose to leave but they don’t’. Victim blaming is common and can discourage victims from coming forward.

As a community we need to be aware and provide support to anyone suffering domestic abuse and to recognise the signs that domestic abuse may be happening. The church is here to listen and support and there are also charities and organisations that can offer support. These include:-

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 - 24 hour helpline: 0800 970 2070

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk (live chat Mon-Fri 3-10pm)

Samaritans: 116 123 | www.samaritans.org

Shelter: 0808 800 4444 | www.shelter.org.uk

Victim Support: 0808 168 9111 | www.victimsupport.org.uk

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 | www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Male victims (Respect): 0808 801 0327

Helpline for domestic abuse in same sex relationships: 0800 999 5428

The House of Bishops have published Responding well to Domestic abuse: Policy and practice guidance in 2017. It reminds us-
‘The Church remains committed to those who have been survivors/victims of domestic abuse and to addressing the processes that lead to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse in all its forms is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. All need to play their part in preventing or halting it.’

The whole document can be found on the church of England website or via the link below.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/RespondingWellWeb.pdf>

Jan Warren

Loggerheads Benefice Safeguarding Officer

jan.warren@btinternet.com

So please, don't suffer in silence. There are people who can help. If you have any concerns for yourself, or your friends or neighbours, please contact Jan or a member of the clergy. All conversations are kept confidential and treated with dignity.

Community News from your Roving Reporter Jubilee Afternoon Tea

I'm starting the news with something to look forward to. You will be aware that it is 70 years this year since the Queen was crowned and it has been decided to celebrate this by holding an Afternoon Tea Party which everyone who lives in Croxton and Broughton and environs is invited to attend. No age barrier – young or old – and the tickets will be £2 per person. The date and time is Saturday, 4th June at 3.00 p.m. in Broughton Parish Room. The organising committee would like to say 'and it will be a beautiful, sunny day' but we're just not that clever! There are, of course, a limit on tickets because the Parish Room can only hold so many – so perhaps buying your ticket early is a good idea. There are 4 of us who have tickets – Ros Langford (tel: 01630 620545), Kath Bridgwood (01630 620601), Linda Mifflin (01630 620215) and me, Marianne Grime (01782 791420). We won't have the tickets until April, so hang fire and then in April we probably won't go anywhere without having a few tickets secreted on our person so if you see us out and about.

Broughton Community Choir

We've just had our first get-together for this term and oh, it felt good! Those of us who want to come to the Parish Room do that and Martin zooms the evening for those who are at home – so nobody is left out. Needless to say, we hand-sanitise, mask-up and do what we are supposed to do (still no teabreak, but we are hopeful – it's amazing how you feel you will just die if you don't have a cup of tea, but we are very strong!) I will reverse a bit since the last time I wrote to you –



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oh, I see it was last September. Well, we had a batch of get-togethers from Autumn till December and even had a concert! There were slightly reduced numbers both in audience and singists but what we lacked in numbers we made up in enthusiasm! And the younger-in-age groups of ‘stars’ because that’s what they were – you could tell they were having a ball. We were one of the groups who took part in the Christmas Tree decorating scheme and sang in the Christmas Tree weekend – complete with Christmas jumpers – they don’t get much of an airing, do they? Now we are looking forward although Martin keeps looking over his shoulder to see if we are going to be stopped again. So far so good. We even hope to have a summer concert – wouldn’t that be super?

Garden Guild

Garden Guild are meeting up again too. Since I wrote to you last we were about to have the first meeting with a speaker. We hadn’t had a proper meeting for all 2021 and it was obvious from the goodly number attending that we all wanted to get back to them. And it was such a happy occasion that the committee ladies baked cakes – I knew this would go down well! October and a talk on the Fruit Farm near Shugborough. November was our AGM and the committee had decided that we would have a ‘hands-on’ bit of fun after the business had been done. Packs of measured twigs and string were given to each person and everyone was shown how to make a twig Christmas Tree. The pieces of twig were from hedgerows or garden trees so the gardening and nature theme was still there – which is what Garden Guild is all about. We had a presentation of the Jennie Tuck Photographic Trophy for the best photographs in specific categories over a four month period and Lesley Danby and Linda Mifflin were the joint winners. They were so surprised at being chosen, and Linda, I know, takes her photos on her phone so it just goes to show! We were going to have our Annual Dinner in January but covid numbers were such that it seemed a good idea to postpone our little jolly. Hopefully, things will be a little more settled in a few months. We will, however, have our first meeting of this year in February because it’s time to thinking of gardening again – you know, preparing the beds, ordering seeds and generally looking forward. Yes, we are forever the optimists!

Marianne Grime

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

“I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU”

**FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH 2022
7.00 PM AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CHURCH, ASHLEY**

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text “I know the plans I have for you” from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children’s and - for the first time - young people’s activities.

Everyone is most welcome to join us for the service at Ashley Church on 4th March, starting at 7.00pm, followed by refreshments in the Chapter House.



Broughton Tennis Club

Weather and time permitting, it is hoped that the two grass courts behind Broughton Parish Room at Wetwood (ST21 6NW, on the B5026 Loggerheads to Eccleshall Road) will be open sometime in May or early June. Subscriptions for 2022 remain unchanged at £20 Adults, £10 Juniors under 16/in full-time education), £40 Families, £5 Visitors. Members can then go along and play whenever they wish. Ideal for families. For more information or to join, please call Judy Thompstone (01630 673104) or Louise Butter (01630 620479).

Croxton & Broughton Garden Guild

New members and visitors welcome! All meetings take place on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise specified) in Broughton Parish Room.

23rd Feb. 'Bees' by David Lovett

16th March Annual Dinner, The Cock, Woodseaves, 7.00 for 7.30 pm

23rd March 'Sweet Peas – Growing & Showing' by Phillippa Cooper



Are you looking for a nursery place for your child?



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Croxton & Broughton Harvest Supper

Putting thoughts of Covid behind, around 70 people turned out on 1st October to enjoy an appetising meal prepared by Sylvia Firth with delightful entertainment by talented local musicians/singer-songwriters, Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer. Thanks to Judy Rowlands for the mulled wine, to all those who provided home-made puddings and raffle prizes and to everybody for coming.

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride & Stride

Thanks are due to Jesse Thompstone and his generous sponsors for supporting this annual event on the second Saturday in September to raise funds for St Peter’s Broughton and St Paul’s Croxton as well as the SHCT. Jesse cycled 80 miles, visiting 25 churches, and raised £210 for each church.



SANCTUS: SUPPORTING REFUGEES AND ASSYLUM SEEKERS – CAN YOU HELP?

Can anyone help with collecting groceries from St Mark's Shelton and delivering them to approx. 8 families in the Stoke area on Wednesday mornings? They need both regular drivers and occasional volunteers to cover absences. Also needed: plastic carrier bags – strong ones if possible.

If you would like to donate groceries, the current priorities are:

Food

- * Tinned food - particularly chopped tomatoes, baked beans, sweetcorn, fruit, chickpeas, kidney beans, tuna/fish, meat, tomatoes
- * Cereal (particularly cornflakes)
- * Coffee and tea
- * Biscuits
- * Sugar and salt
- * Rice, pasta and cous-cous
- * Lentils
- * Cooking oils

Note: we prefer items not to be in huge bulk packets (i.e. huge bags of rice or gallon bottles of oil) as these are harder to distribute.

Toiletries

- * Shampoo
- * Shower gel
- * Deodorant
- * Razors and shaving cream
- * Sanitary towels (but no tampons please!)
- * Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- * Soap
- * Toilet paper
- * Washing up liquid

Baby items

- * Nappies (all sizes but particularly size 5+ and 6)
- * Baby wipes
- * Baby food

Items can be left at St Paul's Church Croxton on 1st & 4th Sunday mornings or the last Friday of every month during Coffee Mornings





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BOUGHTON WI CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY

October, the time of year when the seasons change, the days get shorter, the mornings darker and the natural world starts preparing for the winter months. The leaves fall from the trees and birds and animals make plans to take shelter until the warmer, brighter days return. However, for Boughton WI it has been quite the opposite, after 17 months of lock down we have come out on the other side feeling both grateful for being a part of such a supportive and friendly WI and determined to make the most of the time we get to spend together. We have finally been able to plan and enjoy face to face meetings and activities,

everything feels brighter and as a result we have had an extremely busy few months.

Broughton WI were celebrating their centenary year in 2021 and October saw 46 members and special guests come together at Goldstone Hall to enjoy a celebratory meal and to reflect on the members and achievements that make Boughton WI so special. We remembered our WI presidents by unveiling our centenary presidents board, beautifully crafted by the talented Susan Mather and her brother Christopher.



Our Centenary meal also provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise the spirit, values, and contribution of the WI to the local community over the past 100 years. The Covid pandemic is not the first challenge the WI have faced; we have many years' experience of campaigning and supporting the local community to improve the lives of everyday people when times are tough. Our achievements show how we supported national efforts during the second world war and how we campaigned for changes to social housing, transport, and the environment. Our current members, women of all ages, interests and skills continue to work together to support others and the local community. We also strive to ensure that being a member of Broughton WI continues to be packed full of fun,



friendship, and opportunities to try and develop new talents and interests. So, it has been with a renewed energy that we have returned to our craft club, planned trips to the theatre and set

up a new walking group, just the start of an exciting plan of activities and events leading up to the new year.

In October we also had the opportunity to come together with other local WI groups at a 1940s themed meeting night at Broughton Parish rooms. Our members enjoyed delicious homemade steak pies, dressed in 1940s style and were entertained by Winston Churchill. Helen Newman (SFWI chairman), old and new members came together to enjoy a hot meal, reconnect with people we had not seen for many



months and participate in a good old sing song. For those members with a love of singing, Broughton WI choir started rehearsals in October for their performance at Lichfield Cathedral

on 13th December. And as Christmas crept ever closer our craft club created beautiful autumnal wreaths and Christmas Cards.

It was also during October and November that many of our long anticipated and eagerly

awaited Centenary plans, became reality. The centenary bench was officially unveiled on the 16th of October and the Centenary pear tree was planted on the green in front of the Highfields, Croxton on December 4th.



In November as Broughton WI continued to remember and celebrate their 100 years, we also joined with the nation to remember and commemorate those who

have lost their lives in wars and military conflicts since the onset of World War I by laying a wreath at the cenotaph at St Paul's Church Croxton. We also took the opportunity to put a posy of flowers on the grave of our first WI President, Lucy Vernon-Kynaston.

December brought dark and cold winter nights, but Broughton WI were looking forward to celebrating the festive period with a jolly Christmas party in front of a roaring fire at the parish rooms. This year more than ever, we appreciate the special times we spend with our members, and we continue to look for opportunities to come together in addition to the monthly meeting. In December Our WI Choir performed two carols at Lichfield Cathedral, - 'Babe in a Manger' (written by Broughton WI members, Jean Beasley



skills. Our 100 years Centenary reminded us that these are passed down through generations and continually updated to reflect the lives of women today. As people across the UK make their own personal New Year's resolutions, our members will decide on one of 5 short listed national campaigns to support. This reminds us that being a member of the WI gives us a unique opportunity to be a part or turning a concern into a national campaign, backed by the whole WI. To be a member of the WI is to be at the heart of the community, at the heart of decisions for the benefit of others and in the hearts of the women that support and encourage their fellow members.



and Jean Ainsworth) and 'Mary's Boy Child'. Both have been specially arranged by our musical director, Martin Jones. This brought 2021 to a beautiful close and WI members, like the rest of the nation were eager to see loved ones over the Christmas period.

So, as we enter the new year, we hope to attract new members to our group and continue to focus on inspiring women through experiences, knowledge, and

We have an exciting and interesting program of events for 2022. Broughton WI meet at 7.00pm at the Broughton Parish Rooms on the second Thursday of every month. We also organise trips, theatre visits and activities/workshops for crafting, walking, photography and, well, pretty much anything our members would like to try! We are looking forward to an active 2022 and already have plans for events such as the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

We actively welcome new members, take a look at www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.com



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A DIET OF ANTS

There are three woodpeckers native to the UK, Great Spotted, the rare Lesser Spotted and the largest of the three, the Green Woodpecker. Although they look similar, Green Woodpeckers are not closely related to the other two woodpeckers and most importantly they don't peck wood! Where other woodpeckers drum on hollow wood to advertise their presence, Green Woodpeckers have a loud, laughing call or 'yaffle'. Yaffle, Laughing Betsey and Yaffingale are all traditional names for this magnificent bird.



Green Woodpeckers can be seen in churchyards all year round and give a splash of colour in the winter months when there may not be much to be seen. They are bright green in colour with a yellow rump and red cap: look out for their swooping flight as they come to feed in churchyards.

The main food of Green Woodpeckers are ants, and they have an extraordinary tongue for pulling ants and ant larvae out of anthills. Their tongues are extremely long and sticky, for probing deep into the anthill and sucking up ants. Green Woodpeckers' tongues measure about 10cm, a third the length of the whole bird! When not feeding this long thin tongue is coiled within the birds' skull, resting behind their eyes and around their brains.

The yellow meadow ant which builds anthills in grassland is common in churchyards, so Green Woodpeckers have a year-round source of food. These anthills are a sign of ancient, traditionally managed meadow so, although hard to mow around, they are really special, please look after them. As well as feeding the woodpeckers they often have different plants growing on them, so look out for the flash of green and red followed by the laughing 'yaffle' and then, in the spring and summer see what plants you can find on your anthills too.



All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,

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SERVICES WHEN THE CHURCHES ARE OPEN – Feb to May 2022

| | Broughton | Croxton | Methodist Chapel |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 6th Feb: 4th before Lent | 11 am United Songs of Praise at St Paul's Croxton | | |
| 13th Feb: 3rd before Lent | 11 am United Holy Communion at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 20th Feb: 2nd before Lent | 11 am United Matins Service at St Peter's Broughton | | |
| 27th Feb: Next before Lent | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am Holy Communion |
| 2nd Mar: Ash Wed | 7.00 pm Benefice Service at St Mary's Mucklestone | | |
| 6th Mar: 1st of Lent | 11 am United Songs of Praise at St Paul's Croxton | | |
| 13th Mar: 2nd of Lent | 11 am United Holy Communion at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 20th Mar: 3rd of Lent | 11 am United Matins at St Peter's Broughton | | |
| 27th Mar: Mothering Sun | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am Holy Communion |
| 3rd Apr: Passion Sunday | 11 am United Songs of Praise at St. Paul's Croxton | | |
| 10th Apr: Palm Sunday | 11 am United Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 14th Apr: Maundy Thurs | 7 pm United Benefice Service at St Mary's Mucklestone | | |
| 15th Apr: Good Fri | 7 pm Good Friday Service—St Peter's Broughton | | |
| 17th Apr: Easter Day | 5.50 am Sun Rise Service at The Rudge 11am Holy Communion at St Peter's Broughton | | |
| 24th Apr: 2nd of Easter | 11 am United Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Holy Communion |
| 1st May: 3rd of Easter | 11 am United Songs of Praise at St Paul's Croxton | | |
| 8th May: 4th of Easter | 11 am United Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 15th May: 5th of Easter | 11 am United Matins at St Peter's Broughton | | |
| 22nd May: 6th of Easter | 11 am United Holy Communion at St Peter's Broughton | | 11 am Holy Communion |
| 26th May, Thursday: Ascension Day | Benefice Service—venue TBC | | |
| 29th May: 7th of Easter | 9.30 am Benefice Service at St John the Baptist Church, Ashley | | |