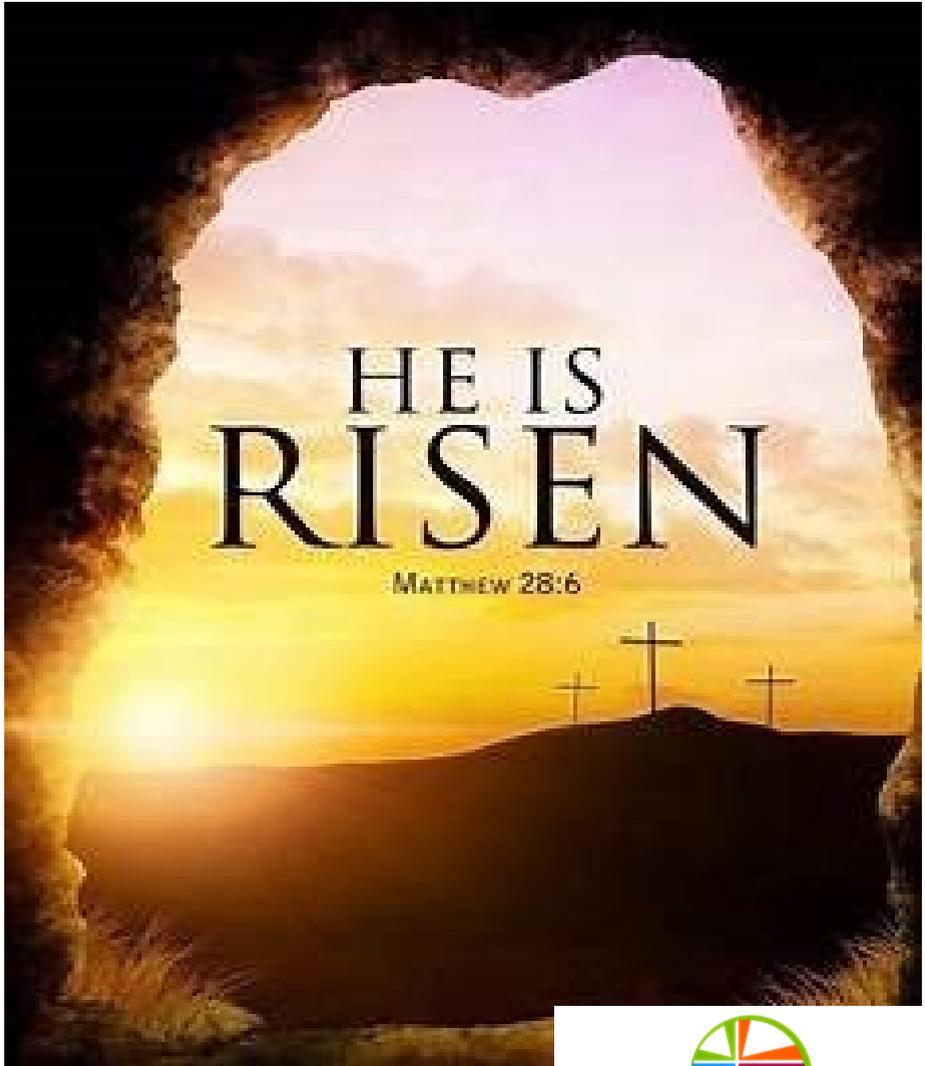


# **A**bout **B**roughton & **C**roxton

February to April 2023

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton



**The Loggerheads Benefice**  
Ashley | Muckleston | Broughton | Croxton

# The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton

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The Vicar of Eccleshall [in vacancy]  
Mr Tom A. J. Hall  
Mr Jamie Friend  
The Society for the Maintenance of Faith

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Croxton Church – Mrs Beryl Roe (01630 620248)

Broughton Church – Mrs Judy Thompstone (01630 673104)

Community—Mrs Marianne Grime [chatcull@outlook.com](mailto:chatcull@outlook.com)

Treasurer—Mrs Kath Bridgwood (01630 620601)

## Your Magazine – Your Community

A full colour issue of the magazine is available on the Broughton Church website at [www.broughtonchurch.com](http://www.broughtonchurch.com) and the benefice website at [www.thelloggerheadsbenefice.org](http://www.thelloggerheadsbenefice.org).

The deadline for the next issue of ABC is 10th May 2023.

**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*



The Rectory  
Ashley

February 2023

Dear friends,

So, what was it like for the first disciples in the days and weeks following what they thought was the disaster of Jesus' death upon the cross? They had been in great distress, not knowing what to do or where to go. It must have felt as if their world had come to an end. Then came Easter Day, as we now call it, and the wild, crazy, joyous story of the women that they had seen Jesus.

Jesus' friends must have talked over so many events and sayings. Old puzzlements were rehearsed; old questions raised again. New understandings were beginning to emerge. So, what was it that changed the disciples from being a group of frightened people in mourning into what we now call the Early Church? How did Jesus infuse them with his own vitality?

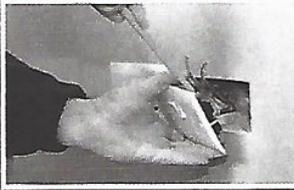
Jesus had revealed himself alive to the disciples and they knew that the cross was not the end. The women had seen the Lord. The disciples with and without Thomas present had seen him also. The disciples had to come to terms with the physical reality of Jesus' death and Resurrection. They had to come to terms with the difficulty of believing that anyone could live after death in a visible and understandable way. That is what the story of Thomas, called the doubter, is all about. For we are all doubters at times and we understand exactly what he must have felt like. When you are in doubt about your faith, unsure if it is real for you, remember Thomas, and be comforted.

Your Friend and Parish Priest

Father David



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## PASTORAL CARE

We are delighted to advise that we are now able to resume home pastoral visits. If you would like to arrange a visit or 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 .

## 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, before adding their name to the Prayer Chain. If anyone wishes for prayers, please contact either Revd Sara Humphries 01630 673740 or Anna Mortimer 01630 672804.

## SERVICES AT ASHLEY AND MUCKLESTONE CHURCHES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ashley</b>	<b>Mucklestone</b>
5th February	9.30am CW HC	11.15am BCP HC
12th February	9.30am CW HC	11.15am Family Service
19th February—Sunday before Lent	9.30am CW HC	11.15am CW HC
22nd February—Ash Wednesday	7pm Benefice Service at St John the Baptist, Ashley	
26th February—Lent	9.30am CW HC	11.15 Matins
5th March—Lent	9.30am CW HC	11.15am BCP HC
12th March—Lent	9.30am CW HC	11.15am Matins
19th March—Mothering Sunday	9.30am CW HC	11.15am Family Eucharist
26th March—Passion Sunday	9.30am CW HC	11.15am Matins
2nd April—Palm Sunday	9.30am CW HC	11.15am BCP Matins
6th April—Maundy Thursday	7.00pm Benefice Service at St Mary's Mucklestone	
7th April—Good Friday	All at St John the Baptist, Ashley: 10.00am Ecumenical Service 2/00pm Devotions 3.00pm Distribution Communion	
9th April—Easter Day	9.30am CW HC	11.15am CW HC
16th April—2nd Sunday after Easter	9.30am CW HC	11.15am Matins
23th April—3rd Sunday after Easter	9.30am CW HC	11.15am CW HC
30th April—4th Sunday after Easter	9.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Ashley	

Services at Broughton and Croxton on back page.

# Croxton Parish - St Paul's Church

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

## SONGS OF PRAISE

First Sunday in the month. 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—Good News  
March—Wales—faith and music  
April—New Life  
May—Rejoice

## NOTICES

Funeral—15th December 2022 Revd John Malcolm Day



## 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

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 1st July, 2023 there will be the usual well dressing at The Boughey Well and several smaller ones displayed on other wells around the village. There will be activities and food in the Millennium Wood, and Croxton Church will be open during the day for tea and cakes and hopefully a concert in the afternoon.

More details to follow in the spring/summer edition of ABC. If you'd like to get involved with the event—see page 13.

For further details please contact Carol Benbow on 01630620644 or Ros Langford on 01630620545

## CROXTON & BROUGHTON GARDEN GUILD

New members and visitors welcome! All meetings take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise specified) in Broughton Parish Room, Wetwood (ST21 6NW). Programme as follows:

22nd Feb: David Wood – Master Thatcher

22nd March: Pam Mosley – Her story of growing flowers and demonstrating hand-ties. Choosing SAGG Photo Competition entries

26th April: Robert Middleton – ‘Auriculas’

For more information, please contact Marianne Grime (01782 791420) or Linda Mifflin (01630 620215)

## HARVEST SUPPER—HELP!

The Harvest Supper for Broughton & Croxton has traditionally been held in Broughton Parish Room on either the first Friday or Saturday in October and was always well attended. The same people have organised this for very many years and now wish to stand down, so if you are community-minded, able-bodied, enthusiastic and possibly with new ideas, please feel free to volunteer by contacting any of the people named as ‘Parish Links for Contributions’ on the inside cover of this magazine, as a first step towards reviving this popular event.



# **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

### **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

#### **Weddings:**

Miss Geraldine Lowndes and Mr Francis Baldwin

## **SPECIAL SERVICES—ST PETER'S BROUGHTON**

With Easter rapidly approaching, these are a few dates you might like to put in your diaries.

- +** 11 am Sunday 19th March—Mothering Sunday Family Service
- +** 7 pm Friday 7th April—Good Friday dramatized reading of St John's Passion narrative.
- +** 6.15 am Sunday 9th April—Sun Rise Service and renewal of baptismal vows at The Rudge
- +** 11 am Easter Day Holy Communion

All are most welcome to attend any of our above services and we do hope to see you soon.

### **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

Leading up to Christmas, Ellen took responsibility for the organisation of our annual carol singing around the area. Thank you to all who hosted us, for their wonderful hospitality and to those who turned out to join us and sing lots of carols. A good time was had by all. We raised £260 which will be divided between St Peter's Church and Staffordshire Women's Aid.

On Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, we held our carol service at Broughton incorporating nine lessons and lots of carols. A big thank you to all those who read the lessons. We finished with sherry and mince pies – which went down a treat. Our congregation very kindly donated Christmas chocolate selection boxes for the children from Staffordshire Women’s Aid; who were extremely grateful for these gifts.



Midnight mass was held at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and saw us welcome the birth of Christ.

The Christmas tree was once again, kindly donated by Will Friend from Mucklestone Nurseries. It looked fabulous decked out in hundreds of fairy lights.

Unfortunately, the New Year’s Day walk had to be cancelled due to Covid striking our household once again – a little like the gift that keeps giving..... let us hope 2023 is the end to it for all of us.

## **STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE 2022**

Thank you to Jesse Thompstone and his bike for taking part in this once again and to all his sponsors, as a result of which £195 each was raised for St Peter’s Broughton and St Paul’s Croxton.

## **DEANERY QUIET DAY A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT**

St Lawrence’s Church, Gnosall is kindly hosting the Eccleshall Deanery Quiet Day on Saturday, 25th February between 10am and 4pm

Clearing away the clutter of everyday life  
Journeying with Jesus into the desert  
Discovering fruitfulness in the wilderness  
With a variety of prayer stations and art activities

A light lunch, plus tea, coffee and cake will be provided.  
The event is free—all welcome—to help with catering please book in by  
Monday 20th Feb with Denise:  
[deniscakeen@btinternet.com](mailto:deniscakeen@btinternet.com)/07761 446753

## CLOSURE OF CROXTON INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH

The final service took place last November as there was only one Trustee/Member left. Services were down to one a month with a usual attendance of six. David Hemingway from Bishops Offley took the service with the Revd Simon Hollis, a Baptist Minister from Stafford, and Kath Bridgwood taking part. Kath explained how the Church started as follows:

From the Baptist Handbook of 1908 it stated that Joseph Shelley from Croxton went to work as a corn miller in High Wycombe, where he became a Baptist in 1854. He returned to Croxton and held meetings in his own house. With the help off a friend he drew up plans for a Chapel with vestries and a baptistery. The building was erected by the members of the Church with their own hands at a cost of £140. Land was bought for a burial ground. After a year or two of service Mr Shelley was appointed the pastor of the Church in 1863, prospering for over twenty years.

Agricultural depression drove away many of the villagers and numbers declined. He served the Church gratuitously for forty eight years. He taught in the Sunday School from its formation until the day before his death and he always made a point of teaching the children Baptist principles. He died on 27th May 1907, *when he went into his garden in the early morning ... and fell to the ground. There, from beneath the apple blossoms, God translated him to heaven. He was a servant of Jesus Christ.*

For some years before his death he was not always able to conduct the services and some young people from the Stafford Baptist Church helped, also with financial help. This continued until 1917 when they were obliged to give up this work. Mr James Shelley, a nephew of the Revd Joseph Shelley, asked the United Free Gospel [Independent Methodists] friends if they would supply the pulpit and, if necessary, place the Church on their plan. This suggestion was put into force and since that time the Church, to all intents and purposes, has ceased to be a Baptist cause.

Cont'd on page 12

# John Slater

"Jodiwell"  
Church Lane  
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John and Stella Day, together with Peter and Sylvia Griffiths and Mr and Mrs Titley, re-started the Sunday School 50 years ago, There are still many people who remember fondly the Sunday School holidays, trips out, anniversaries and Christmas parties.

Numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals have taken place over the years. When the Chapel in Fair oak closed in 2007 and was sold, the money raised was used to update Croxton Chapel with a cloakroom, kitchen and underfloor heating. The oak pews from Fair oak were brought to Croxton, where John Slater and Henry Palmer altered them to fit. The Chapel was then rededicated on 9th November 2008, the building was packed, and the service was conducted by Revd Dr. Marcus Griffiths, with the late Revd Jonathan Eades taking part. Over latter years the number of members declined, leaving only John and Kath as members. Services were reduced to one a month, with the congregation attending joint services at St Pauls and St Peters.

At the final service, Kath thanked all those who had led worship at the Chapel, Miriam for playing the organ, Beryl for flower arrangements and members of St Pauls who joined in the monthly service.

Thank you one and all.

# CROXTON COMMUNITY WELL DRESSING FESTIVAL 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

After a 3 year break due to the pandemic, the 6<sup>th</sup> Community Well Dressing Festival will take place once again this summer with 6 well dressings being created for visitors to view along the Wells Trail in Croxton.

There will be a traditional 'blessing of the well' ceremony at 10am on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July, followed by stalls and a BBQ in the Millennium Wood and tea/cakes and a poetry and music concert in St Paul's Church from 2pm. The event is free and a wonderful traditional rural event for everyone to enjoy.

**This year we are hoping to recruit some new 'helpers' to add to our team of volunteers!**

- \* to work on the petalling of the well dressing designs during the last week of June.
- \* some strong volunteers to help with the erection of the heavy well dressing frames on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> July and erection of the marquees the day before the event.

**If you would like to be involved with this wonderful community event, please contact Ros Langford on 01630 620545.**

**For more info see: [croxtonwelldressing.weebly.com](http://croxtonwelldressing.weebly.com)**

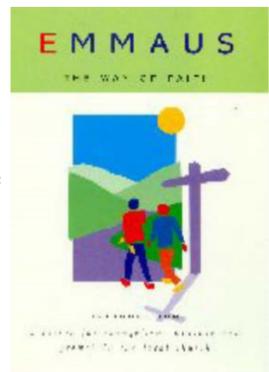
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**LENT PROGRAMME 2023 JEREMIAH:  
THE PROPHET IN THE MIRE**

- + Wednesday 1st March Introduction to the 8th century Prophets and the Interpretation of scripture
- + Wednesday 8th March Jeremiah's alienation from family ties & the rural context in the reign of King Josiah (Jer. Chapters: 2, 3 & 4)
- + Wednesday 15th March Jeremiah's alienation from the Temple and the City in the reign of King Jehoakin (Jer. Chapters: 19, 22, 36)
- + Wednesday 22nd March Jeremiah's alienation from the Nation & the State in the reign of King Zedekiah (Jer. Chapters: 21, 34 & 38)
- + Wednesday 29th March Making sense of Jeremiah in the context of a bring and share supper: Some conclusions

**EMMAUS TAKE 2**

- + Wednesday 7th June A pilgrim people: the principles behind the Emmaus approach in the context of a bring and share supper: Father David
- + Wednesday 14th June Welcome and love
- + Wednesday 21st June What is Church and Why is Church important?
- + Wednesday 28th June How do I take Church into the world?
- + Wednesday 5th July How does Church fit with this community?
- + Wednesday 12th July How does Church help me to tell people about Jesus?
- + Wednesday 19th July Planning and preparation: Faith is a journey.



# **ROUND AND ABOUT WITH YOUR ROVING REPORTER**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

We lost one of our village stalwarts in November and the very large number of friends attending his funeral showed that we all wanted to say goodbye. It was, of course, for John Day. John lost his beloved Stella earlier in the year and it was obvious that he found living without her a real challenge. Personally, it was always good to chat to John – he was a very kind and thoughtful man.

## **CROXTON AND BROUGHTON GARDEN GUILD**

I think I wrote to you last after the Annual Show. Golly, that seems such a long time ago – held on a sunny day in August. The last meeting of the year was our AGM and we always have mulled wine and mince pies (well, Christmas wasn't that far off!) Subs were paid for the next year and we have an interesting and varied programme to look forward to. We are about to have a big change in Garden Guild because our long-time Chairman Mike Tuck is standing down and having a rest. Mike actually 'saved' the Garden Guild 10 years ago when numbers had dwindled and more importantly the Chairman had retired and no-one came forward to take his place. I don't know if someone twisted Mike's arm to be Chairman when he was still busy working and travelling round the country but we have certainly been very fortunate that he took the position. We have grown in numbers and are now a very successful and thriving Guild thanks to him and the committee. The new Chairman will probably put their own stamp on the position but we will see if they do as good a job as Mike did. The Chairman can only be successful with the hard-working committee behind them and that's how it is with our Guild.

If you are reading this and wonder if you might come to a meeting, give it a go! Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month in the Parish Room at 7.30. £2 for a visitor or £15 for the whole year. You will be very welcome.

Our next get-together is our Annual Meal and we are going to The Old Smithy in Eccleshall. I will tell you how we got on when I write next time.



The Garden Guild also had the privilege of entering a Christmas Tree into the Eccleshall Church festival in December.

## BROUGHTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Oh gosh – where to start! We have such fun in the choir – there’s always something going on. Where did I leave you last time? We had our summer concert and were looking forward to the Singathon in Eccleshall Community Centre.

What a day that was! A huge

variety of choirs and performers. We had only organised one Singathon before this – before Covid – and felt we had learned such a lot from that – but the organising 6-some were still nervous! But, why oh why? The audience members all came and filled the hall and we could see they were enjoying the acts. Of course, home baking provided by all our choir friends makes everyone happy! So – another success under our belts.

The choir also sang in the Christmas Tree Festival concert in Eccleshall Church with everyone resplendent in their Christmas jumpers. We had our own Christmas Concert in the Parish Room in December, and a party afterwards. One minute the refreshment table was groaning with all manner of delicious eats and the next ..... well, I suppose that was the point!

So, January will be the beginning of another batch of choir meetings – I’m very pleased to say. If you would like to join us – or even just try us out – you won’t be sorry. Phone me up – 01782 791420 if you like, but it’s every Tuesday from 7.30 – 9.30. Martin, the choir leader is in the ‘no blame game’ and if you sing a bum note he doesn’t tell everyone it was you! Thank you Martin!

## CORONATION OF KING CHARLES

King Charles will be crowned on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May this year. We just have to have a community party to celebrate this occasion! You will be glued to the television on Saturday so we thought that Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>

May would be a good day. **3.00 p.m. SUNDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY in Broughton Parish Room.**

Keep this date free and look around for posters telling you all about it. No firm details yet but the foursome who organised the Jubilee Party last year – Ros Langford, (01630 620545) Kath Bridgwood, (01630 620601) Linda Mifflin, (01630 620215) and Marianne Grime (01782 791420) (and did a super job of it!) are the people to ask when the time comes. Not to be missed!

*Marianne* – over in Chatcull

We lost our very good friend Revd John Day in 2022. His funeral was held at St Paul's Church in Croxton on 15th December. James Butter paid a wonderful tribute to John during the service, which we have great pleasure in reproducing here.

## **John Day's Eulogy**

This Eulogy is based on the very precise notes contained within a sealed envelope which had written upon it "To be opened on my death" now I could just have read it out word for word but I have been given the privilege by John to pay tribute to his life so I have stayed true to the notes though expanded upon them to encompass what John meant to me and to my friends.

John was born in the village of Aberbeeg in south Wales, he had two siblings Martin who emigrated to Canada and Virginia who never moved far from the valleys. Alas Virginia died shortly after Stella, however John did manage to make the trip down to South Wales for her funeral with the help of Michael.

The last three seasons of John's life have not been easy, in fact they have been slightly Job-like and like Job, John held the faith through it all. A faith that was nurtured in the valleys of South Wales as a boy, and held fast until his last breath.

John was a bright lad passing his eleven+ and after grammar school he spent 2 years attending a technical college and when his formal education was over, John was a qualified Mechanical engineer. Now this qualification would open up a few doors in other parts of the UK and John took advantage of this and moved from South Wales to Stafford.

*Cont'd on page 30 ...*

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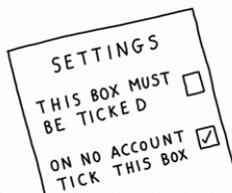


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www.flawless-skin-clinic.co.uk

# BROUGHTON WI

It's 2023 and Broughton WI would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.



2022 was a year packed full of activity, friendship, learning and fun for the wonderful members of Broughton women's institute. Our committee members and many other committed individual WI members work tirelessly to create a program of inspirational speakers, clubs, days out, social get togethers and ways in which we can be a force for good by contributing to local events and nationwide charitable causes. So, because it's the New Year when many people are looking for opportunities to try something new and especially after a number of years where social interaction has been restricted, we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to explain a little bit more about the organisation and why being a member of the WI is so special and rewarding.

The WI was established in 1915, it is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK with approximately 200,000 UK members. There are so many benefits to being a part of the WI community. Here are just a few.....

- Friendship
- Events at local, federation and national level

Cont'd on page 23 ...



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- Room to contribute your own ideas for speakers, activities, and events
- The opportunity to meet like-minded women from different backgrounds
- An outlet to make a difference through campaigning and getting involved in your local community
- Regular newsletters and mailing with the latest news, events and opportunities open to you
- Eight copies of WI Life, the WI magazine delivered directly to your door

Exclusive access to My WI, the WI member-only website.

In 2022 we were delighted to see a year where our membership has grown tremendously, it has been a real pleasure to see so many new



faces attending meetings and participating in activity's.

The Women's Institute is so much more than our monthly local Thursday evening meetings, we have such an extensive and wide ranging program that there genuinely is something to interest and excite everyone. From garden meetings, county shows, craft markets, quizzes, jubilee celebrations, Carol

service, theatre and national trust trips. Talks in 2022 ranged from the nostalgic, 1960s hairstyles and the music of The Shadows to eye opening and fun, West African Drumming with David from Joliba. Charity contributions included making a difference to children experiencing emergency care by supporting the Buddy bag foundation and collecting 750 bras to support Breast Cancer Awareness and women's aid charities outside the uk. The WI is a safe place to learn and try things you probably wouldn't otherwise experience. We would love to have the chance to offer many more new members a warm welcome in 2023.

Our current members have enjoyed a fabulous few months in the lead up to Christmas, starting with one of the highlights of our calendar, our annual dinner at Tern Hall on 22nd Sept. This was followed in October with a delicious Fish and Chip supper at our October quiz night meeting. Finally we ended this year's meetings on December 8th with Turkey and stuffing baps, supplied by Perrys of Eccleshall, whilst we listened to the music of The Shadows. Apache and Kon Tiki were firm favourites, as was the Shadows walk, which some of us attempted, some more successfully than others! Most importantly we all had many enjoyable evenings of fun, friendship and good food. Friendship and good food will remain a constant in 2023 as our sub group The Gastronomi-Gals supported by Brenda Howe, continues to visit local restaurants and pubs for lunch or evening meals.

Our extremely active crafting group continued to grow in 2022, their hard work, skill and creativity resulted in our the first ever WI craft stall at Eccleshall craft market to raise funds for our local WI. They also worked alongside members to create beautiful and unique felt and wool poppy installations,



displayed at St Peter's Church Broughton and St Paul's Church Croxton. I am sure that everyone who drove past those locations admired how striking they looked, and took a moment to be united in remembering all those whose service and sacrifice gave people hope for a peaceful future. Ros Langford, Broughton WI President laid a hand crafted wreath made by craft club at St Peter's church cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. As you would expect, on the build up to Christmas, our crafting group was extremely busy and industrious. Members were given the opportunity to create

crackers, Christmas cards, watercolour paintings of robins and macrame Santa tree decorations.

*Cont'd page 26*

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Crafts bring such pleasure to individuals and the community, we really are blessed to have so many creative and skilled WI members.

2022 also saw another sub group grow in popularity, Broughton Bimblers, established to allow members of differing levels of fitness the chance to walk safely in our beautiful local area whilst having a chat and the occasional cream tea. The walks are planned to avoid too many strenuous climbs and stiles. November's walk



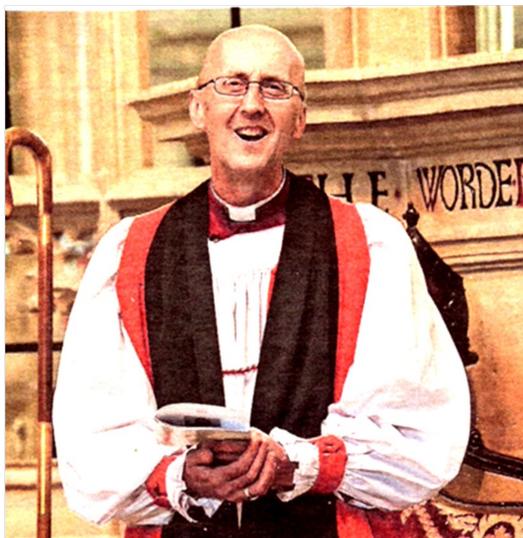
started at Sugnall tea rooms towards Ginger lane and the bridle path to The Rocks. If you fancy taking in the fresh air and scenery with good company, this will be the group for you in 2023. Our first walk of the New Year will be 3.5 miles in the Loggerheads/Ashley area....I have a feeling that there might be a few muddy boots at the end of the day.

We ended 2022 in the spirit of Christmas with 50 years of carols for WI. The carol service took place in a new location this year, the Collegiate Church of St Mary's in Stafford. An uplifting end to the year, an opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of friends, family and community.

If you feel inspired to become a member of Broughton WI in 2023 please visit [www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.com](http://www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.com). Although you may have missed our spring time Hyacinth challenge, 2023 will really be a busy and exciting year as we prepare for The Croxton Community Well Dressing. Ros Langford collected a £400 cheque from Staffordshire Borough Council community foundation to support preparations for the event to be held on 1st July. Due to the disruption to public events there has not been a Well Dressing since 2019. The first Croxton Well Dressing Festival was held in 2012,

It is a community led project which requires months of planning and organisation. However it is true that many hands do make light work, and when it is all completed and installed, it is a fantastic event much loved by locals and visitors. This year is going to be an incredible display of creativity, workmanship, skill and beauty. So preparations will begin very soon and by July you will be able to marvel at each well dressing as you walk the wells trail. As you can see it is going to be a busy year but the members of Broughton WI will rise to the challenge and I am sure they will enjoy every minute. We continue to create memories which will last a lifetime and provide inspirational stories to the next generation of WI members xx

*Michelle Bugliarello*  
07908802274



## **The 80th Bishop of Bath & Wells**

The Right Revd Michael Beasley, was enthroned as the 80th Bishop of Bath & Wells on Saturday 12th November in front of a packed Cathedral of invited guests. A number of people from Broughton and Croxton felt very privileged to attend the service, to see one of our own installed into this very special and honoured position.

Michael was born in Croxton, second son of Eric and Jean Beasley, baptized at St Paul's, worshipped at St Peter's, attended the Sunday School at Croxton Chapel and joined Croxton and Broughton Cubs and Scouts.

On the morning of the service Bishop Michael made his way from Bath to Wells using different modes of transport and stopped off during his journey to meet as many people as possible. He got the idea from a phrase that was used when he was first made a bishop in 2015 which has stuck with him ever since: 'bishops know their people and their people know them'. So he donned his walking boots in Bath, was picked up in a car, transferred to an electric bike, then a police car,

followed by a tractor and finally a vintage lorry dropped him off in Wells in time for his enthronement.

Michael's love and concerns for the countryside and natural environment are well known, he explained 'Among the biggest challenges we face as citizens of the earth is the climate catastrophe that advances upon us. So as an example of just one of the things we can do to bring about the harvest of God's life into God's world, I invite you to take home from this place a sapling. A hazel that will grow, offer shelter to birds and creatures, capture carbon, hold moisture in the soil. Our world has so many needs—of poverty, of hunger, of disease, of hardness of heart. As a way of marking this day will you plant a sapling as a sign that under God each of us, in every place, can play our part in working for change, for transformation, for life. Small actions that when we undertake them together make a big difference.

A 1000 saplings were eagerly snapped up by the congregation and a few even found their way back to the Midlands. Some of which will be planted at St Paul's and St Peter's to commemorate this very special day and to honour Bishop Michael's call for each of us to recognize our own individual responsibility towards helping to save the planet.



Holy and everlasting Lord,  
Creator of our common home,  
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life  
Forgive us our neglect of your creation  
The choking waste of our pollution  
The damage done by careless habits  
And our indifference to future generations.

Help us to amend our lives  
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it  
To lift our voice for lasting change  
And to live well and gently on the earth  
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word  
Through whom you made this fragile world.  
Amen.

**Rt Revd Steven Croft  
Bishop of Oxford**

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He accepted a position at the then English Electric Company as a layout draughtsman and as the years revolved he climbed the promotional ladder eventually becoming Manager of the DC transmission drawing office. Through takeovers and amalgamations John's fortunes also increased and by the time of his retirement John was Manager of Engineering services.

GEC and Alstom were very accommodating to John because as we all know John was a man of tremendous faith and when he felt called by God to do all such good works that were laid down before him, GEC gave John encouragement and the time he needed. I don't know how many employers would be as understanding today.

Anyway I've jumped ahead because I'm 233 words in and not mentioned Stella which is a little remiss of me, because Stella, John and faith were inseparable so it is quite fitting that John was to meet the love of his eternity at Church. For both John and Stella were brought up in the Baptist tradition and when John moved to Stafford, he naturally looked for a church to attend. That church happened to be The Green Baptist Church Stafford, the same church Stella attended and in no time at all they were introduced then a swift courtship followed by marriage. A marriage that was to last for 62 years. Married life started in Stafford and in the fullness of time Sarah was born into this world and then Michael completed the family and with that it was time to move out of the town and into the country. The Day family moved into The Old Police House Croxton in 1968 and soon assimilated into the local community which was no mean feat back then.

John was to become the leading light at Croxton Chapel, in fact John was The Chapel, he was the light shining in this community and he shone for almost 60 years but John's influence was far wider than this; his local community. John served on various committees at a senior level within the Methodist Church nationally, he was as they say a leading light.

John started his journey witnessing his faith by becoming a Lay Preacher followed by Ordination in 1975 and summing up John and his faith I would say he was inclusive. He would work to resolve problems, not create them and he was a valuable member of both Croxton and Broughton's PCC's.

He was passionate about working with the young people both within the Church and the Scouting organisation. Though he did manage to combine the two by representing the church on the scouting national governing body. There are at least two generations of lads from Eccleshall and Stone who will be grateful to John Day for his enthusiasm in all things scouting. Mick Adams and John Day made an unlikely partnership but a very effective one in this area for many years; the like of which I doubt we will ever see again.

As you may have noticed John had become quite prominent within several organisations and when this happens the occasional invitation drops on the mat. John was invited to the enthronement of Archbishop Runcie. John and Stella were invited to Lambeth Palace to meet Dr Desmond Tutu and eventually the invitation Stella had been waiting for, an invite to Buckingham palace for one of The Queen's garden parties and Sarah even managed to get in on that one, alas it seems Michael missed out.

John was a keen gardener and an active member of Broughton and Croxton gardening guild, also a member of Staffordshire wood turners. Long standing editor of our parish magazine. Trustee on the Henry Bennett Trust.

John and Stella were both entwined within this community and when I had the privilege to pay tribute to Stella 7 months ago, I described her as the mother of Croxton and I think we could say that John Day was the Father of Croxton and that's not down to accolades and success; no its more fundamental than that. For me it was down to John's wise counsel for he was a man who would engage his brain before his mouth and what came out was usually worth considering.

John's health slowly declined over a number of years and he bore the loss of each ability with resolve, for when his voice started to fail he gave up singing and as the condition worsened he gave up taking services, this he bore with dignity. His ability to walk about was seriously curtailed by the problem with his feet and yet he still went out to all the village events. For if you were organising a fundraiser, you could always count on John and Stella's support.

I will miss the friendship built up over a lifetime with John though in saying that I would rather have the John Day sized hole in my life than never to have known this blessed man. God's speed John may you rest in glorious peace. Amen.

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<b>SERVICES – February to April 2023</b>		
	<b>Broughton</b>	<b>Croxton</b>
5th February	11 am United Songs of Praise at St Paul’s Croxton	
12th February	11 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion
19th February—Sunday before Lent	11 am United Matins at St Peter’s Broughton	
22nd February—Ash Wednesday	7 pm Benefice Service at St John the Baptist, Ashley	
26th February—Lent	11.am United Holy Communion at St Peter’s Broughton	
5th March—Lent	11 am United Songs of Praise at St Paul’s Croxton	
12th March—Lent	11 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion
19th March—Mothering Sunday	11 am United Family Service at St Peter’s Broughton	
26th March—Passion Sunday	11 am Holy Communion at St Peter’s Broughton	
2nd April—Palm Sunday	11 am Songs of Praise at St Paul’s Croxton	
6th April—Maundy Thursday	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion
7th April—Good Friday	7 pm Good Friday dramatized reading of St John’s passion narrative at St Peter’s Broughton	
9th April—Easter Day	6.15 am Sun Rise Service at The Rudge	
9th April—Easter Day	11 am United Holy Communion at St Peter’s Broughton	
16th April—2nd Sunday after Easter	11 am United Matins at St Peter’s Broughton	
23th April—3rd Sunday after Easter	11 am United Holy Communion at St Peter’s Broughton	
30th April—4th Sunday after Easter	9.30 am Benefice Eucharist at St John the Baptist, Ashley	