

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

September to November 2017

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton



We will remember them

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton

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Steve Parker Chair: Jill Cheadle

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WEBSITE www.ourbenefice.church

Parish Links for Contributions:

Croxton Church – Mrs Beryl Roe (01630 620248)

Broughton Church – Mrs Jean Beasley (01785 850306)

Croxton Chapel – Mrs Kath Bridgwood (01630 620601)

Your Magazine – Your Community

A colour issue of the magazine is now available on the Broughton Church website at www.broughtonchurch.com.

The deadline for the next issue of ABC is 7th November 2017

(Please continue to support this Magazine by giving your DONATIONS to any committee member – names and telephone numbers above or to the person who delivers your copy.

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Old Police House
Croxton

September 2017

Dear Friends

We live in troubled times, only today in the national press an account of “road rage”, another symptom of our society, a young man being stabbed to death—cause—temper—“road rage”.

Temper is like a fire; it gets very destructive when it gets out of control. When a person loses their temper, one of the most common expressions used to describe the situation is “fly off the handle”. The phrase refers to the head of a hammer coming loose from its handle as the carpenter attempts to use it. Several things happen as a result; first, the hammer becomes useless—no longer good for work. When you lose your temper, you lose your effectiveness. In that frame of mind, anything you say may not be taken seriously.

Second, the hammer head can hurt just about anything in its path. Our children can carry the scars of our anger with them all their lives. We may not realise we have done it and we may never have intended to do it in the first place, but the facts are words can cause wounds. Angry words can become the pattern of abuse that our young people pick up and use with their children and young ones. Anger has a long reach.

Third, the repair of both the hammer and the resulting damage takes time. The person who loses their temper may recover quickly but the one who is the victim of a hot temper rarely recovers quickly.

So friends, keep your temper under control not just today, but every day. Nobody wants it!

May I invite you to join in one of our Harvest Festival Services and praise God for all His faithfulness towards us. In fact why not join with us every Sunday.

With all good wishes.

Yours in His Service
John Day
Minister

BENEFICE NEWS

NEW BENEFICE PROJECTS

- **HOUSE GROUPS**

Would you like to join or host one of our HOUSE GROUPS? We are looking for half-a-dozen volunteers in the Benefice to host a house group. The groups will meet once a month to pray together, discuss sermons and to grow in fellowship. Contact the Rector for further details.

- **WHOLE BENEFICE SERVICES**

October 29th, 6pm at St Mary's Mucklestone, All Saints Service

- **MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION**

Over the years, ministry has changed and there seems to be more and more paperwork being offloaded on clergy. More time spent in the office means less times being a pastor. With four parishes to work around we need to get the administration right. We are fortunate to have **Amanda Montandon** as Children's work administrator—advertising children's work, looking after safe-guarding and our children's work databases [among other things]. Amanda works from home and is a great asset to our benefice.

We have now appointed a Rector's PA/Administrator to work from the Rectory office. This is **Amanda Roche**. She will be available from the Rectory on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 12.00. Her role includes taking enquiries about weddings, funerals and baptisms and completing all the relevant paperwork, producing Grapevine, and generally helping the Rector with the mass of papers that land on his desk.

SPIRITUAL WALK

WALKING WITH DOGS AND GOD



**AT GOLDEN HILL FARM,
MOSS LANE,
CHESWARDINE, TF9 2SH**

**SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER
STARTING AT 2 PM**

The walk is about 3 miles, over farmland and woodland. Dogs most welcome, but must be kept on leads at all times.

For further information, contact Anna
Mortimer 01630 672804



MISSION COUNCIL

In order to move forward as a benefice our newly formed “Mission Council” are spending some time thinking about a MISSION STATEMENT. This is a sentence or two that tells others what we are all about as a worshipping community. Do you have any ideas...Email me at rector@ambc.info with your suggestions.

Please help people in crisis by donating items in the boxes in Church. These will be going to support Sanctus Refugee Project. All unperishable items such as sugar, tinned goods, UHT milk, pasta, rice, toiletries, disposable nappies, etc are welcome.

The Benefice of Ashley, Mucklestone, Broughton & Croxton

If you would like to speak to the Rector about a Baptism or Wedding or For any other Pastoral reason please come along to an OPEN DOOR SESSION.

Open Door takes place at the Fire Station, Loggerheads

1st & 3rd Mondays - 6pm until 8pm

This is a drop-in session so no appointment is needed.

If you would like a confidential conversation and prefer to meet at a different time and venue then please call The Rectory on 01630 672210 or email revdtezza@gmail.com



The Rector: Revd Terry Williams



The Rectory, Charnes Road, Ashley, TF9 4LQ

HARVEST SUPPER in Broughton Parish Room

This will be held on Saturday, 7th October - 7 for 7.30p.m.
Tickets available from - Sylvia Holland - 01630 620653 or
Judy Thompstone - 01630 620225

RE-CHARGE SERVICES at ST PAUL'S, Croxton

- Sunday 10th September, 5 pm
- Sunday 8th October, 5 pm
- Sunday 12th November, 3 pm



**SEEDTIME AND HARVEST
ST PETER'S CHURCH
BROUGHTON**

FLOWER FESTIVAL

8TH, 9TH & 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

10 AM TO 4 PM DAILY

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES

AVAILABLE & RAFFLE



SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

11 AM TO 12 NOON

HARVEST FESTIVAL

**FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
IN THE MARQUEE**

Croxton Parish - St Paul's Church

Warden: Mrs Beryl Roe, Rowley House Farm, Croxton,
01630 620248

Songs of Praise

First Sunday in the month 11 am

Themes: September—Amber glow

October—Hedgerows

November—Just remember this

Share your contributions: readings, thoughts, memories on the themes and enjoy tea or coffee after the service.

All welcome.

From the registers:

Funeral: 28th June, Dale Southwick-Williams

SERVICES/EVENTS

- Harvest Festival—17th September, 11 am.
- All families of people having any connection with St Paul's Church are invited to a Memorial Service on Sunday 24th September, 11 am.
- Following a successful and enjoyable event last year, the PCC is holding a Church Yard Work Party on Saturday 21st October 10am to 12 pm. All help is gratefully accepted—tea, coffee and cake is the reward.
- Remembrance Service—a United Service with Croxton Independent Methodist Chapel at St Paul's Church on Sunday, November 12th at 10.45 am.
- An exhibition, strawberry tea and community concert have been much appreciated by audience and participants alike. The PCC thank all those involved for their generous support.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Grateful thanks are extended to Pat Evans who has collected the Children's Society donation boxes since 2005.

Pat has undertaken this work quietly and efficiently, she has now decided to stand down. Louise and Ellen Butter will in future collect for both parishes.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH [CROXTON] FRIDAY EVENTS

- **COFFEE MORNING**
25th August, 10 am to 12 pm
- **HARVEST TEA**
15th September, 3 pm to 5 pm
- **MacMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**
29th September, 10 am to 12 pm
- **COFFEE MORNING**
27th October, 10 am to 12 pm



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Thanks to the wonderful people who loaned their vintage items, for the 'All Our Yesterdays' weekend at St Paul's, which was a great success. We really appreciated the time and care that went into selecting the local history research and wide selection of objects that



were brought in. Our visitors were delighted, some stayed for hours!

We hope to have a similar event in 2018, perhaps focussed on the anniversary of the end of First World War or featuring more local history research. Details will be in a future Parish Magazine.

Croxton Independent Methodist Church

Secretary: Mr John Day—01630 620671

Times of services 11 am.

United Prayer Meetings

Please note the date for our United Prayer Meetings has changed from Wednesday to Thursday and commence at 4 pm.

- Sept 28th at St Paul's Croxton
- Oct 26th at Methodist Chapel, Croxton
- Nov 23rd at St Peter's Broughton



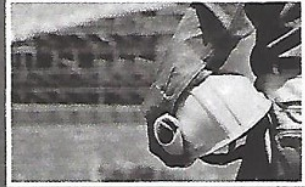
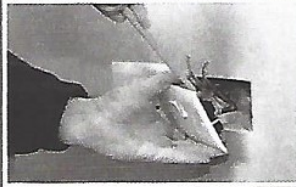
MAY QUEENS

Following a display of May Queen photographs in Croxton Church, Kath Bridgwood would like to put together an album of Fair oak May Queens.

If you have a photograph she could borrow, please contact her direct on 01630 620601.



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CROXTON & BROUGHTON GARDEN GUILD

Meetings are held in Broughton Parish Room at 8 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. New members are most welcome as are visitors [£2 charge]. For details contact Programme Secretary: Mrs Judy Thompstone, 01630620225

- 27th September—Carol Adams [Trentham Gardens] Bulb planting for Spring colour.
- 25th October—Marc Brimble; Plant and Garden Photo Tips.
- 22nd November—AGM and TBA.

Broughton Parish: St Peter's Church

www.broughtonchurch.com

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

PCC Secretary: Mrs Judith Thompstone, Bromley Hall, Wetwood.
01630 620225

Times of Services [see back page]

From the Registers:

Wedding:

Saturday 19th August—Mr Thomas Salt and Miss Nicola Murphy

Renewal of Wedding Vows:

Saturday 30th June—Mr Nicholas and Mrs Julie Johnson

Memorial Services:

Thursday, 13th July—Mr John Gleave

Sunday 30th July—Mrs Elsie Buckley

Funeral:

23rd May—Mr James Corser

BENEFACTIVE SERVICES

The congregations from across the benefice were treated to a special sung Evensong at St Peter's on 30th July. It has been a while since we've had a sung Evensong, so many thanks to Mrs Miriam Lees, for giving her time to lead us in practice and playing the organ on the day. The choir were ably supported by members of Mucklestone's choir.

On the afternoon of 6th August we had a very special visit from The Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, who presided and preached at the Transfiguration Eucharist. People from across the benefice attended and the choir were again supported by members of Mucklestone's choir. Many thanks once more to Mrs Miriam Lees for playing the organ. The service was followed by tea and home made cakes in the Parish Room, when everyone had a chance to meet and chat with the Bishop. Many thanks to everyone who made the delicious cakes and especially our hostesses Mmes Ruth and Louise Butter and Judy Thompstone.

BRIDGE PARTY

Mrs Ruth Timmis held her annual Bridge Party in August to the delight of the regular players. Five tables enjoyed a first-rate day's bridge and were treated to a splendid luncheon of roast turkey and roast pork. The PCC thanks Mrs Timmis for her continued support in hosting this event and for her generosity and hard work on behalf of St Peter's Broughton.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The short article in the last edition of ABC magazine appealed for more volunteers. I was contacted by one resident who volunteered himself and his wife. Before arranging for them to attend the required two hour training session run by the police, are there any more residents who are both concerned about the speeds of some vehicles driving through the village and able to offer a little of their time to join the Speed Watch team?

Peter Davies

Tel: (01630) 620202 email: daviespetermj@gmail.com

BROUGHTON WI

Meetings are held in Broughton Parish Room at 7.30 pm on the second Thursday of the month.

- 14th September—Three centuries of shoe-making—Helen Johnson.
- 12th October—Around the World in 45 minutes—Regent Travel
- 9th November—The Art of Pork Pie making—Perry's

New members are most welcome. Contact: The President, Diane James, 01630 673391 or The Secretary, Lesley Archibald, 01785 850997

Broughton WI Report May to July 2017

In May, Phil Walker gave an account of a not so well known emergency service, but one which is very important, namely the '**Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes**,' which provides to the NHS a free-of-charge, urgent courier service. Volunteers from very different walks of life ride specially equipped motor bikes and deliver urgent items to hospitals in Shropshire, East and North Staffordshire and Cheshire. They operate on a rota basis every day overnight, at weekends and on bank holidays and deliver such items as blood, samples, platelets, medical notes, bone marrow and frozen breast milk. A controller based at home takes calls and arranges deliveries with the individual drivers who are on duty between 7 pm and 6 am. It is a safe and efficient mode of delivery, as they can get along the road more easily than a taxi, they never exceed the speed limit and don't use blue lights. The National Association of Blood Bikes was set up in 2010 and the SSBB in 2014 (this has now extended its name to include '**Cheshire**.')

The service is wholly funded by public donations and can save the NHS as much as £300 a trip through not having to use commercial couriers or taxis. This service was represented at Croxton's recent Well Dressing Festival paying tribute to our Emergency Services.

Many members and friends visited Kensington Palace on 17th May to view a special exhibition of Princess Diana's Dresses as well as the Palace and gardens. Unfortunately it poured with rain most of the day, so most of the time was spent inside, but spirits were not dampened too much. Thanks go to Margy Horton for arranging this trip. We met in Croxton Church for our June meeting, as the Parish Room had been commandeered for the General Election. Susan Ord talked about 'The Secrets of

Handwriting,' pointing out how a writer's personality, feelings, mood, aptitudes, etc. may be revealed through his or her handwriting, and how graphology, the study of handwriting, has many uses including for interviewing, recruitment and forensics. She showed us samples of writing by some well known figures which revealed their personalities, notably Mussolini and Donald Trump.

July 1st was Croxton's 4th Well Dressing Festival, which is covered elsewhere in this issue. A lot of hard work by many people went into making this community project a great success once again. The next one will be in July 2019.

Our annual meeting out in July was held at the home of Ros Langford, when we were able to admire her colourful garden and enjoy delicious refreshments with strawberries and cream, as well as discussing the usual business and forthcoming events.

Other happenings apart from the monthly meetings were an enjoyable annual dinner at the end of April at Tern Hill Hall, a good number of entries in the County Show, with awards to Pat Kennedy, Ros Langford, Beryl Roe and Marie Poole (apologies if anybody has been left out), the national AGM in Liverpool, participation in Broughton Community Choir's concert in Croxton Church, and a 'Life Hack' workshop at Keele. Craft Club continued to meet and some members went on a visit to Wollerton Hall Gardens. Lots going on, as usual.

For more information, please visit the website www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.com

POEM READ AT CROXTON WELL DRESSING

Prevent, Protect, Respond Supporting the Community

Prevent, protect, respond, describes
Those honoured here today.
A picture at our village well,
A symbol of community.

The rural peace about the well
Is not achieved by chance.
The scene describes the many threads
Our way of life enhance.

The picture is of services
And established rule of law
Laid down over centuries
Through time of peace and war.

The uniforms are plain to see
A necessary sight,
When dealing with a crisis
Any hour of day or night.

Those who wear them proudly
Will doubtless be amused
To see themselves portrayed in seeds
And with parsley leaves infused.

The world has grown much smaller
Than when some of us were born
Internet and video links
Break news through night and morn.

Their vigilance is now increased
As promptly they respond
To those events in Manchester
In London and beyond

Where communities have rallied
To support each other's need
And lines between the state
And countless volunteers recede.

In this our small community
We have expressed the bond
Of hope and come-togetherness
Prevent, Protect, Respond.

Jean Beasley
2017



The 2017 Croxton Community Well Dressing Festival

The fourth Croxton Well Dressing Festival took place on Saturday 1st July with the overall theme for the 2017 event being: 'Supporting the Community – the Emergency Services'.

After a week of rain and cold temperatures, the festival organising committee were relieved to wake up to a dry day and the sun shining!

The six intricate and colourful well dressings had been constructed by a team of 30 people during the previous seven days and were carefully transported on a flat-bed trailer from Blorepipe to Croxton, pulled by Rob Unsworth's smart red tractor.

Cont'd on page 16



By 9.30am, a team of six strong men then erected the heavy boards behind Boughey's well on the Flash in the centre of Croxton, and the five others at various wells around the half-mile wells trail.

The crowds started to gather mid-morning to admire and photograph the beautiful design at Boughey's well - (complete with a 3-D Alsatian police dog) whilst being entertained with folk music by the 'Tern Valley Tinkers'. At 11.45 am Ros Langford (Community well dressing co-ordinator)

welcomed everyone and explained the origins of the well dressing festival in Croxton before introducing Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Matthew Ellis, who was to officially 'open' the event. Matthew stressed how working together and supporting each other was so invaluable and reflected on the recent troubles experienced by communities across the country. He thanked the emergency and voluntary services for the vital and often difficult work that they do - receiving a heart-felt round of applause from everyone present. County Councillor Jeremy Pert thanked everyone for the hard work that had gone into putting-on the festival, and how successful it had been in bringing people from different groups and all ages to work together on a project for the benefit of the community. The Rev. Terry Williams then conducted a traditional blessing of the well and prayers for the community.



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Visitors were encouraged to view the rest of the well dressings, find out more about the work of the Eccleshall First Responders (who have recently been awarded the Queens Community Award); chat to the team of firefighters from Eccleshall or even climb aboard the fire engine. There was also the opportunity to find out more about the vital work carried out by the 'Blood Bikes' serving Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire, and visit the stalls and displays in the Millennium Wood where you could partake of

scrumptious BBQ food served up by the Eccleshall Scouts. Visitors could also view a



displays of photography and marquetry and relax with cake and refreshments in St Paul's Church before listening to a music and poetry concert showcasing local talent.

By all accounts the event was a great success. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next Croxton

Community Well Dressing Festival which will take place on Saturday 6th July 2019.



A huge thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the event in so many different ways... it really is amazing the talents and community spirit we have here in the beautiful 'Woodland Quarter'.

Further information can be found on the web-site:

croxtonwelldressing.weebly.com

More photos on page41

John Slater

"Jodiwell"
Church Lane
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Staffordshire
ST21 6PG

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RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

The Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1953 with the aim of helping churches with the cost of repairs. Ride and Stride is the annual sponsored event in aid of county Historic Churches Trusts all over England. It takes place this year on Saturday September 9th.

Participants are sponsored by family and friends to visit as many churches as they can between 10am and 6pm. In 2016 140 churches took part in Staffordshire and 108 cyclists and walkers were sponsored (plus three car drivers). A total of £11,591 was raised. (Gift Aid will increase this amount) The money is used to make grants to churches for repairs and essential maintenance. Half the money raised by each cyclist/walker is returned to their home church.

If cycling or walking are too strenuous for you, you can still take part travelling by public transport or car.

As well as having the aim of raising funds for churches in need of help, Ride and Stride Day gives the opportunity to get out and about and admire our wonderful heritage of churches, many of which are normally closed (apart from times of worship, of course). A handsome trophy is awarded to the cyclist or walker who visits most participating churches.

It is also a special day of fellowship for all those taking part – whether you are welcoming visitors to *your* church or going out on your bike or on foot to visit other churches. It is a very practical way to remind ourselves that we are part of something much bigger than our own building and our own congregation.

So please think about taking part – as a cyclist, walker, welcomer, sponsor – and enjoy the day!

For more information see our church rep. Judy Thompstone 01630 620225 (Broughton) or Beryl Roe 01630 620248 (Croxtan)

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Croxton and Broughton Garden Guild Annual Show 12 August 2017



Having decided not to charge entry fees and to open up the opportunity to take part to non-members for the first time this year, the Garden Guild was really delighted by the very positive response and would like to thank everyone who took part and entered into the fun of showing! It was also very good to see

some children entering this year. Particular thanks to the judges, to Johnson Hall Nurseries for their support and to Jenny Roberts who kindly presented the prizes. The teas, raffle and auction of



produce were also all very successful and rounded off a very happy and successful show. We hope to see you all taking part in 2018!

MY FAVOURITE HYMN—FROM JULIET ARTHUR

All Things Bright and Beautiful

This hymn recalls memories of my baby daughter, Alison, who was reluctant to go to sleep! I sang this hymn to her and it always had the desired effect, and other hymns too. A gentle time and words describing the lovely countryside. The hymn was first published in 1848 in Mrs Cecil Alexander's *Hymns for Little Children*.

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;—

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,—
He made them every one:

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
We gather every day;—

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Broughton Parish Room Flower Borders

It is the middle of June as I write this and Garden Guild have planted up the back flower border with summer bedding to make a colourful splash from now until the autumn. Marc Brimble and I have been looking forward to planting up the border because we know how good it will look

in a few weeks' time.



David Finney planted up the border in front of the Parish Room and very kindly donated the plants, so that will look good too.



The next thing to take care of were the three planters and Mike Tuck and I have filled the planters with super plants that Garden Guild bought from Johnson Hall. So be prepared as you whizz past (not driving at more than 30 mph of course!) – there will be a feast for your eyes! Caroline and Mr. Nash are looking after the one at the Wetwood sign, Pat Wright at the Vernon Yonge is going to look after the one opposite her house (yes, I know she has just moved in but she was very willing!) and Mark, Linda and Stuart Mifflin are looking after the one at the entrance to Croxton.

Stuart Mifflin will trim the grass round the two Croxton ones and we are very grateful for this. So big thanks to all who are involved in the Planters – they give us all a lot of pleasure and they shout out “the people who live here have songs in their hearts and smiles on their faces and have a huge community spirit”.



Marianne Grime – a happy Garden Guilder



Many thanks to Marianne, David, Marc, Mike and the rest of the Garden Guild; the Parish Room and entrances to the villages have never looked so colourful and welcoming. Ed.



THE GREAT WAR REMEMBERED

In our continuing series commemorating the men honoured on the war memorials at Broughton and Croxton, in this issue of ABC we remember Francis Sutton, who is commemorated on Croxton's war memorial.

Francis James SUTTON



Jerusalem War Cemetery

- Date of Birth: **1894**
- Parents:
 - **George Sutton (1847)**
 - **Second wife Emma Sutton (nee Barlow) (1851 born in Codsall)**
- Rank: **Private**
- Regiment: **London Regiment 20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich)**
- Formerly Rifleman 13475 KRRC
- Service number: **630042**
- Date of death: **Killed In Action 30/04/1918**
- Commemorated at: **EEF Jerusalem War Cemetery**
- Grave Reference: **K. 15.**

Location Information:

Jerusalem War Cemetery is 4.5 kilometres north of the walled city and is situated on the neck of land at the north end of the Mount of Olives, to the west of Mount Scopus.

The cemetery is found on Churchill Blvd, next to the Hadassah Hospital. The Australian Memorial is opposite the cemetery entrance.

- **Family History: George and Emma married in 1890 at Lichfield and went to Croxton where George was working as a coachman / gardener in Croxton.**
- o **1901 Census - Francis is working for James Plant at Foxley Eccleshall.**

Military History: Francis was a New Army recruit originally with the KRRC and his army number shows he joined them between 1st June and 29th July 1916. Please see below for more Military History

The 20th County of London Battalion London Regiment formed in London on 3rd September 1914 in 2/2nd London Division then retitled 180th Brigade 60th Division. They moved to St Albans in March 1915, went on to Coggershall May 1915, Hatfield in July 1915, Saffron Walden October 1915, Hertford December 1915, Sutton Veny January 1916 finally landing at Le Harve 24th June 1916. They were attached to XV11 Corps. On November 1st the division received orders to reorganise preparatory to move to Salonika. Units entrained at Longpre going via Marseilles and Malta and assembled in Salonika on Christmas Day 1916

- On 10th June 1917 moved to Egypt arriving Alexandria on 12th June 1917
- Salonika 1917
- The Battle of Dorian 24th-25th April and 8th 9th May

In June 1917 the division reorganised again in preparation for a move to Egypt for operations in Palestine. It embarked on 12th June and by the 4th July had completed the concentration at Moascar in the southern Suez canal Zone. The Division began to advance to Palestine and by 23rd July was at Deir el Bulah 8 miles South West of Gaza. The division remained in Palestine and took part in the following engagements:-

The 3rd Battle of Gaza (30th Oct-7th Nov 1917) notably in the capture of Beersheba (31st Oct) and the Capture of Jerusalem (8th-9th Dec) and the Defence of Jerusalem (26th-30th Dec)

In 1918

- The capture of Jericho (19th-21st Feb)
- The Battle of Tell'Asur (8th-21st March)
- The First Trans Jordan raid as part of Shea's Force (21st March -2nd April)
- 1 The Attack on Amman (as part of Caytors Column 27th-30th march)

The Second Trans Jordan Raid (30th April-4th May)

The Second Trans Jordan Raid on Shunet Nimrin and ES Salt officially known by the British as the second Action of ES Salt, and was fought east of the River Jordan between April 30th and 4th May 1918. On the 21st March Ludendorff launched The Spring offensive on the Western Front, overnight the Palestine Theatre of War went from the British Government's first priority to a "side show", because of the threat to Allied Armies in Europe. 24 Battalions, 60,000 mainly British Soldiers were sent to Europe as reinforcements, they were replaced by Indian Infantry and Cavalry from the British Indian army. With large troop movements these withdrawals and reinforcements caused a substantial reorganization of The EEF and weakening the strength of the division left to mount the Second Trans Jordan Raid.

During the second attack across the Jordan River fighting occurred in three main areas:

- First The Jordan Valley
- Second on the Eastern edge of the valley where Ottoman Army Garrisons at Shunet Nimrin and El Houd were attacked by the 60th (London) Division many of whom had taken part in the First trans Jordan attack.
- The Third area occurred after ES Salt was captured by the Light Horse Brigades to the East of the valley in the hills of Moab, when they were strongly counter attacked by the Ottoman forces, the EEF mounted and Infantry forces had to withdraw back to the Jordan valley, the weakening of the force due to the reorganisation meant that until mid-September 1918 they continued the Occupation of the Jordan Valley.

Frank Sutton was killed on the 30th April 1918 the first day of the Trans Jordan attack and is buried in the Jerusalem War Cemetery grave reference K 15

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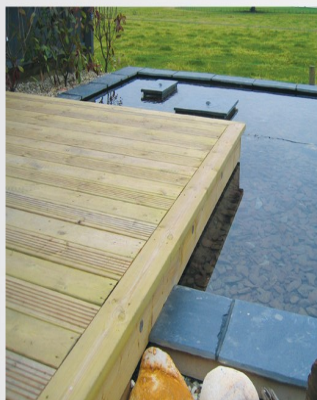
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(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

Link to Refugees | Brian Bilston's Poetry Laboetry
<https://brianbilston.com/2016/03/23/refugees/>

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PHONE BOXES IN CROXTON AND FAIROAK

The phone boxes in Croxton and Fair oak have now been purchased (£1) for the community by Eccleshall Parish Council for community use. They need some renovation (painting and cleaning) and the community needs to decide how they can best be used. Local Councillor, Ros Langford has thrown down the challenge to the community:



The red telephone box was once a common sight across the land, a design so associated with Britishness that tourists would be as likely to pose beside one for a photo than to step inside to make a call. But with the rise of the mobile phone, the redundant kiosks are increasingly being put to inventive uses, from miniature art galleries to pint-sized pubs. As part of BT's "adopt a kiosk" scheme, communities are able to take over a decommissioned telephone kiosk for £1. Although new users are not allowed to install "electronic communications apparatus", 3,500 have been snapped up and put to a variety of uses. One of the most common, especially in rural areas, is as a lending library or book exchange".

Ideas please for how the Croxton and Fair oak telephone boxes could best be used for the community to Cllr. Ros Langford Tel. 01630620545



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Faith Quest—the holiday bible club for children in the benefice—July 2017

Photographs of some of the activities the children enjoyed at this year's holiday club—courtesy of John Hegarty



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CROXTON BROADBAND UPDATE - 'SUPERFAST' & Otherwise

The articles in the previous editions of ABC magazine described progress in the availability of “superspeed” broadband in the central area of Croxton. The new green cabinet situated by St Paul’s churchyard wall finally became operational on 16th January and on 3rd February leaflets were posted through the letter boxes of the properties which should now be eligible to apply for high speed broadband. To upgrade to higher speed broadband services it is necessary to contact an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and they will advise what speeds are available at the property. Note that the request to upgrade can be made to any ISP but obviously one needs to check the terms of any existing contract if contemplating changing ISP. For information only, I myself switched from TalkTalk (because I was totally frustrated by their customer support call centres in Asia) to Zen Internet (entirely based in Rochdale and either top or close to the top of every UK survey of ISP’s)

The last time I spoke with an Openreach technician working in the cabinet, twenty-five properties had by then been connected to fibre-connected services. That’s 25 (30%) of the approximately 85 properties which could upgrade to fibre-connected services.

Future fibre developments

As previously explained, there are currently no firm plans to extend fibre availability within the Wetwood exchange area. However, Openreach and Superfast Staffordshire “*continue to explore possible technical solutions to address the final 5%*” of properties in the county which have no planned fibre upgrade.

Non-fibre improvements

I have recently discovered that Wetwood Exchange is now equipped to provide “ADSL2+” connections. Without getting too technical, ADSL2+ is designed to “*operate at double the downstream data rates of the previous ADSL2 standard and can provide higher speeds, particularly for those that live close to the BT exchange.*” I have carried out a speed check (see below) on some properties whose telephone numbers I know and the information returned indicates that speeds over 10 Mbps could be available at properties not able to be connected to the fibre network, depending on the distance (length of copper wires) from the Wetwood exchange building on Lodge Lane.

BT Line Checker

A ‘provisional check’ of your available broadband services can be made by entering your telephone number at: <http://www.dslchecker.bt.com/adsl/adslchecker.welcome> If the resulting report indicates that higher speeds than your current service are available, then request an ISP to confirm what they could provide. The ISP’s are able to liaise with Openreach and thereby to establish the actual capability of your connection.

If you would like to clarify or amplify any of this information, please contact me either by email to peter_patch@tiscali.co.uk or by phoning me on (01630) 620202.

Peter Davies
14th August 2017

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Dates and Speakers are as follows:

- **Saturday 11 November 2017 Marc Brimble – Professional Gardener to Photographer. A short act of Remembrance will follow at 1100hrs.**
- **Saturday, 3 February 2018 Dame Pat Bacon – Inside a Hospital Trust**
- **Saturday, 24 March 2018 Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes**

All are welcome, so make a note in your diaries and let Noel Brown know that you wish to attend as soon as possible, but at least a week in advance on: Tel. 01630 672851 or email noelbrown1948@btinternet.com

Seating is limited so it is important to book early. If you are unable to attend after reserving a place please let us know so that we can avoid waste and take any late requests.



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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

| Category | Name | Page |
|-----------------------------|--|------|
| B&B and well-being therapy | Brook House | 32 |
| Benefice Breakfasts | | 39 |
| Broughton Tennis Club | | 16 |
| Building Services | Geoff Shanahan | 35 |
| Car Dealer | Hill & Swift | 38 |
| Cattery | Croxton Cattery | 42 |
| Chimney Sweep | Ian Elkin | 37 |
| Chapel | Croxton Independent Methodists | 10 |
| Church | St Paul's Croxton | 8 |
| Church | St Peter's Broughton | 12 |
| Coffee Shop | Courtyard Coffee | 31 |
| Electrician | Pegasus, Mark Bradley | 9 |
| Feed Merchants | Dollin & Morris | 42 |
| Fencing | EFC Fencing | 28 |
| Fencing | Squirrel Fencing | 33 |
| Florist | BBs | 16 |
| Fuel Merchant | Staffordshire Fuels Ltd | 39 |
| Funeral Directors | Haynes Funeral Directors | 20 |
| Garden Centre | Muckleston Nurseries | 30 |
| Garden Guild | Croxton & Broughton | 11 |
| Gas Engineer | Gas Service | 37 |
| Gas Engineer | Swallow Gas Services | 18 |
| Glass | Stove Glass | 35 |
| Handmade soaps, candles etc | Arc Delights | 38 |
| Jewellers | Spencer The Jeweller | 42 |
| Memorial Stones | Owens Memorial | 40 |
| Motorcycles | All your motorcycle needs | 33 |
| Parish Room | | 35 |
| Pre-School | Cotes Heath & Standon Baby & Toddler Group | 35 |
| Property Repairs | Rob Unsworth | 40 |
| Restaurant | Pins Kitchen | 37 |
| Restaurant | The Star Inn | 27 |
| Scrap Remover & Logs | George Dyke & Daughters | 37 |
| Service Station | Croxton Service Station | 38 |
| Solicitors | Graham Withers & Co | 31 |
| Tennis Courts | Wetwood Tennis Courts | 7 |
| Venue Hire | Broughton Parish Room | 9 |
| Waste Management | John Reeves | 18 |
| WI | Women's Institute | 13 |
| Youth Work Website | | 7 |

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| 17th September Trinity 14 | 11 am Matins | 11 am UNITED HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Paul's | |
| 24th September Trinity 15 | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am United Memorial Service at St Paul's | |
| 1st October Trinity 16 | 11 am Matins | 11 am Songs of Praise—Harvest | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 8th October Trinity 17 | 10 am Holy Communion | 11 am Holy Communion 3 pm Re-Charge | 11 am Holy Communion |
| 15th October Trinity 17 | 11 am Matins | 11 am United Service at at St Paul's | |
| 22nd October Trinity 18 | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am United Service at the Chapel | |
| 29th October Trinity 19 | 11 am Matins | 11 am Matins | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 5th November 4th Sunday before Advent | 11 am Matins | 11 am Songs of Praise Just remember this | 11 am Divine Worship |
| 12th November Remembrance Sunday | 10.50 am REMEMBRANCE | 10.50 am United REMEMBRANCE at St Paul's 3 pm Re-Charge | |
| 19th November 2nd Sunday before Advent | 11 am Matins | 11 am United Service at St Paul's | |
| 26th November Christ the King | 11 am Holy Communion | 11 am United Service at the Chapel | |