

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

December 2017 to February 2018

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton



#GOD with US

*Wishing all our readers a very Happy
Christmas and blessed New Year from the
congregations of St Peter's Broughton,
St Paul's Croxton and
Croxton Independent Methodist Church*

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton

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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 8th February 2018

(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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'ABC Magazine'**

Hello everyone, I pray this edition of the Parish Magazine finds you all well and looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.

For me this has always been a time of anticipation, as a child it would be the presents held within the pillow cases attached to each of our beds that held the magic of Christmas and in retrospect also the visitation of a spinster great aunt and other members of the wider clan, that is what made our Christmases as children.

Then as a young adult Christmas was a wonderful time full of excitement, I would imagine many of you reading this can remember fantastic Christmas Eve's and New Year's Eves in the Vernon Young Arms or the Freemasons Arms and even in the Parish Room, there was a real sense of community.

So what "does it" for me now considering my young adult days are but a distant memory, well it still boils down to that sense of belonging, that understanding that we are all part of this, our community. Now dear reader I know that those of you who are of a more agnostic persuasion will be wondering when am I going to ingeniously introduce Jesus, God or even the Holy Spirit into this, well do I really need too?

You may well find my understanding patronizing though that is not my intention, the three aspects of the trinity are with us all, all the time. Though Christmas, especially Christmas Eve is when heaven (whatever you conceive that to be) and earth are closest; that close it's almost tangible.

This you may well consider astonishing but come along to the Midnight Mass service at Broughton church (December 24th 11.30 pm) and see for yourself and bring with you the "hopes and fears of all the years" and then (if you can let them) they will be met in Christ that night. If alas I don't see you I pray you have a wonderful Christmas and a new year full of challenge and joy. God bless you all.

James Butter

BENEFICE NEWS

BENEFICE PROJECTS

- **MISSION COUNCIL**

At the Mission Council Meeting on Saturday 28th Oct, the group agreed our vision statement:

*To show God's love within this community
and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

Going forward this will be the message that will form the backbone to all mission undertaken in the benefice.

- **GRAVE TALK**

Our first Grave Talk discussion will take place in the Community Room at Loggerheads Fire Station on Monday 8th January. This is open to anyone who has questions about death.

- **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.

- **PASTORAL CARE VISITS**

We now have a Benefice Pastoral Care Team in place, with members from each church making up the group. Whilst acknowledging there is already a lot of pastoral care going on in the area, especially with groups such as the Befrienders, Car Pool, and coffee mornings, our new group is Rector led, and it is intended to run in tandem with and be complementary to the existing groups. If you would like a pastoral visit or home communion, please contact the Rector in the first instance on 01630 672210 or email rector@ambc.info

RE-CHARGE SERVICES at ST PAUL'S, Croxton

- Saturday 16th December, 4 pm
- Sunday 21st January, 5 pm
- Sunday 18th February, 5 pm

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 and 3rd Mondays, 6 pm until 7 pm**

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



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.



LOGGERHEAD ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, 21st November:

- ⊗ 7.30 pm Advent House Group ‘So what are you waiting for?’ at John and Stella Day’s House

Monday, 27th November:

- ⊗ 8 pm Compline at St Peter’s Broughton.

Tuesday, 28th November:

- ⊗ 7.30 pm Advent House Group, Denise and Colin Keen’s house.

Sunday, 3rd December:

- ⊗ 11 am Christingle at St Peter’s Broughton

Monday, 4th December:

- ⊗ 8pm Compline at St Mary’s Mucklestone

Tuesday 5th December:

- ⊗ 7.30 pm Advent House Group at Jean Beasley’s house

Monday, 11th December:

- ⊗ 8 pm Compline at St John the Baptist, Ashley

Tuesday, 12th December:

- ⊗ 7.30 pm Advent House Group at Denise and Colin Keen’s House

Friday, 15th December:

- ⊗ 6.30 pm Carols at the Car Wash in Loggerheads

DS BENEFICE MAS SERVICES/EVENTS



Saturday, 16th December:

- ⊗ 4 pm Re-Charge Christmas Celebration at St Paul's Croxton

Sunday, 17th December:

- ⊗ 11 am Carol Service at St Peter's Broughton
- ⊗ 11.15 am Carol Service at St Mary's Mucklestone
- ⊗ 2.30 pm Carol Service at St Paul's Croxton
- ⊗ 6.30 pm Carol Service at St John the Baptist Ashley

Monday, 18th December:

- ⊗ 8 pm Compline at St Paul's Croxton

Sunday, 24th December:

- ⊗ 11 am Benefice Holy Communion at Croxton Chapel
- ⊗ 3 pm Broughton Church Choir, Carols at Copsey Dale, Fair oak
- ⊗ 4 pm Nativity/Christingle at St John the Baptist Ashley
- ⊗ 10.30 pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's Mucklestone
- ⊗ 11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St Peter's Broughton
- ⊗ 11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St John the Baptist Ashley

Monday, 25th December:

- ⊗ 9.30 am Christmas Day Celebration at St John the Baptist Ashley
- ⊗ 10 am United Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Paul's Croxton
- ⊗ 11.15 am Family Communion at St Mary's Mucklestone

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: December—Preparation

January—Kings

February—Travelling on ...

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

All welcome.

From the registers:

Marriage: 2nd September—Christopher Thomas Howle and
Kara Lysette Kennerley.

Funeral: 1st September— Sam Jennings

Internment of Ashes: 11th October—Dorothy Williams

SERVICES/EVENTS

- **15TH DECEMBER, 10-12 AM,
CHRISTMAS COFFEE AND MINCEPIE
MORNING**

An opportunity to place a Remembrance card on the Christmas Tree. A warm welcome to friends and neighbours to meet for a chat.

- **17TH DECEMBER, 2:30 PM,
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

A united carol service during which everyone is invited to place a Remembrance card for a loved one

on our Christmas tree. Cards will be available in church but you may bring a suitable card with a message if you wish.

A prayer of thanks for the warmth and love of Christmas Memories will be read beside the tree within the service. Please come and share this lovely time with us.

- **25th DECEMBER, 10 am, CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION**

United service at St Paul's Church.

- **FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

December 15th—10 am to 12 am

January 26th 2018—10 am to 12 am

February 23rd—10 am to 12 am

- A small happy band of helpers worked in the church yard on Saturday 21st October. Their support is much appreciated as is the individual maintenance of graves by families. All offers to keep the church yard tidy, either by practical involvement or by donations are gratefully received.

St Paul's Church Croxton is open for worship every Sunday (sometimes sharing services with the Methodist Chapel) to which everyone is warmly welcomed.

We have a versatile building, with toilet and kitchen facilities which is put to good use on the LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH when we hold COFFEE MORNINGS 10am-12noon

We would love to find other ways of serving our community during the week.

However, we don't know what else the Community needs!

Please contact us with your suggestions of what is needed, or what you would like to see the Church provide here in Croxton.

Beryl Roe 01630 620248 or Denise Keen 07761446753

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.

- December 28th at St Paul's Croxton
- January 25th at Methodist Chapel, Croxton
- February 22nd at St Peter's Broughton



ANNUAL HARVEST SUPPER

A new team, led by Sylvia Holland, had a successful evening. The main course was roast gammon followed by apple pie. The entertainment was provided by local musicians Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer.

RECYCLING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CHARITY

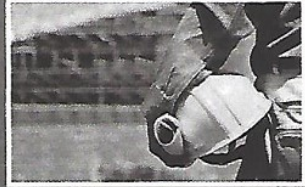
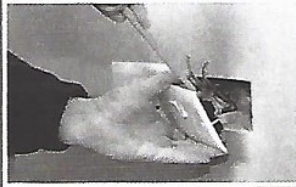
Please drop your cards off in Broughton Parish Room at the beginning of January and they will be taken away for recycling.

CHRISTMAS MILITARY WHIST DRIVE

Will be held in Broughton Parish Room on Tuesday 19th December, commencing at 7:30 pm. Profits from all the whist drives, held fortnightly during the year, go towards the upkeep of Broughton Parish Room. If you would like to donate a raffle prize for the Christmas Whist Drive, please contact Cyril and Mary Goodwin, tel 01630 620367 or Kath Bridgwood, tel 01630 620601. New players are always welcome



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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

- 24th January 2018—Annual Dinner [7.00 for 7.30 pm] Tern Hill Hall.
- 28th February—Barry Brewer: Why garden for wildlife.

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:

BAPTISM: 5 November: Jake Charlie Kenneth Jones

FUNERALS: 12 October: Mr Ted Smith
16 November: Mr Norman Shelley

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND INTERMENT:

30 August: Mrs Brenda Shelley

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT BROUGHTON

- * 27 November—8 pm Compline
- * 3 December—11 am Christingle
- * 17 December—11 am Carol Service
- * 24 December—11.30 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

Broughton Church Choir will be out and about singing carols and generally bringing good cheer to the community. If you would like a visit from our intrepid choristers, please contact Ellen Butter on 01630 620479.

CHRISTMAS EVE, 24 DEC AT 3 PM

Please join us to spread a little Christmas cheer at Copsey Dale in Fair oak!
We will be singing traditional carols and have mince pies and hot fruit punch! Supporting First Responders

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Dust off those Christmas cobwebs and walk off those extra pounds piled on over the seasonal festivities! Join the hardy locals on a brisk walk through our beautiful countryside and help raise funds for First Responders. Starting at 10 am at The Rudge, and finishing at The Rudge with a warming mug of homemade soup and mince pies.

SUMMER FUND RAISING AT BROMLEY MILL

Competitions held by Bromley Mill Private Anglers and friends have raised £500 over the summer months, this has been donated to various cancer charities.

Congratulations must go to new junior member, 7 year old Zak Aldridge, on a late night angling session, who caught a 10-pound fish [possibly dad helped to land same].

The final of the Children's Society Bridge Knockout was held in August raising £250 for this worthwhile charity. Winners of the Cup were Tessa Brown and myself, winners of the plate were Tom and Jane Croft. Thank you everyone for participating in this competition. Anyone interested in taking part please contact Janet Furber 01270 0811598.

My annual church 'do' was held in August and again thanks go to all who gave so generously, in time and cash. Thanks to James who once again came to have a few well chosen words with everyone; to John Weston for directing and scoring. The biggest vote of thanks must go to Mary, Hannah and Thomas Plant, without their help in the kitchen preparing 'Christmas Day Lunch' this event would not take place. Once again we raised £500 for our church fabric fund.

Thank you all

Ruth Timmis

BROUGHTON WI

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

- 14th December—Christmas Party including music with Martin Jones and Peter Wilshaw. Competition: decorate and wear a Santa Hat.
- 1st January 2018—Bingo Fun and Social Time, plus a raffle of Christmas excess.
- 8th February—our 90th Birthday. Party time with Broughton's performers.

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

A DAY IN A LIFE ...

I reckon I must hear the words “*you only work on a Sunday*” at least half a dozen times a year. Often said in humour (I hope)! I thought this would perhaps be a great opportunity for me to give a little insight into the life a parish priest in a rural benefice. I know many of you think I have only worked in town centre ministry, but the truth is my curacy was in a small market town (Bolsover) and then I spent several years as Priest in Charge of a group of five rural churches in Derby diocese - all working well together. (It’s only been the last year or so before moving here that I was in a town centre)

So, I suppose to start with its worth noting that the comment “You only work Sundays” comes from that fact that I am probably most visible on a Sunday, well at least somewhere in the Benefice. Also, to say that the daily duties of a parish priest are extremely different from one parish to the next. It can depend on size of parish, whether you are in a town centre, urban or rural and of course what sort of people live and work there. No two days are the same in parish ministry.

As Rector, I do not have a supervisor to report to each day although I do answer to the Archdeacon and Bishop. I do not have a clocking-in card, and no set hours of work. I control my own diary, I am responsible for taking a weekly rest day and making sure I get everything done that needs doing. So, it is important that I can use my own initiative and be self-motivated in my work. My weekly rest day is currently a Wednesday. This day works well for Karen and I as we spend some valued time together.

Being a Parish Priest is unlike any other job, being called to the Priesthood is a vocation, a way of life. At times the diary

is overflowing with commitments and at other times it has space to just be, and maybe drink coffee! When I was first ordained my children were in school, and one of the biggest privileges was the fact I was able to be there for them at every school production, parent’s evenings and events. (They might not have seen it as a privilege, but I did)

There is always something that needs my attention, there is always work to be done in Christ’s name. It can be a very lonely vocation but having a strong faith and a good team around you is very important. The ministry team in the Loggerheads Benefice are extremely supportive and knowing that the congregations are praying for the ministry in this place is also very important. We have 4 Licensed Readers; Helen, Roger, James and Anna, as well as Sara, an Ordinand and Denise an Authorised Lay Minister. I look forward very much to Sara’s ordination next year.

Church members always show a great interest in their Rector. After all, I do stand in the pulpit and preach about how we are to live our lives as Christians. So, it goes without saying that people are interested in how I live my life. (Am I a model Christian?)

Recently I was still sending emails after midnight, there was a backlog of paperwork and I needed to get through it. So, with the coffee pot next to me I stayed up and got everything done by about 1.30am. I sent an email to someone in our church and I received their reply within 5 minutes. They simply replied – go to bed, we need our Rector bright eyed tomorrow.

I did feel bad for a while, although I did wonder what they were doing up at that

unearthly hour too. I did learn a valuable lesson, that everything I do is on show to the people in the parish and where possible I should set a good example. (although in case you are wondering I am not perfect in any way- sorry)

One of the most important parts of my role is regular daily prayer. Praying for the needs of the people in my care (the cure of souls), praying for the needs of the world, the church and of course for my own spiritual life. It is vital that I take spiritual retreats regularly and have a monthly visit to my spiritual director -this is to keep my conscience in good shape and to make sure in the busyness of life I too get time to walk with Jesus.

Next there are certain duties that have to be done including:

Please Note: this list is arranged alphabetically, because it is impossible to rank these jobs in order of importance (for example, leading services is *highly* important, but so is pastoral care)

Administration: There is always paperwork to be done. This could be anything that will involve spending time in my office at the Rectory; things like sorting the Grapevine, writing reports for the diocese, updating the website, rota writing, record keeping, service planning and line management of staff. We do now have administrative support to help with this task – this frees me up to be out in the community much more, but there is always something that needs my attention.

Baptisms: It is a duty and a joy to welcome new members into the Church. When people come forward for baptism they should know exactly what they are getting involved in. So, as well as the actual service I try and spend some time with the family beforehand explaining

what it all means. Denise Keen also visits families on the run up to a baptism which is a great way of making a link with them, one that we hope will last. There are also post-baptism visits to carry out.

Counselling (unofficial): Parishioners often turn to their clergy for spiritual and moral guidance on marriage, parenting, relationship, and job problems. This is more common than you think – and obviously confidential. – Enough said!

Diocese/Deanery Commitments: Parish clergy are expected to participate in Diocesan meetings and conferences and to provide leadership in various ways. I am a member of the Eccleshall Clergy Chapter and Deanery Synod. As part of my commitment to the diocese I also must keep up to date on relevant training (This is called Continuing Ministerial Education). This year alone I have been on Safeguarding training, wedding courses, funeral courses and “running a multi-parish Benefice” course.

Funerals: As a priest, not only do I have to preside at someone’s funeral service, I often can be found at the sickbed before a death, and are expected to give prayer and comfort to the immediate family and community, both before, and for a long time after, the funeral. This is a huge privilege and over the last 13 years I have had the privilege of taking over 1000 funerals!

Meetings: Managing a parish involves innumerable meetings – from a small group meeting to PCCs (four of them!). there are various committees that I have found myself on and each one is as important as the next. Sometimes these meetings may take some time to prepare for, so that means more time in the office getting ready.

Cont’d over ...

Sermons: Each sermon that is preached must be prepared, this involves prayer, study, reflection and more prayer... and a computer to type it out on. Quite often sermons develop over several days, I start with reading the Sunday Scripture on Monday afternoon and over the course of the week, and after much prayer and study a sermon is born (thanks to the Holy Spirit)

Services: Each week services are carried out in our churches. Quite often these are set services but every now and then I may write a new one for a special occasion. Common Worship became an authorised Service book from the year 2000 and has much material that we can use in our services.

Teaching: Confirmation classes are very often considered the responsibility of the priest. As well, parishioners will turn to their clergy for leadership in Bible study, and for general adult Christian education

programmes (Lenten classes are very common, for example). We are hoping to set up some house groups over the next few months to help with teaching.

Pastoral Care: Home visits to parishioners have many purposes. For example: (a) you can become better acquainted with those to whom you preach each week; (b) new members and beginning Christians can be encouraged; and (c) visiting the housebound or sick is a very important ministry.

I try and visit everyone who has asked for a visit. I simply cannot get around every house in the benefice and so I rely on people to let me know who needs/wants a visit. Please keep telling me about these. We have now set up a Pastoral care network- a group of people who will make visits in the name of the Church. We hope this will ensure that no one is ever missed.

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Weddings: Another joy and privilege! Again, these take time to prepare for and at least two visits with families as well as some legal paperwork.

Writing: Editorials, pastoral letters, news sheets, reflections etc. I enjoy time spent writing, it's very therapeutic and brings me much joy.

The following would be a typical day as Rector of a Rural Parish...

My day begins at 7am with Morning Prayer after which I will see if I have any emails. I spend an hour or so catching up on paperwork. Its 8am and the phone rings, its Mrs Jones asking if I can visit her mother in hospital at some point today. It's going to be tight but of course I agree to the request. Maybe I must review the commitments in the diary!

At 9am I have a meeting with two churchwardens from one of the churches. It's a standard agenda but I need to be prepared so I have ten minutes to check my notes.

10.30am- School Assembly. It's always a joy to go into see the children – today I spoke about Thomas the Doubter. I try and tie in my Collective Worship time in school with the sermons on Sunday.

After the assembly there is just enough time to grab a coffee and five minutes with the headteacher. Is there any pastoral needs the school has today?

11.00am - time to nip into Loggerheads to do a Pastoral visit. Someone I have been seeing weekly for about a month. Some visits are more emotionally draining than others – this is always a tear-jerker!

Nip home to check answerphone – crikey three messages – every message is important and needs time to sort out.

12.20 – meeting a couple regarding getting Joey baptised. Fill in those important forms and discuss the promises

of Baptism. I always talk to the parents about getting the Godparents right... after all they promise to care for the child in Christian love.

1.30pm – Time for Sick communion... a visit to an elderly gentleman who cannot currently get to church. We share the Communion together and I then go on my way.

2.15pm – time to nip to see Mrs Jones' mother at hospital, I arrived at just the right moment. She had her family around her as they said goodbye. I anointed her and prayed with the family as she quietly slipped away. I couldn't dash off as this was an important moment for the family. I stayed and listened to some of their stories and when the time felt right I departed leaving them with my love and blessings.

4.00pm – back at the Rectory I need to get ready for tonight's PCC. Sometimes these are very challenging, depending what's on the agenda. I need to be prepared. I spend some time in prayer.

5.00pm – A chance to have coffee and a chat with Karen, she has made me a salad for tea. We catch up on all sorts of things and also sit and watch the news together. Well... I nodded off and its now 7.10pm – I better go to PCC...

After a very constructive PCC I left feeling positive - I head home with lots going through my mind. As I walk in, I play the answerphone message from Mrs Jones – thanking me for being there earlier.

I then sit at my desk and type up my reflections and notes for the day before lighting a candle and offering it all to God in evening prayer. Being human, I fall asleep during my quiet time talking to God. I am sure he understands, and I then continue in my prayers. It is about 11pm now and chance to unwind with a quick glass of red wine before heading to bed. No emails tonight at 1.30am.

Rev Terry

John Slater

"Jodiwell"
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WI Report – August-October 2017

We've had another very varied and interesting three months. In August Malcolm Dickson from Hooksgreen Herbs of Stone told us how in 2005 he and his son decided to specialise in herbs and now have a thriving business supplying all kinds of herbs and taking part in many of the RHS shows, where they have received Gold and Silver Gilt awards for their displays. Growing for showing is now a major part of their work. Mr Dickson offered much advice and sold some of his herbs on the night. In September we heard about 'Three centuries of shoe-making' from Helen Johnson, Development Officer for the Staffordshire County Museum. This is currently based at Shugborough, but will eventually be housed at the County Record Office in Stafford which will involve moving 27,000 objects. She had brought along a small selection of shoes from the collection, and told us how the shoemaking industry was founded in Stafford by William Horton in the 18th century. We learnt that the Clicking and Closing Depts made the uppers, the Lasting Dept put on the sole, and the Finishing Dept checked and polished the shoes. Bostocks was also in operation in the 18th century. After the factory burnt down in 1900, Edwin Bostock built a new one which became the Lotus Factory, sadly to be demolished in 1998. October took us 'Around the World in 40 minutes' with Regent Travel. We saw many scenes to whet our appetite for a holiday, and it is good to know that we can go to the staff at Regent Travel in Stone for personal advice on our holidays as an alternative to the impersonal booking of everything on the internet. Regent Travel also arranges many trips and short breaks in the UK as well as abroad.

Many members attended a Group Meeting hosted by Hales WI at the Victory Hall in Woore on 5th October, when Christina Trevanion gave a lively and enthusiastic account of her work with antiques. She is well-known for appearing on TV in such shows as Bargain Hunt, Flog It and the Antiques Road Trip, and is a local lady from Whitchurch, where she is co-owner of an auction house. Christina worked for several years in the Jewellery Dept of Christies, before eventually returning to Shropshire.

The Autumn Council meeting on 10th October was also attended by several members, and we were privileged to hear two excellent and inspiring speakers, in the morning Joanne Croxford, who credited the WI with rescuing her from being a lonely and recovering addict. She is passionate about the movement and set up the first recovery-based WI to meet in a hospital. She wants to dispel the fusty image of the WI and certainly did that with her tattoos, bright blue hair and lipstick and lively personality. The afternoon speaker was Sally Becker, better known to the general public as the Angel of Mostar after her work during the Balkans War rescuing wounded children and families and organising humanitarian aid wherever it was needed. She risked her life and was wounded herself during her time there. She has continued with her humanitarian work since in war-torn areas, and had just returned from Iraq that very day. Her strength in facing the horrors of war and helping and continuing to help so many people was incredible, and she rightly received a standing ovation.

For more info and photos, visit the website:
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BROUGHTON FLOW



St Peter's Church Broughton held a glorious flower festival 8th to 10th September, culminating with our Harvest Festival Service on 10th September. The church looked absolutely stunning, with many visitors returning several times to take in the amazing and creative arrangements.

The event raised over £1500, which was a bonus, because the real and lasting legacy of this event was the friendship and fellowship enjoyed by everyone involved in putting together the festival and all the wonderful people who visited the church.

Special thanks go to our generous sponsors, for their kind donations which enabled us to put on such an wonderful event:

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VER FESTIVAL 2017



And many and most gracious thanks to:

- All who kindly donated the marvellous raffle prizes.
- All our enthusiastic arrangers who put together a magnificent display, from the whimsical to the formal, to celebrate “Seedtime and Harvest”, especially:
 - Members and Friends of Broughton Church
 - Members of Croxton Church
 - Members of Croxton Independent Methodist Church
 - Members of Ashley Church
- Members of Mucklestone Church
- Children from St Mary’s Mucklestone and Hugo Meynell Schools
- Broughton and Croxton WI
- Broughton and Croxton Garden Guild
- Broughton Community Choir
- Lynn Griffiths and her team of professional flower arrangers led by Sue.
- All who helped with the erection of the marquee and gathering of the equipment; those who volunteered to ‘man’ the church and the marquee; those who supplied foliage and those who ‘volunteered’ to read at our Harvest Festival Service.
- Last, but not least, to everyone who provided the delicious cakes!

Thank you is an understatement for the work and dedication you have given to us.

God bless you all.

*More photographs on our website:
www.broughtonchurch.com*





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 William Lycett, who is commemorated on Broughton's war memorial.

William Philip Thomas LYCETT

Place and Date of Birth: Stafford in 1894

Place of Residence: Wetwood

Parents:

Clement Lycett, born 1857 in Adbaston

Francis Elizabeth, born 1862 in Croxton

Rank: Private

Regiment: 2nd Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment

Division: 2nd Division, 3rd Army

Brigade: 6th Brigade

Service number: 40365

Duty Location: France

Age: 24

Date (and possible circumstances) of death: 03/09/1918 - Killed in action

Decorations: Victory and British Medals



Commemorated at: Remembered with honour on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

Location Information Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai about 10 kilometres south-east of Arras.

The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road.



Grave Reference: Panel 6 and 7.

Family History: 1901 Census – lived in Croxall, Staffordshire with parents Clement 44 [shepherd], Francis Elizabeth 39, and brothers Percy Clement 7 and Bertie 3. William was 6.

1911 Census – the family now live in Wetwood; Frances at 48 is widowed and employed as a laundress/domestic, Percy is 18 and a cycle mechanic and William is 16 and a baker/confectioner. They have a boarder Arthur Phillips aged 37, widowed and employed as a motor mechanic.

Isabelle Johnson, ‘Aunty Belle’, a contemporary of Willie Lycett’s remembered him living with his parents in Smith’s Cottage and recalls him coming home on leave once and being in a terrible physical state.

Military History:

From the History of the SSR and Colonel W L Vale’s Advance to Victory The 1918 battle of Arras was an attempt by the British to break through the German line. On 21 August, the 6th brigade took Ervillers, four miles north of Bapaume.

At 11 am the advance started on a two-company front for each battalion and passed quickly through the enemy barrage; a few machine guns gave some trouble, but were overrun by the tanks and by 12.30 the first objects west of Ervillers had been taken and the area behind mopped up by the rear companies. During the advance, the left Stafford Company came under sharp machine gun fire to which Lewis guns replied with such effect that thirty gunners were killed or captured. On the right, the other company had also accounted for twenty machine guns missed by our barrage and the Tanks, and these useful captures not only helped with taking the village, but also deprived the enemy of many of his picked men.

The Germans fought fiercely, but the attackers were not to be denied and soon cleared the village taking prisoners and a collection of assorted guns. As a result of various August offensives, the Germans were driven back to the Hindenburg Line and this most formidable task was the next British objective.

The 6th Brigade was relieved for a week and on 2nd September assembled for an assault on the high ground south west of Morchies, about six miles east of Ervillers. With two companies forward, the 2nd Battalion advanced and thanks to an accurate barrage, resistance was so slight that within fifteen minutes the first objective had fallen. The Brigade went forward another five miles, so that by dusk it was east of the villages of Demicourt and Hermies and near the Canal du Nord. For once, the old 80th had been fortunate and had few casualties for such a big advance. Sadly one of the casualties was Private Willie Lycett.

CONFESSIONS OF A FIRST-TIME FLOWER ARRANGER

Some weeks ago when Ruth Butter phoned me up and told me about the Flower Festival at Broughton Church involving all the people in the community, she asked who she could contact if the Community Choir were to take part. Well, quick as a flash I said 'ME!' – as if Martin wasn't in charge of our choir and makes the decisions! I think Ruth was a little taken aback at my enthusiasm, because people aren't usually so willing when they're asked to be involved in something. Not me! A friend says I have been smitten with FOMO – that stands for 'Fear of Missing Out'. Very true.

Well needless to say, Martin, when hearing that he wouldn't have to do anything himself (!) was all for the choir taking part. Then I thought, 'cleverclogs – you can't do this on your own, or everyone will know what a dope you are – you need to involve some others'. Our contribution needed a poem, taking in the theme of 'Seeds and Autumn'. Well, obviously, Shan Jones, our resident poet – I didn't give her a chance to say 'Eh, no, I'm a bit

busy just now'. Good choice on my part – the poem was just the best, with twirling and swirling and unfurling all over the place. I suggested 'skirling' but she couldn't get the bagpipes to rhyme! And then – well, Barbara Bradley, our award winning children's author – so good at lots of things – pity none of them included flower arranging! So we were all set –



three people who couldn't arrange a bunch of daffodils in the springtime – the crack team from the Choir.

We had our first meeting at Lynn Griffiths and met our fellow arrangers –

nice ladies who knew what they were about – well, that does help. Ruth had decided which group would get which position in the church and we were given the Pulpit. We rather liked the sound of that. Then we went up to the church to have a look and she took me to the window behind the choir stalls and said 'would I think about, perhaps, taking this position on too?' Well, of course, we would – who needs to think about it? *Cont'd on page 29*

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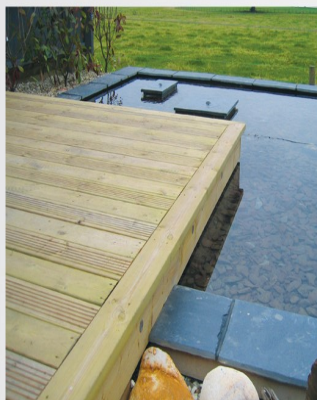
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The other two were getting a bit twitchy by now. Then a workshop in the Parish Room – oh boy, were we out of our depth. Better to go up to the church and do some measuring and wringing of hands.

It was weeks away at that point, so we didn't give it too much thought flower-wise, but Shan, of course, needed to start thinking about her poem. Her head is full of beautiful words and if you ask her a question, even her reply sort-of floats along on a wave. She isn't aware of this, so don't tell her. She wanted her poem to be written in copperplate, and I knew just the person to do this. Norman Sharp agreed without hesitation so that was taken care of, and I knew it would be beautiful. So the week of the Festival arrived and the three of us met at the church. We had, very loosely, decided to have ivy dripping down the sides of the pulpit (Barbara had lots of ivy which was about to engulf her garage) and another of our choir friends, Ruth Taylor, who actually knows about Flower Arranging – where was she when I needed her?? gave us bunches of perfect white flowers – Ammi, Cosmos, Nigella seedheads and Jasmine. Well, we stood and looked at the Pulpit, not knowing what on earth we were going to do, but do you know – a little lightbulb went ping in all three heads and we began to

stick, stuff, twine, interlace, prod, huff, puff, say 'oh jolly well done' when it was due, and then we put some paper flowers and stuff of mine in at the end and – IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!! Martin came along and we let him stick a flower in – he didn't want to be left out, you see! We were a little tired by then, but we set-to on the choir window and because it wasn't very big, it didn't take too long. I had told Michael not to wait up – I didn't think I would be home until after bed time! – but it was only the middle of the afternoon. One thing we didn't know about was to tidy up as you go along. We were wading through greenery, not able to find anything. I only found my lunch when we were about to go home! I heard that the ladies who had organised the whole thing didn't go home until way into the evening – boy, have they got energy – and one or two of them are a little older than me! You will hear reports of how successful the Festival was – so true – every contribution was so well done. The three of us had such fun and no-one was more surprised than us that we made anything worth looking at. I don't think we will be taking on any commissions – better quit while you're ahead – people might just realise that luck was on our side that day!

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Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked—it's pretty easy to keep them from working for God.

Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church—they are my missionaries.

Blessed are the troublemakers—they shall be called my children.

Blessed are the complainers—I'm all ears for them.

Blessed are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes—for they get nothing out of the sermons.

Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to their own church—for they are a part of the problem instead of the solution.

Blessed are those who gossip—for they shall cause strife and division—that pleases me.

Blessed are those who are easily offended—for they will soon get angry and quit.

Blessed are those who do not give their offering to carry on God's work—for they are my helpers.

Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister—for they shall be with me forever.



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BROUGHTON PARISH ROOM COMMITTEE—DEFIBRILLATOR

Following successful fund-raising in 2013 a Community Public Access Defibrillator [Cpad] was installed outside the Broughton Parish Room. Sudden Cardiac Arrest happens around 140,000 times a year in the UK, and, as the potential for saving life following cardiac arrest is dependent on time, it is recognised that Cpad Defibrillators play a very important role in helping to save lives in rural communities.

The defibrillator at the Broughton Parish Room is checked regularly to ensure it is maintained in a good condition. There is however a running cost for the Defibrillator as it needs batteries and pad to work, and these have a shelf-life. The battery life of most defibrillators generally last between three and five years, or for a certain number of deployments. These cost around £200 to replace. The electrode pads generally have a shelf life of two to three years at which point they will need to be replaced, even if they have not been used. A replacement set of pads costs around £30.

As the Broughton Parish Room Defibrillator was installed in 2013, in order to keep this vital resource

in operation, the community needs to raise funds to prepare to replace the battery and pads in 2018.

At the October Parish Room Committee meeting it was proposed that each Society in the community be encouraged to make a contribution towards the funding of replacement parts for the Defibrillator.

Broughton WI holds an account specifically for funds to support the maintenance of the defibrillator, and further funds were raised at the 2017 Croxton Well Dressing. Our County Councillor, Jeremy Pert has also intimated that he can provide some funding by means of a community support grant.

We would be grateful if co-ordinators of each of the various Community Groups could discuss this with their committees/ members and find ways to raise funds £50-75 by July 2018 for the maintenance of the Defibrillator.

We look forward to your support.

Marianne Grimes
Secretary to the Parish Room
Committee

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3. After you've checked out, that retailer will donate to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

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MY FAVOURITE HYMN by MARGARET GRIFFITHS

Cradled in a manger was written by George Stringer Rowe 1830-1913, who was a Wesleyan Methodist Minister. He studied at Manchester and entered the Ministry in 1853. It is sung to 'St Winifred' composed by S J P Dunman in 1889.

I have loved this hymn all my life. It takes me back to my childhood and teenage years. First singing it in Sunday School and as I grew older at evening service. Unfortunately it never seems to be included now.

To me hymns are Prayers, Poetry and the teachings of the Bible.

1. Cradled in a manger, meanly
Laid the Son of Man his head
sleeping his first earthly slumber
where the oxen had been fed
happy were those shepherds listening
to the Holy angel's word
Happy they within that stable
worshipping their infant Lord.
2. Happy all who hear the message
of his coming from above
happier still who hail his coming
and with praises greet his love
Blessed Saviour, Christ most Holy
in a manger thou didst rest.
Canst thou stoop again, yet lower
and abide within my breast.
3. And to those who never listened
to the message of thy birth
who have winter by no Christmas
bringing them thy peace on earth
send to these thy joyful tidings
by all people, in each home.
Be there heard the Christmas anthem
Praise to God, the Christ has come.

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- **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

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Updates: Please contact advice@mea.org.uk if you would like to receive future updates.



Provided by a partnership between Marches Energy Agency, Beat the Cold and the Councils in Lichfield & Tamworth, and between Marches Energy Agency and the Councils in Stafford & South Staffordshire. Prepared by simon@mea.org.uk – 21 Sep 2017



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&
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Contact Mrs Beryl Roe, Rowley House Farm, Croxton, 01630 620248

SERVICES – December 2017 to February 2018

	St Peter's Broughton	St Paul's Croxton	Croxton Independent Methodist
3rd Dec	11 am Christingle	11 am Songs of Praise—	11 am Holy Communion
10th Dec	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
16th Dec	4 pm Re-Charge Christmas Celebration at St Paul's		
17th Dec	11 am Carol Service	2.30 pm United Carol Service at St Paul's	
24th Dec	11.30 pm Midnight Mass	11 am Benefice Holy Communion at the Chapel	
25th Dec	10 am United Christmas Day Holy Communion At St Paul's Croxton		
31st Dec	11 am Joint Christmas Celebration Service at the Chapel		
31st Dec	6.00 pm Benefice Service at St John the Baptist Church, Ashley		
7th Jan	11 am Matins	11 am Songs of Praise	11 am Holy Communion
14th Jan	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
21st Jan	11 am Matins	11 am United Service at St Paul's	
28th Jan	11 am Holy Communion	11 am United Service at the Chapel	
4th Feb	11 am Matins	11 am Songs of Praise	11 am Holy Communion
11th Feb	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
18th Feb	11 am Matins	11 am United Service at St Paul's	
25th Feb	11 am Holy Communion	11 am United Service at the Chapel	