

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

March to May 2018

The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton



The Parish Magazine of Broughton and Croxton

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Jean Buckley, Denise Keen, Amanda Montandon, Rev'd

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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 10th May 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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Dear Friends

Have you ever run out of steam? Have you ever thought enough is enough?

Sometimes in life we may feel run down for one reason or another. It could be through ill health or simply we don't have the energy to cope or strength to see something through. Perhaps at times like that we may yearn for a bit of peace, we may long for the good times to return. From this emptiness that we sometimes feel, how do we find joy and blessing from God?

Well, here we are travelling through Lent towards Easter. We are currently walking with Jesus the hard path that he trod, which led to the agony of the cross. During Lent we have the opportunity to be honest with ourselves. To do a little bit of self-examination and bring all the baggage that we carry to the foot of the cross. On the run up to Easter there are opportunities in our churches to come along a spend time with God asking for his guidance in our lives as we assess where we are on the journey we are making.

Once we have done this we will find ourselves refreshed and renewed. Easter Day is symbolic of that refreshment. It is a fresh start in our lives, a time when we can forget all that has gone before and move forward in our faith as a disciple of the risen Christ.

Christianity, of course, isn't a sure guarantee that you won't have low times again in your life... because believe me you will. But with Jesus on the journey with you we find that we are better equipped to deal with the lows, the emptiness that sometimes fills our hearts. Jesus is always calling people to join him and so if you would like to know more about the Christian faith please do get in touch. We have a Confirmation service coming up at the end of April and I would love to welcome you to the fellowship of faith that we all belong.

Easter Blessings
Rev Terry

BENEFICE NEWS

BENEFICE PROJECTS

GRAVE TALK

We held our first Grave Talk discussion in the Community Room at Loggerheads Fire Station on Monday 8th January, very kindly sponsored by JR Williams, Funeral Directors. This was an opportunity for people to talk about death. That may sound rather gloomy but with the prompting from pre-printed questions, we were able to explore what we understand about death and what a 'good death' looks like. We will be holding another event later in the year, so look out for dates in the next issue.



Our Pastoral Care Ministry Team is in place, with members from each church in the benefice 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 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 LOGGERHEAD'S FIRE STATION

- Sunday 11th February, 3 pm
- Sunday 11th March, 3 pm
- Sunday 8th April, 3 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 EASTER SERVICE

13th February: SHROVE QUIET DAY

St Mary's Mucklestone

This is a day set aside for you to get ready for Lent. There will be stations set up in church for you to meditate and pray. The Church is open all day and you are welcome to come and go as you please. There will be a silent Holy Communion at 4.00 pm.

14th February: IMPOSITION OF ASHES

7.30 pm St Paul's Croxton

A traditional service where Ashes are symbolically placed on your forehead. A service where we start the period of Lent remembering our mortality.

COMPLINE AND COCOA

19th February—St Peter's Broughton

26th February—St Paul's Croxton

5th March—Loggerhead's Fire Station

12th March—St Mary's Mucklestone

19th March—St John's Ashley

The ancient office of Compline gets its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

There will be prayers and a reflection each Monday night followed by Cocoa then we retire home to bed! *A lovely peaceful service*

ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

“On the Third Day”

At Barbara Dent's house, Robin Hill, Pinewood Rd, Ashley. Each Thursday in Lent at 2pm, starting 22nd February.

And various locations around Croxton/Broughton on a Wednesday – 7.30pm, starting 21st February. See page 10 for dates and venues.

DS BENEFICE VICES/EVENTS



29th March: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 pm St Mary's Mucklestone

Join us as we remember the events of the last supper – everyone is welcome to join us

30th March: GOOD FRIDAY

Spend some time today reflecting on the cross of Christ. There are various services around the benefice.

- **7.00 pm St Peter's Broughton:** dramatized reading of St John's Passion narrative
- **7.30 pm Ashley Roman Catholic Church** followed by walk of Witness to St John's Ashley for 8pm

31st March: EASTER VIGIL – A SERVICE OF LIGHT

7.00 pm St Paul's Croxton

If you haven't experienced the service of light before, I would like to encourage you to join us at St. Pauls Church, Croxton

This service is sometimes referred to as the Easter vigil where we move from the darkness of Good Friday to the Light of Easter Day.

It's a service of celebration with candles, bells and singing. The Paschal candles for the group will be blessed and distributed.

1st April: SON-RISE SERVICE ON EASTER DAY

Join us at 6.30 am for a short celebration in the garden at The Rudge. Followed by bacon butties.

1st April: Easter Day

9.30 am—St John's Ashley, Parish Communion

11 am—St Peter's Broughton, Easter Day Holy Communion

11 am—St Paul's Croxton, Easter Day Holy Communion

11 am—Croxton Independent Methodists, Easter Day Holy Communion

11.15 am—St Mary's Mucklestone, Easter Day Holy Communion

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: March—Temptations
May—May blossoms

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

From the registers:

Burial: 5th February, Thomas William Oldbury

SERVICES/EVENTS

- **31st March: 7.00 pm Easter Eve service of Light**
- **1st April: 11.00 am Easter Sunday Communion**
- **FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS:**
10.00-12.00 pm
March 30th
April 27th
May 25th

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS 2018

After the success of the event last year, St Paul's will be holding an extended exhibition this year – yes, three days, Saturday 26th to Monday 28th May. So many people brought so many wonderful items, we are asking you to help us again.

This year we are commemorating the ending of the Great War, so we are asking you to lend us items from the period 1910 to 1920; Militaria, household items and ephemera such as newspapers, posters, letters, etc.

The Local Studies material was so popular, we will be having a special section this year – not just from the WW1 period, all items are welcome.

Please contact Viv Watkins on 01630 620694 or at croxton8@vivwatkins.plus.com for more details or to book in your loans.

We will be at the Church to receive your items on the afternoon of Friday 25th May and they will be ready for collection on Tuesday 29th. Please do not bring items unless they have been booked in with Viv.

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.

- March 29th at St Paul's Croxton
- April 26th at Methodist Chapel, Croxton
- May 31st at St Peter's Broughton



ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

‘ON THE THIRD DAY’

**On the Resurrection then and now
Held on Wednesday at 7.30 pm**

February 21st at the home of Jean Beasley, Pool Cottage, Copmere

February 28th at the home of Shirley Thomas, Muckleston

March 7th at the home of Stella Day, Old Police House, Croxton

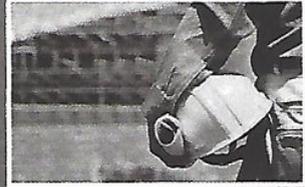
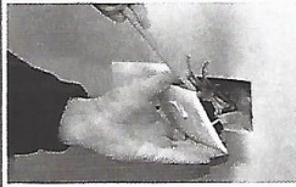
March 14th—to be advised

March 21st at the home of Judy Thompstone, Bromley Hall,
Wetwood

Please do come along and take part. All are most 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

- 28th March: DANNY WELLS on 'Joseph Paxton'
- 25th April: ANDY HOLT 'Kingfishers at Shugborough'
- 23rd May: BARRY SMITH 'Dahlias/choosing SAGG photo competition entries.'

16/17th June—Eccleshall Open Gardens

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:

FUNERALS & BURIALS:

26th Jan: Mr Harry Palin

8th Feb: Mr Arthur Harvey [burial]

16th Feb: Mr Edward Timmis of Bromley Mill

21st Feb: Mr David William Johnson of Parkfields Farm, Buerton

EASTER SERVICES AT BROUGHTON

- * 7.00 pm, 30th March, Good Friday—a dramatized reading of St John's passion narrative.
- * 6.30 am, 1st April, Easter Morning Son-Rise Service
- * 11.00 am, 1st April Easter Holy Communion Service

CHURCH ORGAN

The organ at St Peter's Broughton, after many years of faithful service, and surviving the great woodworm infestation of 2016, has now sadly reached the point of being beyond repair. The Church Wardens, along with PCC members, are exploring several options to ensure our services continue to be accompanied by music of the highest standard. As you may appreciate quality comes at a cost, so if you would like to make a contribution to the organ fund at St Peter's, please contact the church wardens.

THANK YOU

The congregation at St Peter's would like to thank the kind generosity of Mr William Friend of Mucklestone Nurseries for donating the superb Christmas tree and also Mr & Mrs Colin Stokes for decorating the tree so beautifully. Many thanks for your continuing support.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

As 2017 came to an end the choir of Broughton Church went around the village spreading Christmas cheer. My father, James Butter, also organised a New Year's Day Walk which was well attended. This year we decided to raise money for the Ashley & Loggerheads Community First Responders and Eccleshall Community First Responders.

*All together we raised £670 for the Community First Responders, which includes the collection from our special service in which members of both Community Responders attended and were presented with cheques. Thank you to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause and welcomed the choir into their homes. At this moment the world we live in seems to be slowly taking a step back, however goodness still surrounds us, as you have all shown. My grandfather once read out the Desiderata by Max Ehrmann and I would like to share a short passage from this wonderful piece of work-
"With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."*

From myself and all at Broughton church we wish you and your family good health and happiness through the year ahead.

Ellen Butter

BROUGHTON WI

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

- 8th March—Annual Meeting. Talking Newspaper for the Blind—SHEILA WETTLE.
- 12 April—Diabetes—ALICIA ASPLEY
Competition: Make a sugar free cake.
- 10th May—Resolutions and Social Time.

New members are most welcome.

Contact: The President, Diane James 01630 673391 or The Secretary, Lesley Archibald, 01785 850997

WI Report – Nov. 2017 – Jan. 2018

November saw a second visit from Steve of Perrys Butchers, Eccleshall. After teaching us how to make sausages last April, this time he revealed ‘The Art of Pork Pie Making,’ when once again members went hands-on to create and take home their own pork pies. See photos on the website www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.com



At the Christmas Party in December entertainment by Peter Wilshaw and Martin Jones, whose combined talent of singing and playing a variety of musical instruments always goes down a storm, got the festive season off to a good start. Also earlier in the day several members had been busy at a wreath-making workshop with impressive

results, which again can be seen on the website.

In January the customary ‘raffle of Christmas excess’ was held, after a presentation by Ros Langford on this year’s proposed Resolutions to help members decide which one to vote for. Voting slips were collected and subsequently sent off to the Staffordshire Federation and we will learn in due course which one/s have been selected nationally to go forward to the AGM in the summer.

The February 97th Birthday meeting promises a theatrical extravaganza which will no doubt receive special coverage elsewhere in this issue!

Judy Thompstone





Recharge

YOUR LOCAL CAFE-STYLE GATHERING
Sunday 11th Feb, Sunday 11th Mar & Sun 8th April
3pm at LOGGERHEADS COMMUNITY FIRE STATION

Recharge is a meeting for just over an hour where people can hang out together and develop new friendships whilst exploring their spirituality in a safe environment. All are welcome.

There will be a focus on good coffee (and cake!) and great conversations together with live contemporary Christian worship music, a short talk and video clips etc. Come and join us and let's see what evolves. Children are welcome.

 www.ambc.info  07376198567  The Loggerheads Benefice
e: admin@recharge.me

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The Loggerheads Benefice presents...



Murder
Mystery
Dinner

Join us at St Johns Chapter House in
Ashley

Saturday 7th April

at 7 pm

Can you solve the murder?

A cast of players will entertain you as you try to solve the murder. There will be refreshments and a buffet style dinner to enjoy as well as games and a short quiz. An action-packed night is promised!

Tickets cost £9.99 per adult

Or £4.99 per child

Tickets available from Terry or Karen Williams

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LIVE & LOCAL CONCERT

‘The Wind in the Willows: a Folk Opera’ performed by GreenMatthews

Friday, 2nd March, 7.30 pm at Broughton Parish Room,
Wetwood (ST21 6NW, on B5026 between Eccleshall and
Loggerheads)

This is a brand new musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame’s well-loved classic by Chris Green, who, together with Sophie Matthews and their special guests, Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer, use music and song to bring this timeless tale to life. Both duos are familiar and popular performers at Live & Local venues and are teaming up for the first time for this production.

Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and the irrepressible Mr Toad as they embark on various adventures – on the river, on the road and in the dark and dangerous Wild Wood. Using traditional English folk melodies set to new lyrics, the four musicians paint a vivid picture of Grahame’s world – from the humble comfort of Mole End to the grandeur of Toad Hall.

The concert is being staged once again in aid of Broughton Tennis Club and is suitable for adults and children aged 11+. Tickets, priced at £10 for adults and £7 for under-16s, are available from Judy Thompstone (01630 620225) or Louise Butter (01630 620479). There will be a bar selling wine and beer, and tea and coffee will also be available.

If you have enjoyed Live & Local’s professional shows before, we hope you will come again and bring your friends, and newcomers, please come along for what promises to be a great evening’s entertainment.

ORDINATION



THE ORDINANDS HAVE
TOILED AT THEIR BOOKS
FOR MANY YEARS



THEY HAVE PREPARED
THEIR RECENTLY PURCHASED
VESTMENTS



THEY HAVE RECEIVED
A BLESSING FROM
THE BISHOP



NOW, AT LAST, THEY ARE FULLY QUALIFIED TO SERVE THE CHURCH

CartoonChurch.com

Broughton Tennis Club

Weather permitting, it is hoped to be able to open the two grass tennis courts at Wetwood (behind Broughton Parish Room, ST21 6NW, on the B5026 Eccleshall to Logreheads road) as early as possible in May.

The subscriptions for the 2018 Season, unchanged from last year, are as follows, and members can then go along and play whenever they wish:

Adults: £20
Juniors (under 16): £10
Family ticket: £40
Visitors: £5

For more information, please contact Judy Thompstone (01630 620225) or Louise Butter (01630 620479).





McCabe

PILGRIMAGES



A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

25 February - 4 March 2019
With the Revd Terry Williams

Eight days based in Jerusalem & Galilee departing from Manchester

On 25th February 2019 Revd Terry Williams is leading an eight day guided pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The visit will take in the major sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth and Caesarea. If you would like to join us, please contact Revd Williams direct, and he will send you a booking form.

MY FAVOURITE HYMN—chosen by MARGARET BOSTOCK
'Be thou my vision' is a hymn sung and heard over many years. The lovely words become more meaningful as times passes.

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Alternative English version by Eleanor Hull [1912]

The original texts of the now-called "Be Thou My Vision" are in Old Irish similar still in style to Modern Irish. The hymn has been translated into Modern Irish many times. The most popular is that by Aodh Ó Dúgain of Gaath Dobhair, County Donegal. Two verses of his translation were recorded by his granddaughter Moya Brennan – the first time any part of his text has been publicly recorded. Since then, those two verses have been recorded by many artists including Roma Downey and Aoife and Iona. These verses are very close translations to the first two of the Old Irish text.

BROUGHTON WI celebrated its 97th birthday in style by putting on their very own version of MAMMA M \overline{W} IA and brought a little Mediterranean warmth to a chilly February day in Wetwood—for a full report and more photographs check out the WI's website: www.broughtonwomensinstitute.weebly.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 George Barlow, who is commemorated on Croxton's war memorial.

George Vernon BARLOW

Place and Date of Birth:

13/08/1889

Place of Residence: **Offley Hay from 1902**

Parents: **William Barlow (Born 1862 in Tibberton) and Maria Barlow (nee Stacey, born 1862 in Shebdon)**

Rank: **Private**

Regiment: **1st Bn Canadian Machine Gun Corps**

Service number: **25085**

Location of Enlistment: **1914**

Age: **29**

Date of death: **28/09/1918**

Commemorated at: **Bucquoy Road Cemetery Ficheux (south of Arras)**

Family History:

Husband of Edith Smith (formerly Barlow) of 49 Facer St. St Catherines Ontario



Siblings

Lucy 1885

William 1887

George 1889

John Samuel 1891

Francis 1895

Alice born and died in 1897



**Bucquoy Road Cemetery
Ficheux (south of Arras)**

Military History

George attested on 22nd September 1914, his papers state that next of kin was Edith Starkey wife born 1890, his trade was Iron worker (he went to Canada to work on the railways) He was of dark complexion dark blue eyes and dark hair, he was 5ft 5inches tall and his chest measurements 36 to 39inches expanded. He joined the Canadian Machine Gun Corps which was a Kilted Regiment (see photo) their base depot was at Crowborough East Sussex. On January 1st 1916 the Brigade Machine Gun Corps were finally mobilized the 1st Brigade near Mont des Cats and the 2nd near Ploegsteert and the 3rd near Meteren. The companies comprised 10 Officers and 161 other ranks. Initially Colt machine guns were used but shortages of guns was rife during the transition as introduction of Lewis guns to the Infantry Battalions were very slow.

The First Canadian Brigade was under General Henry Horne (First Army) part of XX11 corps (Godley) . 1st Canadian Brigade made up of : 1st Bn. Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario); 2nd Bn. (Eastern Ontario); 3rd Bn. (Toronto) ; 4th Bn. (Central Ontario)

The First Canadian Machine Gun Company was attached to the 2nd Canadian Division 1st Canadian Trench Mortar Battery

George Barlow died of head wounds at the 33rd Casualty Clearing Station at Boisieux-au-Mont it used Bucquoy Road Cemetery Ficheux during September and October 1918 as part of The Battle of the Hindenburg Line The Canadian participation in The Battle of Canal du Nord is commemorated at the Canadian Bourlon Wood Memorial.



Hosted by the Loggerheads Benefice
Hugo Meynell Primary School, Loggerheads

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PSALM 146—New International Reader’s Version

¹ Praise the LORD.

I will praise the LORD.

² I will praise the LORD all my life.

I will sing praise to my God as long
as I live.

³ Don’t put your trust in human
leaders.

Don’t trust in people who can’t
save you.

⁴ When they die, they return to the
ground.

On that day their plans come to
nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those who depend on the
God of Jacob for help.

Blessed are those who put their
hope in the LORD their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth
and the ocean.

He made everything in them.

He remains faithful forever.

⁷ He stands up for those who are
treated badly.

He gives food to hungry people.

The LORD sets prisoners free.

⁸ The LORD gives sight to those
who are blind.

The LORD lifts up those who feel
helpless.

The LORD loves those who do what
is right.

⁹ The LORD watches over the
outsiders who live in our land.

He takes good care of children
whose fathers have died.

He also takes good care of widows.
But he causes evil people to fail
in everything they do.

¹⁰ The LORD rules forever.

The God of Zion will rule for all
time to come.

Praise the LORD.

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Mucklestone Woodland Spring Walk **1st Saturday after Easter from 1 pm—7th Apr 2018**

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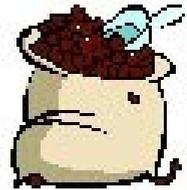
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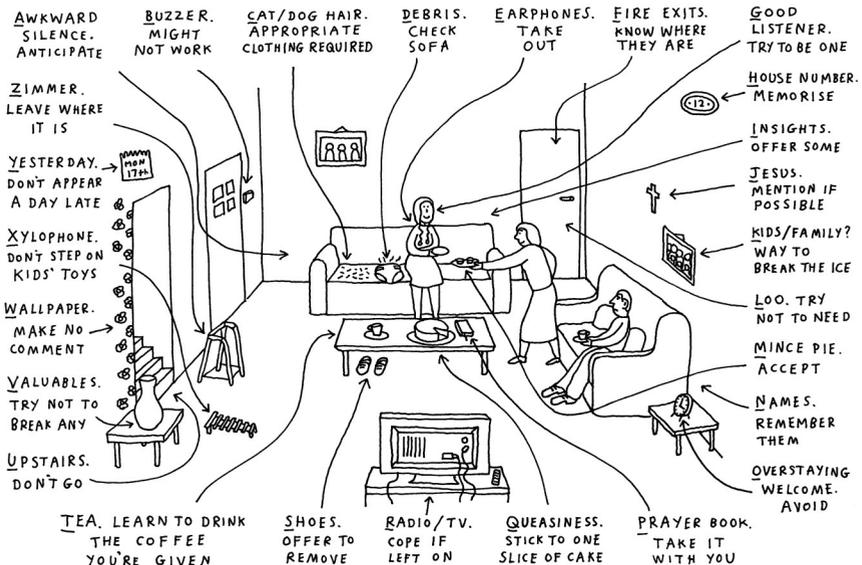
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WETWOOD EXCHANGE AREA BROADBAND UPDATE

My previous articles in ABC magazine described progress in the availability of fibre broadband in the central area of Croxton. Progress was limited to properties connected to the green cabinet which was installed by St Paul's church wall in 2016 and went live in January 2017. Several of these articles included the information that "*there are currently no firm plans to extend fibre availability within the Wetwood exchange area*"

The situation has recently progressed significantly! A new green cabinet has been installed on the North side of Lodge Lane just outside the entrance into the Wetwood Exchange compound. This cabinet is designated Wetwood 2 and it went live on 5th January. Soon afterwards Superfast Staffordshire announced that it had gone live by affixing their coloured poster onto the front of the cabinet and delivering leaflets to the 59 properties served by this cabinet. News of this new cabinet was also posted on FaceBook and Twitter.

These 59 premises can now order a fibre service by contacting their service provider. These premises include the properties by the Parish Rooms, all properties down the length of Fair oak Bank (but excluding the Freemasons Arms) and along Lodge Lane as far as Greatwood Farm and also the

properties at the windmill and in Woodwall Green."

The keen-eyed may also have noticed yet another green cabinet which has been installed on the side of Langot Lane opposite the Freemason's Arms. This is designated Wetwood 4 and is forecast to be commissioned by Easter. Superfast Staffordshire have not yet received information on which properties will be able to be connected to fibre broadband via this cabinet (Openreach only supply the information just before commissioning the cabinet). Once it goes live, Superfast Staffordshire will affix their coloured poster to the front of the cabinet and deliver leaflets to the properties to which it is connected.

In recent weeks 'Telent' (an Openreach subcontractor) personnel have been installing fibre cables both underground and overhead at the top end of Fair oak Bank, down the B5026 from the junction with Fair oak Bank to the area around the Vernon Yonge and on up the hill towards St Paul's church. This is a new type of cable and is indistinguishable from a black plastic insulated copper cable approximately 5mm diameter, except that it has a yellow line printed along it, together with its Openreach designation. Existing poles which now carry this type of cable have a small yellow plastic warning label

Cont'd ... page 36

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Did you know that whenever you buy anything on-line—from your weekly shop to your annual holiday—you could be collecting free donations to help with our mission and outreach in the Loggerheads Benefice. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to donate, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the trainline and Sainsbury's—it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theloggerheadsbenefice/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop on-line, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will donate to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the local churches will be grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

nailed onto them reading “CAUTION OVERHEAD FIBRE” in black capitals.

I have very recently learnt that in some 30+ of these new locations the nearby premises will be connected directly by fibre cable to a box near the top of the nearest pole and will therefore be connected by fibre from the home to the fibre network. I gather that Openreach have virtually finished installing new cabinets (and thereby enabling FTTC – Fibre To The Cabinet – where the property is connected by the existing copper wires to the cabinet) and are increasingly installing only FTTP – Fibre To The Premises – such as described above. FTTP is capable of providing broadband speeds of up to 330Mbps download / 30 Mbps upload. The massive advantage of FTTP is that the connection speed is not affected by distance, unlike

FTTC, where the available broadband speed decreases as the length of copper from the property to the cabinet increases.

BT Line Checker

For a ‘provisional check’ of your currently available broadband services, enter 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 you can request an ISP to confirm what they could provide.

If you would like to clarify or amplify any of this information, please contact me either by email at daviespetermj@gmail.com or by phoning me on (01630) 620202.

Peter Davies
14th February 2018

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BENEFICE BREAKFAST

Breakfast in the company of friends followed by a short talk to broaden our horizons is a great way to start a winter weekend. As in previous years the Benefice Breakfasts will be held at Hungersheath Tearooms where a delicious full English breakfast is assured. A lighter but equally delicious breakfast may be had if ordered in advance. Breakfasts will start promptly at 0900hrs.

Dates and Speakers are as follows:

- **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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Bishops Offley, Staffs

Regular contributor, Marianne Grimes, pointed out that week commencing 29 January was Village Halls Awareness Week and to celebrate it Ian Mcmillan, the poet from Barnsley with the accent that you could cut with a knife! - wrote this poem.

A TEAPOT AS BIG AS THE MOON

Here is the centre and here is the hub
Here is community held in a room,
Here's the big gig and the loud Zumba Club
And here is a teapot as big as the moon
Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

Here is a place at the heart of the map
Here is a song with a crowd-friendly tune
Here's a child's bonnet, a pensioner's cap
And here is a teapot as big as the moon
Here is a teapot as big as the moon!



Here is the village: its hopes and
its dreams
Here's a bright light that pierces
the gloom
Here is a space that's much more
than it seems
And here is a teapot as big as the
moon
Here is a teapot as big as the
moon!

Here is the future in these tightened times
Here is a voice that says 'come back, and soon'
Here is a noticeboard brimming with signs
And here is a teapot as big as the moon
Here is a teapot as big as the moon!

This is the village hall, open the doors!
This is the root and the sap and the bloom!
This is utopia with cutlery drawers!
And this is the teapot as big as the moon
This is the teapot as big as the moon!



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&
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Contact Mrs Beryl Roe, Rowley House Farm, Croxton, ST21 6PJ

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SERVICES – March to May 2018			
	St Peter's Broughton	St Paul's Croxton	Croxton Independent Methodist
4th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent	11 am Matins	11 am Songs of Praise—	11 am Holy Communion
11th March: Mothering Sunday	11 am Mothering Sunday	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
18th March: 4th Sunday of Lent	11 am Matins	11 am United Service at at St Paul's	
25th March PALM SUNDAY	11 am Holy Communion	11 am United Service at at the Chapel	
29th March	7.30 pm Maundy Thursday at St Mary's Mucklestone		
30th March	7.00 pm Good Friday at St Peter's Broughton		
31st March	7.00 pm Easter Eve at St Paul's Croxton		
1st April	6.30 am Son-rise Service at The Rudge		
1st April EASTER SUNDAY	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion
8th April: 2nd Sunday of Easter	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
15th April: 3rd Sunday of Easter	11 am Matins	11 am United Service at St Paul's	
22nd April: 4th Sunday of Easter	11 am Holy Communion	11 am United Service at the Chapel	
29th April: 5th Sunday of Easter	11.15 am United Benefice Service and Confirmation Service at St Mary's Mucklestone		
6th May: 6th Sunday of Easter	11 am Matins	11 am Songs of Praise	11 am Holy Communion
10th May: Ascension Day	7.30 pm Sung Evensong at St Peter's Broughton		
13th May: 7th Sunday of Easter	10 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion	11 am Divine Worship
20th May: Pentecost	11 am Matins	11 am United Service at St Paul's	
27th May: Trinity Sunday	11 am Holy Communion	11 am United Service at the Chapel	