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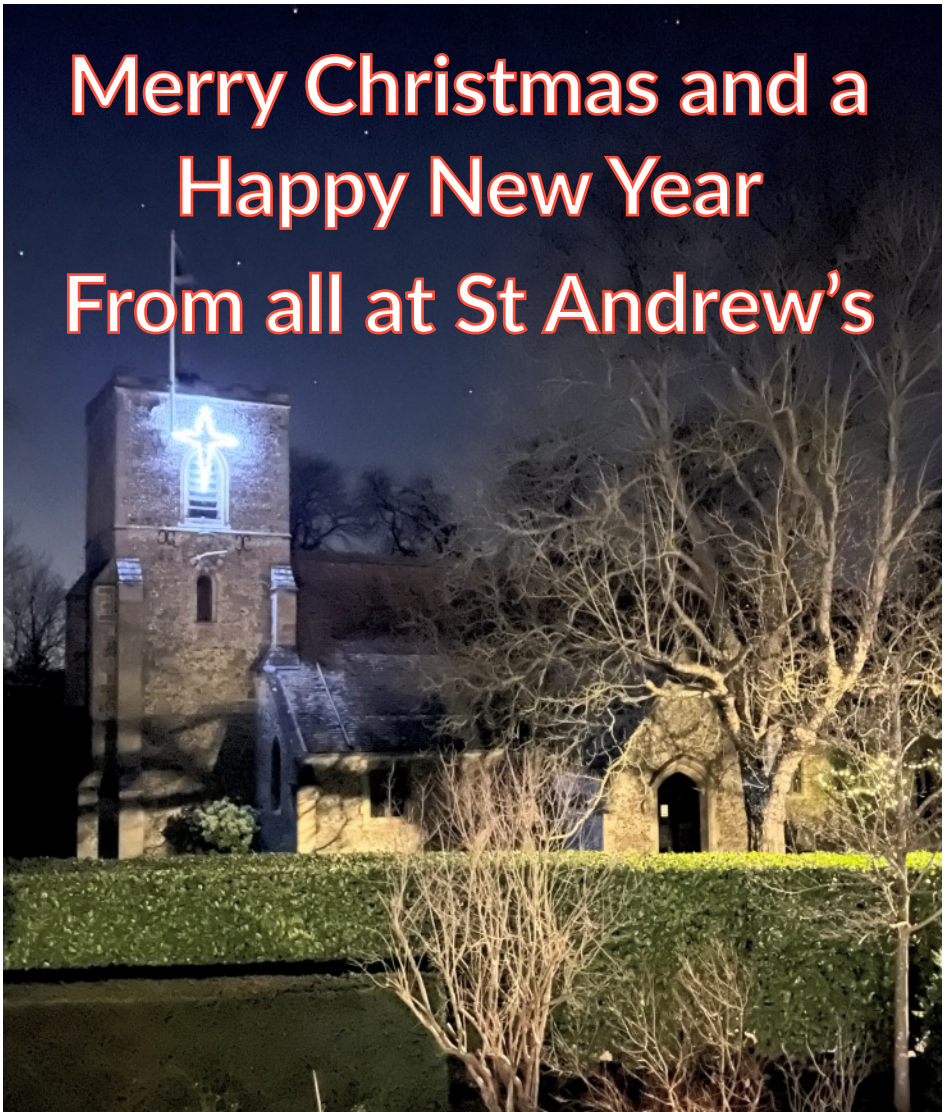
MESSENGER

December 2021

Volume 80 No 12

Price 60p

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
From all at St Andrew's



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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Alastair MacGregor

07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker

Zoe Clayton 894656

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 264246

Director of Music

John Bryden 07803 706847

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Sacristan

Peter Green 500404

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Liz Hodgkins 01638 570060

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

Sunday services vary from week to week and our pattern is changing as we come out of lockdown. See the St Andrew's Noticeboard for this month, and the church website at standrewstapleford.org for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communions, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church

2pm Sunday Praise

4.30pm Connect

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

All house, prayer and Bible study groups are cancelled until further notice.

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

DOES anyone remember the name Margaret Keenan? No? Then let me tell you that briefly, fleetingly, Margaret became a beacon of hope in our society. We will come back to her.

But first, a mention of reviews of the year, a season we are coming up to. I love them, though the trawl through everything to get to the real highlights can be a bit painful. I always catch at least some of Sports Personality of the Year. Odd award, as it rarely seems to go to anyone with personality, though they are always great at sport. News reviews on TV and in the papers are good too. But my favourite, when it is not too vulgar anyway, is Channel 4's Big Fat Quiz of the year – great if you can bear Jimmy Carr's laugh.



But I am not sure I will watch them this year, not the news ones anyway. What is there to say? How was 2021? Pretty rubbish really.

It is worth thinking back a year. Towards the end of 2020 there was a good deal of optimism about. The government's handling of the pandemic had undoubtedly been somewhat poor – look how nice and polite I have become in 2021! – but vaccines were on the way. Hooray for vaccines! The great new hope!

Which brings me back to Margaret Keenan. She was the first person in the world to be vaccinated as part of a mass Covid vaccination campaign, and her lovely unassuming nature shone through the news reports as her name went around the world. Another great British first (though she actually got the Pfizer jab, not our homegrown one). That was on 8 December 2020. Vaccines were going to bring an end to this wretched pandemic. At least that was my impression. It may be the scientists were being rather more guarded and I did not want to hear it.

The reality, of course, is that the pandemic is way more manageable for us than it was this time last year, but I suspect we had all hoped for rather more. Maybe I am being too Eeyore about it, but pandemic life remains pretty grim. The vaccines do not prevent infection or being infectious. They do lessen the severity of disease and reduce the morbidity and mortality, which is all to the good, but their effect wanes with time, and the prospect of endless risk management and rounds of boosters seems to be on the cards.

Margaret was back in the news a couple of months ago getting her booster. The symbol of hope became a symbol of plugging on as best we can. We are some way from pre-pandemic life as it used to be and there is no real prospect of getting there. Meanwhile the Conservative cash for cronies carousel continues to spin, the lowlands of East Anglia and Tuvalu alike are condemned by international inaction to be under water in a few decades, and peace in Northern Ireland is put at risk for... well, I have no idea what for. In all things the old normal is dead, and we probably need to come to terms with that.

Are you feeling a little low? Yes, me too, and I am not going to tell you to cheer up, because we have good reasons, lots of them, to feel low.

So, how to keep going?

One thing we can do, I think, is make sure we enjoy the immediate. So, to give an example, our choir at St Andrew's is singing better than I can ever remember, bringing us great joy. Sometimes their music is totally wonderful. At our All Souls' Memorial service they sang Rani Arbo's *Crossing the Bar* – check it out on YouTube or Spotify if you don't know it – and to me it was just beautiful, a transporting moment giving a glimpse of better still to come. Arbo's text is Tennyson's poem. It is actually about death ('when I put out to sea'), so is very suitable for a memorial service, but the sentiment is about going home, with there to be 'no sadness of farewell when I embark'. Why not? Because there is hope throughout, a hope of eternity, of seeing God. 'I hope to see my Pilot face to face, when I have crossed the bar.'

I wonder what keeps you going? Family events, meetings with friends, hobbies, the lovely prospect of the next holiday? All of those can be good things, of course, and I am with you in enjoying them all. They sustain for a bit. But the deeper things of faith mean far more.

You know I am going to say it, but here it is anyway. Arbo and Tennyson's Pilot is Jesus Christ. He whose birth we will celebrate at Christmas, whose life we remember week on week as we meet together at St Andrew's, will meet us, all whose Pilot he has been in life, when we cross the bar. I long for each and every one of you to know his transforming, beautiful, sustaining, endless love for you. That is something that never wanes. You could make a start with him this Christmas. He longs to welcome you, as do we at St Andrew's.

Every blessing, his blessing, to you all. Simon



St Andrew's Noticeboard

5 DEC	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	TOY SERVICE COMMUNION Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 3.1-6
	10.30 am	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION TOY SERVICE
	6 pm	BCP CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT Isaiah 40.1-11; Philippians 1.3-11
12 DEC	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNDAY WORSHIP Zephaniah 3.14-20; Luke 3.7-18
19 DEC	9 am	SAID CW COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SAID SUNDAY SERVICE Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.39-55
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
	3.30 & 6.30 pm	TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS (two services)
24 DEC	3.30 pm	CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE OUTDOOR SERVICE
	9.30 pm	MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM COMMUNION Isaiah 52.7-10; John 1.1-14
25 DEC	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 pm	CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14
26 DEC	NO SERVICES	

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection.

FROM THE REGISTERS

6 November: Baptism of Sophie Clough

We're waiting for your story!

HAVE you a story to tell or an event to publicise? Or perhaps you have an opinion to share on an issue that is important to you. If so, drop us a line on staplefordmessenger@gmail.com - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.

St Andrew's Choir Now recruiting

Thursday evenings
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HOLLY, berries and ivy blend together well at this time of year. They make great backgrounds with other foliage and seed heads. Window sills are like hedgerows. Pine cones become magical, resplendent with frosting or glinting with gold or silver. Yellow, bronze and red berries with dark green holly leaves are beautiful with trails of variegated ivy coiling around them. The smell from fir branches is rich. Time to rejoice for Christians celebrating a special birthday. Throughout the waiting and preparation of Advent, candles will be lit; one each week until Christmas Day. The waxy smokiness is enticing. Once soft light glows round the pillars the atmosphere heightens. Children become excited, eager for the day when presents will be exchanged. That will never change.

I was careful over unwrapping. Others in our families tore it off, quickly moving on to the next present. My mother-in-law got wise to this. She had large bags or boxes. The latter could be played with later. My father favoured newspaper covering. Recycling ahead of time! Certainly lots of effort over packaging with youngsters may not be appreciated. Today if I get a be-ribboned wrapped gift I am warmed that someone considered me worth the time. I feel the best presents are quietly waiting. Glass reflecting glory stains the floor with dappled 'pops' of colour. Trees graceful and elegant reveal shapes starkly against the sky. Natural beauty. Gardens seasonal change; wonders to behold.



We enjoy setting out the nativity scene with lovingly knitted sheep, shepherds, wise men and of course Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The tree branches in St Andrew's seem on guard. It is perfect as a backcloth for the Christingle service. This is symbolic. The orange is the world; fruits (or sweets), the Creation and seasons; red ribbon is Christ's blood and the central candle represents Jesus as light of the world. All this highlights global issues. We must do all in our power to save our precious planet.

Music and singing cheer. Words tell of the beauty of our earth. There are so many experiences which cannot be gift wrapped; memories and ability. After Covid we have grown to value the encouragement of a smile, the glint of hope in eyes and more than anything the loving hug. Gift wrapping is not possible. If it were it would be priceless. **Judith Lee**

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St Andrew's Christmas Diary

Special events in our Christmas celebrations. All welcome.

Sunday 5 December: 10.30 am: Toy Service Communion, and Forest Church Communion Toy Service

Presents for those who would not otherwise get them

Bring a new toy, book or game to donate to the Red Hen Project

Sunday 5 December: 6 pm: Choral Evensong for Advent

Wonderful seasonal music in a traditional service of Evensong

Sunday 19 December: 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm: Traditional Lessons & Carols

Hear again of the birth of Jesus in words and music

Friday 24 December: 3.30 pm: Open Air Carols & Christingle

A special service for children and the young at heart

Great service for families

Collection in aid of The Children's Society

Friday 24 December: 9.30 pm: Midnight in Bethlehem Communion

Last service before Christmas Day in the beauty of your ancient church

Christmas Day: 9 am: Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

A quiet traditional service before the busyness of the day takes over

Christmas Day: 10.30 am: Christmas Communion

Come along and celebrate the birth of Jesus at this indoor service

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For more information or to make a booking, please contact the Parish Administrator, Gillian Sanders, email admin@standrewstapleford.org or phone 07752 373 176.

A new team member at St Andrew's



MUCH rejoicing in the aisles when we recently welcomed a new Licensed Lay Minister, Fiona Holliday, to our ministry team at St Andrew's. On 30 October Fiona was licensed in a service in Ely Cathedral conducted by Bishop Dagmar Kirk, the Bishop of Huntingdon and she preached in St Andrew's at our All Saints' service the next day.

Fiona and her husband Alan moved into the village some months ago to be near to two of their daughters who live in Cambridge. They have been gradually

settling into village life, and we are very pleased that they have made St Andrew's their home church.

Fiona is what is known in some places as a Reader, and we are feeling particularly chuffed as we haven't had one at St Andrew's since 1994. Fiona is licensed to lead services, preach and to carry out all pastoral and other duties in the parish, and we look forward to seeing a great deal of her in different roles in the church and parish in the months and years to come.

Simon Taylor

Stapleford – Nachingwea Link Christmas Fair

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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Yvonne Fishenden, Stapleford

Re: Yesteryear, October

IT was so interesting to see our cottage in Yesteryear.

My late husband Ted, purchased the Grade 2 cottage from Mr Beavis (I think it cost £800) with a view to its restoration as it was completely derelict and uninhabitable.

We spent several hours at the council Planning Department, trying to find out the Restrictions on Grade 2 properties and after being passed from one person to another, it seemed no one was really sure. However, it was decided it could be rebuilt providing the front elevation remained as it had a decorated plaque over the front saying 1686.

Having demolished the back and two sides the front was safely shored up but during gale force winds it was blown down. We really thought our dream had ended! Luckily, Mr Chalk and Mr Holt spoke up for us and we were able to continue with the project.

It took Ted three years to rebuild, practically single-handed and we married and moved in, in 1971. He continued to work on the property throughout his life and it turned out beyond our wildest dreams!

Granta Deanery Mothers' Union Advent Service



STAPLEFORD MU is hosting an Advent Service for the Mothers' Union branches in the Deanery (and beyond), on Thursday 2 December at

10.30am in St Andrew's, led by Clare Coates. Coffee and cake to follow.

Everyone is invited to the service, not just MU members, so please come along – you will be most welcome to share this service with us. Hilary Street

**Season's Greetings to all our readers
From
The Messenger Team**

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Women's Institute



IN October we welcomed Geoff Lambert and his dog Buddy who had intended to tell us about his passion - Canal Mania. Due to a technical hitch our speaker was unable to deliver this and undeterred, instead gave a very interesting talk entitled 'The dog in my medicine cabinet'.

Geoff Lambert is a fundraiser for a charity which trains dogs to recognise the smells of certain illnesses, such as diabetes, Addison's disease and narcolepsy. The training can cost up to £20,000 and once fully trained, a dog is placed permanently with a patient. The dog is able to detect changes in body odour and signal the onset of a disease-related episode which can then warn a patient to take any necessary medication or action to prevent injury. The benefits of having such a wonderful, trained companion are immense, both to the patient and the health service, as hospital stays may be prevented and the person concerned can live a much more independent life.

Members were then told about current research being undertaken to certify that dogs are able to detect certain diseases (Parkinson's disease and cancer) in a person prior to diagnosis. This is ongoing and could be of great assistance to the medical world as the dogs are trained to sniff out the smell of a disease before any symptoms appear.

Following the talk members were reminded of the date of the next meeting of the Craft group, an extremely popular activity, which is now being held once again in a member's home. We bring along whatever we are working on - knitting, crochet, tapestry work, embroidery etc. and enjoy some excellent friendship and chat while we work on our pieces.

We were also told about the details of the book which is currently being read by those of us who belong to the book group. This group is also very well attended and is still taking place via Zoom. Each member takes it in turn to choose a title and this ensures we read a wide variety of literature, both old and new, and leads to a lively discussion about the style, content and issues raised.

By the time you read this, at their November meeting, members should have enjoyed a harvest supper, with freshly baked homemade bread and rolls, and looked forward to Christmas by singing some traditional songs.

Stapleford WI offers Christmas greetings to all readers of the *Messenger*.

If you are interested in what we do and would like more information about the WI then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**

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Mothers' Union



WE were greatly saddened by the passing of our dear friend and member, Joan Barnes, in November – we shall miss her sorely and

remember her with deep affection (obituary page 16). Joan was always reliable in supporting our events, and served on the Committee. A stalwart of the village gone.



The photos are of the wonderful Commissioning Service for MU Officers, at Ely cathedral on 23 October – I paraded our banner (you can just see it on the left in the top picture), together with those from other Branches. Bishop Stephen gave a very good address, commending the MU for all the work they do.



This month we are hosting the Granta MU Deanery Advent Service in St Andrew's on 2 December (see page 11). On 4 December, we are having our usual cake and preserves stall at the Nachingwea Fair in Shelford Memorial Hall. Please can members contribute to the eco-hamper we intend to raffle for Link funds – either to me or Kay.

Details of suitable items for inclusion will be emailed round.

The MU Ely Diocesan Wave of Prayer is from 10 to 12 December, and Kay has volunteered to hold the short service at her house. Details of the time and day will be sent round later. Before that, we have our AGM on 9 December, followed by a Social Evening – we'll have the report of our activities this year. Bring a plate of food to share – drinks provided (but bring a glass).

So we have come to the end of another 'different' year – let's hope we shall be able to go back to business as usual during 2022!

With all good wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and, above all, Healthy New Year. **Hilary Street**

A tribute to Joan Barnes

1926 – 2021



JOAN was a Stapleford 'Royal', born in the same year as the Queen. She would have been 95 this month and until very recently maintained an amazing high level of involvement with so many village activities. She was born and grew up in Great Shelford, in the cottages opposite St Mary's Church, moving to Haverhill Road, Stapleford, upon her marriage to Ray, in 1954. She and Ray

were blessed with two daughters, Julie and Christine.

Joan bought her first car at the age of 36 and she remembered it was black and cost £100. She passed her driving test the first time and was still driving until she went into hospital.

At the centre of their life together was St Andrew's church. Both of them were steadfast in their Christian faith which shaped them and informed all that they did. Their contribution to the life of the church was immeasurable. Ray was a churchwarden for many years and after he died in 1991 Joan took on many of his church roles. Her particular skills lay in flower arranging, embroidering kneelers, mass catering to name but a few. Later on she took on official roles as honorary verger, clerk to the Feoffees and sometime vice chair of the PCC.



She was a supreme multi-tasker!

During her lifetime she was involved with Stapleford Parish Council (at one time serving as chair) the W.I., Mother's Union and numerous village events, such as the Flower Show. She was a founder member of the Twinning Association and the Magog Trust. Joan and Ray were instigators in the founding of the Magog

Trust and they have a lasting memorial on Magog Down in Barnes Copse (left).

Joan was a true servant of the community. She worked tirelessly and with enthusiasm whether organising or participating. She made beautiful cakes, could organise travelling suppers on a large scale and was good at

encouraging helpers to step up to the mark. She was a talented needle woman and there are many examples of her work to admire. During lockdown she made numerous kneelers for St Mary's church, Great Shelford.

Despite all this she was no angel. A former Parish Priest recalls that she was not always so tactful, but a rarity in being so reliable. There are many thoughtful quiet acts of kindness that can be attributed to Joan for which she never sought recognition or praise. She was one of Addenbrooke's longest serving volunteers in various roles and was there for over 30 years.

For her voluntary work she did receive commendations at various times. For her work within the church she received the Etheldreda medal which is awarded annually to people across the diocese whose service to the community is both generous and outstanding. Her service to the village was recognised by South Cambs District Council from whom she received an award.

Joan was always cheerful and positive and contributed much to the communal spirit. She never complained when illness and cancer curtailed her activities. Her spirit was never dimmed.

She loved life, service to the community and social get-togethers, but most of all her family. She was so proud of each and every one of them, as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

A life lived to the full, dear Joan. Thank you for your inspiring example.

Tribute contributed by a group of friends



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DURING December your *Messenger* deliverer will be calling on you for your subscription for the next year of magazines. Please be sure to pay your 2022 subscription by the end of this year.

We are pleased to say that the cost remains at £6 for the 12 issues of the *Messenger* delivered to your address by our team of stalwart deliverers. They may leave a note in your door when they try to collect your subscription if they miss you. There are three ways of paying your subscription now.

Last year we began offering the ability to pay online which was very popular and we would recommend that you do it this way if you can. You will need to be sure to put the first line of your address as the reference and also tell your deliverer that you have paid this way. Please contact Val Powell (vaz@fairshares.co.uk) to obtain our account details. Cheques and cash will still be acceptable, writing your address on the back of the cheque or giving a note of your address with the cash.

Postal subscriptions remain at £16 for 12 issues of the *Messenger*.

Valerie Powell

Thank you from the MU



ONCE again, Stapleford Mothers' Union would like to thank all the kind people who have given to our appeal for toiletries for the Cambridge

Women's Refuge – another wonderful collection of very useful items (which I believe are sadly even more required at this time of year).

So, thank you again dear friends, neighbours, villagers and St Andrew's congregation for your enormous generosity. **Hilary Street**



Looking for a local venue?

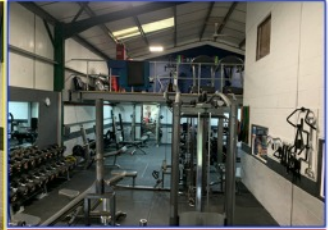
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Stapleford Messenger Fund

YOU may recall from an earlier edition of the *Messenger* that some of the surplus revenue from the magazine is donated to worthy causes. We are now pleased to announce that we have been able to distribute some more funds.

We have given a further £800 to the very worthy Warden scheme; £2,000 to help develop the new Stapleford under-12s playground (see page 25) and £900 to the Stapleford - Nachingwea Link to fund the purchase of dictionaries, seeds and two training courses in Nachingwea (see page 22).

“We are grateful to the *Messenger* Charities Fund for giving the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme a very generous donation. We do rely upon donations as the nominal payment that the service users are asked to pay each week by no means covers all the costs of running the service.

“The Scheme is run by Age UK, and St. Andrew’s Church. The Parish Council is also involved.

“The Scheme is for any Stapleford resident over the age of 60 who may need some support to enable them to live independently for as long as possible in their own home.

“If you know of anyone who would benefit from joining the Scheme, or indeed would like a chat to discuss the possibility of joining the Scheme yourself, please phone 721366 or 07773 423388 in the first instance for more information. If you would like to make a donation to the Scheme, this can be arranged by telephoning the same number. and be sure to state you wish to donate to the STAPLEFORD Community Warden Scheme. Thank you.” **Jackie Nettleton**

“The playground refurbishment committee would like to thank the Messenger Charities Fund on behalf of the children of the village for the very generous grant of £2,000 towards a sand play area. This will provide much enjoyment for children now and in the years to come. Thank you!”

Playground Refurbishment Committee

“The Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committees are most grateful to the administrators of the Stapleford Messenger Fund for the invaluable grant of £900, which will be distributed to benefit many people in Nachingwea.

“The grant is supporting four projects in line with the Link objectives of benefiting the education of girls and women and of enabling those in need to be assisted.” **Stapleford - Nachingwea Link Committee**

Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



THE Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committees are most grateful to the administrators of the Stapleford Messenger Fund for the invaluable grant of £900, which will be distributed to benefit many people in Nachingwea.

The grant is supporting four projects in line with the Link objectives of benefiting the education of girls and women and of enabling those in need to be assisted, as follows:

1. £320 to top up a project to provide seeds at an affordable price for needy farmers
2. £200 towards catering equipment for five ladies, currently undertaking a Vocational and Education Authority (VETA) catering course, to enable them to start up a business once qualified
3. £200 towards sewing machines for five ladies, currently undertaking a VETA tailoring course, to enable them to start up a business once qualified
4. £180 to purchase dictionaries for loan to the group of 40 students currently undertaking a course in English, to help them to transition from primary to secondary education with knowledge and confidence in English communication, both written and spoken. One of the challenges of transition is that, whereas primary schooling is conducted in Swahili, the medium of communication in secondary schooling is English. On completion of the course, the dictionaries will be loaned to the Nambambo Secondary School Library in Nachingwea, for the ongoing use of several hundred students.

The photograph below shows the students with the dictionaries.



In other news, we have received photos of the purchases made using the funds we sent to the Maternity Hospital in Nachingwea, which was first reported in the September edition of the *Messenger*.

Here you see two photos of the official handing over ceremonies.

Obed, Dr. Evelyn Mrumapili and some of the Nachingwea government hospital staff in front of the enclamptic bed donated by Stapleford Link bursaries



Nachingwea hospital staff with Obed and Dr. Evelyn with the infants suction machine and resuscitation bags with masks whose funds also have been donated by Stapleford Link



We look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas Fair on Saturday 4 December in Great Shelford Memorial Hall from 10am.

In wishing all readers a Happy Christmas, we also add our thanks to you for all your support throughout 2021. **Trish Maude**



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New children's playground on the way!



WE'RE excited to announce that the build of Stapleford's new under-12s playground has started at Stapleford recreation ground.

Thanks to the funding received from the FCC Foundation, plus several other generous donations, work began on the 22 November and thanks to a very generous donation of £2,000 from the *Messenger* Charities Fund, we

are now able to add a sand play area.

Richard Smith, FCC Communities Foundation grant manager for the project, says: "It's always nice to see something we have funded start to take shape. We're delighted to be supporting such a worthwhile project and look forward to it benefitting children and families across Stapleford and South Cambridgeshire."

If everything goes according to plan, the work will take about three weeks – meaning that the new playground will be ready for children to enjoy over the Christmas holidays.

Some practical information for families and local residents:

- The playground is currently closed.
- The contractors, Kompan, started work on 22 November. They are on site from about 7.30am until 3pm most weekdays – unless the weather disrupts plans!
- Deliveries to and from Stapleford recreation ground take place from Haverhill Road close to the MUGA, and are being supervised by Kompan. Disruption to traffic is being kept to a minimum and we ask for your patience during busy periods.
- There is a container and skip on site during the build phase, situated next to the MUGA. This will be removed at the end of the works.
- Work is scheduled to take three weeks with an anticipated opening date of 17 December – however, this may change if weather delays the works.

We hope you will join us for the playground opening. Look out for more details on that, and the design of the new playground via the Parish Council website and social media.

For more information, please see staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/new-playground/ or contact clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk and gpett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Gillian Pett**

SSYI's new youth centre and growing work in the villages



WITH the opening of Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative's new Youth Centre in Great Shelford on the 16 October our work continues to grow both in the Shelfords, Stapleford and in Sawston. We now have groups on every day of the week, alongside work in the Village College, detached sessions and 1:1 support. With more than 75 new young people coming

along to our groups in the last six months things are getting really busy!

The new facility above the Memorial Hall has been thoroughly insulated and freshly painted with new flooring, ceiling, and electrics. It is now equipped with a new kitchen, new toilets, pool table, air hockey, table tennis, projector, darts and more! Making it a perfect space for running open access youth clubs, drop-in sessions, and targeted groups. All of our groups are free and run to meet the needs of local young people and to help them overcome the challenges that they face.

Alongside the work we are doing in Sawston, we are currently running groups in the Youth Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays but hope to start running Drop-In sessions on Mondays and Thursdays and have the Centre being used by young people every day. These Drop-In sessions will provide a safe and comfortable space for young people to do homework, play games and chat with the youth work team.

Most of our groups and activities are dependent on volunteers and with the opening of our Youth Centre and continued expansion of our work we are looking for new people to join the team. We have a particular need for support with our Monday Football group in Sawston (3.30pm to 4.45pm), our Wednesday Girls Group in Shelford (3.30pm to 5pm) and our Thursday Open Access group in Sawston (6.30pm to 8.30pm). Do get in contact with Zac if you are interested in helping out, training will be provided, DBS checks will be required. We would also value some extra help behind the scenes, supporting us with our admin and finances and a few hours a month could really help with this, do contact Polly if you think you could help with this. Finally we like to wish all our supporters and friends across the Villages a very happy Christmas!

For more information about SSYI, our work or volunteering contact:
Zac Britton – Lead Youth Worker: 07599024210, zac.britton@ssyi.club
Polly Stanton – Trustee and Secretary: 722509,
polly.stanton@ntlworld.com
Or visit our website at ssyi.club



Weekly Activities

Monday

Football | Lynton Way Rec, Sawston
3:30 - 4:45pm | Free | School Years 7 +

Tuesday

RED | SSYI Youth Centre
Relaxed Youth Club | Food | Chats | Games
6:00 - 7:30pm | Free | School Years 10+

Wednesday

Girls Group | SSYI Youth Centre
3:30 - 5:00pm | Free | School Years 7+
Message Charlie if you are going to come!

Thursday

Open Youth Club | Sawston Free Church
Food | Music | Dodgeball | Games
6:30 - 8:30pm | Free | School Years 7+

Friday

Open Youth Club | SSYI Youth Centre
Food | Music | Pool | Air Hockey | Games
6:00 - 7:30pm | Free | School Years 7-9
7:45 - 9:15pm | Free | School Years 10+

For more information contact:

Lead Youth Worker: Zac on 07599024210 or zac.britton@ssyi.club

Youth Worker: Charlie on 07704232274 or charlie.trueblood@ssyi.club

Or head to www.ssyi.club

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by David Jones



James I

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Thursday 9 December at 8pm
Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion

Admission free for SHS members or £3 on the door

Please note slightly later time



Bridge at Johnson Hall



OUR Monday evening bridge club, previously located at the old village hall in Hauxton, has started up again in a new venue: Johnson Hall..

Known as Great Shelford Bridge Club, we are a friendly and enthusiastic group playing competitive

duplicate pairs bridge.

Any pairs wishing to try us out should email our chairman, Craig Donnellan on craigdonnellan2@gmail.com. **Frances Cliff**

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 100

Orchids, trains and more: a circular walk from Fulbourn

To get to start of walk

DRIVE to Fulbourn and turn right on Manor Walk, just before the church. Then go left on to Stonebridge Lane and use the parking area at the far end (CB21 5BW).

Distance of walk

About 4½ miles. This walk is on completely flat ground, but it can get sticky underfoot in Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve in winter. It's a great walk in May, June, and July.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 209.

Extra Information

The Nature Reserve at Fulbourn is a wonderful place to see wild orchids in late spring and early summer. Both marsh orchids and bee orchids are common, although it requires a detour near to the boardwalk to see the very best blooms (you will see the paths made by orchid fans). The cowslips and bee orchids in the meadow are pretty good, too, and there are even some bluebells in the wooded part of the Reserve.

Route of Walk

Walk to the end of Stonebridge Lane. Ignore footpaths going right and left, but keep ahead on the main track, heading for Fleam Dyke (on footpath sign). The track soon swings left and skirts the far right-hand edge of Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve.

At the point when the track swings sharp right towards the Dyke, keep more or less ahead on a grass track and, when a cross track is reached just beyond a hedge line, go left. The track then turns right, crosses a cropped field, and reaches the Cambridge to Newmarket rail line. Cross the metal stile and go over the line. **Keep a sharp lookout for trains.** Go over a second stile and carry on straight ahead until a road is reached in the village of Great Wilbraham.

Cross the road and turn right, walking until Mill Road (signed London and Newmarket) on the right. Go right here and walk along the path on the left-hand side grass strip. The pathway crosses over after a few minutes and goes along the right-hand side grass strip.

Take the farm track to the right (signed 'Fulbourn 2') and walk along, passing the farm buildings. Proceed ahead and cross the rail line again by

stiles or gates. **Look out for trains.** Keep on ahead and then swing right after a few minutes. Go left soon after at a hedge gap, on the grass track walked earlier, and retrace your steps to the point where the Fleam Dyke path is met.

Carry on ahead, but turn right through a hedge gap very shortly afterwards. Skirt the right-hand side of a field, swing left and then go right, through a metal gate, into Fulbourn Fen Reserve. Go through another metal gate, walk along a boardwalk, and keep ahead until you pass through a large open farm gate.

Beyond is an area of meadow. Swing left on the first path and exit the meadow via a metal gate.

Cross a track and go through another metal gate. Keep ahead on the path, which goes through Ansett's Wood. Follow it as it winds about (don't be tempted to take any paths to the left or right), emerging through yet another metal gate into the parking area where the walk was started. **David Barnes**

The Stapleford Strollers do not accept responsibility for any accident or mishap that may happen to any person who follows this route



2G3S

WHILST we have to wait now to see if the politicians' promises and targets set in Glasgow actually get put into practice, what's happening locally?

We've had a busy year despite the restrictions, with nature walks, Zoom and real speakers, films, and cycle rides. In 2022 we will continue to run various events and activities, with a Repair Café in Great Shelford and a speaker event in February – details to follow.

It's good news that Stapleford Parish Council has been drawing up environmental plans such as mowing some grass verges less often so wildflowers can flourish, and other initiatives. They held an Eco Evening to encourage villagers to find out more and get involved to improve our village. A local ecologist talked to the attendees, and Cambridge PPF, 2G3S, and other local groups talked to each other about what they do. Hopefully many fruitful connections have been made and we can all work together to improve biodiversity, help tackle climate change, and build our community.

GCP are active again – they have launched two public consultations on proposals to help people move in and around Cambridge easily and more sustainably. The first – Making Connections – is asking for people's views on proposals to enhance radically bus and active travel journeys, while the second – Cambridge Eastern Access – offers more specific proposals for improving cycling and walking journeys along Newmarket Road. The Making Connections consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021. Whilst the in-person consultation events were in early November, there may still be some online events, see the link. Do fill in the survey so your voice might be heard.

Energy - as we are all dreading our next gas bill, perhaps you are interested in the CCF Open Eco Homes website at cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes; and other sites such as energysavingtrust.org.uk. CCF have recorded talks and advice ranging from 'Easy Win Actions' through to help with 'Whole House Retrofitting Plans'.

As we draw nearer to Christmas, it can be hard to make green choices. Try and buy items with no unnecessary packaging, and buy local seasonal food. Remember - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. If you're stuck for ideas for presents the Cambridge Organic Food Company (Cofco) will prepare a hamper of their lovely foods. One idea I have seen is to prepare an 'advent calendar' of food items to donate to a local food bank - there is one off Milton Road, look up Trussel Trust for other locations. For each day in December put a food item (non-perishable) in a box, and take the box to the

food bank. It can include Christmas items like puddings and chocolate. A lovely idea, though do ensure you deliver it well before they close for the Christmas break!

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter, or to get a Zoom link to join in our meetings. Also see our Facebook page or website. **Helen Hale**



Volunteer sorting through food donations

Great Shelford Library

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Libraries are holding a Treasure Hunt for children and families in December – use your mobile phone to scan a barcode and get a video clue. Find all our lost items and you'll get a certificate. If you don't have a mobile phone don't worry, there's a paper version too. Come along to Great Shelford Library to find out more...

Also, are you looking for a small but unique present for someone? The lovely Friends of Great Shelford Library tote bags are only £4 and you'll be promoting your local library at the same time!

Reminder: the library has returned to its pre-Covid opening hours: Mondays 3pm to 7pm, Tuesdays 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm, Wednesdays 10am to 1pm, Fridays 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm and Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

Please note: over the festive period, Great Shelford Library will close at 1pm on Friday 24 December and will re-open at 10am on Tuesday 4 January. Festive opening hours at other libraries will be shown on our website: cambridgeshire.gov.uk or you can telephone 0345 045 5225 for further information.

We'd like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas



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Stapleford Horticultural Society



JUDGING by the size of the audience including several new members, the Society has recovered well from losing a year of its programme to the pandemic. The attraction at our November meeting was a talk on daffodils from John Gibson, who has around 40 years of breeding, growing and showing them. Starting with a splendid selection of illustrations of some of the thousands of varieties of Narcissus with great variations in habit, colour

and form, John then provided some practical hints on growing them and producing new varieties, and ended by describing his experience in showing blooms at shows.

We don't have a talk in December so our next one is on Thursday 13 January at 7.45pm in the Johnson Hall. We're welcoming back Andrew Sankey, who will be talking about the great plant collector and botanist Sir Joseph Banks. As usual, all are welcome. **John Sherwell**

Ode to Magog Down



OVER the past 18 months, many people have discovered Magog Down and appreciate the opportunity it provides to relax, meet friends, and simply enjoy the open views of the surrounding countryside. Richard Allen told us that he has become a regular visitor over the past year and that he has also introduced a couple of Iranian

friends, Ali and Elham Dariush, to the Down and they have become as keen on it as he is. Ali worked as a professional documentary film editor back in Iran. Together, Ali and Richard have produced a short video film of Magog Down showings its autumn colours, in which they describe what it means to them. Ali has made the film available on YouTube for anyone to view - [youtube.com/watch?v=QG-Hbcs3zzi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG-Hbcs3zzi). Do take a look as the film gives a flavour of the site to anyone new and is a really lovely reminder of Magog Down for those of you who already know and love the site. **Geoff Hale**,

STAPLEFORD
GRANARY

ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION

EVENTS

December

Goldfield Ensemble

11th | Saturday | 7:45pm

Music for clarinet & string quartet including a world premiere by Matthew Kaner



Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra

12th | Sunday | 12:00pm

Cambridge's own mandolin orchestra, directed by Hugh Boyde



The Elves & the Shoemaker

16th | Thursday | 4:00pm

Exquisite children's puppetry & storytelling from Theatre of Widdershins



Candle-Lit Bach 1

16th | Thursday | 8:00pm

Music For Awhile play Bach, Corelli & Handel

Candle-Lit Bach 2

17th | Friday | 8:00pm

Jonathan Aasgaard, cello, plays Bach

Candle-Lit Bach 3

18th | Saturday | 8:00pm

Elizabeth Kenny, lute, plays Bach & Weiss



Magical Crackers

17th | Friday | 5:00pm

Illusionist & actor Peter Clifford with a family magic show

Christmas at the Granary

18th | Saturday | 11am-6pm

Festive Christmas market, live music, pop-up food

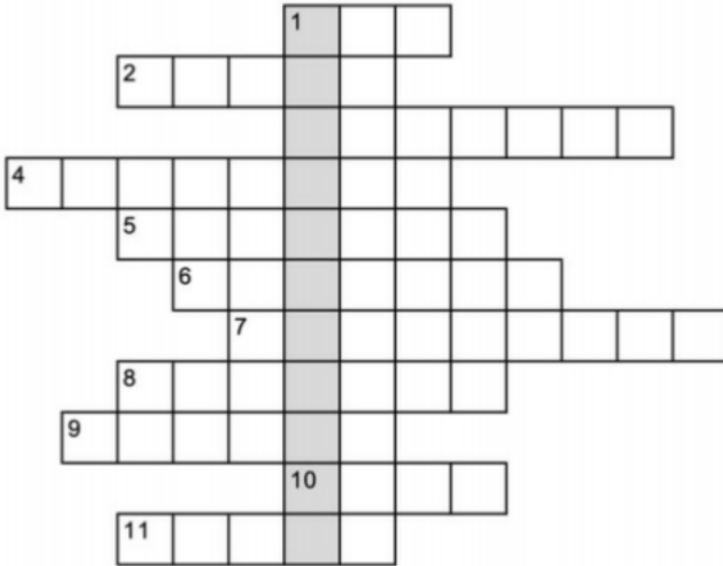
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Puzzle Corner

The reason for the season?

SOLVE the cryptic clues to give words connected with the Christmas story.
 The Bible references (NIV UK) should help you, if you need them.
 Answers on page 55



1. Delight girl [Luke 2:10]
2. Messenger seen from an unusual angle [Luke 2:9]
3. Deliverer of various reforms [Luke 2:11]
4. God with us at this Cambridge college, we hear [Matt 1:23]
5. She aims to be converted to Christ [John 1:41]
6. Niceness curtailed turns to anger [Matt 2:11]
7. Scram to this exotic island [no reference!]
8. Angel could be a girl confused [Luke 1:26]
9. Pure and right to drink after six [Luke 1:27]
10. Celebrity from west Argentina [Matt 2:2]
11. Presents good ideas from the six leaders [Matt 2:11]

2021

Which two two-digit numbers can be multiplied together to give 2021?

Yesteryear

SYLVIA Morris gives a selection of events in the village from Decembers past. Punctuation and spelling are exactly as printed at the time.

1801

ACCIDENT. The following melancholy accident happened at Stapleford on Tuesday last: Wm. Wright, coachman to Lord F. Osborn at Gogmagog Hills, having provided himself with a very old fowling-piece (which had not been in frequent use) went in pursuit of some wild geese. When in attempting to fire the gun, it burst, by which means his left hand was so much lacerated as to render amputation necessary; in consequence of which he was immediately conveyed to Addenbrooke's Hospital, where he underwent the operation. We are concerned to state, that the poor man has a wife and four small children, solely dependent on his labour for support.

1866

RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCH. The re-opening after extensive restoration of Stapleford Church took place last Wednesday. The church is a very old one and the whole of it (excepting the chancel, which was restored some few years ago), stood much in need of a participation in the great work which has been so largely progressing in this diocese during the last few years. The cost of the work has been about £1,000, of which sum the Duke of Leeds, whose seat at Gogmagog is within the parish, munificently contributed £200, and Mr. Collier, of Stapleford, £100. The Duke, we think, has set a noble example, and if all people were as liberal in proportion to their means, our subscription lists would soon be filled up. The Vicar, the farmers, and other residents in the parish bore their share in the expense, and they must all feel quite satisfied with the result. The church and church-yard are very prettily situated, and it is worthy of remark that the chancel is separated from the body of the church by a Norman arch; if the span of this arch were a little greater it would no doubt be an advantage, but it would of course be anything but correct to meddle with it.

1892

A PAUPER'S OUTING. Thomas Andrews (60) was charged with being drunk and begging in Gresham Road, Cambridge. He was "cadging tobacco" from people. Prisoner had 8½d. on him, also four tobacco boxes, two of them full. The prisoner wore union clothes and said he came out of the Chesterton Union on Monday for the day. Sentenced to pay 5s. for being drunk and one month for begging.

1908

RESOLUTION: "That this meeting resolves to formally represent to the Great Eastern Railway Co. the very urgent need of improvements to their passenger station at Shelford, especially the need of a footbridge or a subway, which would be preferable, the absence of which constitutes a great permanent danger. (Carried)" *From Parish Council Minutes*

1939

ARISING from the minutes it was resolved that the Clerk write to the County Council and enquire if the School is used for storage of first aid equipment and a raid occurred in the night, would they explain how the equipment could be obtained and used without the provision of a black out and if in these circumstances the School is not suitable, do they wish the Council to try and find a more suitable room and what is exactly required and what they wish the Council to do in the matter". *From the Parish Council Minutes*

Babes in the Wood

Little Shelford Pantomime

Will Hansel and Gretel find their way home from Wandlebury
Wonderland?

Will the Big Bad Wolf (aided and annoyed by Little Wolf)
catch Red Riding Wood?

Will Robin Hood ever make it with Maid Marian?

Will Good triumph over Evil? (As it always does in Little Shelford
Pantomime)

You'll find these answers and a lot more besides if you come and see it
on:

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 January at 7pm, Friday 14 and
Saturday 15 January at 7.30pm in Little Shelford Memorial Hall.

Tickets available (£5 children; £8 adults) from 1 December from:
Penny Eames – 07949 123023 or Brie Lury – 07799 332807 (Little
Shelford); Holly Barr – 07825 395605 (Great Shelford) or Sarah
Coppendale – 01223 842498 (Stapleford).

Any queries, e-mail coppendales@btinternet.com

(Please note: The pantomime will be subject to any current Covid restrictions which may be imposed in January.)

Revd Robert Hawthorn

Compensated for his role in the slave trade

LAST month I looked at the memorials in St Andrew's to see if these were "contested heritage" – the name given to the memorialisation of people connected with racism and slavery. I concluded they weren't – but while researching into this I came across a former vicar whose family *had* owned plantations in Jamaica.

Slavery abolished

In 1833 Parliament finally abolished slavery across the British Empire – 26 years after the abolition of the slave trade.

To appease slave owners, parliament set aside £20 million in compensation. The freed slaves of course received nothing. (To make matters worse, they weren't even technically free until they had completed up to six years as 'apprentices' for their previous owners – more about this later.)

Parliament appointed officials to work out which claimants should receive what. They made a record of every claim and disbursement made – putting values on every man, woman and child that owners claimed as their 'property'.

Despite the fact that slavery was by now widely condemned and seen as a 'stain on the nation', slave owners had no compunction in seeking compensation. Claimants didn't necessarily have to own a plantation or slaves – they may have been executors or trustees, or owed debts on plantations. This seems to have been the case for Robert Hawthorn, who made a claim on the Peshurst estate in St Ann, Jamaica where he was 'judgement creditor' (in other words, entitled to collect the debt owed).

Revd Robert Hawthorn

Robert Hawthorn and his father were born in Jamaica. According to the excellent Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, run by University College London, in 1792 the father Robert Hawthorn owned "83 enslaved people and 48 stock in St Ann, Jamaica". He died the following year and the estate passed to overseers before being sold in 1823.

In the meantime, the son had moved to Scotland. By 1806, he was apprenticed to a lawyer and by 1818 he had married and was living in Ayrshire. He and his wife Annie Barter Lawrie would have four children. He no longer seems to have any connection with his father's estate but in 1834 he made a counter-claim for compensation against Gilbert Wm Senior, then tenant for life for the Peshurst plantation, also in St Ann Jamaica. Robert

Hawthorn claimed £1727 but was awarded “interest and accruals only” – or £204 (£24,000 today).

Penshurst became infamous after the publication of former slave James Williams’s *Narrative* in 1837. Aided by the Quaker Joseph Sturge, who supplied the money for Williams to purchase his freedom, the *Narrative* detailed the frequent punishments and abuses he experienced while apprenticed to the Senior family: “Apprentices get a great deal more punishment now than they did when they was slaves; the master take spite, and do all he can to hurt them before the free come.”

We may never know what Robert Hawthorn thought about his family’s owning slave plantations or his claims for compensation. If he wrote letters to family and friends that could provide an insight, they are yet to be discovered (if they were kept at all).

Sermons could be another possible source of finding out his views. In the 19th century the sermon offered a great fund-raising opportunity, and provided valuable income for the abolition of slavery and other movements. The *Stapleford Chronicle 1770-1899*, compiled by Mary Miller, states that during Revd Hawthorn’s incumbency, St Andrew’s invited several guest preachers to raise funds for the Church Missionary Society. Judging by the amounts raised – often more than £500 in today’s money – these were very successful! Have these sermons been lost to history? Or are they lying undiscovered in college archives or personal letters? If *Messenger* readers have an inkling of where these could be please let me know!

Apology



Theophilia Ann Lefroy, Frederick Hawes’s wife

In last month’s *Messenger* I said that the family of Revd Frederick William Hawes (St Andrew’s priest from 1904-23) also had connections with the slave trade. Further investigation has shown I was mistaken. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather seem to have been all London-born and -bred. The family wealth seems to have started with Frederick’s father, James Thomas Hawes. Starting out as a pawnbroker, by the 1871 census his occupation was “silversmith” while ten years later the census entry describes him as “silversmith, jeweller and pawnbroker.” (Charles Dickens had earlier written: “the better sort of pawnbroker calls himself a silversmith.”)

Whatever his trade, he died a very wealthy man – in his will James Hawes left £12,000, the equivalent today of £1.67m. No wonder Frederick could afford two servants by the time he occupied the Lodge in Stapleford! **Nicola West**



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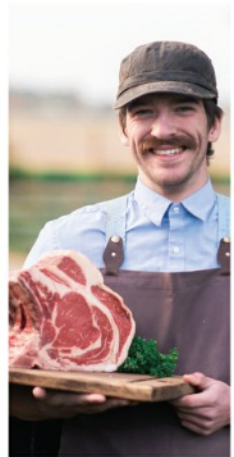
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Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to nhs.uk or grantamedicalpractices.co.uk. **Sandra East**

Day and date	Opening hours	Request prescription schedule
Thursday 23 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30 December
Friday 24 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31 December
Saturday 25 December to Tuesday 28 December	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 January
Wednesday 29 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 4 January
Thursday 30 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 5 January
Friday 31 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 6 January
Saturday 1 January , Sunday 2 January, Monday 3 January	Closed	Place order today, pick up 7 January
4 January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 7 January



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Stapleford History Society

The Lost Windmills of Cherry Hinton – Michelle Bullivant



ON 14 October, in the Stapleford Pavilion, Michelle Bullivant, a trained archaeologist, gave a most interesting illustrated talk, taking as her starting point part of the entry about Cherry Hinton in the Domesday Book (1086).

In addition to four slaves there were four mills!

One pair of millstones indicate one mill building but four pairs of millstones do not necessarily mean that there were four mill buildings - Cherry Hinton might have had one large mill. Such a mill, or mills, must have been powered by water as windmills were not introduced until a century later and watermills were located near fording points. The search for a suitable location began.

The southern end of Cherry Hinton village was known as Mill End and the Spring Head was a natural pool near the Robin Hood pub. The man-made water courses in the park at Cherry Hinton Hall are linked into the natural waterways, so an inevitable deduction was made that the mill(s) were most likely to have been in that area. The square-shaped 'island' among the water courses was the most likely site of the mill(s) as an 1806 map shows that some building remains were there, even though the site of any mill(s) was disused by 1451 when the vicar at the time owned the site.

The excavation of the site was undertaken by students from St Bede's School under the supervision of qualified archaeologists from Active8 Archaeology. They uncovered a variety of items: pieces of clunch, metal tongs, buckles, pieces of brick and tiles together with, of course, millstones. One large millstone was next to the main door of Cherry Hinton Hall and has been re-sited in the grounds. It now makes an interesting seat. **Jane Steadman**





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What a difference a day made

by Adrian Barnard

HAVE you ever misjudged someone for years? You have? You are not alone.

For many years I conducted a sales seminar in Guatemala City for a reinsurance client.

My local contact, the Sales Director, Mario (not his real name), was someone I respected professionally, but could not take to personally. He was all too Gucci-Rolux-Porsche by all appearances - a 'Jack the Lad' bachelor about town from one of the wealthiest families in the country.

On this particular trip the seminar was on a Saturday, at the request of the President of the Company.

Usually at the conclusion of the seminar, Mario would drive me back to my hotel where we would have a long lunch and discuss the issues of the day.

When he collected me from the hotel on the morning of the seminar for this visit, he explained that one of his managers would return me to the hotel because he had an important appointment he could not cancel.

At the conclusion of the seminar, he thanked me profusely for my contribution and then we parted.

As I walked across to the car park with his manager as arranged, Mario came running across to me with a face that told me he was not a happy camper.

Apparently, the President had insisted on lunch with the two of us - so off we set in his car for the hotel.

It was obvious something was troubling him because he was far from his usual happy-go-lucky self.

As we pulled up at some major traffic lights, he turned to me and said:

"I will explain later what you are about to see." We took a left at the lights and pulled up at a bus stop.

There was a young girl of about fourteen/fifteen standing there.

She handed over a sealed envelope. He handed her an envelope.

"¿Cómo estás Guapetona?" - How are you pretty one?

"Muy bien, gracias, Señor"

"¿Cómo está tú Madre?"

"Muy bien, gracias, Señor"

"¿Cómo van los estudios?" - How are your studies going?

"Muy bien, gracias, Señor"

"Que nunca olvides de nuestro trato" - Never forget our deal.



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“Nunca. En absoluto Señor!” Never Sir. Never. Not at all!

“Dale mis recuerdos a tu Madre - y hasta el mes próximo, Guapetona” -
Give my regards to your Mama - and until next month.

“Mil gracias, Señor, y hasta otra “

Then she walked away, and we drove off towards the hotel.

“What you just saw - I did not want you to see - and is the reason why I
wanted someone else to take you to your hotel” explained Mario.

He then explained.

She is fourteen years old. Eight years ago he was stuck in a traffic jam
during a tropical storm. He noticed a waif of a girl in a threadbare sodden
dress walking along the line of cars in the traffic jam trying to sell bunches
of rain-battered flowers.

There were no takers - the storm did not encourage windows to be
lowered. When she got to his car he lowered his window and asked:

“How old are you?” “Six” came the reply. “Why are you not at school?”

She explained her father - a trade union official - had been murdered (no
doubt yet another extra-judicial killing, for which Guatemala has a notorious
reputation.)

Her mother needed the extra money to add to the income from her job
as an office cleaner.

On looking at the six-year-old - soaked and shivering - in a threadbare
dress that cost less than a magazine, clutching bunches of flowers that were
beyond being sold, he suddenly felt there was something utterly obscene
about their relative situations. He - sitting in the dry - in a multi-thousand-
dollar Porsche - talking to a six-year-old who had to sell flowers in all
weathers instead of going to school - because her father had been
murdered.

He told her “If you want to go to school, instead of selling flowers, be at
the bus stop just to the left of these lights at this time tomorrow. I do not
want to know your name. You will never know My name. I will give you a
letter to give to your mother”.

The next day he returned to the bus stop, the little girl was waiting, and
handed a letter to the girl.

In the letter he made an offer. He and her mother would never meet but
he would pay the fees for her daughter to attend the Convent school his
niece attended. The Mother Superior would be the only person who would
know his name and the arrangements.

Her attendance would be explained away in her neighbourhood as a
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AA

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Her mother would receive a modest income that replaced the income from the flowers plus a little extra to meet incidental childcare expenses.

In return, on the last Saturday of every month, the girl would hand over an envelope which would contain a report from the Mother Superior on her studies and general behaviour in school, and the girl would receive an envelope with cash for her mother.

So that was what the two envelopes were about!

Mario then turned to me and said "You might now understand why I had to make this meeting. None of my family nor social circle know about this arrangement.

The culture of the circles I move in prevents people seeing there could be a positive caring explanation for why an unnamed rich man like me would want to help a young widow and her daughter."

"Will she ever know your name?" I asked as we pulled into the Marriott.

"Maybe when she graduates from a US university."

What a difference a day made for me - it made me see what they mean by the phrase you cannot judge a book by its cover.

I never mentioned what I saw to anyone on subsequent trips.

There is something very sad about that truth.

But what a difference a day made to that little girl selling flowers in the rain.

Events at Wandlebury Country Park



HERE'S what's on at Wandlebury in December; for more information about these and events at other locations email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 207 or visit cambridgeppf.org/whats-on.

Winter Wreath Making

Sun 5 December, All day, 90 minute sessions. £18 per family.
Create your own wreath with the whole family.

Winter Trees

Wed 8 December, 10am to noon. Free (donations welcome).
Gentle guided walk to learn how to identify tree species in winter.

Winter Wreath Making

Sat 11 December, All day, 90 minute sessions. £18 per family.
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Introducing the Dogs Trust



THE Dogs Trust would like to tell all the dog-owning readers (and anyone who just loves to hear about dogs!), about a few of their services.

The first, the Canine Care Card scheme, is a **free** service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, the Trust will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until a responsible, loving new home for them can be found. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companion's future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, more than 14,000 dogs are cared for at the Trust's nationwide network of rehoming centres; a healthy dog is never put down

Secondly, although based at Snetterton, the Dogs Trust for the East Anglian Region covers the whole of East Anglia. Free talks can be provided to community groups across the whole of the region about the varied work of the Dogs Trust, the original aims and the current and future objectives. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please email emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912. **Emily Matthews, Supporter Relations Officer, East Anglia Region**

Arthur's Shed

ARTHUR'S Shed is now up and running again and we warmly welcome you to attend our sessions which are free of charge and open to the public. These include Astronomy, Card Making and Paper Crafts and are run by skilled volunteers.

The Shed is wheelchair accessible, and we encourage you to share any adaptations you may require to support your needs in advance, both physical and emotional.

To find out more or contact us please head to arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/ or email arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk, or call 675871.





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Little Shelford Badminton Club resurfaces



LITTLE Shelford Badminton Club was formed in 1933 and struggled last year for obvious reasons. It's been run for the last many years by Penny Saich, Rosie Cranmer, Sylvia Morton, Nicky Luhrs and Sarah Coppendale. We are hugely grateful for their unstinting efforts over more than a 100 years between them! They have recently made a dash for early retirement but a few enthusiasts have taken up the reins.

So, come and join us at 7.30pm on a Thursday at Little Shelford Memorial Hall for very sociable games of doubles. First night is free.

In the past we have run coaching session for the juniors and entered teams in the Cambs league. Not just yet, but coming soon – we hope!

For more information, contact James Newman on 07717 394176 (james@jamesnewman.org). **Richard Patterson**

Puzzle corner - answers

The reason for the season?

1. Joy.
2. Angel.
3. Saviour.
4. Immanuel.
5. Messiah.
6. Incense.
7. Christmas.
8. Gabriel.
9. Virgin.
10. Star.
11. Gifts.

2021

43 and 47

Financial difficulties?



Are you in need, hardship or distress? Do you live in Stapleford? Then the Feoffees Charity may be able to help you.

For more information contact: Rev. Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com.

Stapleford Parish Council changes

AS many people will be aware, Stapleford Parish Council has undergone some changes in personnel recently. Other than clerks, all members of the Parish Council are volunteers and give their time freely to working for, and on behalf of, the community. Recently, we have experienced a number of unrelated changes, with a couple of our long-serving councillors retiring due to ill health, another needing to spend more time on their business interests, etc. Our part-time Assistant Clerk is moving on to take up a full-time job in Cambridge City and our Clerk will be consolidating her work with multiple other Parish Councils with which she has worked for many years. Contact details remain the same whilst both Clerks remain in post.

None of these changes alter our ability to function as a Parish Council and Councillors remaining in post are committed to continuing with our current work, plans and support for the community. To this end, we have reshuffled roles and responsibilities and are delighted to announce that Gillian Pett will be taking on the position of Chair. This will enable our outgoing Chair, Howard Kettel (who remains a Stapleford Parish Councillor), to focus more on the major CSET threat to our greenbelt, and on finance and asset development, and to spend more time on other voluntary commitments.

Stapleford Parish Council has been without its full complement of 11 Councillors for a long time. In fact, nationwide, it's difficult to find people to join parish councils, given the pressures of work and family life and the breadth of responsibilities that parish councils take on. In Stapleford, we also have significant external pressures to which the Parish Council must respond, including CSET, housing pressures, one local plan following on from another, to name but a few. Despite all this, the Council has continued its record of achievement. In the past year, we have created a new multi-use games area (MUGA) for the village; we continue to provide high quality cricket and football facilities for local teams; our Jubilee pavilion is an important venue for community use; we have responded to multiple consultations on everything from major transport infrastructure projects to local plan proposals and changes to our conservation area; we review every planning application in the parish and respond when appropriate; we apply for grants to expand and improve community assets and the environment; we own and maintain the cemetery and have plans to create a wildlife meadow at the north end of the more recently purchased area of cemetery; we are rolling out a new environmental action plan for the village and our assets; we are about to embark upon a significant renovation of the

children's playground at the Rec; and we keep our finances in good health. We have done a lot and we still have a lot to do.

We would love more people to come forward and join us. If you have particular interests in helping to improve the biodiversity of the village, supporting our neighbourhood plan, investing our S106 funds from developers in village improvements, helping to maintain and develop our sports facilities, supporting local transport improvements and, more generally, in shaping the village over the coming years, then do get in touch. Let us know how much time you can give and we will try our best to match your interests and availability with our community needs. Our contact details are available at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-members/ or you can email clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk (this email remains unchanged, irrespective of who is in the role). **Jenny Flynn**

Stapleford Parish Council

Report from Chair of meeting on 4 November

MINUTES of the meeting held on 4 November and previous meetings can be viewed at: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Local Plan

Cllr Nick Sample SCDC reminded us of the issues involved focusing on the Mingle Lane site following the well-attended meeting last month. Please see the article in last month's *Messenger* and add your voice to the consultation.

Great Shelford & Stapleford Neighbourhood Plan

The steering group is meeting regularly and is scoping out next steps in the light of recent changes and proposals.

Environment Group

Highway verges for wildflowers: Cllrs Gatward and Flynn are liaising with the County Council to ensure the correct mowing regime is implemented. It will take approximately two years before much difference will be noticed and we ask that you bear with us as it may not look neat and tidy!

Cemetery

Quotes to stabilise headstones have been obtained and this work will be undertaken early next year dependent on weather conditions. Further quotes are being obtained relating to the safety of cement topped graves. All this work will be a considerable expenditure.

Vacancies and recruitment

Cllr H Kettel advised that he had resigned as Chair in order to focus on 'Green way not Busway' and asset development for the Parish Council, plus his other voluntary interests; hence, he does not have capacity to continue in the role as Chair. A vote of thanks was extended to Cllr H Kettel for his commitment and hours invested in the Parish Council.

Cllr Gillian Pett was unanimously voted in as the new Chair.

A vote of thanks was extended to Cllrs McPhater and Raphael, who have recently stepped down, for their commitment to the Parish Council. The MUGA is an excellent facility achieved by Cllr McPhater which will bring benefit for many years to come. Cllr Raphael was responsible for bringing our new website into play and will continue his role on Feoffee's.

Councillors discussed the urgent need for people to come forward to become Councillors as the current Councillor work load cannot readily be sustained between just six Councillors, and things which the Parish Council want to progress may not be achieved. If you have not previously considered being a Councillor, please do speak with a Councillor or the Clerk for more information on the role of a Councillor and how you can help your community.

Caretaker / Groundsperson

Hiring for a caretaker/groundsperson has not resulted in the response required and there will therefore be a review of how best to manage the Pavilion, recreation ground and other assets for the benefit of the community (see below). It was recognised that continued reliance on volunteer labour to maintain the Council's assets wasn't sustainable in the long term and support from a range of contractors would be progressed.

Proposal for Pavilion & Recreation Ground Sub-Committee

The Parish Council is seeking community-spirited individuals to join a group to help manage the Pavilion and recreation ground. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk or Cllr Pett.

Busroad

Discussion continues with a view to collaboration amongst the Parish Councils affected. A Sawston resident has come forward to provide leadership to the group that includes Stapleford Parish Council, Great Shelford Parish Council, Sawston Parish Council, Cambridge Past Present and Future, Smarter Cambridge Transport and Cambridge Connect.

Considering the broader concerns of avoiding unnecessary destruction/severance of the Green Belt and erosion of the landscape &

amenity, the group is adopting the slogan or strapline 'Green way not Busway'.

Consultations with a London firm of solicitors continue to deliver the right strategy. An inbound bus lane and improvements on the A1307 through to Babraham Road Park & Ride and a new off-road busway to the Biomedical Campus, through the land that is being proposed as an extension of the campus, should be back on the table.

It is quite bizarre that the GCP and the Mayor Combined Authority are concurrently carrying out broadly the same consultation independently of each other. The GCP consultation, 'Making Connections: Have your say on greener travel in Greater Cambridge', seeks views on its transport strategy funded by a range of measures designed to impact on car usage. The 'Making Connections' consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021.

The Combined Authority is refreshing the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) – the strategy for making transport in the region better – and is now inviting comments on a vision for transport (having scrapped CAM). More information can be found at Home - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (yourltcp.co.uk) By the time you read this the consultation may well have closed: November 28.

Planning

20/02929/OUT:

Appeal Land between Haverhill Road and Hinton Way,

Outline planning for the development of land for a retirement care village. PC response & Rule 6 update: the consultation has now closed. The Parish Council remains committed to supporting SCDC in its refusal of permission.

21/02851/FUL: Chalk Hill, Haverhill Road

Construction of a single storey replacement dwelling (resubmission of 20/04170/FUL) discussed at the October meeting.

21/04486/HFUL: 11 Sternes Way

Single storey rear extension

The proposal is to extend across the whole rear of the building, almost doubling the footprint. However, this single storey extension will have no impact on any neighbouring property and there would appear to be no objection from the PC to this application.

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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