

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

January 2025

Volume 84 No 1

Price 90p



Botanic Garden lights by Helen Hale

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Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard
07763 477821

Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 602248

Director of Music

Tim Kwan 07745 80397

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Parish Administrator
07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

CHRISTENINGS and Weddings

CHRISTENINGS take place during Sunday worship.

FOR both Christenings and Weddings, contact the Vicar.

Stapleford MESSENGER

Editor

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Advertising

Contact stapleford.ads@gmail.com

Subscriptions/Distribution

Contact 843415 or vaz@fairshares.co.uk

The subscription for the Stapleford MESSENGER delivered to your home is £9 per annum (£25 by post): single copies 90p.

From the Rev Lucinda Howard

BEFORE I begin, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year from all of us at St Andrew's Stapleford!



The start of the new year is usually a time to take stock, make plans or resolutions and hopefully these are of a positive nature. They might be for ourselves, for example, how can I become healthier or more productive, so a fitness goal or professional qualification, or making a difference in our community and the wider world, perhaps through volunteering or a green project in our home or garden.

One way we may wish to make a difference is through charitable giving, something that I'm sure many of you already do. Our motivations can be varied: in memory of a loved one, we are moved by events in the news, because we believe passionately in a cause or campaign. And I won't claim that Christianity has a monopoly on being generous, people of all faiths and none make astonishing and selfless donations that make a difference to others, both locally and globally. But like most things in our confused and contrary culture, few words or actions go unexamined or escape the glare of social media, and the court of public opinion often means no good deed goes unpunished!

One example at the time of writing is the 40th anniversary of the Band Aid charity single. In 1984, moved by the horrific TV images of the famine in Ethiopia, musicians Bob Geldof and Midge Ure persuaded some of the biggest pop stars of the time to record a charity song, 'Do they know it's Christmas?' The release of the single which went straight to number one, and the Live Aid concerts that followed eight months later, became seminal moments in celebrity fundraising and set a template many future causes would benefit from. Over the subsequent years four versions of the song were recorded and even with a conservative estimate, raised almost 200 million pounds for good causes. So, what's the problem?



Well, ahead of the anniversary edition in December 2024, there was a flurry of increasing acrimonious opinion reported in the media. For example, Ed Sheeran, featured on Band Aid 30 in 2014, said given a choice, he would've respectfully asked for his contribution not to be included. He wrote, 'a decade on and my understanding of the narrative associated with this has changed.' What was the narrative? For Sheeran and others, most

notably many black and African musicians, the narrative painted that whole continent and those who lived there as caught in a perpetual cycle of death and famine, a stricken country 'where nothing ever grows' to quote the song, and whose only way out of poverty was the generosity of Western benefactors, the infamous 'White Saviour' model of charity work. Sympathy and donations they argued, came at the expense of perpetuating damaging stereotypes that destroyed Africa's self-sufficiency, dignity and pride.

In response, Geldof and Ure countered their only objective had been to help people in desperate need and that the reality was, to quote Geldof, "this little pop song has kept millions of people alive." Another original contributor Tony Hadley added, "if you take that route, then nobody does anything to help anybody." I wonder what you make of all this. There is the argument, often wheeled out, that charity begins at home and whilst of course there is always genuine local and national need to meet, the Bible powerfully reminds us that everybody everywhere is our neighbour, it doesn't matter where they live or the colour of their skin. But it's also clear that whatever our good intentions, its right to continually assess how, why and the effects of our giving, e.g. are we helping or hindering, does it empower or infantilise others, how do we stop the corruption or misuse of funds, and most importantly, can we establish a partnership of equals - most people would rather a hand-up than a hand-out, solidarity rather than charity.

At the beginning of 2025, I want to say something else, something fundamentally deeper and more profound related to this whole business of charity, of giving and receiving. I'm sure I'm not far wrong when I say that most of us give to others and are rather reluctant to accept help ourselves. I'm not saying that we have never been on the receiving end of people's generosity either financially or in other ways such as time or expertise, but generally we think that we're not in any need, we don't need any help, we're OK. Christianity tells us something very different. The early 20th century writer and preacher Oswald Chambers uses the oxymoron the 'riches of the destitute' to describe humanity's situation because by the destitute he means all of us. He writes, "there is a certain pride in people that causes them to give and give, but to come to accept a gift is another thing." The gift that Chambers is referring to is the undeserved grace of God won for us through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. We must come to realise that we cannot earn or win anything from God through our own efforts, we must either receive His grace, His love and forgiveness as a gift, or do without.

This is hard, but this new year, I encourage you to accept the riches offered to you, Amen.

St Andrew's Noticeboard

29 DEC	9 AM	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26; Luke 2.41-52
5 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR EPIPHANY Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-12 <i>Follow the star</i>
6 JAN	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
12 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP ON THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST Isaiah 43.1-7; Luke 3.15-17, 21-22 <i>My Son, the Beloved</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH
19 JAN	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Isaiah 62.1-5; John 2.1-11 <i>A wedding feast</i>
26 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4.14-21
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Luke 4.14-21
2 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR CANDLEMAS Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40 <i>My eyes have seen your salvation</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Haggai 2.1-9; John 2.18-22

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection. Messy Church takes place in the Johnson Hall during the winter. Everything else is in the church.

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Deadline for the February Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10 January**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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Year twenty twenty-five



IT is now 2025. Epiphany begins early in January. What will the year hold for us? There are mixed emotions. Christmas with all the hype and temptations to spend has been and gone. The meaning escaping many. Dust, glitter, wrappings and packaging cleared away. Emptiness remains with anxiety as to what lies ahead. One thing we have in common, we do not know. Clinging to positives may prove daunting. Pages in new diaries are blank. White space waiting for words. Calendars have days of the months displayed one at a time with an interesting picture. I like trees. My last calendar

has an extra month. Lovely bonus. 'The art of trees' has proved a joy. I am aware of the many beauties and bounties they offer savouring memories of woodland walks. Shapes, shadows, shade; stunning often surprising splendour. Let's set a target to plant more this year and sincerely consider global warming. Seasons lay ahead with much to offer.

As with change comes challenge. We need grit and determination to persevere. However hard this may be, sharing built through friendship and trust is all important. Like travelling down a cul-de-sac, turning back is necessary. Every so often we will experience low points. Looking beyond or round the difficulty helps to ease the problem. Potholes do get in the way impeding progress. That is where gentle encouragement and enthusiasm help confidence and morale. We should appreciate, value and care for what we have and for those who are part of our lives. There will always be ruts. We cannot expect smooth and perfect. Indeed we'd all define perfect differently. Tired and weary though we may be we can only do our best. One step at a time, slow, steadfast and sure. As the year moves on our days become structured. There will be purpose and resolve. Diaries and calendars can serve to nudge us, be they screens or paper. Highs and lows, darkness and light side by side. Let us look optimistically at the horizon, sunset and sunrise. I find the words of Eleanor Roosevelt helpful:

*"Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow's a mystery,
Today is a gift."*

Judith Lee

Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Lisa Edridge, Aylesford Way, Stapleford

Re: Traffic accident

I JUST wanted the opportunity to say thank you to all the amazing, lovely people who stopped to help me when I was involved in a car accident on London Road in Stapleford on 8 November. I am just really sorry that I don't know anyone's name but thank you to you all so much for your care and kindness. Its true that there are some wonderful people out there in our village and surrounding area. Thank you again so very much for all that you did for me in very traumatic and frightening circumstances.

From: Michael Roks, Roosendaal, Holland via the Parish Council

RE: Looking for a Stan from Stapleford, old soldier of WW2



I AM writing to you to know if you can help me and my family. I am Dutch and native from Roosendaal, a town in Holland. During WW2 my grand parents helped to hide two British pilots. One of them was Stan Ames from Stapleford. My grand parents helped them when they arrived to help free Holland. After the war this soldier Stan send my grand parents a card from Stapleford and

also a picture of him and his family (above). I am trying to find his family for years and I can't seem to get a hold on a clue, so I hope you can maybe help me to find them. I only have this postcard and pictures as my grand parents passed away many years ago. Stan had 3 children, Peter, Gordon and Rosemary.

I hope you help me.

(Editor's note: If anyone can help, please contact Keith Dixon on ksdixon128@btinternet.com.)

Mothers' Union



SEVERAL members enjoyed the Deanery Advent Carol Service, held at Linton church this year. And in December we had our AGM and Social, combined with the Wave of Prayer service to link up with Ely's slot for the Wave of Prayer (which continues round the world without a break for 12 months).

At our next meeting on 23 January Mary Cooper will speak about her 'Adventure in Kazakhstan', at the usual time of 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. We are looking forward to hearing all about such an unusual trip.

Members are also reminded that 2025 subscriptions (£24.50) are now due, either in cash or by cheque, to Mary please. On payment of the sub, you'll receive a copy of the 2025 programme. A reminder also that the Craft group re-starts on 9 January, 2.30pm at Jacque Chalk's (Brooklands House).

All good wishes for 2025 **Hilary Street**

Have you renewed your subscription to the Messenger?

THE annual cost remains at £9 for the year or £25 for postal subscriptions.

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The Stapleford Messenger Team

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



THE Messenger Fund has awarded a grant of £1,000 to the Link.

It is with much appreciation that the Link Committees send a huge vote of thanks to the Messenger Fund.

The grant will be devoted to work with children and to a developing project for food security. We will report on progress of the forthcoming projects as soon as they are underway.

Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas tea a very enjoyable and successful community event, including all who provided food, set up the Pavilion, served, ran stalls and cleared up afterwards. Thank you to all who supported and came, for donating



Wishing all supporters of the Link the very best in 2025

around £1,400 to help us to meet the expenditures on recurrent projects.

An excellent tribute to Dr Lawi Issa, who passed away recently, has been received from Richard Price. Dr Issa was the doctor at Nachingwea Hospital and former District Medical Officer for Nachingwea. He was also a very active member of the Link. He with his wife, Molle visited Stapleford in 2012 and 2015. **St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee**

Thank you!



THANK you to all in the village who contributed to the Stapleford Mothers' Union toiletries collection for the Cambridge

Women's Refuge. Once again, your generosity was wonderful – eight bags and boxes of items were collected by the MU Outreach Officer. All your items are very helpful for women and children who have arrived in the Refuge, probably with nothing, especially at this time of the year. **Hilary Street**



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Stapleford WI



OUR last meeting of 2024 took place at the end of November and this well-attended meeting definitely had a seasonal feel about it. Following the business section of the evening, during which members were thanked for their generous festive food donations to the Cambridge Foodbank, mince pies were served with tea or coffee during the break.

Our President, Susan Clark, then introduced the entertainment in which five members had been invited to speak about their childhood Christmas memories, or to describe one Christmas which has a particular significance for them. We heard several entertaining stories and descriptions including how Christmas was celebrated during the Second World War. At that time, rationing was in place and eating roast chicken was a once-a-year treat! The same decorative tinsel had to be re-used each year until it eventually turned brown. One speaker who grew up in a rural area recalled how the post was then still delivered on Christmas Day, and how the postman had difficulty riding his bike after enjoying a seasonal drink at each house en route! A recent memorable Christmas Day for one member had involved assisting Dial-A-Ride to transport people to the lunch organised by the Salvation Army. It was interesting listening to our nostalgic recollections of family gatherings, prior to the introduction of modern technology, where board games, quizzes and family performances were the order of the day. Our President concluded the proceedings by singing the song about The Christmas Alphabet which was her contribution to the concert she and her six siblings used to perform each year as children. Members were then each given a Christmas stocking, handmade by Susan Clark, containing a small gift.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 23 January in the Pavilion, when we will hear about the Cambridge Bloodrunners. Please check out our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 for more information about our group. If you would like to visit one of our meetings you are assured of a warm welcome. **Joyce Dobson**

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.

Good times for Phoenix



IT has been another fine summer for Stapleford Phoenix, the village's T20 cricket club - and 2024 has just got even better thanks to the *Messenger*.

The *Messenger* Fund, which helps non profit-making organisations in the Stapleford area, has made a generous donation, which the club will use to make our playing surface even more safe for our players, especially the younger ones.

This has been our priority for a while given that the strip on the Rec, which fell into disuse in the years between the old Stapleford CC being disbanded in the late Noughties and the Phoenix being formed in 2014, often had a bounce that was unpredictable.

Time and money were spent over last winter on making it a 'truer' surface and progress was made as no fewer than 41 players enjoyed turning out for us in 2024, including in the annual Village Match during the Stapleford Village Weekend.

The Phoenix does not have a junior section as such but is suitable for teenagers who already know the rudiments of the game and we had a fine crop of 16-year-olds make big impressions this summer, with Danny Minter, Dylan Everson and Seth Bannister starring regularly.

Dylan's 13-year-old brother Rohan enjoyed a stellar breakthrough season as a bowler, taking 11 wickets, and other young talents who turned out for us included Arnav Wadekar, an all-rounder like his dad Varun, who played alongside not only his father but his 73-year-old grandfather in one of our matches.



Danny Minter in action

The Phoenix played a number of friendly games against opposition in and around Cambridge, including neighbours Great Shelford, and also competed in Division Two of the Cambridge Business House League, finishing joint third.

The season ended with a tour to Munich in September. It rained - a lot - but we still managed to get two games in as well as sampling some of the local 'delicacies'.

Ralph Minter was the Batsman of the Year and Stuart Creed the Bowler, with the Player of the Year trophy going to Aidan Swain. All three were part of our first full season in 2015, and have helped the Phoenix grow from strength to strength.



The roller in action

We are already hoping 2025 will be even more enjoyable and, thanks to the *Messenger* Fund, we are already off to a great start.

Anyone who wishes to join us can drop us a line at the staplefordphoenix@gmail.com email address. **Jon West**

Scouts say thank you to the *Messenger*



I AM the treasurer of 1st Shelfords & Stapleford Scout Group, and wanted to share information on how we will use the generous donation of £1,000 from the Stapleford *Messenger* fund.

We're incredibly grateful for this donation. We plan to use it to refurbish our storerooms and to buy a projector and screen for the Group to use. Our storerooms do not have adequate shelving, so we cannot organise or access our equipment and we are not making best use of the space available to us. Having a projector and screen will allow us to hold film nights for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and to help when we have visiting presenters. This will add a new activity to the rich programme our volunteers run for the children of Stapleford and the Shelfords. **Rachel Bateman**





AA

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2G3S



WE have the following events coming up:

AGM and social on 7 January at 7.30pm at Cox's Close Community Room. Come along and meet us!

Repair Café and SWISH at Great Shelford Memorial Hall on the afternoon of 22 February – put it in the diary if you have things to repair! We will utilise the extra space available to us to run a SWISH clothes swap – bring along

well-loved, clean garments and take away items you like.

Dr Bike continues to run its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Children are welcome to come and learn how to look after their bikes and do simple maintenance and repairs, but please attend with them (for safeguarding reasons). Email drbikestapleford@gmail.com for more information. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential.



As I write, the news has been full of floods in England, Wales, and Spain, pollution smog in Indian and Pakistani cities, US climate deniers and “drill, baby, drill” and COP meetings that get gridlocked. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by gloom and feel that we might as well give up. But every little thing that each of us does to help nature, or reduce our emissions, or reduce our use of packaging, all helps – perhaps for the new year you can eat less meat, buy fewer items in plastic packaging, be careful with your water usage, don't drive if you can get there another way, don't use chemicals in the garden, try a repair café instead of throwing things away that get broken, think about how much you fly (one longer trip is better than lots of short ones), or try the train.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), do email mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/.

Helen Hale

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EXTENSIONS CONVERSIONS RENOVATIONS ALTERATIONS

Puzzle corner

Square Year

What number X, when multiplied by itself, makes 2025?
And what precious stone is used to celebrate X years of marriage?

Twenty Twenty-Five Words

All the answers can be made from the letters of
TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE

The letters T, W, E, N and Y can be used more than once

3-letter words

golf peg	hostelry
payment	Taxol tree
juvenile newt	perfect score
Japan currency	animal doctor
chemical element	hedera (plant)

4-letter words

opinion	Newcastle river
a deadly sin	square number
shade of colour	plates of meat (slang)
10 th longest UK river	semi-aquatic salamander

5-letter words

amusing	happening
20 in Rome	young bird sound
pleasing, apt, stylish	2020 palindromic film

6-letter words

fabricate	aim
fifteen sixes	River Windrush town

7-letter words

agreement	interlace
-----------	-----------

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 39

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 131

Cambourne Nature Reserve and Bourn Mill: a circular walk from Cambourne

To get to start of walk

DRIVE to Cambourne on the A428. Turn left off the dual carriageway to enter Cambourne. Carry on straight ahead at the large roundabout (signed Caxton) and then turn right at a T Junction on to School Lane. The walk starts from the Country Park car park ((CB22 6BJ), the clear signage for which will soon be seen.

Distance of walk

About 4.3 miles. It can get muddy underfoot in places, particularly in winter.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 208. Use your phone app for a map extract. Maps.the-hug.net will also provide a free printable extract. The route map provided should also help.

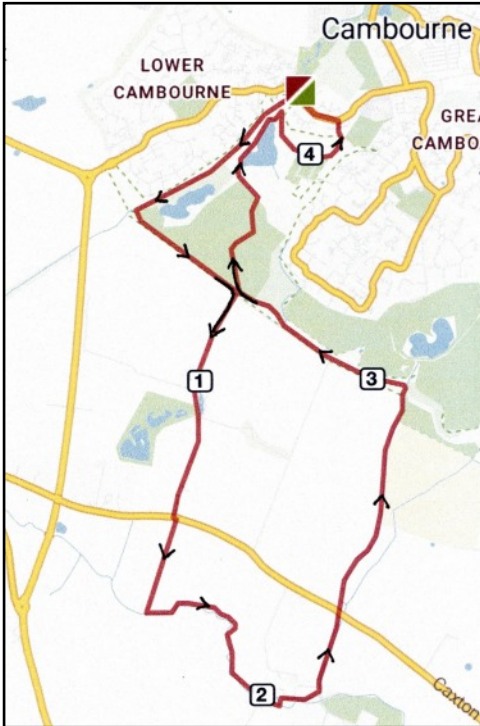
Extra information

Bourn Mill is really quite old; it dates to the 16C. It is a Post Mill, which means that the whole body of the mill needs to be turned, using the central post, to ensure the sails face the wind. It was saved from dereliction after it ceased to operate in 1926 and has been fully restored.

Route of walk

Leave the car park via the exit to the right of the car entrance and turn right on School Road. Cross after 20 metres and follow the (faded) yellow waymark ahead. Keep on this bridleway, going ahead past a four-way path junction. At the following four-way path junction walk left, past a Cambourne Nature Reserve sign, on a gravel track which goes gently uphill. The Reserve and Country Park were created in the 1990s at the same time as Cambourne.

Near the hilltop look for a tall metal gate in the hedge to the right and go through it. It has a Bourn Mill sign on it. Follow the path along the left hand side of a field. At the far end, a pond is passed on the left. Then, follow the footpath along the right of the next field. Go through a metal gate near the field end, walk on the left of a small field and exit via another gate. Pass Bourn Mill to the left. Beyond, the path leads to Caxton Road via metal gates and the left hand side of a small grassy field.



Cross the road and follow the footpath sign almost opposite, across a cropped field, until reaching Bourn Brook. Do not cross it but go left and walk alongside the stream. Just before the garden of a house cross a bridge over the brook. Go left through a wooden gate and walk in a small grass field. Exit via another gate and cross back over the brook on a second bridge. The path swings right, past Brooklands House

Walk along a tarmac lane until, just before a road, go left on a footpath parallel to the road. This path peters out after a while. Walk carefully along the road from this point until Caxton Road is met. Cross over, go through a metal gate behind the footpath sign and walk along the right hand side of a huge

field. At the end, go left, at a four-way path junction, into Cambourne Nature Reserve

Walk uphill. At the top, look for the gate with the Bourn Mill sign, used earlier. Take the grass path opposite and walk uphill (Crow Hill). When the path swings right after about 50 metres, fork left on another grass track and aim for a gap in the hilltop hedge line. The walk downhill, towards Cambourne, is mainly on a gravel track. Turn left at the first path junction, just after a bench. Go right at the next gravel track and then head left to walk round the left hand side of Lake Ewart.

Soon after the boardwalk at the far end, turn right at a gravelled cross track and walk past the top of Lake Ewart, then go left at another gravel track, away from the lake, past the Community Orchard. After swinging left, walk between some houses into Langate Green. Exit to the main road, turn left on the wide pavement and the Country Park car park is not far ahead, on the other side of the road. **David Barnes**

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

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Tree Project



IN December school children helped to plant trees and shrubs near the bungalows at the edge of the school field, and a group of volunteers also planted 10 trees around the village at the end of November. At present they are small whips but come the Spring they should take off. We will be planting again in the new year, so if you would like to help, please contact sophiberridge@gmail.com.

A number of people have also planted a tree in their own garden, or have offered us small saplings they have. If you are interested in having a tree for your garden, you can source your own, or we can offer you a small whip from a choice of native species: some will grow into a small tree, some medium sized, and some large. If you think there is an area of public land that would benefit from having a tree, please contact Sophi. We have many ideas but welcome more suggestions.

You may have noticed some of the newly-planted trees around the village (see photos). They are small but we have given them a good start, with weed-suppressing membrane (this will break down in a year or two). The guard protects the tree from being mown or cut in error, and will provide a microclimate for the sapling to grow. The stake will keep the tree upright against the wind. You will see that each tree is numbered, and there is a list of the trees we have and their species, and where they have gone or are going to go. It is hoped that we can put this list on the Parish Council website so you can see what's planted where.

For more information about the project, go to staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk and click on Stapleford Tree Project on the left hand menu.

To register your interest, fill in the form on the leaflet you received through your letterbox, or online from the website above and then scrolling down to 'register here' under 'What are we doing'. Don't fear you are overcommitting - all 'adopt a tree' means is that you keep an eye on one near you in the village and give it a good regular watering in dry weather for the first two years! And if you plant a tree in your garden, please send us a photo of it at the above email address. **Helen Hale**



Yesteryear

SYLVIA Morris looks at events in the month of January over the years. Punctuation, spelling and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.

1818

FIRE. On Tuesday last, about two o'clock in the afternoon a fire broke out at Stapleford, which consumed eight cottages and some other property, before the progress of the devouring element could be stopped. The fire, it is stated, was occasioned by a woman putting lighted brimstone into a box for bleaching straw-plain, which was carelessly left in an outhouse. The inhabitants of the cottages have lost the greatest part of their furniture and clothing by this unfortunate accident. A subscription has been opened for the relief of the sufferers.

1894

MARRIAGE. The next few weeks will be crowded by a large number of weddings in fashionable circles. The ladies include Lady Alice Godolphin-Osborne, daughter of the Duke of Leeds, formerly of Gog Magog.

1901

ACCIDENT TO A NONAGENARIAN. Mr Elbourn of Stapleford, aged about 90, on Wednesday fell down in a fit, which fortunately has not as yet proved fatal. Great sympathy is felt for him and his friends by all the villagers.

1910

THEFT OF FOWLS AT SHELFORD (court report). Robert Harvey (labourer) found guilty of stealing five hens and Fredk Hoppitt (49) (gardener) found guilty of receiving. Both fined £2 0s 9d costs.

1958

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. The association held their annual social last night at the village hall. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The MC was Mr Harris who kept the party going with games and dances. During the evening a letter of appreciation from one of the schoolchildren was read, expressing the thanks of all the pupils for the recent donations of wireless receivers presented to the school by the association.

YOUNG WIVES GROUP. In spite of the weather there was a good attendance at the meeting ... After opening the meeting Mrs Everiss introduced the speaker Miss Hinkins. An enlightening talk was given by Miss Hinkins about the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Switzerland. It was

made even more interesting for the members by the showing of a film on the life of Pestalozzi.

(The Young Wives were active for over 20 years until falling membership in the 1980s more or less forced disbandment around 1990. Remaining members joined the Mothers' Union. There have been other church offshoots over the years, for example, an active Men's Group.)

1994

"Questions are being raised again by Cllr James regarding the safety of SVC pupils travelling to school from Shelford/Stapleford in the light of the fatal accident at the Spicers turning of the Sawston by-pass, a possible crossing point for some pupils from Whittlesford. The Parish Council feel that the whole by-pass is unsafe for pupils to cross."

"As a result of a letter from the Environmental Health Officer at SCDC regarding bottle banks, Mr Dipple of The Rose public house had agreed to have 2 bottle banks in the car park of The Rose." *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*



Leah Manning – A Life for Children

A talk by Mike Levy



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Festive cheer in Stapleford

A sparkling success!

IT was fantastic to see so many people stopping, commenting and taking photos of the sparkling Christmas tree opposite the Spar and the beautifully lit tree on Bar Lane this Christmas period. We hope you agree it was a lovely addition to the village and brought some festive joy to everyone around us.



As we look ahead, if you have any ideas of Christmas decoration in a different part of Stapleford, your input is very welcome! Please email your suggestions to Matthew French (email below).



On another note, the wildflowers are beginning to germinate, promising a colourful display for this year - so be sure to keep an eye out! The newly built and planted raised bed near the Pavilion is already thriving, so look out for the first daffodils early this Spring! **Matthew French** (mfrench@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.)

Stapleford Horticultural Society

THE speaker at our next meeting will need no introduction to our members. Our old friend Peter Jackson will be telling us all about 'Plants for Winter Interest', and I'm sure we'll all be grateful for tips to brighten up our gardens at this time of year.

The talk will be held in the Johnson Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 January, as usual followed by a lively question and answer session and a raffle. All are welcome to attend. **John Sherwell**



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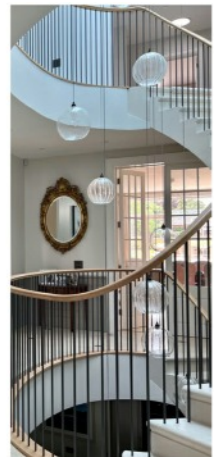
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Stapleford Wind Sinfonia invites you . .

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WHO are we, and what do we play?

We are a symphonic wind orchestra: woodwind and brass instrumentalists, performing music you might hear from a symphony orchestra rather than from a military band. The ensemble comprises about twenty advanced amateurs, professionals and music teachers, directed by founder Anne TEMPLER, a



conductor, writer and percussionist. Many of our repertoire pieces are written specifically for wind, by composers such as Holst, Vaughan Williams, and Malcolm Arnold. Others are arrangements of well-loved music by Loewe, Bernstein and so on. The choice of repertoire is important to us – we like to rehearse pieces that are well-crafted and technically challenging yet still very much accessible for audiences.

A relatively new ensemble, we formed in 2019 and became established over the last year or two with regular concerts in the fine church of St Mary's, Sawston. During our first few years we have developed an individual sound which St Mary's certainly allows our listeners to appreciate. Our name derives from our original rehearsal venue, Stapleford Granary, and we are based now at St John's College School, Cambridge. Our aim is to present high-quality performances for audiences in the wider area south of Cambridge.



Our concert programmes, compiled by our musical director, are always varied and well-balanced, providing audiences with a thoroughly engaging concert experience.

Do come along on 8 February – it will be a pleasure to share our music with you.

For more details including admission, go to staplefordwindsinf.co.uk.

Margaret Burleigh

Pixels Ensemble**Friday 17 January | 7:45pm**

Renowned for their finely judged detail, this highly-acclaimed ensemble perform Mozart's G minor piano quartet and Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, one of the sunniest, most intimate and imperishable masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire.

**Fretwork****Sunday 19 January | 3:00pm**

For over 35 years, Fretwork have performed the core repertoire of great English consort music. They bring a programme of music by Orlando Gibbons and his friend and colleague Thomas Lupo to the Granary.

**Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage****Saturday 25 January | 7:45pm**

A return visit from this much-loved Cambridge based Americana folk duo, whose music has been described as '*beautiful, magic, dreamy and gorgeous*' (BBC Radio 3)

**Liselotte Östblom & Harry Baker****Friday 31 January | 7:45pm**

Swedish vocal artist Liselotte Östblom joins forces with award-winning pianist and composer Harry Baker to perform arrangements of American Songbook classics, songs by Laura Mvula and Joni Mitchell, with jazz, classical and pop influences.



January at Great Shelford Library

DID you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries offer a free Library at Home service to readers of any age who find it difficult to get to the library due to disability, illness or caring responsibilities?

A local volunteer can visit monthly at a mutually convenient time, bringing library books and audio books chosen according to each reader's preference, and have a friendly chat if you'd like. For more information please ask at the library, call 0345 045 5225, or go to cambridgeshire.gov.uk and search for 'Library at home' in the 'Start here' box.

We will be running the following events in January.

Craft and Chat – Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm. No need to book.

Tea and Games – Every Friday afternoon 2pm to 3.30pm. No need to book.

Engage Talk – Helen Harwood – A Little Bit of Shelford History. Wednesday 22 January 2pm to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Story, Rhyme and Duplo Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am.

For children aged 0-4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

LEGO and Duplo Club/Children Games Club – Alternate weeks, Mondays 4pm to 5.30pm. Suggested donation £1. Suitable for ages 2-10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

Art Club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4-10. Drop in event. £2 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Stay and Play – This will resume in March due to staff shortages. Apologies, Mel Abbiss – Community Librarian

Library opening hours

Monday	3pm-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm and 2-6pm
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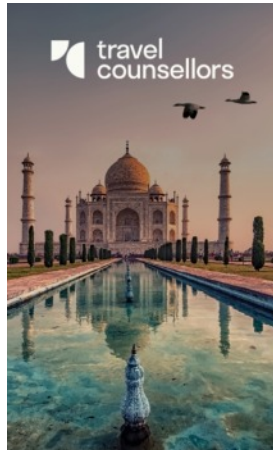
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"In 2025 I would like to stay healthy"

If you are aged between 40 and 74 and do not have any pre-existing long term medical conditions, you may be eligible for a free NHS Health Check. Please ring us on 0300 234 5555 for further information and to book an appointment. Further information is at nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check.

Also, are you up to date with the vaccinations for which you are eligible e.g. flu, shingles, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pneumonia? If you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact us and we can check for you.

"In 2025 I would like to go on holiday"

Are you planning a well-deserved holiday in 2025? The Granta Travel Clinic team can give you advice on what vaccines and medications you may need for your trip. Simply fill out a travel form via our website or speak to a member of our reception team.

From all of us here at Granta, we wish you a healthy and safe 2025.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Friends of Great Shelford Library Annual General Meeting

THE Friends of Great Shelford Library Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 January at 7.30pm in the library.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting when seasonal refreshments will be provided. **Sarah Coppendale**



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Shelford Twinning

Why not come to Verneuil in 2025?



THE dates for the visits have now been set, so put them in your diaries!

Shelford to Verneuil: 24 to 27 May

Verneuil to Shelford: 5 to 8 July

- Everyone is welcome, (singles, couples, family groups).
- It is an opportunity to get to know our twinned village, situated just north of Paris and its lovely people.
- An enriching experience for the whole family.
- It is not necessary to speak French, but fun to try!
- It is not a requirement to host if you have been on the visit; neither do you need to have gone to Verneuil in order to have guests to stay.
- Adults £130; Teens (13-18) £100; Children (up to 12) £50.*

*We are able to offer this competitive price for the children thanks to the very generous support of Great Shelford Parish Council.

If you are interested in the trip, please contact Sarah Haddow (sarah.haddow@talk21.com) or Colin Jefferson (colin@frenchfrogs.net).

Use the QR code to access our website:



Please note : Participation in the visit involves becoming a member of the Association in accordance with our charter.

This costs £10 single membership/£15 family and is easy to organise.

Christmas tree recycling



A REMINDER that registration for Christmas tree collection for recycling by Arthur Rank Hospice closes on 5 January.

Volunteers will collect between 9 and 11

January.

To register your tree go to arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling.



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Neighbourhood Plan update: consultation on the submitted Plan is underway

THE Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and its accompanying documents were submitted to the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) team on 21 November. This effectively means that, after three years of community consultation, research, development, mapping and writing, we have done as much as we can.

There now follows a final 'Regulation 16 consultation' on the NP, organised by GCSP. This is running from 18 December to 12 February, with an extra two weeks added to the statutory six weeks to compensate for holiday closures.

Individuals and organisations who contributed comments to the Regulation 14 consultation if they supplied their notification from GCSP available to view.

be made – this is mainly people who have whether or how they of the Plan – and these steering group to review and

submitted alongside the NP to an independent examiner in early Spring 2025. We fully anticipate that the various land agents who have given extensive and often negative feedback on several aspects of the Plan will once again repeat their concerns. But I guess it would be unusual for developers' and residents' aspirations for the future of any area to closely align because competing factors are at play.

At the time of writing (late November), I cannot supply a definitive link to the Regulation 16 consultation, but I anticipate that the relevant materials will be available on the South Cambs District Council website. Go to scamb.gov.uk/planning, look for 'Local Plans and Neighbourhood Planning', then 'Neighbourhood Planning', and scroll down till you get to 'Stapleford and Great Shelford'. Paper copies are being held for the duration of the consultation at Great Shelford Library. Take a pipe, slippers and sustenance: there are several hundred pages of documentation to wade through! **Jenny Flynn, Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group**



held in March/April 2024 will, personal details, receive that the submitted NP is Further comments can an opportunity for contributed ideas to see influenced development will be returned to the NP respond to before being

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Parish Council Chair's report for December

THE deadline for this issue of the *Messenger* falls before the December Parish Council meeting, so this, therefore, is a short report.

Parishioners will have noticed the Christmas tree by the Spar shop. The lights came on on 28 November and around 20 singers entertained the few spectators who were there with a selection of carols, so a big thank you to them for turning out on a very cold evening.

The defibrillator is installed, registered and fully functional in the telephone box by the Rose pub, but hopefully it will not be needed very often, if at all!

The disabled parking area by the Pavilion has been tidied up, with a raised bed planted with shrubs and bulbs. If you see large bags of mulch in place around the village, these are for the trees planted in the David Pepperell Orchard by the Slaughterhouse and in various other areas, as well as for the trees recently planted in the village by the Tree Project group.

Plans for the Pavilion refurbishment are ongoing and this large capital project will proceed in stages so that the Pavilion is not out of use while the work is being done.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 9 January at 7pm in the Pavilion. The budget and precept for the year will be set at this meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend. This is a chance to air your views and bring matters of interest before the Parish Council.

The Parish Councillors wish all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year! **Gillian Pett**

Puzzle Corner answers

Square Year

X = 45 (or -45); sapphire

Twenty Twenty-Five Words

3-letter: TEE, INN, FEE, YEW, EFT, TEN, YEN, VET, TIN, IVY

4-letter: VIEW, TYNE, ENVY, NINE, TINT, FEET, NENE, NEWT

5-letter: WITTY, EVENT, VENTI, TWEET, NIFTY, TENET

6-letter: INVENT, INTENT, NINETY, WITNEY

7-letter: ENTENTE, ENTWINE



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