

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

February 2025

Volume 84 No 2

Price 90p



*'Mackerel clouds' over Little Trees Hill by Ros Aveling*

*The Messenger is the Parish magazine for the whole community of Stapleford*

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)

## Vicar

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](http://standrewstapleford.org) for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communion, 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

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# From the Rev Lucinda Howard

BY choosing my topic this month I'm worried that readers of the *Messenger* may think all the St Andrew's curate does is watch television. This is because following in the footsteps of my piece on the Netflix's Physical 100, this month I'm thinking about the BBC 1 show, 'The Traitors'. (I can assure you that this is far from the case, in fact as I type my husband and I are just back from a wintry dog walk which was wonderfully bracing!) When this comes out in February the afore-mentioned show will be done and dusted, the eventual winner or winners been revealed and the viewing public moved on to the next big thing in entertainment, but it's worth reflecting on why this particular programme is so popular (at least my friends and I couldn't stop talking about it).



For those who don't know, 'The Traitors', now in its third season, is a reality show where players basically take part in big-budget parlour game set in a Scottish castle, completing tasks to build a pot of prize money. At the start three players are secretly chosen to be the traitors, the rest of the players are faithfuls. Put simply, it is the faithfuls' job to banish the traitors at the evening round-table discussion before they are 'murdered' one by one via the rather genteel method of having their name written on a piece of paper and delivered to their room that night. If the faithful find and banish all the traitors they win and share the money but if even one traitor remains at the end, they take it all.



If this all sounds a bit basic and low-tech that's because the premise is exactly that. But what captivates and fascinates about 'The Traitors', is over 12 episodes we get to see the best and worst of human nature played out through a lens of increasingly tense and pressured social interactions. It's compelling television because no matter how many times they tell themselves, 'it's just a game' the players are inevitably drawn in; forming alliances, laying traps, and so emotionally invested they feel utterly betrayed and blindsided when someone they considered a faithful friend is revealed to have been a traitor all along.

Of course, the viewer has the advantage of being able to watch everything, observe the moves and schemes of traitor and faithful alike, and it's fun to ponder questions such as, 'would I make a good traitor?' or 'would

I be able to spot who was lying if I was a faithful?' (I would make an awful traitor because I'm a terrible liar, although there *was* an Anglican priest this season who said she wouldn't have a problem with that part because to quote, "she was a priest not a saint!")

Shouting at the television, it's easy to think we might behave differently – be smarter, kinder, fairer – than those we watch, but the fact is 'The Traitors' operates like a tiny microcosm of the society in which we live, an experiment that holds up a mirror and what we see isn't always pleasant. We see how easily people lie and more worryingly, how easily people are taken in, succumbing to herd mentality and conspiracy theories. As a study of human behaviour, it suggests deception, manipulation and self-preservation win out and that loyalty and kindness are invariably taken advantage of. Sadly, any signs of difference or obvious intelligence are treated with suspicion or seen as a threat - one man was banished because he was a doctor and seemed too nice! If all's fair in love and reality TV, then why bother to be honest and kind, why would anyone, stay faithful?

February is traditionally the month of hearts and flowers with St Valentine's day falling on the 14th. Relationships, especially romantic, intimate ones, are still hopefully regarded as places where commitment, love and faithfulness should be requisite and expected. Being faithful to your spouse, to your children and family, is a good thing but it isn't always easy. The dozen red roses may be pretty, the chocolates and date nights are important, but staying faithful in any relationship also requires hard work, self-sacrifice, and putting the other first, things I think we are hard-wired to resist as human beings. We all fail and make mistakes. Even if we don't betray those we love in the worst, most obvious ways, we can still be unfaithful through a myriad of small, careless words and actions: how we speak about each other, how we spend our time and money, where our loyalty lies.

As a Christian, you won't be surprised that I think faithfulness in our relationship with God is the glue that holds all this together. Putting God first should mean that our other relationships and interactions are pulled into alignment with his values, and we will begin to demonstrate what the New Testament calls the 'fruit of the Spirit', those attributes of character and changes in our personality and actions, that God's Holy Spirit brings about. In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatian church we read, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, *faithfulness*, gentleness and self-control.' Don't give up! The Bible is full of stories of men and women who didn't stay faithful and of a God who did and restored them. He still does - stay faithful!

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR CANDLEMAS Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40 My eyes have seen your salvation
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Haggai 2.1-9; John 2.18-22
3 FEB	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
9 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Isaiah 61.1-8; Luke 5.1-11 <i>Do not be afraid</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH
16 FEB	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Jeremiah 17.5-10; Luke 6.17-26 <i>Rejoice on that day</i>
23 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25; Luke 8.22-25
2 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Exodus 34.29-35; Luke 9.28-36 <i>Listen to him</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Exodus 3.1-6; John 12.27-36a

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.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

2 JANUARY – Funeral of Jonathan Whale

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Birth to Pre-School

**Mondays in term time**

**9.15 to 11am**

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For more information contact Fiona Holliday at  
[layminister@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:layminister@standrewstapleford.org) or 478923

## **Deadline for the March Messenger**

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 7 February**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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# What if?

ONE wintertime I read a story written imaginatively by a ten-year-old pupil. It was decades ago but I remember thinking it clever and original. The world was black and white seeming drear and dismal. I asked about grey but that was not allowed. However, change was desired so health and well being might be enhanced. James felt colour should be introduced. A big 'what if' project. Primary paint shades were mixed and poured into tubs. Planes would tip them over the world. The plan needed approval, but all the government said was "Hmm..." From smiles of happiness in anticipation grew doubt. Before anything was agreed nature took over. Pops of colour appeared. What if the seasons naturally lightened moods? Money could be saved. Nothing happened except disappointment. We are left wondering with fascination and intrigue.

Thank you, James for the February theme. The New Year is beginning to take shape. Dark days slowly brighten. 'What ifs' randomly settle in the mind. Spring cleaning and change will be next. What if a fresh colour scheme is tried in the hall? Refreshingly different. Sage green or olive would be calming, restful and welcoming. Perhaps a new door. What if we were able to make a stained-glass panel for it? An achievement, hopefully beautiful. Maybe this is the year to become creative. What if I take up painting? No more putting off, be brave. Moving pictures to other sites is cheating when I could be artistic. My husband Stephen would encourage. What if I'd tried before he was so ill? How many times must regret set in? I sigh, "If only".



Life presents comfort, discomfort, happiness and sadness. Ups and downs. What if we knew what to expect? That would mean worry, agitation; caution taking hold. What if we accepted obstacles sensitively working round them, actively doing whatever possible, not stagnating? Explore, experience, endeavour. What if we engage in the grand outdoors, planning routes, sights, sounds, sharing? The more we are satisfied and fulfilled the less 'what if' will crop up. Casting regrets aside could be a challenging late New Year resolution. Instead let each day stimulate and surprise. Look forward with hope. Fine-tuning the senses will prove positive.

**Judith Lee**

# Letter to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

**From:** Rosie Brown, Vine Close, Stapleford  
**RE:** CSET Busway development

ON the evening of Saturday 11 January I walked down the Stapleford farm track with our dog Elsie, enjoying the beautifully cold and clear sky framing the view to the Black Barn. And even though I know that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has submitted its Transport and Work Act Order (TWAO) for the Cambridge South Eastern Transport (CSET) Busway



development, it was still a shock to see the TWAO notice of application fixed to 'Ron's' bench. Suddenly it was all too easy to imagine a Busway cutting across the path there: the concrete and noise, with no access to the woods and stream beyond. A favourite haunt gone forever.

Thank goodness for Howard Kettel and others at Better Ways for Busways ([bw4b.org](http://bw4b.org)), as they continue to press for a different and more sustainable solution to address Greater Cambridge's need for better public transport. I wish them every success.

*Editor's note - see article on page 33*

## 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](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com) - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.

## Mothers' Union



AT the February meeting of Stapleford Mothers' Union, we shall be looking at the slides for the World Day of Prayer service on 7 March – the service has been put together by the women of the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. The February meeting will be at the usual time, 2.30pm, in the Johnson Hall on 27 February. The WDP service will be held in the Cox's Close Community Room at 2.30pm, and all villagers are cordially invited.  
Hilary Street

## Women's Institute



IF you are reading this and wondering if the WI is a group you would like to join, or find out more about, then do please consider coming to our next monthly meeting on 27 February in the Pavilion as a visitor. The evening will be a social occasion where there will be an excellent opportunity to talk to members. You can experience for yourself what makes us such a well-attended, lively group, with plenty of activities taking place in between the monthly meetings. In addition to the varied programme of speakers and social evenings (often involving food) we have a book group, a craft group, meals, and walks to local places of interest. Visitors are assured of a warm, friendly welcome as evidenced by the responses to my questions which I wrote about in the *Messenger* in December. Members who had just joined us then said their decision was also influenced by the number and range of activities offered by the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes, which are open to all members.

You will also find information on our website [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or you can speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. **Joyce Dobson**



### Looking for a local venue?

**The Johnson Hall**, next to St Andrew's Church, is an ideal venue for small groups and children's parties. The Hall is **available for hire** for one-off events and regular bookings.

For details please contact the **Parish Administrator**:

**Tel:** 07752 373 176 **Email:** [admin@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)

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# Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

NEW Year Greetings to all supporters of the Link.

As we look forward to our projects in 2025, we're pleased to report that your support in 2024 has helped with the following projects:



- The Nachingwea Women's Group has set up a committee and a bank account and meet monthly to discuss women's health issues, a completely new venture.
- The three month English Course run by the Nachingwea Link chair, Kevin, for 40 children has been completed. The youngsters have graduated from primary school where teaching is in Swahili and start their secondary education soon, where teaching is in English so this course is a great help for their future studies.
- The Special Needs pupils have new uniforms as do secondary girls from needy families who would otherwise not attend school.
- Two girls have continued to be supported in their A Level studies.
- The Sunday school children have attended a Diocesan youth event.
- A pension has been sent for a retired blind priest.



*Above: Pupils and parents with their new uniforms, below: pupils with their English course certificates*

Thank you to all who attended our May lunch, the concert in May, the 43rd anniversary church service, the Christmas Tea and to all who have donated in any way. **St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee**

## 2G3S

WE have the following events to look forward to:

**Planning Meeting.** If you get your *Messenger* promptly you will have time to see that this is on Tuesday 28 January, 8pm at Cox's Close, Stapleford. We will be planning events throughout 2025, so if you have any ideas, let us know or come along.

**Book Club** on Tuesday 18 February at the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford at 8pm. The book this time is 'It's Not That Radical' by Mikaela Roach. If you are interested in coming along, please email us, in case we need to let you know about any last-minute changes. You don't need to have read the book first to join in the discussion.

**Repair Café and SWISH** at Great Shelford Memorial Hall (a new venue to us) on Saturday 22 February from 2pm to 5pm:

**SWISH** is a clothes swap that relies on donations of unwanted clothes that are clean and in good condition, brought in on the day or donated in advance. Once these are all on display, the SWISH opens, and people can browse the display and hopefully find something new (to them) that they can take away. We'll accept clothing on the day from 2.15pm to 3pm, and the SWISH will open at 3pm and close around 4.30pm. Anyone can choose items to take away - you don't have to have donated clothes. If you have clothes to donate in advance, contact us on [2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com](mailto:2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com).

**Repair Café** - bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it! We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including jewellery, clothes and fabrics, electrical and electronic devices, and other items. Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. Booking is highly recommended to avoid a long wait on the day, and to make things fair we politely request only one item per person. Bookings will open on 5 February and remain open until 17 February - see poster elsewhere in magazine for how to book.

There will be tea and cake of course, so you can bring clothes in, have a cuppa or get a repair done, then browse the clothes rails. The whole event is free, but donations are welcome towards our costs.

**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). For more information, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to 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. See 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk. or our Facebook page. **Helen Hale**

## World Day of Prayer

Friday 7 March



THERE will be a World Day of Prayer service at 2.30pm in Cox's Close Community Room (CB22 5SP) on the theme: 'I made you wonderful'. This service was prepared by the Christian Women in the Cook Islands.

This is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available.

For more information about the World Day of Prayer, go to [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk). **Joy Barnes**

## Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
4 February			✓
11 February	✓	✓	
18 February			✓
25 February		✓	
4 March			✓



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# Football Club says thank you to the *Messenger*



THANK you to all of the *Messenger* staff and readers for this generous donation to the football club. This will make a big difference to our finances this year, and our ability to help our volunteer coaches to provide sporting experiences to hundreds of children and young adults in our community.

We plan to use the grant to fund the purchase of new goalposts for our 'mini strikers' age group. This is our youngest group, aged 5 to 6 yrs old, so it's wonderful to be able to provide them with the best equipment as they start out on their footballing journey. **Sean Crossan**

## South Cambs Organic Gardeners

Are you interested in how your food is produced?

Monday 17 February at 7pm



A talk by Duncan Coston from RSK ADAS about modern crop production. The Agricultural Development Advisory Service has advised on farming and the environment for 75 years. To meet today's challenges, farming is adapting, using less pesticides and more sustainable farming methods. Duncan will talk about Integrated Pest Management, agroforestry and other new initiatives.

Admission £2, pay on the door  
Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford

# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 132

## Walking Backwards at Burrough Green (originally done by The Strollers in the opposite direction)

### To get to the start

DRIVE along the A11 and turn left at Six Mile bottom onto the A1304 for Newmarket. Turn right after the level crossing, signposted Brinkley. Turn left just after the Brinkley Lion, on to the B1052 and then right about a mile further on, at the sign for Burrough Green. The Bull pub, where the Strollers began this walk, is on the left at the start of the village.

### Distance of walk

Around 4.8 miles. For those who prefer something longer, check out the Strollers' website for an extension to this walk. The extra route notes on the website are shown using the symbol \*\*\*

### OS Map

Use your smart phones or, if you prefer traditional, it is OS Explorer map 210. For a free map extract go online to [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net). In addition the route map provided should help.

### Extra Information

There are two moated sites in Burrough Green, one of which may be of Saxon origin, and from which Burgh, as it was originally called, took its name. The earliest manor-house probably stood on the Saxon moated site in Park Wood; there was a deer park in the parish in 1086. The school, opposite The Bull, was founded in 1714 as a charity and the old building is Grade I listed, with two arch niches containing images of a boy and a girl.

### Route of the walk

Cross the road from The Bull and walk on the tarmac path, passing the old school to the right with the cricket pitch to the left. Cross over the side road and keep ahead along Sheriff's Court, signposted Icknield Way, to the end.

Continue along a path between hedges. Enter a field, swing left and then keep ahead. Cross a footbridge into a further field and bear diagonally right. Walk down the field and, at the bottom of the slope, cross the bridge and bear right keeping the wood on the right, through a gate and over a bridge. Continue, to emerge onto the road ahead.

Cross over the road, turn right past the grassy area. Turn left along Coles Lane, passing allotments to the left, through a wooden gate and continue ahead between horse paddocks, directly through another paddock,



over a footbridge and across a field.

A gate in a wooden fence exits onto Willingham Green Road. Cross that road, then a few yards along the grass verge of Brinkley Road, turn left onto a signed footpath. At a T-junction of paths take a left turn, with a commemorative bench to King Charles III on the right. Continue straight ahead downhill, keeping the hedge on the left and cross a bridge over the River Stour. Now turn left, keeping the river on the left hand side. This path swings right after a few minutes and goes uphill to the small village of Carlton.

Turn left onto Church Road, pass the church, and then go left when another road is reached. Cross over when the roadside path on the side appears. Continue on ahead past the war memorial, ignoring the road going left (Brinkley Road). Take the signed path to the left which will soon be seen, walk between hedges, and on through two metal gates. Keep to the right hand side of a paddock and, from an oak tree, go straight ahead downhill towards the river. Turn left after crossing it then, shortly after, swing right and now keep straight ahead to meet a road.

Cross the road, continue on the path opposite and go over a footbridge. Turn left, and then right upslope along the edge of a wood (bluebells in spring). Go left at the far end of the wood and look for a gap in the hedge to the right, with a footpath sign. Go through the gap and diagonally cross a field until reaching Bradley Road. Turn left and return to The Bull.

**Kathleen and James Foreman**

*The Stapleford Strollers do not accept responsibility for any accident or mishap that may happen to persons following this route*





**AA**

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# Tree Project



TREE planting has continued around the village by a trusty band of volunteers. We are planting small whips, and also a few saplings that villagers have offered us. We are not planting large trees. Any new large trees around the village are nothing to do with us. Here is a photo of children planting trees and shrubs at the edge of the school field at the end of last term.

A number of people have also planted a tree in their own garden. 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. Please be reassured that we will never plant a tree outside your house without talking to you and getting agreement first.



You may have noticed some of the newly planted trees around the village. 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. We plan to put this list on the Parish Council website so you can see what's planted where.

Go to [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project) to find out more about the project, or contact [sophiberridge@gmail.com](mailto:sophiberridge@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

To register your interest, fill in the form at the above address, scrolling down to 'register here'. 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**

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# Puzzle Corner

## Two-letter sequences 5

Solve the clues to find words containing two-letter sequences

### Examples

Russian drink (DK) = voDKa

seal-like mammal (LR) = waLRus

digitalis (flower) (XG) = foXGlove

### Group 1

terrible (DF)

trachea (DP)

supporter (DH)

battery metal (DM)

number of people (DC)

animal struck by vehicle (DK)

### Group 2

courage (KB)

sloe plant (KT)

dice game (KG)

Raygun sport (KD)

type of printer (KJ)

mourning material (KC)

### Group 3

surfeit

negligence

type of lake

Tussaud figure

remove dead skin

Eurasian primrose

using XN XF XW

XC XL XB

### Group 4

chaos

humorous

type of melon

largest rodent

song of praise

underground chamber

using YF YH YP

YM YD YB

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 25

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# Yesteryear

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

## 1856

**REMITTANCE FROM ABROAD.** James Britten, a married man, who emigrated from Shelford about three years since to Australia, has sent to his wife's friends at Stapleford £10, and the same amount to his relatives at Shelford. We hear also of many other acts of generosity having been displayed by emigrants to their friends at Shelford and Stapleford.

## 1890

**THEFT OF RABBITS.** Ernest William Farnham, 15, labourer, of Stapleford, was charged with having stolen two tame rabbits to the value of 1s. 8d., the property of James Beavis, shepherd, of Stapleford.

## 1902

**WELCOMING THE NEW RECTOR.** On Monday afternoon the villagers turned out in goodly numbers to welcome the Rev Robert Alexander Wyman, successor to the Rev C Butler, who was duly inducted then. A hearty welcome is extended to the reverend gentleman who, it is hoped, will find his work in the village pleasant and encouraging.

## 1905

**THE SCHOOLS.** A meeting of the school managers was held in the Council School on Monday to receive H M Inspectors' report and transact other business. Mr J H Linton presided. The report was as follows: Mixed: "Mr Norman has made a good beginning here. In spite of considerable difficulties, the general attainments reach a very creditable level of efficiency. Singing has greatly improved. Mental work will need much attention." Infants: "This division has done good work in spite of much illness among both teachers and scholars. The gallery is both inconvenient and dangerous. It would be well to remove it and replace it with suitable desks. The alterations to the offices are a great improvement." This was considered by the managers most satisfactory, and Mr Norman and the school staff were heartily congratulated by the chairman on behalf of the managers on the successful results of their past year's labours. Mr Norman, in thanking the managers for their kind words, trusted that his first report since taking charge of Stapleford Council School, would be the forerunner of many excellent reports, and that both day and evening schools would



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maintain their present highly efficient condition. It was resolved that the gallery be removed without delay, and that proper infant desks be supplied.

**1950**

“The Clerk reported that the conveyance of the Cemetery extension has now been executed and a cheque for the purchase price, viz. £22 plus £1.11.6 agent’s expenses had been paid but that he was still awaiting the solicitor’s bill of costs. This was agreed and confirmed.” *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

**1981**

“A letter was noted from the Anglian Water Authority requesting permission to re-site the measuring weir in the river and erect a recording hut on the Piece. Mr Holt and the Clerk reported on their meeting with Mr Heald on the site who had tentatively agreed that there would be no objection to the weir and the hut to be sited on the Piece near the boundary hedge. They had also discussed the question of sale or lease but Mr Heald said that he was an engineer and the estate office would have to answer that. ... It was agreed that the Clerk act as valuer”. *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

## South Cambs. in the early 17th Century

A time of royal transition

A talk by David Jones

Tuesday 11 March at 7.45pm - the Pavilion

Free to members - non-members pay £3 on the door



## Puzzle Corner Answers

Two-letter sequences 5

Group 1: dreaDFul, winDPipe, aDHerent, caDMium, heaDCount, roaDKill

Group 2: backBone, blackThorn, backGammon, breakDancing, inKJet, sackCloth

Group 3: eXCess, laXNess, oXBow, waXWork, eXFoliate, oXLip

Group 4: maYHem, playYFul, honeYDew, capYBara, hYMN, crYPt

# The History of the building of King's College Chapel

## A talk by Paul Shakeshaft



THIS excellent talk was given by an academic who has taught in both of the Cambridge universities. He used many slides and spoke without notes about the period from 1441 - 1547, posing the question of why is King's College Chapel so big?

In the Middle Ages, Cambridge was a very small town which was originally the chosen place of refuge for disaffected clerics from Oxford. By 1400 the University numbered between 400 and 500 scholars and was seen by the ruling elite to be more orthodox than Oxford though Oxford was much more famous. At this time Church and State were virtually indivisible.

In 1441 Henry VI was crowned King of France and England in the royal Sainte Chapelle, Paris. He was only 19 years old, very pious and subject to fits of madness. He visited Oxford and was very impressed by New College Chapel and All Saints Chapel. Consequently, he founded Eton College and its chapel, then King's College in the same year, as a suitable place for Eton scholars to further their studies.

By 1448 Henry had decided that he wanted a chapel for his new college and drew up its proportions. He wanted it to be plain and simple, 228 feet long, 40 feet wide, 90 feet high, with small side chapels and a regularity and repetition in its design. The building work began with the foundations being no deeper than 3 feet on a bed of gravel above a layer of chalk. The time taken to build the chapel spanned the reigns of five monarchs and three dynasties: Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII - Yorkist, Lancastrian and Tudor kings. Interestingly there was not a single college founded in Oxford during that time.

The stone used was magnesium limestone from a quarry near Towton (Tadcaster). Reginald (of) Ely was one of the master masons who supervised the use of this material. Building work was affected by the 100 Years War, the Wars of the Roses and the general upheaval of dynastic change. For example, the Battle of Towton in 1461 was the largest and bloodiest ever fought in England with 28,000 dead, according to contemporary sources. Inevitably some masons and general workmen would have lost their lives there.

While the exterior of the Chapel reflects the influence of the French style, as at Mont St Michel, the decoration inside reflects the tastes of the Tudor monarchs. There is a Spanish influence on the carving, reflecting the link of the Tudors with the Spanish Kingdom of Aragon, Henry VII having arranged the marriage of Catherine of Aragon to his then heir, Prince Arthur. Later there is the influence of the Italian renaissance on some of the carving. Henry VIII wanted to be seen as a European prince and had a crown carved in the style of the Holy Roman Emperor. Glaziers from Europe were brought to design the stained glass windows where there is clear evidence of the influence of Rubens and Michelangelo.

Returning to the question originally posed by the speaker, it is clear now that the Chapel is so big because it was built as a royal chapel. Five kings of three dynasties were instrumental in the design, the build, the decoration of this building and, inevitably, its financing. **Jane Steadman**

## Granta Medical Practices



AS I write this, the NHS is again in the throes of extreme winter pressures due to high levels of infectious diseases such as flu, Covid, RSV and norovirus. You can help stop the spread by following the three C's:

**CLEAN** Wash your hands often, using soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand rub

**COVER** Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. Use a tissue or your upper sleeve, not your hands.

**CONTAIN** If you get sick, stay home until you're well again. Try not to spread your germs to others.

Don't forget you can treat many minor illnesses at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet. Colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs can all be treated by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment.

And finally ... it isn't too late to get a flu jab – they are available until the end of March – just give us a ring to book your appointment!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy February.

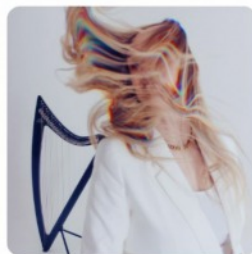
**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

**A Portrait of Rebecca Clarke****Sunday 9 February | 3:00pm**

A programme dedicated to the music of one of the most individual and inventive English composers of the 20th century. Performed by the acclaimed Pixels Ensemble, this rich, intriguing afternoon of chamber music and song showcases Clarke's versatility and depth of expression.

**Rachel Newton, harp & vocals****Friday 14 February | 7:45pm**

Described as 'one of the standout musicians of her generation' (BBC Radio 2), Rachel Newton draws on old poems and ballads to create a rich, haunting and compelling sound.

**William Bracken, piano****Saturday 15 February | 7:45pm**

The rising star pianist returns to the Granary with a knockout programme including music by Scriabin, Beethoven, Messiaen, Ravel and Haydn.

**Empirical Quartet****Saturday 22 February | 7:45pm**

Returning to the Granary following their sold-out concert in 2023, the multi award-winning Empirical Quartet are renowned for their unbridled creativity, dazzling improvisatory melodies, energy and virtuosity.

**Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne****Sunday 23 February | 3:00pm**

Described as 'captivating, bold and striking', Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne is at the forefront of his generation of English folk musicians as both a powerful and commanding singer and a masterful player of the Anglo concertina and melodeon.

## The bell in the Pavilion



WHAT is a bell doing standing in the corner of the Pavilion? How is it associated with Notre-Dame?

Coming as a complete surprise, the bell was presented to Stapleford Twinning Association in 1994 by our twin village in France, Villedômer in the Loire Valley. A bell-making company was established forty-five years ago in Villedômer by Michel Gougeon and is now managed by his son Alexandre. As a grand gesture of the association of our two villages, the bell was presented as a gift.

It was Alexandre who won an award on 17 December 2024 at the Palais des Congrès in Tours following the biggest project in which the bell maker had participated. And a big project it was too as he had supervised the installation of the eight bells in the north belfry of Notre-Dame following their removal and cleaning after the great fire at Notre-Dame of April 2019.

Next time you see the bell in the Pavilion, you can be reminded not only of our twin village Villedômer, but also of the great bells of Notre-Dame in Paris. **Kathleen Foreman**

## Stapleford Horticultural Society

THE choice of talk for our January meeting was perfect for a cold, dark evening, and a large and enthusiastic audience were enthralled by 'Plants for Winter Interest', given by our old friend Peter Jackson. His slides illustrated a wide range of colourful bulbs, perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees which can be relied upon to light up our gardens at this otherwise gloomy time of the year.

The final talk in our 2024-2025 season will be on Thursday 13 February when we welcome another familiar face in Nigel Start who will be telling us about 'The History of Gardening in Britain'. The talk will be in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and all are welcome. The current fee for guests is £3 for the evening, and if you enjoy it and wish to become a member, subscriptions for the new season are due at our AGM in March.

**John Sherwell**



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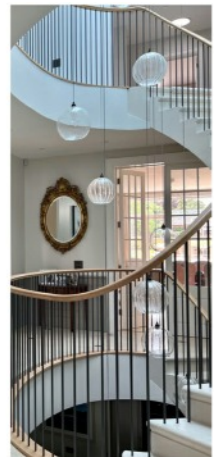
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# February at Great Shelford Library

FEBRUARY is LGBTQ+ History Month, a celebration of queer history in the UK. The theme for 2025 is activism and social change: our library will be hosting displays and books in support.

Don't forget Valentine's Day, we will have a Valentine themed craft event at Art Club on Saturday 8 February.

We will be running the following events in February:

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

**Engage Talk** - Wednesday 26 February 2pm to 3.30pm. We Need to Talk About Climate Action. A talk by Elisabeth Goodman-Spain. 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](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Unicorn and Dragon Craft Event** - Thursday 20 February 2pm to 3.30pm. Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility. £2 per child. Limited places, please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Festival of Stories: Nature Stories and Craft** - Tuesday 25 February 10.30am to 11.30am. Stories and crafts with a recycling theme. For families of children aged 2-5. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto: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's 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. **Mel Abbiss – Community Librarian**

## Library opening hours

Monday	3pm-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm and 2-6pm
Tuesday	10am-1pm and 2-5pm	Saturday	10am-1pm
Wednesday	10am-1pm	Sunday	Closed
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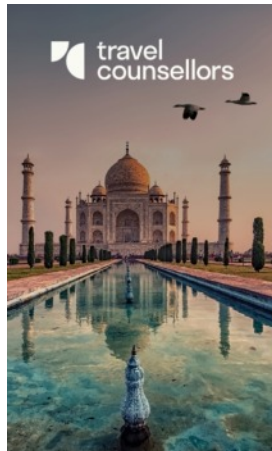
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**Your last chance to stop the bus road through the greenbelt!**

WE reported in December that Cambridgeshire County Council had voted for the CSET 5 mile bus road through the countryside between the A1307/A11 junction South of Babraham village and Addenbrookes.



The GCP have now submitted their Transport and Work Act Order (TWAO) to the government to proceed. We object to this bus road because there is a much better value alternative that does minimal harm to the countryside. Can you object and add your voice? To see how to do this go to [cambridgeppf.org](http://cambridgeppf.org), find the blogs under News, and look for the post about the last chance to save southeast Cambridge countryside.



By objecting, we will trigger a public inquiry which will take place

this summer where we will present our case to the Inspector. Can you make a donation? Every contribution matters - whether it's £50, £500, or £5,000. This will help our legal, transport and environmental team to make our case.

Please join us at Great Shelford Memorial Hall on Tuesday 18 February at 7.30pm to hear the full story and add your support.

Please take a look at our website [bw4b.org](http://bw4b.org) (or scan the QR code) for the details and please register your support. This will ensure you receive updates as they happen.

You can donate at [cambridgeppf.org](http://cambridgeppf.org) then click on Protecting Cambridge and then Campaign.

Thank you for your continued support. **Better Ways for Busways!**

*Better ways for Busways! Is a non-political group that supports better public transport solutions in South Cambridgeshire.*



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## Arthur's Shed



HAPPY New Year! In 2024 we delivered over 145 sessions in Arthur's Shed and welcomed 27 people who had never visited the site before, that's a

fantastic achievement! In 2025 we hope to welcome even more of you.

Arthur's Shed is a beautiful studio in the garden of Arthur Rank Hospice. From here we deliver small workshops and groups on a wide range of topics. You do not need a connection to Arthur Rank Hospice to join, we want the Hospice site to be for all our community. All sessions are free of charge and materials are provided, just bring yourselves! For a full calendar or to find out more contact us at 675777 or arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk.  
Hannah Touhey - Voluntary Services Manager

## Little Shelford Local History Society

Wednesday 12 February

Little Shelford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

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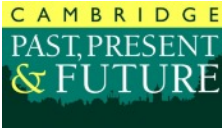
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# Wandlebury events



HERE'S a selection of what's on at Wandlebury. For more information about these and events at other locations email [bookings@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:bookings@cambridgeppf.org), call 243830 extension 307 or visit [cambridgeppf.org/whats-on](http://cambridgeppf.org/whats-on).

## Legacy Lunch

Tuesday 11 February 12pm to 2.30pm

We all want to leave something behind when we go, but how do we ensure that our legacy will make a positive difference in the future?

James Marsh, Senior Associate from Birketts LLP Private Client Advisory Team will be talking about how to make a will, estate planning and how making a legacy gift to charity can be beneficial to your estate. You will also hear from James Littlewood, Cambridge Past, Present & Future Chief Exec, about how our charitable work to protect the beauty of Cambridge and its environment has benefited from the generosity of gifts over the last 95 years.

This event is a great chance to put your questions to the experts if you haven't yet made a will or already have one and want to update it, or if you are considering leaving a gift to charity.

Places are limited, so please email [development@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:development@cambridgeppf.org) to book a place (and also let us know if you have any dietary requirements.)

## Holiday Bushcraft

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February, 8.30am to 4pm

Holiday Bushcraft is designed for children aged 5-12 and is run by experienced instructors from Wild Thyme & Embers, who will inspire children and share their knowledge and skills of surviving in the wild. The sessions focus on practical bushcraft and survival skills and follow a forest school approach encouraging self-confidence and sense of achievement.

The cost for each day is £45 per child. Please book via [wildthymeandembers.co.uk/holiday-bushcraft-club](http://wildthymeandembers.co.uk/holiday-bushcraft-club).

## Cambridge Flower Club

Thursday 20 February, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

### AGM with speaker

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE

Annual subscription £40. Visitors £9 each meeting



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# Royal British Legion



THE next Sawston & District Branch meeting takes place Wednesday, 26 February, 7pm in the Community Hall, Chapelfield Way, Sawston (opposite the Bellbird School), where there is ample parking. Anyone, member or non-member, is welcome to attend and learn about what we get up to, and about what the Royal British Legion does. We have two speakers booked for February - Ann and Brian Pegram relating 'The story of Footprints' - the wonderful restaurant/café at the rear of the Free Church in Sawston. It has quite a history. Come and discover its story!

We would also like to hear from those who are veterans living in the area. We are not informed when someone who has served in the armed forces at some point lives in or moves into the area so if you know of someone who has served his or her country in any capacity, please do get in touch. We may be able to assist them if they are struggling, and in addition they can be formally invited annually to take part in the Remembrance Parade from Bellbird School to the War Memorial. We are proud of them and we want to show that we honour what they have done!

We also enjoy a get-together at our Breakfast Club which takes place at The Plough in Duxford on a monthly basis. The next one is on Saturday 22 February and orders for a lovely breakfast begin at 9.30am.

We have invested in a new Standard because our old Standard reflected 'The Sawston & Pampisford Branch' when historically, many of our Branch members lived in other villages, having their own Branches which have since closed. As a result, our area has grown larger and larger, taking in a number of villages that have no recognition on the Standard. Now that we have changed the Branch name to Sawston & District - this is now reflected on the new Standard and so they can now feel that the Standard also recognises them. The RBL tradition is that any new Standard needs to be dedicated before it can be used, and this will have taken place by the time you read this.

It would be lovely to see some of you who do not normally attend Branch meetings, so that we might get to know you better. Other plans for later in the year, will include celebrations of VE and VJ Day - more detail will follow in future months - so look out for them.

For further information about the Legion or any of the events that have been mentioned, please do contact me on 07898 732307 or via email: [SawstonDistrict.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:SawstonDistrict.Secretary@rbl.community). **Ann Barton**

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SWISH open from 3pm for swapping. Open to all - you don't need to have brought clothes to take items away.

Repair Café and SWISH are both FREE, but donations are welcome. Tea/coffee and cake will be provided!

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 2pm - 5pm

Great Shelford Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, CB22 5LZ

For more details & to book in an item for repair, scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/41iYy27>



Email: [2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com](mailto:2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com)



# Parish Council Chair's report for January

THE Parish Council wishes the residents of Stapleford a very happy and healthy new year.

Max Barrett has been appointed as the new Clerk to the Parish Council and Responsible Financial Officer. The outgoing clerk, Belinda Irons will work alongside him for a short time to ensure smooth transition and contact with the Parish Clerk will remain the same. We welcome Max in his new role.

2025 will see the start of renovations to the Pavilion. This will inevitably mean some disruption to the availability of the Pavilion and facilities for health and safety reasons, but it is hoped that the time taken will not be too long. Work should start later in the year, and residents will be kept informed.

The Parish Council agreed to continue with the objection to the planned busway and agreed in principle to appoint a solicitor to create a defence strategy. The Parish Council is working with other Parish Councils and Trusts and individuals to support this objection. The Parish Council agreed to limit the contribution to costs.

Cemetery regulations are being updated to make the cemetery a quiet, respectful and reflective space. A noticeboard will be placed at the cemetery entrance to keep parishioners aware of important notices, burials etc.

A grounds maintenance contract has been agreed with a new contractor.

A tree inspection, required every three years, will be arranged to look at trees on Parish Council land regarding their health and safety. New trees planted by the tree project group and those in the David Pepperell Orchard will be included.

The budget for the coming year was discussed and an increase in the precept was agreed, rising to £115,000. The precept is the amount of money a parish council collects from its residents through council tax to fund its operations and is the Parish Council's main source of income. The increase is necessary because of increased costs, salary costs for the clerk and assistant clerk with their increase in hours for the work needed in the Parish, planned work on the Pavilion and other areas in the village, as well as necessary safety inspections. The planned increase is not excessive and in line with other parishes.



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The next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan, Public Consultation is in progress until 12 February. This is your last opportunity to comment on this extensive document before it goes before the independent examiner.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 6 February at 7pm in the Pavilion. Members of the public are, as usual, invited to attend.

**Gillian Pett**

## Neighbourhood Plan update: consultation on the submitted Plan closes on 12 February



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 2024. After three years of hard work shaped by multiple consultations with residents, workers and other stakeholders in our area, this represents what we as a community aspire to for the future of our parishes.

A final 'Regulation 16' consultation on our NP is now being run by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) services on behalf of SCDC (all previous consultations have been organised and run by the NP steering group). This started on 18 December 2024 and ends on 12 February 2025.

The consultation is effectively an opportunity for individuals and organisations who contributed comments to the 'Regulation 14' consultation held in March/April 2024 to see whether/how they influenced the submission version of the NP. If you were one of these people, and if you supplied your personal details, you will already have received notification from GCSP that the submitted NP is available to view.

Regulation 16 consultation materials can be found at [consultations.gretercambridgeplanning.org](https://consultations.gretercambridgeplanning.org) – scroll down towards the bottom of the page to find the link to the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. A paper copy of all consultation materials is available to view for the duration of the consultation during normal opening hours at Great Shelford Library. **Jenny Flynn - Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group**

# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07971 886 113

*Stapleford Parish Council normally meets publicly on the first Thursday of every month. Please check our website for the latest details*



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