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CHRISTMAS
AT ST MARY'S ASTBURY

THE CH OF ENG



• Sun 18th December	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 19th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity
Tues 20th December	6.00 for 6.30pm	Astbury Live Nativity
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib service
• ✨ •	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
• Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion ✨
• •	10.00am	Family Christmas •



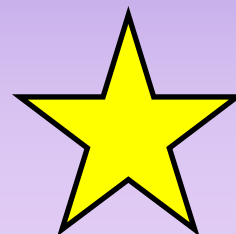
**Booking is essential for Live Nativity – tickets from .
Glebe Farm Plant Shop and Tourist Information Centre Congleton
For more details about which is the right service for you and
your family, see astburychurch.org.uk/ and  @StMarysAstbury**

NEWBOLD ASTBURY

CUM

MODERN

Christmas Newsletter 2022



Tractors to the Rescue!

The defibrillator at The Horseshoe needed replacing so Loz Beech and Rachel came to the rescue and organised a charity tractor run on Sunday 30th. October. Leaving the pub, the convoy went via Knypersley Pool to Endon through Cheddleton, Basford to Thorncliffe, pausing at The Winking Man Pub for a well earned break and drink, returning via The Roaches, Meerbrook, Rudyard, and Biddulph Park finally arriving back at the Horseshoe. They raised the magnificent total of £1,305 enough for the defibrillator and the remaining £750 going to The Royal Stoke Cancer Centre.

Glyn and Debs from the Horseshoe would like to thank everyone involved in making it such a successful day!



Members arrived promptly for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday 2nd November. It was a very busy meeting from the outset, with Committee Members completing preparations, tidying tables, making plans and taking monies for future events, both WI related and for Ladies Fellowship with whom we have many members in common. We displayed our banner and bunting, The banner was created by Sheelagh Steele (a former member) and the late Glenys Whiston. They also coordinated the bunting to which many of our present members contributed.

Once members were seated and our guest of honour, Ann Beckett had arrived we sang Jerusalem and the meeting began with a welcome from the President. We raised our glasses in a toast to His Majesty King Charles III and then applied ourselves to the serious business of enjoying the wonderful food. Our meal was supplied and served by Beech Tree Catering. Andrea and her staff provided us with a delicious pea and pie supper, which was wonderfully hot and tasty on a cool night. The main course was followed by a choice of three scrumptious desserts.

At the end of the meal, Kate Naylor along with our officials cut the wonderful cake which Kate had made and decorated for our 82nd birthday celebration. It was truly delicious! After the meal, tea and coffee had been served, the business of the meeting began. Birthday buttonholes were given out, a certificate was presented to Margaret Pennington, who has been a member at Astbury for 50 years, and bowling cups were presented. Yvonne Walker received The Rose Bowl as Singles winner, Anita Thompson and Margaret Pennington took the Doubles Cup, and Joan Proctor (in her first full season) won The Novice Trophy. Margaret thanked Anita Thompson (Bowling Captain) Brenda Sutton (Bowling Secretary) and Carole Goodwin (Bowling Treasurer) for their hard work during the season and for giving all the new players much help and encouragement.

The business of the Annual Meeting was then conducted, Secretary Liz read the minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting held last year. Lisa our treasurer reported on our finances and Liz gave us a review of the past year. Margaret gave the President's Address, thanking her Committee who had all worked incredibly hard, and proved themselves to be a fantastic team, adaptable and able to rise to the challenges of the post covid world. She presented her fellow officers with orchids as a token of her gratitude for their hard work and support. Plants were also given to two committee members who are stepping down and two new committee members will be welcomed at our first committee meeting. Guest, Ann Beckett, who has taken on the role of Advisor in place of Sally Dyke during her sabbatical, then conducted the election for President. Margaret was elected for a further twelve months.

Some people have a signature dish, we seem to have a signature knit (or crochet)Poppies! We have covered the village post box with poppies and are also very happy to see that our poppy drape is once again gracing the Rood screen in church. It is our tribute to those who "for our tomorrow gave their today" in fields of conflict around the world. As President, Margaret had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the WI at the Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church Astbury on Remembrance Sunday. It was a thoughtful and thought provoking service, as well as a traditional act of remembrance in honour of those who lost their lives. .

Recently six of our members, plus a friend, attended a needle felting workshop with Rhonda Stoodley at Century Mill in Worrall Street. All came away proudly holding a charming, Christmas ready robin, which (with Rhonda's help) we had made.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on the evening of Wednesday 30th November at Congleton Golf Club. Entertainment will be provided by The Busketeers after our party meal.

Our Knit and Natter Group, along with our walkers, will enjoy a Christmas Lunch, at The Horseshoe at Newbold, Astbury on Monday 12th December. At our December Meeting, the speaker will be Kim from Astbury Floral, who will demonstrate wreath making to our members on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30. Our Competition, on that evening will be for a home made Christmas card. Another date for our diaries is 11th December at 2pm, when the Dane Valley Group Carol Service will take place at Goostrey Methodist Chapel, when Carol Steer will read a poem on our behalf.



Tree Planting at Acker's Crossing.

Local resident, Mary Thorley of Acker's Crossing contacted the Parish Council earlier this year to enquire if a tree could be planted there to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council ordered the tree,(an English Oak) and it was planted at 3.00 pm on Saturday 19th November with assistance from a good turn out of local youngsters, residents and Parish Councillors.

Once the tree is established future plans include a commemorative plaque and in a few years it is also hoped to include a bench.



ASTBURY LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Recently, fellowship members have enjoyed a workshop arranging flowers and greenery to be presented as a gift. we have gathered opinions about the proposed building of a new kitchen and toilets inside the church. There is great support for this idea. Andrew Bevington has been licensed in Chester cathedral to be the Reader for St. Mary's and is now helping with services. There was a lot of laughter at our last meeting when the speaker reminded us about Christmas past. Do you remember paper garlands stuck together with flour paste, and Christmas lights that you plugged into the electric light socket? Rupert annuals dolls galore, painting books-just add water for colour? The first Christmas card (1843) cost one shilling. It has been sold much later the Crib for £22,000! Members have supported the food bank bringing Christmas puddings, chocolates and mince pies for the Christmas hampers. Anything to add may be left in the church porch. Do you knit ? crochet? If so would you be able to make a pew blanket to keep out the winter cold? There will be a prize for the best! On 14th December we shall have our Christmas lunch.

It will be our 30th Anniversary. Meet for 12 30pm in the village hall, please bringing with you the traditional plate of food. to begin with, Anne-Marie will lead us in Communion, followed by lunch and a social communion please be seated by 11 30 pm. On Wed. 18th Jan '23 we shall have our Winter luncheon at the Legs of Man. If anyone would like to come to that please contact Carole (01260 274190).

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Update on the common land at Brownlow Heath

Native daffodil, English bluebells and wild flowers seeds added to the site in early November.

Roll of Honour

Edward DODD. A quick update on this guy: Jackie Corbishley of Bank Farm has updated us about Edward and his royal connections- more in the next newsletter.

SLATER Charles (William) It seems that this man is the child of Joseph and Margaret Ann Slater (nee Bason) who were married in St. James Church, Congleton on Christmas Day 1883. Charles William was born 4/11/1885 and baptised at St. James church 29/11/1885. Joseph is a gardener living in Astbury. Charles appears on the 1891 census with parents, residing at West Road, father a gardener, Charles a schoolboy. By 1901 the family are in Astbury Marsh, Charles now a silk dresser and dad still a gardener. In 1909 Charles married Lydia Mary Whitehouse at St. James Church and on the 1911 census they reside in Astbury Marsh and by now he is a domestic gardener. There appear to be no surviving records of him in the military but he reappears in the 1919 Electoral registers, still living in the Village. The 1921 census (recently released) has Charles and his family residing in Astbury and now specifically it states that he is a domestic gardener employed at Great Moreton Hall. He continues to live in Astbury up until 1924, but in 1925 is living in Alsager. On the 1939 register he is a general gardener employed for trench digging by Crewe Corporation. He dies in 1957 in the Stockport area.

SMITH John By some miracle I have found a surviving record for a person with such a common name! John was born in Brownlow 27/7/1900 and baptised at St. Peter's church on 10/4/1901 the son of William George (a gentleman) and Ellen (nee Wilson) of Brownlow. On the 1901 census they are living next to The Brownlow Inn at The Oaklands. 1911 shows the family still in the same house. John by now is a schoolboy. He signed up 26/6/1918 (notes show he was living in Brownlow, an apprentice engineer for the London and North Western Railway at Crewe.) He was assigned to the RAF. His official number was 179961, he was 5 feet 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches with brown hair and blue eyes. No other records survive. In 1921 he is still at The Oaklands. The last mention I can find of him is in 1928 when on the electoral rolls he is still living in Brownlow with his parents. After this it is extremely hard to find any John Smith with any certainty!!

SMITH William He would seem to be the brother of the above, baptised at St. Peter's 7/3/1899 but with no surviving military records. On the 1921 census he is in the same abode as his brother John and his occupation is a bank clerk for the District Bank. After this time as with John above, with such a common name it's very difficult to trace a person!

If you know of any other information about these men please contact us!

Clerks email for any correspondence: clerk@astbury-parish.org.uk

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch

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Roger Sutton 01260 273677 (A)	John Ward 07788418264 (A)	Megan Bailey 01260 641292 (M)

(A) - Newbold Astbury Ward (M) - Moreton cum Alcumlow Ward

We meet in Astbury Village Hall on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. Please feel free to come along.

Next Meetings: Please check the website.

If you have an item for the next newsletter, any comments, or you would like to sponsor the mailing costs in return for including a leaflet, contact Phill Critchlow. (phill.critchlow@astbury-parish.org.uk)

Website: <http://astbury-parish.org.uk>