

Issue  
No.128



# Aston Le Walls and Appletree Newsletter

Feb/March  
2026



*'The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also'*

*Harriet Ann Jacobs*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

In my last report I talked about a village WhatsApp group to share information with a particular focus on Neighbourhood Watch. I asked anyone interested to contact me via the Clerk and I did have one person express an interest, so we are still intending to try and start this group however there is a concern over Data Protection under GDPR at present. I have asked the Parish Clerk to look into this further and try to find a solution.

Regarding the Parish Clerk I'm pleased to announce that following a recruitment process in November we have found a replacement for Debra Kirton and our new Clerk started on 12th January. Alex George from Byfield was our successful candidate, he is already the Clerk for Byfield Parish Council and as such is well versed in the role - it's quite common for Clerks to work for more than one Parish. The Clerk's email address remains the same, [clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the Parish Council website is <https://astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

When Debra handed over the role of Clerk to Alex she presented us with several crates of old council paperwork, some of which dates back many years. In the spirit of a New Year purge I saw the opportunity to cull much of this archive but took advice from Danny Moody of NCALC (Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils) who suggested that it may be of interest to any local historians. There is a legal requirement to retain pay records and invoices for 6 years and to archive all minutes records but there is plenty of other paperwork we would like to dispose of. Before I fire up the shredder if anyone would like more information on what we have stored please do contact the Clerk.

Finally, on 16th January I attended the latest HS2 Liaison Meeting and listened to a presentation from EKFB who are the main contractors. EKFB stated that after a big year of progress in 2025 they are currently 75% complete on the Civils (earthworks and bridges, roads etc), they have another busy year planned for 2026 and then begin to ramp down in 2027 before handing over to the Rail Contractors in 2028. No timescale was given for this work but I'm sure we are all hoping that once the civil construction is complete the impact of the work on our day to day lives will diminish.

Locally, following feedback, a review of the temporary traffic lights controlling the link road at the Banbury Road overbridge (between Boddington and Wormleighton) has taken place and the sequencing will be adjusted. The link road was a temporary measure whilst the repairs to the new bridge were investigated; these repair works are scheduled for spring 2026 and work should be completed by the end of the year, although tellingly they didn't mention when the bridge may open to traffic! Much was made of a slide showing a completed cutting which had been seeded and was greening up, a glimpse of the future for all of us who have endured the disruption thus far.

As always please don't hesitate to contact your Parish Council if you have any concerns over local issues.

**Matt Hawkins - Chair, Aston le Walls Parish Council**



## THE FOOD BANK / COMMUNITY LARDER

(Scrivens Hill, NN11 3SU)

A message from Karen Pollard (coordinator) at the Woodford Halse Foodbank:

“I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your kind donations and continued support over the past year, and especially in the run-up to Christmas with the generous gifts of food and presents. On 23rd December, we helped distribute 1,300 cooked Christmas meals, kindly prepared by Whittlebury Hall. Many of these went to elderly residents, who received one meal for Christmas Day and another for Boxing Day. Of these, we personally delivered just over 300 meals locally. In addition, we delivered:

- 64 food hampers and 38 gift packs to families
- 42 food hampers and gift packs to individuals living alone or elderly residents

We covered the villages of Byfield, Everdon, Boddington, Eydon, Chipping Warden, Aston le Walls, Charwelton, Woodford Halse, and Badby. Our annual Christmas meal, held at Byfield Village Hall on 16th December, was a huge success. This year, I invited our Woodford Warm Spaces members, many of whom thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and were able to reconnect with people they hadn't seen for years. We catered for 97 guests, all of whom enjoyed a free three-course meal with refreshments, along with raffle prizes for everyone. The afternoon was made even more special with wonderful entertainment from the Woodford Community Choir. Once again, thank you to everyone who made this possible — your generosity and support truly make a difference.’

### **Current requests are:**

Long Life semi skimmed milk

Instant mash

Sandwich paste spreads (beef, chicken, tuna)

Tins of meat for meals eg chilli con carne, Irish stew, chicken in white sauce, curries

Other tinned food: ravioli, tuna, baked beans

Dried spaghetti

Coffee, tea bags

Toiletries: deodorant, shampoo/conditioner

Please place any donations you are able to make in the carport at Comfrey Cottage on Main Street. The items are collected usually on a weekly or fortnightly basis and delivered to the Food Bank/ Community Larder at Woodford Halse.

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## VILLAGE HALL – CHAIR REPORT



ASTON-LE-WALLS  
VILLAGE HALL

The rebuilding of the Village Hall continues to progress well. We now have the roof, the floor screed, and the wall partitions all in place. We expect the builder to complete his part of the work by March. We will then install the kitchen, and the flooring, and complete all interior decoration and fitting out. We expect to have the Opening Event for the new Hall on the evening of **Friday 19th June**, so please put this date in your diary. There will be a bar, live music and lots of celebrations.

We are launching a new website and, with the opening of the new hall, there will be new activities in addition to the all the old favourites, relaunching from July onwards. Thank you for your continued support and a big thank you to Richard and Carole Holden and all the members of our Village Hall Friends Group for all the hard work.

If you would like more information or to get more involved with our activities please give me a call on 07501 484913 or speak to any of our Friends Group.

**Chris Wilson**  
**Chair, Aston le Walls Village Hall**

## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

As you can read in Chris's piece above, the Village Hall rebuilding is going well, and the hall will be open for events and bookings from July.

Any enquiries or if you would like to get involved /put on events please contact Lizzie 0780 1980696

## OUR VILLAGE 'DAISY BANK' POCKET PARK

**a lovely place to visit, access near the Blacksmith's Lane turn on Welsh Road**

During November and early December the Team were blocked from access to the Park by Anglian Water. The Park though was quietly sliding into slumber. When we were able to gain access again very little needed doing - a few items trimmed and some nettles pulled with their roots, leaves swept from the bridge steps, and a small piece of anti-slip netting laid.



During January we will be removing leaves from the paths and making our plans for a new fence beyond the pond and planting a new hedgerow.

The pond has filled again with rainwater.

We always welcome new volunteers to join the team. If you are interested in lending a hand and contributing to the upkeep of the park and can spare an hour on a Sunday morning, we would love to have you on board (chat and refreshments included!)

For further information contact Charles Lees 07971 141 956

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## ST. LEONARD'S Church (Main Street)

Rev Clare Glover [revclare@icloud.com](mailto:revclare@icloud.com)

The 5 churches of the Benefice are:

**Aston le Walls** - St Leonard  
**Boddington** - St John the Baptist  
**Byfield** - Holy Cross  
**Eydon** - St Nicholas  
**Woodford Halse** - St Mary the Virgin



Everyone is welcome to any church for any service

### Fiveways Benefice services for February and March plus Easter

<b>Sunday 1st February</b>	9.30am 10am 10am 11am	Holy Communion at Boddington BCP Morning Prayer at Eydon Café Church at Woodford Halse Holy Communion at Byfield
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	9.30am 10am <b>11am</b> 11am	Holy Communion at Eydon Morning Prayer at Boddington <b>Holy Communion at Aston le Walls</b> Café Church at Byfield
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> 10.30am 11am	<b>BCP Holy Communion at Aston le Walls</b> Café Church at Eydon Holy Communion at Woodford Halse
<b>Wednesday 18th Feb</b>	9.45am 7pm	Ash Wednesday Communion at Byfield Ash Wednesday Communion at Woodford Halse
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	9.30am 11am	BCP Holy Communion at Eydon Holy Communion at Woodford Halse
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	9.30am 10am 10am 11am	Holy Communion at Boddington BCP Morning Prayer at Eydon Café Church at Woodford Halse Holy Communion at Byfield
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.30am 10am <b>11am</b> 11am	Holy Communion at Eydon Morning Prayer at Boddington <b>Holy Communion at Aston le Walls</b> Café Church at Byfield
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>9.30am</b> 10.00am 10.30am 11am 4pm	<b>Mothering Sunday Communion at Aston le Walls</b> Mothering Sunday Service at Boddington Mothering Sunday Service at Eydon Mothering Sunday Communion at Woodford Halse Mothering Sunday Service at Byfield
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	9.30am 11am	BCP Holy Communion at Woodford Halse Holy Communion at Boddington

## Continued – Fiveways Benefice Services

### Holy Week:

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm	Compline at Eydon
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	7pm	Compline at Boddington
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	7pm	Compline at Woodford Halse
Maundy Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7pm	Byfield
Good Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11am	Byfield Village Hall (ecumenical)
	2pm	Boddington
	2.30pm	Aston le Walls
	3pm	Woodford Halse
Easter Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	6am	Communion at Boddington
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Communion by extension at Aston le Walls</b>
	9.30am	Communion at Eydon
	11am	Communion by extension at Byfield

### Coffee mornings at Plowden Close

Whilst the Village Hall is out of action the coffee mornings have been held at Susan Fagg's house on Plowden Close. However, due to recent illness Susan has been unable to offer these. We wish Susan a speedy recovery after her pneumonia over Christmas.



Our Neighbourhood Police  
Community Support Officer is now  
**Danni Morgan**

Her details are included below.

**PCSO 7182 Danni Morgan**  
**Police Community Support Officer**  
Neighbourhood Policing Team  
South Northants  
Northamptonshire Police  
101 Ext 346294  
Mobile 07973872805

[danni.morgan@northants.police.uk](mailto:danni.morgan@northants.police.uk)



### Mothering Sunday

March 15<sup>th</sup>

9.30 am

All are welcome at St Leonard's Church  
for a Mothering Sunday Service followed  
by posies and refreshments.

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Concannon

[head@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

[bursar@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk)



## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART AND OUR LADY (MAIN ST)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Chima

[Frmichael.chima@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:Frmichael.chima@northamptondiocese.org) Phone: (Daventry) 01327 300 248

There will not be any Easter Services held in our church this year, but all parishioners and friends are invited to attend them at **St Augustine's Catholic Church** in Daventry. For service times please see <http://www.st-augustinedaventry.org/>

Fr Michael Chima will say Mass in Aston at 11.00 am on **Ash Wednesday** (18th February) and **every Sunday at 12.30 pm**. We won't be holding Lenten Lunches this year as the Aston Village Hall won't be ready in time and our Presbytery is not suitable for extended social gatherings!



Coffee mornings in The Presbytery will be held on the first Sunday of every month (apart from April) from 11.30-12.15.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, please email [ali.hawkins05@gmail.com](mailto:ali.hawkins05@gmail.com) with your name and home address. Thank you.

Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors. If you would like to contribute to the April/May issue, please email [ali.hawkins05@gmail.com](mailto:ali.hawkins05@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> March