STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



APRIL 2011

From the Vicarage:

Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, reminds us of two powerful occasions that Jesus spent with his disciples in the few hours before his arrest, trial and crucifixion. Those two occasions speak to us of love and prayer.

Agapé is the word used in the Gospels to describe God's type of love – self giving and unconditional. The "Last Supper", which Jesus shared with his disciples on that Thursday evening, was the occasion when Jesus took bread and wine and gave them the special meaning of showing his body and blood broken and given for us. The service of Holy Communion is a fulfilment of Jesus's request that his disciples should "do this in remembrance of me". At that supper, Jesus showed the depth of his love and called on us to love one another with the same type of 'agapé' love. The meal itself was a Passover meal, remembering the time in Israel's history when God had led the people out of slavery in Egypt and had brought them ultimately to the Promised Land. But Jesus changed it to signify the even greater act of salvation that was about to happen as he would lead his followers from the place of slavery to sin and death and would open up for them the way into the eternal 'promised land'.

When we share our Agapé meal on Maundy Thursday at Leek Wootton Village Hall, we will put the Holy Communion back into that 'supper' context and remembering both the love that Jesus showed for us, and the love he calls on us to show for one another.

When Jesus and his disciples left the room where they had had supper, they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. Here, Jesus asked them to watch and pray for him as he also prayed to his Father. The very fact that Jesus considered prayer so important is a sign to us that we should – but what is prayer? It is about spending time with God, sharing what is on our heart and seeking to discover what is on his. It is not trying to persuade an unwilling parent to give in and do what we want, nor is it about presenting our list to God as though he is Father Christmas. Prayer is our spiritual breath, vital for a life of faith. It is something to do as individuals, but there is a special power to prayer when we gather together to pray. If you want members of our congregation to pray for you or for something you care about, then please send an e-mail to **prayers@a-lw-s.org.uk**.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter, and hope you will share it with us.

Jim Perryman

Front Cover - Thatcher's Signature

Photos in Stoneleigh & Ashow by Will Blagburn

Thatchers will usually leave their individual "signature" or decorative feature on the roof ridge as a personal note of their craft.





In early times, people would only be able to use what materials they could source locally. This meant materials as varied as broom, sedge, sallow, flax, grass, and straw were commonly used.

Whilst Norfolk reed was particularly prized by thatchers generally, heather was more commonly used in Scotland and the north of England and wheat straw in southern England.





There are only about 250 houses left in the country which have their *original* base coat of thatch, smoke-blackened from the open fires of five centuries ago, and because it has never been removed, it's a perfect relic of that time.

A few years ago the National Trust had a gene analysis done on a small amount of medieval grain retrieved from original thatch to find a modern equivalent, then grew the seed to provide straw for thatching and to make milled flour for some very edible bread.

The ancient craft of thatching has developed a language of its own. Would you know a Biddle from a Brotch, a Fleaking from a Fargle or even a Spragger from a Stalch?

STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS

The May issue will be compiled by Martin and Kim Smith Address: 23, Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh Phone: 024 7669 0906 Email: architect_smith@yahoo.co.uk Copy deadline: 18th April 2011

We prefer electronic copy, but hard copy may be submitted as an alternative Advertisements at £25 (full page) or £12.50 (half page) accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to magazine policy

This issue was compiled by Pam Baker

Parish Council Notes

<u>Meetings</u>

The April Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday 14th April 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

This is a meeting for Councillors which the public has a right to attend.

Stoneleigh's Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday 28th April 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

This is a statutory meeting at which members of the Parish Council are required to report back to the electorate on their work over the past twelve months.

Precept/Council Tax 2011/12

The precept for the next financial year April 2011-March 2012 was agreed at £25,452. This is an increase of 3.86% on last year's precept plus the special grant of £12,000. The one off nature of the precept extra £12,000 is reserved for justified HS2 action group support only. If it isn't used for that purpose then the precept for the next financial year will be reduced by that amount, or the remainder if the sum is partially used.

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk

Big Breakfast

Kenilworth Committee of Cancer Research U.K. have been holding their annual "Big Breakfast" in Ashow Village for many years.

This year it will take place at Stoneleigh Village Hall 7.30 to 11.00 am, Wednesday 4th May 2011

A full "English Breakfast" will be provided and all Donations to Cancer Research gratefully received.

To help with catering if you wish to attend , please could you either fill in one of the forms which are circulating, or contact any committee member.

Or telephone Pat Harvey, secretary, on 01926 852543.

Stoneleigh Neighbourhood Watch Team

GOOD NEWS

A male from Coventry arrested for burglary at a dwelling in Vicarage Road Stoneleigh on 25/01/2011 has been charged with the offence.

Theft: Between 10:00hrs and 14:30hrs Tuesday 22/02/2011 unknown offender(s) stole both front and back registration plates from a vehicle parked at a garden centre on Green Lane Coventry.

There appears to have been incidents of theft and burglary in neighbouring villages so please be vigilant and if you see anything unusual - report it to the police.

Burglary - Here's what you can do.

- Don't hide spare keys; leave them with someone you trust. Burglars know where to look!
- Fit good locks to doors and windows. Use them!
- Change locks when you move into a new home
- Use lights and radios on timers to make your home appear occupied
- Keep windows and doors secure when you are elsewhere in your home or garden
- Fit a good quality alarm from a reputable supplier
- Fit and use a door chain
- Join Neighbourhood Watch
- Find out about property marking

If you have any queries, contact your local PCSO to discuss crime prevention issues.

<u>Crimedesk</u>

If you wish to report a crime please contact crimedesk on 01926 451111. If it's urgent dial 999

PS David Kettle, PC Michael Everall, PC Adriano Towle, PCSO Jackie Pimlott and PCSO Edward King

Please visit http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ for force news and information.

Tony Hanselman





"**Arts on our Doorstep** is funded by the Central Warwickshire Villages LEADER programme and provides practical advice and support alongside resources up to the value of £5,000 to help local groups and individuals to organise exciting and innovative small arts projects within their community.

The scheme is a partnership between Live & Local and Warwickshire County Arts Service with Warwick District Council and Rugby Borough Council's Arts Development Services."

Our application has been successful, a grant of £5,000 to fund ongoing Hybrid Arts sessions for Stoneleigh youth group to be facilitated in Stoneleigh village hall, regular Wednesdays, all dates will be confirmed by Hybrid Arts on Facebook in due course.



Stoneleigh have also been given a wonderful opportunity for updated play equipment through Big on Play to the approximate value of $\pounds 11,000$ via Warwick District Council. We are currently in negotiation with our Parish Council to support an application for the grant initiative. The Village Hall Committee are being very supportive and are interested in facilitating this equipment at this stage, in principle, so fingers crossed this goes ahead? We are currently formalising the group in the form of a <u>constitution</u> and being helped by 'Group Support WD' in these matters so the group can apply independently for grants and facilities in future.

I would like to thank all the young people for the litter picking initiative in the village hall location which have been noticed and appreciated, your positive behaviours have also been very well received and noted please keep up the good work!

We have also declared an interest to help with the Orchard Project - watch this space!!!

Note for parents and residents: Firstly if any parents or local residents would like to assist us at Stoneleigh Youth Group please contact Tony Hanselman. We also need letters of support from you all to help the bid for play equipment and their youth group constitution initiative. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Tony Hanselman 5 Birmingham Rd, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DD Tel: 024 7641 5060



The egg was a pagan symbol of the rebirth of the Earth in celebrations of Spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus.

The ancient Zoroastrians painted eggs for Nowruz, their New Year celebration, which falls on the Spring equinox. The Nowruz tradition has existed for at least 2,500 years.

Eggs were originally forbidden during Lent as well as on other traditional fast days in Western Christianity. Historically, it was traditional to use up all of the household's eggs before Lent began. This established the tradition of Pancake Day being celebrated on Shrove Tuesday. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, a French phrase which translates as "Fat Tuesday" to mark the last consumption of eggs and dairy before Lent begins.

In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ.

Easter eggs are a popular symbol of new life in Slavic countries' folk traditions. A batik (wax resist) process is used to create intricate, brilliantly-coloured eggs, the best-known of which is the Ukrainian pysanka.

The celebrated Fabergé workshops created exquisite, jewelled, Easter eggs for the Russian Imperial Court.

Stoneleigh WI

Our speaker in March was Margaret Sutherland who spoke to us about her work as a Blue Badge Guide. She decided to become a guide after taking early retirement from teaching and she described the arduous and expensive training she had to undertake. Her work, which has taken her through most of the counties of the Midlands as well as to France, has provided her with a fund of anecdotes about her experiences which have been interesting, enjoyable but on occasions almost disastrous.

Other activities have included a skittles evening at the Leek Wootton Sports Club and a walk along the canal at Hatton followed by lunch at the Waterman Pub. The Book Club met to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows and "Northern Lights", book one of the trilogy, "His Dark Materials" by Philip Pullman.

The Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 12th March at Guy's Cliffe House Warwick. After an excellent meal, members were entertained by a dance routine performed by members of the committee, two monologues performed by members and a quiz. Ten lucky members who were successful in the draw for tickets, attended the Annual Meeting of the Warwickshire Federation of WIs on 23rd March. The main speaker was Prue Leith.

The next village lunch will be on 5th April and the menu will be turkey, ham and leek pie with mixed vegetables, followed by raspberry cheesecake. Please let me know if you wish to cancel or add your name to the list on 76-414030.

The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday 19th April at the Club.

Our next WI meeting will be on Monday 4th April. Peter Preece will be talking about wild life photography.

Rachel Gill



Stoneleigh Village Club

The club has been busy over the past few weeks, and we hope you all enjoyed the Bell Ringers Quiz which proved a very successful event. Thanks to Martin Smith for organising.

Newsflash!

Club reopens on Sunday evenings commencing 27^{th} March 2011. Opening hours 7.30 – 10.30 bar will be run by volunteer committee members.

Forthcoming Events:

April 16 Quiz Night – 8.00pm start - £5 per team of four.

- April 22 Fish & Chip Supper Evening. Fish & Chips can be purchased freshly cooked from the 'Chip Van' outside the Club. Come and enjoy!
- April 23 Jim Ball Memorial Evening this event will include an assortment of traditional games to join in and play, there will also be a raffle. We all remember Jim Ball as one of the Club's most interesting characters. Donations of raffle prizes most welcome.
- April 24 Calling all children!! Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Parade. Egg Hunt starts at 1.00pm meet at the Club first. Bonnet Parade at 2.00pm – prize for best bonnet, there will also be a raffle.
- April 29 Royal Wedding Celebration. Open all day food available. Come dressed for a Wedding (optional). Prize for best outfit Judging starts at 7.00pm.
- May 6 Fish & Chip Supper Night. Orders for food need to be given to Jimmy behind the bar by 22nd April. This food will be bought in.

The Club will now be selling stamps and cigarette papers.

AGM will be held on 8th May 2011 at 8.00pm All members welcome

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 1ST APRIL

Sue Brooks

High Speed Rail Consultation (*N.B. Surgery will be in Village <u>Hall</u>, not Club as stated in printed Magazine*)

Recently there has been extensive media coverage of the latest stage in the Government's proposals for High Speed Rail. On 28 February a public consultation was announced. This will run until 29 July and is designed to gauge opinion on the plans for the development of a national high speed rail network, and on the proposed route between London and the West Midlands.

The general public is encouraged to read the documentation carefully and to consider their response. The Stoneleigh Action Group is actively working on responding to the consultation and is planning to hold two informal 'surgeries', the first of which will be in the **Village HALL at 7.30 pm on Thursday 21 April.** There will be a public meeting and presentation in the Village Hall some time in May (date to be announced later) by which time we expect to be in a position to give more definitive help on the questionnaire.

Some people still assert that "HS2 will never happen" but all the signs are that the Coalition Government intends to press ahead so the consultation is a very important exercise. *Everyone* will be affected by this scheme as the initial cost to the taxpayer is predicted to be equivalent to between £750 and £1,000 per household, with the further ongoing burden to the taxpayer of subsidy by the Government towards operating costs, in addition to the disruption, noise, potential loss of other train services, adverse environmental effects etc. which will follow. *Everyone* is already affected by property blight.

A series of public information events are being held by the Department for Transport, with roadshows locally, including 8am to 8pm in the Burton Green Village Hall Car Park on 10 June and at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth, 13-14 June. More details will follow.

The consultation documentation can be viewed online at http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk It includes seven questions which the general public is asked to answer, either online or in writing. Paper copies of the lengthy document can be ordered from 0300 321 1010. Please phone for your own copy to see what is involved.

Members of the public can also contact High Speed Rail Ltd direct on HS2enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk or phone 020 7944 4908

Also, don't forget to check the village website for information www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk *Margaret Wallis Stoneleigh Action Group member*

Mad March Hare Quiz

On Saturday 5th March the Stoneleigh Village Club was the venue for the Mad March Hare Quiz in support of Fight HS2 – Stoneleigh. It was well attended and a great success, raising £154.10 for the cause.



A huge thank you to Martin and Rod for contriving and hosting the quiz, and thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes and supported the night.

Easy Fundraising

From September 2010 until December 2010 the supporters of easy fundraising raised \pounds 21.11 by shopping online. This brings the total amount raised since May 2010 to \pounds 96.11.

For further information and to help raise funds for Fight HS2-Stoneleigh, at no cost to you visit

www. easyfundraising.org.uk.

New email address for Fight HS2 - Stoneleigh

stagagainsths2@live.co.uk.

Lisa Reay

Stoneleigh Village Green

Over the past few months, there has been considerable erosion of the verge surrounding the Green, caused by the parking of numerous vehicles.

Since the completion of the renovations to the Forge, it has been our intention and responsibility to maintain the grounds in a presentable aspect, for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors alike.

Whilst it is appreciated that there are very limited spaces available in the village for on-road parking, not only does the progressive damage look unsightly, but vehicles parked on the verge and pavement present a potential hazard for both pedestrians and through traffic.

Your co-operation in parking any vehicles in a correct manner in future would hopefully ensure against further deterioration and consequent residual maintenance.

Colin Rice and Peter Whitehouse The Old Forge

St. Mary the Virgin Stoneleigh

The Church finances in 2010

2010 was a year of as near to financial normality as we have seen for the last four years. The major repairs started in 2005 have been completed and as we have paid the bills our bank balances have reduced to much more normal levels.

During this last year we have installed a new clock face and carried out a major overhaul of the clock mechanism. A long overdue repair of the churchyard fencing gives the church a well ordered setting and now complements the excellent work that is carried out on our behalf by all those who help keep the churchyard so tidy.

Our financial resources at the end of the year are naturally much less than they were at the end of 2009; the key difference is the carried over figure of £70,753 miscellaneous income accumulated from grants and donations to pay the final bills for the roof repairs.

Forward into 2011and 2012!

The preparation of forecasts of income and expenditure for 2011 and 2012 is the next task. In the present economic situation we shall certainly face increased expenditure for running the church. The quinquennial review of the building has been carried out and we await the recommendations in the report. One project will certainly be the redecoration of the inside of the church.

I will keep you informed.

Syd Creed Treasurer



Photo by Will Blagburn

The Church of the Assumption of our Lady Ashow

2010 - A positive year!

The successful launch of the appeal for funds, together with the setting up of a "Friends of Ashow Church" group in January, has helped to provide the groundwork for an improved future income. This will be the ongoing task for 2011.

The increase in donations from £555 to £2135 together with the addition of £735 for the refund of gift-aid indicates where future success could be found

The absence in the year of any major expense on the building has helped to steady the financial outturn for the year.

Of significant importance is the saving of \pounds 1,879 on the upkeep of the churchyard; this work has been done by a volunteer from the congregation.

We have entered the new year with an improvement of \pounds 950 in our cash assets. We need to continue to improve on the benefits that our new initiative has brought about.

Syd Creed. Treasurer



Photo by Will Blagburn

News from the Tower

Following on from last month's news regarding our tenor bell, I am pleased to say the bell is repaired and in good running order.

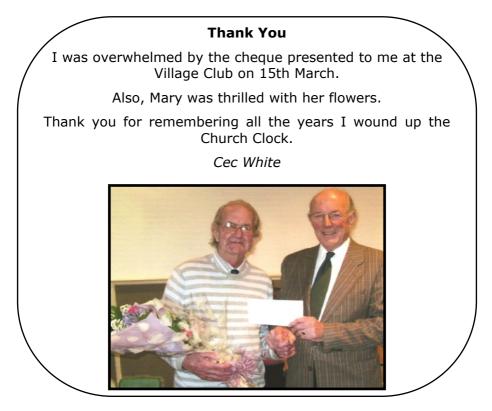
During the evening of 22nd February Simon, from Taylors of Loughborough – the Bell Foundry, came and supervised three of our ringers in investigating the problem. This was found to be a faulty bearing – which was duly replaced.

A lot of arduous work was involved and not completed until well past midnight!!

I would like to thank personally our three agile ringers – Bob Taylor, Rod Wheat and Martin Smith.

I am pleased to say the cost was only ± 357 – well down on Taylor's quotation.

Harry Bodenham – Tower Captain





Royal Wedding Celebrations

Friday 29th April 2011 5.30pm

Is there any interest in a village celebration of the Royal Wedding? How about cocktails and canapés? It's your Club - let us know how (or if) you'd like to celebrate this special day.

Answers on a postcard please to Lucy Morris...

01926 852992 / lucyandphil@metronet.co.uk



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Bees

The decline of the honey bee has dominated headlines for the last few years. Hives were hit by a strange condition known as Colony Collapse Disorder and numbers were estimated to have halved in 20 years. The warnings have had such an effect that the number of people keeping bees in the U.K. has doubled since 2007 and most are keeping more hives.

Bees have been around for 110 million years or so, but it was only a couple of thousand years ago that we started to grasp their potential for helping humans. The ancient Mayans were among the first, harnessing the stingless Middle American honey bee for agriculture. Their shamans revered the creatures, believing that each one had a soul.

The Nobel laureate Karl von Frisch (1886-1982) dedicated his life to deciphering how honey bees communicate. He also found that bees can count to five, and trained them to visit feeding stations at specific periods of the day. Bees, he found, have a memory for time and space, using landmarks such as trees, rock formations or barns to help guide themselves. This system – and the ability to count – is employed when deciding on where to build a new hive. Scouts seek out various options, then propose a vote: 15 is the crucial number for a quorum.

Bees also rely heavily on scent to perform daily activities. A worker bee's head has two antennae loaded with 3,000 sensory organs. Its ability to distinguish more than 170 odours in the wild is vital for smelling nectar, pollen, water, tree resin and pheromones.

Bees not only see flowers in different colours from those we see, but also see ultra-violet light patterns, invisible to us, at the centre of the flower that are a different colour from the rest of the flower. From a bee's-eye-view, the UV colours and patterns in a flower's petals dramatically announce the flower's stash of nectar and pollen. These UV patterns serve as a landing zone, guiding the bees to the nectar source.



A Dandelion in natural and UV light

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3-PARISH SPOTLIGHT (Ashow-Leek Wootton-Stoneleigh) (See www.a-lw-s.org.uk for up-to-date service details.)

Lent has been a special time – and it's still going. So many opportunities to deepen our fellowship with God and one another as we prepare ourselves for the commemoration and celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Please do join in our Sunday series on the Bible, our Saturday morning breakfasts looking at themes from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, our Thursday morning communion services and Lent Lunches – and then the special events for Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday sees members of all three parishes joining at Leek Wootton Village Hall for our Agapé meal which includes an informal service of Holy Communion. If you would like to join us, please inform the vicar (e-mail preferably or phone) so that numbers for catering can be judged.

On that first Good Friday, Jesus was crucified at 9 in the morning, and hung and suffered for six hours before he died at 3 in the afternoon. To remember this time, our events begin with an All Age Worship service at Leek Wootton at 9am, lasting about half an hour. We then invite you to walk with us from All Saints to St John's Kenilworth where we will join the official Churches Together Walk of Witness. Next stop is in Talisman Square where an open-air service is held before we continue to Abbey End where the large processional cross is planted at the corner of Abbey Fields. By now, the time will be around 11.45. From 12 noon, you are invited to begin an interactive Way of the Cross at Stoneleigh Churchyard and Church. You can start and leave at any time over the next three hours, but there will be special opportunities to gather in the church for guided devotions at 12.45 and 1.45 (each for 15 minutes) and then at 2.30 for the final half hour.

On Easter Eve, Stoneleigh Church will be open from 3pm to admire the decoration of the church for Easter and to enjoy refreshments together before we begin our anticipation of Easter Day with the Service of Light – a peaceful and moving service when the Paschal Candle is lit. This will happen in all three churches: Stoneleigh at 5pm, Ashow at 6.30pm and Leek Wootton at 8pm.

And then we rejoice on Easter Morning!

LOOK WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHURCHES DURING LENT AND EASTER!

THURSDAYS 17th, 24th and 31st March and 7th and 14th April - 11.30 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION** at Stoneleigh, followed at 12.00 noon by **LENT LUNCHES**





SATURDAYS 12th, 19th and 26th March and 2nd and 9th April 9.15 am - 11.15 am LENT BREAKFASTS in Stoneleigh Village Hall

THURSDAY 21st April

Maundy Thursday - 7.00 P.M. **AGAPÉ MEAL** at Leek Wootton Village Hall. (Please pre-book for catering purposes)

EASTER SATURDAY 23rd April 3.00 - 4.30 p.m. **Stoneleigh Church open for tea** for everyone to enjoy the Easter Flowers

For details of our Lent and Easter Services please see back page

PLEASE DO COME AND JOIN IN ON ANY OF THESE DATES OR IN THE EASTER SERVICES EVERYONE WILL BE MOST WELCOME

Priest in Charge: The Reverend Jim Perryman Phone 01926 850610 or email: jim@a-lw-s.org.uk Ashow Contact: Stephen Harvey 01926 852543 Stoneleigh Contact: Ian Smith 01926 853238. To arrange a wedding or a funeral please contact the Vicar, For any other matter of parish administration please contact Sue Wareham on 02476 415506, Email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk http://www.a-lw-s.org.uk

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF



THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, ASHOW and ST MARY THE VIRGIN STONELEIGH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2011



	Ashow	Stoneleigh
Sunday 3 rd Mothering Sunday	9.30 a.m. Village Service	11.00 a.m. All Age Worship
Thursday 7 th	11.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh followed at 12.00 noon by Lent Lunch	
Sunday 10 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Thursday 14 th	11.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh followed at 12.00 noon by Lent Lunch	
Sunday 17 th Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m. Village Service	11.00 a.m. All Age Worship
Thursday 21 st Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m. Agape Meal at Leek Wootton Village Hall (Please pre-book for catering purposes)	
Friday 22 nd Good Friday	12.00 noon – 3.00 p.m. Interactive journey along the Way of the Cross at Stoneleigh, in the churchyard and church. Come and go throughout this time, but the final half an hour will be a devotional service in church.	
Saturday 23 rd Easter Eve	6.30 p.m. Service of Light	5.00 p.m. Service of Light
Sunday 24 th Easter Day	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	10.30 a.m. Coffee in church 10.45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion and children's activities

FROM THE REGISTERS

Thursday 3rd February

Funeral of Doreen Jackson at Stoneleigh, followed by burial in churchyard.

Saturday 19th March

Wedding Blessing at Stoneleigh, Paul Oliver and Sarah Burrows.

Sunday 20th March Holy Baptism of Tyler Michael Rose.