

# STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



OCTOBER  
2016

Dear All,

After living here in Stoneleigh for over 17 years, some of you will already know that we are moving (or have moved) to Pershore on 28th September.

We are very sorry to be leaving Stoneleigh after all this time, as we have made a lot of wonderful friends here. We have immensely enjoyed the area, the village, and the various local groups and organisations.

However, tempus has certainly fugit'ed and we are of much more archaeological interest than we were when we first arrived - and (sadly) we now have no dogs to tow us about the place either. So the promise of no steep steps, front or rear, plus the prospect of a shortish amble into town for our shopping, has proved to be much more of a draw than we would ever have thought possible 17 years ago!

We would especially like to thank everyone for their friendship, kindness, and help, whilst we have been here. There are far too many people to list individually, but as well as our close friends (you know who you are – particularly those dreadfully noisy bods, the bellringers), we will also greatly miss the almshouse residents, folk from the church, the members of our two Stoneleigh choirs, the WI, the denizens of the village club, the S&A News producers and deliverers, all of our parish council members, StAG members, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, the many talented people running numerous other village groups, and all the stalwarts who were involved with the airport and Gateway inquiries (not forgetting Bertie MacKay).

So thank you all very much, it has been a pleasure to know you and to work closely with many of you. We wish you all, and Stoneleigh, good luck for the future.

**Jill & Rod Wheat**

P.s – Before going, I've given the church clock a damn good talking to (it still misses Cec), so I hope it behaves itself from now on.

*You will both be missed and Stoneleigh wishes you a happy time in Pershore and thanks you for your successful campaigns against the airport and Gateway.*

***Editor***

**Film Night**  
**Friday 11th November**  
**Stoneleigh Village Hall**  
**6.45 for 7pm**



Make yourself feel at home, bring your own wine, cushions or a comfy chair.

Coffee and Cake in the interval

This month we are showing '**Eddie the Eagle**' described as a film with a feel good factor.

Tickets : £3.00,  
to cover refreshments and room hire, from Parish Office or to reserve a place call 024 7641 5506 and pay on the door



The front cover photo was kindly taken and supplied by Derek Robinson.

It was taken on 29 October 2008 and there is snow on the ground!!



Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour

on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

# Living Stones

Although St Mary the Virgin church in Stoneleigh is temporarily a building site, the local church is nevertheless alive and well, worshipping elsewhere in the village hall, the club and with our friends at Ashow and reaching out into the community with the love of Jesus which is always our mission. I, for one, welcome the opportunities to be even more outside our four walls and think creatively outside the box pews. The present situation reminds me of the Bible verse which describes the church as living stones. 1 Peter 2 verse 5 talks about the church, the people of God, being living stones being built together into a spiritual house.

I think we are all learning a lot in this process, not least some of the stonemasonry terms. **Repointing**, of course, is the process of renewing the pointing, which is the external part of mortar joints, in masonry construction. Over time, weathering and decay causes holes in between masonry bricks and stones, letting the water in thus causing damage over time. Being less technical and au fait with the skills and terms of stonemasonry, as I understand it, this is about refreshing the squidge that holds it all together to make it fit for purpose. For us living stones, the analogy follows. As the actual building is being worked on, one of the things we are discovering in a fresh way is what holds the church together. Not the building but the fellowship, the special sharing we have that comes in worshipping together and praying together. Before the days of the institution of church and the buildings we associate with that, people who loved and followed Jesus were church. Outside of our own buildings we are still church.

We have a technical term for the squidge which holds us all together and makes us fit for purpose. We still use the Greek as no English word adequately describes it: koinonia. Another Bible verse says that the whole world will be able to identify Christians because they see the love we have for one another. That's incredibly challenging for us mere mortals, especially in the middle of a stressful building project!... as living stones we also need repointing in the right direction, to Jesus the Living Stone, who binds us all together in unity and shows us the best way of being human.

Another specialist skill being carried out on the stonework is the term **defrazzing**. This is (I hope I've understood well enough) when the outside loose bits of the actual stones, again caused by weathering over time, are knocked off, leaving the sound part of the stone, again avoiding voids and crevices that hold water. When I first read this term, I thought it said "defrazzling" – to my mind a great term for shedding the "frazzle", the

overstretched busyness and stresses, which over time does us no good. I thought about how we need the edges knocked off us sometimes, especially as we learn to rub alongside one another; how we need smoothing over so that we don't harbour and hold on to unhelpful grudges or hurts, like the water in the stonework that stagnates or seeps in slowly causing damage. Let's say the "I" I added in to change the word defrazzing to defrazzling stands for love – the love of God changing us inside and out, on the surface and deep inside us, to love like Jesus.

God bless

**Reverend Sharon Goble**  
**Priest-in-Charge of Stoneleigh and Ashow**

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J.L.Huthwaite



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# STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB

*established 1856*

## EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

### BINGO

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> & alternate Wednesdays

### KNIT & NATTER

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> & alternate Wednesdays

### PUDDING NIGHT

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

8 HOMEMADE PUDDINGS TO TASTE

PICK THE WINNER

7.30 p.m Tasting begins at 8.00 p.m

### ORCHARD QUIZ

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

7.00 p.m

### HALLOWEEN NIGHT

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Due to popularity of the "GHOST WALK"

Numbers will have to be limited

Tickets will be available at the club

£4 per child to include children's Halloween tea,

Halloween fancy dress competition, and pumpkin competition

Jacket potatoes with fillings available later

## Community News

Now the building work is underway Stoneleigh Church is using different places to worship. August saw the start of our new worship pattern using the club and the village hall. People who attend say they welcome the opportunity to try something new and although logistically challenging at times, change can help us reflect.

In September we held our Harvest Festival service in the village hall followed by lunch - a fantastic spread as everyone brought a dish to share with others, and the puddings were delicious. Ian Bell from the Addington Fund, which is one of the charities we support, told us about the work they do to support the farming community.



You may well have found, if you have tried to access the church in the last few weeks, that the door is locked. Unfortunately we will be unable to offer the 'open access' we are all used to during the work because, as we said in the last report, we have handed the Church over to Crofts (the Contractors) for the term of the contract. As it is a building site it is their responsibility for keeping everyone safe.

However the contractor has agreed to us having 'escorted access'. A few nominated people have been instructed by the site foreman, Kevin, and they will be responsible for those whom they accompany.

We are really grateful to Crofts for this as it means Sharon still has a place to work and meet people. It will also enable us to continue to hold Midweek Communion services and Thursday Prayer. The Bell Ringers can still practise on a Thursday and ring on a Sunday morning. Our administrator, Jackie, will also be able to use the office but over this period visitors will need to make an appointment rather than just drop in. (See back page for Sharon and Jackie's contact details.)

As we reported last month, the contractors are skilled craftsmen and very keen to share their knowledge. We are planning with them an open day to share their skills with the community and talk about the project, the cost of which will be met by Heritage Lottery. This will all be done safely on the ground in one of their workshops and, as the church building will still not have open access, we hope to also create an opportunity to display the photographs of what is going on out of sight. This should be an interesting experience so please look out for further details in next month's magazine and on our notice board.

Part of the Heritage grant is to provide the church with a new website. The design

was funded in the application stage and now it is our turn to write all the content. Niki Molyneux is leading this part of the project but would appreciate any help if you have time and expertise to share. We are hoping this will go live by Christmas.

We are delighted that on Saturday 15th October Sheila Woolf is giving a talk entitled 'Jane Austen and Stoneleigh' to raise funds for the building. This is a Heritage Lottery sponsored event which means all the ticket money will go into our fund. See the advert on page 9 of the magazine for details.

## **Sarah Ballinger**

### **Stoneleigh Church Building News**

On 8th September the Contractors reported that works were progressing well and they were currently working to programme. However the order of works has changed in that all masonry work on the tower has to be concluded before scaffolding can be erected over the nave roof. The majority of the defrazzing and repointing (more fully described in Rev. Sharon's article) has been done leaving replacement of stonework which should be completed within a fortnight.

Scaffolding has been erected around the East end and along the North face to allow masonry work to start there and by the time this is distributed the interior "birdcage" scaffold will be up in the nave, all lights having been taken down to enable this to be done. Work on taking down the existing ceiling is planned to start in the week commencing 26th September with stripping the gutters and roof a month later.



I regret that, apart from one generous local donation, no more funds have been received so our shortfall is still in the region of £60,000 although we still wait to hear from a number of Trusts. The Architects are currently seeking quotes to see how much of the interior decoration we can achieve whilst the "birdcage" is up.

If anyone has any concerns, or anything that is praiseworthy, about the building works please contact me and not the workforce. I will then relay matters back through the Architects who are the only people authorised to issue changes to the contract. I visit the site every day.

**Ian Smith** - 01926 853238. [hexworthy@gmail.com](mailto:hexworthy@gmail.com)



## Jane Austen and Stoneleigh



2017 marks the bicentenary of the death of the famous novelist, Jane Austen.

Join us on

**Saturday 15th October 2016**

for a talk by Sheila Woolf on the importance of Stoneleigh in the life and writing of one of the world's favourite novelists.

**Place: Stoneleigh Village Hall,**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Cost: £10**

*The talk will be followed by a ploughman's supper.  
If desired, bring your own wine.*

**Mr Darcy will never seem the same again!**

*All proceeds to the Stoneleigh Church Restoration Fund.*

Tickets available from:

Sheila Woolf: 024 7641 8759 / [Shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk)

Janet Gibson: 024 7641 1772

Jackie Cubitt: [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)



## HS2 LATEST

HS2 continues to, well to be brief, continue.

This month the public was invited to the first half of the Parish Council meeting on 8th September. Representatives from Warwickshire County Council Highways and HS2 were in attendance. The items for presentation to the public included a discussion on the roads during the construction of HS2 around the area, amongst other matters, including a proposed roundabout to the A46 to replace the current slip road system (so it will be more like the Thickthorn interchange). The latter is proposed by WCC regardless of HS2 as the area infrastructure requires enhancement in the light of other proposals.

The timescales for the implementation of this as well as the construction timescale for HS2 are still not firmly defined, although the representatives from HS2 suggested that more work would be done on this after Royal Assent to the Hybrid Bill for HS2.

HS2 staff were urged to extend their collaboration with the community as there are many concerns which need to be discussed and , hopefully, resolved.

I think that the short answer to all of these matters is that they are works in progress by various parties, and time will show what outcomes there have been.

This month also saw the resignation of the Chief Executive of HS2, after having been in post for about 2 years. A true vote of confidence in this major infrastructure project, one might think. Perhaps the salary of about £750,000 is not enough to get by on? One view is that he is going before the truth over the cost and time overruns to the project become apparent.

Just another month in the life of this behemoth.....

**Martin Smith**

on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group

## Cancer Research U.K. Coffee Morning

The Kenilworth Committee will be holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 9th November 2016 from 10 a.m. to noon at Kenilworth Cricket Club, Warwick Road, Kenilworth, to raise money for Cancer Research.

The entry cost is £3 to include coffee/tea and biscuits.

There will also be stalls selling Christmas cards, 2017 Diaries, home-made cakes, jams, preserves, books, DVDs and CDs, and a raffle.

Please come and support this excellent cause and have an enjoyable morning.

***Pat Harvey.***

*Abbey House,*

*Ashow.*

*Tel 01926 852543.*



### PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

#### *Meetings*

The October Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at Ashow Village Club on Thursday 13th October 2016 at **7.00 p.m.** We have invited Ms Tracy Darke and Dave Barber from Warwick District Council and Adrian Hart and Mark Rider from Warwickshire County Council to attend the meeting to give a presentation on the effect the New Local Plan will have on our Parish.

At present it has not been confirmed that they are available.

**Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk**

## Stoneleigh History Society

Our October meeting has a particularly appropriate character: on Tuesday October 25th, St Crispin's Day, we shall have a talk by Vic Nock, local expert on arms and armour, who will be speaking about medieval archery. Any resemblance he might have to King Henry V is purely coincidental!

Before then, on October 15th, there will be a talk about the important connections between Jane Austen and Stoneleigh (see separate advert). This talk is to raise money for the church restoration fund.

Both events will be at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Also, this is a reminder of the event at Stoneleigh Abbey on Friday November 18th to mark the end of the Battle of the Somme. See page 13 for further details. We, along with members of the Earlsdon Research Group and Coventry's Spires Music, will participate in an evening of reflections upon that dreadful battle 100 years ago. Please contact me to confirm your attendance – no tickets will be issued but it is essential to reserve a place. The event will be in the chapel, beginning at 7.30pm, and is free.

Sheila Woolf 024 7641 8759 / [Shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk)

This month's edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News  
was compiled by Lisa Reay, who would like to thank all contributors.  
It was printed by Warwick Print.

The online colour version can be viewed at [www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk).

The November 2016 edition will be compiled by Sarah Ballinger  
[sarahjballinger@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjballinger@gmail.com)

**Copy deadline: 18th October 2016**

We prefer digital A5 copy, but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative.

Advertisements at £30 (full page A5) or £15 (half page) accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to S&A News policy.

Friday, 18 November saw the end of the Battle of the Somme, an offensive which had lasted for 141 day with the loss of close to 1,300,000 casualties from both sides of that conflict.

Exactly one hundred years later, the Stoneleigh History Society, together with the Earlsdon Research Group invite you to join us to reflect on a few national and local stories and events from that tragic period.

**.. AND THE DARK SOMME FLOWING**  
**From: 'A Farmer Remembers The Somme' by Vance Palmer**

**A Centenary Reflection in Words and Music**

**with guests Spires Music**

**in the Chapel at**  
**Stoneleigh Abbey**  
**on Friday, 18th November 2016**

The performance begins at 7.30pm and will be followed by refreshments and viewing of the Earlsdon and Stoneleigh 1914 - 1918 History Exhibitions

Admission free, but donations will be invited for the international charity, War Child (whose work provides safe havens for children in active war zones). See: [www.warchild.org.uk](http://www.warchild.org.uk)

**Prior booking essential.**

As numbers are limited, please contact to confirm places  
(details below).

Earlsdon: Avril Newey e-mail: [englishearth@avril.newey.plus.com](mailto:englishearth@avril.newey.plus.com)  
tel: 024 7667 7384

Stoneleigh: Sheila Woolf e-mail: [shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk)  
tel: 024 7641 8759

## STONELEIGH WI REPORT

The speaker at our meeting on 5th September was Meriel Acton. Her lively and interesting talk was entitled “The Life of a Crown Court Judge”. This we discovered was very misleading, as Meriel talked mainly about her own experience. She was widowed at the age of 28 and with two sons to bring up she had to find work. She started work in the Magistrates Court in Kidderminster as a court clerk and subsequently she became a magistrate herself. She also received specialist training so that she could sit as a magistrate in the Family Proceedings Court. She explained how the Family Proceedings Court works making decision about custody and finance after a relationship breaks. While talking she donned wig and gown. Always on the lookout for new experiences and opportunities Meriel has now opened a holistic salon in Kidderminster where she offers a full range of health and beauty treatments.

At the Craft Group meeting on Monday 12th October, Christine Green, recently seen on television, gave a demonstration of paper cutting, a new craft for members of the group. The group were amazed by her skill and by the variety of her design. On the following two Mondays, Craft Group member, Yvonne Brown, held a mosaic workshop.

The Book Club met on 13th September to discuss “A Place called Winter” by Patrick Gale and “The Traitor’s Story” by Kevin Wignell. There was a theatre outing on 9th September to see Heartbreak Production’s “Murder on the Terrace”.

On Wednesday 28th September there was a coach trip to the Wedgwood Museum in Stoke-on Trent . The museum tells the story of Josiah Wedgwood, his family and the company he founded. The Wedgwood Collection is one of the most important industrial collections in the world and is a unique record of over 250 years of British ceramic production. As well as the museum visit there was also a factory tour. The other essentials of a good outing were not forgotten and there was time for eating, and shopping.

The next village lunch will take place on Tuesday 4th October at the Village Hall. If you wish to reserve a place, please ring Liz Sykes on 024 7641 8301. On Tuesday 18th October the next Coffee Morning will take place at the Village Club.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd October. It will be an “Antiques Road Show” and members are invited to bring items for valuation.

**Rachel Gill**

*From the registers*

***Funerals***

***Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Dorothy Parkin –  
Interment of Remains at Stoneleigh***

On Tuesday 1 November there will be the opportunity to come to Stoneleigh Church and remember loved ones who have died. This year because of the ongoing building work we are adapting to our circumstances. Between 8pm and 9pm we will be ready to welcome you in the churchyard, and help you access the building safely via the Leigh Chapel. In the chancel, you will find a quiet space for unstructured prayer and reflection and the facility to light a candle. We will offer refreshments and the space to chat in the Leigh Chapel.

**Stoneleigh Church Autumn Working Party.**

By now many readers will have seen the progress of the contractors repairing stonework and undertaking roof works to the church building. We therefore hope to make an extra special effort from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, on Saturday 5th November 2016, to cut trim and tidy the grounds ready for Spring.

Hopefully both church and grounds will then look better than they have for many a year. A small effort now will pay dividends next year, so please come along to help, whether you be a regular churchgoer, or just attend for special events. We all share and enjoy this historic building and the peaceful grounds.

*Refreshments will be provided.* If you have your own hedge cutter, petrol chain saw, strimmer or other favourite tool please bring them along. To help with catering or any queries, please let me know if you can be there, [phone 024 76411 658], or leave a message. Thanks.

**Clive Watson**



**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF  
THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY,  
ASHOW  
and  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN,  
STONELEIGH**



***SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2016***

Sunday 2nd	10.00 a.m. United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
Sunday 9th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. All Age Worship at Stoneleigh Village Hall
Thursday 13th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service in the Leigh Chapel
Sunday 16th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion at Stoneleigh Club
Sunday 23rd	9.30 a.m. Village Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh Village Hall
Thursday 27th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 30th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am All Age Holy Communion at Stoneleigh Village Hall

***Contacts***

**Vicar:** Revd Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

**Churchwardens at Ashow:**

Stephen Harvey 01926 852543. Kate Jones, 01926 853511

**Deputy Church Wardens:**

David Holt 01926 859537. Robert Burdett 01926 852545

**Church Wardens at Stoneleigh:**

Ian Smith 01926 853238. Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256

**Deputy Church Wardens:**

Stephen Palmer 02475 014457. Richard Ashley 01926 427729

For Pastoral Care or to arrange a baptism, wedding or a funeral, contact  
Revd Sharon Goble.

For any other matter please contact the Parish Administrator,  
Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506

email: [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)

Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm