

Neighbourhood Café



All are very welcome to come along to the Hail Weston neighbourhood cafe which is held monthly at the Village Hall. Enjoy a piece of cake, warm drink and a friendly chat.

We also collect donations for a different charity every month and welcome suggestions for charities from neighbours.

The date of the next café is

Sunday 17th December at 3.30 - 5pm



If you don't receive emails about the cafe but would like to, please contact us at: hailwestonneighbourhoodcafe@gmail.com to ask to be put on to the updates list.

The HW Neighbourhood Cafe Team

THE VILLAGE HALL
is available for advance bookings:

Further information is available on the Village Hall website:
www.hailwestonvillagehall.co.uk

Contact: Dawn Isaac

Tel: 01480 581634

Email: dawn@dawn-isaac.com

Hire Rates: £10 ph Hail Weston Residents
£12 ph Non-Village Residents

Deposit: £20

Regular weekly bookings - 1 hour minimum

Friday and Saturday evening bookings - 5 hours minimum

All other bookings - 2 hours minimum

If you have news, articles or events for inclusion in the next issue, please contact Ruth. Publication deadline is 15th of each month (7.00pm)
Editor: Ruth Easom, 6 Barker Close (01480 217034) E-mail: rutheasom@gmail.com



ST NICOLAS' CHURCH, HAIL WESTON

December 2023

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector: Rev'd Nicki Bland **Tel:** 01480 869485
mobile: 07805078992
Email:
Parish: revlesnicki@gmail.com
Personal: lesleybland4@icloud.com

Churchwarden:

Mrs Elaine McCarthy **Tel:** 01480 474542

Village contact for St Nicolas' Church:

Mrs Jenny Holland **Tel:** 01480 475827



A message from the Rev'd Nicki Bland

Dear Friends,

Christmas is fast approaching and, in the days, and weeks before, there are plenty of opportunities to sing carols and Christmas songs.

There is a Benefice Advent Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December at All Saints, Little Staughton at 10.30 am and then on 17th December there is a Benefice Carol service at St. Andrew's, Great Staughton at 6.00 pm and then in all three churches there are All Age services on Christmas Eve afternoon. Midnight Mass and Christmas Day All Age Benefice Service are in Great Staughton, but everyone is invited. In addition, in Hail Weston, there is Carol singing around the village and a carol concert by the Mondays.

I think that Christmas carols are part of our lives, we hear them played in shops, we expect to hear the Salvation Army in the streets and hear carols at Children's nativity plays.

It is thought that there were carols as early as Saxon times, but the first carol to be recorded was written in the 13th century by an Italian, Friar Jacopone, called 'Il Presepio,' 'The Crib' and just as a piece of added information, Jacopone died on one Christmas Day.

By 14th century Franciscan Friars were writing happy little carols to accompany their Nativity plays. They were catchy and easy to dance to. The word 'carol' comes from an old French word meaning 'ring dance'. They were loved by the people because they could understand them as they were written in French not Latin, but the Pope in Rome disapproved. Because of this many of all the hundreds of carols written in the next 400 years were lost but some reached England in the 14th century and they were written in English. 'Deck the halls with boughs of holly' is an old Welch carol from the 16th century and 'Away in a Manger' which is still a firm favourite with children and adults alike, was thought to have been written by Martin Luther for his own child.

There was the English Collection of carols published in 1521, but it was the Victorian hymn writers who made carols part of Christmas in Church. There are so many carols that have a story behind them like Good King Wenceslas and Silent Night, but it is often the tunes that we love as we sing them over and over again anywhere and everywhere, in the bath, in the car and as we are preparing our meals that resonate with us.

I pray that as you sing these well-known tunes you will remember the baby Jesus who is the reason behind all these carols, and also the reason we celebrate Christmas. I also hope that I will see you at one or more of the services over Christmas so that we can join in the celebrations and the singing of carols together. I wish you all a blessed, safe, and joyful Christmas.

With love and prayers, Nicki Bland

Saturday, 16th December, Elaine will be playing Christmas carols and music in St Nicolas Church from 9-11am, 11.30am-1.30pm, 2-4pm, and 4.30-6.30pm, taking half hour breaks in between. **Please pop in and support her, join in the fun, sing, or just listen, and then pop a donation in the pot. We look forward to welcoming you and thank Elaine for this significant initiative.**

Friday, 26th January 2024 at 7 pm, we will be hosting a special evening with Mark Egerton, the author of 'Haunted Huntingdonshire', who will be talking about 'Royals and Regals' and mysteries involving where they lived in Huntingdonshire. Come and join – if you dare!

Anne-Marie Hamilton
Chairman, St Nicolas' Church Restoration Group

HAIL WESTON WILDLIFE AND GARDENING GROUP

Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm start
in the Village Hall, Hail Weston



Christmas Gardening Quiz



Quiz, cheese and wine and a Raffle
including £20 gardening gift voucher

Non-members £3.00

Please confirm attendance by 1st December
to Barbara Wallis on 214582

There will be no meeting in January



St Nicolas Church Restoration Group Update

I am delighted to tell you that, apart from some snagging, Phases 1 and 2 of St Nicolas Church Restoration are finally drawing to a close. Thank you to everyone for their patience during all the building work and, particularly, the immediate neighbours who have to contend with dirt, noise and parking problems at times. Thank you also for your tolerance whilst the churchyard was closed as it was designated a building site, with significant insurance implications should anyone have an accident there.

Whilst the contractors have done their best to make as little mess as possible, in reality, all building work inevitably creates dirt and dust and so the unsung heroes and heroines of this whole build have been the cleaning team, led by Elaine McCarthy who, once the contractor gave us permission to use the church at weekends, have gone in week after week, made everywhere look spick and span, knowing full well that they would face the same mess again next week. I cannot thank them enough.

I would also like to say a huge “Thank You” to the Garden Angels who have already put in countless hours, tidying up the churchyard as the contractors prepare to leave. The improvement is dramatic, and I am assured that there is much more work planned for the future.

Many people have contributed to bring this part of the project together and there are too many to name individually, but I want to reassure you that we do know who you are, and are extremely grateful to you. Thank you to Hail Weston PCC and the Parish Council for responding quickly to requests and, finally, I would like to thank everyone, past and present, who has been part of the Restoration Group itself. They have all worked tirelessly and it has been a real team effort. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

Sunday 3rd December at 3 p.m. There will be a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at St Nicolas Church for the new extension, followed by refreshments. We would love to see you there and be able to show you the wonderful new facilities that are now in place and will be available for use by the local community from now on.

An Organ Christmas Appeal

With quotes of £30,000+, a new pipe organ looked way out of our reach. However, we suddenly have the most fantastic opportunity to purchase a much-needed, affordable new organ which is small enough fit into the new area in front of the roodscreen, can play the full range of church music and, best of all, can be played by anyone who can play a piano, whilst producing the magnificent sound of a full-blown pipe organ. We have already raised nearly half the cost of £3685 (including VAT and delivery) and are now launching a **Christmas Organ Appeal** to raise the rest. Contd...

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

Please visit our new website on www.swhw.co.uk to find out more about the services.

All 10.30am services can be accessed via Zoom: ID 4184055563
Password 022067

Please note that Morning and Evening prayer is held on Zoom at 8.30am and 5.30pm, respectively, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 3rd	3.00pm	Service of celebration and thanksgiving for new extension followed by refreshments
Wed 6th	10.00am	Morning Prayer followed by coffee
Sun 10th	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sun 17th	3.00pm	Christmas Creative Communion
Sun 24th	5.00pm	Christmas Eve - Christingle

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 3th	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 10th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 17th	10.30am	Parish Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Carol Service
Sun 24th	3.00 pm	Christmas Eve - Christingle
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Mon 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day - All Age Communion
Sun 31st	10.30am	Benefice Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 3rd	10.30 am	Benefice Service with Advent carols
Sun 17th	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sun 24th	9.00am	All Age Communion
	4.00pm	Christmas Nativity Service with carols and puppets



The Mondays



The Mondays Choir will be rehearsing for our Christmas Concert!
For further details ring Elaine on 474542

Monday 4th December 7.30 - 9.00pm in Church

Monday 11th December Concert 7.30pm in Church

Monday 18th December Carol Singing 7 pm on the Green in Orchard Close.



The Mondays Singing Group will be leading Carol Singing

on the Green, Orchard Close
Hail Weston

at 7pm on Monday 18th December

**We will be collecting for The Salvation Army
For further details telephone 474542**

St Nicolas' Church 100 Club 2022/23 Draw Year

The winners of the November draw are:

1st prize	Ticket no 7	Rod Scuffle	£50
2nd prize	Ticket no 37	Brenda Hackett	£25
3rd prize	Ticket no 81	Reverend Judi Clarke	£10

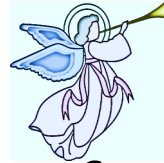
Congratulations to all the winners!



THE MONDAYS



Christmas Round the World—The Sequel!



Concert & Community Carol Sing



Come and join in all your favourite carols

Monday 11th December

at 7.30pm in

St. Nicolas' Church, Hail Weston.

Adults - £8.00 (includes a free mulled wine/soft drink and a mince pie)

Children under 16 - £2.00 (includes a free soft drink)

Refreshments during the interval

For Tickets: WhatsApp Elaine McCarthy or tel 474542/212772
or ask The Mondays

In aid of The Church Funds

Remembrance Poppy Display in St Nicholas' Church

Thank you to all who made the Poppy Display; those who made the poppies and those who helped tie them onto the netting. It truly is a spectacular display. We managed to get it in place for the Ukulele concert and everyone said how great it looked. It will hang in the church until Advent (beginning of December) so please, if you can, come along and see it. With the turmoil in the world it seems very appropriate this year and provides a focus to reflect upon the full meaning of Remembrance.

Mary Deacon