

ST. NICOLAS' CHURCH

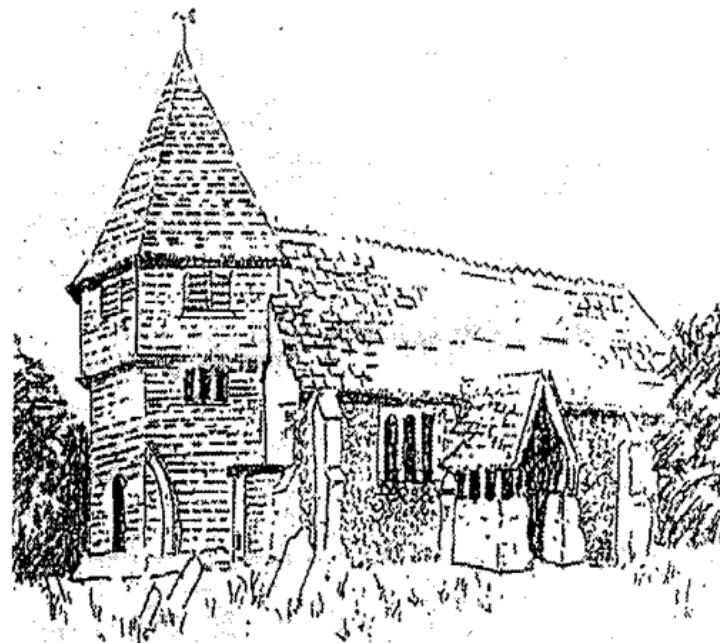
THANK YOU!

Over the past few weeks there have been several fundraising events in support of our church: The Raffle at the Quiz night - £345; The Mondays' Carol Concert - £455; The Organ Playing Marathon Appeal - £400.

Where does the money go?

Well, in most years we have to raise approximately £1500 per month to cover day to day running costs. This sum excludes the cost of unforeseen maintenance. Major jobs, such as renewing the electrical wiring, require the extra fundraising initiatives, such as those listed above to raise the several thousand of pounds that these works will cost, in a centuries old building. Every penny raised will be used to safeguard our heritage and ensure we keep the church alive for generations to come. Thank you for your support.

Barry Easom, PCC Treasurer



ST NICOLAS' CHURCH, HAIL WESTON

January 2024

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Churchwarden:

Mrs Elaine McCarthy Tel: 01480 474542

Village contact for St Nicolas' Church:

Mrs Jenny Holland Tel: 01480 475827

HAIL WESTON 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

A message from the Rev'd Nicki Bland

Dear Friends,

It has been very busy in St Nicolas Church in the last month with two services to celebrate the opening, one official, one of Thanksgiving, a wonderful wedding, the Mondays' Christmas concert, a funeral, a sponsored organ marathon and a fantastic Christingle as well as all the regular services.

We can't imagine how we coped without the facilities as they were in good use on every occasion. We are so grateful to all who have supported us and continue to support us in creating a space that can be widely used.

I hope Christmas brought you good cheer and good times. I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

On New Year's Eve we will just have one Benefice Service Communion at St Andrew's, Great Staughton, and the normal rhythm of services will begin the following week although there is the additional service on the 7th January which along with celebrating Epiphany and The Baptism of Christ we will be celebrating Plough Sunday at St Nicolas, Hail Weston. This is always led by Glenn Coiley, who is the minister for Rural Affairs in our Benefice, having taken it over from John Alford. Plough Sunday is always a well-attended service for farmers, young people and everyone else who enjoys the fat of the land. It is the service when we pray for our famers and for a good productive year. In the morning there will still be the 10.30 service which is a half an hour service with no communion. The idea is that afterwards we will get together for a cup of coffee or tea because now we can!

So, as we start a New Year, those who did not have such a good year can see it as a fresh start and those who had a good year can continue in the same way.

Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'
God bless you and keep you.

With love and prayers, Rev'd Nicki Bland



HAIL WESTON WILDLIFE AND GARDENING GROUP

Tuesday 6th February
Hail Weston Village Hall
7:30pm

All you need to know about Mulch!
with **Chris Field** from Field (Compost) Limited

All you need to know about mulch: How mulch is made, how often should it be used and benefits of peat-free mulch.

Annual membership is £7. Entry fee per meeting is £1 for members, £3 for non-members
(with a few exceptions depending on the event)

If you require any further information about the HWWGG please email Secretary Maggie Lakey on:
[tel maggs2@225771mgl.co.uk](mailto:maggs2@225771mgl.co.uk)
or telephone Chairman, Barbara Wallis on 214582

An Invitation to the Women of Hail Weston from

Great Staughton Women's Institute

to join them for the following event:

Tuesday 9th January

Music Quiz with Terry Rees

Monthly coffee mornings take place at the homes of members and/or lunch outings. These are open to WI members or non-members to attend. Ladies interested in going along to the above event (7.00pm) at the WI hall in Gt Staughton or those interested in the coffee mornings, please contact:

Barbara Wallis on 214582

EASYFUNDRAISING

Would you like to join St Nicolas Hail Weston's band of Easy Fund Raising supporters?

Over the past 20 months our band of supporters has grown to 17 and we have raised over £250 and at no cost to the supporters. This very welcome income stream comes by supporters downloading the easyfundraising app and then accessing their online suppliers via easyfundraising. The suppliers make the donation . Easy!

My thanks to the supporters for raising donations for **St Nicolas' Hail Weston** with #easyfundraising! So why don't you join the team, it's easy to sign up and completely FREE. 8,100 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - and remember it's at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stnicolashailweston/RQX47L/at/TSX8RX7z/RTND2/facebook/> (it may help if you view this newsletter on the Community web page—hailweston.org.uk – look under Amenities-Church-Newsletter)

Barry Easom—Treasurer HW Parochial Church Council

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 21st January 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.

CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY 2024

Please visit our website on www.swhw.co.uk to find out more about the services. In addition to the services listed below, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday there is Morning Prayer at 8.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.30pm via Zoom: ID 4184055563 Password 022067

Hail Weston St. Nicolas'

Wed 5th	10.00am	Morning Prayer followed by 10.30am Coffee
Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning Praise
	3.00pm	Plough Sunday
Sun 14th	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sun 21st	3.00pm	Creative Communion
Sun 28th	9.00am	Parish Communion

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 7th	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	10.30am	All Age Worship
Sun 14th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 21st	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 28th	10.30am	Parish Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 7th	9.0am	Parish Communion
Sun 21st	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sun 28th	4.00pm	Benefice Evensong

St Nicolas Church Restoration Group

It was lovely to officially celebrate the Re-Opening on the Wednesday, and Rededication on the following Sunday, of St Nicolas Church, with so many of you a couple of weeks ago, following the finish of Phase 2 of the restoration project.

Having seen the mess that inevitably arises when building work is carried out, I was amazed to see everywhere looking pristine, inside and outside, thanks to very many people who worked hard to restore St Nicolas and its churchyard to its former glory. Thank you all for your massive contribution, but particularly to the church cleaners who worked tirelessly to present us with a beautiful, spotless church for our celebrations, and The Garden Angels who made the churchyard look fabulous – complete with gorgeous spring flowers in the garden containers on either side of the north door entrance. I really did not think that it would be possible to get everywhere looking so good in such a short space of time, but it just goes to show that miracles really do happen!

A Date for Your diary - Friday, 26th January 2024, starting at 7 p.m. We have a very special event arranged with Mark Egerton, the local, well-known author of “Haunted Huntingdonshire” who is coming to give us an illustrated talk on ‘**Royals and Regals.**’ It features ghost stories from his book and interesting and quirky local history about very well-known historical figures, who all have ties with Huntingdonshire. These include Royals, along with other nationally known figures such as Oliver Cromwell and Samuel Pepys. It should be a good, spooky evening. Are you brave enough to come and join us?

I have asked Mark to bring copies to sell of his book “Haunted Huntingdonshire”. The books cost £24.99 each and are a really good read. I am amazed at the number of “unexplained incidents” that take place regularly in and around numerous locations in Huntingdonshire.

Finally, thanks to the massive generosity of Tony and Karen Larkins who have very kindly donated the beautiful new organ to St Nicolas Church, our original Christmas Appeal for a new organ has been changed to a Christmas Re-wiring Appeal. Elaine McCarthy decided to do a sponsored ‘organ-playing marathon’ for the Appeal and has raised an astonishing figure in the region of £400 towards it. Congratulations Elaine, and many

thanks for undertaking such a daunting challenge. Thank you also to everyone who has so generously sponsored Elaine. We are very grateful to you.

Phase 3 of the restoration – Heating and Lighting – is now underway. We have a great line up of fun and unusual events for 2024, but I will tell you more about them next time.

In the meantime, on behalf of St Nicolas Church Restoration Group, thank you all for your ongoing support, and we wish you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year and 2024.

Anne-Marie Hamilton
Chairman

St Nicolas' Church 100 Club 2022/23 Draw Year

The winners of the December draw are:

1 st prize	Ticket no 61	Cindy Couzens	£50
2 nd prize	Ticket no 69	Lin Baker	£25
3 rd prize	Ticket no 47	Allan Dyson	£10

Congratulations to all the winners!



THE MONDAYS



There will be no Mondays choir meetings during January.

If you would like to join The Mondays or would like further details please contact Elaine on 474542