

STAMBOURNE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2022



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STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Hopefully you have all been able to stay cool in the continuing hot weather. The latest meeting of the parish council took place on Thursday 21 July at the village hall. Our Braintree District Councillor, Richard van Dulken was present.

Pavilion - It is good to see the pavilion being used through the summer. Since the refurbishment it has become increasingly popular to use for events. If you would like to book the pavilion please contact me with the date. We ask for a minimum donation of £20 to use the pavilion and all proceeds are put back into maintaining it.

Playingfield - It continues to be well used, particularly through the summer holiday. Thank you to Michael Turner for continuing to cut the grass and keeping it tidy.

Highways - We are aware of areas where the tarmac has lifted, probably due to the hot

weather. Any highways issues can be reported to Essex County Council on www.essex.gov.uk/highways and follow the links.

Footpaths - Thank you to those of you who regularly use the footpaths and keep me advised of any problems. If you do come across an issue, please let me know, any photos you can take are always helpful.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 22 September at 7.30pm in the village hall. Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend.

Full minutes are available on the village website www.stambourne.com

Debbie Hilliard, Parish Clerk
Email: debbiehilliard614@gmail.com
Tel: 01440 785629

STAMBOURNE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WHAT'S ON

21st August - Anniversary Celebration of 180 years of Chapel: at 10:45am. Our speaker is Ray Rhodes. He is the author of *Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon* and *Yours, till Heaven: The Untold Love Story of Charles and Susie Spurgeon* both from Moody Publishers. He hails from [Grace Community Church of North Georgia](http://www.gracecommunitychurch.com), USA.

25th September - Harvest Celebration at 10:45, when surely all will be safely gathered, stored and processed as Harvest has come early again this year!

Stambourne Chapel Care still offers friendship, support through life changing situations and transport/collection services. Call Jill Holmes on 07883 423528

Adrian Burr, Minister, 01440 730211, 07983 656166, aburr@inbox.com

CHAPEL NEWS

Our August newsletter featured dark clouds gathering in the distance and sometimes we can feel that is what is happening. Keep praying for the light to burst through not that life becomes easier for us, but that the burden is lifted from those who are currently under heavy pressure, financially, under persecution, through war, through the difficulties of the effects of climate change, be that famine, fire or flood. Most in our country, though we may face changed circumstances, may have resources sufficient to last a while, but for everyone there comes a time when we have nowhere to turn to, and often that is the time we turn to prayer, whether we know who we pray to or not. At Chapel we intend to continue to provide the opportunity for people to just turn up on a Tuesday or Thursday morning and chat over a cuppa or pray, and on Tuesday evening the band practices and that is an opportunity to come and listen and reflect on what we see and hear.

It has been interesting to hear the media back tracking on things like President Putin's health and the progress of the Ukraine war, and we have to be continually reminded that truth is sometimes hard to find. We say we learn from our mistakes, but often history seems to repeat itself and we don't learn, but make bigger and more deadly mistakes. Climate change and war seem to have changed the world we live in.

Join me and the Chapel to pray for our world situation and all that is happening or if you would like our weekly prayer guide please let me know.
Every blessing, Adrian

ST. PETER & ST. THOMAS PARISH CHURCH

A big THANK YOU to those who came along to the cream teas on 16th July. We didn't have to worry about rain this time as a very warm and sunny afternoon was the order of the day! Also thank you to the small band of helpers who gave up their Saturday afternoon.

SERVICES AT STAMBOURNE FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:

Date	Time	Service	
7 th August	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Dave Brown
14 th August	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Liz and Rev. Caroline
28 th August	9:30 am	Baptism	Rev. Liz and Rev. Caroline
4 th September	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Nick Ellis
11 th September	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Liz and Rev. Caroline
2 nd October	9:30 am	Harvest Festival	Dave Brown
9 th October	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Caroline

Val Kerrison, Churchwarden

RECTOR'S RAMBLING

Earlier this year I went on a pilgrimage, known as St Cuthbert's Way, which stretches from Melrose Abbey in Scotland to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. It was a beautiful, challenging, inspiring 66 miles through some of the most beautiful countryside and sea I have ever seen. As great as that physical experience was, however, it was not as significant as the mental and emotional journey I was making at the same time. Time and space to reflect on my life, the past, the present and the future. I am of a certain age that plans for retirement are fast approaching, and I have certainly lived 'most' of my life already. Made choices, good and bad, had experiences, good and bad, and met hundreds of people that have shaped me (all good, obviously).

It seems like a good time for a review – not exactly out of Covid-times but learning a new way of socialising, working, having fun and being a priestly presence in the community. It seems like we are all rather unsettled. We are tentative in making plans, and it's not just Covid, it's everything! The economy, NHS queues, lack of political leadership, holiday travel chaos and everything else. The media is full of 'woke' and 'cancelled' and 'gender' issues – where can we find solid ground? Meaningful life? Learn to appreciate life and each other?

For me, the answer is easy as I am a firm believer in certain everlasting foundations – love, hope, faith (but the greatest of these is love) and my foundation is based on the bible, but especially the relationship I have with Jesus. I do believe many people would like to get away from all the nonsense in the media and start a journey to find Truth. Is that you? Wouldn't that be more interesting than the latest Netflix fantasy? Real life is so much more interesting and challenging than watching others live it on a screen. In the bible, Jesus says

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10 – what do you think that means? Living life to the full?

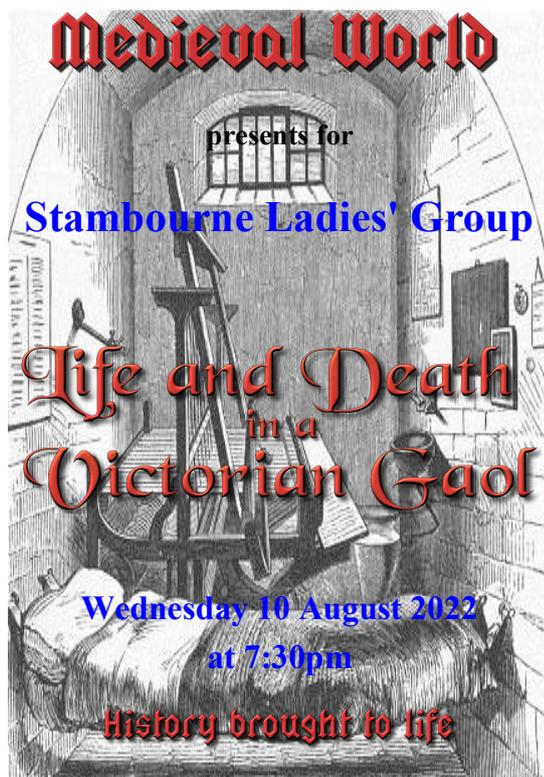
This autumn I am planning to run a few sessions talking about truth, justice, identity and relationships. If you are interested then let me know and come and share the conversation. No charge, no commitment, no previous knowledge or experience - just questions answered and stories shared. Let me know if you would like to come and we will look for a regular time and day that suits most people.

Blessings, Rev Liz

revlizpaxton@gmail.com 07932160594

STAMBOURNE LADIES GROUP

10th August - 7:00 for 7:30 at the Village Hall.
Experience life and death in a Victorian Gaol.



Open to all, £3 non-members.
Buffet provided courtesy of SLG.

14th September - 7:00 for 7:30 at the Village Hall.
REMINISCENCES OF A STANSTED CUSTOMS OFFICER with **RICHARD WRIGHT**



Free to members, £3 non-members.
Buffet provided courtesy of SLG.



VILLAGE HALL

Hiring Fees, including heating and electricity

Residents: £8.00 per hour

Non-residents: £10 per hour

To book contact Rosemary Horton on 01440 785339

Don't forget you can use the Village Hall for your celebrations or clubs. If it's not used there is a risk of this great amenity being lost.

STAINED GLASS CLASS



Make your own stained glass honeycomb!

Saturday 13th August 2022 | 10:00am - 3.00pm

Stambourne Village Hall, Church Road, Stambourne CO9 4NP

5 Hours of Tuition

All materials & designs provided

07707 507 880

£50

Teas and snacks included!



Ring to book your place!



Contributions for the next newsletter to Karen Crago at kcrago@btinternet.com or the post box at Tagley Farm by Friday 30th September, please.