

STAMBOURNE NEWSLETTER

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STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The last meeting of 2023 took place on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the village hall, Stambourne.

Pavilion – The pavilion has had many bookings and been well used throughout the summer and there have been many positive comments about its refurbishment. It will now be closed down for the winter and re-open in the Spring.

Highways – There have not been many issues to report in the area. However, please let me know if you see anything or report online to www.essex.gov.uk.

Meeting dates for 2023 are:

19 January 2023

23 March 2023

18 May 2023

20 July 2023

21 September 2023

22 November 2023 (Wednesday)

All are in the village hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise.

Full minutes etc are available on the village website at www.Stambourne.com.

Debbie Hilliard

Parish Clerk

Email: debbiehilliard614@gmail.com

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BONFIRE NIGHT



Once again the event was a huge success, the weather was kind and many people attended. It is impossible to put on an event of this kind without a huge team of volunteers who step forward every year to help. This includes teams of people on the gate and parking, barbecue (including Splinters for the use of their barbecue), bonfire, letting off the fireworks and clearing up afterwards. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help.

We are pleased to say that funds raised from this will be used to buy a defibrillator to be located at the village hall. Watch this space for more details about when this will happen. Once again, thank you everyone!



ST. PETER & ST. THOMAS PARISH CHURCH

Although we couldn't get into the Church on Remembrance Sunday we had a nice gathering at the War Memorial where we laid the wreaths and read out the names of the servicemen who died in the war. We then went to the Chapel for a lovely Remembrance Service with Adrian and the band followed by very welcomed refreshments. Thank you to Rev Liz and Adrian for ensuring Stambourne never forget those brave soldiers who fought for our village and country.

I visited the Church to see the progress of the building/repair work. Things are going to plan with stage one. Although some extra work needs to be done on the tower roof and inside the tower where we have the kitchen, the morning prayer service on 4th December will go ahead and so should the Carol service on 11th December. Any offers of help for the Carol Service whether it be arranging flowers/greenery, reading a lesson or help with refreshments will be greatly appreciated.

SERVICES AT STAMBOURNE FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:

Date	Time	Service	
4 th December	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Tia Stickland
11 th December	4:00 pm	CAROL SERVICE	Rev Liz Paxton
18 th December	No Service		
25 th December	CHRISTMAS Day - No Service in Stambourne but services elsewhere as follows:		
24 th December	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve	Toppesfield Church
24 th December	11:00 pm	Midnight Mass	Sible Hedingham Church
25 th December	10:00 am	Christmas Day	Castle Hedingham Church
25 th December	11:00 am	Christmas Day	Toppesfield Church
1 st January	Benefice Service at Little Yeldham Church		
8 th January	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev Liz Paxton
29 th January	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Tia Stickland
5 th February	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Tia Stickland
12 th February	9:30	Holy Communion	Rev Liz Paxton

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the Christmas services.

Val Kerrison, Churchwarden
Email: valeriekerrison@outlook.com
Tel: 01440 785752 or 07879 816362



RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

I wonder if you have a favourite Christmas advert this year? What about Buddy the Elf at Asda? Or the slightly 'risqué' one from Aldi with Kevin the carrot? What about the John Lewis one with dad skateboarding and the arrival of a foster child? The one that really tugs my heartstrings is the little Robin 'coming home' for Christmas in the Waitrose ad.

Christmas adverts tend to fall into two main categories. There are the ones which give a faintly veiled message that if you shop with them, you will be able to create the perfect family Christmas. Some are humorous, some are heart-warming, some have no subtlety at all – but however they are done, they are saying the same thing. You get a string of images of couples and families eating food, opening gifts and keeping other Christmas traditions with things you can buy from the shop in question.

Then there are the other Christmas adverts that tell a story instead, and these are the ones I love. The adverts I mentioned above are possibly the best of that bunch for 2022. These adverts are still trying to sell you stuff, but not by showing you all the products they have to create a perfect Christmas – rather they are showing you that they “get” what Christmas is about. They understand Christmas and you can go to them to help you capture that Christmas essence for yourself.

At this point, if I were a different sort of vicar, I would get all curmudgeonly about the distinct lack of the nativity in these stories! But there is a good Christian message at the heart of these adverts: that Christmas is all about love.

In our Christmas story, we see many of these things. A God who came on a quest to the world, offering love and connection. A God who built a friendship between God and humanity, and gave himself so we might be saved. A God who by God's love and goodness transforms us so that we might be people who share God's love in the world. And it all started at Christmas with a baby...

Love, connection, reconciliation, self-giving, transformation – these Christmas adverts do “get” what Christmas is all about. Their only mistake is knowing where to go to find it. Because I promise you, that much as I love Marks and Spencer's, these are not things we can pop in a shopping basket.

Love is a gift of God. You don't have to buy it – you are only asked to share it. So this Christmas, why not take a little time to receive the love of God. And then pass that on to others. Because that is what Christmas is really about! Do join us as we celebrate this on December 11th at the Carol Service at 4pm in St Peter and St Thomas' Church. Come home to the whole reason for the season and share the love of Christ with us this Christmas.



On another note, unfortunately we are all thinking about finances at this time of year. I wanted to make you all aware of the work that has been going on at St Peter and St Thomas. I am sure you will have seen the scaffolding. What started out as a relatively minor repair has uncovered significant damage and costs of around £100,000. Please do consider a donation to the church building fund as part of your generosity this Christmas.

With every blessing. Rev Liz

STAMBOURNE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHAPEL NEWS

Over the last few months we have seen little world news. Everything has been dominated by local politics and sports! But there have been some major events from volcanoes (48 currently active!, Indonesia, Russia and Solomon Islands most recently) and earthquakes (Turkey, Solomon Islands, Indonesia). There are many wars still raging and a lot of terrorism still happening in so many countries. And then we have revelations about the behaviour of people in public life which leads us to have concern about those who are not in the public eye! Over the last few months I have been reading through the Old Testament again and in those historical books we see exactly the same behaviour, but of course with less sophisticated means at their disposal. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that "there is nothing new under the sun" and when it comes to the way we treat each other and the world then that is really true. Everything we have seen, both in the natural world and in human behaviour has, despite our best efforts, all happened before, and will happen again!

But one thing that does seem to have been under the radar for a long time and now is coming to the forefront is the willingness of people to make up their own mind what is the truth and however farfetched and counter to experiential or historical evidence, these views are expounded and treated as if they have credibility.

There is a saying about learning from our mistakes, and probably one of the biggest mistakes we can ever make is to not learn from realising that our own version of the truth is rarely the correct one. If we haven't done our research, sought out experiential and historical evidence and researched the backgrounds of those views we are hearing, then we are unlikely to reach a good

conclusion. Indeed we have seen that with some of our own countries history where particular contributions to the greatness, and also the mistakes, of our nation have been whitewashed out and forgotten.

That is why those who believe in God understand that there is only one truth and we are unlikely to know it until the day when we can be with Him, when we depart from this world. As Solomon, author of Ecclesiastes says, everything is nonsense. When we look at the bigger picture of the world we realise that we are just very small cogs in a very large machine, and, as many politicians find out really quickly, we don't have control of everything or even the simple things around us. Recently a friend went, with 900 others, on what was supposed to be an enjoyable cruise, but it appears that those responsible for the ship decided that it was OK to sail into a force 10 gale and, several injuries, breakages and bruised bodies later, the captain and its owners discovered that they are not in control!! We are thankful everyone came home!

Every farmer knows the truth of this, and we all can come to realise our place in this world and consequently learn to love one another and care for one another, just as God does, and rejoice in our experiences of life.

I hope we can all enjoy Christmas - the truth? It is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus - God's son! How do I know? Well, I have done my research - I have checked out the history books of the day, I have checked out what others have said, I have checked out all I can and come to the conclusion that it only makes sense if this is true. I hope this year we can all come to know this truth!

Have a lovely Christmas celebration and we look forward to sharing in 2023!

God bless, Adrian

EVENTS

18th December at 4pm - Christmas Carols by Candlelight with mulled wine (non-alcoholic!) and mince pies!

25th December at 9:30am - Christmas Day Celebration

1st January at 10:45am - New Year Dedication Service



Each Week

The Chapel is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings; 10am-12, as a **Warm Space** and a place to chat over a cuppa.

The third Thursday of the month is when our **Outings Group** meets to discuss what outings people would like to go on. We have several people going to the Christmas Concert at the Arts centre in Haverhill on 4th December and to the Pantomime on 17th December. If you would like to join us please contact Jill Holmes on 07883 423528 or email: holmesjill30@gmail.com

Tuesday evenings we have **band practice** at 7:30pm - all are welcome to come along.

Alternate Tuesdays **Silver Link** meet in the Chapel

Every Wednesday 10-2pm we have our **Wednesday Club** where a group of people with learning difficulties come together to share activities.

Wednesdays at 2pm we have our **Better Balance Class** where we seek to do some appropriate exercise to help with core strength and balance. This is tailored around the needs and abilities of those who attend, so we never need to feel over stretched or over active!

Sundays at 10:45am we come together to share in our **Sunday Service** of worship. All are welcome!

Stambourne Chapel is a registered place for weddings, and offers Christenings and baptisms, as well as providing a place to celebrate the life of a loved one and provides a last resting place where they can be freely visited.

Contacts:

Minister: Adrian Burr, 07983 656166

email: aburr@inbox.com

Secretary: Margaret Mead, 07561 283587

email: margaretannmead@gmail.com

Stambourne Chapel Care

This group of volunteers supports people of all ages through life changing situations whether that is relationships, births and deaths, legal situations, or care requirements. We provide support by shopping, getting medication, transport and by coming for a chat and cuppa! We will provide transport to activities such as Silver Link or community events, to doctors and hospital visits, or even solicitors and banks! Our aim is to share the burden of a situation and make sure the right professional help is found where it is beyond our means. Call Jill Holmes to refer someone, or even yourself and we will do what we can to help. phone: 07883 423528, email: holmesjill30@gmail.com

STAMBOURNE NEWSLETTER



Contributions for the next newsletter to Karen Crago at kcrago@btinternet.com or the post box at Tagley Farm by Thursday 26th January, please

STAMBOURNE LADIES GROUP

The SLG Christmas Dinner will be at the White Horse in Ridgewell on Thursday 15th December 2022.



The first meeting of 2023 will be on 8th February at the village hall when we look forward to seeing current members and welcoming new ones.

Contact Vicky on 07908 099 904 or Lorna on 07980 922 636 for more details

KNIT AND NATTER CLUB



When: Every other Thursday — 5pm – 7pm
Dates for next meet-ups: **8th December**,
22nd December, 12th January 2023, 26th January

Where: **The Green Man**, 3 Church Lane, Toppesfield
CO9 4DR

Contact Anna on 07944 696 527 for more details.

Contact Lara on 07471 105210

*Women's
Workout*

Low impact, women's only fitness class. Improving strength, flexibility, balance and core. Suitable for any ages, and ability, exercise seated or standing.

Tuesday 6pm Stambourne Village Hall
Please book in advance
£6 pay as you go

VILLAGE HALL

Don't forget the hall is for hire. £8 an hour for residents, £10 for non-residents.

There is also a table tennis table



and carpet bowls is available

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Prize for the winning table

Saturday 10th December

Arrive at 7 pm for 7:30 pm start

£10 a head (including food)

Chicken curry (or a veggie option) with jacket potato
Christmas pudding and cream
Bring your own drink and glass



Ring Cath on **01440 785678** to book a table



**CATH'S FRESH PINE
CHRISTMAS WREATHS**

Available now!

Free delivery

**To order phone
01440 785678**





Christmas Craft Market

Saturday 17th December

**STAMBOURNE VILLAGE
HALL**

**LOCAL AUTHOR, CARDS AND
STATIONERY, POTTERY,
JEWELLERY, USBORNE
BOOKS, DECORATIONS,
MEMORY BOXES, CUSHIONS,
UNIQUE GIFTS, CAKES,
PIES, PASTRIES & MORE!**

10AM - 2PM

CHURCH ROAD, CO9 4NP

For more information please call Coral Fordham
on 07876553332

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