

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For details of Parish Church events, please see page 5

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 6th: Parish Hall, 7.30pm. WI Meeting (Room 101)

Tuesday 12th: Parish Hall, 7.30pm. Garden Club AGM.

Wednesday 20th: Arley Hall, Friends of Arley AGM and speaker.

Thursday 21st: Antrobus Arms, 12.30pm. Ladies' lunch.

Thursday 21st: Parish Hall, 7.00pm. Heritage Society Fun Quiz and Hot Pot Supper

Thursday 21st: Cock@Budworth, 8pm. Cricket Club AGM.

MARCH

Saturday 2nd: Parish Church, 9.00—11.00am. Coffee Morning to launch Church Teas season.



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BUDWORTH BULLETIN

February 2019

Great Budworth Heritage Society
presents



and Hot Pot Supper

Thursday 21st February
Parish Hall

7.00pm for 7.30pm prompt start

Admission: £10 per person
includes a hot pot supper
(or vegetarian alternative)
Bar

Teams of no more than SIX

For tickets & further information contact:

Richard Elias on 01606 892141

Proceeds towards the refurbishment of the
Lower Pump House.



The February meeting, on Wednesday 6th, is a Members' Evening and the theme is Room 101. 'Room 101' was the title of a BBC comedy show in which guests were invited to discuss their pet hates and, in doing so, try to persuade the host to consign those hates to oblivion in Room 101.



The programme's title was, of course, inspired by the torture room in George Orwell's novel, '1984'. Over the next month, have a think about what really annoys you - and come and share it with everyone at the February meeting!

Church Teas and Books 2019

Yes, get your teams lined up, it's that time of year again! Church Teas, a major fundraiser for the upkeep of our church in Great Budworth, will commence on Easter Day, 21st April. Maggie and Margaret invite you to join them for a coffee morning to set the rota for this season's Church Teas. Make a note of the date:

Saturday 2nd March, 9.00am to 11.00am, in church



If you haven't heard of Church Teas and would like to know more, please phone either Margaret on 07732 324001 or Maggie on 01565 777262.

Don't worry if it's just you: we will find a team who need extra help.

If you can't make it to the coffee morning, but have a date/dates in mind, please just give us a call.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you at the coffee morning.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everyone has settled back into the New Year at school and we particularly welcome some new pupils who have joined us and welcome back both Mrs Hayward and Mrs Hughes from their maternity leave.

The children are busy starting some new topics for the term. In Class 1, their topic is "We're going on a Bear Hunt". They will be using the well-known children's book in literacy as well as exploring where bears live in the world and the differences between sun bears and panda bears. Class 2 are focussing on Famous People, in particular, Christopher Columbus, Elizabeth I, Beethoven and Henry Moore. They will be looking at their biographies and thinking about explorers, monarchs, composers and sculptors and what they did that made them famous.

Class 3 are excited about their forthcoming trip to the Liverpool Museum as part of their topic on the Ancient Egyptians. They will be taking part in workshops and be involved in a real mummification! Class 4's topic is Antarctica, with a particular focus on the explorer Ernest Shackleton. They are using this topic in literacy, history, geography, science and art and have already produced some superb artwork which they recently showed to parents in a Sharing Assembly.

As always, if you have any books, pictures or artefacts that you think might be of interest to the children that relate to these topics, please do get in touch with the school. The children love to bring these topics to life and we are fortunate that the teachers are so great at inspiring their love of learning. This ties in well with our school motto "By God's grace, we learn to love and love to learn".



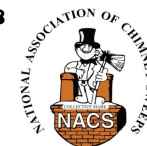
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FRIENDS OF ARLEY

DO you have a passion for Arley? Maybe your New Year Resolution was to volunteer or make a difference to your local community.

Whatever the reason, Friends of Arley is a great organisation to join and offers you many benefits over the year, including entry to the Arley Garden Festival and the Arley Soirée, a party on the garden lawns.

The group organises exclusive talks and social gatherings at Arley Hall as well as excursions and visits to various places of interest.

All these events also raise funds that are ploughed back into heritage projects on the Arley estate, such as repairing some of the 18th century walls in the garden, restoring paintings in the hall and refurbishing the oak shutters in our beloved library.



So not only will you enjoy being a member of Friends of Arley, you will also feel good knowing that you have contributed to the ongoing success of the hall and gardens.

To find out more of the benefits of becoming a member and to join, go to www.arleyhallandgardens.com/friends-arley, call Elaine Quick on 0161 980 3500, or email: friends@arleyhallandgardens.com



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Journey Into Light

An exhibition of prisoners' artwork will be on display at the parish church from 25th March to the 8th April.

The aim of the exhibition, titled *Journey into Light*, is to demonstrate to visitors that behind every prisoner's conviction and sentence is a personal story of love, hope and loss.

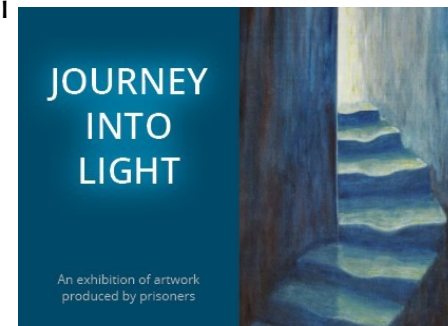
The exhibition is made up of more than 50 individual pieces of art produced by prisoners from HMP Styal and HMP Thorn Cross, Cheshire.

Debbie Dalby, Director of Social Responsibility at the Diocese of Chester, says: "We want people to view the exhibition and leave with a greater sense of empathy and awareness of prisoner experience. There is life beyond prison and we want to celebrate renewal and restoration and the hope of a brighter, more optimistic future."

"By seeing the creativity of prisoners and hearing their stories, people will be able to better understand some of the choices, mistakes and circumstances that they have faced in their lives."

The Diocese of Chester has been working with prison chaplains from HMS Styal and HMS Thorn Cross, who have worked with prisoners to produce the pieces of art. The exhibits differ in style from large acrylic paintings to abstract landscapes, and self-portraits.

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Peter Forster, says: "Prisoners are often viewed as 'the other' yet they live in our midst, are a part of our communities, and contribute to our societies. The Bible has much to say about the plight of prisoners and the Christian faith recognises that every person is made in the image of God and is valued despite our individual mistakes and regrets. This exhibition allows us the opportunity to understand better the lived experiences of prisoners in Cheshire."



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The last Parish Council meeting was held 7th January. The key agenda items were:

- Cheshire East have completed the road repairs to Westage Lane. The work to lay mesh and introduce a new fence is now due to be finalised by the 25th January.
- A meeting with the Parish Council and Parish Hall Committee is currently being arranged to discuss a new working agreement. Parish Councillors are grateful for the work undertaken by the Parish Hall Committee (PHC) and look forward to working with members of the PHC under the new agreement.
- The Great Budworth Website has been redesigned and updated and we encourage all residents to take some time to visit the site and provide any useful or interesting posts. You'll find it at www.greatbudworth.com.
- Additional quotes are being obtained for work to the lower pump house. It was agreed that the large yew tree will not be removed, but the large oak tree limb that extends over the A559 will be removed.
- A contractor is to be appointed to undertake work to the Lime Trees outside Noah's Ark cottage.
- Concern has been raised at damage caused to grass verges outside properties opposite the Parish field. The Parish Council resolved to ask event organisers using the field to request that visitors/guests using the field for parking give consideration to neighbours.



Project updates are as follows:

The measures currently employed to manage parking in the centre of the village are proving unsuccessful. Alternative options are still being considered.

We would like to welcome Gill Ayres, our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Gill replaces Rachel Ollier, who stepped down to devote time to her husband's new business. Councillors expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Rachel for all that she had done in her relatively short time (18 months) in the role.

We would also like to welcome John Travis, of Westage Lane, our new member of the Parish Council. John was co-opted onto the Council as a result of the vacancy that arose following the departure of Marie Kershaw.

We all wish Hilary Brudenell well as she continues her treatment.



LADIES' LUNCH

February's lunch is on Thursday 21st at 12.30pm at the **Antrobus Arms**. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Hazel on (01606) 891908 for further information.

Great Budworth Cricket Club

will hold its

Annual General Meeting

on

Thursday 21st February at 8pm

at

The Cock@Budworth

We hope that all players and members will attend and invite anyone interested in playing to join us.

Charity Night

featuring **The Midnight Cats**
Sunday 30th March

Witton Albion FC, Wincham

8 till late

Tickets: £10 (+raffle, food, disco)



Contact: Katy or Glyn on 07533 432573
or 07533 478030 for tickets



The Cock @ Budworth

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To enquire about reserving our restaurant for a function or to book a table please ring 01606 891287. Our team will be pleased to help you.

A Personal Message from the Vicar

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter, and with even greater thankfulness that I am able to wish all readers a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year!

Since my heart attack in July it's been something of a 'long and winding road', culminating in heart bypass surgery in November, from which I'm still recovering. I hope to be back at work in mid-January, though a plethora of people, from the Bishop down, have cautioned me against over-doing it on my return! Their advice, concern and support mean a great deal to me – and I very much want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their love, support, prayers, gifts and cards over these last six months. Your response has been so overwhelming that I'm almost lost for words! Special thanks must go to the Churchwardens Margaret and Pauline, Christina, Chris and Janet, Jenny and a number of other people, including retired clergy, who have worked so hard during my rather protracted absence – I'm sure everyone has really appreciated their dedication and commitment.

Over this period I've been seen in the Accident and Emergency Departments of four hospitals: Manchester Royal Infirmary, Leighton, Stoke and Warrington – and have now had more experience of the NHS than I would ever have imagined or wanted!

Along the way I've experienced some of the most technologically advanced health care procedures in the world, as well as something of the incredible skill and care of NHS professionals, from consultants and nurses to hospital porters and ambulance crew. At various times I've also been the grateful recipient of the 'kindness of strangers', such as the young woman in Warrington A&E Department who left her poorly mother to get me some water to drink when I was at a very low ebb and waiting on a trolley in the corridor of the hospital – an incredibly moving and humbling experience which brings tears to my eyes even as I think about it, and I am not, as you know, an especially emotional person!

At one point I was asked whether or not, as a result of my experience, I had had any significant spiritual experiences, or 'enlightenment' of any kind. I can only speak for myself of course, but I'm sure that anyone who has experienced major surgery, with its attendant risks, will have come to their own conclusions about the possibility of death and its aftermath. On several occasions in hospital I was asked, in sometimes roundabout ways, about my beliefs and I was able to answer honestly in terms of my own personal faith. Travelling in the ambulance following my heart attack in the summer, and prior to my bypass operation in November, I experienced a great sense of calm and peace – something along the lines of Julian of Norwich's most famous line "All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well" – and my answer to the question put to me is that my experience has enriched, deepened and strengthened my faith, in God and my eventual homecoming, as well as in my fellow human beings and their innate love, kindness and goodness.

So, once again, as we all look forward to another year, with all sorts of trials and tribulations, happy and sad times, I am very, very pleased to be able to wish everyone all the very best for 2019 – **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The Revd Alec Brown.



CHURCH NEWS

February Diary Dates

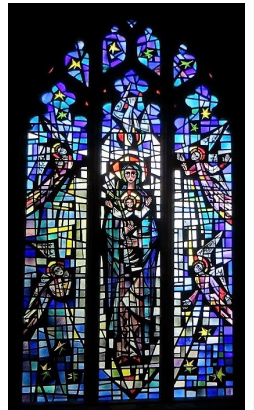
(All events take place in the Parish Church, unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 3rd, 10.30am : All Age Worship (Candlemas)

Wednesday 6th, 10.30am: Holy Communion followed with coffee and chat

Sunday 10th, 10.30am: Matins with special slot - see below for more details

All other services as normal.



Setting God's People Free

'This Time Tomorrow' - Special Matins Service



I am very much looking forward to leading another special Matins Service on **Sunday 10th February at 10.30am**, when we will be having a 'This Time Tomorrow' slot. Instead of a sermon, there will be an informal interview with our organist, Judge Simon Medland QC (pictured with me, left).

Simon's life beyond the doors of Great Budworth Church is, I am sure, something we will all be interested in hearing about. Currently, Simon is a judge at Preston Crown Court. Everyone is welcome in this exploration of what discipleship means in our daily lives.

*Dr Jenny McKay
Ordinand, St Mary and All Saints.
Mckayjenny56@gmail.com*



GREAT BUDWORTH XMAS POST

Thank you to the people who used the offer of delivery in the village, and for their donations, which totalled £24.

This has been donated to Great Budworth School.

JOHN GREGSON

Moving into Great Budworth as the Vicar in the summer of 2001, with two young sons (and a wife, of course!), inevitably meant my coming into contact with John and Rita at the Village Shop and Post Office. They had moved into Great Budworth in 1988 with their three children, Justin, Claire and Jamie.

Rita ran the village shop and post office, while John worked as an architect for the NHS.

Weekly trips with two young boys clutching pocket money in their little hands was a regular feature of our life for some time, and one that was greatly enhanced by the friendliness and welcome of both John and Rita.

After years of resisting all attempts to persuade me to move into the age of computers, it was John who eventually brought me round to their utility and who set me up with the first of a series of desk top systems. Over the ensuing years John was unfailingly patient and generous with his time as I struggled with computers. For my part I was always in awe of his knowledge and skill – how and where did he gain all that computer know-how?

Sadly, Rita died in 2003 and we held a moving inter-faith memorial service for her in Great Budworth church. In spite of his loss – and the grieving both he and their children were obviously going through – within a month or so of the funeral John, with his characteristic generosity, was engaged in developing the Church's first website. For many years thereafter John maintained and managed the website and nothing was too much trouble for him, not least continual requests from me which always began with "Hi John, it's Alec, do you think you could ...?" or, "John, something seems to have happened to my computer ...!" So he managed to bring not only your Vicar into the 21st century, technologically speaking, but also the Church itself – no mean feat!

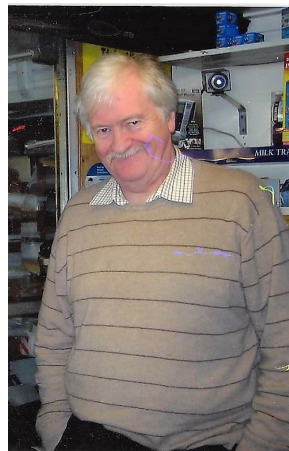
After the closure of the Post Office in around 2009, John was seen less often in the village, as he began to spend more time away from Great Budworth, though he always enjoyed playing tennis with other members of the village tennis club. He also very much enjoyed table tennis, which he played for the Mid-Cheshire league.

John developed leukaemia about six years ago and died in The Christie on the 24th November of an unrelated problem.

The village has of course changed greatly in terms of its residents over the last few years, and so many villagers won't have had the pleasure of knowing John, but to those of us who knew and worked with him he will always be remembered with great affection, and he will be sadly missed.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

The Revd Alec Brown



John Gregson - a photo taken by Linda Giller on the day the post office closed in 2009

GARDEN CLUB

As we move into 2019, our gardens already have snowdrops, crocuses, hellebores and even daffodils, though no doubt another weather 'beast' will arrive to make sure we don't forget it's winter!

The AGM is on Tuesday 12 February at the Parish Hall at the new permanent starting time of 7.30pm. This is an important date and members need to attend or send apologies.

Subscriptions for the coming year are due. You'll be given your new Events card – always an exciting event for your diaries!

Please contact our Hon. Secretary, Sylvia Godber, 01606 892517, if you are resigning or have questions. If subscriptions aren't paid by the March meeting, we shall assume, sadly, that you are relinquishing your membership. The committee will then see if there are any new places available for the waiting list.

Following the AGM we'll start our programme off in earnest, with a talk by Phil Smith, head gardener of Wollerton Old Hall, Market Drayton, whose wonderful garden is a favourite of many of us.

A coach trip to John Massey's fine spring garden Ashwood Nurseries on 25 March will be announced, when members may bring a guest and enjoy the start of our gardening year.

Looking back to December, we had a marvellous Christmas party, with wonderful food and entertainment. Thanks to all those who helped and who attended, contributing to a really lovely special evening.

For any enquiries about anything else pertaining to the club, please contact me in the first instance.

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