

Norton-in-Hales

Monthly Messenger May 2018



Website: www.nortoninhales.org



Dates for your diary



- Sunday 6th May Praise and Worship at 11:15am, St Chads
(6th Easter - Acts 10:44-end; John 15:9-17)
- Tuesday 8th May Annual Parish Meeting
- Thursday 10th May Norton in Bloom Monthly Meeting, 7:30pm at the
Hinds Head. All Welcome
- Sunday 13th May Morning Prayer at 11:15am, St Chads
(7th Easter - Acts 1:15-17, 21-end; John 17:6-19; Psalm 1)
- Sunday 20th May Family Service at 11:15am, St Chads
(Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21)
- Sunday 27th May Holy Communion at 11:15am, St Chads
(Trinity Sunday - Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17)

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

In the village hall from 10am – 11.30 everyone welcome.

St Chad's Flower and Cleaning Rota for April

FLOWERS	CLEANING
May 6 th . Mrs Lockwood	Mrs J Hall/ Mrs G Lovatt
May 13 th Mrs Lockwood	
May 20 th Mrs Neary	
May 27 th Mrs Neary	

Festival Flower Arrangers

Thank you all for the beautiful flower arrangements in the church for Easter. After all the dark dreary days of Winter, it was great to see all those Spring flowers. If there is anyone else who would like to join the team, do get in touch with any P.C.C. member or me. Sue Tudge 01630-658765

For any contributions to the Monthly Messenger, please email hannahmariahague@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.



A View from the Vicarage

The Easter season draws to a close this month with the celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday on the 20th and 27th. Easter? Still talking about Easter? Yes! Easter is the defining event of Christianity. It was the day our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ rose from the dead to give us eternal life in God's Kingdom. So yes, we celebrate it for a lengthy period of time. But all good things must come to an end sometime. The good news is we have two celebrations as part of the finale.

Pentecost is the day we mark as the birthday of the Church. On this day, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit who came to the disciples in the upper room, empowering them to speak out the Good News of salvation through Jesus to all the world. Ordinarily people shared their testimonies and what they had witnessed of Jesus' life, teachings, and death and resurrection. Jesus had changed their lives for ever and they now happily went out to bring that gift to others. And that continues to this day.

This year, Pentecost falls on the third Sunday, which is our Family Service. We will hear the story of that first Pentecost and the children will do a craft activity to illustrate that story, while the adults have a cuppa and have the opportunity to chat and share their own stories. Why not come and join us for a family friendly service and find out what we are all about as Christians? You might just find what you've been looking for in your own life.

The following Sunday we celebrate the Trinity—God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and all that entails. It's not an easy concept to grasp: one God made up of three separate persons but still one being. See what I mean? The bottom line is simply this: we have a wonderful God who loves us, who gave us His Son Jesus to rescue us from our sins and the eternal death penalty they deserve, and who gave us His Holy Spirit to guide us in our lives to be good followers of His teachings and generous love.

What Easter means to us is the promise of restoration of the world to God's original perfection. All the evil and corruption of this world will be eliminated, and the planet will be renewed to its original state of beauty, where God's people will enjoy all that He provides in perfect harmony and love. In a world currently exhibiting so much violence, anger, hate, and greed, God's promises are a wonderful source of hope which gives us strength to face each day and whatever crisis comes next. We know that in the end all will be made right and it will last forever.

Come and join us every Sunday at St Chad's at 11:15am to be part of the Good News story. It will change your life for ever.

Rev. Don Alcock
Telephone: 01630 647 911
Email: dga952@hotmail.com

NORTON IN HALES PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk:

Mrs M Joyce

Tel: 01948 890194

email: nortoninhalersp@yahoo.co.uk

website: www.nortoninhalersp.org

The Chair opened the March Meeting of the Parish Council welcoming all Councillors, including Unitary Cllr R Aldcroft to the Meeting.

Cllr Aldcroft gave a report and updated Councillors on matters currently affecting Market Drayton and Woore Councils. Market Drayton is continuing to progress its Neighbourhood Plan, which includes areas of land from within Norton in Hales, Adderley and Moreton Say Parishes. A meeting is to be set up with the affected parishes as part of the consultation process. Woore is also undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors discussed CiL Local funds and the new Highways maintenance contract with Kier which is due to begin on 1st April. Several local issues of flooding, blocked grids and potholes requiring attention were given to the Clerk to report for attention.

Council Members discussed the joint complex Neighbourhood Plan between Norton in Hales, Adderley and Moreton Say. Volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of tasks, such as walking parish boundaries. If anyone is interested in getting involved please see:

<https://threeparishplan.org> for meeting dates and details.

Routine matters of business were discussed including 3 applications for planning about which the Parish Council has been invited to make comment. New policies were put forward by the Clerk for consideration and adoption. The Clerk updated Members of preparations required in order to meet compliancy deadlines for Data Protection Regulations. Councillors agreed to outsource the DPO function for the Council as required. An application has been received to join the Parish Council. This matter will be considered at the May Meeting. Councillors reported from meetings attended on behalf of the Council. An overview of Neighbourhood Watch matters was given with a reminder going out to all parishioners to be vigilant in ensuring and maintaining security, particularly for garages, outbuildings and sheds. Alarmed padlocks are recommended to deter burglars.

The Parish Council Members agreed to offer financial support to the In Bloom Group to aid their entry in the Heart of Britain Competition this year. A Best Front Garden competition will be held later this year, followed by a Celebration Evening. A donation will be made to the In Bloom Group to provide a new flower bed in the village with a memorial plaque in memory of Mick Brassington. A grant has been given to the Church to be used to maintain the Church clock.

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8th May 2018. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Norton Nature Notes

21st March to 22nd April 2018

Chris Green

By the middle of April the better weather finally arrived and with it lots of wildlife activity in and around the village. Spring wildflowers – Wood Anemone, Cowslip and Primrose – have been in full bloom and the Damson trees, of which there are many in the village, are white with blossom. You may have seen butterflies recently also, on a bright day in early April I had a Tortoiseshell and Peacock butterfly pass through the garden. During the Easter holidays on a fine bright day an 'aggregation' of ladybirds gathered in my garden. There were well over 100 individual insects on an evergreen shrub and this part of their breeding cycle was quite a sight. They are of course welcome as their presence will be of benefit during summer.

I was pleased to see my first swallow on April 8th (a week later than last year). The bird was flying low over the fields from Betton to Norton. I did not see another until the 14th April when there were three birds flying together near the sewage works. A single House Martin was flying over the sports ground on the 21st April. If you saw either of these birds earlier please let me know as it would be good to keep a record.

I expect you will have seen much nesting activity and birds moving around in pairs. Malcolm N found a recently fledged Blackbird in his greenhouse on 20th April. The Reed Bunting I watched in Autumn have remained and are nesting down by the river and a pair of Blackcap have taken up residence at Partons Pool. There is a pair of Bullfinch that are moving around the middle of the village that you may have seen. The male has a splendid plumage and really stands out, Doreen B reports seeing them in her garden several times. Richard J was still seeing Brambling up to 14th April in his garden – not quite in breeding plumage (the males head turns black) – and also a pair of Long-Tailed Tit at the end of March into the first week of April. These birds were gathering insects by flying at the garage window (one even ended up in the bathroom having tried the same thing!).

Phil B has seen Greater Spotted Woodpecker in his garden on a regular basis from early spring and the Green Woodpecker can be heard occasionally out towards Oakley Hall. I heard my first Chiffchaff calling on the 2nd April at Partons Pool and there are now many moving through the hedgerows. Tom S reported a Willow Warbler in his garden on the 21st April – another summer migrant (although some Chiffchaff, an almost identical warbler, do over winter in small numbers). Tom has also seen some birds of prey, a hunting Kestrel and a Red Kite active over a field next to Beswicks Lane in late March – this is an infrequent visitor but a very welcome one as they are a pleasure to watch. Alastair N was surprised to see a total of eleven Buzzards circling high above the village together, with two more not far off. This is Alastair's highest count of this raptor.

On the 16th April at around 10pm I heard a Little Owl calling. The bird moved along the hedgerow to the back of Main Road towards the church. It has a repetitive 'kiew, kiew' call that is quite distinctive. If you are lucky you may see this small owl during the day. Graham N watched a Barn Owl hunting across his field at dusk in early April and so was able to study the bird in detail – a fantastic sight.

Richard J and Alastair N both report seeing a Stoat in the village (larger than a Weasel and a black tip to the tail). Richard saw it on the 31st March and it is perhaps only the 5th he has ever seen in his garden.

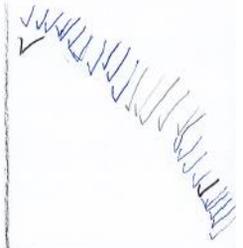
And finally to our youngest nature watcher Darcey, who has been keeping a superb diary of the birds visiting her bird table. Darcey has kindly shared the diary with me and I have put this on the next page (and in colour on the Norton website Nature Notes page, alongside some photos I have taken of village wildlife). The most frequent visitors to Darcey's bird feeders have been Starling, Woodpigeon and Great Tit, with Goldfinch and Fieldfare also taking food.

Apologies if I have missed any report – it has been great to speak to so many local people about their sightings. Please keep them coming.

Bird Sightings Diary

By Darcey

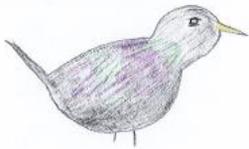
Pigeon



Great Tit



Starling



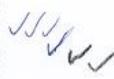
Sparrow



GOLD FINCH



Robin



Blue Tit



2

Blackbird



3

Fieldfare



1