

Norton-in-Hales

Monthly Messenger September 2018



Website: www.nortoninhales.org



Dates for your diary



- Sunday 2nd September Morning Prayer at 11:15am, St Chads
(Psalm 15; James 1:17-end; Mark 5:21-end)
- Sunday 9th September Praise and Worship with Holy Baptism at 11:15am, St Chads
(Mark 7:24-end)
- Sunday 16th September Family Service at 11:15am, St Chads
(Mark 8:27-end)
- Sunday 23rd September Holy Communion at 9:30am, St Chads
(James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37)
- Sunday 30th September Harvest Thanksgiving at 11:15am, St Chads

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

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

St Chad's Flower and Cleaning Rota for September

FLOWERS & BRASSES	CLEANING
2 nd Sept Judith Harrall	Gwen Lovatt
9 th Sept Liz Rowley	
16 th Sept Liz Rowley	
23 rd Sept Sarah Belfield	

Jubilee Hall

The Jubilee Hall can accommodate up to 80 people and is used for a wide variety of village activities, as well as being available for private functions, children's parties etc. Hire of the Jubilee Hall includes all equipment and energy costs. The Hall has a complete stock of tables and chairs as required. The kitchen has a cooker, microwave, and sufficient crockery, cutlery and glassware for every event.

Booking - To book the village hall, please contact Sue Walton on 01630 654734
Alternative contacts for taking bookings are Sue Hackney – 01630 657280 or Carolyn and Alan Dutton – 01630 654844. **Hire Out Rates** - The standard hire out rate is £11 per hour. However, we will normally make a reduction to the hire out rate in respect of any local charity fundraising and also discuss a reduction in rates for any long term rental.

We also have crockery/cutlery/tables/chairs that are available to hire. For a quote, please contact any of those named above.

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

Well it's back to school time again which is the beginning and new beginning for all the children on their educational journey. It's an exciting time for most, at least until the newness wears off. But isn't that something we all experience throughout our lives? It ultimately boils down to commitment. Commitment is an action, and we must choose to dedicate ourselves to whatever is the object of our commitment. This might be a relationship with another person or animal. It might be a job or a course of study. Unless we choose to commit, there will be no success in achieving the goal.

The same is true in our faith. We must decide if we are willing to commit one hundred percent to God. Many Christians only partially commit themselves to Jesus. But anything less than one hundred percent commitment is not what Jesus calls us to in relationship. In the Book of Revelation [3:15-16], Jesus said, "I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." There it is. One hundred percent commitment to following Jesus or you are lost.

The apostle Paul exemplified such commitment. As he told us in his second letter to the Church in Corinth [6:4-5], he endured "afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger" all in his ministry to serve God and preach the Good News. Now that's commitment. How many of us would be willing to go through some, never mind all, of those challenges?

For some people that sounds scary. "I could never be that good or committed." "It's too hard!" The ways of the world are the biggest threat to our commitment to Jesus. The world (currently run by Satan and his minions) offers an easier way—less pain and more fun. If the road gets too bumpy, we simply change directions and choose what looks like an easier path. It's all about our personal satisfaction and pleasure. The ease with which we can change jobs, houses, spouses, or whatever accentuates the problem—little or no commitment.

As long as we are focused solely on our life in this world, we can never commit to Jesus. It is only when we think of eternity—what happens after this earthly life—that we can begin to comprehend a commitment to Jesus. There are some people who are so fixated on themselves in this life that they have no belief in an afterlife, so they will only pursue things for themselves and think little of others. Their commitment is to self only. There are some people who believe in reincarnation—that we keep getting reborn into another life (or life form)—to a higher form or lower form depending on what we did in our current form. Some might argue environment plays a key role in that process, but it still comes back to personal choices. There are some people who believe in heaven and hell but believe our destination hinges on our own behaviour. They hope enough good in their life will balance out favourably against all the bad things they do.

But what about Christians? We are told that we are all sinners and unable to merit a life in the eternal kingdom of God. We are lost, but thanks to the love and mercy of God our Father, we have a Saviour. God the Father loves us so much, He provided a means of cleansing us from our sins and restoring us to the perfection He intended for us at Creation. That Saviour is Jesus. God's Son came to show us the way and to tell us more about God's ways and desires for us. In the end, Jesus died on the Cross. He took the punishment for our wrong-doings and took them with Him into the grave, never to see the light of day again. When Jesus emerged from the tomb on Easter Sunday, He proclaimed salvation for all who believe in His name. That's the commitment to which we Christians are called.

It is not a matter of being perfect, because that's not possible in the eyes of God because of all the things we do wrong. We must commit one hundred percent to accepting the saving act of Jesus' death on the Cross and resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. No matter what this world throws at us, Jesus wants and calls us to remain steadfast in our belief in the salvation He provides.

That commitment means making choices. Our lifestyle is a reflection on our faith. We can choose to be self-centred and caring only about ourselves and anyone else we choose to include in our own world, or we can be loving, generous, and kind, remembering always what Jesus did in His earthly life. Will we always get it right? Of course not. We are human, and we make mistakes. We fail; miserably sometimes. But then we confess our wrong-doings and we try to choose a better way. That's the commitment God seeks and loves. That's the kind of commitment God honours with salvation and eternal life.

At the end of September, St Chad's will be celebrating our annual Harvest Thanksgiving. It's a wonderful time to come together to rejoice in the many blessings God has showered on our prosperous nation. It is a time to come together to say thank-you to all who work so hard to provide our food. It is a time to come together to thank God for including us eventually in His eternal harvest—His forever Kingdom. If you have been lukewarm or cold in your faith, now might be an ideal time to make or renew a commitment to Jesus. Come and celebrate!

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

Messages...

Norton in Hales Cardiac Defibrillator: Public Access

A cardiac defibrillator is located in a yellow cabinet on the front wall of The Hind's Head and is available for use in the event of a cardiac arrest incident. Although the village has its own team of trained operators who are alerted by the Ambulance Service, members of the public can also access the defibrillator in such an emergency. It should be noted that the unit provides recorded instructions, is self-regulating and cannot harm a patient.

In the event of a cardiac emergency call the Ambulance Service on 999 and state that a cardiac arrest has occurred (or is suspected) and the location of the patient; the Ambulance Service may ask supplementary questions. Give them the Norton in Hales Defibrillator Code which is printed on the cabinet door and they will give you the door combination code. Meanwhile they will allocate the highest priority for ambulance dispatch. Following the incident please return the defibrillator to the cabinet only when cleared to do so by the ambulance crew.

If the defibrillator is removed from the cabinet it will need to be checked by trained persons. Therefore it is essential to inform David Rigby (654202) or Stephen Bailey (653884) **as soon as possible**.

Friends of Norton-in-Hales

VIDEO LECTURE
KEELE WORLD AFFAIRS SERIES

VILLAGE HALL: THURSDAY 20th SEPTEMBER @ 7:30pm
COST £1 INCLUDING TEA & BUSCUITS

“THE WORLD IN 2050”

LORD MARTIN REES
ASTRONOMER & PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Messages...

The Ginger and Spice Festival 26th – 29th September 2018

The award winning Ginger and Spice Festival is making a welcome return this September for a four day celebration of all things ginger & spice related during British Food Fortnight. Set in and around the centre of the medieval Shropshire town, Market Drayton, the festival celebrates the town's culinary heritage with links to the ancient spice routes and what is thought to be the oldest gingerbread in the country!

The fun packed, four day festival, includes over 20 festival fringe events plus an abundance of speciality food and drink with plenty of produce featuring a ginger twist! Saturday 29th September features **the Spice Exchange Street Market** where visitors can journey into an exotic and fascinating world of spice, secret recipes, ancient gingerbread guilds and delicious hot & spicy street food at Clive's Street Food Court. It also happens to be the anniversary of the birthday of Clive of India!

The Spice Exchange Street Market will include everything from ginger teas, spicy pies, enrobed chocolate gingers, spice-infused jams, aromatic gin, local real ale, cured gourmet meats as well as a host of ginger-themed delicacies! Visitors can also watch live cookery master classes from top, regional and local chefs all at the back of the Clive and Coffyne Pub. Plus there is gingerbread decorating for little ones with Val Stone from the Great British Bake Off, plus cookery classes for kids throughout the day, all at the back of the Clive and Coffyne. Also join in our best read head competition!

Over the four day festival there will be the Leek United Heritage Spice Trail and competition dedicated to exploring the town's culinary history, including tastings in shops, cafes, the brewery, Church, Museum, Festival Drayton, Covered market and more. This is free and there will be prizes for lucky winners of a box of Joule's Ale and a hamper of spicy goodies worth over £350!

Visitors can also enjoy many festival fringe events such as a Gin and Jazz Evening exploring Gin and Spice; a live music concert with Deacon's Blue's lead singer, Ricky Ross, supported by local singer song writer, Heidi Browne, and sponsored by Mincher Lockett and Co Opticians; pop-up restaurants; foraging walks; live entertainment; ginger inspired competitions; debates; heritage talks and more.

Take advantage of the Ginger Discounts offer in our Festival Guide which includes 15% off your final food and drinks bill at the Hind's Head Pub during the festival 26-29 Sept (terms and conditions apply).

Whilst the Spice Exchange Street Market is free, visitors should expect to pay for some events taking place in the evening and at private venues in the town. Booking ahead for these private events is essential.

For all festival fringe events, please visit the **What's On** section of the website:

www.gingerandspicefest.co.uk

Norton in Hales Website

A reminder to all parishioners with the ability to get online to have a look at the Norton In Hales website, www.nortoninhales.org

The website has undergone a major make-over in recent months and contains a wealth of information about the village past and present. Among the many items featured are ...

Latest News and Events

- Online version of the Monthly Messenger
- Latest from the In Bloom group
- Nature Notes – going back over the years
- Local Walks
- Friends of Norton latest news
- Jubilee Hall details and bookings calendar
- Church and Bellringers information
- Details of village sports clubs, bowls, cricket and tennis
- Village History, covering local people, individual memories, gallery of historic photos etc.

There are also links to other village websites including the Parish Council, Norton In Hales School and the Cricket Club. Links also are included to Shropshire Council (including local planning), Shropshire Tourism, Market Drayton Advertiser and Shropshire Star etc.

The Norton In Hales website is visited by several thousand people every year, not just local parishioners, but individuals from all over the UK and around the world. We've actually had visits to the website from 25 different countries in the past few months! These include France, South Korea, United States, Australia, India, Sweden, Canada and New Zealand.

The website is overseen by a small committee of volunteers, who meet every couple of months to continue to develop and improve the content and presentation. If you are interested to get involved, please contact Dick Walton at suedickwalton72@aol.com – or else just visit the website and enjoy !!!



100th Armistice Anniversary

11th November 1918 - 11th November 2018



On 11th November at 1145 a short commemoration gathering will be held at the village War Memorial at which a new plaque will be unveiled. The plaque will name all those from the parish who fell in armed conflict in service of our country. You will be most welcome to attend.



Norton Nature Notes

22nd July to 28th August 2018

Chris Green

The honey-buzzard is a migratory bird which is very similar in appearance to the common buzzard (which are numerous in the parish). Being in the right place at the right time, Rag, whilst driving out towards Market Drayton in early August, caught sight of a buzzard – like bird on the ground in a grassed field. Something in the bird's appearance made him stop the car, reverse and get a closer look. The identification features that split the two species were clear, especially when the bird took to flight. The upper-tail was three barred and the head small and similar in profile to a cuckoo. There was also a thick black trailing edge to the wing edges (secondary feathers) that were also narrow where they met the body. Having seen them before Rag was confident this was a honey-buzzard – a raptor that is a rare migrant but that does show up in the county. A fantastic sighting – their name links to the fact that they feed on insects and their larvae, with wasps also being a favoured food source.

Our resident red kite (or is it two now?) continues to be seen by many of us at all sides of the parish. It very often flies in low and gives quite a display. It has been seen being mobbed by buzzards and corvids.

Sally and Roger P continue to see some excellent species in and around their wildlife friendly pond. They have watched an impressive emperor dragonfly emerge from its skin (which I have since learnt is called a *exuvia*). Roger has a splendid photo of the dragonfly drying its wings next to the skin cast. The dragonfly then flew around the garden feeding on insects and butterflies. Roger and Sally maintain their pond for wildlife and it contains several species of pond weed that hosts much pond life. Last year a female emperor dragonfly would have laid eggs in this pond weed and from these eggs a nymph would have hatched and then lived in the pond – feeding and moulting – and then this year when conditions were right it would have found some vegetation to climb up once it had become accustomed to air. It then emerged slowly from the *exuvia*. This is quite a life cycle and just shows how important a wildlife pond in the garden, of any size, can be.

Judith and Jeff H have had a new sighting in their garden. Whilst tending to the geraniums on 3rd August a large hovering insect was disturbed – a day-flying hummingbird hawk-moth. This is a visitor from continental Europe during the summer. They mimic the hummingbird so are a delight to watch. Keep your eye out for them, at rest you may not notice them but in flight they have orange-brown hind wings and a chequered body. Have you seen one this year?

Ron and Cynthia L at Betton spent an hour watching their summer resident swallows feed four of their second brood in the garden. Ron reports that he soon identified the feeding patterns of the parents and how they worked as a team to ensure no juvenile was left hungry. Once appetites had been sated the parents set about teaching the inexperienced youngsters how to fly. Ron and Cynthia are very fortunate to have swallows return year after year to the same spot in an outbuilding.



Continued...

Graham and Alastair N had some late wren fledglings active in the garden on 11th August. This is good to hear as wrens suffer a decline in numbers during harsh winters so need to build up their numbers in the summer.

Richard J has reported mammals from his garden in late July. He was brave enough to catch two moles by hand – this was by chance as he came across them (a few hours apart) burrowing along the surface. From their size it appears they were young who had moved from the paternal territory and into their own. They were not harmed. A week later Sue J spotted a weasel (no dark tip to the tail unlike a stoat) crossing the drive in broad daylight. Richard and Sue have never seen a weasel where they live – it didn't stay long but was great to watch I am sure (they can be viscous little things and will often have a blood stained face).

Anton L over at Betton was pleased to see the jays return to his feeders and has had a pair most days throughout August as well as frequent visits from a hedgehog. Anton has also positioned one of Alastair's tawny owl boxes on his land with the hope of encouraging a pair in early spring (they are an early breeder as are more effective hunters for mice when they grass is short).

Tom S sent me an unusual photo of around one hundred small black caterpillars in a mass on a communal web (which they spin) on a patch of nettles from a hedgerow past Chapel Lane. These were of the peacock butterfly which feed on the nettles on which female peacocks lay their eggs. Quite a sight. On butterflies – Curly reported some common blue in the village and I have seen comma, peacock and tortoiseshell but only one red admiral – it landed on a chrysanthemum at the cricket club on 25th August.

I have had a report from Paul B that four barn owl chicks are doing well and have been ringed in the parish. This is very positive news. Barn owls continue to be seen at most ends of the parish and I saw one flying late on 24th August out towards Bearstone, its wings flashed white in the headlights. We are fortunate to have a network of wide and tall hedgerows in the area – not only is this great habitat for the owls source of prey but also ensures the birds have to fly 'up and over' hedges therefore avoiding any oncoming traffic.

Finally, an interesting report from Graham on Forge Lane. For many years Graham has used bee-hive style wasp traps among the trees in his orchard. These have been particularly effective as the wasps enter via a hole at the bottom and become trapped. Graham has never seen a wasp escape until now when he watched a wasp fly down and out! This is highly unusual as they tend to fall down but not fly down. Graham is hoping this is not a regular occurrence of course!

Thanks for all your conversations and correspondence.