

Church & Parish

News and Events in
Armitage with Handsacre



No.212 MARCH - APRIL 2018

HELPING TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE COMMUNITY



Our Vicar Writes Easter Hope

The death and resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the Christian faith. On Good Friday the Church will remember the death of Jesus and will celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Yes, I will say that Jesus is risen. Or to be more precise join the church in saying that the tomb was empty and that Jesus' body was raised from the dead. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is an important part of what I believe and at the heart of my faith. It reveals that Jesus Christ not only conquered sin but also defeated death: that great source of fear and threat to human life.

People have tried in all kinds of ways to explain away the empty tomb and the physical resurrection as it is recorded by those eye witnesses in the Bible. Some have suggested that Jesus didn't really die and was later resuscitated. Others have suggested that Jesus did die but the disciples stole the body and made up the story of the resurrection. However, the only thing that makes sense to me, the only thing that accounts for the birth of the early church and the courage of those first disciples, and of course the faith that gives me hope today, is an encounter with Jesus the crucified and Risen Lord.

I would suggest that we live at a time when hope is in short supply and yet very seriously needed. Hope on a personal and relational level; hope on a national and international level, not least as we look to Syria and see factions at war tearing a nation apart.

However, the bodily resurrection of Jesus is why those who claim to be people of faith in Jesus Christ can also be people of hope. For the

resurrection of Jesus reveals that God takes all that we human beings are very seriously, not just what some people call our 'souls', as if there's an entity within us that is somehow separate from our body. And it also suggests that the earth and all of God's wonderful creation can also look forward in hope to a time when Jesus returns and all things will be renewed in him. The last book of the Bible, the Revelation to St John, speaks of 'a new heaven and a new earth' which means that nothing of God's good creation will be lost or left behind: it too is part of God's good plan and purpose.

This means that Christians should not only be full of hope for the future but should be people who live life fully and responsibly in the present. In other words, people who worship the Father through faith in Jesus the Son by enjoying the world that God has made. But at the same time people that are prepared to care for the world and treat its resources with respect as well as caring for the poor, the sick, the lonely, the refugees of war and so on. Bishop Tom Wright suggests 'Precisely because the resurrection has happened as an event within our own world, its implications and effects are to be felt within our own world, here and now'.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

These are words of hope that the church will say as it gathers for worship. Why not join us, the church in Armitage and Handsacre, on Easter day. Who knows you might encounter the Risen Lord and in him discover hope for the future and courage to live life to the full in the present.

Every Blessing

Peter

Parish Church Weekly Services & Activities

Sunday : 8.00am: Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.00pm Evensong
Monday : 7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday : Morning Prayer
Thursday : 9.15am Communion

Parish Church telephone: 07936 836380
Parish Church website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/
armitage-st-john-the-baptist](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/armitage-st-john-the-baptist)
Editor: Danny Briggs tel: 490114
email: dannybriggs905@gmail.com
Adverts: Malcolm Adams tel: 490875
Village website: www.armitagewithhandsacre.co.uk

CHURCH DIARY for MARCH & APRIL

4th Sun : Third Sunday of Lent Usual Services
5th Mon : 7.30pm Prayer and Praise at 32 Hood Lane
8th Mon : 7pm - 8.15pm Making Connections at Handsacre Methodist Church
11th Sun : Mothering Sunday Usual Services
18th Sun : Fifth Sunday of Lent Usual Services
25th Sun : Palm Sunday Usual Services
29th Thur : 9.15am & 7.30pm Holy Communion
30th Fri : 3pm At the Cross
7pm United Service for Good Friday at Handsacre Methodist Church
1st Sun : Easter Day Usual Services
8th Sun : Second Sunday of Easter Usual Services
15th Sun : Third Sunday of Easter Usual Services
22nd Sun : Fourth Sunday of Easter Usual Services
24th Tue : 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (all members of the Electoral Roll should be present)
29th Sun : Fifth Sunday of Easter Usual Services

ROTAS FOR MARCH & APRIL 2018

DATE	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	SIDESMAN	CLEANING	FLOWERS
4th	Mr. P. Upton	Dr. B. Lucas	Mrs. I. Guest	Mr. & Mrs. T. Harvey	LENT
11th	Mrs. M. Adams	Mrs. C. Parsons	Mrs. E. Mills	Mrs. C. Berry	LENT
18th	Mr. P. Conway	Mrs. P. Meggy	Mr. K. Parsons	Mrs. H. Bartnicki	LENT
25th	Mrs. E. Mills	Mr. D. Lee	Mrs. E. Harvey	Mrs. J. Smith	LENT
1st	Mrs. H. Bartnicki	Mr. P. Upton	Mrs. I. Guest	Mr. & Mrs. K. Parsons	CONGREGATION
8th	Dr. B. Lucas	Mrs. M. Adams	Mrs. E. Mills	Mrs. D. Green	Mrs. D. Conway
15th	Mrs. C. Parsons	Mr. P. Conway	Mr. K. Parsons	Mr. & Mrs. R. Riley	Mrs. G. Thomas
22nd	Mrs. P. Meggy	Mrs. E. Mills	Mrs. E. Harvey	Volunteers	Mrs. B. Boyd
29th	Mr. D. Lee	Mrs. H. Bartnicki	Mrs. I. Guest	Mr. & Mrs. T. Harvey	Mrs. B. Conway
6th	Mr. P. Upton	Dr. B. Lucas	Mrs. E. Mills	Mrs. C. Berry	Mrs. M. Boraston

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PLACED ON THE ROTA PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME ON 01543 490588.
ALSO IF YOU WISH TO PUT FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR FOR ANY SPECIAL OCCASION PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THANK YOU. DI CONWAY.

Time for God

The Church building is open every day from 9am till dusk for you to seek God's comfort at a time of your own choosing.

THE PARISH GUIDE A-Z

**is available free to newcomers;
it lists all the tradespeople, shops, and societies
within the village boundary.**

Please call 490278 or 07936 836380 to arrange a delivery.

VILLAGE DAY, SATURDAY JUNE 16th

Several attractions, entertainment and exhibits are booked including evening entertainment ending as in previous years with a firework display. Competitions, sports events, five aside football and baking are being organised. Recipe for the cake will be in May issue.

Theme for stalls this year is World Cup, a prize for the most imaginative display will be awarded. The Parish Council and Staffordshire County Council have once again sponsored the event. It's not too late if you would like to book a stall or display or donate a raffle prize just contact Doreen on 01543 490240.

If you have any photos or interesting items for the local history display Di and Pete Conway on 01543 490588 or Tracy Cunningham via social media would love to hear from you.

Sunday June 17th following Village Day a VILLAGE SONGS OF PRAISE will take place at the Parish Church so think about what's your favourite hymn. More details in next issue.

Next meeting 7pm, Tuesday March 13th
at the Pavilion, Millmoor Avenue.

Recent Baptism

18th February :

Called by God

Arthur Hicks of Eaton Drive, Rugeley

Recent Burials

2nd February :

Safe in God's care

Margaret Smith of Chapel Road

10th February :

Gary Partington of Lower Lodge

15th February :

Peter Botterill of Targate Court

CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT.

In accordance with the Regulations set down by the Chancellor of the Diocese we respectfully ask you to remove any Christmas wreaths etc. from the graves. In the near future we are organizing a working party to tidy the Churchyard prior to the mowing beginning in the Spring and it is always unfortunate if we remove an item which is of personal or sentimental value to you.

Armitage PCC



HANDSACRE METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH / APRIL 2018

SUNDAY 4th March 11am

Terry Trigg from Chasetown

SUNDAY 11th March 11am

Planned Local Arrangement—Worship Leaders

SUNDAY 18th March 11 am

Revd Jacob Donkoh (Minister)

Holy Communion

SUNDAY 25th March 11 am

Karen Brown of Colton

Family friendly worship

SUNDAY 1st April EASTER DAY 11am

Section Service

at St Paul's church, Rugeley

Revd Jacob Donkoh (Minister)

SUNDAY 8th April 11 am

Tony Toye from Cannock Wood

SUNDAY 15th April 11 am

Mrs Betty Glover from Chadsmoor

SUNDAY 22nd April 11 am

Graham Lowther of Armitage

SUNDAY 29th April 11 am

Revd Jacob Donkoh—(Minister)

Baptism

MAKING CONNECTIONS

THURSDAYS 8th MARCH/ 12th APRIL

7 pm—8:15 pm.

Matthew's gospel for us.

Informal time for all ages

Refreshments on arrival,

-
- ALL SORTS
- EVERY FRIDAY 1pm—4:30 pm
- You are welcome to drop in for a tea / coffee to
- METHODIST MEETING ROOM
- Bring your children/friends/ neighbours
-

INTER-CHURCH LENT LUNCHEES FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Handsacre Methodist room 12 noon

Soup, bread & cheese / tea or coffee £5

TUESDAY 13th MARCH

Delicious soup... good bread cheese & cuppa

PLEASE COME TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE

The lunch on 20th February raised £155 + £48 on the Meeting Point raffle.

MEETING POINT

AT HANDSACRE METHODIST ROOM

ALL ARE INVITED ON TUESDAYS TO DROP IN FOR A COFFEE OR TEA & BISCUITS
Tuesdays 10 am—12 noon

*More information
01543 491704*



BACK BIN WEEK

Thursday fortnight —1 pm—3 pm

KNIT & NATTER group.

Contact Anne Ratcliffe 01543 490196

Or Wendy Lee 01543 492309

Tuesday 6th March .. Chat over cuppa with friends..

Tuesday 13th March... fire prevention talk postponed .

..Citizens Advice??

Raffle & LENT LUNCH for Christian Aid

Tuesday 20th March .Folk songs with Christina Wallis

Tuesday 27th March: Easter baskets for auction

lighting of memorial candles for loved ones.

Tuesday 3rd April: BRING & BUY for charities

Tuesday 10th April: Knit & Natter demonstrate their work

Tuesday 17th April: Come to a hotpot meal for charities

Tuesday 24th April: Bring your readings & cuttings

STAFFORDSHIRE SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM...

In February we were given an eye-opening talk by David Wright from Staffordshire Search & Rescue Team . We learned that their highly trained volunteers give of their own free time and even pay for their own uniform & equipment.

They work with police and fire service to search for missing persons and rescue people in all sorts of difficulty. Much of their work and many call outs go unreported. There might be a suicide case or a person to rescue from water or moorland.

It means that money has to be raised to pay for specialist vehicles & training dogs etc. The team is funded entirely by voluntary donations by individuals or businesses.

We learned that the service that SSART renders is absolutely vital support to the emergency services. David's talk resulted in a spontaneous whip-round at Meeting Point. £55 given -thank you donors.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE

The Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council will be holding their next meeting on Thursday 29th March 2018 at 7.00pm at the Pavilion, Millmoor Avenue, Armitage. PUBLIC WELCOME

Armitage with Handsacre Bowls Club

At a meeting held on the 7th February 2018 we were fortunate that enough members attended, so we are able to form a new committee, along with two previous members, enabling the club to continue.

Because of the lack of players this coming season, we will be entering only one team in the Lichfield over 50s league, playing on Thursdays. Friendlies will continue as in previous seasons and some have been arranged already, both home and away.

Our thanks to the previous committee for their hard work in the past. One position we are still hoping to fill, is of treasurer, as Ken Boulder is resigning at Easter. Should anyone with a few hours to spare during the season can help, we would be grateful to hear from you at our meeting, or call the numbers below.

All members and committees past and present would like to say a big thank you to Marg and Pete Lyons who operated the lottery every week for many years. The monies they raised enabled the club to operate in a very good financial position. We wish them both better health for the future.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.45pm in Millmoor Pavilion, when membership fees for the season are due, £25.00 per person. New members are welcome. Our fees are the cheapest in the area and you can play whenever you want.

W. J. Beer

01543 490134 & 07850 721864

RIDWARE HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 5th March 2018

Dr. Andrew Watkins, 'Coleshill'

During its coaching heyday, Coleshill became an important staging post, with over 20 inns, located on roads from London to Chester, Liverpool and Holyhead.

Dr. Andrew Watkins is a Research Fellow at the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester and former Head of the Sixth Form at Lichfield Cathedral School.

Meet in Hill Ridware Village Hall WS15 3RJ. 7.30pm for 8pm start

Saturday 12th May

Beamhurst Museum

On A 522 The Hamlet, Beamhurst, Uttoxeter, ST14 5EA
www.beamhurstmuseum.co.uk

Meet at 2.15pm in the next door car park of Meachen and Bevan (Electrical Supplies).

John and Laura Walton are lifetime collectors of any and everything. They had built up such a collection that they wanted to share it with the public. In 2010 they finally realised this dream and opened their doors to thousands of antiques and memorabilia. We will be able to browse at our leisure and both John and Laura will be on hand to answer questions. This will be followed by a cream tea, which has to be pre-ordered (please mention any dietary requirements). The collection is all on one level and easily accessible.

Cost £2.00 or £5.00 with tea.

For a booking form or more information contact Helen Sharp on
01543 490873 or helensharp80@hotmail.com

Armitage with Handsacre W.I.

Our first meeting of 2018 took place on Tuesday 6th February in the village hall at 2.30pm. Our speaker, Alyson Hoxton, had travelled from Derbyshire to show us the skill and hobby of paper folding to make a hedgehog. It was a busy afternoon but most of us took home a hedgehog. Refreshments came before the business was taken and forthcoming events were discussed. The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 6th March at 2.30pm, our AGM. New members will be very welcome.

Barbara Clews

ARMITAGE WITH HANDSACRE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan has at last been submitted to Lichfield District Council for its final vetting. This should take about eight weeks for it to be scrutinized, if the submission is acceptable to them it would then have to go to a referendum vote for the village hopefully sometime in the summer. The plan fully complies with the majority wishes that the community expressed in the questionnaire that took place two years ago which by the way had an above national average return of 30% plus, so well done Armitage with Handsacre. I have been asked on many occasions who will benefit from the plan. Firstly the whole village financially as any 106 money that developers have to pay to the Parish is 25% with a plan as against 15% without, this money to be spent directly here in this village. Secondly the overwhelming wish on the questionnaire was for affordable and medium priced housing so that children still at school and some not born yet will be able to buy houses in the village they were brought up in and bring their families up here as well, which is nice for parents and grandparents.

The plan is non political and has had the backing of all the Parish councillors, local shops and businesses. Your answers in the questionnaire made it quite clear that you would like the village to evolve in a way that keeps its semi rural identity intact. When it becomes time to vote in the referendum as to whether the village adopts the plan please make the effort as this will affect all age groups directly now and in the future.

Peter Blakeway

Chairman Armitage with Handsacre Neighbourhood Plan

HS2 DROP-IN SURGERIES

We are holding some drop-in surgeries over the next few months. You are welcome to come and meet our HS2 Phase One Engagement Team.

Thursday, 22nd February 2018, 5pm to 7pm,
Fradley Village Hall, Church Lane, Fradley, WS13 8NL

Thursday, 1st March 2018, 4:30pm to 6:30pm,
King's Bromley Village Hall, 35 Alrewas Road, King's Bromley,
Burton-on-Trent DE13 7HW

Thursday, 8th and 22nd March 2018, 12 noon to 3pm,
Lichfield District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6YU

Thursday, 29th March 2018, 5pm to 7pm,
Armitage Village Hall, 51 Shropshire Brook Road, Armitage,
Rugeley WS15 4UZ

Thursday, 5th and 19th April, 3rd, 17th and 31st May,
14th and 28th June 2018, 12 noon to 3pm,
Lichfield District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6YU

We look forward to meeting you.

The HS2 team

Helpdesk 08081 434 434 · Mini-com 08081 456 472 · www.gov.uk/hs2

IN A CHANGING WORLD – THE WORDS UNCHANGED

Did you know that there are two services at Armitage Church EVERY SUNDAY when the beautiful, timeless words of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer are still used and treasured?

One of those services is the traditional Anglican service of Evensong held at St. John the Baptist each Sunday at 6.00pm which always includes three well-loved and familiar hymns accompanied by our brilliant young organist Liz Shaw on the church's famous 18th century instrument. And every Sunday at 8.00am, we hold a short service of Holy Communion, again according to the Book of Common Prayer.

Based on the changing pattern of C of E worship nationally, we consider ourselves very fortunate that in Armitage with Handsacre we can still take part in the glorious traditional liturgy which has inspired and sustained congregations over the centuries.

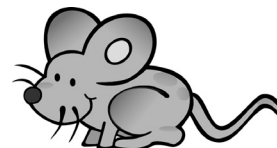
So why not drop in and join us sometime?

You may even prefer to slip in and sit at the back of the church for a while during one of our services.

Either way, you'd be very welcome.

Diana Green

CHURCH MICE



**St. John The Baptist Church, Armitage
Wednesdays from 9.30am till 10.30am.**

**Church Room open from 8.45am onwards. Drop the
older children off at school and come straight in!**

**A new free activity for 0-4yr olds (with their carers)
during term time. Refreshments, stories, songs, play
& crafts with a Christian theme.**

Come, meet others and play!

Donations of £1 per family welcomed