



April 2022
No. 453

Down Our Way

Parish News & Local Events



Huxley "Sahara" Sunset - Anne Smart

A Message from Laura

Easter Season

April is Easter time. No one quite knows the origin of our word Easter. St Bede in the seventh century said it came from 'Eostre', who he said is the goddess of fertility and spring in pre-Christian times.



Her name was used for the month of April, like Julius Caesar's name became, 'July'. Or perhaps it came from the German word for 'East', which came from a Latin word for 'dawn'. The Easter story is full of drama and difficulty, but ultimately tells the story of transformation, of new dawns, the sun rising, from darkness to light, shame to redemption, fear to joy. At this time of year, we can see that acting in nature as well. God's ways are not our ways. No matter what we have done, or what difficulty we face, we can always be transformed. There is so much good in us waiting to be discovered. When we question what is going on in the world, especially seeing the situation in Ukraine, we may wonder which way we are headed. Even when a war is terrible and far away, our community is able to respond with help of money and some people prepared to take in refugees to their homes. It is all part of the Easter secret: in the eternal battle of fear and joy, in the end, joy wins.

There are lots of ways to get involved over the Easter season, with crafts for children, a service of reflection, a shared meal and a service of celebration on Easter Sunday.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help, or if you want a chat about anything, knock on the door or email me: vicarofhargraveandhuxley@gmail.com

Laura Rhodes, Vicar

Mike Whittingham, Church Warden:- 01829 770842

Malcolm Smart, Church Warden :- 01829 781563

- 07538 440694

CHURCH WARDEN'S RETIREMENT

At the Church AGM on April 24th I will be handing my church warden's staff to Michael Keogh, a very worthy recipient and someone I know, who will carry out his duties with dedication to the task ahead.

I first took office way back in 1974 along with Chris Houlbrooke, and since then I have been warden to six incumbents of St Peters Church, but of course I could not have done this with out the help and support of Popsy and together we feel it has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to work with the lovely people of Hargrave and Huxley. The Diocese has blessed us with Laura and her delightful family, who I am sure will move the parish well into the 21st century and bring in a new generation.

Popsy and I will still be there, to be part of this vibrant community, and we hope our little parish will be around for many generations to come. Thank you all again for your love and kindness.

Mike/Popsy Whittingham



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Huxley C.E. Primary School



This term is flying by; it doesn't seem two minutes since I wrote the February update in Down Our Way.

The start of March saw us celebrating World Book Day.

The children (and staff!) dressed as their favourite book characters and we had a wonderful day filled with reading activities including the 'Masked Reader' which was so funny to watch, but also very hard to work out who was behind the mask! Some of these are on our school Facebook page if you would like to see them. We also held a reading workshop for our parents to discuss the importance of phonics, but also the importance of a love of reading. Simply reading for pleasure- becoming lost in a book.

We also had a day where we wore yellow and blue to raise money to help fund UNICEF's work to support children affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

In addition, we have been enjoying spring time activities such as gardening, painting daffodils, outdoor crafting and redesigning our new allotment area. The daffodils and crocuses look wonderful on our field.

The children have just completed a science week ,and next week we have an art day planned where two skilled artists and parents are coming in to help develop our printing skills using printing presses and multi-layered printmaking - we can't wait to see the outcomes of these activities.

We also have our Huxley's Got Talent event at the end of March- the children will be showing off their many talents. We also have our Oaks class playing their tenor horns and recorder club showing us what they have been learning in music club. Huxley definitely does have Talent.

In the style of the M&S adverts...

This is not just school; this is Huxley CE Primary School.

Unique in every way!

Have a great Easter!

Mrs Rachel Gourley, Headteacher at Huxley C.E. Primary

ONWARDS THE MOULSON TRUST and CHURCH HALL

Time marches on, and so does The Moulson Trust some 400 years after Thomas Moulson endowed our community with land and money so that Church and Children could thrive in our twin villages. We have a new Chairperson and Clerk as from last month ,and the running and administration of the Charity is in good hands and shape. Many in Hargrave and Huxley have been helped financially in their education needs and the annual distribution of funds has helped us to remain as an independent parish. There is much to celebrate and I wish the present Trustees every success in taking Moulson Trust matters forward.

The Trust owns Hargrave Village/Church Hall. On the Church website www.stpetershargrave.org.uk, you can see the interior of the Hall magnificently decorated for a wedding reception – just one of many reasons for hiring this local facility – you don't have to get married to use it! – you can play games, hold a children's party, demand another general election to vote at, celebrate a BIG birthday with family and friends, hold a fund raising event – the last one was the Happy Days St Patrick's Day Supper and Quiz – a super event and it celebrated the fact that we are now trying to put the restrictions of Covid behind us. Bless you Sir Thomas Moulson.

Edward Thornton-Firkin

Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group

So you think you know all about Queen Victoria... Come to our next meeting & all might not be as it seems. Simon La Frenais will be asking the question Victoria –Who Was She? The meeting is at Huxley Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Monday, 11th** April, followed by light refreshments. Non members £3 on the night. For further information about the group, please contact Susan at smj2908@btinternet.com



Huxley and Hargrave WI

At the March meeting Mrs Popley gave a lively presentation about her time with Granada TV. She worked in several departments, mixing with many well-known stars before they became famous 'heartthrobs' and the household names of today. The competition was won by June Wikeley

At the next meeting on **Wednesday 13th April** at Hargrave we have a talk on "Herbs for Health" and the competition is for 'A Herbal Recipe'.

We have several outings planned, the first on Mon 23rd May being a trip to Halen Mon Sea Salt Factory on Anglesea in Wales, followed by the Pringle outlet village close by.

On Tuesday 12th July we will be visiting the new RHS Bridgwater Gardens and anyone wishing to go on either of these trips is asked to put their names on the list with Connie or Tricia.

Can You Help

In 2018 (?) the WI presented a cup to the winner (at Huxley School) of the "Sunflower" competition.

We are looking to trace this engraved silver cup for future use – if anyone can remember who won it, could they please get in touch with Tricia.

Contacts are: Connie on 01829 781298/Tricia on 01829 781255

A Date For Your Diary

The WI have been fortunate to once again book the Chester Male Voice Choir for a musical evening in the marquee on the Church field, Hargrave on **Thursday 23rd June** at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £10 and will include refreshments. There will be a raffle and the bar will also be open. It was a super evening when they last came a couple of years ago so we can all look forward to repeating this event.

Village Walk Friday 22nd April

Our next walk will be on Friday, 22nd April. Details of the walk to be announced. An email will be sent to regular walkers but, if you would like to join us, please, contact Jenny Hobbs. Everyone is very welcome. Tel. 01829 781250



'Men Who Munch'



Our last lunch was well attended and a good time was had by all. The next 'Men who Munch' will be on **Thursday 21st April** at the Inn at Huxley at 1200hrs. Hopefully our next lunch will be as good as the last one. I look forward to seeing as many as

possible for lunch. Tom Hobbs

Contacts: 01829 781250 Email: Thomas.hobbs1973@gmail.com

Ladies Who Lunch

The lunch in March was well attended and, together with generous donations we were able to give £60 to each of

The Ukraine Disasters Emergency

Appeal Fund and £60 to our regular charity 'Blood Bikers'.

The next lunch is on **Thursday 21st April at The Swan, Tarpurley**. This time, pre-payment is needed, so please get in touch asap if you would like to be included.

Chris Hunt 01829 781112



BIKES

In very good condition (& hardly used) a man's and lady's bike need a good home in exchange for a donation to Happy Days Funds.

Contact Chris Hunt on 01829 781112



Our Little Newsletter

by the children at Huxley C.E. Primary School



About us by Elliott

We have a yard at the front of our school where we can play football, basketball and we have lots of different outdoor toys to play with like stilts and skittles. At the back of the school is a ginormous field with a football pitch where we play football all year round. Amongst the trees there is a wooden play house which we use to play Let's Pretend. We have a huge round covered outdoor classroom where we can do our work on hot days. Our beautiful garden area is a calming place to go to. We will be adding more plants like herbs and vegetables. We have a music wall where you can make lovely sounds. We also have a woodland track that goes around the field.

Our grounds by Annika

Can you help to change Huxley's grounds for ever? It needs to be more organic, lively and happy. We need you to help rebuild the grounds and support a happy school. We would like a specific area to be filled with: vibrant flowers, things to play with, vegetables and plants to grow in the beds and for it to be bright and colourful. Can you donate flowers or your time and help with the allotments? Contact details below.

Special activities by Joshua

We do lots of interesting things at Huxley like Mr Egypt coming to visit. He was an Egyptologist and talked about Tutankhamun- one of the most famous Pharaohs of all. He brought with him artefacts. We also had visits from old school boys of Huxley. They talked about how they watched the spitfires come over in the war and told us about the children who were evacuated. We also had a man who came with trees and we planted them in our school field. They were heritage apple trees. This week we had three artists who were parents at our school. We used an old fashioned print press to create prints on paper and tshirts. We used different materials to create a landscape of different texture. We also had River and Canal safety talks.



Huxley's got talent by William

Huxley's got talent is coming to our school. All parents are welcome and there is a suggestion of £1 donation

We are also doing lessons on the Tenor Horn. It is enjoyable and a good experience and a lot of people are now very good at it. They are that good that we could make a band from us in fact.

We are also keen gardeners and this is what we are hoping to make our garden look like.



Careers talks by Emily

Can you help? Do you have an interesting job? Would you like to come into our school to talk about your job? Maybe you are an engineer, doctor, builder, nurse, lawyer or teacher or maybe something else? We would like to know how you got into your job, what you think of it and what you had to do to get into it. Did you always want to have the job that you have now?

If you want to help, contact Mrs Gourley or Miss Lloyd at

admin@huxleyprimary.cheshire.sch.uk



New starts by Henry

My experience so far...

When I first arrived at Huxley two months ago to look around with my mum I really liked the Tree Trail around the school field. I was really looking forward to starting properly.

I was extremely nervous making friends but when I made a friend I was really happy. Two months later I made a new friend called Mitchell. I really like playing 'Old Men' with Mitchell on the field and a game called Hurricane.

I really enjoy getting Huxley High Fives. I have five already! I love the beautiful days in Spring because I like playing in the sunshine. I love my tiny school.





St Patrick's Day

A very enjoyable event was had by all!

Thank you to Joinson's Butchers, Christleton Road, Chester for kindly donating the meat for the evening.

Easter Weekend Egg Trail



We are looking forward to the Easter Egg Trail throughout the two villages. The Easter Bunny will be leaving clues for you to find over the Easter Weekend (15th—18th April), follow the clues to find the secret Password. If you get the correct password there are prizes for all.



Email: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com for the clues.
It's free to enter!

Happy Days Sairée

Join us for a splendid social evening at Upper Brereton Park.



By kind invitation of Mrs Helen Campbell.

Saturday 14th May 2022, 6pm to 9pm.

Tickets £15, includes drinks and canapés.



Email: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com to reserve your place.





Friday 24th June,

Barn Dance in the marquee, Mac's band back by popular demand! Kindly Sponsored by Hewitts. Tickets £15 adult, £8 child (under 11), includes Bottomless Pizza and sides.

Saturday 25th June, Traditional Games and Village Competitions, Bring your own Picnic, Licenced Bar, BBQ, Craft Activities in the marquee, Inter-Village Tug of War... and much more!

Advance notice of the competitions, so you can get practicing!

Adult's Competitions

Class 1 - Jar of homemade Jam (any fruit)

Class 2 - Jar of homemade chutney

Class 3 - Victoria Sponge Cake with Filling (8") own recipe

Class 4 - Fruit scones on a plate

Class 5 - MEN ONLY a cake of your choice

Class 6 - A ladies corsage for a summer wedding

Class 7 - An arrangement of garden and hedgerow flowers, total height 16"

Class 8 - A root vegetable

Children's Competitions (up to the age of 15)

Class 1 – Artwork (painting / drawing of your choice)

Class 2 – A handmade greetings card

Class 3 – Wonky vegetable

Class 4 – Garden on a plate

Class 5 – Decorated cupcake

Email: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com for entry details.





HARGRAVE & HUXLEY JUBILEE

Latest News

Following a further meeting of the committee we are pleased to announce some updates

Beacon Lighting 9.30pm Thursday the 2nd June

Jubilee Day commences after the Church Service on the 5th June

Bring your own Picnic and Drinks

Strawberries and Cream will be complimentary

We welcome anyone who wants to get into the 50's style, so don't be shy join in the fun

The list of attractions is growing with each meeting and still includes Cars of the 50's, Juke Box, traditional games, and we welcome any new ideas to make it a great community day out. –

Contact Roy Bird - roy@chestergroup.org – Mob 07553374008

Revision of St.Peter's Electoral Roll April 2022

- ◇ The Electoral Roll is to be revised this year. It is not a new roll.
- ◇ Anyone already on the Roll, and wishing to stay on it : Do Nothing.
- ◇ Anyone wishing to be added to the Roll please fill in a form (on the table near the font), and hand to one of the Church Wardens or the Electoral Roll Officer, Jan Burgess (jb1946@talktalk.net / 07985 918510).
- ◇ Anyone wishing to remove / change their name or address on the Roll, please inform one of the Church Wardens or Electoral Roll Officer.
- ◇ **Last date for additions / changes / removal of details Saturday April 9th**



Hargrave and Huxley Jubilee Celebrations, bringing together family, friends and neighbours.

Save the Date of Sunday 5th June

Fab 50s themed party on Hargrave Church Field.

Bring your own picnic. We'll bring the music, games and exciting regal activities

Everyone is welcome!

A Jubilee Beacon will be lit to mark the Jubilee, and remain as a memento of the occasion.

We will provide more details as plans develop.




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Geoff Hales**by Ol' Buzz**

When WW2 broke out, Geoff was a probationer constable in the City of London Police. After a month of pounding his beat, he was the only one of his cohort to have nothing at all in his notebook. His sergeant had made it plain that he must show signs of police acumen – or else. But not a pub served after hours, not a hawkler failed to produce a licence, not a vehicle had an out of date tax disc or parked on a pavement. He was given one last day to produce a result, and entered the final hour of his shift with his notebook empty. Until a stout lady in a long fur coat allowed her tiny, rhinestone-collared dog to foul the pavement. Geoff produced his notebook, but even as he licked his pencil, 'Exhibit A' rolled off the pavement and into the gutter.

Geoff took the hint, and walked into an RAF recruiting office, evincing a long held wish to fly. He handed back his notebook, whistle and warrant card, telling the sergeant that he was off to serve king and country. He became an RAF Navigator, and once, returning in a badly damaged aircraft, the skipper told the crew to throw out anything not fixed down, to help him maintain critical altitude. Away went the guns, ammunition belts, Navigator's table, and Geoff even ditched their Elsan. He was later reprimanded for that because the "enemy could allege chemical warfare."

He blamed it all on an incontinent dog.

Cheshire West Mobile Library

The Mobile Library service has at last moved to a full timetable and will be visiting the following stops –

- **Huxley at Church Lane on Tuesdays at 3.10pm-3.30pm** every 3 weeks from 1 March;
- **Hargrave Church on Wednesdays at 10am-10.25am** (please note change of time) from 2 March.



For times of routes and further information, please visit: [Mobile library service \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](http://mobilelibraryservice.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY BOWLING CLUB

The bowling season will be resuming again in April. We are a very friendly, sociable group that would welcome new members of any age and ability to join us. For more details contact Tony 01829 770623 or Mike 01829 781212. Or, come along to the green next to Hargrave Church on a Saturday from 2 pm (weather permitting), and speak to any of the members present.



HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council will be on **Sunday 8th May** at 5.00pm in Hargrave Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Litter Picking

Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council is again organising litter picking on two days. **Hargrave is Saturday 2nd April and Huxley is Saturday 9th April.** If you can help out, please contact Jane Windsor on 07721 599036 for Hargrave and Lorraine Sackett on 01829 781573 for Huxley. We will be able to provide litter pickers and bin bags. It will only take two hours of your time and makes such a difference to our lanes. If you are unable to help out on these dates, but can at any other time, we can still loan out the litter pickers. Thank you in advance.

Road Closure

CWaC are planning to close Church Lane from 28th March for four days this is in preparation for surface dressing work scheduled to be carried out later in the year. Surface dressing is classed as a 'preventative treatment' and are used on roads that are still structurally sound but that are starting to show signs of deterioration, they are then treated which helps reseal the road surface and extend the life of the road.

They'll be a few different phases over the next couple of months i.e. the pre-patching (prep), surface dressing and then the relining works. The dates of these will also be update on <https://one.network/tm>

**THE JOSHUA TREE
COFFEE MORNING
THE PLOUGH INN
FRIDAY APRIL 1ST AT 11A.M.**



April is a special month in the church calendar, giving us Lent a time when we can show our faith by sacrificing a little, and Easter the great celebration. Plant life begins to stir and the garden and countryside call us. At the time of writing even Europe's future is on the move! But on the gentler side St Valentines Day is a time for love! April has been a notable month throughout history - some interesting facts worth recalling:

1973 VAT introduced
8th Buddhas Birthday
14th Highway code 1931
21st Queen Elizabeth was born
23rd Shakespeare's birthday and the day he died, 1584-1613
25th Building blocks of all lifeforms discovered by Watson and Crick 1953
26th 'The Sky at night' first broadcast 1957
12th Union Flag first flown 1606
15th Titanic sank 1912
23rd St Georges day

Too many discoveries, situations and 'history' to record here. Not all inventions and momentous days bring good recall, but they happened. For someone, somewhere, 'that date' is their unforgettable moment.

I am sure we all have our own memories of Aprils past, an anniversary, an outing to remember, a dinner or picnic for two or just lovely memories of occasions past, small or significant.

Help build happy memories for our young people by supporting us as we endeavour to give a few hours respite to families under stress. Not hard to do drink coffee, eat cake and chat!

£5.00 and a raffle prize please



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HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL FILM NIGHT

Friday 8th April

West Side Story –

new version from Steven Spielberg

Doors open at 7.30pm and drinks will be served. Please be seated for start of the film at 8pm.

There will be an interval for refreshments including Cheshire farm Ice cream. Further information, Steve 781294, Lorraine 781573



EDITOR'S NOTE

All submissions for the May edition to be in by **Thursday 21st April**. All submissions need to be submitted in a document as an attachment please and **not typed** directly into an email. Please note this email is **only checked** at submission time.

Many thanks

Beverley

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CHURCH WEBSITE

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www.stpetershargrave.org.uk

ELECTRONIC DOWN OUR WAY

Contact Beverley Stubbs and each month the magazine will be in your email box in PDF format
Tel: 01829 781505 or email

HandHDOW@gmail.com

DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators are located at the following sites:



Hargrave - Alongside entrance to Church Hall

Huxley - To the right of front entrance to The Inn at Huxley

APRIL SERVICES AT ST PETERS

Sunday 3rd Passion Sunday	09:45 Eucharist CW B Burgess (R&S) J Burgess (S) Intercessions: J Burgess Lane by Lane: Old Hall Lane, Cinder Lane, Cow Lane, Hargrave
Sunday 10th Palm Sunday	09:45 Eucharist CW Meet in the Church Hall for Palm Sunday Procession M Smart (R&S) A Smart (S) Intercessions: H Johnson Lane by Lane: Red Lane, Huxley including Crow's Nest
Thursday 14th Maundy Thursday	19:00 Agape Meal, Church Hall.
Friday 15th Good Friday	14:00 1 hour at the foot of the cross. A quiet service of reflection.
Sunday 17th Easter Day	09:45 Family Eucharist CW Followed by Easter Egg Hunt E Thornton-Firkin (R&S) R Vincent (S) Intercessions: Young People Lane by Lane: Church Lane including the Nook, Hargrave
Sunday 24th First Sunday after Easter	09:45 Eucharist CW D Roberts (R&S) M Keogh (S) Intercessions: A Roberts Followed by APCM in Church Hall Lane by Lane: (Back Lane), Huxley

APRIL 2022 DATES FOR DIARY

1st Pg 18	11:00am Joshua Tree Coffee Morning	The Plough Christleton
2nd Pg 17	10:00am Litter Picking	Hargrave Church Hall
2nd Pg 16	2:00pm Bowling Club	Hargrave
8th Pg 21	7:30pm Huxley Film Night “West Side Story”	Huxley Village Hall
9th Pg 17	10:00am Litter Picking	Huxley Village Hall
11th Pg 6	7:30pm Hargrave and Huxley Historical Group	Huxley Village Hall
13th Pg 7	7:30pm WI	Hargrave Church Hall
14th Pg 23	7:00pm Maundy Thursday Agape Meal	Hargrave Church Hall
15th	10:00 Easter Garden making in the churchyard and children’s crafts	St Peter’s Hargrave
17th Pg 23	Easter Egg Hunt following Family Communion	St Peter’s Hargrave
21st Pg 8	12:00 noon Ladies Who Lunch	The Swan, Tarporley
21st Pg 8	12:00 noon Men Who Munch	The Inn at Huxley
21st Pg 21	Parish News Deadline	
22nd Pg 7	9:30am Village Walk	TBA
24th	11:00 PCC Meeting	Hargrave Church Hall
24th Pg 3	3:00pm Messy Church	St Peter’s Hargrave