

February 2022

No. 451

Down Our Way

Parish News & Local Events



Hargrave Sun Rise - Mike Stubbs

A Message from Laura

Chester recently topped a poll as the most relaxed city in the UK. How was this decided? They looked at who had searched online for the words, 'spa breaks near me'. People in Chester searched for this more than anyone else, and so we were declared the most relaxed city. Spa breaks have become very popular in recent years, but, if you had enough money, taking the waters and spas have been popular for centuries as people took time to convalesce and recover from illness, difficulty and grief.



You may have sprung into the new year and be ready for new adventures. My new year began with covid, which has led to a slow start to the year and a surprisingly long recovery. I was given a book called *Recovery: The Lost Art of Convalescence*. It seems to me in recent weeks, we have heard lots of stories locally and nationally about people's individual experiences of the pandemic and how difficult their time has been. It also seems that some people are ready to leap out of illness and grief and jump back to health. However, the pandemic has made that hard again and again.

At the start of a new year, with a hint of spring in the air, we may feel time for a new start, but collectively maybe we need some time to convalesce, and give ourselves, our families and our communities more time to take things slowly as we return to health and give each other time to feel ready to go out again.

Ecclesiastes, perhaps one of the least joyful books in the Bible, gives us these words of wisdom:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,*

*a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

What time are you in? The church remains open and you are always welcome to use it as a space for reflection.

Also, you are always welcome to church on a Sunday to sit, sing and reflect in our service. We hope to begin new activities this year, as we slowly open up again. If you have any ideas about what you think our community of Hargrave and Huxley needs, please be in touch.

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

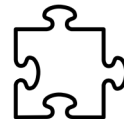
Mike Whittingham, Church Warden:- 01829 770842

Malcolm Smart, Church Warden :- 01829 781563
– 07538 440694

JIGSAWS

We have a short list of 'Puzzlers' who pass on any completed jigsaws to others. It looks as though they have been very popular of late and there are lots doing the rounds at the moment. If you are interested in adding your name to this list, let me know.

Chris Hunt : huntic@btinternet.com



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Hargrave - Alongside entrance to Church Hall

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

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Chester, CH1 6AW



Exciting News For 2022

Parent Teacher Association Huxley CE Primary School is part of the @coopuk Local Community Fund. Become a Co-op member and choose us as your local cause and help raise funds for our schools educational activities.

Link to the our Coop profile page

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/63375>

The PTA would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who help with our Recycle 4 School Clothes collections. The aim of these collections was to raise funds for the schools reading scheme - together we raised **£294.55 THANK YOU.**

Other ways to support Your Local School - it's completely free and only takes a moment to join.

The PTA is registered with **Easyfundraising & AmazonSmile**, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference.

You can find our AmazonSmile at -

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1077597-0>

You can find our easyfundraising page at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ptahuxleyceps/?utm_campaign=raise-more





Save the Family

Keeping Families Together

We provide safe and supported accommodation for vulnerable families in our community.

We would like to say thank you to the residents of Hargrave and Huxley who have continued to support our families who live with us in Cheshire. The donations received from the October Harvest collection will ensure no-one goes hungry this winter.



Can you help us?

We currently have an urgent need for a volunteer minibus driver, one morning per week so that we can provide a shopping trip for residents. Person must be under 65 and have a licence category D1 and will be required to have a DBS completed.

Email: info@savethefamily.uk.com for more details.



Compassion



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Excellence

Together we can **CREATE** a positive future

Huxley Tots

at

Huxley CE Primary School

Friday 9.30-10.25



The group is suitable for parents and carers of children from birth to primary school age. Every Friday during Term time, please bring own snacks and drinks, suggested donation will be £1/£2 per family.

Come and explore the School's outdoor space. In the event of bad weather, sessions will be held in the school hall. So picnic blankets, wellies, waterproofs, etc all a good idea. Organised by **Tetyana English**



Our Facebook page is **Huxley Tots at Huxley CE Primary School**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/472983840625345/?ref=share>



Huxley and Hargrave WI

In December we held the in-house Christmas party, at which we had the 'Ladies Chinese Cultural Society' entertaining us with their dancing, singing and super costumes. Malcolm, the husband of one of the Chinese ensemble, explained the various costumes and dance routines and it really was a cultural delight with the sylph-like figures, slow movements and eerie music. Malcolm also explained some characters from the Chinese alphabet and we were told how to count in Mandarin.



We then helped ourselves to the groaning food table (always a super spread produced by the members) and the Chinese contingent joined us for the rest of the evening which was lovely – and they were delighted to win several raffle prizes to take away.

The meeting in January was, unfortunately, cancelled due to Omicron but at the time of writing the next meeting is to be held at Huxley on **Wednesday 9th February** @ 2pm when the speaker will talk on "Paul's Little Knick Knacks" with a competition for An Unusual Utensil. This sounds like a meeting not to be missed!

For details of future meetings or planned outings contact
Connie on 01829 781298/ Tricia on 01829 781255



'Men Who Munch'

The next 'Men who Munch' date will be on the 17th February at the Inn at Huxley at our usual time of 12noon.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible for lunch. Tom Hobbs
01829 781250 Email: Thomas.hobbs1973@gmail.com

Ladies Who Lunch

The Christmas lunch at The Inn @ Huxley proved to be a popular choice and we were well looked after with the Orangery to ourselves. Together with a couple of donations we raised £280.00 as the final donation to Endometriosis which was fantastic and thanks go to Kathy for once again organising a super raffle and to the 'Secret Santa' helpers.

We start 2022 with a new charity "Blood Bikers" who give a brilliant free service to the NHS by ensuring that vital supplies get through to recipients, while motorbike enthusiasts get to ride as an added bonus.



The January lunch was at Rowton Hall, where we had the ballroom for added ventilation and it was well attended. We raised £76 to start off the new charity, which included two donations.

The February Lunch is on **Thursday the 17th** at **The Stamford Bridge** pub. I have the menu from which to choose, and I will need a £5 deposit, so contact me if you have not already signed up for the lunch.

Chris Hunt on 01829 781112



Huxley C.E. Primary School

Full time and flexi places available

Get in touch and come and see for yourself.

We would love to show you around.

We are a child-centred small rural Church of England primary school.



Ofsted Good Oct 2019
SIAMS Outstanding



Ring 01829 781 296
admin@huxleyprimary.cheshire.sch.uk
www.huxleyprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group

In February we move our meetings to Huxley Village Hall. On **Monday, 14th at 7.30pm**, John Eldridge will be giving an illustrated talk about Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, HMS Victory – An Engineer's View. The talk will be followed by light refreshments. In recent months we have had some new members – everyone is welcome. We meet on the second Monday of the month from September to May.



For further information please contact Susan at **smj2908@btinternet.com**



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Huxley C.E. Primary School



We all hope you had a lovely time with friends and family over the festive period. Our own little Huxley family had a great time before breaking up for Christmas. We were lucky enough to manage to do our Christmas play and end of year sing-a-long with parents. I know for some school this was unable to happen due to their size but at Huxley we are small enough that we could ensure a covid safe performance and oh what a performance it was. The staff and I were incredibly proud of the children of Huxley and their confidence to take part. Many of them have never been in a school before and so for them to stand up on that stage and sing and read lines was fantastic. Our play was about the different ways in which Christians celebrate Christmas around the world. We went and 'visited' lots of countries and found out lots of information. This tied in nicely to our Geography lessons in Autumn term too. I am looking forward to what we can now do going forwards. Our next performance/event is 'Huxley's Got Talent!' - We cannot wait! I wonder what the children have in store for us!

We were grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Living Advent Calendar too. Our number 8 Snowmen seemed to appear from overnight to decorate the front of the school, despite the weather we had, they survived for most of December! We loved watching the different

windows that appeared around the area too. Thank you for letting us be a part of this community event.

In addition, we had a very special visitor into school - Father Christmas himself made an appearance at Huxley. Our inquisitive children asked Father Christmas many, many, questions about elves, reindeers and how he fits down the chimney! They really enjoyed his visit and they were so excited to see him.

We had a lovely party day where staff were made to dress up in handmade santa costumes the children had put together- they did look rather funny! This was then followed by the most delicious Christmas dinner.

The children were gifted with a lovely book written by Mary Thorp. Mary and Rupert came and had a walk around the school when they dropped the books off. We look forward to welcoming more people from the community to see the school once the COVID situation improves further. Thank you Mary for your kind donation - the children were fascinated with the book and we hope to use it this Spring to help us study bees further.

‘Springing’ into the new term, we have lots of exciting activities planned. We look forward to sharing these with you in our next DOW article.

For now, from all at Huxley CE Primary, we would like to say Happy New Year to all and we wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous 2022!



Hargrave & Huxley 2022 Calendar

Just a few calendars left, please get in touch if you would like one
hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

Happy Days Charities for 2022

Our Mission is to bring together the local community of the villages of Hargrave & Huxley and surrounding neighbours, through fun events that can be enjoyed by all the family. Where we are successful enough to raise funds, these will go to deserving local charities:

- ◇ St Peters Church
- ◇ Save the Family
- ◇ Opal Services
- ◇ Young Minds
- ◇ Huxley CE Primary School PTA

Happy Days Events

Our next event will be held in March. Full details will be included in our newsletter coming out soon. If you are not already on our mailing list and would like to be kept in the loop, email to be added to the list: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

We are also on Facebook-search for Hargrave & Huxley Happy Days, and a website www.hargravehuxleyhappydays.co.uk

We'd love to hear your ideas for any future events
please get in touch.



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admin@huxleyprimary.cheshire.sch.uk
www.huxleyprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Village Walk Friday 18th February

The walk will be in Delamere Forest, stopping at the Delamere café for a coffee.

It is about 3.5 miles long. Further details to be announced.

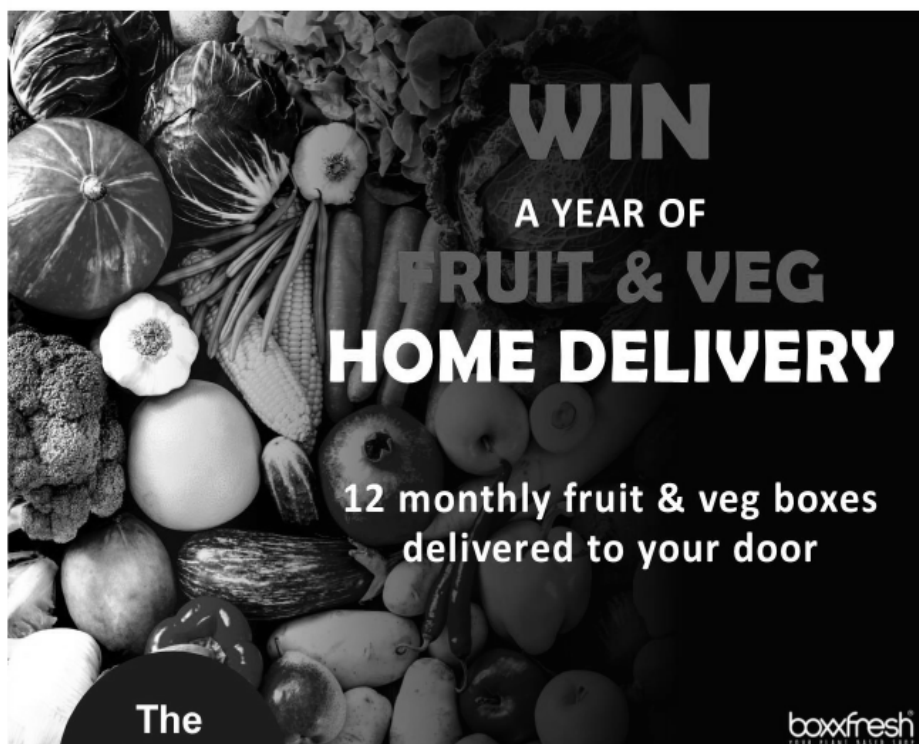
Everyone is very welcome.

If you would like to join us, please, contact Jenny Hobbs.

Tel. 01829 781250



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and search for: Huxley C.E. Primary School

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for T&Cs. Closing date for entries: 17th July 2021

**THE JOSHUA TREE
COFFEE MORNING
THE PLOUGH INN
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 4th AT 11A.M.**



February is what I think of as a 'waiting' month. Waiting for the winter to finish and the Spring to begin. The weather can have its last winter hurrah or Spring can start showing early. In fact a little like our present situation. Do we take all rigid covid precautions or do we relax a little... a waiting game.

The 14th of the month brings St Valentines Day, turned at present into a giving and receiving of gifts of love. But years ago it was the Roman feast of Lupercalia, to welcome spring. This day was celebrated in the cave where Romulus and Remus took shelter. Later a version of the story gave us St Valentine....he could have been an amalgamation of two bishops of that name, Claudius the second, decided that single men made better soldiers and outlawed those that broke the 'law'. A bishop named Valentine protested against the decree and performed marriages in secret. He was beheaded. The real facts are lost in the mystery of time. The celebration of Lupercalia lasted until Christianity took hold, then in the 5th century – when Pope Gelasius declared it to be called St. Valentines Day. And as for romantic missives....

Charles, Duke of Orleans wrote a Valentine in 1415 to his wife whilst imprisoned in the Tower of London after being captured at Agincourt. Henry 1V sent one to Catherine de Valois but he had an author compose it. Rather like today.

**£5.00 and a raffle prize please
March coffee morning the 4th**



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Alfred Wintle

by Ol' Buzz

Older readers may recall Col. Wintle MC, who lost an eye and half a hand in the Great War but was frequently in the news thereafter. He was locked up in the Tower in 1940, to await court martial for threatening an Air Commodore with a pistol after trying to "borrow" an aircraft. He telephoned Lt.Col Birch of the Rifles, inviting him to lunch. "Have a sherry, I'll ring for a steward," said Wintle. He rang and the sherry appeared. The only sign of Wintle's situation was the sentry with fixed bayonet at his door ! For threatening the RAF officer, Wintle was severely reprimanded at his court martial.

In 1958 he won an 11 year legal dispute over a cousin's £115,000 estate, during which he debagged solicitor Frederick Nye, residual legatee under the will, and photographed him, trouserless and wearing a Dunces cap, "to cause a scandal and get him into court." When the case ended, the £44,000 bequest to Mr. Nye was revoked. "I was going to fly his trousers in triumph from my flagpole at home, but unfortunately I was arrested before dawn," Wintle later added. In 1948 he was fined £8 for assault and obstruction after refusing to leave the driver's cabin of a train at Victoria Station. He was novelist and author, unsuccessful parliamentary candidate, prisoner in the Tower, pleader in the House of Lords, lecturer, cavalry officer, who once described himself as "a professional eccentric." What fun he would have been in Lockdown, had he not died in 1966.

Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group

New to the Villages?

Would you like a FREE copy
of The History of Hargrave
and Huxley and Images of
Hargrave and Huxley?

Then please phone
Elizabeth on 781423 or
email

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IMAGES OF HARGRAVE & HUXLEY

**A Pictorial History of
two West Cheshire
Villages**

Published by the Hargrave
and Huxley Historical Group



HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL FILM NIGHT

**Due to postponement,
No Time to Die
will now be shown
Friday 11th March**

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



WEST CHESHIRE FOOD BANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

It's getting colder, so cold weather food is important. At this winter time, let's think about those who are just not as fortunate as we are - for those who are in food crisis, and yes, they really do exist in the prosperous Chester area! Just a little means so much to a family that is struggling. Thank you so much for your donations.



CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you visited the Church Website? Please have a look and keep up to date with what's happening.

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



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EDITOR'S NOTE

All submissions for the March edition to be in by **Thursday 17th February**. 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
Tel 781505
HandHDOW@gmail.com



FEBRUARY SERVICES AT ST PETERS

**Sunday 6th
4th Sunday
before Lent** 09:45 Eucharist CW
D Roberts (R&S) J Ankers (S)
Intercessions: A Roberts

Lane by Lane: Brassey Green

**Sunday 13th
3rd Sunday
before Lent** 09:45 Eucharist CW
E Thornton-Firkin (R&S) A Williams (S)
Intercessions: J Wilson

Lane by Lane: Newton-by-Tattenhall

**Sunday 20th
2nd Sunday
before Lent** 09:45 Family Eucharist CW
M Strefford (R) M&A Smart (S)
E Thornton-Firkin (S)
Intercessions: Young People

Lane by Lane: Those who live outside the Parish

**Sunday 27th
Sunday before
Lent** 09:45 Eucharist CW
H Johnson (R) B&J Burgess (S)
Intercessions: B Burgess

Lane by Lane: Huxley Lane, Huxley - including
Village Hall

FEBRUARY 2022 DATES FOR DIARY

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 4th Pg 17 | 11:00am Joshua Tree Coffee Morning | The Plough Christleton |
| 9th Pg 8 | 2:00pm WI | Huxley Village Hall |
| 14th Pg 10 | 7:30pm Hargrave and Huxley Historical Group | Huxley Village Hall |
| 17th Pg 9 | 12:00 noon Ladies Who Lunch | Stamford Bridge |
| 17th Pg 9 | 12:00 noon Men Who Munch | The Inn at Huxley |
| 17th Pg 22 | Parish News Deadline | |
| 18th Pg 15 | 9:30am Village Walk | Delamere Forest |
| March | | |
| 11th Pg 21 | 7:30pm Huxley Film Night “No Time To Die” | Huxley Village Hall |