



Stoke Parish Council

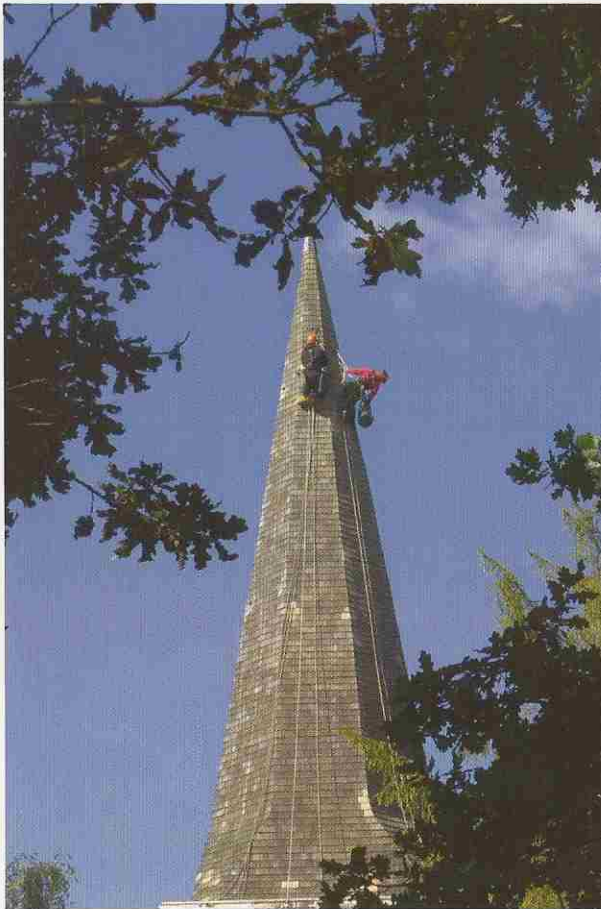
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Issue 2018.3

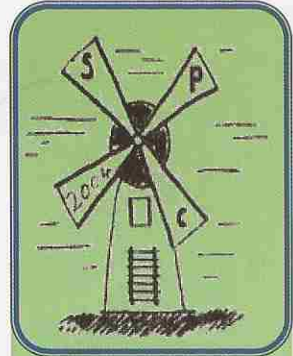
PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER

PROGRESS STARTS ON THE CHURCH TOWER !

Steeplejacks working on the church tower in October, please see Pages 4 to 6 of this Newsletter for more on the ongoing progress and fundraising for the restoration of the tower



Photograph courtesy of Cllr Jill Howe



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PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Chairman's Report – December 2018

The outdoor film night (picture below) was a great success in September with over 450 people attending. The weather was kind to us and I hope you all had an enjoyable evening. I would like to thank Chris Dawson and Chris Cooke for their help on the night. Also, John Ellis who found the ice cream man just a few hours before the event began!



We hope to repeat this event on the last Saturday in August next year. If you have a film request, please text me on 07970 782 690 with your suggestion.

I was sorry to miss the Memorial Service on Sunday 11th November 2018 at Hanbury Church. The Parish Council was represented by Vice Chairman John Ellis, Susan Abel and Jill Howe and they laid a wreath on our behalf.

Once again this year, we will be holding our 'Carols in the Park' on Saturday 8th December 2018 at Stoke Heath Recreation area commencing at 5.00pm.

Refreshment will be available free of charge. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Concerns have been raised by local residents about the speed of the traffic travelling along the Redditch Road, between The Hanbury Turn and Buntsford roundabout.

Therefore, for the past few weeks we have been monitoring the traffic each way along the road using a speed sensor. I was surprised at the number of vehicles that do not adhere to the speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Monitoring the situation, we have noted that the daily average is, 3,500 vehicles in each direction exceeding the speed limit.

Our Parish Website is undergoing a major revision and update. Why not visit it to see the changes that have been made so far? But please remember that it is still very much a work in progress!

For those of you who didn't know that we actually have a website the best way to access it is to go to good old Google, type in 'stoke prior parish website' and click on the 'Google Search' button. Hopefully you'll then be rewarded with the following option at the top of the list that appears

Stoke Parish Council: Home

www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk/ ▼

The Official Website for Stoke Heath, Stoke Pound, Stoke Prior and Stoke Works. ... to provide information about the work and activities of Stoke Parish Council.

Clicking on 'Stoke Parish Council: Home' should take you to the website Homepage

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the Parish, please contact the Parish Clerk, Neil Gulliver on 01527 757 190 or myself on 07970 782 690

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2019, Peter Williams

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from the Parish Clerk

CAROLS IN THE PARK

You are all invited to attend the Parish Council's 'Carols in the Park' event being held on Saturday 8 December 2018 starting at 5.00pm at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

The carols will be conducted by the Revd Wyn Beynon

and will be followed by

free hot drinks and refreshments provided by the Parish Council.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

The Parish Council will again this year be running a competition for the best external Christmas lights in the Parish. The display must obviously be Christmas related and in good taste.

A prize of a gift voucher towards the cost of a meal at a local hostelry will be given to the winner. There will be a prize for both the best display in Stoke Heath and Stoke Prior.

You do not need to register your entry as Parish Councillors will tour the parish on an unspecified date in December to choose the winners.

Winners will be announced in the Spring 2019 Newsletter.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF THIS WINTER

Keeping Yourself Well in Winter:

Maintain room temperatures at a minimum 18-21 degrees.

Keep active by moving around regularly, remove hazards that may cause a trip or fall.

Dress warmly, eat hot food and take warm drinks.

If you have health concerns, call your GP or 111.

Ensure you are stocked up on medication and food. Order prescriptions/groceries in advance or ask friends and relatives.

Going outdoors:

Tune into the local weather forecast before undertaking outdoor activities –

www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast.

If you have to go out dress warmly to suit conditions.

Tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you back.

If you have a mobile phone, keep it with you at all times, keep it charged and ensure that emergency contact numbers are on speed dial.

Winter Ailments:

Get a FREE flu jab if you are over 65 or in a high risk group. Ask your GP or local pharmacist for details.

Find reliable health information online at NHS Choices www.nhs.co.uk/staywell

Ensure you have stocks of medication and food.

Have your home prepared:

Contact Act on Energy for free, impartial household energy advice 0800 988 2881

Check your heating is working and get it serviced annually by a qualified Gas Safe engineer.

www.gassaferegister.co.uk.

Contact your local fire and rescue service for a FREE home safety check 0800 032 1155.

Get electric blankets tested, test smoke alarms and change their batteries regularly.

Make sure you can access to sufficient fuel supplies.

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

St Michael and All Angels Tower Fund Raising and Appeal

The tower friends continue to raise funds for the repairs needed at St Michael and All Angels. So far, the friends have raised £65,000 towards the repairs. They have challenged themselves to reach £70,000 before the end of the year. Although edging towards their target, they still need help if they are to achieve this.

The events that the friends have organised in 2018 and have planned for 2019 are varied and exciting.

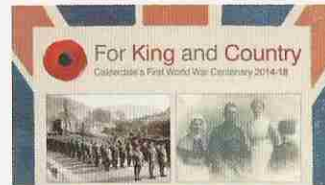
Here are just a few of what has been put on for the local community, friends, families and visitors from afar in 2018:

Table Top Sales at the Village Hall
Easter Raffle with the draw being held in the church
HM Royal Marines Band and Alcester Male Voice Choir in concert at the Chateau Impney
Opera Worcester performing at St Michael and All Angels
Business Breakfast served in the church
Peter Hartley in concert during the Bromsgrove Festival
Barn Dance again at the Village Hall

So what next? There is an exciting programme of events planned in November and December. They are:

For King and Country *

Saturday 10th November
St Michael and All Angels, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior
3 - 4.30pm
Tickets £10.00
Please contact Cathy Stokes on 01527 577069 or email castokes15@hotmail.com



This will be an afternoon of music hall entertainment, as a tribute to those from our village who gave their lives in the First World War. The tribute is for the young men who gave them today for our tomorrow. There will be songs, dances, sketches and a light 1918 style afternoon tea.

Dog handling and Behaviour Talk *

Friday 16th November
St Michael and All Angels, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior
6.30 - 8pm
Tickets £15.00
Please contact Helen Gerard on 07749 348742 or email hello@naturallyclevercanines.co.uk



An evening to understand your dog and to learn skills for successful dog training. The talk and demonstration are being given by canine behaviourist, Helen Gerard and Vet Nurse, Morag Moseley. Light refreshments will be available and you will have the opportunity to have a go on a very unique raffle!

* These events happened before this Newsletter went for printing

UPDATE ON CHURCH TOWER APPEAL (Continued)

Business Breakfast

23rd November
St Michael and All Angels, Hanbury Road Stoke Prior
7.30 - 9am
Tickets £20.00
Please contact Mark Jones on 07801 237975 or email TowerFundBreakfast@gmail.com



This will be the friends third breakfast to raise funds for the tower. They are always well supported with a local business each time sponsoring the morning. A full English is served with all the trimmings. As always, a vegetarian option is on the menu. The breakfast is a great way for businesses in Stoke Prior and locally to network. Professional caterers look after the guests ensuring they all enjoy their start of their day



Let the repairs begin

From the kind donations received since the fund raising began, the tower friends have started repairs to prevent damage to the internal structure of the spire and to protect to the ancient bells.

Over 150 cedar wood shingles have been replaced.

The bell chamber has been cleaned out with decades of bird guano being removed.

Remember the tower friends hope to raise £70,000 by the end of the year.2018. The total amount needed to £250,000. Please let's help them to save any further deterioration of St Michael and All Angels.

A Christmas Message from the Reverend Wyn Beynon

We're having a Christmas Tree festival this year in St Michael's Church and at Wychbold. Trees are found throughout the Bible from the Trees of Life and the Knowledge of Good and evil in the Garden of Eden, through to the last book of the Bible where the "leaves of the tree heal the nations". These are darkening days for our nation and indeed the world as many nations turn in on themselves and leaders emerge who pay little heed to international law. The nations need those healing leaves. One of the Old Testament Psalms speaks of the "trees of the field clapping their hands with joy" at the coming of God in the Christ Child. Let us look with joy too, at the coming of God-who-is-Love, who can heal us all. And a blessed, joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you and to all humanity. And come and see the Christmas trees!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Christmas Tree Festival

2nd December - 5th January 2019

Churches open every day 10am to 4pm

Entrance FREE



Tea, coffee, juice, cake and biscuits will be served

St. Michael and All Angels, Stoke Prior

8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, and 23rd December
10am to 4pm

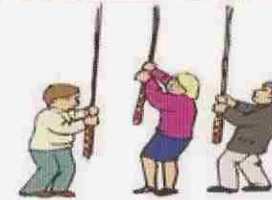
St. Mary de Wyche, Wychbold

9th, 15th, and 21st
11am to 4pm

Donations
Stoke Prior Church Tower Fund
Wychbold Appeal Fund

CHURCH BELL RINGERS

This article was omitted from the Summer Newsletter. The church is still looking to recruit more bell ringers so please ignore the 30th June closure date and feel free to contact Liz Miller via her e-mail address below if you are interested.



Would you like to learn how to ring bells?

Maybe you are a bell ringer and would like to join us.

On 11th November 2018, 100 years since Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country.

To mark the final year of the First World War centenary commemorations, it is hoped to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers in honour of the 1,400 that lost their lives during the First World War.

Church bells across the UK remained restricted throughout the course of the war and only rang freely once Armistice was declared on 11th November 1918.

At St. Michael and All Angels, Stoke Prior we are hoping to start a bell ringing 'school' for anyone who would like to become a bell ringer.

We have hand bells too for anyone who doesn't fancy climbing up to the belfry.

On Saturday 30th June 11am - 4.30pm you are very welcome to visit the church when bell ringers will be there to encourage you to try bell ringing for yourself. Tea/coffee and cake will be available.

If you are interested please contact liz.miller@talktalk.net for more information.

PARISH WALK - STOKE PRIOR AND UPTON WARREN

This Walk of 3½ miles circles the Upton Warren Nature Reserve and Sailing Centre. It is well worth bringing binoculars. Boots are recommended except in the driest weather.

A map of the walk is included at Page 9 of this Newsletter.

Roadside parking is available in Shaw Lane and Westonhall Road near start point. The Swan Inn at Upton Warren may allow walkers to park but please check. There are two Geocaches on this walk.

- 1. Stoke Works** Plaques outside Corbett Business Park give a brief history of the site. The playing field was given to the Parish Council by ICI, the last owners of the salt works. Go past the Boat and Railway and the former village school. Note John Corbett's Raven symbol over the entrance. Until the 1970's there followed Sagebury Terrace, a row of salt-workers cottages, again provided by John Corbett. Each had a garden stretching to the railway. Keep alongside the canal to the Butcher's Arms Cottage.
- 2. Former St Mary's Church Hall** Turn right by F/P sign (to St Mary de Wyche church). Cross the former Midland main line, continuing straight. As you approach another railway line bear left.
- 3. Great Western Branch** Cross footbridge and stile at bottom. Keep straight on for about 25 yards then turn right across stile. Cross field diagonally aiming for the right of gate to the right of the farmhouse.
- 4. Sagebury Farm** Cross stile and then go slightly left down towards the lowest point in the field, close to the lake. Cross stile and go along open track between hedge and fence around the lake.
- 5. Upton Warren Nature Reserve** Go over the stile at the end of the track, keeping alongside hedge on left that becomes the fence around the BBC's Droitwich transmitter (Radio 4 long-wave) - note the 1930's buildings. During World War II coded messages, read during normal program broadcasts, were sent to the French Resistance using the transmitter. There is an exhibition about the transmitter in St Richard's House in Droitwich. Cross stiles and main A38 road then go left towards Wychbold. After about 100 yards turn right into a lane (Just beyond are the part-timbered John Corbett Alms Houses).

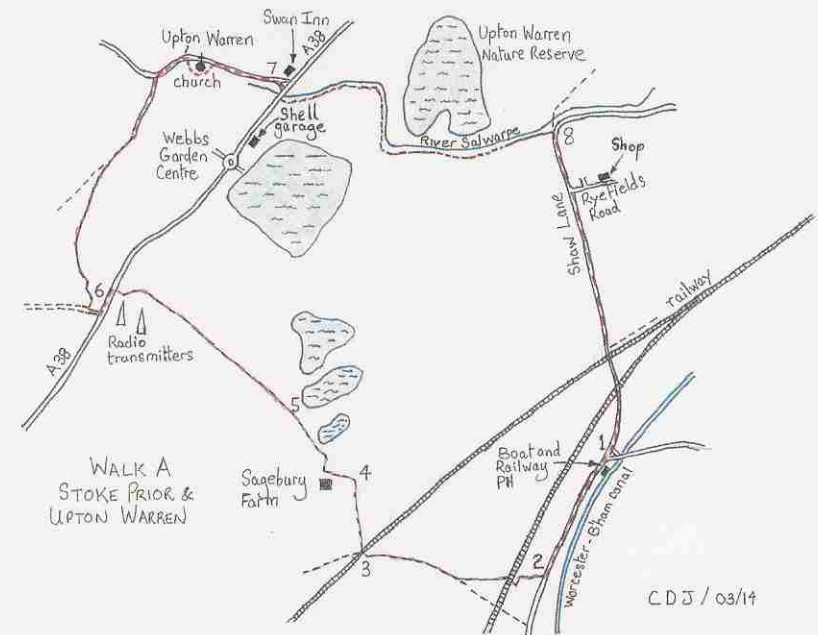
6 Wychbold Turn right down track to Little Gains Farm. Cross the River Salwarpe then go right through the pedestrian gate, keeping alongside river. As you reach a pair of metal gates either of a driveway which crosses the path, cross over the driveway using the two stiles alongside the gates. Follow marked path through copse and then parallel to wire fence marking Webbs Garden Centre boundary, eventually reaching a metal gate with a gap alongside. Go up lane and turn right into Swan Lane by row of white houses. Go right into St Michael's Church and through grounds to leave by kissing gate back to Swan Lane opposite No 7. (This is not a public right of way).

7. Swan Inn and Premier Travel Inn Cross the A38 and turn right, crossing River Salwarpe, then left into the footpath running alongside the river. (There is a shop at the Shell garage). The path skirts around the Nature Reserve, following the river all the way back to Stoke Prior. You will cross a stile then a kissing gate before entering a small copse. Turn right at footbridge.

8. Shaw Lane (F/P sign) Keep straight on down Shaw Lane back to the starting point. (For shops turn first left by the telephone kiosk into Ryefields Road).

PARISH WALK (Continued)

MAP OF WALK



A SHORT HISTORY OF STOKE WORKS

Brine has been extracted in Droitwich since Roman times. The road to Alcester is still known as the Salt Way. During the construction of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal (1791 - 1815) the existence of salt at Stoke Works was confirmed. Two works, on either side of the canal, were opened in 1825 and 1828, which following various technical and financial problems came under John Corbett's control in 1852 and 1858. He took the gamble of lining new brine pits with cast iron pipes to prevent the inflow of fresh water. The gamble paid off and by the 1860's some claim Stoke was the largest salt works in Europe.

The railway reached Stoke from Gloucester in 1840 with the Lickey Incline to Birmingham opening later in the same year. The Works thrived with its own locomotives and canal fleet. (The latter survived until the Second World War and some of the canal loading points can be seen from the towpath).

The canal is still popular with pleasure craft forming part of a ring returning via Stratford or Stourport. There are boat-yards at Stoke Wharf and Hanbury Wharf.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the most popular and successful crime prevention schemes and is built on the simple theory that by getting together with your neighbours you can take positive action to help prevent crime in your locality. It gives people the opportunity to bring together the neighbours from whole estates to just a few houses in a common goal. Whatever their size they all Neighbourhood Watch Schemes share the same objectives, which are as follows :-

1. To help reduce crime and the opportunities for crime.
2. To inform members of crime prevention techniques.
- 3 To help reassure those who live in the area.
4. To encourage neighbourliness and bring communities together

CRIME PREVENTION

Most criminals are opportunists, so it is essential that householders are vigilant and do not make it easy for criminals to succeed,

Two of the most common crimes are thefts from garden sheds and thefts from parked cars.

GARDEN SHEDS

1. Always keep your sheds locked or at least closed if nearby.
2. Ensure that hasps are bolted to the shed rather than screwed
- 3 Consider fitting a shed alarm.

THEFT FROM CARS

1. Do not leave valuable items in your car. Double check the car is locked when you walk away.
2. Do not leave car keys in the open inside the house. Hide them away from house burglars.
3. Install a cheap solar powered PIR external security light,

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The public are the eyes of the police. We are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the West Mercia Police team on 101. If the police are not aware of events on your patch they will allocate resources to other areas,

CONTENTS INSURANCE

Ask your insurer for details of premium discounts for NHW members

PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS

The owner of the fields at the top of Brickhouse Lane that surround what most of us probably still think of as Countrywide has requested the Parish Council to remind our parishioners that these fields are private land and that they may not walk around them.

the only public right of way across these fields is the footpath that runs from around midway between the A38 roundabout and the Hanbury Turn Pub through to Brickhouse Lane between the old Countrywide Store and the first houses on Brickhouse Lane. If you use this footpath please keep your dog under close control, especially if there are livestock in the field.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will meet at 7.30pm at Avoncroft Arts Centre on the following dates over the next few months in 2019:

Monday 7 January 2019
Monday 4 February 2019
Monday 4 March 2019
Monday 1 April 2019

The Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019 and, as a result the Annual Parish Council and Parish Assembly will be on Wednesday 15 May 2019

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE AND CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office based at 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior is now usually open to the public on Monday to Thursday mornings between **9:00am and 12:30pm** when Neil Gulliver, the Parish Clerk, or Stan Petrovic the Assistant Clerk, will be happy to try and help local residents with any issues which concern them.

You can contact the Clerk outside office hours on 07927 311041, leave a message at the office on 01527 757190 or email clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk. If you want to meet the Clerk or Assistant Clerk outside of the above hours, an appointment can be arranged to suit you.

As you may be aware, monthly surgeries no longer take place due to lack of demand. As with the arrangements for meeting with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, if any local resident has a particular issue or problem that they wish to discuss with the Chairman or another Parish Councillor, or with your local District Councillor, again please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

AND FINALLY . . .

As we constantly remind you, the Parish Council is there to support everyone who lives in the parish but we need your help to know what is going on out there and what you would like to see provided in the parish so please come to our monthly meetings or just call into the office and talk to Neil (Monday/Wednesday) or Stan (Tuesday/Thursday)



Scenes from around the Parish taken during 2018

Peter Williams (Chairman)	07970 782690	Planning (Chairman), Communications, CPRE and Worcestershire CALC representative
John Ellis (Vice-Chairman)	01527 570287	Planning, Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Heath recreation area
Diane Brown	01527 821692	Planning, Finance & Resources, Picnic Site, Worcs CALC representative
Jillian Howe	01527 570274	Communications, Finance & Resources, Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee
Susan Abel	07808 053556	Planning, Communications (Chairman)
Dean Smith	07956 609500	Planning, Communications
Keith Shakespeare	07808 173400	Finance & Resources
Alyson Jewson	01527 578821	
Chris Jewson	01527 578821	Parish Footpaths Warden
Penny Power	07552 604610	
Liz Miller	01527 831942	Planning
Vacancy		

Parish Clerk	Neil Gulliver Parish Office, 17B Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4NA Tel 01527 757190 E-mail: clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Assistant Clerk	Stan Petrovic - contact details as above
Parish Website	http://www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
Comments and Articles	clerk@stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk
District Councillors	Malcolm Glass (Conservative) 07791 187901 Mike Thompson (Labour) 07861 739942
County Councillors	Bromsgrove South Division Christopher Bloore (Labour and Co-operative) Tel 07905 612710 E-mail christopherbloore@hotmail.co.uk