

STANTON-UPON-HINE-HEATH & HIGH HATTON MAGAZINE

www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST :**

- Christmas church dates
- Stamps for Guide Dogs
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Any items for future issues please contact Ruth Dee by the 15th of the month on

stantonvillage@gmail.com

or 07718 286571

SHAWBURY VILLAGE PLAYERS

PRESENT BOUNCERS & SHAKERS

Two One Act comedies with *adult humour*.

Friday 11 December and Saturday 12 December 2015
Shawbury Village Hall at 7pm.

Licensed bar opens 6.30 pm with Cocktails, Mocktails, wine, beer and soft drinks on sale. Tickets are £8 and are available on-line from www.shawburyvillageplayers.co.uk, Shawbury Post Office or ring Jo on 01939 250070.

WHO IS FATHER CHRISTMAS ?



St Nicholas is usually acknowledged as the 'original Santa Claus', he was probably a bishop who lived in the fourth-century in the Lycian port of Myra, in the south-west of modern Turkey.

Over the course of the medieval period the legend of St Nicholas continued to develop and spread enormously. The cult of St Nicholas eventually rivalled that of the Virgin Mary in many regions, becoming the patron of sailors as well as children. The most significant manifestation of this is the Dutch Sinterklaas, which clearly derives from St Nicholas but now has a flying white horse.

The original English Father Christmas seems to have had an entirely separate origin from Sinterklaas, being a personification of Christmas and a Yule-tide visitor - *not* a gift-giver. Whilst strenuous efforts were made by the puritans of the seventeenth century to do away with this character, they did not succeed. In the nineteenth century Father Christmas benefitted from the general Victorian revival of Christmas and can be found in, for example, Dickens' *Christmas Carol*.

The American Santa Claus seems to have been largely inspired by the Dutch tradition of a gift-giving Sinterklaas, but it always was divergent from this tradition and was increasingly so over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So, the American Santa is a largely secular visitor, who arrives at Christmas; who dresses in furs rather than a version of bishop's robes; who is rotund rather than thin; and who has a team of flying reindeer rather than a flying horse.

At first his image was somewhat variable, but Thomas Nast's illustrations for *Harper's Illustrated Weekly* (1863-6) helped establish a figure that looks fairly close to our modern Santa. This figure was taken up by various advertisers, including Coca-Cola.

From the 1870s onwards the English Father Christmas became increasingly like the American Santa Claus, both in terms of his actions - he started giving gifts - and his appearance, with the result that the two are nowadays virtually inter-changeable as the 'standard' version of the Christmas visitor.

But of course, this is only what Grown ups think, us Kids know better, we know exactly who it is and what he looks like !!!!!



St Mary the Virgin Church – Shawbury – by Rev Richard Hayes

Imagine that you have worked hard on something that really matters to you more than words can say – a friendship, or a lovely marriage and family – and it goes wrong. How disappointed you would be. “I want to make it right” you might say, “but it will take both sides to mend it.”

In the very first chapter of the first book in the Bible, Genesis, we read “And God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good”. Yes indeed! The world is wonderful, but obviously everything that happens in it is not very good – war, torture, drug-taking in sport, hacking on the internet – the list is a long one. At Christmas we are invited to use our imagination to consider how God deals with this breakdown of His creation, which he loves. God determines to enter into his creation and to share our human experience – giving us the freedom to respond to his love or to refuse it if we prefer. There has to be freedom - to receive God's love, or to kid ourselves that we can manage without it.

How does the love of God enter into our human experience? We see it in Jesus Christ. How does he enter the world? Through the womb of a woman, into infancy and all that follows - childhood, adolescence, adulthood. How is the woman chosen to bear Jesus? Not by compulsion, but by willing consent. If you go into Shawbury Church and walk towards the altar, on the right hand side you will see a window filled with mediaeval stained glass of the late 15th /early 16th century. In the right hand panel is a figure of St Mary the Virgin raising her hands in astonishment, as though, when invited to become the mother of God made man she is saying “What, me!” She accepts the invitation, which later brings her the agonising sadness of seeing her son crucified, taking our sins and selfishness into his death and overcoming it, so that we may live in hope, and not in quiet despair.

Shawbury Church is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin – the one who said YES to God. Without her, no Christmas, no hope, no invitation to us all to welcome the love of God into our lives.

For God's sake, and your own, remember what Christmas is really all about!

NEWS FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

SERVICES

6 December	9.30 am Songs of Praise led by Barbara Holt
13 December	9.30 am Holy Communion led by Zoe Hemming
20 December	4.00 pm Carol Service led by the Archdeacon
24 December	4.00 pm Christingle Service led by Richard Hayes
25 December	9.30 am Holy Communion led by Edith Quirey
27 December	No Service at Stanton but there will be a joint 3 church service at Shawbury at 11 am.
3 January	9.30 am Holy Communion led by Richard Hayes
10 January	9.30 am Songs of Praise led by Barbara Holt
17 January	9.30 am Holy Communion led by Edith Quirey
24 January	9.30 am Morning Prayer led by Christopher Corbet
31 January	No Service at Stanton but there will be a combined service at Peplow at 11.00 am



Other services in the benefice over Christmas include a Carol Service at Shawbury on 20 December at 6 pm, a Carol Service at Moreton Corbet on 21 December at 7.30 pm with Telford Brass Band, a Christingle Service at 6 pm and a Holy Communion service at 11 pm at Shawbury on 24 December and a 9.30 am service at Moreton Corbet on 25 December.

FLOWERS AND CLEANING

There are no flowers in December as it is advent. A new list for 2016 will be in church shortly please sign up for any dates you would like to do the flowers.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Natalie Cauchi	01939 251005 - Booking Officer if Sue not available
Beverley Orme	01939 250878
Barbara Fisher	01939 251075
Jane Fildes	01939 251187
Mary Page	01939 251166
Sue Young	01939 250194 - Chairperson & Booking Officer

FUTURE VILLAGE HALL EVENTS/DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3rd December and Thursday 7th January 2016

NEIGHBOURHOOD NATTER MORNING - 1030-12 noon— Please come and join us at this informal coffee morning in a relaxed atmosphere and catch up with friends and neighbours and meet new ones. All are welcome.

Christmas Themed Family Quiz Night

Thank you to all who supported this event. More news in the next edition.

VILLAGE HALL HIRE

Don't forget if you have any family get-togethers, parties or special interest activities coming up, the village hall is a great place to hold it.

For availability and further details please contact the booking officer.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS / HELPERS

If you have some time to spare and would like to become involved in organising village activities, events etc then your help would be gratefully appreciated. New faces on the committee would be a great asset but if you only wish to spend a limited amount of time helping out it would still be enormously helpful. Please contact any of the existing committee members for more information.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please refer to the Parish Council website for details

www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

MISSING CATS

Please be aware that another cat has "vanished" in the past few weeks in and around the Stanton, A53/Stanton crossroad and Booley areas. Increasingly this seems more than accident or coincidence, so please keep an eye on your pets and a sharp look out for any suspicious activity. If anyone has any information please contact Chas Warren on 07734 878777.

STANTON WALKING GROUP

With the darker evenings approaching the Stanton Walking Group run by Chris Floyd now takes place fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00 pm from the Stanton Arms. 8 December is the date of the next walk. Please contact Chris for further details at floydies@talktalk.net.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND - Used Postage Stamps

Ralph Prince is once again asking if we could all save our used unwanted postage stamps for this worthwhile cause.

Please call Ralph on 01939 250124 to arrange collection.

MOBILE LIBRARY

09.15-to-09.45 (30 minutes)

01743 255024

Alternate weeks on Thursday

4th/18th December 2015

8th/22nd January 2016

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Shropshire Regimental Museum

The Regimental Museum was established in 1985 and is housed in the mediaeval border fortress of Shrewsbury Castle. The Castle houses the [spectacular collections](#) of the Shropshire Regimental Museum Trust including pictures, uniforms, medals, silverware, weapons and other artefacts from the 18th Century to the present day.

<http://www.shrewsburymuseum.org.uk/visit-shrewsbury/shrewsbury-castle/#sthash.CDzoJnil.dpuf> for further information.

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hazles1999@gmail.com