

THE MESSENGER

Myddle, Harmer Hill, Broughton

Church & Community

A Volunteer Newsletter

A detailed Renaissance-style painting of the Nativity scene. Mary is kneeling in prayer on the right, Joseph stands on the left, and the infant Jesus lies in a manger. Two oxen and a donkey are present, looking towards the child. The scene is set under a simple wooden stable structure with a thatched roof. In the background, a stone building and a landscape with a castle on a hill are visible.

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December 2023/January 2024

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Myddle & Broughton Parochial Church Council Donations

The Parochial Church Council is most grateful for the following donations received since the last issue of the Messenger.

Donor	Fund	Amount
Anonymous	General Fund	£50.00
Anonymous	General Fund	£35.00
Myddle Senior Social Club	General Fund	£45.00

Donations to help the church are always welcome!

You can always donate via:

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Myddle Friendship Club

The club's next meeting is on 7th December at Myddle Village Hall. Membership is £10 per year. It is then £2 per person, per meeting for tea or coffee, cake and entertainment.

Entertainment schedule for December and January as below:

Thursday 7th December:
Afternoon tea by Jenny's Catering. SOLD OUT!

Thursday 11th January: Neil & Dave's Sax and Memories

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Jess's Ramblings

It looks like there is half a page to fill again so here I am like a bad penny. As it happens I do have a useful public service message based on something I witnessed back in October.



I was out for my Sunday afternoon walk in the woods up by the old reservoir when a dog I had not seen before came over to say hello. When he came back a third time and there was nobody else in sight my human decided we had better intervene. Fortunately he (the dog not my human) had a collar tag with a mobile number engraved on it and Otis was soon reunited with his family on the Lower Road. Otis is new to the area and was just taking the opportunity presented by an open gate to explore. He would have returned home when he was hungry, but you know how humans worry and so it is worth wearing a collar tag with a mobile number on it just to give them peace of mind.

Hi Otis I am sorry my human curtailed your adventure. Well you know what humans are like but they are good company.



Harmer Hill & District W.I.

Harmer Hill and District Women's Institute was established in March 1955. The Institute is also part of the Shropshire and National Federation.

We enjoy a wide range of interesting speakers at our monthly meetings which are held in Harmer Hill Village Hall.

We also get involved in County Events, Open Meetings with other WIs and Group WI activities.

Our WI Institute enters an annual craft, produce and flower arranging competition organised by the Shropshire WI Federation.

We have been successful over a number of years in gaining major trophies in competitions organised by the County Federation.

All ladies are welcome to join us. You don't have to be a member, just pop in and give us a try, you may be pleasantly surprised!!

No commitment needed. We have over 30 members now and new members are always welcome!



Harmer Hill & District WI

Thursday December 14th 7.30 pm

We look forward to meeting all our members at The Croft at Hadnall for our Christmas meal.

Thursday January 11th 7.30 pm

We start off the year with a fun evening of games followed by home made soup. Please feel free to join us for this informal evening and start the new year doing something different!

*To join or for more information, contact Jenny Walsh on
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Useful Contacts Page

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Chapel of Ease St Mary's Broughton

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	Mrs Linda Savage	01939 290094
PCC Secretary & Pastoral Visitor Myddle	Mrs Margaret Parson	01939 290818
PCC Treasurer	Mr Greg Miller	01939 290789
Pastoral Visitor Broughton	Mrs Rosemary Narburgh	01939 220382
Friends of St Mary's Secretary	Mrs Pauline Oliver	01939 290643

LOPPINGTON PARISH, Parish Church St Michael & All Angels

Chapel of Ease St Anne's Burlton

Churchwardens	Mrs Tracey Barton	01939 270839
	Mr Bob Parker	01939 236893
PCC Secretary	Mrs Pene Parker	01939 236893
PCC Treasurer	Mr Dick Barton	01939 270839
Pastoral Visitor	Mrs Helen Lopez	01939 233685
Gift Aid Treasurer Burlton	Mr Philip Benson	01939 270310

NEWTOWN PARISH, Parish Church King Charles the Martyr

Pastoral Visitor	Mrs Margaret Fox	01939 233419
Churchwarden	Mr Tim Wastling	01939 235475
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Shirley Clorley	01939 232237
PCC Secretary	Mrs Heather Pitchford	01939 233089
PCC Treasurer	Mr David Howson	07970 787845
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs Elaine Hawkins	01939 236432

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Bookings Secretary	Mrs Claire Simcox	Mvhbookings @myddle.net
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Useful Contacts Page Continued..

PARISH COUNCIL

01743 236810

Chairman Mr Colin Ruck colin@ruck.me.uk

Clerk Mr Jack Wilson myddlebroughtonclerk@talktalk.net

HARMER HILL & DISTRICT WI

Mrs Jenny Walsh

01939 210649

A Message from the *New* Joint Editors

A sincere thank you to Greg for his work as "temporary" editor of the Messenger and of course for all the other community and church work he does behind the scenes.

My brother Bob and myself have been persuaded (volunteered?) to take over the editorship following Danielle's move outside the parish. We have both lived here all of our lives, being raised at Houlston where Bob still lives, and I have moved just a short distance away in Harmer Hill. Some of you may remember our father Ernest Griffiths' regular article "Times Past" which appeared in the Messenger over a long period of time and described his life growing up in the village. If anyone is interested this can still be found on the Myddle.net website under the History tab.

Colin Ruck, who compiles the E-Newsletter for the parish, has kindly set up a new email address for us, so please send your material for publication in the February/March edition to **editorthemessenger@myddle.net**. At present we are continuing with bi-monthly publication so this inevitably means you will have to plan further ahead! The deadline for inclusion in the next edition is the 18th of January.

We look forward to taking on this challenge and working with our advertisers and regular contributors both old and new!

Bob Griffiths & Liz Tiernan

Joint Editors

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*Wishing all our readers a very
Happy Christmas*



From the Rectory

Dear friends,

As we enter December you may be breathing a sigh of relief that this year is nearly over and looking forward to Christmas with a little more certainty than last year. It has certainly been a year of ups and downs, feeling at times like a game of Snakes and Ladders. Some form of normality is reached and then – just like with one roll of the dice - you are sliding back down and you have to start all over again and change plans. All the uncertainty we've had puts a new perspective on the Christmas story itself, because you realise how disrupting the events of the first Christmas were for those involved.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, they no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window. Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census, so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat in their fields just doing their job until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the new-born Jesus. Then there were the wise men, sent on a perilous journey to a far-off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky. None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came they went with it and in doing so they met God face to face.

We all approach Christmas with our own sets of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through this year it may feel we want to be able to celebrate in the ways that we usually do. Whatever happens this Christmas, let it give us an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turns our lives have taken this year to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

Every blessing,

Adam

The Benefice of Myddle and Broughton, Loppington and Newtown Services in December 2023 and January 2024

Sunday 3rd

Advent 1

09.45am Family Communion, Burlton

10.00am All Age Worship, Newtown

10.30am Family Service, Loppington

10.30am Holy Communion, Myddle

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-36

Sunday 10th

Advent 2

09.45am Holy Communion, Loppington

11.00am Parish Worship, Myddle

11.15am Holy Communion, Newtown

03.00pm Christmas Service, Broughton

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Sunday 17th

Advent 3

09.45am Holy Communion, Burlton

03.00pm Carol Service, Loppington

06.00pm Carol Service, Myddle

Sunday 24th

Christmas Eve

03.00pm Christingle, Newtown

03.30pm Crib Service, Loppington

04.00pm Crib Service, Myddle

10.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion, Newtown

Sunday 25th

Christmas Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Burlton

Sunday 31st

Christmas 1

10.30am Benefice Service, Myddle

Readings: Isaiah 61:10-63.3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

January 2024

Sunday 7th

Epiphany 1

09.45am Family Communion, Burlton

10.00am All Age Worship, Newtown

10.30am Family Service, Loppington

11.00am Holy Communion, Myddle

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 14th**Epiphany 2**

09.45am Holy Communion, Loppington

11.00am Parish Worship, Myddle

11.15am Holy Communion, Newtown

03.00pm Evensong, Broughton

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Revelation 5:1-10 John 1:43-51

Sunday 21st**Epiphany 3**

09.45am Holy Communion, Burlton

10.30am Matins, Loppington

11.00am Holy Communion, Myddle

Readings: Genesis 14:17-20 Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11

Sunday 28th**Epiphany 4**

09.45am Holy Communion, Loppington

11.00am Family Worship, Myddle

11.15am Holy Communion, Newtown

03.00pm Holy Communion, Broughton

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Revelation 12:1-5a Mark 1:21-28

St Peter's, Myddle: Readers & Other Duties

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Music</u>
Sun. 3 rd Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion	Margaret Parson	Greg Miller
Sun 10 th Dec	11.00am	Lay Worship	Clare Luke	Chris Williams
Sun. 17 th Dec	6.00pm	Carol Service		Organist
Sun. 24 th Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service		
Sun. 31 st Dec	10.30am	Group Service, Myddle	Linda Savage	Greg Miller
Sun. 7 th Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	Bob Millington	Margaret Parson
Sun. 14 th Jan	11.00am	Lay Worship	TBC	Chris Williams
Sun. 21 st Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	Nigel Jones	Margaret Parson
Sun 28 th Jan	11.00am	Family Service		

St Peter's Church, Myddle



Service
of



CAROLS & READINGS

Sunday 17th December 2023



at 6.00pm



The lights on all the trees will be switched on
simultaneously at the start of the service
Refreshments to be served at the end

Look forward to seeing you there!



Christmas Trees

Once again we hope to fill our Church with Christmas trees - of all sizes and styles - traditional and modern design. We are making contact with those who usually provide and decorate a tree, but would love to hear from any group or family who would like to put a tree in our parish church. Contact Chris Williams 07791 403898 or Linda Savage 290094. They need to be in place in time for our Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm.

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HARMER HILL CHAPEL

I wonder which one of all the Christmas decorations in your home is the most important to you? In one household I heard of, it's something unusual that has pride of place as a Christmas decoration, Something, that over the years, has become a real symbol of the season for a lady called Jane and her family.

Just before Christmas some years ago, Jane's mother died, and while other people were preparing for Christmas and getting in the 'Christmas spirit', Jane just couldn't. Life for her was very flat, very painful and the future looked very bleak. It seemed that nothing she could do, and nothing anyone said to her made any difference at all. She didn't feel like Christmas, and when Jane told her husband, fearing that how she felt, would spoil Christmas for the rest of her family, she didn't really expect him to be able to help.

He said nothing at first, but got up, and went to the pantry, and after rummaging among Jane's bottles of spices, came back with one of the bottles. Then, he collected a piece of paper, cello tape and scissors. From the bottle he extracted one seed, which he dabbed onto a piece of cello tape, and this he stuck onto the paper. With a bit of blue-tack, he stuck the paper, with the seed attached, onto the edge of the mantle shelf. Jane picked up the spice bottle and read the label. It said, 'Mustard Seeds'. 'Remember Jesus' parable about the mustard seed?' he asked. 'You could have a 'Mustard Seed Christmas.'

Jane remembered that a mustard seed was the smallest of all seeds and yet it could grow into a tree large enough for birds to roost in. Jesus had used a mustard seed to describe the promise that came from God with every seed that God made and Jesus had used it to describe the hope that we can find when we turn to God, our Father.

Jane realised that, on her own, she couldn't do anything to change the way she felt, but God could. If God could take that little mustard seed and grow it into a tree, He could take a tiny seed of faith and grow it into a world of hope. Jane knew that faith is made up of two elements. What you choose to believe, and what you hope is the truth. You provide one, and God provides the other. When Jane looked at the mustard seed, she saw the promise of God and hope for the future, and she made her choice.

That Christmas and every Christmas since then, the mustard seed has had pride of place among the Christmas decorations in Jane's house. She and her

husband never miss an opportunity to share with curious guests, the hope and the faith that it symbolizes. On her own, Jane could do nothing, but God could, and He did. So, from Harmer Hill Chapel, we wish you, a 'Mustard Seed Christmas'. A Christmas full of hope, brought to you by God's promise in the birth of His Son.

Services for December 2023 and January 2024.

Services are held on Sundays at 10 a.m. unless otherwise announced.

December

3 rd	Mr R. Purslow	All-Age Worship
10 th	Mrs J. Slim	Morning Prayer
17 th	Rev. D. A. Slim	CAROL SERVICE AT 3 P.M.
24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE	NO SERVICE
25 TH	Rev. D. A. Slim	CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL-AGE WORSHIP AT 10 A.M.
31 st	Mrs. J. Slim	Holy Communion

January

7 th	Mr. R. Purslow	All-Age Worship
14 th	Rev. D.A. Slim	Morning Worship
21 st	Mrs. J. Slim	Holy Communion
28 th	Mr. R. Purslow	Morning Worship

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If you would like to receive the Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill Electronic Newsletter, directly to your inbox, all you have to do is send your name and email address to:

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The E-Newsletter provides you with up-to-date information about what is going on in your parish and county, with links to the county planning portal, Gough Walks, useful contacts in the parish, from Doctors Surgeries to Bus timetables and the latest Covid-19 restrictions.

Over 200 homes in the parish are already receiving this **FREE** E-Newsletter. You can read it directly from your computer, tablet or smart phone - no need to print it!

Sign up today and rest assured that this is a parish run newsletter and your email addresses will not be distributed to anyone else. If you are already receiving the E-Newsletter you do not need to send your address again.

Colin Ruck



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BRIAN WILLIAMS



**Councillor for Myddle, Harmer Hill and Yorton
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**I am always pleased to hear from any resident who has
a matter of concern which they think that it is
appropriate for their Councillor to deal with.**

I will be glad to help and advise if I can.

**As I do not hold an advice bureau, please telephone me
on my home number**

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**and leave your name and phone number on my answer
phone if I am not available.**

**I will phone back as soon as possible and, if it will be
helpful, I will come to see you.**

**Or alternately,
Please e-mail me at**

brian.williams@shropshire.gov.uk

Pastoral Visitors

Some of you may be unaware that there are two pastoral visitors in the parishes of Myddle and Broughton - Mrs Rosemary Narburgh and myself. Our task is to assist Adam, our Rector, by visiting anyone in need of a listening ear.

Sadly, in these times the job of the local parish priest is vastly different from years ago, in that much of his work is carried out behind a desk.

A vast quantity of admin has to be done and many meetings have to be attended and, of course, Adam is also responsible for 5 churches in 3 parishes. The role of a pastoral visitor is therefore vital, and we will be happy to visit anyone who is sick, sad, or just needs to talk to someone.

The problem is, we do not know who you are unless you contact us. Anything told us will be in confidence.

Margaret Parson
01939 290818

Rosemary Narburgh
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for details Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday evenings

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Women's Institute Second Thursday monthly from 7.30pm Visitors always welcome. Jenny Walsh 01939 210649

Bingo First Friday monthly 7.30pm

Partner Whist last Friday of each month 7.30pm

Caligraphy with Shropshire Scribes. Contact Peter Furniss 01743 355848

U3A Family History 10.30am to 12.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Contact Sue Young 01939 291437 for further details

U3A Stitchers 10am to 12 noon 4th Tuesday of the month

Contact Sue Young 01939 291437 for further details

For more details on the above and news of upcoming events

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Parish Council News

The latest meeting of the Council was held in Harmer Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 1st. November when a range of items were discussed after members of the public raised a number of items for Members to consider later in the full meeting or at future meetings. These included requests for an additional defibrillator in Harmer Hill, a footpath from the Bridgewater Arms to Pimhill and remedial work on the footpath from Harmer Hill Village Hall to the junction of Ellesmere Road and the road to Newton on the Hill. All of these will be considered in due course and actioned when possible.

Also raised were concerns about the proposed development of some affordable housing in Godings Lane, Harmer Hill, when the Chairman confirmed that nothing had moved forward since the last Council meeting and action was now being handled for the Council by an appointed Solicitor. Assurance was given that the public will be kept informed of any developments.

The following items were then considered in the full Council meeting:

Harmer Hill Reservoir:

There was general pleasure that Shropshire Council had now issued an enforcement order requiring all the recent development on the site to be removed and returning the area to its original state. The owners of the site can appeal this decision but only have a few months to register the appeal.

The Messenger:

Members welcomed a report from Councillor Greg Miller stating that two people had volunteered to take over responsibility for editing the Messenger and it would be fully operational in the New Year. This magazine is a valuable source of information for many people in the Community and it is heart-warming to find people who are still prepared to do voluntary work.

Road Safety Issues:

Shropshire Council has informed the Parish Council that Myddle School has been identified as one of the schools to have a 20mph speed restriction but that it may be two years before this can be put in place. They have promised to keep the Council informed of developments. An attempt to meet with the Road Safety Officer to discuss other issues has not been possible but we have since heard that he has been ill for some time and a senior officer has now agreed to meet with representatives of the Parish to discuss concerns.

Planning:

Concerns had been raised over the way in which responses from the Parish Council were handled and that at times amended applications were not sent for consideration. As a result the Senior Planning Officer at Shirehall has been asked to carry out a full review.

As always the draft minutes of the meeting can be accessed at www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk and the Clerk can be contacted at myddlebroughtonclerk@talktalk.net

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Harmer Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd. January at 7.30pm



HARMER HILL VILLAGE HALL

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BINGO

Friday 1st December 7.30pm

Friday 5th January 7.30pm



PARTNER WHIST

Friday 29th December 7.30pm

Friday 26th January 7.30pm

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Wed 17th Jan - 7.30 pm

Myddle Village Hall

Admission: Adults: £5 Child: £2.50

Enquiries: 07706 450075

Doors open at 7pm. Drinks and snacks available from the bar before the film starts and during the interval.

Archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary artifact that can change the course of history.

Starring: Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Barbie

Cert: 12 - 114 mins



Wed 20th Dec - 7.30 pm

Myddle Village Hall

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Doors open at 7pm. Drinks and snacks available
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BEATING THE BOUNDS

PART 1 – A little bit of history

There isn't room in this edition to tell you all we have to say, but over the next couple of issues of the Messenger all will become clear.

The parish system in England was established between the 8th and 12th centuries and an early form was long established by the time of the Norman Conquest. These areas were originally based on the territory of manors, which, in some cases, derived their bounds from Roman or Iron Age estates. Some large manors were sub-divided into several parishes.

The custom of "beating" or walking the parish boundary is therefore very old indeed with Wikipedia suggesting that it derives from the Roman festival of Terminalia. The point was to walk the boundary, making sure that there were no incursions from the neighbouring parish, and at the same time to celebrate and appease the various spirits of the natural world. Really though, the idea that one should be aware of the boundary of the locale where one was born and brought up is kind of obvious in the days before Google Maps or even the Ordnance Survey.

In pre-Reformation Christianity, Beating the Bounds was taken on by the Church as part of Rogation Week, where appeasing pagan spirits was replaced with celebrating the lives of the Saints. The custom was further formalised by introducing a regular 7 yearly cycle, with the priest of the parish, the churchwardens and various parochial officials heading a crowd of boys who beat the parish boundary markers with green boughs, usually birch or willow. Sometimes the boys were whipped or violently bumped on the boundary stones to make them remember. The object of taking boys along is supposed to ensure that witnesses to the boundaries should survive as long as possible, and the bumping or whipping would jolly well make them remember.

You can imagine old Jed, supping his pint in the Red Lion, describing to young Nathan how he was repeatedly banged against that big old oak tree at the bottom of Bilmarsh Lane and then flung in the ditch some 70 years ago. Perhaps however, and here I speculate, the beating of young boys was nothing to do with solidifying memory but in some way harking back to the pagan sacrifices to the old spirits of the wood!

Then, through the years, across the centuries, the custom has disappeared from rural life in most parts of the country, though it still survives in parts of Oxford, Cambridge, and perhaps not surprisingly, Bodmin! But what is certain is that the Bounds of Myddle Parish haven't been beaten for many years.

PART 2 – The idea

I will now explain what this is all about. My name is Bob Griffiths, and I have lived at Houlston all my life. My daughter, who is at University studying philosophy (as if that is an explanation), came up with the idea of trying to walk all the way around the Parish boundary, just to see if it could still be done, and if indeed it was still identifiable in the 21st Century.

As a line on a map, it matters because it represents an administrative area which elects the Parish Council, the first level of local democracy. But we also wanted to find out if it matters on the ground by looking at the geography and land use and the form of the boundary. We decided to just walk the old Myddle boundary from before it was combined with Broughton. Mapping it into the Ordnance Survey app on my phone, we see that its about 17 ½ miles. More than an afternoon's amble then!

The map below isn't quite accurate as the construction of Sleaf airfield in the 1940s disrupted the original boundary which roughly went from east to west across the middle of the airfield. The modern boundary follows the Sleaf Brook to the north of the airfield. We decided to follow the Perimeter Track to the north keeping parallel with the modern boundary.

The story continues in the next issue.....



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