

**Covid-19** – You can stay in touch with the latest guidance from various websites. The Government ([www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)) the NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) and the Parish Council's dedicated Covid-19 page <http://bit.ly/LSWAPCCovid19News>

## *St Mary's First School Elf Yourself!*



**Christmas has arrived early this year.** - We all felt very sad that we couldn't hold the normal, much loved Christmas Light Switch On. So we decided to switch the lights on a little earlier than normal and spread some Christmas Cheer! Cllr Noblett braved the rain to give a speech before turning the lights on (this can be viewed on our facebook page).

We would love to see your Christmas drawings, maybe an Elf, Father Christmas or a Nativity with baby Jesus, displayed in your window at home. Then we could all do a trail around the villages to see the drawings, decorations and lights like we did when the rainbows were up for the NHS and keyworkers.

By the time this edition is delivered we hope to have some lovely pictures from the children of St Mary's First School on display on the banners around the Christmas tree. We really wanted to involve the children with the light switch on as they normally have such a big part and so we had a meeting with St Mary's First School and came up with 'St Mary's Elf yourself'. Can you spot your little Elf?.



# \*CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

\* SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
5:30 PM

Join us for a National carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours.  
It's so easy to join in....

- \*Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from [www.premierchristianradio.com](http://www.premierchristianradio.com). or [www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org](http://www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org)
- \*Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them to join you
- \*5:30pm on 20th December tune your radio to Premier Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app on your phone, then sing along to the Carols played. Why not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out something to shake or rattle?



<https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep>

**Online Support and helplines** - At these challenging times it is important to look after your mental health as well as your physical health. Below you will find a list of useful online support and helplines to turn to if you are struggling.



**Remembrance** – Sadly, this year's remembrance services were cancelled due to Covid-19, however, we were still able to lay wreaths on behalf of the whole community in all villages. Above is Cllr Millington, Vice-chair of the Parish Council at the Stretton War Memorial. In the background you can see the new memorial bench, a beautiful addition to the memorial area.



**Lapley Christmas tree is up!** – The replacement Christmas tree was planted at the end of October. We are really pleased with the outcome of the Green renovation project. We still have two trees to plant and hope that this will be done by the end of the year.

**New CCTV Camera at Marston Field** – Due to the continued criminal damage on the skate park, the Parish Council is installing another Camera on Marston Field. This should be installed by the time you received this edition of News and Views.

**Pendulum closed at Marston Field** - Due to some concerns raised, the pendulum will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The Parish Council are considering both repairs and replacement equipment.

**Action on speeding** - The Parish Council is aware of concerns over the speed of vehicles through the villages and wants to assure residents that this issue is being taken very seriously.



**Speed Indication Device (SID)** – The Parish Council has installed a SID on Ivetsey Road on the approach into Wheaton Aston. The device provides data on the speeds of vehicles entering the village.

Residents local to the SID have noticed a reduction in the speed of vehicles approaching the village. The Parish Council is in the process of analysing the data from the SID and are pleased with these observations



**Community Speed Watch** - Volunteers required!!! Can you spare some time to help with Community Speed Watch Group? Would you like to be a volunteer trained by Staffordshire Police? The training will last for about 2 hours, is free and will cover all elements of Community Speed Watch.

Volunteers dictate when they will go out, for how long and at which of their chosen locations they will stand. Schemes can only operate in daylight hours and cannot be operational in the rain or snow.

The scheme will identify the locations which can be used to assess the speed of vehicles and Staffordshire Police will risk assess each location to ensure the safety of volunteers and motorists. If you are interested please email the office: [office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk).



**Planning Matters** – The Parish Council is a consultee on all planning applications for the Parish. Residents can also comment on applications. The easiest way to do this (and to follow the progress of applications) is via South Staffs Council's Planning Portal. If you register and track applications, the portal emails you updates on the applications tracked. Follow the link below and click on "register". <https://planning.sstaffs.gov.uk/online-applications/>

**Broadholes Lane Play Garden** – This has remained closed this year due to Covid-19. The Parish Council is now consulting on the future use of the gardens. More details and a wider consultation will take place in the new year. If you have any suggestions on what the area could be used for to benefit the whole community please email them in to the office. [office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk). Two current ideas are an outdoor gym and allotments.



**Suggestion post boxes** - We will be installing a post box with 'LSWA Parish Council' on the front in each village. These are being installed to improve communication and make things easier to connect with us. We know that not everyone has online access and although the easiest and quickest way to get in touch with us is by email, not everyone can or wants to and may prefer a paper and pen. So please get in touch! If you have a suggestion for the parish, let us know.

## ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



**Green Energy Suppliers** - There are a number of ways to do your bit for the planet when you buy your utilities. You can buy your gas and electricity from a green energy company, or you can ask your current supplier to increase the amount of energy from green sources used by your household.

Green energy suppliers can be found by searching on line; some produce 100% of their electricity from zero-carbon sources. All green energy suppliers encourage managing your account via an app and paperless billing.

Mainstream suppliers also offer green energy tariffs, which guarantee that some, most or even all of your energy comes from an ecologically-friendly source. Check out their 'fuel mix' information to find out how much renewable energy a supplier produces.

## #DoingOurBit

**Climate Change Action Fund** - The county council are offering funding, to help communities do their bit towards a greener future for Staffordshire.

- What can your organisation do to reduce climate change? If we all do something, it can make a big difference.
- Got a great idea to reduce the impact of climate change in Staffordshire? Check if your organisation is eligible for a grant of up to £1,000.
- Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis, so get your application in early.
- The fund closes on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- Find out more at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dobfund](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dobfund)



## Trees of the Parish of Lapley with Wheaton Aston



**Sold in aid of Lapley Church  
Restoration Fund**

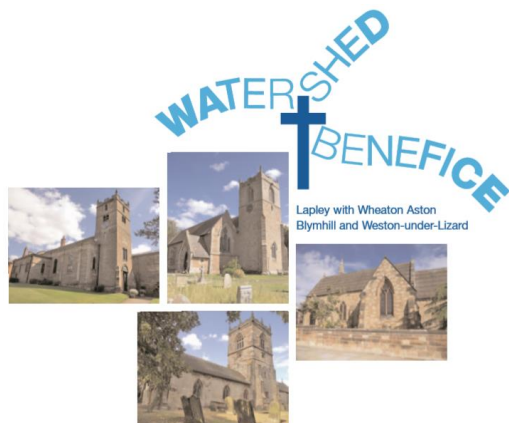
**£5.00**

A 43-page booklet describing; trees surveyed in the Parish, their estimated age, the history of trees in general, their ecosystems, pathogens or fungus that can harm trees, and the importance of trees to our environment.

**Available from:** Malcolm Bissell 01785 840535 or Janet Fox 01785 840334

**YOUR TREES YOUR PARISH**





### Advent and Christmas from our Churches

Christmas will look a little different this year, but there is plenty going on. Jesus's light, which came into the world at Christmas, can never be extinguished. Come and see! Please remember that any in church events require face coverings and social distancing and, at the moment, we are not permitted to sing together in church or outdoors.

Details are on the church noticeboards and the website [www.watershedbenefice.org](http://www.watershedbenefice.org). Follow the Watershed Benefice Page on Facebook for updates and online services or contact Revd. Rachel on 01785 840395 or [revracheldale@gmail.com](mailto:revracheldale@gmail.com). Some details will also come home with your children if they are at St Mary's CE First Academy – so keep an eye on their school bags!! Details correct at time of going to print. Please check nearer the time.

**Advent Songs of Praise.** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm on Facebook.

**The Painted Log Posada.** 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Holy Family can't stay in people's houses this year but we can still have a village posada. If you would like to take part, we will send you a small log to paint – and to leave on the doorstep of the next family on the list. On Christmas Eve bring the log you've received to St Mary's Church Garden to build a village nativity set. Please see school bags, Facebook and the website for more details.

**Messy Christmas:** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm on Facebook Live. All crafts will use things readily available at home. A list will be available on Facebook a couple of days before.

**Nativity Quiet Spaces:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm - 4.00pm at St Mary's Wheaton Aston – quiet spaces telling the Nativity Story. Think, pray and light a candle.

**Christmas Carol Service:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm on Facebook.

**Blue Christmas:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm on Facebook

**Christingle:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm on Zoom. Let us know you want us to join in and we will provide everything except the orange. Please see school bags, Facebook and website for more details

**Silent Night:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. We would love as many people as possible to join in with a doorstep singalong of Silent Night.

**Bethlehem Midnight Communion** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30pm St Mary's Wheaton Aston. As numbers are limited, pre-booking will be required for this service. Details on Facebook and the Website nearer the time.

**Midnight Communion** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm All Saints, Lapley. As numbers are limited, pre-booking will be required for this service. Details on Facebook and the Website nearer the time.

**Christmas Communion** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00am on Facebook Live (why not host a watch party later)

**Family Communion for Christmas** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am at St Mary's Wheaton Aston. As numbers are limited, pre-booking will be required for this service. Details on Facebook and the Website nearer the time.

**Christmas Morning Service and Holy Communion** Christmas Day @ 10.30am at the Zion Chapel

**Carol Service, Readings Old and New** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.15pm at the Zion Chapel

Throughout the year, our churches continue to offer a range of in church (lockdown permitting) and online services, discussion groups and other events. And we are just at the end of the phone if you need to talk.



**Brewood Library** – Find out the latest new at: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/Coronavirus-update-for-libraries.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Libraries/Coronavirus-update-for-libraries.aspx)

**South Staffordshire District Council** – The Council Offices are now closed to the public and residents should use alternative ways of contacting the Council rather than visiting in person. 'My Account', the Council's online facility, gives residents online access to council services 24/7. You can register or access it at: [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount). Email: [info@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:info@sstaffs.gov.uk) Tel: 01902 696000

### **What the LSWA PC has achieved since May 2019:**

- Renovated Lapley Green.
- Began the process to add Lapley Green to the Register of Village Greens, including considering what activities should and should not be permitted.
- Renovated the phone box at Lapley Green and turned it in to a defibrillator house
- Installed six defibrillators in the parish and working with St Mary's First school to install a seventh.
- Created a great working partnership with the Community First Responders.
- Working closely with St Mary's First School and the Church to enable the annual Christmas Event.
- Strengthened links with St Mary's First School and already engaging with how we can make a virtual Christmas event work so that the children don't miss out this year.
- Tried hard to hold a virtual Christmas event this year but due to the restrictions we couldn't even film singing. We investigated ways to support all of the community groups to still raise funds with online raffles and tombola.
- Installed VE75/VJ75 benches in the Villages.
- Replaced the sand and bark at Marston Field.
- Replaced wooden framing on the play equipment bases.
- Carried out repairs required at the play areas.
- Completed a two-year schedule of tree works highlighted in the latest survey and are committed to another survey being carried out this year. We are paying particular attention to the Oak at Primrose
- Held regular PC/PCSO surgeries before the full PC meeting for people to attend and raise any concerns. These haven't been well attended but served a great purpose when we needed a forum to work with the WASP group around the Christmas period.
- We secured a reduce cost for Ring door bells, there wasn't enough of a demand so we applied for Smart Water instead
- Rolled out Smart Water in the parish and installed signage to advise.
- Responded to the Covid-19 crisis effectively and implemented any polices swiftly to enable the continuation of work and meetings.
- Applied under paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 14 to the Secretary of State for a direction requiring the authority to determine the application to add Birkenshaw Lane to the Definitive Map.
- Lobbied issues with the A5.
- Arranged for a new MPAN to be added for the CCTV and defibrillator at Lapley.
- In the process of creating a map of walks of the parish to be installed at the green in Wheaton Aston after a request to help provide more dog walks.
- Brought a moveable SID (speed indicator device) & installed posts
- Developed a close working relationship with the local Community Speed Watch Team.
- Had work used as an example by SSC for other parishes to use as guidance.
- Implemented a climate and biodiversity policy (possibly we are the first PC locally to do this) We have considered what we can do as a PC.
- Installed bird and bug boxes at the play areas.
- Purchased tablets for Councillors to remove the need to print meeting papers and information for Councillors, to aid our climate change policy.
- Began (and hope to continue) writing articles for the News and Views on how residents can make small changes with big impacts on climate change.
- Ensured that the PC business can continue in the long-term absence due to sickness absence of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk
- Liaised with an SCC and part funded work to be carried out along the highway outside Lapley Cemetery to make it more accessible.
- Assisted Support Staffordshire with volunteer groups.
- Agreed to part fund and aid Support Staffordshire to hold a "thank you" celebration for the volunteers in the parish.
- Made donations to voluntary groups such as Community First Responders, local car scheme, Monday lunch club at the village hall.
- Agreed to support SCC in a new project to support volunteers by acting as a contact point for both parties.
- Taken over the maintenance of the WA village green and the land at Primrose Close owned by SSC.
- Made a planter for Stretton and replaced broken ones in Lapley.
- Installed signs raising awareness that we have defibrillators in the parish.
- Secured funding to reduce the cost of the smart water for parishioners.
- Installed new notice boards at Lapley and Stretton, & plan a new one for Wheaton Aston.
- Assisted the police with ASB issues.
- Installed new estate fencing at Marston field.
- Heard concerns that people felt worried to use the dog walk due to ASB.
- Completed a DPIA and installed CCTV at Marston field which has reduced ASB.
- Chased and reported numerous highways issues to Staffordshire County Council.
- Liaised with St Mary's church to hire the church to offer wellbeing sessions.
- Welcomed and trained 5 new councilors.
- Worked closely with the church and school to hold a community Christmas event
- We are reviewing the future of Broadholes Lane as the area is under used.
- In the process of developing a new website to meet accessibility requirements.
- Implemented numerous policies to improve services.
- Currently investigating a request for a MUGA. A discussion with St Mary's School has been opened about using facilities on their site.
- Working with St Mary's School and other local business and the Woodland Trust to plant a tree for each pupil.
- Assisted local groups with a query regarding a right of way in Lapley
- Installing suggestion boxes in all three villages
- Considering the purchase of a second speed indicator device to make our roads safer.
- We haven't missed a single meeting and carried on work as normal as we successfully moved to Zoom meetings to enable us to hold full council meetings.

**Citizens Advice** – Contact Staffordshire South West Citizens Advice Bureau on 03444 111 444

**Voluntary Car Scheme** – The car scheme is now closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Support Staffordshire** – offers charities, voluntary and community groups in Staffordshire support, advice and training on how to set up and run your group, support for volunteers and discounted services. Tel 0300 777 1207 or email to [info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk)

**Damage to the Highway** – Although Staffordshire County Council office are closed to the public, you can report potholes/damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs on the Staffordshire County Council website, or download the “My Staffs” app, which let you send in photos and locations straight from your phone. If you do go out to take photos, please make sure this is a part of your daily exercise as allowed by Central Government and ensure you keep 2-meter distance from others outside of your household member.

**If you see it, report it!** - If you see a crime in progress, call 999 immediately. Please report non-urgent crime including graffiti, anti-social behaviour, and damage by calling the police on 101. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

**Staffordshire Police Smart Alert** - Get free, local crime alerts and community safety advice with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at: [www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk)

**Crime Prevention / Cybercrime** - There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website.

For more information visit:

[www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention)

[www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime)

**CrimeStoppers** - Give information anonymously. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or Tel: 0800 555 111

**South Staffs Community Lottery** – You could win up to £25,000, and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm.

Tickets can be purchased from 01902 213777 or at [www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)

**South Staffs Leisure Centres (Penkridge, Codsall, Wombourne & Cheslyn Hay)** – Get the latest information about the leisure centres at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure)



**Garden Waste Collection Service** – You can still sign up for the service:

- £43.60 per green bin for the duration of the scheme year
- This scheme year runs until the end of June 2021
- Permit sticker will be posted to you within 14 days of sign up
- Sign up at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

**South Staffordshire Work Clubs** – If you need help getting work Tel: Val Chapman 07718 911367 or email: [val.chapman3@btinternet.com](mailto:val.chapman3@btinternet.com)

**Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund** - South Staffordshire Council is urging residents to register for the Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund that could save them money on their heating bills. The funding scheme is aimed at residents who are struggling with their heating bills and using expensive electric heaters and open fires. For more information visit [www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk](http://www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk).



**Happy at Home** - A new campaign from Staffordshire County Council, designed to help residents across the county lead healthier, independent and happier lives and to support them to be able to live well at home for longer.

A new interactive online tool has launched as part of a countywide campaign to raise awareness about the massive range of simple and low-cost assistive technology equipment available to people who may be struggling with everyday tasks around the home.

You can explore the ‘Happy at Home Interactive House’ at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/happyathome](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/happyathome)

## Your Parish Council

<u>COUNCILLOR</u>	<u>WARD</u>	<u>Email</u>
A Anderson	Stretton	<a href="mailto:a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">a.anderson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
B Cross	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:b.cross@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">b.cross@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
E Dadd	Stretton	<a href="mailto:e.dadd@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">e.dadd@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
M Griffiths	Lapley	<a href="mailto:m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.griffiths@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
W Millington	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
R Nelson	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:r.nelson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">r.nelson@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
T Noblett (Chair)	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">t.noblett@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
V Renfrew	Lapley	<a href="mailto:v.renfrew@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">v.renfrew@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
M Smith	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:m.smith@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.smith@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
S Whittingham	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">s.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
S Whittingham	Wheaton Aston	<a href="mailto:sue.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">sue.whittingham@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

## OFFICE

A Watson	Parish Council Manager	<a href="mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
K Daker	Assistant Clerk	<a href="mailto:assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk">assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

Office Address Office F7, South Staffordshire Business Hub, Wolverhampton Rd, WV8 1PE (Currently Closed)  
Telephone 07495 789051 (Parish Council Manager)/ 07398 743554 (Assistant Clerk)  
Website [www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk) Also find us on Facebook

## Other Key Contacts

County Cllr Mark Sutton	01902 851682	<a href="mailto:mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk">mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
District Cllr Brian Cox	01785 840482	<a href="mailto:b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk">b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
District Cllr Ve Jackson	01785 840256	<a href="mailto:v.jackson@sstaffs.gov.uk">v.jackson@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000	<a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
South Staffordshire District Council	01902 696000	<a href="http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk">www.sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency)	<a href="http://www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk">www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk</a>
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	<a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>
Highways	0300 111 8000	<a href="mailto:www.highways@staffordshire.gov.uk">www.highways@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>

**2020 Parish Council Meetings** - Parish Council meetings are currently being held remotely on Zoom. The next meeting will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> (Precept) at 7:00pm Meeting ID:841 0227 3878 Passcode:642688  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84102273878?pwd=c3g0MjEzdWpva29QcjNVMWFIRVlpZz09>.

**2021 Parish Council Meetings** - 21st Jan, 4th March, 22nd April, 27th May, (Annual Parish Meeting of electors at 6:00pm, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7:00pm), 15th July, 2nd Sept, 21st Oct, 9th Dec (Precept)

**Please note that the Parish Council office will be closed from 16<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, emails and voicemails will not be monitored during this time.**



**& A HAPPY 2021**

**Merry FROM LAPLEY, STRETTON & WHEATON ASTON PARISH COUNCIL**