

BRAMSHALL NEWS



The Village as seen from 'The Hollow'



February 2021



Send your stories, photos and news for the next edition of Bramshall News!

March deadline is Monday 22nd February 2021



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Bramshall Village Community

On facebook? Then join up to the
Bramshall Village Community Page for all the latest.



**How to find your local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers)
details for your areas.**

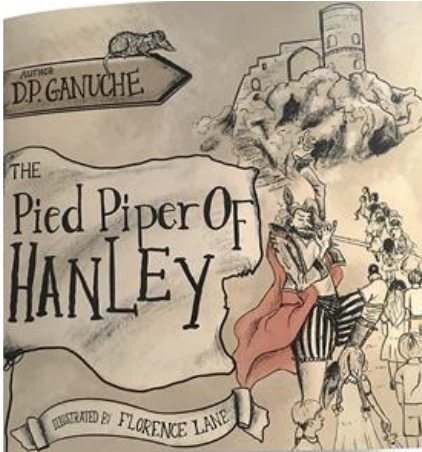
Log on to www.Staffordshire.police.uk website and enter your post code in 'Find your area'. This will link you to your local policing team under the tab 'your team'. This page will also allow you to contact your local officers if you have anything to report.

Lead Theft Alert

Thieves damaged the roof at Hoar Cross Church last month as they attempted to steal lead. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity on or around any buildings. Do not take security for granted.

Please remember, this is everybody's News Sheet and the editor would be delighted to receive contributions about anything interesting or important, celebrations, forthcoming events, reflections, anything... and photographs make any item more engaging.

♥♥ Alice Charity
Supporting families in Stoke & Newcastle
with the right things, at the right time, in the right way,
when no-one else can.



The Pied Piper of Hanley

Who knew?

There is a secret author in the village! They have re-imagined the original dark German fairy tale into an entertaining local fable and what's more have chosen to donate all proceeds to a local charity (The Alice Charity) during this difficult period for us all.

Their Pied Piper of Hanley is a light-hearted tale from a time before the Meir tunnel – of a Potteries town challenged by a terrible plague of o'rots. It features oatcakes, pikelets and a young but talented flute player from the wealthy plains of Cheshire. There is even a mention for Uttoxeter.

Forget Hamelin, they make a compelling case for this fairytale's origins being in Hanley! It is beautifully observed by a gifted young illustrator and the story is re-imagined for a more modern telling.

All initial copies are signed by both the village author and young illustrator. Reserve your copy with a £10 donation, all of which is donated to the Alice Charity who support disadvantaged and vulnerable families in the local area. A launch on the Alice Charity website and interviews on Radio Stoke are coming soon, so don't delay.

visit <https://alicecharity.com/the-pied-piper-of-hanley-fundraiser/>
for details of how to get you get your first edition signed copy.

I am told the author can't even whistle – so if you hear someone humming a tune around the village, shout up.

Church News

The Uttoxeter Area of Parishes
Parish Church of St. Lawrence Bramshall

Vicar Revd John Lander
revjsl@aol.com 565228

Covid-19

Sadly, due to the rapid spread of the new variant form of covid-19 we have had to suspend public worship in our church building for the time being. Hopefully this situation will be eased in wake of the current 'lockdown' restrictions and the roll-out of the vaccination programme. In the mean time we are offering a 'zoom' service each Sunday morning with the services as indicated below. For details of how to join the zoom services please email revjsl@aol.com The church will be opened for private prayer each Sunday morning from 10.00am - 12.00noon

Zoom Services for February

7 th Jan	11.00am	Agape
14 th Jan	11.00am	Morning Worship
21 st Jan	11.00am	Agape
28 th Jan	11.00am	Morning Worship

100 Club Results: January

1 st	No 64	Anne Harris	£30
2 nd	No 9	SallyAnne Lander	£25
3 rd	No 113	Colin Whittaker	£20
4 th	No 32	John Whittaker	£15

**Thanks to Russell Heath of the Strawberry Garden Centre
for drawing the winning balls for the January prizes.**

100 Club - Reminder: if you had forgotten to renew we did put all the numbers in for January, but do ring us to clarify your intentions please.

It's never too late to renew membership (or join for the first time); for just £1 per month up front you can join in the excitement and help support our work and ministry. Please contact SallyAnne on 565228.

An Agape Meal

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ. It is not the same as Holy Communion or the Eucharist.

The Love Feast has often been held on occasions when the celebration of the Lord's Supper would be inappropriate - where there is no one present authorized to administer the Sacrament, when persons of different denominations are present who do not feel free to take Holy Communion together, when there is a desire for a service more informal and spontaneous than the communion ritual, or at a full meal or some other setting to which it would be difficult to adapt the Lord's Supper.

One of the advantages of the Agape Meal is that anyone, including children, may participate.



2020 campaign update

With your help Teams4u managed to collect and export 48,756 shoeboxes!



Last week the final lorry was loaded up with 8,811 shoeboxes and headed off to Dover. As we know just before Christmas, Dover port ground to a halt due to Brexit and Covid restrictions which made it impossible to send them in December.

Thankfully I have just heard from our partner Alex, that the lorry has arrived at the Romania Moldova border this evening and tomorrow it will pass through customs before heading off to be unloaded.

In Romania all the shoeboxes have now been distributed in Bihor and Arad counties which are both in the northwest of the country. Our partners Raul in Oradea and Alexandra in Arad have worked tirelessly to get the boxes to those communities that needed them the most.



At the moment boxes are being distributed in Belarus where weather conditions are very cold down to -20C. **A big thank you to everybody for making this a success.**



National Storytelling Week 30th Jan – 6th Feb 2021



Do you remember your favourite story from your early childhood. Perhaps it involved a gingerbread man or some pigs or a princess. Whichever story you loved as a child, I'm sure you can still remember it today. I'm even more sure that you can remember some the key details and even some of the key phrases. And, if you think really hard, you can probably remember a phrase that one of the characters said several times (I'll huff and I'll puff) and maybe even a small detail that you imagined or 'added in' to make the story your own.

My youngest daughter (20 months old) asks for the same story to be told again and again: in the car, at bedtime, in the bath and even when we're doing the weekly food shopping. I do get some strange looks from people that overhear!

Her current favourite story is 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson and I'm amazed at how much of the story I can remember without the book in front of me. What's even more interesting is how she 'sees' the story unfolding everywhere about her, for example any stick becomes the witches' broom, and any dog might just have the witches' hat in his jaws! There's no doubt that all this language is helping her learn more words and gain a better control of her speech .



Storytelling is something I love to do. I have the added advantage of not only having a young child at home, but also a class full of eager children (when schools are not closed due to the pandemic!) to tell stories to.

There is something quite magical about engaging a listener and keeping them entranced whilst a story unfolds through the spoken word and their imagination. The power of a story can keep even the most fidgety child still.

Telling a story requires a different set of skills to reading a story aloud, but it's a skill set we all have. Talking! All you need to do is think of a story you know really well and consider the order in which the events take place. It really is that simple. Then the magic can begin.

The main difference when telling a story, as opposed to reading aloud, is that the language is looser and adapts according to the teller responding to the listener. You need to know the key points of the plot really well and add a little emphasis when the story reaches the crisis. Perhaps think of different voices for the characters too. A wolf in my stories always has a deep voice with cockney accent for some reason!

If you'd like to learn more about this ancient art-form (for it is a craft that one can learn to develop and it is ancient, as stories have been told for thousands of years, before the written word existed) please check out The Society for Storytelling:



<https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week>

All you need now is someone to listen. So, gather your family: by phone or online, light the fire, make a cuppa and 'have-a-go' at telling a story to someone you love.

It is National Storytelling Week after all.

Laura Hill

Clergy Letter for February 2021



I wonder how many of you were interested in the poll for the best ever Christmas movie (won by the 1946 film 'It's a Wonderful Life'); well in 5th place was that 2003 rom-com 'Love Actually'. Even though I watched a few films over the Christmas period I didn't see it listed on TV this year!! We did watch 'Notting Hill' again but I digress. It may seem odd to be harking back to December but, as has been said before, Christmas builds up for months prior to the day, then disappears almost entirely 2 days after, yet we are still in the 'Christmas' period until Candlemas - 2nd Feb. Shops and supermarkets keep us looking forward to the next big event/s (with Easter eggs already on display); and tucked away among the cards we glimpse images of hearts and flowers as Valentine's Day looms large on the horizon. Yes, it's time to start planning the perfect surprise for that special person in your life... only we are in lock down again! Anyway, it got me thinking about Valentine; who was he, and why do we associate him with love – and a love that is sometimes shrouded in secrecy?

Well, it appears there were 3 potential candidates for the honour and it wasn't until the 3rd century that St. Valentine's Day was declared in memory of a priest of Rome who was martyred. Legend suggests it all stems back to the time of Emperor Claudius, during the period when Christians were being persecuted, and who made a decree forbidding soldiers to marry – his logic being that married men would not fight so well if they were thinking about their wives! Valentine felt this was unjust so he defied the emperor and conducted marriages for young couples in secret. Eventually he was found out, imprisoned and sentenced to death. Legend also says that during his imprisonment he fell in love with the jailer's daughter, and before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "From Your Valentine". Probably, though, the most plausible story surrounding St Valentine is one not focused on *eros* (passionate love) but on *agape* (love of God): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

We certainly are living in somewhat dark days, both metaphorically and physically; and love can sometimes seem to be in short supply as we find ourselves limited to what we can do and those who we cannot meet. It was into such times of turmoil that God's amazing love was revealed in human form in the birth of Jesus, and 40 days later when the baby Jesus was presented in the temple that Simeon declared that "his eyes had seen God's salvation, a light to enlighten all people." Then, as now, people felt lost and lonely with no-one to help them; and Jesus still comes with a message of help and comfort, a guiding light to all in darkness. Thankfully, that message is still heard today and is responded to through acts of kindness and concern. As we anticipate Valentine's Day and, hopefully, join the Thursday evening 'Clap for Heroes', we are reminded that 'God's Love, actually, is all around.'

Rev John



Happy Valentines Day



Congratulations
to Ed & Lucy Ewing
on the safe arrival of their son
Thomas Andrew.
How wonderful to be able to
hear such joyful news.

Lucy Ewing (Sargeant) from
the local butchers
T.G. Sargeant & Son's
gave birth to a baby boy on
23rd January
weighing 7lb 9oz,
both Lucy and Thomas
are doing well.

Penny's Recipe of the Month



Well hello everyone and a happy New Year - not that there is much to celebrate but let's keep well. After the Christmas celebrations I did wonder what to cook on New Year's Eve, something different from the Christmas turkey etc. and there would be only two of us. So I did roast duck breast with Morello cherry sauce which went down very well, so here is the recipe.

2 duck breasts with skin on.
Jar of Morello cherry jam { Waitrose }
Red wine { Penny's cellar } !!.

So score the skin on the duck breast with sharp knife. Heat a frying pan on the hob and when hot place the duck breasts skin side down and cook for 4mins after which turn the breasts over and check the skin is crispy then pop on small baking tray and cook in oven at 170deg for 20 mins. While breasts are cooking in the oven put $\frac{1}{4}$ jar of Morello cherry in a saucepan, add 150ml of red wine and bring to boil keep stirring until most of wine reduced. Take the duck out of oven and put on plates then pour sauce over breasts and serve with green vegetables and small boiled potatoes with butter and chopped chives. Because the wine is added to jam the sauce is not sweet. Then wash it all down with a nice glass of red wine!!

Enjoy.

Penny Gilpin

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If you have used inkjet cartridges or used postage stamps, then collections are taken at church (or drop off at 9, Overcroft) as part of recycling for charities.



ALERT

There have been reports of a group of males who are going door-to-door selling odds and ends to bungalows and homes with elderly residents. They state they are disabled and are working with the College, one report stating Stafford College, and would like to show you their wares. The items for sale are usually torches, squeegees and other low value items. They do leave upon request but have been known to try to enter properties if not told firmly enough to go. The reports started in Uttoxeter and have recently started coming from Abbots Bromley.

Please keep an eye on elderly relatives and neighbours since the items for sale are purchased at low cost and sold at an inflated price to the residents. If you see these men selling door-to-door, please contact 101 to report it.

Timothy Leathers (Staffordshire Police, PCSO, East Staffordshire)

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We look forward to hearing from you.