NORTH RODE NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025

After a long winter how encouraging it is to see spring arriving at last, though the pessimists are still expecting snow!

Congratulations to Huw Williams and the Daintry team on planning an eventful summer, as you will see.

Happy Easter! Marilyn

Daintry Hall Development Update



Following the successful planning application for the new pavilion, pickleball court and Daintry hall renovation, we are now busy carrying out various surveys and commissioning reports that are required to address pre-start planning conditions. We have also been liaising with the nursery to put together a programme that will enable the nursery to operate without interruption. We are currently anticipating that preparation works will take most of 2025, with the pavilion and pickleball court construction taking place throughout 2026. Renovation of Daintry Hall will depend on funding and unlikely to start until 2027.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

After the service on 23rd March we toasted Geoffrey and Shirley Knights to mark their 60th wedding anniversary on 27th March, for which our cooks were busy again! We are so grateful to Geoffrey for his achievements on our old church organ.

Lent Lunch

We are indebted to the Lever family, and Anne in particular, for hosting the very successful Lent lunch on 18th March. Over 30 people from North Rode and Gawsworth were accommodated with ease, with no shortage of bread and cheese or delicious soups from the usual team. The age range covered was from over 90 down to their granddaughter of less than 3 months!



Mothering Sunday Service 30th March

We look forward to seeing everyone, but don't forget the clock change! Sheila Kidd and Rose Brocklehurst are kindly providing posies.

Church Electoral Roll

We need to create a new Roll this year. If you haven't already done so, please can you complete a new form, available in the church porch, and leave it in the box there please.

The Rector's Letter April 2025

One of the few TV programmes I try to watch regularly each week is *Gardener's World* (anyone else suspect Monty Don has a great deal of help with his amazing garden at *Longmeadow*?) and it is particularly inspiring to hear from people who have created something attractive and fruitful out of almost nothing. As we all know, beautiful gardens don't just happen, they take a lot of constant effort, digging, planting, weeding, feeding, pruning, and all the things that encourage growth. It's the same with the spiritual side of life. When we neglect prayer, regular worship, leave our Bibles on the shelf to gather dust, the weeds take control, and our spiritual life becomes an unattractive and fruitless wilderness.

It is significant that the story of Easter begins in a garden. Early in the morning Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb where she had witnessed the body of Jesus being laid on Good Friday. To her dismay she finds the tomb empty and jumps to the conclusion that someone has stolen the body. And then a short while later, with eyes full of tears, she encounters the Risen Lord. At first, she assumes he is the gardener. But when he calls her by name, she realises the wonderful truth that Jesus is indeed alive, and joy fills her heart. All this takes place in the setting of a garden. The word *garden* is mentioned 59 times in the Bible and is often used to describe our relationship with God. This is a fruitful image for Christian spirituality in terms of cultivating the garden of our hearts. The Bible begins with the allegorical story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is a scene of harmony and happiness. Then this idyllic state is shattered when Adam and Eve stop listening to God and go their own way.

Like a garden, faith is always *"work in progress".* We need to attend to the spiritual dimension of our lives, holding on to the promise we find in Scripture, *"You shall be like a watered garden."* (Isaiah 58:11) The Easter Garden was a place of encounter between Jesus and Mary. May our hearts also be a place of encounter where we hear God call us by name, and our lives then be enriched by the presence of the Risen Christ within us.

Happy Easter!

Colin

North Rode Services
April 2025

April 6th Lent 5	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Anne Lever Margaret Cann
April 13th Palm Sunday	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Norman Bebington Bronwen Bebington
April 17th Maundy Thursday	**7 pm** Holy Communion	Led by: **Gawsworth**	The Rector
April 18th Good Friday	**11.30 am** A Meditation On the Cross	Led by:	The Rector
April 20th Easter Day Flowers: S. Bullock & helpers	**11.30 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Shirley Tudor-Evans Diane Lowe
April 27th Easter 2	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	**10 am** Holy Communion
May 4th Easter 3 Flowers: E. Allen	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT, CRAFTS, SONGS

Saturday April 19th 10.00am – 12noon



For children aged 3-11yrs

St. James the Great Church Hall, Gawsworth

Children are welcome to bring some spring flowers, greenery, garden moss, stones etc. and help create an Easter Garden.

No charge – just bring a coin for the collection.

(Refreshments available for children & parents.)

Further information from Rachel Wilson (01260 223201)

If anyone would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or while in hospital, please contact the Rector

http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk

Rector Revd Colin Wilson 01260 223201

Warden Mrs Marilyn Ainslie 01260 223346

Secretary Mrs Diane Lowe 01260 272576

Treasurer Mrs Lynn Petts 01260 222902

Newsletter Mrs Marilyn Ainslie 01260 223346

North Rode Parish Council
April 2025 Update

North Rode Viaduct Fete
14th June 2025 - Save the Date!



To celebrate the 176th anniversary of the viaduct opening and 200 years of the Railway in the Britain, the parish council are organising a fete for villagers and their friends in the shadow of the viaduct on Colley Farm – at the very same location as the grand opening fete in 1849. There will be a marquee, a band playing and duck races for adults and children on the River Dane. Prizes will be given for the best dressed Victorian Lady and Gentleman!. *Further details will appear in next months newsletter and on leaflets to be distributed*. We are looking for volunteers in the village to help with organising and running this day. If you are interested, please call Huw Williams on 07791717459 or Brenda Lomas on 07592 067153

North Rode Well Dressing, Village Walk and Picnic – September 2025

Plans are well underway for North Rode to have its very first well dressing in late August/September. The well is on Church Lane just below the church and it is being renovated by local volunteers and special mounting boards are being made up in preparation. We will be organising workshops the week before the well dressing to decorate the boards, and these will be open to any villager who wish to participate and learn how it is done. We will be attempting to re-create our village sign! Details will be anounced in the next few months.

Transport Consultation - Cheshire East has launched a consultation on it's local transport plan, which sets out it's proposed vision for the local transport network. The brochure is vailable to view and you can submit your comments from this link: https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/VisionForTransport/

Devolution: Cheshire + Warrington - The government is currently consulting on a proposal to create a combined authority made up of representatives from Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Warrington, chaired by a new Mayoral position, similar to Greater Manchester, promising increased powers and investment. You can view the details and have your say up until 13th April by using this link: https://www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com/devolution

Parish Council Vacancy – We currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are interested in joining and feel you are able to commit time and enthisiasm to help make our village a better place, please contact our Clerk, Brenda Lomas at clerk@northrodepc.co.uk or chairman Huw Williams at huwwilliams200@gmail.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting with Cheese and Wine, followed by the Parish Council AGM will be held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7pm. Please come along and hear our review of the past year and plans we have for the coming year.

Cllr Huw Williams

North Rode WI March Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes:

President Diane Lowe welcomed members plus guests to the March Meeting. Several apologies were read out. After singing of Jerusalem thanks were given for table flowers to Eileen Slack plus the Raffle Prize, Cakes Margaret Aitchison and Gloria Cole. Several members served the refreshments. Our new Treasurer Jackie Spooner gave a brief account of the Finances. North Rode had an article in Cheshire News this Month Cloud Group. Tickets are on sale. Wednesday 7th May at NLChurch. North Rode Coffee Morning is at Gawsworth Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 1st May. Donations, Cakes Plants etc were asked for. Proceeds go to our WI. Brenda Proudlove was organising a Zoom meeting for the AGM on 4th June in Congleton Town Hall, more details to follow. All members of the Cloud Group to be included.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Jayne Holford, her Talk entitled *Hobby to Business*. She entertained us with her hobby of Soap making first, then her Resin making, which proved to be fascinating. Lots of members had no idea about the Resin making. She said that hobby was quite messy which, as we saw, it was. She made lots of different shapes with soap, but there was lots of red tape etc which had to be adhered to with the existing laws. Jayne had a selection of items for sale after the meeting. She was a very creative lady with her hobby, and sold her items through the internet. Pam Robinson gave Jayne the Vote of Thanks for her presentation.

The Competition for a Bowl of Hyacinths was won by Diane Lowe, second Pam Robinson. Pat Lovatt won the Raffle prize.

Our next Meeting is our Spring Lunch with a Gin Tasting afterwards. The Gin Tasting and Presentation is by Mike and Claire from the Edge Distillery in Astbury. Time is 12 Noon at Eaton Church and Community Hall. Various guests have been invited to this event.

Marton School

Dear Friends

Last week we had a fantastic Science Week at school and each day children took part in different experiments and activities and were Scientists for the whole week. School was a hive of activity and we were so grateful for all the support we received. We really are so fortunate to have the very best support around us and it's a relationship we never take for granted. Our next exciting week is Career's Week in May.

Our Friends and Family (PTA) support school so much and they recently created a Reading Bingo challenge for children (encouraging reading whilst raising funds for school.) They recently bought lots of new iPad for children to use as part of their incredible fundraising this year and have a plan for future spending and support for school.

Our 'Little Seeds' pre-school is the highlight each month and we love welcoming new families to school. Do share the date of these meetings with local friends and families. Our next Little Seeds morning will take place on Wednesday 2nd April.

Following the bad weather in January; we had to postpone our post-Christmas theatre visit and we have instead arranged for the children to watch a production of The Wizard of Oz at school this week. We are all looking forward to this and hope the children have lots of fun.

We now have started to welcome new and prospective families for September 2026. If you would like to visit our wonderful happy school, please contact the school office for Open dates.

With best wishes



Mrs N Deakin

Whilst going though old parish council documents, recently entrusted to me as chairman of the parish council, I came across a fascinating account of life in North Rode in the last century, written by Mr W.L Cumberlidge, who was North Rode Parish Clerk from 1923 until 1973. Mr Cumberlidge did not hold back on his description of people's demeanour and physical attributes, which all add to the colour of this remarkable account of village life in North Rode over this period. I. Over the next few months I will post this account in instalments in the parish newsletter.
Huw Williams

THE HISTORY OF NORTH RODE, AS I KNEW IT FROM 1914 TO 1973
Written by W.L.Cumberlidge.

I came to North Rode Station in 1914 as Junior Clerk and Messenger at a salary of £15 per annum. In 1923

I was appointed Assistant Overseer and Parish Clerk. The previous Overseer and Parish Clerk was Mr Heathcote, who gave up the position.

The position was advertised in the local press and there were two applicants Mr. P.Booth from Congleton and myself. I was appointed and was taken to see the then clerk, Mr.F.Harrison, of the Macclesfield Rural Area- his office was in a small room at the Macclesfield Workhouse, (now the West Park Hospital.) The staff consisted of Mr. F.Harrison -Chief Clerk, Mr.A .Milward -Senior Clerk, Mr.A.Holland, Mr.Maybury and Mr.H.W.Abbott -Junior Clerk. (Mr. Abbott has risen to be Clerk of the Macclesfield Rural District Council).

Mr.Thorpe was the Engineer and Surveyor, he lived in the house in Jordangate, Macclesfield, now occupied by Dobson Chapman. Mr.J.F.May, Solicitor, of Churchside, Macclesfield, did the legal work and one of his clerks, Mr.J.F.Bradley, kept the Valuation List. Upon the formation of the Macclesfield Rural

District Council, Mr.May became Clerk to the Council and Mr.J.F.Bradley was appointed Rating Officer. The man who took me to see Mr.Harrison was Mr.I.Hadfield. He farmed at Bank Farm, North Rode and was the son of Hadfield the chemist, whose shop was at the comer of Stanley Street and Mill Street, Macclesfield.

The Daintry family who resided at the Oaklands, were the owners of the North Rode Estate. Mr. Daintry was a well-built man, married, with seven children - Michael, John, Percival, Cecil, Patrick, Katie and Elizabeth. He gave his sons a good education, sending them to school at Uppingham, his daughters were taught at home by a governess. He was mostly of a kind disposition but very keen on the upkeep of the Estate and if he met a tramp in the village, he would give him a tip and ask him to go on his way out of the Village.

On one occasion, when he had been to Macclesfield, he gave his gold watch and chain as I collected the tickets at the station. Seeing the state he was in, I took them off him and the next day retuned them to him. He said that he did not know where he had lost them: He thanked me and gave a tip.

Mrs. Daintry was of medium height, well-proportioned in build and it was a pleasure to have conversation with her. After the death of Mr. Daintry she went to reside at West Heath, Congleton. The son Micheal was an officer in the Royal Navy during the 1914-18 war. Afterwards I understand he joined a Stock Broking firm in London. The son John emigrated to Canada, I do know what became of the other sons, Katie got married but I do not know what happened to Elizabeth. After residing at West Heath for some years, Mrs. Daintry moved to be near her son Michael. I have not heard of her death and if still living she must be 90 years of age.

Sir E.Tootal Broadhurst resided at the Manor House, North Rode. He was a well-built man and his wife was on the small side, but very ladylike. He was a director of Tootal Broadhurst Lee and Co. also a director of the London and North Western Railway. He employed a Head Gardener and two other gardeners.

Mr.Bagnall was his Coachman and there were several servants in the house. He was a very keen business man and would call at the station in the morning and at times handed in two or three telegrams and say the charge was 2/5 and would pay 2/6 and say he would call at the station at night for his ld. change. He was very good at Christmas and gave me a golden half sovereign as a Christmas box but nothing further during the year whatever I did for him.

He had the Shooting Rights for the Parish of North Rode - Mr.Higgs was his Gamekeeper - about three times a year they had parties for pheasant shooting. Many well-known people came to these parties, including Lord Ashton of Hyde. On the day of the shoot, he employed beaters who had to be on duty at 5.0 o'clock in the morning to keep the pheasants wood. For this he paid the men 2/- and the youths 1/- and they were provided with bread, cheese and ale as refreshment. On Monday mornings after a shoot, Mr.Bagnall, the coachman, brought the guests to the station and would call the porters to fetch the luggage down. He would show them several sovereigns and half sovereigns which he had received as tips from the guests, but he never got off the coach to help with the unloading of the luggage. There would be about 40 brace of pheasants sent to the station by Sir Tootal for us to dispatch to his friends.

In North Rode Church there is a memorial to Sir Tootal and Lady Broadhurst. When Sir Tootal died, we had about 50 telegrams from people who knew him. Shortly after his death, Lady Broadhurst went to reside at Prestbury and the Manor House was taken by one of friends, Mr. Forbes, who reduced the staff at the Manor House, because he was not able to keep up the place as Sir Tootal had done.

Another story about Sir Tootal Broadhurst may interest my readers, He used to go to Dalwhinnie, in Scotland, to shoot deer. He had a special railway coach sent to the station which was put in the station siding about four days before he was due to leave. The coach had a double brass bed in it. He came to inspect it when it arrived and if did not suit him he had another sent - he being a director of the L.N.W.R. He took several servants with him and they were away for about a month.

Mr. Midwood resided at the Grange and was a director of the Clayton Ansline Co. of Manchester. He was a tall, not over stout gentleman and his wife was a well-built person and very ladylike. Mr Seal was employed as head Gardener and there were two other gardeners under his control. There was also a Groom to look after two polo stallions, he was Mr. Hill, and several servants were employed in the house. He had one son Dennis who was an officer in the Army - he married a daughter of the Gossage family. He also paid for the upkeep of a cricket team in the village and paid a professional cricketer, they held matches during the summer months and the team and the visiting team were provided with tea in the pavilion. He had the shooting rights at Bosley Reservoir for the shooting of ducks, he was generous in the parish and well liked Each year he went to Killen in Scotland, to shoot deer for about three weeks.

The postman, for North Rode, was Mr. Lancaster, who came from Congleton. He had to be at the Grange for 8.0a.m. every day so that Mr. Midwood would receive his mail before he went to business in Manchester and he was always provided with a breakfast in the servants quarters. In the evenings the post was delivered by Mr.C. Axon and every night he used to come to the 'Gents' and nearly every day he would walk along the platform when the London to Manchester Express was passing though the station - it was known on the station as the Charles Dickins, it was at times, pulled by the famous engine named "Charles Dickens". Mr. Axon always wore a pair of clogs. When Mr. Midwood died, the Grange was taken by Mr. Winder, a director of Ashton Bros.

Mr. Winder took a great interest in the welfare of the Parish and was Chairman of the Parish Council from 1935 until December 1950 when he retired because of age. In winter time he wore a cloak and reminded me of David Lloyd George, once Prime Minister of England who introduced an old age pension of 5/- per week.

Another man who used to come to North Rode Station was Mr. D.Moseley who resided at Buglawton Hall, he was a director of D. Moseley and Sons, Manchester.

When the men met at the station they would greet each other with "Good morning Broadhust," "Midwood," or "Moseley", never using the word "Mr". One morning, Mr.Midwood shouted across the station to the stationmaster, "Kennerley , I wish to speak to you - I have two tons of Basic Slag in the station, will you let your porters help my men to unload? To which the reply was "No, it does not include handling", this was through him not saying Mr.Kennerley, but the porters did help his men to unload and Mr.Midwood gave them a tip. After this incident he sent him vegetables from the garden and kept the station garden supplied with plants.

..... to be continued in next month's newsletter.