# *NORTH RODE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025*

Christmas seems a long time ago and we hope we've had all the adverse weather now. It's cheering to see snowdrops coming out. You will see the great news that planning permission has been granted for the new Daintry Hall development, so it will be an exciting year.

With best wishes to you all for a good year.

Marilyn

## Birthdays

Our best wishes to the following with birthdays in February:

2nd - Hector Petts 9
3rd - William Boxford 14
17th - Rosie Burwood 12
22nd - Otto Petts 3

## Toy Service

Congleton NSPCC committee are very grateful for all the toys donated, which have gone to needy local families.

The service also included the baptism of Chloé,



daughter of Marieanne and Hugo Karpinski, who have recently moved to Buglawton. Chloé goes to Daintry Hall nursery and we are delighted to welcome them into the congregation.

## Carol Service

Instead of the Macclesfield Light Orchestra we very much appreciated Geoffrey Knights on the organ for the well attended service. Our thanks go to the Bullock family, back from India, for organising the mulled wine, and to everyone who baked mince pies.

One of the church Christmas trees was generously donated by Judy Howarth and the other by Mary Hobson's son-in-law. Diane Lowe and helpers kindly did the decorations.

## Judy Howarth

Judy has sadly moved back to Harpenden and Ridgegate is now on the market. We will miss all her enthusiasm for baking and maintaining the village. We hope to see her on future visits.



Have you seen the lovely Highland Cattle currently roaming in the Park? Picture taken on a cold January Morning. They would have been glad of their warm shaggy coats!

## *The Rector's Letter February 2025*

February begins with Candlemas when the Church remembers the presentation of Christ in the Jerusalem Temple 40 days after his birth. Joseph and Mary sacrificed doves, or pigeons, as the Law of Moses required. Old Testament Law set out various ways in which God's people used worship and sacrifice to respond to His blessings. Gifts were given as part of worship in the Temple, not to win favour with God, but simply in response to His blessings. In a similar way, Christians financially support the mission of the Church in response to God's love and goodness revealed in Jesus, who suffered death on a Cross for each one of us. We are called to respond to his sacrifice to the best of our ability.

As Rector, I am grateful for *everyone* who gives of themselves to support St. Michael's Church financially and through service. While some people will currently be facing financial hardship, others may be in a position to be more generous. In many Churches, this is the time of the year when people are invited to prayerfully reflect on what they can do to ensure that their Church is well maintained and a active part of the community.

The sharp rise in costs over recent years has not been matched by a rise in income. At St. Michael's, we are running at a loss, which is an unsustainable position long term. Perhaps some of you reading this can make some time in the coming days to prayerfully consider what more you can do to support the Church. If you have been regularly giving a set amount for several years (£5 for example), could you afford to give more?

One of the best ways to support the Church financially is through a monthly Standing Order. If anyone would like a Standing Order Form and further information, please contact our Treasurer Lynn Petts, or speak to me. As St. Paul reminds us, *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for the Lord loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Yours ever,

*Colin*

## North Rode Services

February 2025

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Feb 2nd** Candlemas Flowers: Sheila Kidd | **11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW) | Led by: Sidesman: Reading: | Revd Anne Freestone Anne Lever Mary Hobson |
| **Feb 9th** 4th before Lent Flowers: Deirdre Sampson | **11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP) | Led by: Sidesman: Reading: | The Rector Diane Lowe Charles Baxter |
| **Feb 16th** 3rd before Lent Flowers: as last week | No service at North Rode | **Gawsworth** | **10 am** Holy Communion **4 pm** Evensong |
| **Feb 23rd** 2nd before Lent Flowers: Rose Brocklehurst | **11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP) | Led by: Sidesman: Reading: | The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Geoffrey Allen |
| **March 2nd** Sunday next before Lent Flowers: as last week | **11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP) | Led by: Sidesman: Reading: | The Rector Louise Jackson Bronwen Bebington |

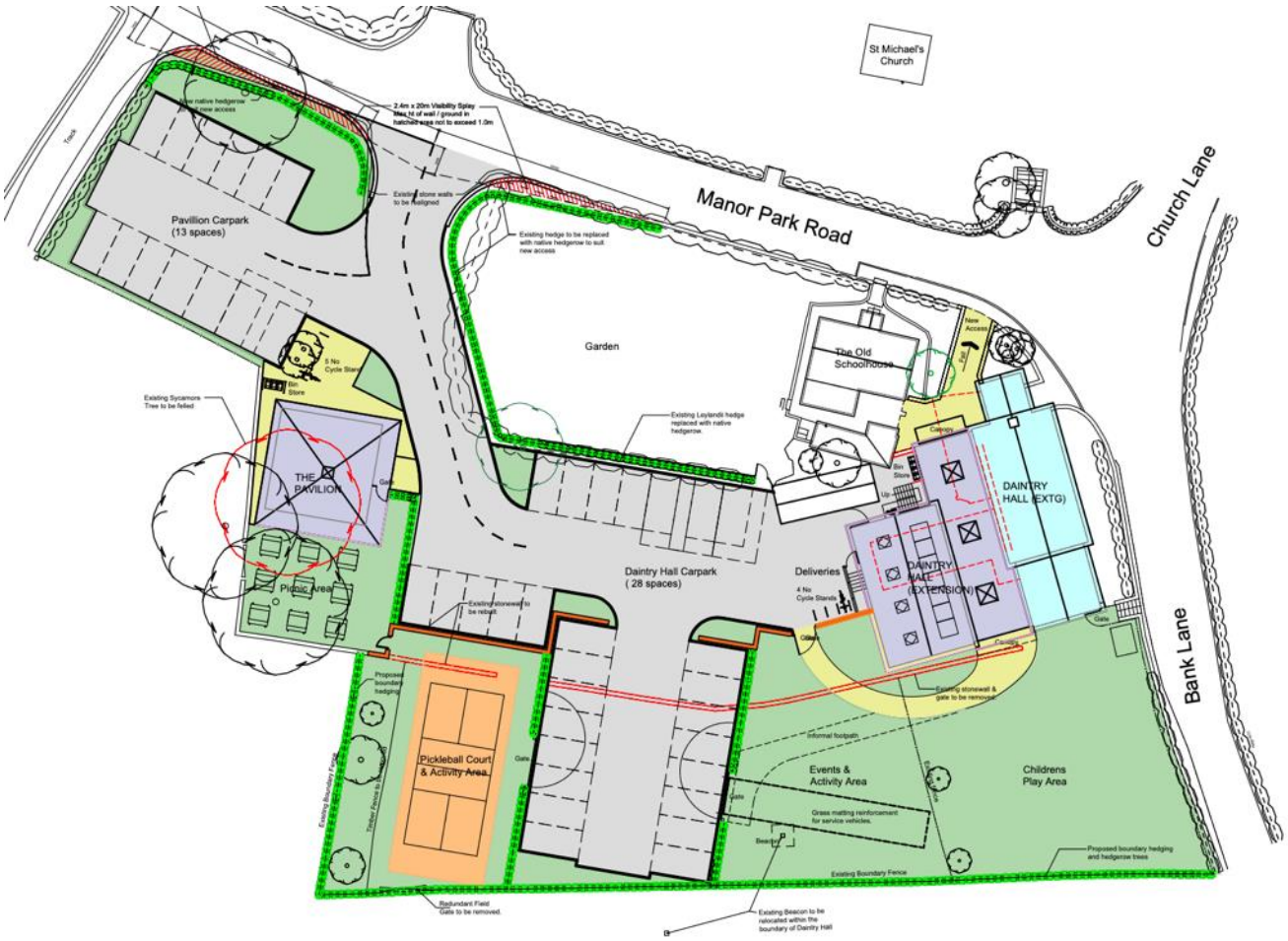
http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk

**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

## DAINTRY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**FANTASTIC NEWS** - We are delighted to anounce that we have received planning approval for our Daintry Hall community development plans, as presented to the village back in December 2023! It has been a long road, complicated by Daintry Hall being a listed building. The planning application was submitted in early June 2024 after all the relevant supporting information was gathered. All documents and plans can be viewed online on the Cheshire East Planning Portal under references **24/2048C and 24/2029C**. We would like to thank the many villagers that wrote to Cheshire East in support of our plans and this has undoubtedly helped.

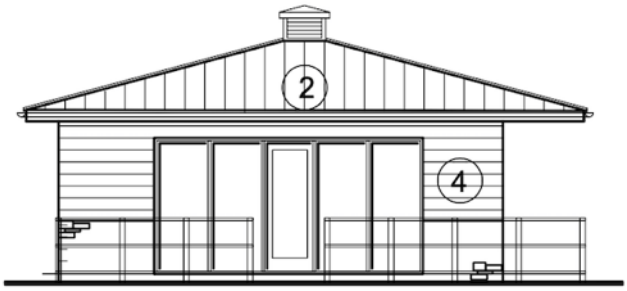
In summary, the project includes a sympathetic restoration, improvement and extension to Daintry Hall, the construction of a separate Pavilion with picnic area and the provision of a pickleball court, that can also be used for other outdoor events and activities. The plan below shows what is going where.



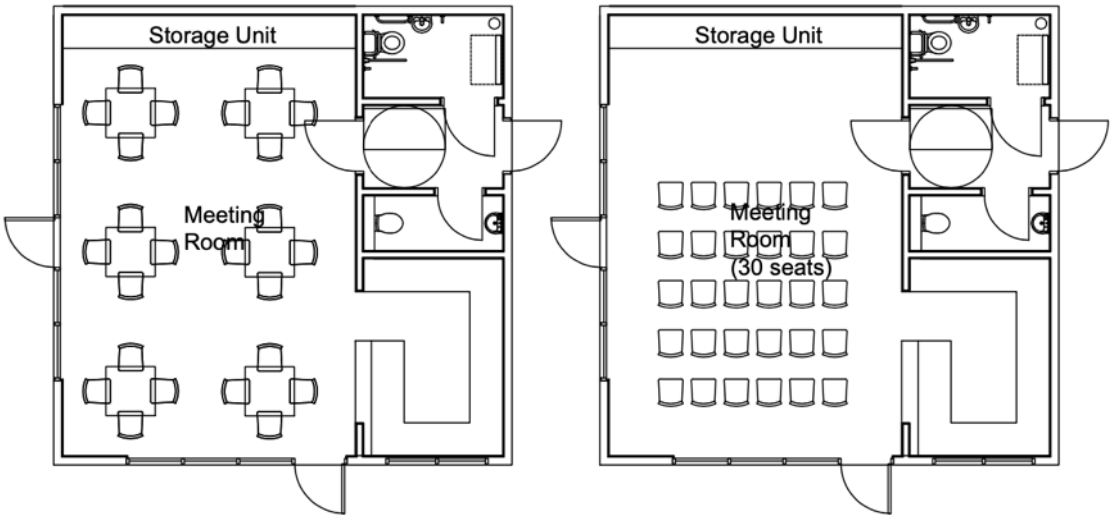

North Rode is a village without a pub, shop or effective meeting place available during the day and evening to encourage community engagement. Any meeting or events are currently held in the church, in marquees, people's houses or in other village halls - if and when they are available. There is nowhere in the village to hold informal events, host new clubs or arrange talks etc, and there are no sports facilities or public parks in the village.

The new development will dramatically improve community facilities in North Rode. The initial phase is the construction of a low energy Pavilion in the grounds of Daintry Hall, with dedicated parking and a picnic area. This will be available for community use seven days a week, both during the day and evening. It will be suitable for the majority of village needs, such as club and parish meetings, and village workshops. It will have capacity for 30+ users and include modern kitchen and toilet facilities.

Outdoor benches will make this a pleasant place for villagers to meet up on sunny days and evenings and perhaps have village barbeques and discussions.

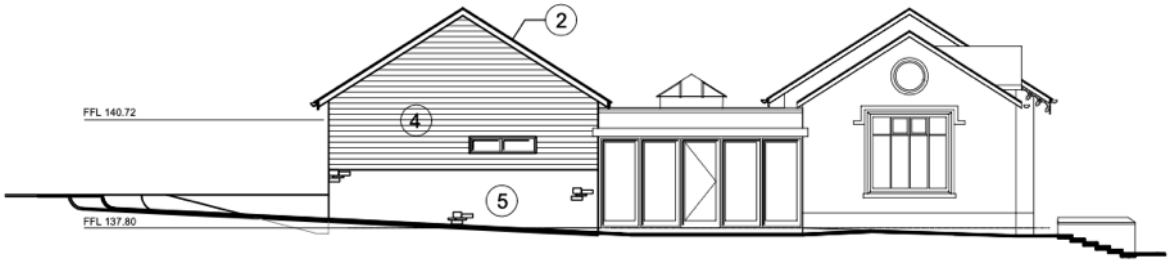


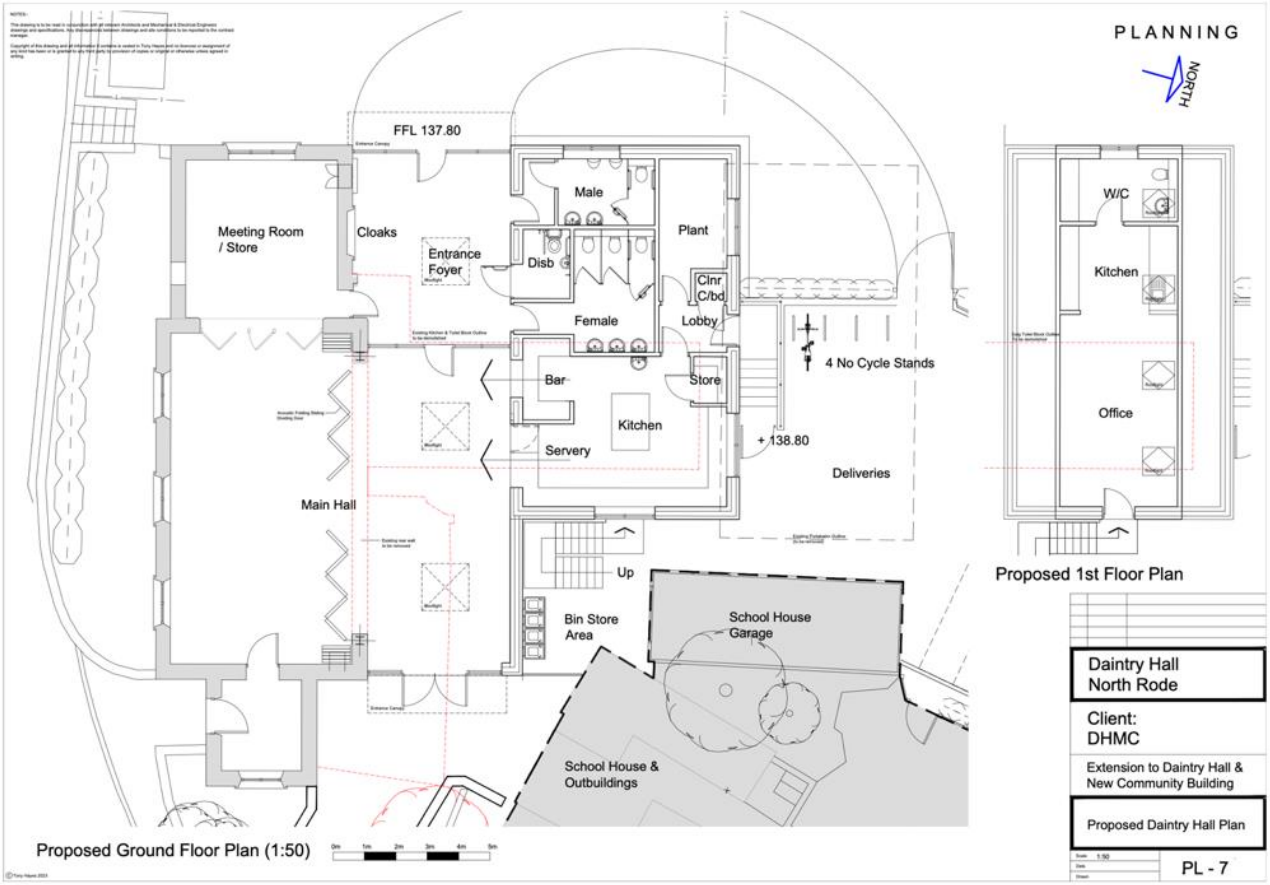



To address the lack of sports facilities in the village, a purpose built pickleball court will be installed. Pickleball is an up and coming sport in the UK and is suitable for all ages. The court space will also be suitable for other outdoor events and setting up temporary marquees if needed.

The final phase of the project is a sympathetic restoration, improvement and enlargement of the Daintry Hall and replacement of its outdated kitchen, toilet and heating system with up-to-date and energy efficient facilities. The development will entail the removal of the existing unsightly portacabin and 1970's block and it is intended that building work will be phased to allow the nursery to operate normally throughout. These improvements will enable the existing nursery to operate during the day in one building.






The larger hall facilities will be available to the village during the evenings and weekends if required for larger indoor events, and will be able to cater for 100+ people. Additional improved access will be provided onto Manor Park Road, providing more direct access for pedestrians from St Michaels Church and potential wedding parties.

This shared arrangement ensures a sustainable future for the Grade II Listed Daintry Hall and provides exiting new and adaptable community facilities for North Rode residents. The end result they hope will be a thriving centre in pleasant landscaped grounds at the centre of village life in North Rode.

There is still much to do before we start. Currently we are in the process of searching for grants to enable the generous donation from Jean Moreton to be maximised by matched funding. We are also working on pre-commencement surveys and test reports required before we are allowed to start work. Construction drawings need to be produced to enable contractors to provide quotes and for grant applications to be finalised. If anyone has fundraising experience or contacts with grant making organisations that they could share with us, please let us know. Hopefully ground works might commence this summer and we are now looking for villagers who would be able to volunteer their assistance with this, so if you have a digger, tractor or trailer or are happy to help with a spade please let one of the committee members know. Further down the line, if you are interested in sponsoring picnic benches, or contributing towards tables and chairs or kitchen items, please let us know. Similarly, if you have electrical, plumbing and heating skills you are willing to share, we would love to hear from you. The more community support we can get, the further money will go and the faster phases will proceed. We would love this to be a community project from start to finish. Thank you again for your support.

**Daintry Hall Management Committee**

Tony Hayes: tony.hayes@bjh.co.uk
Mark Bullock: mail@markbullock.co.uk
Lynn Petts: lynn.petts@btinternet.com
Huw Williams:huwwilliams200@gmail.com

## North Rode WI January Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes:

President Diane Lowe welcomed Members and Visitors to our first meeting of the New Year. She wished everyone a Happy New Year. Several apologies were read out. Thanks were given to Diane for the table flowers, Pam for the Raffle, Diane and Margaret for Cakes Committee served the refreshments. The Christmas Lunch at the Legs of Man. Smallwood. had been enjoyed by the members and visitors who attended a very good meal as always.

The Federation Quiz details were read out and we have a Team to participate. The first round is to be held at Byley on 10th April, the venue we usually attend. Resolution Slips were returned to be sent back by 28/2/25. Four very good Resolutions this year to be voted on. Cloud Group Spring Lunch at the Knot, Rushton Spencer is on 12th March, but more details to come. Numbers are restricted. A new Secretary for the Cloud Group is needed. The new rota for Teas Cakes Raffle etc was passed round for volunteers. The new Subscription Rate is to be £51.00.

Our Speaker for the Afternoon was Jo Taylor who came from Warrington to talk to us about Wellbeing and Mindfulness. She was a trained Therapist, who during her Talk put on very restful and relaxing music and we were asked to do deep breathing while our eyes were closed. Diane gave the Vote of Thanks to Jo for her interesting Talk. Jo judged the Monthly Competition which was for an Item which you treasure. Pauline Croft was first with Freda Butler second. The next Meeting is on Tuesday 11th February when our Speaker will be Geoff Petts and his Talk is 'I met them on the way' and the competition is Pop Memorabilia. Note the time is 2pm in the winter months and visitors are always welcome to come along to Eaton Church and Community Hall.

## Marton School

Dear Friends

Happy New Year!

What a surprise it was last week to return after the holidays to all the snow and ice! Travelling to school was quite fraught and we had to close school for two days; something that in all my time as a Headteacher I have only ever had to do a couple of times. I am always mindful to keep everyone safe and well and closing was definitely the right thing to do. We hope all our Marton school friends were safe and warm.

We have therefore returned today and again wishing everyone a super New Year. Christmas feels a very long time ago!

Returning to Marton has felt very special as I was supporting another Cheshire East school for such a long time and it has therefore been a delight to come 'back home'.

We have welcomed our Little Seeds back after the holidays and it was wonderful to see so many little people and their families playing (and enjoying yummy treats) last week. Our next session is Wednesday 5th February – all welcome!

Pupil numbers for September are looking very positive, please don't forget to apply online by 15th January. Come and join our wonderful school family.

With best wishes



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# North Rode
# Parish Council
# February Update

**Highways**

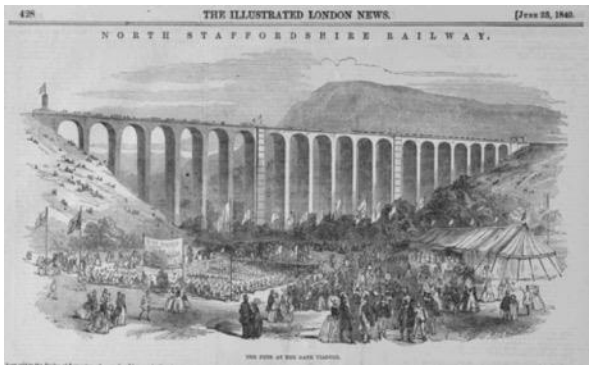
Cheshire East highways carried out enabling works to investigate the long term flooding on Bank Lane in December. Gullies (Grids to you and me) were identified and exposed and a restriction in the main carrier lines (Drain pipes between grids to you and me) was identified and a new manhole chamber installed and all drains jetted through. It appears that since then silt and debris have been pushed along the system causing blockages and flooding again. Highways are planning to return to flush through the system again. In addition hedges have been cut back by landowners, to allow good access to gulleys for future mainenance work. Flooding on Bramhall Hill is believed to affected by a ditch course off highways land and officers are planning to meet with the land owners to discuss the necessary works required on their land to ensure the highways drainage system is working efficiently.




**The Grit bin** requested for Shellow Lane railway bridge bend has now been installed by Cheshire East Highways. It has already been in action over the recent cold spell which saw snow and ice on our local roads. Hopefully this will reduce the number of accidents that occur on this dangerous bend.

**Looking Forward to 2025**

The parish council is committed to organising community events though the year to help bring the village together. With the help of local farmers, we will be renovating the well on Church Lane and plan to have a Well Dressing!. This will involve putting together floral displays in the weeks leading up to a ceremony this summer and we will be organising workshops for those that want to be involved.




This year is the 200th Anniversary year of the Railway and as it happens the 175th anniversary year of the opening of the North Rode Viaduct. The original opening ceremony took place in fields on Colley Mill Farm just below the viaduct in 1849 and we are looking to re-create this event with a village picnic this summer. Details of both to follow in the next few months.

We are also investigating economical ways to install the remaining three parish boundary signs around the village on Shellow Lane, Bullgate Lane and Cocksmoss Lane, and hope to have these in place this spring.

The parish council welcomes the news of the succesfull Daintry Hall planning approval, for a development that will provide much needed facilities for the village and we look forward to supporting this wherever possible.

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on **Thursday 27th February 2025** at Daintry Hall. Please come along if you are free and listen to issues that concern the parish council. Time is always allocated at the beginning to have you say if there is anything happening in the village of concern to you.

**Chair NRPC Cllr Huw Williams** huwwilliams200@gmail.com