NORTH RODE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2025

This winter will be remembered for cold winds, and there's no sign yet that warm clothes can be put away!

We miss John Lea's wildlife articles and it would be great if someone is prepared to contribute occasional articles on local flora and fauna. It's a good time of year for it. And what about articles on the unusual winter holidays that several have had?!

Marilyn

Birthdays

Our best wishes to the following with birthdays in March:

28th Arthur Gilman 99
4th Sophie Petts 40

Granny Duty

Bernard and Anne Lever became new grandparents on 27th December when Isabel and Matt Peacock's daughter was born. More recently, Yvonne Brown welcomed a new grandson in Spain. Both grannies have helped ease the burden, but not as easy this time round!

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

30th Richard & Kate Howarth 18th March

60th Geoffrey (organist) and Shirley Knights on 27th March. We'll be celebrating this achievement in the church after the service on 23rd March.

Accident



Ann Aldcroft had the misfortune to fall heavily over a kerbstone in Germany, shattering her left shoulder. The German hospital replaced the joint very promptly and she's now back home, with gradually improved mobility. We wish her a full recovery which is expected to take 6 months.



The Canal and River Trust are in process of replacing the lock gates on the Bosley flight at the moment. It is an interesting chance to see what lurks below the water!



The Stratford Flyer is passing though North Rode after stopping in Macclesfield at 8:05am on 8th March – If you want to wake up early to see it!

The Rector's Letter March 2025

A wise old friend of mine once described the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on 5th March, as being rather like *"half-time in a football or rugby match: the players come off the field, review how they've been doing, and plan for the next half."*

We do well to think of Lent as our annual second chance. Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are aligned with the purposes of God, revealed to us in the life of Jesus. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, a new opportunity to *"return to God with our whole heart"* and learn to be God's people once again.

As in previous years, I will be running a Lent Study Group on Tuesday evenings at the Rectory which I hope will offer new ways of thinking about our faith and bring fresh meaning to familiar Bible passages. Please add your name to the list at the back of Church if you would like to take part.

Finally, some readers will remember that last year we were invited to join with several neighbouring Churches for worship during Lent. This seemed to be widely appreciated, and I am delighted that there will be another series of Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, with a variety of speakers, at the following Churches: Marthall (12th March), Siddington (19th March), Mottram (26th March), Birtles (2nd April) and Gawsworth (9th April).

May we finally arrive at Easter spiritually refreshed and energised, ready to proclaim, *"Hallelujah! He is risen!"*

Yours ever,

Colin

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

North Rode Services
March 2025

March 2nd Sunday next before Lent	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Bronwen Bebington
March 5th Ash Wednesday	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	
March 9th Lent 1	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Rachel Wilson
March 16th Lent 2	No service at North Rode	**Gawsworth**	**10 am** Holy Communion **4 pm** Evensong
March 23rd 2nd before Lent	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
March 30th Mothering Sunday Posies: Sheila Kidd, Rose Brocklehurst	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone The Bullock Family
April 6th Lent 5	**11.15 am** Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Anne Lever Margaret Cann

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

Lent Lunch

Ash Wednesday is on 5th March and Anne Lever is kindly hosting our Lent Lunch at Grange Cottage, Shellow Lane CW12 2NY. There will be a choice of home-made soups and all are welcome in return for a charity donation.

North Rode Parish Council March Update



Highways

Following on from enabling work on Bank Lane, in December, Cheshire East highways returned at the end of January to clean out gullies and jet the drains back to the brook outfall. The gulley on the NE side was also unearthed and cleared. A sweeper was then used to remove as much of the silt and debris possible. Further works are still needed to kerb around gullies and are planned for later this year subject to resources and funding. Work at the Bramhall hill section subject to flooding also continues, with the buried gulley on the east side now being uncovered and jetted clear. In the meantime, highways assure us that they will continue to monitor both locations and add them to a hotspot list for inspections before any weather events and respond accordingly.



Well Renovation, Dressing and Village Picnic

Plans for a North Rode well dressing are developing with a date and display subject to be announced soon. We have met with the Bollington Well Dressing organiser, who has given much advice and promised to assist where they can. Watch this space for details of upcoming workshops and how we will involve the whole community on the day. If this event is a success, we hope to repeat each year, with a different themed dressing and possible extend to other wells. Bollington believe it or not have seven!

South East Cheshire Parish Councils Liaison Group – North Rode PC chaired the most recent meeting of this group, with representatives from our neighbouring parish councils. Subjects discussed included speed watch training, inter parish wildlife corridors, potential joint parish conservation working parties, potential election fees, boundary sign installation costs, Irregular Layby parking, Police and Crime Commissioner aims and the CEC proposed 9.99% Council Tax increase (recently refused by the government).



Remembrance Day Poppies – here is a reminder to keep collecting the bottle caps and bottoms of plastic soda bottles, to make into even larger poppy displays later this year. You only need to cut off the bottom 60mm or so of the bottles, and these don't take up much space when stacked.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Parish council meetings this spring will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 27th February 2025 at Daintry Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting with Cheese and Wine, followed by the Parish Council AGM will be held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7pm. All are welcome and time is always allocated at the beginning to have your say if there is anything happening in the village of concern to you.

Chair NRPC Cllr Huw Williams huwwilliams200@gmail.com

North Rode WI January Meeting

Secretary Pam Robinson writes:

President Diane Lowe opened the WI Meeting welcoming members plus visitors.

Several Apologies were read out and several of our members had visited Sandie White after her recent fall. She was getting much better now. Thanks were given out for the Tea Rota, Table Flowers, Raffle and Vote of Thanks.

Members of the Quiz Team were decided, the first round will be in April at Byley Village Hall. The Cloud Group Lunch is now on Wednesday 19th March at the Knot, Rushton Spencer at 12 Noon. Resolution Forms have been returned to NFWI together with the trustee votes.

The Speaker for the Meeting was Geoff Petts who lives in North Rode. Geoff's talk was entitled '**I *Met Them on the Way.'*** *H*e has met lots of celebrities, pop stars and people involved with sport, television and music. He originally came from Leeds, lived in Hertfordshire, now lives in Cheshire. Geoff had travelled the world with his various jobs. Geoff worked on the Yorkshire Post plus a London paper, his main interests were journalism, sport, showbusiness and music. Geoff also worked at Butlins in Filey. He had written sports articles for a Derby paper and met Brian Clough many times. Other famous people he had interviewed included Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger and Kate Bush to name but a few. He has been fortunate to lead a very interesting life. Diane Lowe gave the Vote of Thanks. The competition was for Pop Memorabilia, 1st was Hilary Trueman, 2nd Pam Robinson.

The next WI Meeting is on Tuesday 11th March, time 2pm. Our speaker will be Jayne Holford '***Hobby to Business'.*** The competition will be for a bowl of Hyacinths; note the time, 2 pm Winter Months. In April we are holding our Spring Lunch plus Gin Tasting from The Edge Distillery ln Astbury.

All visitors will be very welcome to Eaton Church and Community Hall.

Marton School

Dear Friends

We are just beginning to see traces of Spring slowly appear at beautiful Marton and it's so lovely to witness. We never lose sight of how lucky we are with our beautiful surroundings and our children greatly enjoy Wilderness Wednesdays and chance to explore our grounds as often as we can.

School has been incredibly busy this half term and we welcomed a record number of new families to our Little Seeds morning in February. Our next one takes place on Wednesday 5th March if you would like to join us.

The children and staff all enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch for Chinese New Year and this week we are looking forward to a special Valentine's themed lunch. Did you know we have taken over our own catering now and Rachel our school cook is REALLY looking after us all? We have the most delicious snacks available each day and children are loving buying their own snacks each morning.

We have relaunched our monthly Parent Surgeries and our first discussion will be 'supporting families in a digital era', in particular supporting the Smartphone Free Childhood Movement. We have also recently launched a new Parents Charter and we will be discussing home-school relationships too, something we feel we pride ourselves on at school.

We've also launched a very special lunchtime club nicknamed 'the Play Patch' where children can play lots of traditional games including; Twister, Dominoes, Monopoly, Lego along with colouring and craft activities. Children are welcome to attend daily if they wish and we are all having so much fun together. Once the weather becomes warmer we'll take these games outside as most of them are giant sized, we are all looking forward to this!

With best wishes



Mrs N Deakin