

Christ Church Willaston in Wirral Parish News



CHRIST CHURCH

Canon L.R. Bannon BA MA
Telephone: 0151 334 9931

METHODIST CHURCH

Rev'd Noel Sharp
Telephone: 0151 633 2558

September 2026

Safeguarding Statement for the Parish Church



At Christ Church, Willaston-in-Wirral, we take our duty and obligation to safeguard and protect all people extremely seriously and we have adopted the National Church of England's robust safeguarding procedures and guidelines.

If you or anyone you are in contact with would like to talk with someone independently, please call the Safe Spaces helpline on:

0300 303 1056 or email: safespace@victimsupport.org.uk

Alternatively, you may contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Anne Hughes:

aswillaston@outlook.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted at:

safeguarding@chester.anglican.org or on **01928 718834** (option 4)

Our Safeguarding Policy is available for all upon request from our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

For out of hours support, please contact thirtyone:eight on 03030031111

From the 1st of April 2026, when you ring Thirtyone:eight please listen carefully to all the options as they have changed.

When advised, you should select:

option 1 - 'Yes' to membership and you can then select either of the following options:

- *'speak with the Helpline team' OR*
- *'you are part of an organisation that has an information sharing agreement with us'*

*When you get through to the team please mention, that you are calling from '**[name of your Diocese]**' who are an 'Information sharing holder.'*

In an emergency, please call 999



Christ Church Willaston

For all enquires re: **Baptisms / Christenings,**
Weddings, Marriage Blessings,
Renewal of Vows and Thanksgivings,

please contact the clergy or churchwardens



Advertising space is available in Willaston Parish News at a quarter, half and full-page format.

Should you wish to advertise please contact the editor.

Mrs Susan Schwab, 9 Bushell Road, Neston

sjschwab@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 336 7554

Christ Church Incumbent Announcement.

As your Parish Representatives in the appointment of a new incumbent for Christ Church, we are delighted to announce that, following an interview process involving the Archdeacon, our Rural Dean, and the Diocesan Director of Ministry, we have been able to appoint our much-loved assistant priest, Fr. Lyndon, as our new incumbent.

As you know, Lyndon is self-supporting, which means our financial commitments to the Diocese are much lighter. This opens up some exciting possibilities for us to make additional lay appointments to support the ministry and work in our parish and community. We look forward to working with Lyndon to identify and plan those new roles.

We have been asked to stress that at the moment this is an informal announcement and the formal appointment is subject to the completion of the usual legal formalities.

Even with those formalities, we're hoping Lyndon can be installed, ideally by Bishop Mark, and if not, by one of our suffragan bishops, in September.

The Diocese has asked that Fr Lyndon take a short sabbatical before his new role. This will obviously mean some changes to the rota in the coming weeks, and we're all incredibly grateful to everyone who gives their time in their various roles in service to our parish.

As we prepare to celebrate and welcome Lyndon in his new role, let's join together in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the appointment of Lyndon to our parish. As he steps into this new leadership role, we pray that You will fill him with Your wisdom, grace, and compassion.

Guide his steps and strengthen his voice as he shepherds Your flock in this community of Willaston. Grant him discernment to understand Your Word and the courage to lead us closer to You. Protect him in times of weariness and surround him with Your enduring peace.

Open our hearts and minds to welcome him in this new role, that we may work together in unity, love, and shared purpose. May his ministry be a beacon of hope in our community.

We pray too for Claire, Paddy, and Pippa. May they continue to be a source of strength and support for Lyndon as he begins this new chapter in his ministry.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Best wishes.

David Cumberland and Chris Brown-Bolton.



WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNITY HUB



“where community meets faith”

Our community hub can offer a large space for hire in our recently renovated Nave complete with an AV system, under floor heating and refreshment area.

We also have a meeting room for hire for up to 12 people.



Christ Church Willaston
Neston Road
CH64 2TL

BOOK ONLINE:

www.willastonchristchurch.com

✿ ORDER BY IPM FOR SAME DAY DELIVERY ✿



@jilliandawnfloraldesigns

0151 327 1652



jdfloral@btconnect.com

07742034257

BOUQUETS ✿ DELIVERIES ✿ WEDDINGS ✿ FUNERALS

✿ FLOWER SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE ✿

Diary: September 2026

1 st	Tuesday	From 1000	Friends of Hadlow Road Station: <i>Gardening Day</i>	Hadlow Rd. Stn.
		1730-1800	Prayer Group	As advised
2 nd	Wednesday	1930	Home Group	As advised
3 rd	Thursday	1930	Hadlow Green Singers	Memorial Hall
4 th	Friday			
5 th	Saturday	0930-1130	Willaston Country Market and Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall
6 th	Sunday		For Church services see p.15 and p.32	
		1030	Friends of Willaston Meadow: <i>volunteer session</i>	WillastonMeadow
		1500	Service at Weatherstones	Weatherstones
7 th	Monday	0900-1100	Places of Welcome	Christ Church
		From 1000	Monday Club	Memorial Hall
8 th	Tuesday	1400-1600	MU Knit and Natter	Christ Church
		1730-1800	Prayer Group	As advised
		1900	Meeting of the Trustees of the Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall
9 th	Wednesday	As advised	Mothers' Union	Christ Church
		1930	Rotary Club of Willaston and South Wirral	The Nag's Head
10 th	Thursday	1930	Hadlow Green Singers	Memorial Hall
		1930	Christ Church Men's Group.	The Nag's Head
11 th	Friday			
12 th	Saturday	0930-1130	Willaston Country Market	Memorial Hall
		0945	NDCT Christian Aid Walk; starting from Parkgate and Neston URC Community Hall	Moorside Lane - CH64 6UZ
		1000-1200	Sion Roberts: Councillor's Surgery	Memorial Hall
13 th	Sunday		For Church services see p.15 and p.32	
		1000-1300	Friends of Hadlow Road Station Pop-up-Café	Hadlow Rd. Stn.
		1830	NDCT Praise and Prayer	Life Church, Neston
14 th	Monday	0900-1100	Places of Welcome	Christ Church
		From 1000	Monday Club	Memorial Hall
15 th	Tuesday	TBD	Willastonhey WI Ramble	As advised
		1000-1500	Friends of Hadlow Road Station: Station: <i>Wirral Heritage Open Day.</i>	Hadlow Rd. Stn.
		1400	Willaston in the Past: <i>Guided Walk; the History of the Hooton to Parkgate Railway- booking Essential.</i>	From Hadlow Rd. Stn.
		1730-1800	Prayer Group	As advised
		1930	Willaston & District Horticultural Society: <i>Autumn show and quiz</i>	Memorial Hall
16 th	Wednesday	1930	Home Group	As advised
17 th	Thursday	1900	Willaston in The Past: <i>Talk; The History of Willaston Mill</i>	Methodist Chapel
		1930	Hadlow Green Singers	Memorial Hall
18 th	Friday	1100	Willaston in the Past: <i>Guided Walk; Christ Church Churchyard - booking essential</i>	Christ Church

19 th	Saturday	0930-1130 Willaston Country Market	Memorial Hall
		1000 Willaston & District Horticultural Society: <i>Coffee Morning</i>	Memorial Hall
		1845 for Trustees of the Memorial Hall: <i>Jazz in the Village; Ian Millar, Dominic Spencer.</i>	Memorial Hall
20 th	Sunday	For Church services see p.15 and p.32	
		1030 Friends of Willaston Meadow: <i>volunteer session</i>	WillastonMeadow
		1700 Christ Church Centenary Organ Recital: David Tracey	Christ Church
21 st	Monday	Michaelmas	
		0900-1100 Places of Welcome	Christ Church
		From 1000 Monday Club	Memorial Hall
		1400-1630 Mobile Library	The Nag's Head
22 nd	Tuesday	1400-1600 MU Knit and Natter	Christ Church
		1730-1800 Prayer Group	As advised
		1930 Willastonhey W.I.: <i>Guide Dogs for the Blind</i>	Memorial Hall
23 rd	Wednesday	1930 Rotary Club of Willaston and South Wirral	The Nag's Head
24 th	Thursday	As advised UpLift: <i>Theatre Trip, Fully Booked</i>	As Advised
		1930 Hadlow Green Singers	Memorial Hall
25 th	Friday		
26 th	Saturday	0930-1130 Willaston Country Market	Memorial Hall
27 th	Sunday	For Church services see p.15 and p.32	
		1000-1300 Friends of Hadlow Road Station <i>Pop-up-Café</i>	Hadlow Rd. Stn.
28 th	Monday	0900-1100 Places of Welcome	Christ Church
		From 1000 Monday Club	Memorial Hall
29 th	Tuesday	1730-1800 Prayer Group	As advised
30 th			

Weekly Half-Hour Prayer Group: Tuesday 5.30 - 6.00pm.

A weekly half-hour Prayer Group will take place in order to pray for various current topics. Please contact Chris and Mike Smith for details of venues.

FROM THE RECORDS

FUNERAL

Our condolences to all who mourn:

16th June Clive Richard WOODHEAD (followed by cremation at Blacon)

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Our condolences to all who mourn:

12th July Patricia SPILSBURY

A memorial service was held on 20th August at St. Phillip's Church, Kelsall for Jane Pearson who sadly died recently. Jane was a valued member of Willaston community and Christ Church congregation for many years. She served on Christ Church PCC, was a Sunday School teacher and as Snowy Owl for the Brownie unit.



PLACES OF WELCOME



**Every Monday
9-11am**

**Christ Church,
Neston Road,
Willaston
CH64 2TL**



**A Place of Welcome offers somewhere everyone can go
for a FREE hot drink, a biscuit (or cake) and most
importantly a friendly face to welcome you.**

Open to all age groups including little ones.

We look forward to welcoming YOU.

Prayers September 2026: Please continue to pray for our Parish and its people.

Requests for specific prayer can be made in confidence to church at any time.

S	Please pray for:	6th Friends of Willaston Meadow	13th Weatherstones House Nursing Home	20th Church Musicians in Willaston	27th Bishops Mark, Sam and Julie
M		7th The Ladies Choir	14th Places of Welcome	21st The Mobile Library Service	28th The Monday Club
T	1st The Prayer Group	8th Willaston Memorial Hall Trustees	15th Friends of Hadlow Road Station	22nd Willastonhey W.I.	29th Local Foodbanks and their Workers
W	2nd Willaston CE Primary School	9th Mothers' Union Groups	16th Home Group	23rd Willaston & District Rotary Club	30th Families Struggling or in Conflict
T	3rd Hadlow Green Singers	10th The Men's Group and Uplift	17th Willaston in The Past Group	24th Farmers and their Families	
F	4th Guiding in Willaston and their Leaders	11th Scouting in the Local Area	18th Emergency Service Personnel	25th Willaston Pharmacy and Surgeries	
S	5th Willaston Country Market	12th Christian Aid Events	19th Willaston & District Horticultural Society	26th All who work for and in Willaston	

Home Group:

Home Group meetings usually take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month during term time, recommencing this month. If you would like to find out what goes on, then why not attend the next meeting. Check with Helen or the notices for details or date changes.



Centenary Organ Recital
Christ Church Willaston
Professor Ian Tracey
(Liverpool Cathedral Organist)
September 20th 2026
5.00 pm.

Entrance by
programme £10.00
Available on the door or
By e-mail from:
Dauidspeechley@hotmail.co.uk



Organ by Nicholson
Opened September 2026
In memory of Henry
Garvey Johnson

The Philanthropic Acts of the Johnston Family in Willaston, Cheshire

The history of many English villages has been shaped not only by public institutions and local government but also by the generosity of individuals and families who invested in the welfare of their communities.

Willaston is no exception and still benefits from historic philanthropic acts of the Johnston family, best known is perhaps Johnston Recreation Ground. Since the early twentieth century, local sports clubs have used the ground as their home. Willaston Football Club, which moved to the site in 1931, has provided grassroots football for hundreds of children and adults, creating opportunities for participation, teamwork, and community involvement a community asset that continues to benefit the village today.

The Johnston family were of Irish descent and acquired their wealth in shipping.

Founded in 1863 by William Johnston (1841-1917), the Johnston line was a prominent Liverpool based shipping enterprise; William and his brother Edmund Johnston purchased their first steamer in 1872 to operate to the Black Sea, Greece and Turkey. In 1880 Atlantic services commenced in conjunction with Baltimore and Ohio Railway company and specialised in the live cattle trade. In 1890, direct London to Boston services were commenced by William Johnson and Co-Ltd. In 1914, Furness, Withy and Co. acquired a 50% interest in William Johnston and Co., and the company became Johnston line Ltd. In 1916, Johnston line became a wholly owned subsidiary of Furness Withy and Co. and in 1934 Johnston Warren lines Ltd was formed and all ships transferred to this company. Sailings from Liverpool continued until the 1960s.

Many changes occurred during the existence of this company, in the 1880s and 1890s. Cattle ranching was very big business in United States, indeed the practice started in the 1860s following the American Civil war; huge ranches evolved, often owned by extended families, much rivalry existed, crime was rife, and the life of the ranchers was hard and labour intensive, as the cattle needed guarding 24 hours a day; barbed wire was invented and introduced at this time.

Vast herds were driven considerable distances on the hoof to railway stations and herded into cattle wagons. I am sure we all remember cowboy films from our childhood, but there were drawbacks of cattle herding, firstly the cattle lost a tremendous amount of weight, (therefore beef) being herded over large distances, secondly stampedes were not uncommon, a risk to cattle and ranchers alike.

As the railway networks increased in the USA, and the number of stations proliferated the need for large scale cattle herding declined, and the golden day of the American Cowboy, was over.

The Johnston lines were always pioneering, and, in the late 19th century, introduced refrigerated transport, allowing the transportation of meat rather than live animals, further reducing risk, and costs.

From the early days of the company, William Johnston supported local charities, and institutions, including Liverpool University, the Johnston Laboratories, and the

Johnston chair of Biochemistry (the first chair of biochemistry in the country), were established in 1903; he funded the chair as part of a philanthropic gift of £25,000.00, a very considerable gift at that time.

Christ Church Willaston, was built in 1854, and enlarged in 1926, with the addition of the north aisle, organ chamber and vestry, this was paid for by Isabel Johnston, (daughter in law of William Johnston). She also gave the organ, which was dedicated on 21st September 1926, as a memorial to her late husband, Henry Garey Johnston (1868-1915), who died during the "Great War".

Opposite the church stood the church hall, a site now occupied by Elizabeth's Cottages built in 2013; this land was gifted to Christ Church in 1937 by Isabel Johnston and eventually sold in 2012 for development. It was funds from this sale that formed the basis of the money to develop the church itself into a multi-purpose centre for the benefit of the wider population of the village.

Little is known of the private life of Isabel Johnston; she did treat herself to a new car in 1928, a Rolls Royce naturally, and it seems to be still on the road today!

Isabel died in 1948 at the age of 84 and was interred along with her late husband in Christ Church graveyard.

David Speechley

Church Reordering and Maintenance

Reordering Contract

The contractors have almost completed the architect's snagging list and, when this is done, we will be releasing the final retention payment to them.

On-going Reordering Works

Our stonemasons are continuing with the repairs and repointing of the external Meeting Room and Sacristy walls, and we are making arrangements for the repair of the Meeting Room west window stonework and the refurbishment of lead lights and two metal windows. We will continue with the stonework repairs and repointing for as long as we have funding available.

The main building needs all its stonework repaired and repointed using lime mortar and this will require significant fund raising.

We have applied for a Faculty for four flag holders to be fixed on the west wall of the nave. We have provided the blacksmith with full size details of the holders and he will commence manufacture as soon as we receive the Faculty.

The 'Caring for God's Acre' Initiative.

The Scouts have demolished the superstructure of the Scout Hut, but the site has yet to be cleared to enable the school children's wilding project.

We have made a survey of headstones and their angle of leaning and are preparing a method statement and programme to deal with the problem which we will submit to the PCC for approval.

Bill Hardman on behalf of the RPG

The MU Knit and Natter Group meets most second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

We meet and work on various knitting projects.

Please feel free to join us in Christ Church.

Check with the organisers for more details and venues.



**Christian Aid
Annual Sponsored Walk
12th September 2026**

The Neston & District Christian Aid Group are organising their now traditional sponsored walk on September 12th.

Walkers are asked to register at 9.45 am:

at the Parkgate & Neston Community Hall, CH64 6UZ, for a 10 a.m. departure

The walk is along the Wirral Way, and back along the Dee coast.

Light refreshments will be served at The Old Baths Parkgate, and home-made soup and bread will be served back at the URC.

Please feel welcome to join us. Sponsor forms can be requested from church representatives.

All donations will go to Christian Aid for their work with partners working with the world's neediest people.

Venezuela Appeal

The group also responded recently to the devastating earthquake in Venezuela. Treasurer Michael Shipman reported that local churches raised just over £2000, including gift aid, which he called 'an excellent total'. Many, many thanks for your continuing support.

Season of Harvest and Creationtide

Services of Harvest Festival, held in September or October by Christians, as part of the annual Christian cycle are familiar to all. With churches decorated with baskets of garden, farm or allotment produce and gifts of food for those who have less, prayers, hymns and grateful praise are given to God for His bounty and continuing support.

Celebrating the safe gathering in of enough food, vital for sustaining the community - as we are realising in this drought year, has been practice since agrarian culture began. The word 'harvest' itself is derived from the old English word for autumn: 'Herfest'.

The Anglo Saxon Christians celebrated harvest from 1st August with the 'hlafmaesse' (loaf mass), now called Lammass Day, where loaves made from the newly gathered grain would be baked and blessed in church. This replaced the earlier Celtic pagan festival of 'Lughnasadh'. Other religions also celebrate the early harvest. However, the main celebration in Mediaeval Britain coincided closely with the Autumn Equinox, a

time when the days became shorter and the weather more changeable, the growing season largely over.

After Mediaeval times the service declined, The Church of England calling for the 'National Harvest Thanksgiving' to celebrate God's bounty only when there was a significantly good harvest – six times between 1796 and 1861, according to Lara Dunn; [Harvest traditions in Britain: Season of plenty | DiscoverBritain.com](#).

Until, that is, in 1843, the Reverend Robert Hawker of Morwenstow, Cornish eccentric, revived the medieval Harvest Festival service, albeit transformed for Victorian sensibilities. It became the annual fixture recognised today, including harvest hymns still sung now; *We Plough the Fields and Scatter* was translated from German in 1861.

Creationtide

'...now more commonly known as the Season of Creation, is a concept introduced by the late Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, 1989. Since then, September 1 (chosen because it is first day of the Orthodox ecclesiastical year) has been adopted as the start of Creationtide. This is the season, running to St Francis Day on October 4, when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it. Its start and end dates reflect that it is a shared idea between Western and Eastern Christianity.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland adopted the concept in 2008. In 2016, Pope Francis declared 1 September an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creationtide.

While its adoption was in part driven by the complex environmental crises the human race faces, the Season of Creation draws on much deeper roots in Scripture and in older Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order.

The timing of the Season of Creation means it is an excellent way of rooting traditional harvest festivals in wider issues and firm theological ground.



Living Water

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is living water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems.

The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.'

Taken from the Church of England Webpage: [Season of Creation | The Church of England](#)
The Church of England webpage also has a link to a video introducing this year's theme and a link to an online ecumenical service on Tuesday 1st September at 2pm. More details of Chester Diocese's involvement in the Season of Creation may be found on their website: [Get Creative for Creationtide! | Chester Diocese](#)



Fairtrade Report September 2026

The Neston Fairtrade Town Steering Group held a stall at Neston's Summer Fair celebrating 10 years of campaigning in Neston.

Fairtrade Town status was achieved in September 2019 with the support of local supermarkets, shops, cafes, schools and churches. Fairtrade status was renewed in 2020, 2023 and has just

been renewed in August this year.

Future Dates

- Free Fairtrade refreshments provided at the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk Saturday 12th September.
- A Fairtrade stall at Neston Market Friday 25th September
- An information display at Neston Methodist Church and Community Centre during Fairtrade Fortnight 21st September- 4th October. The theme is 'Do it Fair' encouraging consumers to choose ethically sourced products that guarantee fairer wages, safe working conditions and sustainable production for farmers.
- A Fairtrade stall at Neston Christmas Market Church. Fairtrade reps will promote the Fairtrade chocolate Real Advent Calendar and continue to encourage their Churches to use Fairtrade refreshments and products.

Margaret Heibel



EMERGENCY

FOOD FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL CRISIS

The foodbank has an urgent need for:

Tinned Potatoes, Pasta in Sauce, Cereal Bars, Tinned/Instant Custard, Tinned Meat / Fish, Pasta/Curry Sauce, UHT Juice, Fruit Squash, Tinned Fruit, Jams, as well as these other non-perishable items: Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, UHT Milk, Instant Coffee (small jars), Instant Noodles, Cuppa Soups, Biscuits and Small Treats, Crackers and Spreads, Toiletries, Shampoo, Size 6 Nappies.

(Stocks of pasta and cereal remain high)

Items can be donated when the church buildings are open.

Christ Church is open on Monday morning from 0900 to 1100 and Saturday Mornings from 1000 to 1200

The Methodist Church is open on the First Saturday of the Month from 1000-1200



Willaston Methodist Church

Care, Share Empower

So hard to believe that by the time you read this, September will be upon us. I hope that however you spent it the summer has been a blessing, and you have had some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine.

Services for September

6 th	10.45am.	Rev Noel Sharp – Covenant Service
13 th	10.45am.	Mr Roger Staines
20 th	10.45am.	Harvest - Service led by Chapel Members
27 th	10.45am.	Mr Mark Thomas

Covenant Service

You are warmly invited to join us on 6th September when we are holding our annual Covenant Service at which we renew our commitment to God and His work.

Shoe Box collection

We will be collecting filled shoe boxes and items to go into the boxes from the beginning of this month when the boxes will be available. Filled boxes will need to be back by the end of October.

Schoolroom Hire

A reminder that we still have times when our schoolroom is available to be hired. It is a warm, welcoming space suitable for meetings or classes at a very reasonable cost.

Please contact me for details.

A warm welcome is extended to all at our services.

Carol Savage Tel: 0151 394 3335 carol.savage2@outlook.com



Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group

Cheshire Life Magazine

FHRS were featured in an article in a July edition of the magazine. The article was also highlighted online in a variety of social media outlets including Knutsford Guardian and the

Northwich & Winsford Gazette! So, our audience is becoming more global by the day!

Gardening

We would welcome any support with watering the plants and beds. If you are visiting the station, there are a number of watering cans under the bench which we would be grateful if you could use with water from the toilets to water the planters and the raised beds. Thank you in advance.

Next working party will take place **1st September and 7th October**

We are still waiting for the outcome of our recent judging for the Its Your Neighbourhood Award.

FHRS would welcome any donations of spare plants and shrubs that the community may have whilst they undertake their garden revamps. Please contact Ian Corcoran on iancorcoran@btinternet.com to make arrangements with you.

Pop-Up Café

Even though the summer has been a very hot one, we have had variable weather conditions at our recent pop-up cafés but, despite the weather, customers have still turned out and volunteers have continued to serve with a smile.

Our cafés in August included 16th August, at which we had Split Level – a new act for FHRS - as our entertainment and on the **30th August**, we have our second session by the Jazz Duo.

The next dates for the Pop-up Cafés are:

13th September – this is our 2nd Charity Café of the season in aid of Wirral St John's Hospice. This is also Heritage Café as part of the Wirral Heritage Week. We will be entertained by Western Approaches and Mersey Morris. The signal box will also be open with informative talks by Dom. So please come along and support a wonderful charity and take part in what will be a very entertaining and informative café.

27th September – we will be celebrating the 160th Anniversary of the line opening and we are joined by the Thomas Brassey Society (the company that installed the line). We are also entertained by Familiar Ground – a new act but with a familiar face!!!

We are always looking for new volunteers in whatever capacity you can help us. So, if you would like to join our merry band of volunteers please do get in touch and we look forward to working with you to keep the wonderful station and its surrounding environment a pleasure for all.

We also have the following dates in October:

11th October - at which we will have the Heswall Strummers as our entertainment

25th October - at which we welcome back Simon Le Barber as our entertainment.

Friends of Hadlow Road Station continued

Special Event

On **Tuesday 15th September** we are opening our Ticket Office as part of the Wirral History & Heritage Open Days at which visitors will be able to look around the ticket Office (limited to 2 persons at any one time) and also view a wide range of displays in the Waiting Room about the history of the station, plus past and present information about the FHRS.

We will be open from **1000 – 1500**, so please come along - and actually get to see what you can normally only view through the windows - and chat with our volunteers.

Signal Box and Bowser Platform

As can be seen on visiting the station our Signal Box is in need of some serious TLC. So, starting **16th September**, the following work will be undertaken:

- The platform and steps up to the signal box will be replaced like for like with hardwood materials as the current structure is rotting in places.
- The external faces of the signal box will be prepared and repainted in heritage colours.

We are also having a platform built to the side of the shelter on the south platform that will form the start of the installation of a water bowser that will harvest rainwater off the shelter roof for use by gardeners in the spring/summer to water the planters on that side of the station.

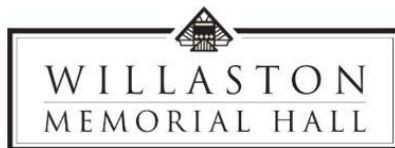
We do apologise in advanced for any inconvenience caused when visiting the station during the work being undertaken.

Contact:

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or wish to know more about the station or book a talk about the station and the FHRS then please contact:

ptcox58@yahoo.com

Paul Cox



Charity No 520090

Trustees of the Memorial Hall

The next meeting of the Trustees of the

Memorial Hall will be held on:

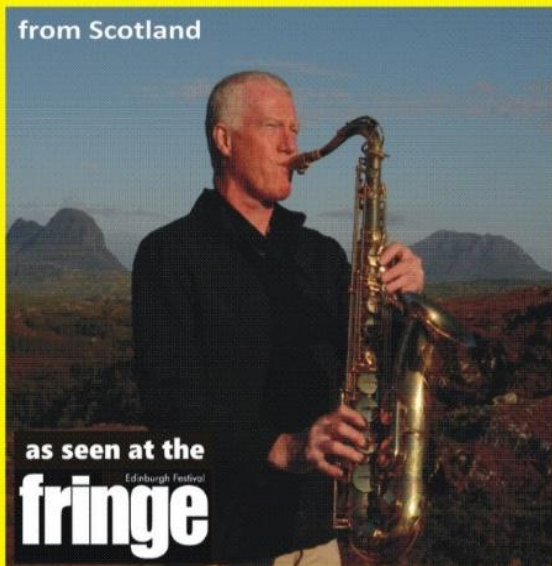
Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7 p.m.

For any enquiries about the meeting please contact the Secretary:
e-mail: doreen.francey@btinternet.com.

Jazz in the Village

"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts." Three Weeks Magazine

from Scotland



Ian Millar
saxophone

Dominic Spencer
piano

"Beautiful soaring magic! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

"...expect warm, intelligent, reflective, human music..."

BYOB

bring your own drinks

WILLASTON MEMORIAL HALL

The Green, Willaston, CH64 2XR

Sat 19th Sept 7pm (doors open 6.45pm)
£18 (including supper)

tickets available from the Willaston Country Market every Sat from 9.30-11.30am

and from bookings.memorialhall@gmail.com



www.millarandspencer.co.uk

Friends of Willaston Meadow

The Meadow, like everywhere, has struggled with the continuous heat this summer. Jackson's Pond has totally dried up and Dead Man's Pond is much lower than normal. However, this has given us the opportunity to cut down some of the willows at the edge of Jackson's Pond, to lessen the shade and improve the quality of the pond.

Our volunteer team has put down wood chippings on the paths that get muddy in the winter (hard to believe at the moment!). We have also spread yellow rattle seeds in parts of the meadow. The yellow rattle is parasitic on some of the stronger grasses, reducing their growth and allowing other grasses to come through. We are also introducing other wildflowers into the meadow area, and this year have seen more biodiversity than in previous years, thanks to this strategy.

We have also taken part in the Big Butterfly count and are delighted to see that the area by Jackson's Pond that was dug up 18 months ago is now teeming with butterflies and bees as the new plants grow.

Our next volunteer sessions are scheduled for **Sundays 6th and 20th September, 4th and 18th October and 1st and 15th November**, weather permitting. Anyone is welcome to join us. We meet by Jackson's Pond at 10.30am and usually work until around noon.

You can visit our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofwillastonmeadow/home>.

We also have a Facebook page: /friendswillastonmeadow.

For more information, please go to either of these or ring:

Sarah Shannon on 07948 604568.

Sarah Shannon



Hadlow Green Singers *SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!*

The village mixed choir warmly welcomes all singers whatever their musical experience. We rehearse on Thursdays 7.30 to 9pm in the Memorial Hall.

Our Summer Concerts entitled 'Faraway Places' were a great success both musically and financially. The furthest west of our items was California Dreamin', the furthest east was a song from Moravia, and the grand finale was What a Wonderful World.

We were greatly saddened by news of the death of our Honorary President, Irene Marsh, a loyal member for over 40 years. The Choir will be singing at her Thanksgiving Service.

On Thursday 3 September we will begin rehearsing for the Christmas concerts on 11th and 12th December – a varied programme of familiar and some new Christmas music. New members would be very welcome. See our website (HadlowGreenSingers.co.uk) and our Facebook page (Hadlow Green Singers).

Chris Wells, Chairman

The Ladies Choir

The Ladies Choir will resume meeting on **Monday the 7th September** and the following meeting will be **Monday 14th September**.

Rehearsals are held in the Methodist Schoolroom, usually from 2-3.00pm and new members, who enjoy a good sing, are always welcome – no previous experience is necessary.

Meetings are subject to change.

To confirm details of the times and dates of the Ladies Choir's meetings please contact:

Angela on 0151 3275108 or Margaret on 0151 3193782



Mothers' Union

Our 150th Anniversary celebrations continue! The Choral Evensong which took place on Mary Sumner Day at Chester Cathedral was much enjoyed. It was a great opportunity to give thanks for Mary Sumner and the work of MU and to catch up with news of friends from around Chester Diocese.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 9 September in church**. Do join us then.

Viv, MU Branch Leader (viv.ley@ntlworld.com)



A report on the Evensong, and a recording of the event is available via the Diocesan Website link below:

[Mothers' Union Members Gather at Chester Cathedral to Celebrate Mary Sumner Day | Chester Diocese](#)

It is high summer as I write, and we held our meeting last night in a very warm room in the Nags Head. We are busy trying to decide which charities to support for this Rotary year, which started in July. So, we have invited representatives from NCYC (Neston Community Youth Centre) and St John's Hospice to come and tell us all about their charities. We will make a final decision by October.

Meanwhile we have continued to hold our book sales on the Green - we have sold a few jigsaws too – though our last one was on 22nd August unless we get some exceptional weather.

We are starting to plan for our next big event – our Autumn Quiz. Please keep an eye on the village noticeboards and Facebook for more information coming soon.

We hope you have enjoyed the splash of colour from our planters – on Hadlow Road and Neston Road both under the village signs. We have worked hard to keep them watered throughout the dry, hot summer.

Willaston & South Wirral Rotary Club is your local branch of Rotary Great Britain & Ireland. Members raise money for charity, are involved in activities within the local community and enjoy a healthy social life. We are an informal, non-traditional club. Membership is open to anyone aged 18 and over.

If you are interested in joining, then please contact willaston.rotary@gmail.com or ring Fiona on 0151 3843081. Alternatively, you could drop into our next meeting, these are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Nag's Head. You can also find us on Facebook.

Fiona Mosely

Willaston Mobile Library Dates: September – November 2026

2.00pm - 4.30pm at The Nag's Head

Mondays 21st September, 5th October, 26th October, 2nd November and 23rd November

** Please check the website for any changes to dates.*

Councillor Sion Roberts, Surgeries: September - October

10:00-12:00am. at Willaston Memorial Hall Committee Room

Saturday 12th September and 10th October

Contact Details Telephone: 07802 635796

sion.roberts@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Parish of Christ Church Willaston-in-Wirral Men's Group

We are a group of men, of all different ages, some of us are married and some of us are not. Most of us live in Willaston and surrounding areas. We meet together for fellowship and, as most of us are

Christians, we also meet to support one another in our faith.

Our usual pattern of meetings is one month we'll meet in church (finishing no later than 9.00pm), for a short service, followed by a talk, then the next month, we have a pub-social and so on. You do not need to live in Willaston to join us, and you don't need to be Christian either. Equally, you don't need to come to every meeting – come to what you want to and don't worry about the rest! You will be very welcome wherever and whenever you chose to join us! We really look forward to seeing you!

Thursday 10 September 2026: "Pub Social". Meet at the Nag's Head at 7.30pm.

Please note this is a change to the original programme.

Tuesday 13 October 2026: Visit various 'selected' hostelrys in Little Sutton. Catch the 18:49 from Hooton and meet on the platform at Little Sutton station at 19.00.

Please check the website for any other changes to dates.

For general enquiries, please contact - Stephen Harrington 327 6854,
Alan Roberts 327 4600, or Cannon Lyndon Bannon 334 9931

upLIFT

Ladies In Fellowship Together

We are a group of Christian ladies from Christ Church, Willaston, who meet together monthly to provide each other with friendship and fellowship. In strengthening our fellowship together, we are helping one another to share in the love and joy of knowing Christ. We generally meet on the second or third Thursday of the month. You do not need to live in Willaston to join us, and neither do you need to be a Christian!

Thursday 24th September 2026 - 7.30pm: 'Annie' Liverpool Empire Theatre Visit
Booking for this event has now closed.

Thursday 15th October 2026 – 7.30pm. Tiger Muffin Soaps ~ Soap Making through History.

This is a chargeable talk and soap making activity with refreshments at Christ Church.

Thursday 19th November 2026 – 7.30pm. Board Games Night

Join us to play a selection of games with refreshments at Christ Church.

Please check the website for any changes to dates.

For more information, please contact - Helen Heath 07477582577 or
Claire Bannon 334 9931



Willaston and District Horticultural Society Annual Show 2026



***Congratulations
to all participants***

*Photographs courtesy
Horticultural Society and
S.J.Schwab*

Willaston and District Horticultural Society

September is a time for harvesting autumn crops, planting spring flowering bulbs like daffodils and crocuses, dividing overcrowding perennials whilst the soil is warm. Other jobs include; tidying up the lawns with autumn fertilizer and scarifying, sowing winter salads and putting spring cabbage under cover.

The Annual trip to Arley was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The Autumn Show will take place on **Tuesday 15th September at 19.30** and also the annual quiz after the show.

On **Saturday 19th September** we are having a coffee morning which commences at 10am, there will be refreshments, bottle stall, plant stall, cake stall, and bric a brac stall as well as the raffle.

The society meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Willaston Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, if you're interested in joining us come along. Non-members £2.

Membership is only £10 per year; this includes free tea and coffee. You can get 10% off plants at Burley Dam, Carr Lane and Premier plants.

Please feel welcome to join our group on Facebook for details of upcoming events.

Happy Gardening

Valerie Brizell, Chairperson, 07786982845

Valerie Brizell



Willaston Country Market:
Saturdays, 9.30-11.30am
The Memorial Hall, Willaston.
Coffee Morning
First Sunday of the Month

We have a new member. Clara is selling gorgeous, freshly baked, local sourdough loaves and Focaccia every week at the market, together with the legendary Cinnamon Buns, which sell out as soon as they arrive!! Please come and try some.

Producers are busy fruit picking for this year's preserves and we have some lovely fresh fruit and veg for sale.

The trustees have kindly agreed to allow "WELL BEHAVED DOGS ON LEADS" to come into the hall on market days. We are hoping that folk will call in on their way home from dog walking to buy some goodies!

The craft stalls are full of original, home crafted items and knitting ready for the months ahead.

Orders taken for specific items, including Celebration Cakes.

Contact Jackie on 0151 721 6285 email: jackiejenkins1896@gmail.com

Jackie Jenkins



Willastonhey W.I. News

What's been happening?

WI Monthly Meetings

Over the summer months we had a couple of very entertaining and interesting speakers.

Our first speaker, Rosie Lee regaled us on how she went from working in a bank to becoming a 'Reluctant Shepherdess'. Rosie was brought up on a farm and, like many young people, she was not interested in carrying on the family tradition, so she went to work in the corporate world. Her father sadly passed away, and the farm became too much for her mother to take on so she rented out the fields to other farmers. Over a period of years, her mother was unhappy with how the farm was being managed so this is how Rosie found herself leaving her job and taking on the farm herself. Having very little experience of livestock, she enrolled in college to take a three-year part-time farming degree. Rosie had many amusing anecdotes from buying her first ram to helping young lambs come into the world. The farm has become very successful, specialising in Shropshire sheep. Rosie opens up the farm to special needs children and people with learning disabilities.

Our other speaker, Martyn Potts is a retired English teacher turned poet. Martyn was brought up in Bebington and although he now lives in Manchester, he writes fondly of the local areas he visited as a boy. Martyn's poems were amusing and relatable. He has written a couple of books containing all his poems.

Out and about

Rambling: We had a couple of ramble days during the summer. The first was a circular walk around Lymm taking in the Dam and the Village. As usual, stops were taken for coffee and lunch.

The next ramble was more local around Royden Park. Again, enjoying coffee and lunch breaks

Annual Lunch: Brookhall Hotel was the venue for our annual summer lunch. Everybody enjoyed the day and said that the food was very good. We held a raffle which raised £187.00 for St John's Hospice.

Upcoming events

Craft morning: Thursday 3rd September 10.30a.m. – 12.30p.m. Memorial Hall Committee Room.

Coach trip to Buxton: Tuesday 8th September.

Rambling: Tuesday 15th September TBD

Games Afternoon: Thursday 17th September 2.00 p.m. Memorial Hall Committee Room.

W.I. Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 22nd September - Guide Dogs for the Blind

Our meetings are held on fourth Tuesday in the month starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. All welcome. For further information email willastonhey@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook @ Willastonhey W.I.

Sandra Humphreys



Willaston in the Past

Willaston in the Past aims to record and disseminate information about the history of the village. We have three booklets available for sale at £5 each:

- The History of Willaston and its Inhabitants, part 1: From William the Conqueror to Elizabeth I
- The History of the Old Red Lion
- Lest We Forget – the stories of the people on the War Memorial who died during WW1

We also have a selection of cards and tea towels about Willaston in 1945, taken from a booklet printed by the British Legion at the time. These are available for £2.50 (cards) and £7.50 (tea towels).

Our next General Meeting is on **Thursday 17th September at 7pm** in Willaston Methodist Chapel, when we will be speaking about the History of Willaston Mill. Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

As party of Heritage History Week, we are offering two walks during two guided walks in the village:

- **Tuesday 15th September – 2pm.** Meet at Hadlow Road Station and walk to Mellock Lane, learning about the history of the Hooton to Parkgate railway line. There will be a lift back to Willaston at the end of the walk. In addition, the Hadlow Road Station ticket office will be open so that people can have a look behind the scenes from 1pm and there will also be a chance to buy our publications.

- **Friday 18th September – 11am.** Meet at Christ Church for a tour of the graveyard and to learn more about some of the people who have been buried there and the influence they have had on our village.

Our walks are free, but places are limited so booking in advance is essential. Please text Sarah on 07948 604568 to book your place. Please note that both walks are on uneven ground.

We are grateful to Your Willaston CIC which has paid for our website: www.willastoninthepast.co.uk This has lots of articles, photographs and videos about the village in the past. We are always updating the information. Please contact us via the website.

We have a Facebook page: /WillastoninthePast and post a picture each week of different aspects of Willaston. If you use Facebook, please follow us and share our photos. We love reading the comments that people make each week.

We would love to hear from you if you have old photos or other records of the village or would be willing to be interviewed about living in the village in the past. If you are interested in our work, you can also join us as a member, which costs £10 per household per year. Please ring Sarah on 07948 604568 for a membership form or visit our website.

Sarah Shannon

JUNIOR AUTUMN CROSSWORD/WORDSEARCH

h	h	a	r	e	l	p	p	a	e	e	f	f	o	t
b	a	r	l	e	y	h	t	u	o	s	v	e	s	t
m	f	r	w	h	e	a	t	e	o	r	a	n	g	e
s	i	t	v	s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	d	i	q
v	l	c	a	e	l	i	s	w	h	e	r	n	w	u
f	l	c	h	e	s	t	n	u	t	a	j	t	r	i
i	a	d	a	a	i	t	t	i	o	a	o	n	a	n
l	f	l	z	b	e	e	c	h	m	a	s	t	y	o
b	f	r	e	r	r	l	i	s	e	s	e	e	g	x
e	a	g	l	e	g	i	m	f	t	s	o	f	f	o
r	e	d	k	d	n	u	t	a	c	o	r	n	s	f
t	l	n	s	l	e	a	v	e	s	o	h	s	h	l
a	o	r	t	e	w	i	t	h	w	o	l	l	e	y
c	r	e	a	t	i	o	n	t	i	d	e	o	t	h
e	r	s	o	p	e	a	r	c	r	u	m	b	l	e

Can you find:

Three words to describe autumn leaf colours O..., R..., Y....

Three words to describe this season F..., H..., C....

A religious day towards the end of September M...

Three Autumn food treats T.... A..., J..., P...C....

Three cereal crops O..., W..., B...

It happens to one type of large migratory birds G...F...S...

The words in the phrase may not be in the same place.

Five different types of 'nut' for games, human and animal food C..., Ch..., F..., A..., B.... M...

A special day when the day is as long as the night E...

A bushy tailed animal that collects nuts and what their food store is called S..., H....

A tree/bush two of the nuts grow on H...

Added extra Leaf, Leaves and Nut

Cribs and answers on page 30

Willaston C of E Primary School



We are always keen to welcome volunteer helpers into school and would love to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a week and would like to come and volunteer in the school. We have many areas within school where we'd appreciate support – assisting pupils read, helping with cooking and Forest School to name a few. However, we are also happy to be led by your expertise, so should you have a skill you think you could pass on to our pupils we would very much like to hear from you.

You can contact the school office on either:
0151 832 5360 or office@willastonce.cheshire.sch.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Remember to take a look at our website for all our up-to-date news -
www.willastonceprimaryschool.co.uk**



Willaston Rainbows & Brownies

What have we been up to lately?
Having great fun of course!



Our Rainbows have been buzzing about earning their Bee Rescuer badge and learning lots of amazing facts along the way. Did you know that they can't see us as Rainbows?



That's because they cannot see the colour red – and our uniform is red. So please don't plant your garden full of red flowers! And Honeybees do a 'waggle dance' which is their very clever way of communicating between themselves to tell their nestmates where to go to find the best source of food.

We also learned how to save a bumblebee when it seems to be struggling by making bee baths for them to place in our gardens. We filled them with water added a pinch of sugar and a few glass stones for the bee to have a rest whilst it has a life saving energy boost.

And we visited Gordale Garden Centre to take part in their Mini Gardeners Trail where Jonathan Briers gave us a talk and showed us all types of honeycombs. He told us even more about the bees visiting our gardens and their incredible work. He answered all of our questions (even the more obscure ones – thank you Jonathan!).



Our Brownies earned this lovely badge whilst visiting the new Woodland Explorer area at our Girlguiding Wirral Hadlow Fields Activity Centre in June. There we found 5 different zones in each of which were different activities to try, challenges to explore and games to play all around the themes of woodlands, trees and

discovery. For example, at Hedgehog zone we played noughts and crosses using circular wooden O's cut from tree branches and twigs to create the board, we created our own leaf insects and in Owl zone we learned all about animal tracks. Brown Owl tested us by hanging up disks showing different animal tracks and we had to match the correct animal to its track.

No visit to the wood is complete without visiting Fairytale Corner! Over the stepping stones in the Woodland Trail one team found dragon, fairy, jester, knight, Snow White and wolf puppets. We used these to create our own fairy tale which we then acted out for the rest of our Brownie friends and leaders. No fairies slept that night!



To round the term off, just after Willaston Primary school closed for the summer, five of our leaders (and Mike our very special Dad) took 30 Rainbows and Brownies to have terrific fun at Brimstage Maze. We started our visit in the indoor play barn, ran, jumped and whooshed on the brand new Zip Lines, jumped aboard the Pedal Karts, fired tennis balls out of the

Corn Blasters (very loud!), completed the sea creature bingo challenge set in the Mini Maze and ended the day (almost) on the tractor drawn Barrel Ride – we got VERY dirty – before we returned to Maizy's Parlour for a well-deserved ice cream. We all went home very, very happy - but exhausted!

Sheena (07967 357070)

aka Daisy 1st Willaston Rainbows & Brown Owl, 2nd Willaston Brownies



Girlguiding in Willaston Want to join in the fun?

For information on how your daughter can join us,
register her now at www.girlguiding.org.uk
and we will be in touch.

Willaston Rainbows – aged 4 to 7 Willaston Brownies – aged 7 to 10
Hinderton Guides & Rangers – aged 10 to 14 & 14 to 18,
meet at various venues locally

Scouting in the Local Area

1st Ness Scout Group has been formed by the merger of
1st Burton in Wirral and 1st Willaston Scout Groups.
It offers Scouting to young people in the Ness, Burton, Little Neston,
Neston, Willaston and Parkgate areas.

For more details, please consult via their website:

Contact | 1st Ness Scout Group.

Weardsearch Crossword Answers

Toffee Apple	South	Orange	Leaves	Chestnut
Barley	Equinox	Red	Leaf	Beech mast
Wheat	Fly	Yellow	Hazel	Nut
Pear Crumble	Michaelmas	Geese		Acorns
Oats	Creationtide	Squirrel		Filbert
Jams	Harvest	Hoard		Conker
	Fall			

h	h	a	r	e	l	p	p	a	e	e	f	f	o	t
b	a	r	l	e	y	h	t	u	o	s	v	e	s	t
m	f	r	w	h	e	a	t	e	o	r	a	n	g	e
s	i	t	v	s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	d	i	q
v	l	c	a	e	l	i	s	w	h	e	r	n	w	u
f	l	c	h	e	s	t	n	u	t	a	j	t	r	i
i	a	d	a	a	i	t	t	i	o	a	o	n	a	n
l	f	l	z	b	e	e	c	h	m	a	s	t	y	o
b	f	r	e	r	r	l	i	s	e	s	e	e	g	x
e	a	g	l	e	g	i	m	f	t	s	o	f	f	o
r	e	d	k	d	n	u	t	a	c	o	r	n	s	f
t	l	n	s	l	e	a	v	e	s	o	h	s	h	l
a	o	r	t	e	w	i	t	h	w	o	l	l	e	y
c	r	e	a	t	i	o	n	t	i	d	e	o	t	h
e	r	s	o	p	e	a	r	c	r	u	m	b	l	e

TRUSTED FOR
OVER **35** YEARS



SKODA



Mitchell Group

It's our people who make the difference

Cheshire Oaks, Chester CH2 4RG | T: 0151 347 5555 | www.mitchellgroup.co.uk



Supporting churches across Cheshire with passion and enthusiasm

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH SERVICES



SEPTEMBER 2026

Christ Church welcomes all to services.

Sunday 6 September: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

*9.00am Parish Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship
3.00pm Worship at Weatherstones*

Sunday 13 September: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Parish Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship

Sunday 20 September: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Parish Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship

Monday 21 September: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday 27 September: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Parish Eucharist 10.30am All Age Worship

Tuesday 29 September: St. Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas)



September cover photograph courtesy Tim Ley