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**CLOSING DATE FOR MARCH 2024 EDITION
26 FEBRUARY 2024**

Sermon preached by Canon Paul Greenwell on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Monday 1 January 2024 at Holy Angels Hoar Cross.

First, a happy and holy New Year of Salvation to you and yours - Anno Domini 2024. The Latin means in the year of Our Lord. Let's make sure Jesus is at the heart of all we say and do and think this year of grace.

There's a lovely touching story of a little blind boy who was very close to his Mum. One day, his Mum asked him to pop down to the corner shop to buy a bag of sugar. The little lad was nervous and felt he wouldn't be able to do this as he rarely ventured outside without holding Mum's hand. Anyway, fearful and apprehensive, he set out. Because he trusted his Mum and had heard her reassurance, he stepped out into the unknown, hoping all would be well. He eventually managed to get to the shop and buy the sugar and return home safely. His Mum asked how it had been for him. He told her it was frightening at times and he felt uncertain and insecure but he had succeeded. Yes, she said, I know and I am very proud of you. I was behind you all the way there and back without you knowing it to make sure you didn't fall into harm.

Even though we may feel a bit frightened or even lost in life, someone who loves and cares for us is close by, caring for us and protecting us. He says in the Bible 365 times: 'Do not be afraid.' That's one for every day of the year!



Look at Our Lady Mary and her response to God made in faith and obedience. She said Yes to God's invitation and look what happened! She opened the door for Jesus to come. It was a great leap of faith yet it brought salvation and joy to the world. In the midst of night, light

shines from the manger and the hope of the world is here, one of

us, our baby brother on earth.

From the start, people have responded to God's invitation. How are you doing?

Look at those shepherds out in the starry fields that Christmas night looking after their sheep. They saw the angel and heard the message of the angel choir singing love songs to humanity: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Then eagerly they hurried to see this baby boy in a stable. They heard God's word and responded straight away. They were amazed and told everyone



back home all about their little friend and Saviour, a shepherd like them. They became the first missionaries of the good news that God is with us. Their lives would never be the same again. Their journey of faith was contagious – the joy of Christmas spilled out from them to others. How about us?

Look at the Wise Men on their journey to Bethlehem now, following the star, coming a long way with no idea what or who they would find. They moved out in faith and trust in God as we must. They had to rely completely on God to reveal the way forward. It is all about trust, relying on him to see us through, whatever comes.

And what is true for Mary, the shepherds and the Wise men is true for each one of us. Onward we go into 2024 moving on in faith and trust in God. He's never let us down yet and never ever will!

Here's a quote from Louisa Hoskins to see us into the days and months ahead.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown' And he replied, 'Go

*out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.*

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS, HOAR CROSS WITH NEWCHURCH

SERVICES DURING JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2024

**SUNDAYS—PARISH MASS, 10.00 a.m.
Canon Paul Greenwell, Parish Priest**

14 January —2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 January—3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 January—Candlemass

4 February—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(followed by confession/spiritual time
in preparation for Lent)

11 February—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 February—**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Masses with Imposition of Ashes (made from last year's
Palm crosses) at 11am and 6pm

18 February—1st Sunday of Lent

25 February—2nd Sunday of Lent

3 March—3rd Sunday of Lent

(Each Sunday of Lent 10.00 a.m. Mass followed by short
Lent course 11.15—11.45 in Lady Chapel)



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Christmas 2023

Thank you to everyone who made our first Christmas here in Hoar Cross Holy Angels such a delight and joy. Thank you to our Churchwardens, PCC, Meynell Church Trust for all your support. For your lovely cards and generous presents and hospitality; for all who read, sang and served and decorated our beautiful Church and rang our bells and welcomed our many visitors and friends with usual Hoar Cross warmth and hospitality; for Nick Waller our organist and to the Half Circle Singers for a stunning Carol Service with a packed Church; to everyone who attended our bright and beautiful services – all of them with large and joyful crowds. God wants his house to be full and so do we!!

It was so good to see so many local children and young people with us, family, friends and visitors for our celebrations and we were honoured and privileged to have Bishop Paul of Oswestry with us to preside and preach on Advent 4 and Midnight and Day Masses of Christmas with a full team of servers too!

Our beautiful newly restored crib remains in the North Aisle until Candlemass at the end of this month and it has been wonderful to see so many visitors praying at the crib and in the open Church



in the stillness, silence and holiness. This place truly is House of God and gate of heaven which brings people to their knees knowing God is very near. The gorgeous building with its frontals and vestments, stained glass and woodwork is

breathhtakingly lovely. Our worship week by week shows people the beauty of holiness as we offer only the very best to God. But

most of all, the life, love, welcome, care and compassion, generosity and forgiveness shown by the faithful people who call this place their home touches and encourages all who come to share our life. And there are so many! Countless daily visitors from the Hoar Cross Hall, the Care Home, Deer Park, Meynell Ingram Arms and visitors from a great distance all love to come, thanks be to God and go on their way rejoicing. I visited here first over 40 years ago and look where that got me!!

Our bellringers from here and local villages rang handbells in the Meynell Ingram Arms who kindly had a collection and gave a generous donation themselves for their Parish Church. Our traditional Christmas Eve carols followed by champagne in Hoar Cross Hall delighted over 200 guests and staff there for the festival and we are grateful to our 15+ singers from our Church family and friends who led the mighty singing and encouraged everyone to join us for our Masses. A large crowd took up their invitation, Laus Deo! THANKS BE TO GOD AND THANK YOU!

Canon Paul

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Bishop Paul was at Holy Angels both at Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. He posted the following on his Face Book page:

Christmas Morn at the Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross. Christ is born!
Venite, Adoremus!



Diary Dates for January and February 2024

Sunday 7 January 10am Procession and Festal Mass of Epiphany Sunday

Monday 8 January 7pm PCC meeting in Church Cottage followed by Night Prayer at the House Epiphany Crib.

Saturday 13 January 11am Baptism

Sunday 14 January 10am Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B Parish Mass

Monday 15 January 12.30pm Lunch at Meynell Ingram Arms for retiring Trustees of the Meynell Church Trust – Fr Graham and Peter

Thursday 18 January 2pm Hoar Cross Care Home Communion and anointings. Members of our congregation are very welcome. Almost a quarter of our parishioners live in the Care Home! This lovely community of care and compassion in Christ's name continues Emily Meynell Ingram's deeply Christian work of helping others old and young.

Sunday 21 January 10am Parish Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time and within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This special week was set up by Emily's brother Charles who was President of the Church Union which still exists to pray for the visible union of Christians in our time. We pray for the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches in our parish and look forward to closer links with both.

A Prayer to use:

Loving God, you keep together those you have united.

Look kindly on all who follow Jesus you Son.

We are consecrated to you by our common baptism;

Make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

Sunday 28 January Candlemass Sunday 10am Blessing of candles, Procession and Festal Mass

Saturday 3 February 10am Mass followed by Church Clean followed by bacon sandwiches in Church Cottage.

Sunday 4 February 10am Parish Mass for 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time followed by confessions/spiritual chats in the Lady Chapel at 11.15 til 1pm in preparation for Lent. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed.

Please tick the sheet to indicate when you will come to this wonderful sacrament of healing and forgiveness from God. If you prefer to have a spiritual chat about your life, that is fine too. Please come this week or next or by appointment at any time.

As I live says the Lord, I have no desire in the death of the wicked. Rather let them turn from their wickedness and live.

Sunday 11 February 10am Parish Mass for 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Sunday before Lent followed by confessions/spiritual chats 11.15 til 1pm in the Lady Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed.

Ash Wednesday 14 February – day of Fasting and Abstinence.

This means we eat one full meal without meat as a sign we want to change our lives. Snacks and non alcoholic drinks are allowed through the day. For the whole of Lent and on Fridays through the year, give something up and take something up. Take up your cross, deny yourself, become less selfish, and follow Jesus.

Masses with Imposition of Ashes (made from last year's Palm crosses) at 11am and 6pm. Please come and begin your Lenten journey to Easter at God's Altar. Vespers will be said in the Choir stalls at 5.30pm – everyone is welcome.

Thursday 15 February 2pm Hoar Cross Care Home Communion and anointings.

Sunday 18 February 10am Lent 1 Parish Mass followed each Sunday of Lent at 11.15 til 11.45 by a short Lent course in the Lady Chapel: What we do in Church and why. Over the 5 weeks we will explore together Baptism, Mass, Confession, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Short courses will continue throughout the year. Please support these sessions to help us all understand more about our faith and grow in our commitment to Jesus and his Church's life and practice.

Sunday 25 February 10am Lent 2 Parish Mass followed at 11.15 – 11.45 by Lent Course: What we do in Church and why.

Sunday 3 March 10am Lent 3 Parish Mass followed by Lent Course 11.15-11.45

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Saturday 23 December: Baby Willow and her father Andrew Walker from Marchington Woodlands

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our community's life.

Welcome to God's family at Holy Angels Hoar Cross with Newchurch.

Funeral and Burial

Monday 18 December: Ruth Morris aged 92 from Hoar Cross Care Home

May the angels lead you into Paradise. May the choir of saints welcome you and lead you to the heavenly city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. There may you have eternal rest and peace.



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Notes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4 December 2023

Present: Cllrs Mrs Smith, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Prince, Mrs Sherwood, Mrs Patterson
County Cllr Jessell, Borough Cllr Ashcroft

No Public Participation/Apologies/Declarations of Interest

The Minutes were signed as a true representation of the Meeting held on Monday 18th September.

There were no **matters arising**.

Planning - Cllr Mrs Baxter - nothing to report.

Roads - Cllr Mrs Patterson has reported a number of potholes; Cllr Jessell asked for the information so that she could follow this up. The new signs on Thorney Lanes were discussed; Cllr Jessell said there had been no consultation and no road order.

Environment - Cllr Mrs Prince commented on the puddles of water; she will check whether this is caused by blocked gullies/drains, and will inform Cllr Jessell.

Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Sherwood reported there are some issues with footpath signs and stiles; Cllr Jessell will see if there are any stiles available and will get someone to fit them. Cllr Mrs Smith has purchased 'Dogs must be kept on a lead' signs for the stiles.

County Cllr Jessell reported that the Branston interchange on the A38 will be closed in February 2024; there are a number of houses being built in Drakelow, which is having an effect on the traffic on the Bailey Bridge at Walton.
The new Chief Inspector has been recruiting, and Cllr Jessell will organise a meeting with the new team.
The changes by the Boundary Commission have been made. Unlike some local authorities, Staffordshire County Council is not in financial difficulties due to decisions made previously.

Borough Cllr Ashcroft had come to the Meeting to introduce herself.

No report from PCSO Edwards

The Parish Clerk had met Kim Squires, the Auditor, in October, and she was happy with everything; the Clerk has some points to follow up.

Cllrs Mrs Smith and Mrs Patterson have received the paperwork regarding the change of signatories with NatWest. The cheques were approved for payment.

The Precept was discussed.

The Financial Policy, Risk Assessment, Standing Orders, Media Policy and Publication Scheme were discussed and ratified.

Cllr Mrs Smith has received the report from the BKV, and the points made will be noted for 2024.

'Discover East Staffordshire' website - Cllr Mrs Baxter is meeting Canon Paul and Rachel Major to discuss promoting the Church on the website.

Thursday 6th June - **80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings** - this will be discussed at the Meeting in March.

Church Clock - this is to be discussed further.

The land opposite The Meynell - it was noted this area is still being used as a car park.

HS2 update - the Clerk had circulated an email in November which explained what is going on behind the scenes now that the project has been cancelled.

Correspondence - letter from NatWest Bank regarding the transfer of money to a higher interest account for a short term; this was agreed.
email from the PCC regarding the **cutting of the grass in the Churchyard**; Cllr Mrs Smith will follow this up with Rachel Major.

The next Meeting will be on Monday 18th March

A Prayer to use for Lent:

Father in heaven,

The light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes.

May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

A Prayer to use as you prepare for your confession/ self-examination before Easter

Lord, please forgive our sins and set us free from them.

We confess to the sin of pride: We have been sure of our own goodness and importance and have looked down on others.

Help us to appreciate the true worth of other people.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

*We confess to the sin of envy: We have been displeased when others have been more successful or sought after than we have been. Help us to be glad when others prosper. **LORD, HAVE MERCY***

*We confess to our sin of anger: We have lost our temper and nursed grievances. Help us to be patient and understanding with everyone. **LORD, HAVE MERCY***

We confess to our sin of self indulgence: We have had enough and to spare, yet we have neglected the needs of others.

Help us to deny ourselves so that others may not be in want.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

*We confess to our sin of unchastity: In one way or another we have used sex, other people and ourselves wrongly and selfishly. Help us to respect ourselves and others as made in your image. Help us to create right relationships and interactions between people inside marriage and outside it. **LORD, HAVE MERCY***

*We confess to our sin of anxiety: We have worried about many things. Help us to trust you to see us through. **LORD, HAVE MERCY***

We confess to our sin of laziness: We have been lukewarm

*Christians. Make us eager to do your will **LORD, HAVE MERCY***

Road Closures/diversions

Scotch Hill Road Newchurch

NOTICE is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 04/01/2024 intends to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Scotch Hill Road in Newchurch from the junction of A515 Sudbury Road for approximately 250 metres, unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to properties on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. An alternative route for traffic is available and will be signed on site. It is anticipated that the works will **commence on 18th January and be completed by 19th January 2024**. The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the laying of new duct works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Brakenhurst Road Newchurch

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Staffordshire County Council being the highway authority responsible for the repair and maintenance of Brakenhurst Road in Newchurch are satisfied that it is necessary to close to all vehicular traffic that length of Brakenhurst Road from Sudbury Road to Jacksons Bank for a period of 21 days. **IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN PLACE BETWEEN 13:30 HOURS ON 27th December 2023 AND 23:59 HOURS ON 16th January 2024**. The restriction may if necessary be extended for one further period of up to 21 days by the publication of a second Notice.

Bow Meadow Lane Newborough

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Staffordshire County Council being the highway authority responsible for the repair and maintenance of Bow Meadow Lane in Newborough are satisfied that it is necessary to close that length of Bow Meadow Lane from the junction of Newborough End to the junction of Dolesfoot

Lane for a period of 3 days but no more than 5 days from 5th February 2024. **IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN PLACE BETWEEN 00:00HOURS ON 5th February 2024 AND 23:59HOURS ON 7th February 2024.**

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Who was Nicholas Breakspear?

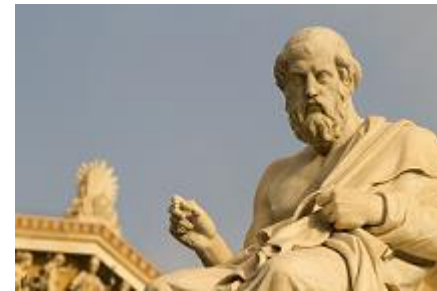
Simply, Nicholas Breakspear, born in Hertfordshire (probably in St. Albans), is the only pope in history to have been of English descent. Little is known about his early life, but as a young man he travelled to Arles, in the south of France, to study law. Rather than pursue a legal career, however, he was attracted to the canons regular at St. Rufus in Avignon. His talent and piety were obvious, and he was named abbot of the order. In that role, he travelled often to Rome, where he appears to have caught the attention of Pope Eugene III, the supreme pontiff at that time.

It's believed that Breakspear was a harsh disciplinarian and that his emphasis on strict obedience was not well received by his monks. Pope Eugene sought to solve two problems: Pacify his monks by removing the English cleric from leadership, and take advantage of Breakspear's organisational skills by naming him a papal legate. Pope Eugene sent him on a mission to Catalonia, where Christians were attempting to banish the Muslims and reclaim their land. Sometime around 1149, Breakspear was appointed Bishop of Albano, in central Italy. In that role, he was assigned to visit Scandinavia, where he reorganised the Church in Norway, then moved on to Sweden, where he was admired and acclaimed by the local Catholics.

Upon completing his work in Scandinavia, Bishop Breakspear returned to Rome in 1154. The successor to Pope Eugene, Pope Anastasius IV, had just died, and Breakspear was elected to the papacy by his fellow bishops and took the name Adrian (or Hadrian) IV.

Just a few years later, the Pope's favouritism toward his native England was revealed in his support for St. Alban's Abbey. He is

reported to have issued a papal bull, *Laudabiliter*, which granted permission to King Henry II to invade Ireland. In 1155 or 1156 an old friend of the Pope's named John of Salisbury, who was secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Theobald of Bec, arrived in Rome on a mission for his master. Canterbury had lost its former jurisdiction over Irish bishops and it was in Canterbury's interest to depict the Irish as savages in need of a firm, correcting hand. 'In response to my petition,'



Salisbury later reported, 'the Pope granted and donated Ireland to the illustrious king of England, Henry, to be held by him and his successors' and 'sent the king a gold ring, set with a magnificent emerald, as a sign that he had invested the king with the right to rule Ireland.'

The papal bull describes in detail Pope Adrian's goals for the assault on Ireland, focusing on the good that might come to the Irish people:

'We, therefore, support your pious and praiseworthy intention with the favour that it deserves and, granting our benevolent consent, we consider it pleasing and acceptable that you should enter that island for the purpose of enlarging the boundaries of the Church, checking the descent of wickedness, correcting morals and implanting virtues and encouraging the growth of the faith in Christ.'

On Sept. 1, 1159, Pope Adrian IV died while staying at the papal residence in Anagni, Italy, near Rome. As a pope, he had a number of accomplishments on his record — including an alliance with the Byzantine Empire and the signing of the Treaty of Benevento, which solidified relations between the papacy of Adrian IV and the Norman kingdom of Sicily.



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Post Box Toppers

You may or may not have seen on your travels one or more 'Post Box Toppers'. A photo of one in Yarnfield appeared in the Newsletter in the September edition and another one used as the front cover of the November (Remembrance) edition.

In June 2021, it was reported that 'Yarn Bombers' had placed numerous toppers or bonnets on post boxes in the Warrington area to mark local events or connections. Royal Mail reported "We first began to see these toppers in 2012 over the festive season, although this soon spread to other key times of the year such as Easter. More recently, we have noticed decorations celebrating various frontline workers during the pandemic, including postal workers".

The December edition of the Newsletter asked for any memories of Christmas. In Yarnfield we had the beautiful 'Topper' shown here. I have learnt that this photo, which was posted on Yarnfield & Swynnerton Face Book page got 2,100 likes, was shared 138 times and reached over 53,000 people in total across the UK. It was also shared to the UK Post Box Toppers and More Group where it also received 400+ likes and where a knitting fan was amazed that there's a place in the UK called "Yarn"field. In March 2023, a Daily Mail journalist branded those who make post box toppers as "Woolly Delinquents," a label that the topper community, also known as "Yarn Bombers", has embraced.



I'm looking forward to seeing what the Topper for Easter will be. So far, each one has been very appropriate and pertinent to the occasion.

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**CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS,
HOAR CROSS WITH NEWCHURCH**

Holy Baptism

Baby Willow and her father Andrew Walker

We welcome you into the Lord's family



Recently Departed

Ruth Morris

Year's Mind during January

Edith Ann Sarah Parry-Evans	Francis Mary Oatway
Solomon Dunn	Stephen Arnold
Arthur Wilkins	Allan Gresty
Sara Ann Dunn	Alfreda Vesey
Sydney John Pott	Percy Sharp
Ivy Winifred Sutcliffe	Eleanor Harvey
Edith Mary Hill	Elsie Hammersley
Harry Craddock	Leon Thomas Glass
Phyllis Mary Hollinshead	Margarita Froggatt
Mary Hawksworth	Nellie Alcock
Lionel Potts	Ernest William Savage
Ann Rushton	Arthur Edward Pott
Sarah Ann Rayworth	



***Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them.***

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS,
HOAR CROSS WITH NEWCHURCH**

Year's Mind during February

John Jones	Herbert Moss
Steve Joynes	Eric Walter Moss
Audrey Ameila Hollinshead	Dorothy Frith
Mary Elizabeth Gleave	Joyce Gresty
Albert Knight	Sarah Emma Arnold
George Albert Grinditch	Eileen Ann Featherstone
Kathleen Emily Roberts	Edward Ironmonger
Tom Turner	Agnes Marion Carter
Albert William Follows	Mabel Leedham
Margaret Elizabeth Garbett	Lucy Bates
Iris Frances Duncan	Nina Beach
Harold Gould	Gertrude Mary Powis
Edmund Pott	Gilliam May Withey



***Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Planning Application

Ref: P/2023/01403

Proposal: Change of use of part of agricultural land to form domestic curtilage to facilitate a single storey link extension to from garages

Location: Oak House, Maker Lane, Hoar Cross, Staffordshire, DE13 8QR

Comments should be made within 21 days of 4 January 2024 to e-mail: dcsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk quoting the Reference above.



Have you heard about the insurance company that refused to pay for the lightning damage to the church? It was judged to be an Act of God, and thus deliberate damage by the owner.

Cheers to Gift Cards

Discover every treasure Hoar Cross Hall has to offer this Christmas, through our range of luxury gift cards and e-vouchers, all holding an extended 18 month expiry date. With an array of monetary, dining and experience gift cards, your loved ones can rest assured knowing their dream evening escape or pampering spa day will come to fruition, with the tab already settled.

Give the gift of relaxation this festive season.



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Communities Strategy

Message from Staffordshire County Council

As you are aware Staffordshire County Council is currently engaging with residents and partners across Staffordshire, seeking their views and thoughts about life in their communities and what matters most to them.

After the consultation we will be looking to use the views gathered to create a Communities Strategy which will set the Council's direction in promoting an ambitious and sustainable county fit for the future, with strong and empowered communities.

The consultation has been running since 7 November 2023 and is due to end on **31 January 2024 so I need your help with one last push to residents.**

There is a survey available to residents and partner agencies which is primarily available online and can be found [here](#). However, to ensure that we are able to reach as many people as possible there are paper copies available in all libraries across the county and people available to help residents to fill them in.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this information to encourage as many people from Needwood Division as possible to respond.

County Councillor Julia Jessel

Postcard from a Parishioner - Home Sweet Home

A belated wish to you all, for a Happy New Year. I hope it holds many good times with family and friends and that you have good health with which to enjoy them.



The year began here 'on a high', as they say; with my youngest son, his wife and two boys still with us, from Malaysia. They have been before, back in 2017; but that was a visit during August. Choosing Christmas this time, gave the visit a special quality that only this celebration can give. Of course, the children were

hoping for snow; but the grown-ups were sceptical on that score. So that Christmas hopes were not dashed completely, a trip to Iceland had been organised as part of visit, with Grandma included! We headed for the airport on December 27th and spent the next three days surrounded by deep, powdery snow and temperatures below zero the entire time. The Northern Lights did not appear; but the skies and scenery during the day more than adequately made up for this. Not that there was much daylight, with late sunrises and early sunsets, leaving only about four to five hours during the day to do all the sight seeing. The endless expanse of snowbound wilderness, that we drove through in order to see frozen waterfalls, geysers and tectonic plates, was simply awe inspiring. Ice and snow made walking treacherous and difficult for me; but there was always a family member more than willing to take my arm. However, I did decline a couple of the longer treks, happy to stay behind with a flask of tea.



The time away is now a happy memory, tucked between the dozens of pictures that came home with us. We were probably making history too. Tilly turns 18 this year and a holiday where all the cousins are together might not happen again. I was glad to be



included for this reason and be able to enjoy first hand, all the camaraderie as well. However, the hours needed for the traveling, the endless waiting about in airports, the unexpected problems that always crop up - well, they take the shine off trips for me now. A wake-up call

at seven on the last day, to be at Reykjavik in time to catch our plane and then the long drive home after the flight touched down at the Manchester, meant it was four o'clock before I finally turned the key to my front door. I rest my case

Other than to say 'there's no place like home'. I'm one of those fortunate people, that has a lovely place to call home. My late husband and I worked hard and saved all our lives so this would be possible. My family too, work long hours and budget in order to keep us all safe and be able to take a trip like Iceland every now and then. But we are well aware that circumstances often conspire against many in the world, leaving them way short of being able to do this. Or Nature steps in and thwarts 'the best laid plans of mice and men'. I'm thinking of our recent flooding, which I know has caused problems. Not a great start to 2024. Hopefully, it is not a promise of things to come; but rather, the year ahead will be a good one for us all.



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It's a Dog's Life

Hullo, Frens

Back again, and this time no sad news – hurrah!

I've been having some 'citing times. Went on my first train ride. I was a bit scared but Mum said I did very well. It was alright until the train started moving – well, Mum told me it was the train, not the trees and bushes that was moving. But it was reelly scary and I got the shakes. We went one way then had to get another train back to get home. When we was waiting for the second train, Mum took me for a walk down some streets – she said it was a place called 'Stoke' but there didn't seem to be much there but a lot of traffic. 'Parently I'm going on another train soon.

I've also been to see my frens Bentley and Aunty Janet. Bentley and me get so 'cited when we see each other – Bentley can't stop barking which means I has to bark. Don't think Mum likes it very much. I also saw Bentley's bruvver, Buddy. Mum said he was so scared of me he was sick! I didn't mean to frighten him so I tried to say sorry by rolling on him but he didn't like that either. Still Bentley was happy with me rolling on him.

Then I went to my kennels for a few days. They always look after me – lots of walks and play time and I love their play area. Lots of room to run and fetch balls.



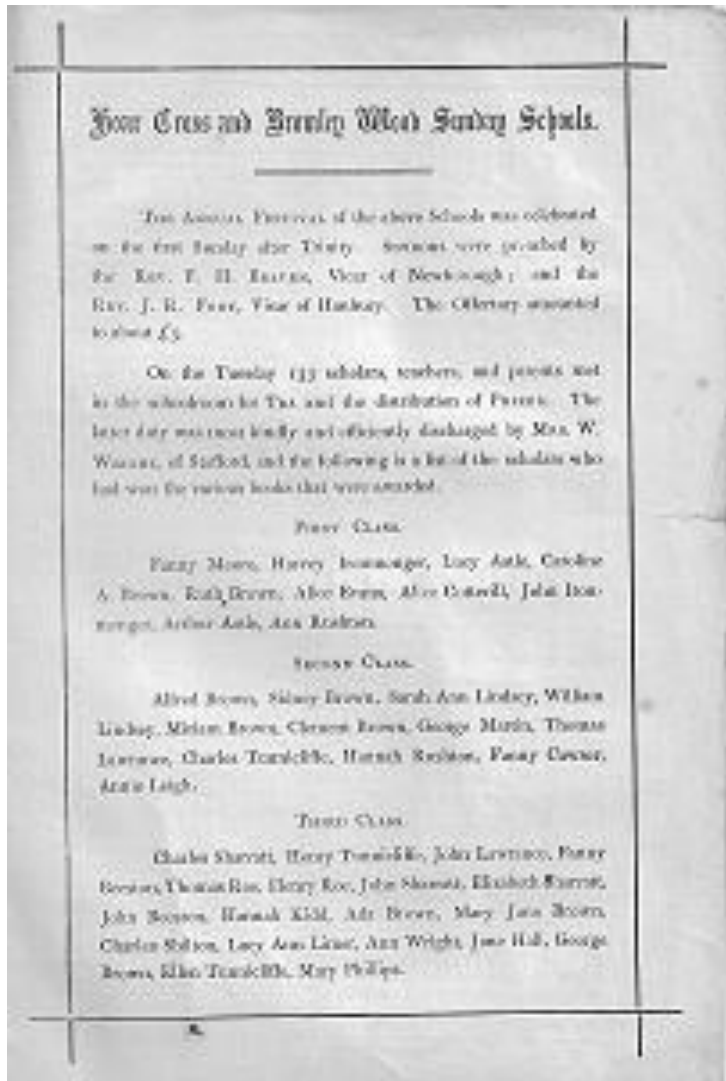
I was reelly, reelly tired when I got back from Aunty Janet's and the kennels. This is me having a good a sleep.

Mum says I won't be talking to you again for a bit so I'll let you know if anything has happened as soon as I can.

TTFN

Ko-Ko

Hoar Cross Newsletter—July 1881



Editor's Note

The closing date for the March 2024 Newsletter is 26 February 2024. Please submit any articles/photos to editor.holyangels@gmail.com.

Our thanks to all those who contributed to this edition.

A mother asked her 9-year-old what he had learned in Sunday School.

He said "Our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. At the Red Sea he got the army to build a pontoon bridge and everyone got across safely. Reinforcements then arrived to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Is that really what you were taught?" asked the mother. "Not really," said the boy "but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe me."

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Please inform the editor if you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter

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Staffordshire Highways—reporting of defects :

Report a fault online - Staffordshire County Council

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault>)