

# North Rode Newsletter



November 2025

*What's on in North Rode  
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November is a time for remembrance and Rector's letter this month is particularly poignant. The Parish Council have been busy with villagers, organising, making and placing poppy displays around the village to mark remembrance day for our community and those passing through. We also have a very interesting article about our local hero, Niamh Darcy!

## Welcome and Farewell

Welcome Tim Williams and Laura Pitcher who will be moving into the Old Coach House in November. This sadly means a fond farewell to Sue and Bruce Scheepers, who have lived in North Rode for many years. Sue and Bruce are moving to Toulouse in the south of France and we wish them the very best with their move and many warm summers closer to family!

## Harvest Festival



We were delighted to have a good congregation at our Harvest Festival at St Michaels, with farmers well represented. While we miss the traditional autumn fruit and vegetables, times have changed, and Congleton Food Bank are very grateful for the generous quantity of non-perishable food donated which Colin kindly packed up and delivered.

This was followed a week later by our well attended Harvest lunch. As usual the caterer achieved fantastic hot roasts for 70, and the variety of deserts made by villagers were much appreciated. The raffle raised an amazing £423

## Happy Birthdays!

Birthday wishes to Harriet Bailey, who will be 21 on 16<sup>th</sup> November and to Wren Doherty-Urban, who will be 3 on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## Mobile Phone Request!

Following our request for a second-hand laptop for a needy student in Kenya, we were delighted to be offered one. So thank you to that kind person. Now a request for a phone for the same school! It doesn't have to be that special but just in case you have one put away in a drawer we would love to hear from you. Any offers would be appreciated and please contact:

Shirley Tudor-Evans on 07778648088 or  
[shirleytudor@btinternet.com](mailto:shirleytudor@btinternet.com)



Will Tudor-Evans teaching in Kenya

## The Rector's Letter November 2025

November is a time of remembrance. We begin the month with *All Saint's Day* on 1<sup>st</sup> November, followed by *the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, All Soul's Day*, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. *All Saint's Day* has been celebrated since the fourth century, recognising the apostles and other heroes of faith, whose lives have inspired many to live courageous and holy lives. In contrast, *All Soul's Day* is more personal. During the service at St. James' Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> November we will remember and light candles for our loved ones who have died, recalling, with thanks, the light and the love they brought into our lives.

Meanwhile, children throughout the country will excitedly remind us that 5<sup>th</sup> November is a day that should "*never be forgot*" whether or not they understand the background to Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night. I hope and pray everyone has an enjoyable and safe time. Please keep your pets safe!

Although Guy Fawkes Night is a peculiarly British time of remembrance, *Remembrance Sunday* on 9<sup>th</sup> November, followed by *Armistice Day* on 11<sup>th</sup> November, have far greater significance. As the Royal British Legion states: "*Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.*"

We remember and pray for the members of our Armed Forces, their families, the vital role played by the emergency services and all those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism. It is right that we should continue to remember those who died in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts. It is also important to remember those who have died and continue to suffer in wars taking place in our world today.

Yours ever, Colin

### North Rode Services November 2025

<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup></b> All Soul's Day Flowers: Hilary Trueman	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Margaret <del>Cann</del>
<b>November 9<sup>th</sup></b> Remembrance Sunday Flowers: Elizabeth Allen	<b>10.50 am</b> Remembrance Service	Led by: Sidesman: Reading: Bugler:	Mrs Hellen Watson Peter Brocklehurst Geoffrey Allen Robert Heath
<b>November 16<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent	No service at North Rode	<b>Gawsworth</b>	<b>10 am</b> Holy Communion <b>4 pm</b> Evensong
<b>November 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Christ the King Flowers: Rose Brocklehurst	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Sharon Oldfield Yvonne Brown
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 1 No flowers	<b>10.30 am</b> N R Benefice Service Holy Communion	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Marilyn Ainslie Alastair Kennedy
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b> Advent 2 No flowers	<b>11.15 am</b> Toy Service Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Bronwen Bebington Diane Lowe

### Toy Service 7th December

The toy collection is organised by the NSPCC in conjunction with Congleton town council and Congleton Chronicle contrary to previous instructions they would like unwrapped presents, in particular educational ones, and preferably for older children, so they know what they are distributing, and parents will wrap them. Do join us for our service with your gifts. Donations before the service will also be welcome, left in the porch or a church pew.

### Carol Service 14th December

We hope to see everyone, young and old, at the Carol Service with organist Geoffrey Knights at St Michael's at 6.30pm on 14th December. It will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies, heralding the start of the Christmas season.

### Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November

The Parish Council is kindly organising magnificent poppy displays around the village again for Remembrance Sunday and Robert Heath is playing the Last Post on the bugle, so we hope you will join us.

**Rector:** Revd Colin Wilson      01260 223201  
**Enquiries:** Mrs Diane Lowe      01260 272576  
**Secretary:** Mrs Diane Lowe      01260 272576  
**Treasurer:** Mrs Lynn Petts      01260 222902  
**Newsletter:** Huw Williams      077991717459

<http://www.northrodechurch.org.uk>

# North Rode WI Report November

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



The October WI Meeting was opened by the President Diane Lowe and we started by having a Minutes Silence for Lillian Cellario a past and long standing Member of the WI. Lillian died in September aged 94.

The Autumn Lunch held in September was a successful Lunch enjoyed by Members and Visitors alike. After the Lunch we were treated to a pleasing Demonstration by Karen Salt of Rudyard Flowers, a Flower Farmer and Florist who specialises in natural homegrown Flowers. Many of her arrangements were given for Raffle Prizes.

Tickets were available for the Members going to The CFWI Autumn Meeting at the Storyhouse in Chester on the 20th Oct. Along with many members from Cheshire, we were late arriving due to an accident on the M56 and arrived at the end of the singing of Jerusalem. The Speakers were fantastic. Firstly a midwife with fascinating and amusing stories to share. The next Speaker was Jeryl Stone, the NRWI Chairman who shared information about the National WI and gave us an insight about the running of the whole of the WI movement.

Our Members went out to Lunch at Chez Jules, a place we had been before - a rushed Lunch but very enjoyable. Our Speaker for the afternoon was Aled Jones and the highlight of the day. He was a most charming and humorous Speaker and was very well received by all the Members. He showed us clips of his childhood and had been singing since he was 4 years old. Terry Wogan was his other 'Father' and they had enjoyed a very close friendship. Alex had appeared in Strictly Come Dancing and had a 20 second mental block during his performance, which he showed us on the screen. He is currently on Classic FM radio station. Susan Leicester gave a very amusing Vote of Thanks to Aled for his super talk.

Details for our Christmas Lunch at the Legs of Man were given out with the Menu's, plus we had to pay a deposit for the Meal via our Treasurer. The Date is Tuesday December 9th

Coffee Mornings are being planned for 2026 at Gawsworth Methodist Church Hall The 2026 WI Programme is also nearly finalised.



**OLD SAW MILL**  
CONGLETON

Our Speaker for the afternoon was Peter Aston who needed no introduction as he is so well known in Congleton. Linda his wife came along and was in charge of Bottles of Apple Juice, which were sold after the meeting closed.

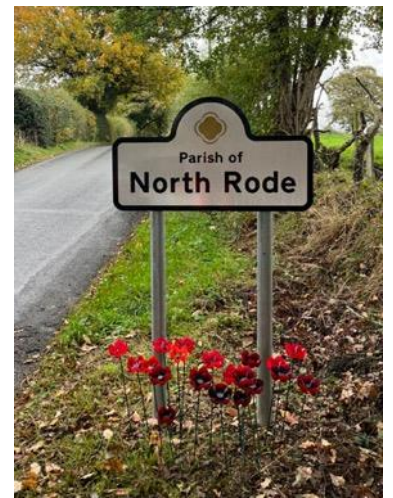
Peter's talk was 'Apples to the Old Saw Mill'. The Saw Mill started in 2009. In 2010 they had bottled 1200 Bottles of Apple Juice and in 2025 this had risen to 7500! When Peter and his team started the Apple Juice they were concerned if the sales would be successful as it was a very new venture. Since then they have made Cider and Apple Vinegar which have also been popular. The team also provided Meals on Christmas Day for people who were on their own at Christmas, again very popular. They have a good team of volunteers to help out and some 110 Meals are provided per week. They sell the Bottles at Biddulph Grange, Little Moreton Hall plus other outlets. Unfortunately The Old Saw Mill had to close for various reasons, not helped by the price of electricity as there was no gas supply and increases to National insurance did not help. Peter explained there is Saw Mill Phase 2 in the pipeline so watch this space! Pam Robinson gave Peter and Linda a very warm Vote of Thanks for a interesting and informative Talk.

The Competition for an Item including Apples was won by Hilary Trueman with Pam Robinson Second. The Raffle was won by Diane Lowe.

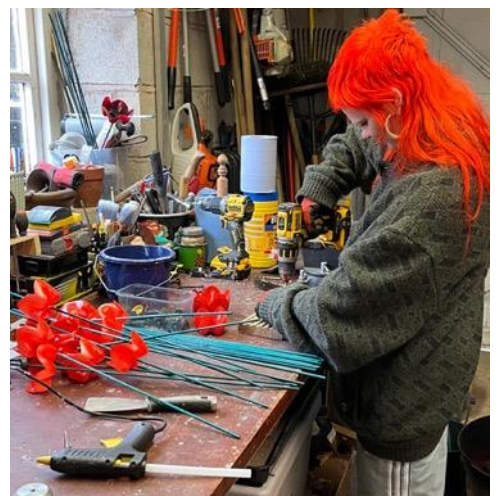
The next Meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 11th November which includes a Fish and Chip Meal. Visitors are made very welcome on the Second Tuesday of the Month at Eaton Church and Community Hall. 2pm in the Winter Months and 7.30pm the Summer Months.

## North Rode Poppy Workshop and Displays

Last year we made and displayed just over 250 poppies around the village, so this year we were delighted to create another 400 poppies to make our displays even more spectacular. Many thanks to Sue Bullock, Brenda Lomas, Rose Brocklehurst, Anne Harrison, Diane and Malcolm Lowe and Joan-Marie and Shona Williams who came along to our workshop. Who knew that cutting, drilling, painting and gluing up plastic bottles could be so much fun!



North Rode is a 'Thankful Village' as it was lucky to not lose villagers in either WWI or WW2 and consequently does not have a war memorial. However a few soldiers who were born in North Rode did sadly lose their lives and are commemorated on other memorials. Our Poppy Displays are in remembrance of those that gave their lives in service to our country and to remind our community and those that pass through North Rode, of the sacrifices made by others.



This year poppy displays have been placed at: Daintry Hall, St Michael's Church, Church Lane Well, Ethels green, Bramhall Hill Green, Cocksmiss Lane Fingerpost, Dobford Grange and at five North Rode parish gateway signs.

**Huw Williams – North Rode Parish Council**

## Marton School



Dear Friends

Autumn is well and truly upon us here at Marton Primary School, and it has been a busy and joyful month! We celebrated our **Harvest Festival** with great enthusiasm, collecting a wonderful array of harvest gifts. These were shared with **New Life Church** and also helped to stock our own **school pantry**, supporting families in our community. We are incredibly grateful for everyone's generosity.

Our **lunchtime clubs** continue to be a highlight for many pupils. The **ELSA Patch** provides a safe and supportive space for children to talk and relax, while the **Play Patch** offers fun, creative play opportunities for all. Both clubs have been buzzing with activity this month! We are so proud of all our extra curricular clubs; as I write this Gardening Club are carving pumpkins to take home. What a treat!

We are also delighted to welcome families to the **Little Seeds pre-school monthly group**, which continues to grow in popularity and offers a wonderful opportunity for our youngest children to learn, play, and make new friends.

As we break up for **half term**, we wish everyone a restful and happy holiday. When we return, we will be looking forward to all things **Christmassy**, with lots of exciting events and activities planned to bring festive cheer to our school community.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nevin Deakin'.

Mrs Nevin Deakin, Headteacher



## North Rode Parish Council Report

### Cheshire Devolution

North Rode resident Steve Purdham, who is the Chair of Cheshire and Warrington Business advisory board, will be presenting an overview of the benefits of devolution to our region at the next Parish Council.

### Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner

Cllrs Huw Williams & Jon Burwood attended a meeting for town and parish councils with the police and crime commissioner, Dan Price in October, and learnt of initiatives to tackle crime hotspots and social cohesion.

### Parish Council Liaison Group Meeting

Cllrs Huw Williams & Georgina Bailey recently attended the regular parish council liaison group meeting in Eaton, which seeks to share information on local issues. Updates were given on the Cheshire Wildlife Trust project. This project is mapping out wildlife corridors between our parishes and will help inform potential work to improve natural habitat. Difficulties with using the new planning portal were also discussed.

### Next Council Meeting

Our next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, at Daintry Hall at 7:30pm. All villagers are welcome to come along.

**Huw Williams**

**Chairman North Rode Parish Council**

## Meet Niamh Darcy



Have you seen the blue Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service search dog van in North Rode?

If so, it was being driven by Niamh Darcy, a firefighter and resident of North Rode for the past twenty years. Niamh is the dog handler for MFRS and has successfully trained a number of dogs, each with a different specialism. Her search team comprises dogs that can find live people, dead people and identify if any ignitable liquids are present at fire scenes.

Currently Niamh has two live scenting dogs. Scout, a working cocker spaniel, who is on cover for the whole of the UK and who can be deployed to search collapsed structures for live scent. Also, Vesper, a Belgian Malinois, is the international asset who has been deployed abroad to respond to catastrophic disasters.

Recently Goose, a young spaniel bred by Niamh, has qualified as a cadaver, or victim recovery dog. He has already been utilised to search for deceased people after buildings have been destroyed by fire. And Pi, a Labrador, has been an invaluable member of the Fire Investigation Team in Merseyside for a number of years, working closely with the Fire Service and the Police determining the presence of ignitable liquids at scenes of fire and crime.

In 2023 Niamh and Vesper, as members of the UK International Search and Rescue Teams, were deployed by the Government, to aid the rescue missions in both Turkey and Morocco following the earthquakes that devastated the countries. They worked tirelessly to locate survivors trapped under the rubble in adverse, dangerous and treacherous conditions.

In recognition, Niamh and Vesper won the Crufts Hero Dog award in 2024 in the working dog category. They were both proud recipients of the Chief Fire Officers Bravery medal and, more recently, Niamh has been honoured with the Kings Humanitarian Medal for her work in response to the Morocco earthquake.

Niamh is currently training the next generation! Frizbee is a promising young Labrador looking to fill Pi's boots and Spud - daughter of Scout, will be the next live scenting dog.

