

North Rode Newsletter

September 2026

What's on in North Rode
To subscribe or unsubscribe to this
newsletter mailing list,
Email: northrode@btinternet.com
Stories: huwwilliams200@gmail.com

Welcome back after a long hot summer in North Rode. The rain has finally appeared and the greenery is starting to return to our fields and gardens. The first ever North Rode Well Dressing was a big success and the full story of its making and the celebration is in this newsletter.



Happy Birthday!

Oscar Hinchcliffe will be 1 on 15th September
Casey Burwood will be 18 on 20th September
Maeve Williams will be 30 on 27th September
Pam Robinson will be 83 on 13th September

Congratulations!

Tony & Judith Waller will be celebrating their Ruby (40th) Wedding Anniversary on 20th September. We wish you both the very best.

Charity Afternoon Tea

On 19th September, Swanley Meadows have organised a charity afternoon tea to raise funds for The Christie and East Cheshire Hospice. Details are shown opposite and you can book your place or make a donation to support these charities here:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/swanleymeadowstipiweddingsevents>

You're invited to a
Charity Afternoon Tea
at **Swanley Meadows**

in aid of  East Cheshire Hospice  The Christie Charity

£50 PER PERSON

OR GATHER A GROUP AND RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOUR GROUP FOR **£400**

TICKETS INCLUDE

-  A GLASS OF PROSECCO
-  LUXURY AFTERNOON TEA
-  LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 19th September 2026

Book your place

SCAN 

OR VISIT
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/swanleymeadowstipiweddingsevents>

The Rector's Letter September 2026

As we begin September, memories of our summer holidays are soon pushed from our minds by the constant demands of daily life. And as we watch the TV, read a newspaper, listen to the radio, or scroll through smartphones, we are reminded of nations at war, environmental disaster with wildfires, following prolonged drought, destroying property and vast areas of land in the UK, Europe and North America.

Amidst all this chaos, how do we deal with the reality of life in all its busyness, with all its pressures and challenges? Traditionally, Christians have brought all these things to God in prayer. Recently I found myself in conversation with a farmer. He told me that the previous day he had prayed to God for the first time in years. "What did you pray?" I asked him. He replied, "Dear God, please send a week or two of steady rain to help keep my animals alive and, if you do, I promise not to bother you again for a long time!"

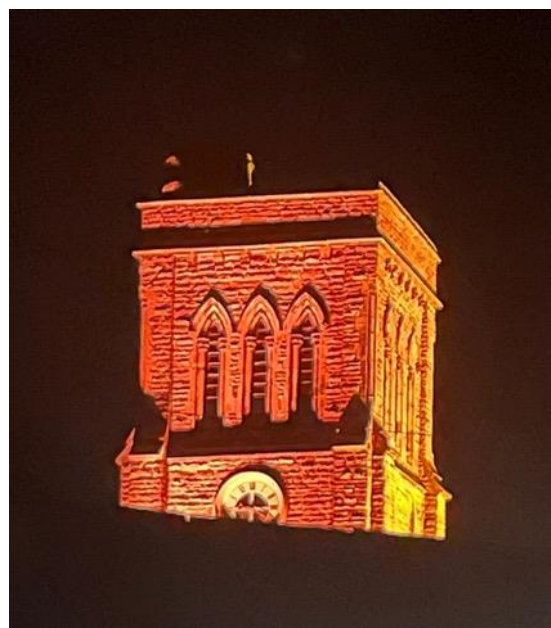
The writings of St. Paul are full of wisdom, and I would summarize his teaching on the subject of prayer in five words: "Let go and let God." In his Letter to the Philippians (Ch.4:6-7) Paul writes, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Finally, looking ahead, our Harvest Festival will take place at St. Michael's on Sunday 11th October at 11.15am. If you are able, please bring along some non-perishable food donations for distribution to the local Foodbank.

Yours ever,
Colin

North Rode Services September 2026

September 6th Trinity 18 Flowers: Shirley Tudor-Evans	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Marilyn Ainslie Blanche Royle
September 13th Trinity 19 Flowers: as last week	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Shirley Tudor-Evans Margaret Cann
September 20th Trinity 20 Sheila Kidd	No service at North Rode	Gawsworth	10 am Holy Communion 6 pm Evensong
September 27th Trinity 21 Flowers: as last week	11.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Lynn Petts Geoffrey Petts
October 4th Trinity 22 Flowers: TBA	11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Revd Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Sharon Oldfield



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

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 07791 717459
<http://www.northrodechurh.org.uk>

North Rode Parish Council Update

Well Dressing

North Rode Parish council is proud to have organised and financed the well dressing celebration for the village as detailed in the article that follows. We hope everyone that took part enjoyed the experience. We look forward to receiving any feedback on the event and what could be done better if we organise another well dressing next year!

Traffic & HGV Issues



North Rode had been promised last November a traffic survey as part of the 5 year post opening of the Congleton Link Road Programme. This was to assess the effectiveness or not of work carried out by Cheshire East to reduce HGV's and traffic in general passing through North Rode by contacting SAT Nav companies, additional Buxton directional signage and enhanced HGV signage work.

However we have recently been informed that Cheshire East do not have any funding for any further traffic surveys to be undertaken, and consequently there are currently no programmed surveys planned for North Rode. We have not received any response to our communications expressing our dissatisfaction with this decision and asking if North Rode alone is excluded. We are now taking this issue up with our MP and the Chief Executive. Our own log of HGV's indicates that many trucks are still ignoring signs and passing through. It is also clear to any resident living on Bank Lane and Church Lane, that traffic volumes are higher than ever.

Highway Closures

We are aware of the following planned closures in North Rode in September:

7-11th September - Bank Lane is to close between Macclesfield road and Bramhall Hill, to continue drainage work along this lane.

17th September – Church Lane in front of Dane Brook Cottage is scheduled for closure to carry out jetting of drains.



Recent Planning Applications

26/2560/PRIOR-6 - Land Off Bank Lane, North Rode. Prior Approval for erection of agricultural storage building – Granted with Conditions

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd October at 7:30pm at Daintry Hall**. Everyone is welcome to come along, and there is a session at the start for you to voice any concerns you may have. You can also raise any concerns you have about village at any time by contacting a parish councillor or emailing the parish clerk at clerk@northrodepc.co.uk

Knit & Natter Poppies

North Rode Knit & Natter group have been busy over the summer, knitting poppies for what will be a spectacular display on St Michael's Church Tower this November. They have already knitted over 700 poppies and are aiming for 1000. If you are able to help out, even if your knitting skills are basic, contact Joan-Marie Williams on williamsjoanmarie@gmail.com or on 07719571165



North Rode Well Dressing

Huw Williams

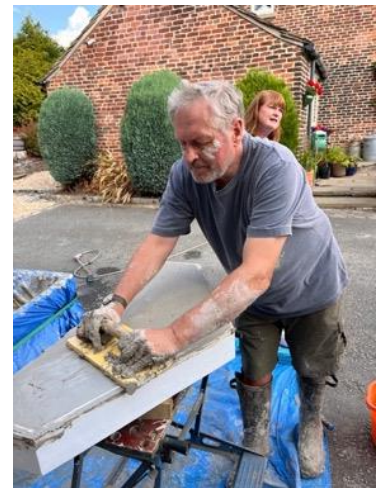
After months of planning, the first ever Well Dressing in North Rode took place on 30th August 2026. Work started many weeks ago with the design and construction of the well dressing boards, specially designed to hold sufficient depth of clay to retain moisture and to ensure the clay and flowers don't fall out! The boards were fitted with chicken wire and clout nails to help retain the clay. Visits were made to a number of well dressings in Derbyshire for ideas and also to find out how to do it!. Bradwell Well dressing teams were particularly helpful advising on materials, plants and petals to use, the type of clay and also how to carry out the delicate work of Petalling. The next step was creating a design and transferring it to full size paper cutouts for each board. We chose the North Rode village sign for inspiration and then simplified it to make it practical.

As the Church Lane well is situated within the road verge, the Parish Council decided at an early stage to seek a road closure to ensure that villagers and public could visit the well dressing safely and also to make it possible to hold a village picnic in the road and also to be entertained by Morris Dancers. This was a lengthy process only made possible with assistance of Highways officer Andy Simpson, and local traffic management company Traffix.

The process of making up the well dressing boards could only commence a few days before their display, to ensure the clay does not dry out and that petals and plants retained their lustre and colour for the dressing day and a few days after. Normally the boards will remain in place for about a week.

Puddling the Clay

Before putting the clay into the boards, it had to be made the 'right' consistency. The problem was, no-one could really describe that to us. Too dry and it is not sticky enough and too hard to work. Too wet and it does not hold its shape. On the Saturday before the well dressing, Mark Bullock brought round a large concrete cattle trough, which we lined and filled with large chunks of special pottery clay. The day was spent adjusting the amount of added water and trampling in with wellies to what we thought was the correct texture. It is a very messy process but great fun. Many thanks to 'Puddlers' David and Jackie Shaw, Huw and Joan-Marie Williams, Janet James and Roger Earle. The Clay was then forced into the boards and trowelled flat ready for the Petaling.

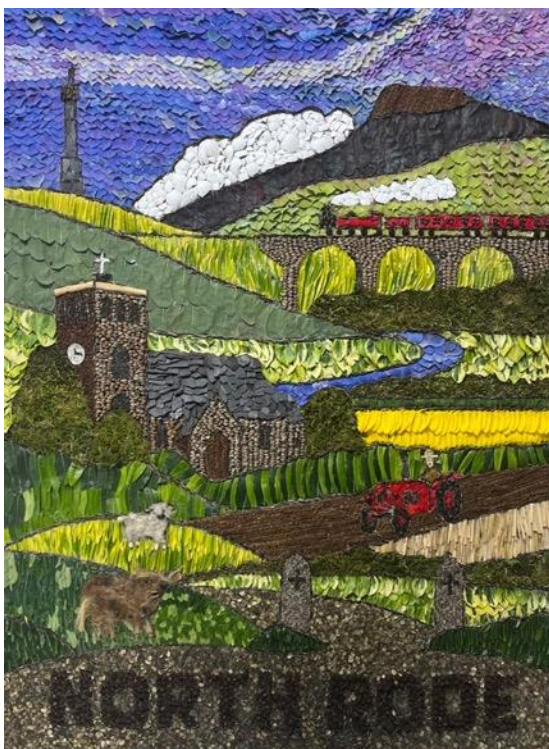
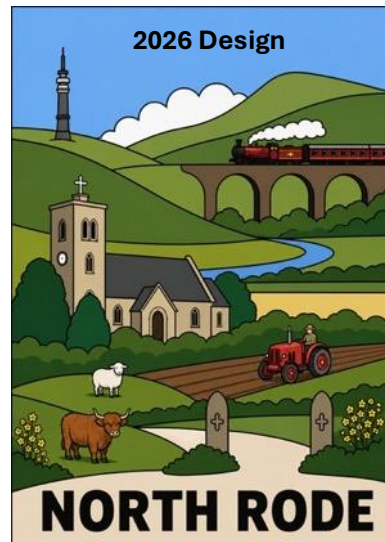


The Petalling

The Petalling process actually began a few days beforehand by collecting suitable materials. Traditionally Well Dressing materials should be all natural and preferably sourced locally. Dried materials such as nuts, cones, dried grasses and straw etc can be collected in advance, however living materials such as leaves and petals can only be collected a few days before placing – especially the delicate petals which should only be picked and placed in the last few days. Daintry hall Day Nursery were also provided with a board filled with clay, so they could take part.

Petalling took place at the workshop at Rode Hall Farm. The paper design was placed on top of the clay and as each area was worked on, its outline was pricked with an awl through into the clay and then cut out with craft knives. Outlines were defined using sweet cicely pods, alder cones, then leaves and dried materials were applied. Petals were only applied during the last two days, when the design really came to life with some colour. A particular

issue we faced was the recent hot dry weather causing lack of colourful hydrangeas – a staple for all well dressing petallers. We foraged around the village for surviving plants and ended up making a Blue/Pink sky and a rather nice sunset! Petalling took place from Monday 24th – Friday 28th August during which over twenty villagers and their friends took part and made the design a reality. A community activity that many remarked was therapeutic and mindful, a bit addictive and great fun.



Well Dressing Installation

Well dressing day finally arrived on 30th August and all that remained was to install the boards. The completed main board filled with moist clay weighed approximately 100Kg and this along with the 40Kg matching headboard was transported to the recently renovated Church Lane well just up the road on a flatbed trailer. The boards then needed lifting into place and securing with back struts by the installation team – David Shaw, Huw Williams, Mark Bullock, Roger Earle and John Williams. Electric fencing was also installed by Malcolm Kidd on the field behind the well to keep curious highland cattle from disturbing the installation!



The Well Dressing, a Blessing and Morris Dancing

Despite foreboding weather forecasts, other than a brief shower we were blessed with dry and sunny spells most of the afternoon. Leek Morris came along to entertain the village and our Vicar Rev Colin Wilson provided a very apt blessing of the well followed by a village rendition of 'All things Bright and Beautiful'. Villagers, family and friends picnicked in the road to enjoy a rare moment with no traffic along Church Lane. Villagers were then invited by Leek Morris to participate in a stick dance and luckily no injuries were sustained!





The Ceilidh

To round the day off in style, a Ceilidh was organised for the village at Daintry Hall in the evening. The band, Maggoty provided the music and a caller to dance the night away. Jonathan Heywood of Local events company Lighttech kindly lit up St Michaels Church and Daintry Hall for us to provide a fantastic mood. It was certainly a day to be remembered for many years to come in North Rode. Shall we do it again next year?!



North Rode WI September Report

Secretary Pam Robinson writes



In July members plus visitors enjoyed our birthday outing to Port Sunlight. We visited the Lady Lever Art Gallery as there was a free exhibition by a lady descendant of William Morris. It was very informative and interesting with paintings and very detailed tapestries. These works had been worked under lamplight and were very fine designs and finished pictures. Members enjoyed the ornate and beautiful building there plus a small Museum and shop. In the shop was the Original Pears soap which we all remember from past years. After our visit there we stopped at High Leigh Garden Centre and

members were able to have a late lunch or afternoon tea and a look round the shop and the plants also. The weather was very good, sunny and warm but not the extreme heat which we have been having recently. Carole Snowden won our Birthday Voucher, Ann Beckett thanked the President and Committee for the Invite and also the delicious refreshments.

Several Members went to Eaton WI for an Evening of Line Dancing plus Supper which was a very enjoyable evening and thanks to Eaton WI for their Invitation.

In August we held our Annual Garden Party, this time at The Stables, home of Freda Butler. The weather was very hot and sunny with all of us needing shade. We welcomed our Cheshire Federation Chair, Ann Beckett and Irene Goodwin the Eaton WI President plus other Visitors. The food table was excellent and enjoyed by everyone plus Pimms organised by our President Diane Lowe. There were lots of Raffle Prizes in which both Members and Visitors won. Irene judged the Gladys Dines Brooch Competition which Members brought a Bracelet and this was won by Hilary Trueman.



Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 2nd September - Cloud Group Meeting 7.30pm NL Church. I will wear Purple and Members are also asked to wear something Purple. North Rode are on Teas and Refreshments.
- Tuesday 8th September – Next Meeting. Note the time 7.30pm. The Speaker is John Gibb on Bellringing and the Competition is for a Bell.
- Wednesday 16th September- is WI Day and we are having a Lunch at the Lion and Swan in Congleton. More details to follow CFWI Autumn Meeting.
- Monday 5th October - Storyhouse Chester. Tickets need to be paid quickly £15 plus the Coach Fare £20 later which is been arranged by Brenda Proudlove

All visitors are made very welcome to meetings at Eaton Church and Community Hall on the Second Tuesday in the Month Summer times are 7.30pm but Winter times are 2pm.